



# PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

State University - NIRF Rank 59 - NIRF Innovation Band of 11-50  
Salem-636011, Tamilnadu, India.

## புத்தொன்றாவது பட்டமளிப்பு விழா TWENTY FIRST CONVOCATION



TWENTY-FIRST CONVOCATION



## Newsletter June 2023

## Centenary Birthday Celebrations of Muthamizh Arignar Kalingar



The Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingar Research Centre observed the centenary birthday celebrations of Dr. Kalaingar Muthuvel Karunanidhi, former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and the architect of modern Tamilnadu on 03.06.2023. Prof. R. Jagannathan, the Vice Chancellor, paid floral tributes to his portrait. Professors, Students, and Admin Staff also paid their respects. Dr. R. Subramani, Director of the centre organized the event.

## Efforts taken for Rs.20 Crore worth Play Ground: Vice-Chancellor

Prof. R. Jagannathan announced that a draft for making a Playground to the tune of Rs. 20 Crore had been sent to the government while distributing the prizes for the winners of the inter-collegiate sports competitions held for the colleges affiliated with Periyar University on 08.06.2023. In the prize-distributing event AVS College, Salem Lone got 21 prizes, and other colleges also earned their dues. Dr. Venkatachalam, Director of Physical Education, has arranged for the events.



அறிவால் விளையும் உலகு



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**Naan Mudhalvan State-wide Placement Programme**



Periyar University conducted a mega job fair in association with Tamilnadu Skill Development Corporation on 20.06.2023. The programme was conducted under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme for the arts and science college students in the Salem district. Prof. R. Jagannathan, the Vice Chancellor, motivated the students to design a good career and placement. Prof. P. Thirumoorthi and Dr. S. Karthikeyan coordinated the mega-events.

**Periyar University signs MoU with Tamilnadu Agricultural University**



An MoU was signed between Periyar University and Tamilnadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in the presence of Honourable Vice Chancellors, Prof. R. Jagannathan and Prof. Dr. Geethalakshmi Vellingiri (TNAU) for strengthening academic and research collaborative activities on 30.06.2023. Prof. K.Thangavel, Registrar (PU), and his counterpart Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar (TNAU), signed the memorandum. The TNAU promotes science-based agriculture and allied processes in the State to help the farmers and Agri-based industries to compete successfully in the national and international markets through its education, research, and outreach programmes.

## Chief Secretary inaugurates Tamilnadu Government Competitive Exam Coaching Centre



Dr. V. Irai Anbu, IAS, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamilnadu and Head of Training, initiated Tamilnadu Government Competitive Examinations Coaching Centre online on 21.06.2023. The event was led by Prof. R. Jagannathan, the Vice Chancellor, Thiru. S. Karmegam, IAS, the District Collector, Salem, Thiru. S. Balachandar, Commissioner, Salem Corporation, and Thiru. P. Muthusamy, IRS (Rtd.), Commissioner- Central Exercise.

## TWENTY-FIRST CONVOCATION Vice Chancellor's Annual Report:

Periyar University's 21<sup>st</sup> convocation was held on 28.06.2023 with the gracious presence of the Governor-Chancellor of the university, Thiru. R. N. Ravi, IPS, and the Chief Guest, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director, Indian Institute of Technology Madras. District Collector, Commissioner of Police, Members of the Parliament and Legislative Assembly, Members of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty Members, Officers, Secretaries and Principals of Affiliated Colleges, Administrative staff, and Employees have also decorated the mega academic event.

Expressing his deep sense of gratitude to the Chief Minister Thiru MK Stalin, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University and Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamilnadu and Pro-Chancellor of the university, for their support and encouragement, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. Jagannathan, welcomed the esteemed invitees and presented the conduction of the convocation and the university's achievements. He also expressed his profound thanks and gratitude to the Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director of IIT Madras for graciously accepting the convocation invitation and consenting to deliver the convocation address.



### Excerpts from Vice Chancellor's Annual Report:

In this elite academic event, the 21<sup>st</sup> convocation 62,018 candidates were awarded degrees of which 99 gold medalists, 4 D.Sc. awardees, and 502 Ph.D. Awardees received their degrees in person and 61,413 candidates were awarded degrees in absentia. A new Competitive Examination Coaching Centre was sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and it was launched on 21.06.2023 by the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu. Sufficient floor space has been provided by Periyar University to train 200 candidates per batch. The university has also opened a new book section for this purpose in the University Library.

Periyar University has bagged 59<sup>th</sup> rank in NIRF-2023 by MHRD and continuously maintaining within 100 ranks for the past 5 years. It is the only state-run University in Tamil Nadu that secured NIRF-Innovation ranking 2023 in the 11-50 band becoming one among the four affiliating universities in that rank. Being the only state-run university in Tamil Nadu that secured a four-star rating for the activities under Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), it is also the only state-run university having Synthetic Athletic Track costing Rs.9.66 crores with Rs. 7.00 crores contribution from Khelo India funding.

University has established a new directorate for University-Industry Collaboration and entered into MoU with ten different industries for offering various Certificate, Diploma, and Degree programmes to produce industry-ready manpower. With Chancellor's initiative, a study is being undertaken to bring out the details of unsung freedom fighters hailing from the University Jurisdiction.

The University has signed 29 MoUs with Indian Companies / Institutions and four MoUs with Foreign Institutions to enhance quality education, collaborations, and exchange programmes. The University has signed 29 MoUs with Indian Companies / Institutions and four MoUs with Foreign Institutions to enhance quality education, collaborations, and exchange programmes.

For inculcating an Entrepreneurship mindset, University has instituted its Innovation and Startup Policy 2022, with the approval of MHRD by which a few Ph.D. scholars are provided a special break to establish their startups. The university is acting as a hub for EDII-TN Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (IEDP) through which 300 faculty, 6500 students, and 20 potential entrepreneurs from 80 affiliated colleges were trained on entrepreneurship.



Faculty members of 27 University departments (and PG Extension Centre) have been actively involved in carrying out UGC, DBT, DST, ICMR, ICSSR, MOEF & CC, MOFPI, TANSCH & TNSCST funded projects worth Rs. 4.2 Crores. Around 593 research papers/chapters have been published in peer-reviewed journals and Book Chapters.

The department faculties have organized 89 Conferences / Workshops / Seminars and 54 skill-oriented training programmes. Our faculty members have participated/ presented papers / delivered lectures in 335 conferences/ workshops/ seminars at the National / International level.

Rs. 8.25 Crores were spent for the construction of additional floors in the Entrepreneurship and Incubation Center building and Kalaingnar Research Centre Block to enhance the infrastructure facilities.

Prof. R. Balagurunathan, Department of Microbiology was awarded Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology by the UK in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research. Apart from this, our faculty members and students have bagged 31 awards for their contributions in various fields. Periyar University has released Rs.48.64 Lakhs to research scholars towards research fellowships (URF & UPDF) apart from the fellowships received from Government Agencies towards Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) and Post Doctoral Fellowships (PDF). University Departments have earned around Rs.10.32 Lakhs through their consultancy services.

Dr. P. Vishwanatha Moorthy, Professor of Chemistry traveled to Comenius University, Slovakia as Visiting Researcher for two months, while Dr.K.Murugesan Professor & Head of Environment Science traveled to Hong Kong, Baptist University for a month as Visiting Scholar. The Vice Chancellor and Dr.K.Murugesan, visited Cambodia for Regional Workshop on Climate Change Vulnerabilities held at Siem Reap. Dr. P. Maadeswaran, Assistant Professor of Energy Science and Technology, and Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor of Physics presented papers at the Soil Waste Management conference held at Baptist University, Hong Kong. Dr. S. Murugesan, Assistant Professor of Botany participated in the International Conference on "Biotechnology for Better Tomorrow" held at Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia. Dr. P. Karthikeyan, Professor of Management, Centre for Postgraduate and Research Studies visited South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and participated in the International Conference as guest speaker. Under the Taiwan Experience Education Program three Ph.D. scholars (R. Mouniswaran, G.Vonthinini, and Winferd Blessy) from the Department of Zoology availed internship for 6 months in Taiwan supervised by Prof. Douglas JH Shyu, Department of Biological Science, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan.

The NSS cell of Periyar University has actively conducted a State Level Adventure Camp, Walkathon Rally, and Awareness Programme Drive against Drugs, in which more than 1100 students and 50 faculty members participated. 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was commemorated with a schedule of 23 events during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Periyar University as of date has 178 NSS units including 20 new units added during 2022-2023. and conducted Awareness Programmes for the public relating to health, life skills, and Government Schemes.

YRC of Periyar University is doing yeoman service to society and has so far organized more than 10 programmes like blood donation, an awareness programme on World Stroke Day, Clean Hands Programme, Seminar on Diabetes and Monsoon Infectious Diseases by the Rural Clinical Society and Thulasi Diabetic foundation, World Disability Day, AIDS Day and Youth Day. Every Department of Periyar University adopted one village

The University Library has an overall collection of 1,03,809 volumes of text and reference books. Around 85 National and International periodicals and 88 online journals are subscribed at the cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. With the Electronic Thesis Dissertation (ETD) lab established at the cost of Rs. 10.06 lakhs, around 2,937 Ph.D. theses have been uploaded to the National Repository of Shodhganga. The University Library offers inter-library loan services with DELNET and INFLIBNET.

The Periyar University students have won many laurels in sports and games. At the all-India level, the University students bagged Gold Medal in Best Physique Tournament, Silver Medal in 200mts run event, and Men Decathlon event. Bronze Medal was bagged in women's Handball, Women's Power Lifting, and Men Decathlon events. At the South Zone Inter University Level, our students won Gold Medal in the Handball men's Tournament and Men Long jump event. We also achieved One Silver Medal in Handball Women's Tournament and One Bronze Medal in the Women's Football Tournament.

Periyar University Centre for Online & Distance Education (PUCODE) is revamped and the admissions and payment of fees are made online. Periyar University has launched the Online Degree Programs from Jan 2021 batch and offers 2 Bachelor Programs in English and Commerce and 5 Master programs in Business Administration, Mathematics, Commerce, Tamil, and English.

The Women's Studies Centre is effectively functioning with the financial support of UGC. The Centre has established a daycare centre to take care of the children of the staff. This center also takes care of Women's welfare and gender issues. A drug awareness programme was conducted for School students in the Salem region.

The Career Guidance and Placement Cell of Periyar University has organized 3 training programmes, 2 Faculty Development Programmes, and 4 student assessment programmes during 2022- 2023. 457 students of university departments were placed through On-Campus and Off-Campus placement drives. In addition, 953 students of affiliated colleges were placed through various campus recruitment drives. More than 1,20,000 students of affiliated colleges of Periyar University have registered under Naan Mudhalvan Program. Teachers totaling 1150 were trained through Faculty Development Training conducted by Naan Mudhalvan Program for various skill-based courses.

SET/NET/UPSC Free coaching is provided to the students through departments and a large number of students cleared NET/ SET examinations. The University is offering free training and coaching to the students aspiring to take up various competitive examinations like the UPSC, TNPSC, and other recruitment examinations for employment. Civil Service Mentoring and Competitive Examination and Guiding Centre strive hard towards increasing placement opportunities besides the services provided by Placement Cell. A new Competitive Examination Coaching Centre has been sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and it was launched on 21.06.2023 by the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu. Sufficient floor space has been provided by Periyar University to train 200 candidates per batch. We also opened a new book section for this purpose in the University Library.

## **“Arm yourself with a high-quality education and a razor-sharp focus on achieving excellence”: Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi motivates the Convocation awardees.**

Periyar University has had the honour of inviting Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, former director IIT-Madras, as the chief-guest for the the 21<sup>st</sup> convocation. Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi got his B.Tech in Electronics from IIT Madras, and his M.S. and Ph.D is Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara. After working at AT&T Bell Laboratories for a couple of years, he joined the faculty of IIT Madras, his alma mater, in 1986. He took over as Director, IIT Madras in September 2011. He was awarded the University of California Regents Fellowship during his doctoral studies. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He is also an Honorary Fellow of the International Medical Sciences Academy. He was awarded the Vasvik Award for Electronic Sciences and Technology for the year 2000, the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award for Engineering and Technology for the year 2003 and the India Semiconductor Association TechnoVisionary Award for the year 2011 and the Doyens of Madras Award for the year 2014.

In his chief guest’s covocation address he praised Periyar University for scaling great heights in such a short span of time in its silver jubilee year.

### **Excerpts from Chief Guest speech:**

India’s higher education system has grown by leaps and bounds since Independence - the number of universities has grown more than fifty-fold, while the number of students enrolled in them has gone up by more than 150 times. Tamil Nadu has been in the vanguard of this growth, and Periyar university is an important contributor in this regard to the state and nation.

The country aspires to ensure that all those who wish to pursue university education are able to do so, and has set itself a GER target of 50% by the year 2035.

The New Education Policy envisions a flexible credit-based system with multiple entries and exits that will enable students to earn their degrees through a variety of pathways consistent with their need to work while they study, or pivot from skills-based diplomas to more broad-based degrees, or take a break from education to discharge other responsibilities, and so on.



Every Indian is a valuable - arguably the most valuable - resource of the nation, and deserves the widest possible opportunity to discover her passion, educate herself to become an expert or arignar in the chosen field, and contribute to her family, profession and country to the fullest.

The students and scholars who are receiving degrees, awards and ranks today are therefore India’s investment capital for building a better future. With your innate talents, skills and acquired knowledge, you will provide valuable expertise and skills in your chosen fields, and contribute to the growth of your profession.

The country is currently growing from being the fifth largest global economy to becoming the third largest. This cannot be achieved by mere increase in the number of working-age citizens. A large part of this growth will have to be achieved by an increase in our productivity, sharpening of our expertise and skills, and improvement in our competitiveness.

The first step towards transforming ourselves into skilled productive practitioners of our professions is arming oneself with a high-quality education with a razor-sharp focus on achieving excellence. Our traditions from time immemorial are very exacting in this regard. When we look at any field of human pursuit where our tradition of thousands of years has been unbroken – be it music, dance, sculpture, jewellery making, culinary arts, or literature – our teachers have always been demanding, and standards high. The title of pandit, vidwan or aringnar is not earned by applying for them and passing exams. They are bestowed spontaneously by the public and always only on the deserving.



We have to bring the same pursuit of excellence into our modern education system and not be satisfied with marks, first-class degrees and prizes.

The graduating class today is therefore a symbol of the spirit and aspirations of the India that is being re-shaped by each of us as we go about our lives. We all have to work tirelessly to make each day better than the last. You are therefore a symbol of the nation's desire to cultivate talent, reward excellence and attain the world's highest standards in human endeavour.

If we make our choices correctly in the coming decades, we may actually be richer on a per-family basis than countries even with twice our per-capita GDP. To be sure, what matters for national security and infrastructure is the national GDP irrespective of the population. However, what matters for quality of life is per-family income more than per-capita income.

If we make our choices correctly in the coming decades, we may actually be richer on a per-family basis than countries even with twice our per-capita GDP. To be sure, what matters for national security and infrastructure is the national GDP irrespective of the population. However, what matters for quality of life is per-family income more than per-capita income. As we evolve into a middle income country, we will have the choice to decide whether we retain our family structure, whether we continue to live frugally, and whether we share more rather than less, even extending beyond the family to the community. Let us not get carried away by comparisons with other countries of the number of houses, cars, and old-age homes or healthcare budgets. These comparisons do not make sense across countries with vastly different social and family structures. Besides, it is very clear that the route taken by most advanced economies, of very small families and

I therefore urge you to not only focus on building up your knowledge and expertise as you step out into the world, but also think about the choices you will make in the years ahead - choices that appear on the surface to be related only to maximizing one's income, but at the deeper level, will determine whether you are better off as a family or not. Besides, even if a family is richer, one has to reflect on whether the quality of life has actually improved or not.

Today the world is driven by fast-paced technological changes that not only bring material benefits but also impact our livelihoods. A decade or so ago, skilled and productive painters of signs who took pride in their work were overnight rendered jobless by the advent of flex printing technology. Likewise, the impending AI revolution raises the spectre of loss of jobs in several categories, even as it opens up new opportunities. This is why it is going to become even more important to make learning and re-education a lifelong pursuit. Some of us will be better at it and some less so. Some of us will be more successful at navigating these challenges and others will not be so fortunate. However, there is enough in the world for everyone to live without deprivation. While some may be blessed, there is no reason anyone should be left wanting for the necessities of life. Let us never forget the teachings of our great masters over thousands of years – about leading simple lives, fulfilling our needs but not our greed, about extending a helping hand whenever we can and to whoever that needs it, and caring for our environment and Mother Earth from whence we all come and to which we shall all return.