

# PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

PERIYAR PALKALAI NAGAR

SALEM - 636 011

## FIFTEENTH CONVOCATION

September 16, 2015

Welcome Address and Report

By

**Prof. Dr. C. SWAMINATHAN**

Vice Chancellor, Periyar University

வெள்ளத் தனைய மலர் நீட்டம் மாந்தர்தம்

உள்ளத் தனையது உயர்வு.

*In sandy soil, when deep you delve, you reach the springs below;  
The more you learn, the freer streams of wisdom flow*

- Thiruvalluvar

Water will flow from a well in the sand in proportion to the depth to which it is dug, and knowledge will flow from a man in proportion to his learning.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University, the Honorable Minister for Higher Education and the Pro-Chancellor of Periyar University Thiru. P. Palaniappan, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Guest Dr. K. Tamilmani, Director General, Aeronautical Systems, Defence Research and Development Organization, Bangalore, Members of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty, Officers and Administrative Staff, My dear young Graduands, distinguished invitees, representatives of the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of Periyar University, I extend a cordial welcome to all of you to this 15<sup>th</sup> Convocation. It is an

occasion for the University to share the achievements, honours and its societal contributions, to all the well wishers.

I am extremely thankful to His Excellency, the Chancellor of our University, Dr. K. Rosaiah for having accepted our invitation to preside over this convocation. He was first elected as a Member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council in 1968 and reelected in 1974 and 1980. He held various portfolios as Minister for Home, Finance, Power, Higher Education, Medical & Health, Roads & Buildings, Housing, Transport, Legislative Affairs, Handlooms and Textiles in the Andhra Pradesh Government. He has the unique record of presenting 17 budgets in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. Then he was elected to the Lok Sabha in the year 1998 and served in various Parliamentary Committees. He was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 and then he assumed charge as Governor of Tamil Nadu on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

Periyar University places its gratitude on record for the presence of such an eminent administrator and a noble personality amidst us today. It is my privilege to welcome His Excellency with heartfelt gladness. On behalf of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty, Administrative staff, Students and everyone assembled here, I extend my warm welcome to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

I am extremely happy to welcome our Honorable Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Pro-Chancellor of our University Thiru. P. Palaniappan who has been extending support in all possible dimensions for the growth of our University. His concern and attention towards the development of University, Constituent colleges and P.G Centre of our University are highly praiseworthy.

I am very much pleased to welcome our Chief Guest and Distinguished Scientist Dr. K. Tamilmani, Director General, Aeronautical

Systems, Defence Research and Development Organization, Bangalore. His contributions to Aeroscience are remarkable. He obtained his Aeronautical Engineering degree from MIT, Chennai and Postgraduate degree from BITS, Ranchi. He was conferred the doctoral degree in Defence and Strategic Studies by the University of Madras. His research work focuses on the Military Technology Dynamics and their implications for National Security. He is a strong advocate for indigenization and continues to play a leadership role in several indigenization initiatives in airborne systems.

Dr. Tamilmani has received many awards and honours for his work including the DRDO Outstanding Contribution Award in 1992 and again in 1995. He also received the Prof. V.M. Ghatge Award by the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI) in 1995 for his significant contribution to the indigenous Airborne Early Warning (AEW) programme. Further, he had been awarded the National Aeronautical Prize for the year 2007 by the AeSI and also received the MIT Alumni Award in 2007. He was also conferred with DRDO's Agni Award for Self Reliance in 2008. He is also the recipient of DRDO's prestigious Technology Leadership Award in 2011 and Performance Excellence Award 2013 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi.

Dr. K. Tamilmani is a fellow of AeSI and presently holds the position of Vice President in the National Governing Council of AeSI. He has been nominated by the Governor of Karnataka as a senate member of the very prestigious Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belgaum. He has also been recently nominated as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the esteemed Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University, Chennai; Non-academia member in the Board of Studies in Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras and Member, Governing Council, CMR Institute of Technology, Bangalore.

Really we are very fortunate to have such a profound scholar in the midst of us and I am sure that his address will be inspiring our young Graduands.

### **Periyar University - An overview**

Periyar University was established at Salem on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1997 by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The University has taken rapid strides and is emerging as one of the leading Universities. The vision of the University is to impart knowledge to the society through formal and informal modes and to contribute to nation building. Periyar University is reaccredited with 'A' grade by the NAAC with a CGPA of 3.15 in a four point scale.

Started with three Departments in 1997, the University has at present five Science Schools and three Arts Schools comprising 24 Departments which offer 26 P.G programmes and 24 research programmes. The recently instituted departments of Energy Studies and History and Tourism Management offer M.Sc. Energy Studies and M.A. in History and Tourism Management, respectively. Besides, the University offers 35 diploma, 16 P.G. diploma, 8 certificate and 15 professional programmes. The Departments of Textiles and Apparel Design and Food Science and Nutrition have been recognized by the UGC to offer B.Voc. programmes. Besides the departments, the University has established exclusive centres for Nanoscience, Geoinformatics and Planetary Science, Instrumentation, Women Studies and Entrepreneurship. Periyar University provides educational services for the benefit of students from the rural interior villages by establishing five constituent colleges at Mettur, Pennagaram, Harur, Pappireddipatty and Edapadi. The postgraduate extension centre established at Dharmapuri has been providing access to higher education. The present faculty strength is 139 in the various University departments, 26 in five constituent colleges and 10 in the PG centre. At present 92 colleges are affiliated to Periyar University from the districts of Salem, Namakkal,

Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri which caters to the needs of students from rural areas and downtrodden sections of society. This includes 12 Government colleges and 4 Government aided colleges. In addition, skill based employable programmes are offered through 11 Community Colleges. Around 1.5 lakh students have enrolled for various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by Periyar University and their affiliated colleges.

### **e- Governance**

Our University is adopting technological advancements for the benefit of student community. Conducting examinations at the right time and declaration of results in a short span are the key strengths of the University. We have totally modernized the examination system and cleared all the bottlenecks of the past which slowed down the process of examination and evaluation. I am very proud to inform that ours is the only University in the State declaring the results for more than a lakh of candidates within two weeks from the date of last examination. The last semester results were sent by SMS also to all the students of the affiliated colleges. The mark statements along with provisional certificates were issued within a week time. This move of the University has attracted appreciation not only from students but also from general public and the higher education department. Circulars and notices to faculty are all being sent by SMS. We are also planning to introduce information management system for effective administration.

### **University Departments**

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the academic distinctions attained by the University Departments.

The various Departments of Study and Research have published 693 papers / articles in reputed National and International journals and books and attended nearly 465 academic programmes at the National and International levels in this academic year. Further, nearly 106

Conferences / Workshops / Awareness programmes have been organized during this academic year. The publication rating by Web of Science and Scopus is 1180 with a total citation of 3580. The average 'h' index is 25 and citation per paper is 5.23. More than 50 sponsored research projects to the tune of Rs.9.06 crores funded by various funding agencies of Central and State Governments are being currently undertaken in the Departments. Nearly 40 research collaborations and MoUs with National and International Laboratories and Agencies have been signed to carry out high tech research. The University is taking efforts to offer programmes in collaboration with Plymouth University, U.K.

### **UGC Special Schemes**

Recently, the UGC has sanctioned Rs.112 lakhs for Chemistry, Rs.80.5 lakhs for Mathematics and Rs.42 lakhs for Journalism and Mass Communication Departments under the Special Assistance Programme (SAP DRS - I) to develop facilities for the Departments. Further, the UGC has sanctioned Rs.1.70 crores to introduce two new B.Voc. programmes one in Textiles and Apparels Design and another in Food Science and Nutrition. This is a novel programme meant to develop skills in various sectors under the NSDC and NSQF framework. I am very glad to inform to this august gathering that ours is the only University in Tamil Nadu selected by the UGC under this scheme recently. In addition, the UGC has allotted Rs.70 lakhs to develop indoor sports training facility in the sports complex of the University.

### **Faculty visits to Abroad and Honours**

Our faculty members, Prof. N. Rajendhiran, Prof. T. Periasamy, Prof. P. Viswanathamoorthy, Prof. D. Gopi, Prof. Poongodi Vijayakumar, Prof. S. Kadiravan, Prof. K. Murugesan, Dr. S. Nandhakumar,

Dr. T. Palvannan, Dr. Mu. Ramkumar, Dr. G. Mythili, Dr. R. Vasanthamalai, Dr. R. Velayutham, Dr. P. Thangavel, Dr. N. Kayalvizhi, Dr. M. Jayaprakash and Dr. K. Karthikeyan have visited Universities abroad for short terms to carry out academic and research programmes. Prof. Dr. D. Gopi received the prestigious awards of Fellow of Royal Society of Science (FRSC) from Royal Society, London and Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Medical Sciences by Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Chennai. Prof. V. Krishnakumar and Prof. D. Gopi are nominated as Fellow of National Academy of Science.

### **Internal Quality Assurance Cell**

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of our University is revamped and representation is given to all stakeholders. The IQAC is the backbone for maintaining quality in teaching and research. Accordingly, the IQAC has conducted five faculty development programmes and awareness seminars for young faculty members. In order to motivate the faculty members to apply for schemes and projects, a workshop on 'Project writing skills and funding agencies' was conducted. Feedback on curriculum, teaching and research is obtained periodically and discussed thoroughly. The various grievances pointed out in the feedback are duly acknowledged and addressed.

### **Library**

Periyar University library has a collection of 80,200 books of various arts and science disciplines and it subscribes to 180 national and international journals and magazines. 3418 back volumes and 2455 CDs/DVDs provide support to research and academic pursuit. Periyar University has been ranked second in the State for digitizing 752 doctoral theses which are made available for online readers across the world. The campus is Wi-Fi enabled and also all the departments are provided Internet connectivity to access the scientific articles. Apart from

getting permission to access 4,000 e-journals in UGC INFONET, Periyar University gets e-resources from American Society for Microbiology, New York (14 journals on Life Sciences), Emerald Publications, UK (72 journals), World Scientific Publication of Singapore (4 journals), Sage Publications, New Delhi (7 journals) and the EBSCO database of the United States for case studies and research. Periyar University holds the 64<sup>th</sup> rank in the country for availing e-resources. Recently, the UGC has offered

anti-plagiarism software URKUND managed by INFLIBNET Center, Ahmadabad free of cost.

### **Extension Activities**

Nearly 150 students have actively participated in the free coaching for various competitive examinations including civil services, public service commission and bank probationary officer examination in the UGC-sponsored All India Civil Services Free Coaching Centre in our University. The NSS, YRC and RRC units are functioning very effectively and have organized 82 special camps / programmes to create awareness on various public issues. Two NSS volunteers and seven volunteers have participated in the Republic Day parade at the National and State level, respectively. The NSS unit and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) jointly organized National Integration Camp during February 24-28, 2015. The National Unity Day and International Yoga Day were also observed in our campus.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted Rs.1.0 crore for Socio Economic Development Programme (SEDP) which provides coaching and skill based training to selected educated youth belonging to Naxal infested areas of Dharmapuri district.

### **Placement Cell**



The Placement Cell of Periyar University has conducted campus drives for job placement involving leading companies like Infosys, HCL, TCS, KVB, LIC, etc. A total of 778 students have been placed.

### **Physical Education**

Twenty nine tournaments were organized by the Physical Education Department. Our University team has won Gold Medals in both men and women south zone hand ball tournaments. In Kabaddi, we have secured fourth place.

### **Periyar Institute of Distance Education (PRIDE)**

We introduced 53 new programmes this year along with 94 programmes existing through distance mode and we aim to enroll one lakh students through the distance mode in this academic year. 28 University-Industry Collaborative Programmes (UICP) are conducted through PRIDE. Results are published within a month from the date of last examination. We are planning to introduce online payment system for distance education students at the earliest.

### **University First Rank Gold Medals**

I am glad to inform the august gathering that a total of 117 candidates have been awarded medals for securing University First Rank in the year 2014-2015 and the details are furnished below:

1.	Undergraduate	-	29	
2.	Postgraduate	-	29	
3.	Master of Philosophy	-	18	
4.	University Departments			
	Postgraduate	-	23	
	Master of Philosophy	-	17	
	<b>Total Number of Medallists</b>		116	1.
	Doctor of Philosophy	-	188	

2. IN ABSENTIA	-	50,800
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>51,104</b>

It is my duty and privilege to welcome all the gold medallists, doctorate awardees and parents to this convocation. This ceremony is a life time remembrance to all. Education makes you not only knowledgeable but also gives the ability to produce knowledge and the skills needed for it. And more important it builds your character. The certificate that you receive today represents these qualities.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the Periyar University for his continuous support and encouragement to develop the University in all dimensions.

I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the generous funding and guidance for the developmental activities of our University.

I am thankful to the Pro-chancellor and Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education for delivering the special address and extending support in all the activities of Periyar University.

I express my profound thanks and gratitude to the distinguished Chief Guest Dr. K. Tamilmani, who has readily accepted our invitation to be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address.

I am thankful to all the members of the Syndicate, Senate and Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty members, Principals and Secretaries of all the affiliated colleges for their unstinted support and cooperation for the development of the University.

The administrative staff, students and other staff of Periyar University who have performed with devotion the tedious task of making this convocation a success deserves appreciation.

"Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to request you, Sir, to declare the Convocation open".

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