

PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

PERIYAR PALKALAI NAGAR

SALEM - 636 011

SIXTEENTH CONVOCATION

October 14, 2016

Welcome Address and Report

By

Prof. Dr. C. SWAMINATHAN

Vice Chancellor, Periyar University

எப்பொருள் யார்யார்வாய்க் கேட்பினும் அப்பொருள்
மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்ப தறிவு.

- திருக்குறள்

You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives — Clay P. Bedford

Tell me, I'll forget; show me, I may remember; involve me, I'll understand.

Education is a process that involves both teachers and students and today we see the result of such involvement. Convocation is a solemn occasion that marks the addition to the mental wealth of our nation. These young people we see before us today are going to promote our society with intellectual pursuits and novel ideas.

Hon'ble the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University, Madam Governor, the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and the Pro Chancellor of Periyar University **Thiru K.P. Anbalagan,**

Distinguished Chief Guest **Thiru M.M. Sundresh**, Hon'ble Justice, Madras High Court, Chennai, Vice Chancellor, Collector, Members of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Planning Board, Faculty, Officers, Administrative Staff and Employees, My dear Young Graduands, Parents, Distinguished invitees, representative of press and electronic media, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Periyar University, I extend a warm and cordial welcome to all of you to this 16th Convocation. It is an occasion for the University to share its honours, achievements and social contributions to all the well wishers.

I am extremely thankful and grateful to Hon'ble the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University **Thiru Ch. Vidyasagar Rao** for having accepted our invitation to preside over this convocation. He was born in Nagaram, Karimnagar on 12th February 1942 to Thiru C. Srinivasa Rao and Tmt. Chanddramma. During childhood he was greatly influenced by our culture that has for thousands and thousands of years upheld human dignity. After obtaining B.Sc., he secured LLB from the Law College of Osmania University where he was also elected as President of the Students' Union. Hon'ble Chancellor started law practice in Karimnagar in the year 1973. During the state of Emergency in the year 1975, he rose against the infringement into the freedom of the people and was imprisoned under MISA for one year in the Central Prison, Warangal. His championing of peoples' rights had its beginnings in his youth and continues unabated.

He was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha from Karimnagar constituency in 1998 for the first time. He was re-elected to the 13th Lok Sabha in the year 1999. During his illustrious Parliamentary career, he served as Member of the Committee on Public Accounts, Member of the Business Advisory Committee and as Member of the Committee on Finance. He was also a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Hon'ble Chancellor has served as Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and subsequently as Union Minister of State for

Commerce and Industry in the government led by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee from 1999 – 2004.

Prior to becoming a Member of Parliament, he was elected thrice to the Legislative Assembly of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1985, 1989 and 1994. He was appointed as a Governor of Maharashtra on 30th August 2014 and is now holding the office of the Governor of Tamil Nadu from 2nd September 2016.

Periyar University places its gratefulness on record for the presence of such an able administrator and an exemplary public personality with extensive experience and great wisdom. It is a matter of great pride for us to have Hon'ble the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University amidst us today. Indeed, it is my profound duty and privilege to welcome Hon'ble Chancellor with heartfelt gladness. On behalf of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty, Administrative staff, students and every one assembled here, I extend my warm welcome to Hon'ble the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

I am extremely glad to welcome our Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Pro Chancellor of our University Thiru K.P. Anbalagan. He represents the Palacode assembly constituency of Dharmapuri District, which comes under the territorial jurisdiction of our University. Close on the heels of assuming charge, our Hon'ble Minister has assessed the situation accurately and has been showing keen interest in the various developmental activities of Universities and Colleges in Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership and able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. With kindness, patience and perceptiveness, he is a great source of inspiration for us.

I am immensely pleased to welcome our Chief Guest Thiru M. M. Sundresh, Hon'ble Justice, Madras High Court, Chennai. Hon'ble Justice was born on 21st July 1962 at Erode. He completed school

and Pre University Education at Erode, B.A. Degree at Loyola College, Chennai and B.L. Degree at Madras Law College. He was enrolled as an Advocate in the year 1985. He worked as Government Advocate from 1991 to 1996. He made a niche for himself as a lawyer with brilliant arguments and precise presentation of facts. He served as the Counsel for Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Development Corporation. He had extensive practice in Civil (Appellate), Criminal and Writ Jurisdiction in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. He was appointed as a member of the Monitoring Committee to oversee the establishment of Reverse Osmosis System at the dyeing units of Tiruppur, Karur and Erode districts by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of Madras High Court on 31.03.2009 and as a permanent Judge of Madras High Court on 29.03.2011.

Periyar University – An outline

Periyar University was established at Salem on 17th 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. NAAC reaccredited our University with “**A**” Grade with a CGPA of 3.15 in a four point scale. I am glad to share that National Institutional Ranking Framework (**NIRF**) which comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (**MHRD**), Government of India has placed Periyar University in the 47th Rank at the National Level and in the 07th at the State Level. Among the State Universities of Tamil Nadu it stands second.

Started with three Departments in 1997, the University has at present five Science schools and three Arts schools comprising 28 Departments which offer 33 P.G programmes and 26 Research Programmes. Statistics and Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics are the two new Departments instituted from this academic year 2016-2017. The responses of students to the Post

Graduate and B.Voc. programmes are encouraging. Besides the Departments, the University has established exclusive centres for Nanoscience, Geoinformatics and Planetary Studies, Women Studies, Placement and Training, Entrepreneurship and Instrumentation. Over 2500 students have enrolled for the various programmes at the main campus. The present faculty strength is 150 in the University Departments, 43 in five constituent colleges and in the PG centre. At present 95 colleges are affiliated to Periyar University, which includes 13 Government colleges and 4 Government aided colleges. The Post Graduate Extension Center of Periyar University is functioning at Dharmapuri with eight departments offering PG and research programmes. More than 1.5 lakh students have been enrolled for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered in these colleges.

Infrastructure Development

We faced many challenges in housing the Departments and Laboratories due to space constraint. On realizing the immediacy of the need, Periyar University obtained the approval of the Government for new and additional buildings. The construction of second floor in Science Block I and II, third, fourth and fifth floors in the Library and the extension of Women's hostel are completed which are to be occupied by next month.

New Buildings Sanctioned

Construction of Science Block – III (G+3), Instrumentation Centre, Indoor Sports Complex, Multiplex Auditorium, Common Computing Centre, Women's Hostel II and an exclusive building for the bank with facilities for e-transactions are the projects sanctioned and construction will commence in December 2016. A Manimandapam to honour "Thanthai Periyar" is completed and that was sponsored by Thiru K.Sathiyamoorthy & Family, Padmavani College for Women, Salem. The civil works for getting drinking water from Cauvery (**3.00 lakh litres per day**) are in progress.

e- Governance

Our University is adopting technological developments for the benefit of student community. Conducting examinations at the right time and declaration of results in quick time are the key strengths of the University. We have totally modernized the examination system and cleared all the bottlenecks which had in the past 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 through SMS. The mark statements along with provisional certificates are issued within a week's time. This move of the University has attracted appreciation not only from students but also from general public and the higher education department. Examination related details such as time table, hall tickets etc., are uploaded in the website for easy access to the students. The answer scripts are bar-coded with the photographs of the candidates printed on the front page to ensure transparency. Applications for examinations and payment of fees can be done online by the students of affiliated colleges and Periyar Institute of Distance Education. Circulars and notices to faculty are all 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 **931** papers/articles in reputed National and International journals and books and attended **969** academic programmes at the National and International levels in this academic year. Further, a total of **156** Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and Awareness programmes have been organized during this academic year. Our faculty members have delivered **408** lectures in the National and International academic programmes. Eminent Professors and Scientists were invited to

the Departments to share their experiences with the students and the faculty. More than 35 sponsored research projects with a financial outlay of **Rs. 6.0 crores** funded by Central and State Government agencies are being currently carried out by the Departments. Nearly **50** research collaborations and MoUs with National and International laboratories and agencies have been signed to carry out cutting edge researches. Eleven faculty members visited abroad for attending conferences and carrying out collaborative research. Forty five faculty members have been honored and awarded by the prominent National and International agencies and bodies. The Department of History organized 23rd Tamil Nadu History Congress and more than 300 delegates took part in the three days event held during 30th Sep to 02nd Oct, 2016. The details of the major research projects currently carried out by the faculty members are appended in **Annexure-I**.

Special Programmes

UGC Special Assistance Programme to the tune of **Rs. 2.5 crores** is implemented in four Departments already and DST-FIST sponsored programmes are completed in three Science Departments. In this year, Nine Departments have applied for the UGC-SAP and DST-FIST assistance. We are hopefully anticipating a quantum increase in grants in a month or so. These funds will be utilized to strengthen the Research and Development facilities of the Departments.

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. Periodical seminars and conferences on the various themes of higher education are being conducted. Annual Quality Assessment Report (AQAR) is prepared by obtaining feedback from students and other stakeholders.

Library

Periyar University library is given a facelift with five storey building. The library is stacked with **84,372** text and reference books. A total of **197** National and International journals are subscribed besides 88 online journals. We have uploaded nearly **1000** theses in the National Repository of Shodhganga for which Periyar University is placed at the Ninth place in India. Anti Plagiarism software URKUND is available free of cost for the usage of the faculty and students of our University. We have also established a digital library supported by UGC Infonet. The access to the journals from American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, American Institute of Physics, Springer link, Web of Science, Nature, Taylor and Francis, Wiley and Cambridge University Press is open to all.

Placement Cell

The Placement Cell of Periyar University has conducted campus drives at regular intervals for job placement and more than 1500 students have been placed in various leading companies including Infosys Technology, Vedanda Group, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. etc. Further 153 faculty members are also trained by companies through the Placement Cell.

Women's Studies Centre

The Women's Studies Centre is effectively functioning with the financial support of UGC. The UGC released Rs. 27 lakhs to meet out the recurring and non-recurring expenses of the Centre. The National Commission for Women has sanctioned Rs. 5 lakhs to organize Legal Awareness Programme for Women. It is proposed to conduct the programme in five different centers for two days.

Physical Education

Physical Education Department of Periyar University is very active and conducting matches and tournaments at the intercollegiate level, Zonal level, Universities level and National level. So far, fifteen tournaments were organized by the Physical Education Department. The intercollegiate tournaments such as Kabaddi, Football, Cricket were concluded in the last week. UGC has sanctioned Rs. 70 lakhs for constructing the Indoor Sports Complex and the work is going to be started soon. *Mr. Thangavel Mariappan, Alumni of our University won the Gold Medal in the Paralympics Rio – 2016 held in Brazil.*

Periyar Institute of Distance Education (PRIDE)

PRIDE is revamped and the admissions and payment of fees are made online. More than 150 Programmes at the UG and PG level besides Certificate and Diploma have been offered through distance mode. In 2015, a total of 15000 students have been enrolled in various programmes.

Extension Activities

“Salem 150”

We have given the opportunity of celebrating “Salem 150” by the *Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)*. The Inaugural function was held on September 08th 2016. The events planned in this connection are Film Festival, Competitions for students, Exhibition on the achievements of Salem and International conference reflecting Journey of Salem in the coming months.

SET / NET / UPSC Free Coaching

We are giving free training and coaching to the students aspiring to take up the various competitive examinations of UPSC, TNPSC and other boards of examinations for employment. The progresses of the students are satisfactory.

Activities of NSS, YRC and RRC

- 9000 saplings have been planted in Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.
- 1000 Units of blood were donated to the Government Hospitals.
- 158 NSS Units involved in organizing special camps.
- 08 NSS volunteers participated in the National Integration Camp.
- Mr. S.Karthik, NSS Volunteer of Periyar University received the prestigious 'Indira Gandhi National Award' for NSS from President of India.
- International Yoga Day, Youth Day and other days of prominence have been observed.
- Periyar University took up the cleaning work in the Kottagoundampatti village of Salem on the eve of Gandhi Jayanthi under "Swachh Bharath Mission".
- Green Initiatives are being taken to keep the campus clean and green.
- YRC conducted Awareness Training Programme on AIDS & Non-Communicable Diseases, and Eye Camps.

University Gold Medals

A Total of 147 candidates have been awarded University First Rank medals in the year 2015-2016 and the details are furnished below:

Affiliated Colleges

Under Graduate Candidates	:	31
Post Graduate Candidates	:	30
Master of Philosophy Candidates	:	19

University Departments

Post Graduate Candidates	:	22
Master of Philosophy Candidates	:	45
Total Number of Gold Medalists	:	147
Doctor of Philosophy Candidates	:	202
Total Number of IN-ABSENTIA Candidates	:	53,778
Total		54,127

It is my duty and privilege to welcome all the gold medalists, doctorate awardees and parents to this convocation. Education makes you not only knowledgeable but also gives the ability to produce knowledge and skills. And more important, it also builds your character.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Hon'ble the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University for his support and encouragement. I am thankful to Madam Governor for her presence.

I am immensely thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and the Pro Chancellor for supporting and inspiring us.

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 express my profound thanks and gratitude to the distinguished Chief Guest Thiru M.M. Sundresh, Hon'ble Justice, Madras High Court, Chennai who has graciously accepted our invitation to be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address.

I am thankful to all the members of the Syndicate, Senate, Planning Board 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.