



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR  
(1997-2022)

# PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

( NAAC 'A' Grade - State University -  
NIRF Rank 73, ARIIA Rank 4 )

SALEM - 636 011, TAMIL NADU



# 20<sup>th</sup>

# CONVOCATION

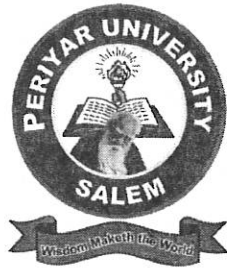
MONDAY

December 6, 2021

Welcome Address and Report  
by

**Prof. R. JAGANNATHAN**

Vice Chancellor



# **PERIYAR UNIVERSITY**

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## **TWENTIETH CONVOCATION**

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

Welcome Address and Report

By

**Prof. R. JAGANNATHAN**

Vice Chancellor

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Chancellor of this University, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, the Pro Chancellor of Periyar University, Distinguished Chief Guest Prof G Rangarajan, dignitaries on and off the dais, invited guests, representatives of Press and media and graduands, it is my pleasure and privilege to present the Welcome Address and Annual Report of Periyar University.

ஒருமைக்கண் தான் கற்ற கல்வி ஒருவற்கு  
எழுமையும் ஏமாப் புடைத்து.

ஒரு பிறப்பில் தான் கற்றக் கல்வியானது அப்பிறப்பிற்கு  
மட்டுமல்லாமல் அவனுக்கு ஏழு பிறப்பிற்கும் உதவும்  
தன்மையுடையது.

“The learning which a man has acquired in one birth, will yield him pleasure during seven births.”

Education should be imparted with a view to the type of society that we wish to build. We are working for a modern democracy built on the values of human dignity and equality. These are only ideals: we should make them living forces. Our vision of the future should include these great principles.

Dr. S.Radhakrishnan.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University, Shri. Ravindra Narayana Ravi, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor of Periyar University Dr. K. Ponmudi, Distinguished Chief Guest Prof. Govindan Rangarajan, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Principal Secretary for Higher Education, 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, My Dear Young Graduands, Distinguished invitees, Representatives of the Press and electronic media, Ladies and gentleman, on behalf of Periyar University, I extend a warm welcome to everyone on the occasion of this 20<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

We are extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Governor – Chancellor for having accepted our invitation to preside over this convocation.

Shri Ravindra Narayan Ravi was born at Patna in Bihar and had his Master's Degree in Physics in 1974. Though he was very much interested in pursuing research in Physics, circumstances made him an IPS officer and joined the Indian Police Service in 1976. He served for the people in various capacities in Kerala for over a decade and then in different parts of the country. He had several

anti-corruption crusades against criminal gangs including mining mafias while he was serving in CBI.

He specialized in controlling insurgencies and violence in Jammu & Kashmir and Maoist infected north east regions of the country while he was in the Intelligence Bureau, the premier intelligence agency of the country. He was the pioneer architect of India's International Co-operation in counter terrorism and intelligence sharing.

Apart from his intelligence service he was also appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in October 2018. He served as the Governor of Nagaland from 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. Shri Ravindra Narayan Ravi assumed office as the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

After he assumed office of the Governor Chancellor, his positive approach towards enhancing the quality and status of the University is encouraging us to move forward. We express our sincere gratitude to the Governor Chancellor for his continuous support and encouragement.

On behalf of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty members, Administrative Staff, Students and every one assembled in the hall, I extend a heartfelt warm welcome to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu.

It is my immense pleasure to welcome our Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education; Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro Chancellor of our University, Dr.K. Ponmudi. He has obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Law, Master's Degree in three different subjects namely History, Political Science and Public Administration and Doctorate Degree in Political Science from Annamalai University.

He started his career as a Professor in the Government Arts College, Villupuram and later turned out to be a successful politician. He has been elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly six times. He represented Villupuram assembly constituency 4 times and Thirukkoyilur assembly constituency two times. He served in the Tamil Nadu Ministry three times in different portfolios viz Health, Transport & Highways and Higher Education in the past. At present, he is serving in the Tamil Nadu Ministry as the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology.

During his tenure, I am happy to state that the Government has started many Government Colleges of Arts and Science and sanctioned many new UG /PG programmes in the Government Colleges. During the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Government graciously considered the representations and granted permission for 25 % additional seats in Government Colleges which helped the poor students to get admission in Government Colleges with minimum fees. On behalf of every one, I welcome our Pro-Chancellor.

I am extremely happy to welcome our Chief Guest Prof. Govindan Rangarajan, Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He has obtained his M.Sc(Hons) degree from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, USA. After having served in the Lawrence Berkley Lab, University of California, he joined in the Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science in 1992 and continues his service in IISc in various capacities.

He is a fellow of 2 National Scientific Academies, out of 3, namely Indian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences, India. For his outstanding contribution in Research, he was awarded the Knight of the Order of Academic Palms (Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques) by the Government of France. He was also a Homi Bhabha Fellow and a JC Bose National Fellow.

He was instrumental for many mathematics initiatives like inter-continental satellite courses for Indian and French students, Instructional Schools and Workshops in cutting-edge areas, Interdisciplinary Ph.D. programmes in Mathematical Sciences. Further, he served as head of the Indo-US Virtual Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Science which was jointly established by the National Sciences Foundation, USA and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. Currently, he is the Director of the

Indo-French Centre for Applied Mathematics, a joint venture between the DST, India and a consortium of French Institutions which supports many collaborative research projects in the broad area of Applied Mathematics.

He also served as the Chairman of the Mathematics Department, Convenor of Digital Information Services Centre, Chairman of International Relations Cell, Chairman of Interdisciplinary Research Division, Head of IISc's fundraising and Alumni Affairs committee. At this juncture, I feel delighted to mention that many of his colleagues (Prof. Venimadhavan, Prof. Thangavel, Prof. Nandhakumaran, Prof. Sunil Chandran, Dr. Venkatesh) have visited the departments of Periyar University on many occasions and have delivered invited lectures, chaired sessions, served as advisory committee member of SAP etc. I hope that the interpersonal relationship between IISc and Periyar University will continue in future by ways of MoU's to solve some problems of common interest.

I extend my warm welcome to Dr. D. Karthikeyan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. He started his career as Professor in Government College and later turned out to be an IAS officer. He is a very active administrator and his suggestions in various matters helps Periyar University to reach new heights in academics.



## **Activities at a Glance**

### **New Initiatives**

I am very proud to share with this august gathering that Periyar University has bagged 4<sup>th</sup> rank in ARIIA and 73<sup>rd</sup> rank in NIRF-2020 by MHRD and is continuously placed within 100 rank in the past 4 years.

The Boards of Studies for the University Departments gets revamped by including student representatives and the revised OBE curriculum have been implemented in affiliated colleges and University Departments.

Internship training has been made mandatory for all the programmes (UG & PG) offered in the University Departments and Affiliated colleges to provide better exposure to the market trends and job opportunities to the students in accordance with the UGC guidelines.

Almost all our transactions and other process like submission of applications for admissions, examinations, affiliation of programmes, entrance examinations for admission, payment of fees etc. are automated.

The MoU signed between Periyar University and NCC Directorate for offering PG Diploma in Management and MBA programme to the in-service officers in the NCC Directorate is the first of its kind among the Universities in Tamil Nadu.

Six new programmes have been introduced in the University Departments namely M.Sc. Data Science, M.Sc. Environmental Science (5 year integrated programme), M.B.A. Export and Import Management, M.B.A. Hotel and Tourism Management, B.Voc. Digital Marketing, D.Voc. Accounting and Taxation.

The MBA programme offered by the Department of Management Studies and M.Tech. programme offered by the Department of Energy Science and Technology are approved by AICTE from 2020-2021 onwards.

Bamboo based Oxygen park, Medicinal plants park, and Vermi Compost production unit for waste management system have been established for giving better environment to the future generation.

PITCH-Pre Incubation Training centre for higher Educational Institutions, a flagship initiative of Periyar University Business Incubation Confederation focusing one million ideas initiative of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)-TN was launched in 2021 by the Hon'ble Mrs. P. Geetha Jeevan, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Govt. of TN.

Startups of BIC@PU has been recognized with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) certification from Startup India under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, one of the brain child projects of our Hon'ble Prime Minister working vigorously for the Independent sustainability of our country.

### **Academic & Research Activities**

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.12.67 Crores. There are 912 research papers published in peer reviewed journals including chapters in books and we obtained two patents. The department faculties have organized 71 Conferences / Workshops/Seminars and 65 skill oriented training programmes. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, our faculty members have presented papers / delivered lectures in 53 online webinar's conferences/workshops/seminars at National and International level. Our faculties Prof. S.Anbalagan, Centre for Geo Informatics, Prof. R.Balagurunathan, Dept. of Microbiology have been awarded TANSA Award by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in recognition of their outstanding contribution in Research. Prof. R.Balagurunathan, Department of Microbiology has been selected for MHRD – LEAP training at Harvard University U.S.A. Apart

from the above, our faculty members bagged 29 awards for their contributions.

Periyar University is celebrating its Silver Jubilee i.e its 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence combined with the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence of our Country and planned to conduct at least 75 academic programmes. Prof. D. Gopi has emerged into the global list of the top 2% of scientists by the data compiled by Stanford University. Dr. Mu. Ramkumar and his team discovered the antiquity of Vaigai Civilization to be about 7500 years contrary to the widely known limits of less than 3500 years.

Periyar University has released Rs. 1.12 crores to research scholars towards research fellowships apart from the fellowships received from Government Agencies.

### **Infrastructure**

All the 27 departments are facilitated with Computer centres and internet facilities for the betterment of the students and researchers. Rs. 41.5 Crores were spent for the establishment of New buildings, additional floors to enhance the infrastructure facilities. Ramanujam Computer Lab has been established in the Department of Mathematics with 60 computers and a high configuration server worth Rs 50 lakhs from DST-FIST. The Business Incubation Centre

at Periyar University (BIC@PU) has been upgraded with new equipment worth Rs. 70 lakhs from the grant sanctioned and released by the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institution of Govt. of Tamil Nadu and the same was inaugurated by the Hon'ble MP Mr. S. R. Parthiban.

### **Affiliated Colleges**

At present there are 115 colleges affiliated to Periyar University. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, online Faculty Development Programmes for college teachers have been organized in Computer Science, Mathematics, English, Microbiology, Textile & Apparel Design and Management Studies.

Towards motivating the teachers / researchers in the affiliated colleges, 2 Best Teachers (1 for Science and 1 for Arts), and 2 Best Researchers (1 from Arts and 2 from Science) award have been instituted and conferred to teachers. This award carries Rs.10,000 as cash prize and a citation.

### **Service to the Society**

The NSS Cell of Periyar University has actively conducted Fit India Freedom Run 2.0, Clean India Campaign, Pre-Republic Day Camp, Blood Donation Camps, Covid Vaccination Camps, Awareness Camps on Covid Pandemic and Diabetics. More than

500 members have benefited from such programmes. Nine students participated in the South Zone Pre-Republic Day Camp held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. A week long residential camps were organised in Naranampalayam and Kottagoundampatti villages. Humanitarian week festival and World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims were also conducted.

## **Library**

Library automation has been our priority and around Rs 8.5 lakhs has been spent for upgrading the library with new facilities like intelligent shelf for self returning of books, Kiosk for self issue of books, Egate software for library user entry and Software for automatic information through e-mail/SMS etc.

In addition to the existing 98,482 volumes of books/magazines/periodicals, 2125 new volumes have been added to support the recent developments and newly designed curriculum. We are also constantly uploading our Ph.D. thesis in the national repository Shodhganga.

## **Physical Education**

The Physical Education department has conducted 32 tournaments during 2020-2021 at the inter collegiate level for men and women and have also conducted a one week Faculty Development Programme. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

has sanctioned Rs 7 crores to establish a Synthetic Athletic Track in our campus. We have received Rs 3 crore as the first installment grant.

### **Placement Cell**

The Placement Cell of Periyar University has conducted Various Campus drives at regular intervals for job placements and more than 1035 students have been placed in Banking and IT enabled services. Further our 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 Centre has established a day care centre to take care of the children of the staff. This centre also takes care of Women welfare and gender issues.

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

PRIDE 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 for English and Commerce and 5 Master programs in Business Administration, Mathematics, Commerce, English and History.

## Extension Activities

SET/NET/UPSC Free coaching is provided to the students through departments and 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.

## Gold Medalists and Ph.D. Awardees

A total of 771 candidates are to be awarded University Rank Medals & Ph.D. in the year 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

In person			
Gold Medalists / Ph.D.	2019-2020	2020-2021	Total
Affiliated Colleges - UG	38	38	76
Affiliated Colleges - PG	32	29	61
University Departments - UG	02	02	04
University Departments - PG	27	28	55
Doctor of Philosophy	319	256	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>771</b>



Along with 196 gold medalists, 6 D.Sc. and 575 Ph.D. awardees will be receiving their degrees in person. The rest 1,53,215 candidates will be awarded degrees in absentia.

<b>In-Absentia</b>			
<b>Programmes</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>Total</b>
Affiliated Colleges UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees, Diploma Courses	<b>74,304</b>	<b>56,008</b>	<b>1,30,312</b>
University Departments UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>2,244</b>
Distance Education (UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees, Diploma and Certificate Courses, University and Industry Collaborative Programme)	<b>16,447</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>20,659</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,953</b>	<b>61,262</b>	<b>1,53,215</b>

I am happy to indicate that in total 1,53,992 candidates will be awarded degrees (which includes 92,376 for the year 2019-2020 and 61,616 for the year 2020-2021) in the 20<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Periyar University

It is my duty and privilege to welcome all the gold medalists and D.Sc. graduands to this convocation. John F Kennedy said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each one of us, there is a private hope and dream which fulfilled can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength of the nation." I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University for his support and encouragement.

I immensely thank the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and the Pro Chancellor for his guidance and support.

I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for his guidance and inspiration.

I express my profound thanks and gratitude to our Distinguished Chief Guest Prof G. Rangarajan, Director of IISc, Bengaluru for graciously accepting our invitation and consenting to deliver the convocation address.

I am duty bound to record my gratitude to Dr. D. Karthikeyan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education for his continuous support.

In this occasion, I extend my gratefulness to the Members of the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly for their keen interest in developing the University.

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

“Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to request you sir, to declare the Convocation Open”.

