

PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

(NAAC 'A++ Grade- State University-

NIRF Rank 59, ARIIA Rank 10)

Salem-636 011, Tamil Nadu

TWENTY FIRST CONVOCATION

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

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.R. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, dignitaries on the dais, invited guests, representatives of Press and media, graduates and their parents, it is my pleasure and privilege to present the Welcome Address and Annual Report of Periyar University.

கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி யொருவற்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை

'Learning is excellence of wealth that none destroy; To man nought else affords reality of joy'.

Meaning of the Couplet is: Learning is the true imperishable riches; all other things are not riches.

Education plays an important role in moulding professional and personal life of each person. Mahatma Gandhiji said, "The purpose of education is to bring the best in you".

"We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet." -Swami Vivekananda.

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. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, 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 Graduates, Distinguished invitees, Representatives of the Press and electronic media, Ladies and gentleman, on behalf of Periyar University, I extend a warm welcome to all of you to this 21st 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 born at Patna in Bihar and had his Master Degree in Physics in 1974. Though he was very much interested in pursuing research in Physics, he tried his hands in journalism but later joined the Indian Police Service in 1976. He

served 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 the 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 Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee in the PMO's Office and later as the Deputy National Security Adviser in October 2018. He served as the Governor of Nagaland from 20th July, 2019 to 17th September, 2021. Shri Ravindra Narayan Ravi assumed office as the 26th Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18th September 2021.

After he assumed office of the Governor Chancellor, he brought about reforms to enhance the quality and status of the University which encourages us to move forward. We express our

sincere gratitude to the Governor Chancellor for his unrelenting support and motivation.

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 cordial welcome to our Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu. Welcome Sir!

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 a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Master's Degree in History, Political Science and Public Administration and a 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. As one of the senior-most political leaders in Tamil Nadu, he was elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly six times. He represented Villupuram assembly constituency four times and Thirukkoyilur assembly constituency two times. He has served in Tamil Nadu Ministry as Minister of Health, Transport & Highways and Higher Education in the past. At present, he is

serving in the Tamil Nadu Ministry as 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. Our revered Pro-Chancellor under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken initiatives and has emerged as the leader in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher education. Under his ministry, equity, access and excellence are the three axioms or guiding principles by which the success of higher education is ascertained. The curriculum of both UG/PG is being revised to bridge the 'skill gap'. On behalf of every one, I welcome our Pro-Chancellor.

I am extremely happy to welcome our Chief Guest Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, former Director of Indian Institute of Technology Madras. He has obtained his B.Tech in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from IIT Madras and M.S and Ph.D in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was awarded the University of California Regents Fellowship during his doctoral studies. He later worked at AT&T

Bell Labs for two years before joining as the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering at IIT Madras in 1986 and later he served as the Dean of Planning at IIT Madras. In 2011, he took over as the Director of his alma mater till his retirement.

His areas of specialization are Communications and Signal Processing. His research work is in Wireless Networks, Modulation, Wireless Data, Audio and Video Compression. He is a founding member of the TeNeT group of IIT Madras, active in developing telecom and networking technologies, and incubating companies to develop and market products based on these.

He is currently honorary Director of the Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology, a public-private initiative at the IIT-M Research Park to make India a wireless technology leader. He is one of the initiators of wireless revolution in India. He is also on the Board of Oil India Ltd.

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 Techno Visionary Award for the year 2011 and the Doyens of Madras Award for the year 2014.

During his tenure IIT Madras was ranked No.1 in ‘Overall Category for three consecutive years by NIRF, Ministry of Education, IIT Madras ranked No.1 in Engineering institutions for 6 consecutive years from 2016-2021, IIT Madras was elected as the Top Innovative Institution in Atal Ranking of Institutions in 2019, 2020 and 2021. IIT Madras was also selected as the “Institution of Eminence” in 2019. As Director of IIT Madras, he launched a 1000 crore satellite campus called “Discovery Campus” and is also instrumental in the development of indigenous 5G standards for India. Welcome Sir!

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

Now I deem it my privilege to make use of this opportunity to highlight the University's achievements to this august gathering:

Periyar University is the only state-run University in Tamil Nadu secured ranking (10th) in ARIIA (Atal Ranking for Institutes Innovation Achievement)

Periyar University is the only state-run university in Tamil Nadu which secured four-star rating for the activities under Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and at all India level the other state-run university secured such rank is Andhra University.

Only state-run university having Synthetic Athletic Track costing Rs.9.66 crores with Rs. 7.00 crores contribution from Khelo India funding.

Under Skill India Portal, Periyar University is one among six institutes in India selected for implementing model Vocational Programme Assessment and Certification.

Periyar University has developed SOP for sago industries of Salem and now Sagoserve is funding to the tune of Rs. 37.0 lakhs for implementing the SOP in tie-up with an MSME.

T. Sibi, the student of M.Sc Data Science has participated in Microsoft bug Bounty Program and Identified a Bug in Microsoft and Received a Bounty of \$10,000.

Our old student Mrs. Pavithra Venkatesh secured Silver Medal in Pole-vault event conducted at Asian Indoor Athlete held in Kazakhstan, and she has been selected for Asian Athlete championship to be held in Thailand in July and Asian Games 2023 to be held in China in October for Pole-vault event.

Project achievements and proposals

Department of Science and Technology awarded a project under Information Technology Business Incubation (ITBI) with total cost of Rs. 5.00 crores owing to the sanction of Incubation Centre funded by the Tamil Nadu Government

Periyar University has received Rs. 1.26 crores under CSR funding for levelling undulating terrain covering an area of four acres, refurbishing chairs of two seminar halls, establishment of Vermi-composting unit and Oxygen Park and to construct a reception hall at the entrance of university.

University has also submitted three projects worth Rs. 1.2 crores under UGC SATHI, DBT-SAHAJ and PURSR Schemes.

Activities at a Glance

New Initiatives

I am very proud to share with this august gathering that Periyar University has bagged 59th rank in NIRF-2023 by MHRD and continuously stood below 100 rank in the past 5 years.

The Boards of Studies for the University Departments gets revamped by including student representative, Industrial experts. The University is taking steps to implement the common curriculum proposed by the State Government of Tamil Nadu in both the 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 practical knowledge 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. gets automated.

The University has signed 29 MoUs with Indian Companies /Institutions and 2 MoUs with Foreign Institutions to enhance quality education, collaborations and exchange programmes.

Various Departments have submitted proposals to start new programmes like PG Diploma in Guidance and counseling, B.PEd, PG Diploma in AI and Machine Learning, M.Sc Bio Statistics, MSW, Certificate Course in Quality Control, PG Diploma in Remote Sensing.

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

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. 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 around 54

skill oriented training programmes. Our faculty members have participated/ presented papers / delivered lectures in 335 conferences/workshops/seminars at National/ International level. Prof. R. Balagurunathan, Department of Micro biology was awarded Fellow of Royal Society of Biology by UK in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research. Dr. M. Sambath, Department Mathematics has received Young Scientist Award in Mathematical Sciences from the Academy of Sciences, Chennai. 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.

Infrastructure

All the 27 departments are facilitated with Computer centres and internet facilities for the betterment of the students and researchers.

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

Affiliated Colleges

At present there are 117 colleges including 2 new Government Colleges, one at Thali and another at Yeriyur affiliated to Periyar University. 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 1 from Science) award have been instituted and conferred to teachers. This award carries Rs. 10,000/- cash prize and a citation.

Service to the Society

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 faculties participated. 75th Independence Day was commemorated with a schedule of 23 events during the period from 1st August to 15th August

2022. Periyar University as on date has 178 NSS units including 20 new units added during 2022-2023.

YRC of Periyar University is doing yeoman service to the society and has so far organized more than 10 programmes like blood donation, awareness programme on World Stroke Day, Clean Hands Programme, Seminar on Diabetes and Monsoon Infective Diseases by the rural clinical society and Thulasi Diabetic foundation, World disability Day, AIDS Day, Youth Day was celebrated by conducting Awareness programmes.

Each and every Department of Periyar University adopted one village and conducted Awareness Programmes to the public relating to health, life skills and Government Schemes.

Library

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. ETD lab was established in 2022-2023 at the cost of Rs. 10.06 lakhs under UGC Shodhganga Project and around 2,937 Ph.D

theses have been uploaded in the National Repository of Shodhganga and the University Library offers inter library loan services with DELNET and INFLIBNET.

Physical Education

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

Placement Cell:

The Career Guidance and Placement Cell of Periyar University has organized 3 training programmes, 2 Faculty Development Programmes and 4 students assessment programmes during 2022- 2023. 457 University department students were placed through On-Campus

and Off-Campus placement drives. In addition to that 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 been registered under Naan Mudhalvan Program. 1150 teachers were trained through Faculty Development Programs conducted by Naan Mudhalvan Program for various skill based courses.

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. Drug awareness programme was conducted for School students in Salem region.

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 and English.

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.

Civil Service Mentoring and Competitive Examination and Guiding Centre strives 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 University is taking all efforts for its successful implementation.

Gold Medalist and Doctoral Degree Awardees (in person):

A total of 99 candidates are to be awarded University Rank Medals in the year 2022-2023.

Gold Medalist	2022-2023
Affiliated Colleges– UG	39
Affiliated Colleges - PG	29
University Departments - UG	03
University Departments – PG	28
Total	99

Along with 99 gold medallists, 4 D.Sc. awardees and 502 Ph.D.

Awardees will be receiving their degrees in person.

In Absentia:

61,413 candidates will be awarded degrees in absentia.

Degree Programme	2022-2023
Affiliated Colleges UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees, Diploma Courses	53,774
University Departments UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees	1,126
Distance Education (UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees, Diploma and Certificate Courses, University and Industry Collaborative Programme)	6,513
Total	61,413

I am happy to indicate that in total 62,018 candidates will be awarded degrees in the 21st Convocation of Periyar University

It is my duty and privilege to welcome all the gold medalists, Ph.D. and D.Sc. graduants to this convocation. Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” 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. Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director of IIT Madras 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”.
