



PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

(NAAC A⁺⁺ Grade with CGPA 3.61 (Cycle -3) - State University -
NIRF Rank 59 - NIRF Innovation Band of 11 - 50)
Salem - 636 011, Tamil Nadu

TWENTY SECOND CONVOCAATION

FRIDAY

24th November, 2023

Welcome Address and Report

By

Prof. R. JAGANNATHAN

Vice Chancellor

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 Prof. Dr. K. Ponmudi, Distinguished Chief Guest Prof. Dr. G. Aghila, Director, National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli, 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 all of you to this 22nd Convocation.

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

Shri Ravindra Narayana Ravi born at Patna in Bihar and had his Master Degree in Physics in the year 1974. He started his career in journalism and subsequently 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.

Apart from his intelligence service he served 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 and subsequently assumed office as the 26th Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18th September 2021.

After he assumed office of the Governor Chancellor, he brought many reforms to enhance the quality and status of the Higher education

in the state by organizing periodical meetings with Vice chancellors which encouraged the universities to move forward and to reach newer heights. Further the Chancellor motivated the universities to identify the unsung heroes of the freedom movement under their jurisdiction to recognize their contribution towards betterment of the society. In view of honoring the contributions of the Tamil poets in the state, our Hon'ble Governor Chancellor has rechristened the Dharbar Hall in Raj Bhavan as Bharathiar Hall. We are highly thankful to His Excellency for providing opportunity to all Vice Chancellors to interact with each other and also get sensitized for expanding higher education during the annual meet of Vice Chancellors. 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, Graduands and every one assembled in the hall, I extend my 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, Prof. Dr. K. Ponmudi. He has obtained Bachelor's Degree in Law, Master's Degree in three different disciplines 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. 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 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. Dr. G. Aghila, Director of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli. She has obtained her B.E., in Computer Science and Engineering from Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai and M.E & Ph.D in Computer Science and Engineering from the College of Engineering, Anna University, Guindy, Chennai. She was awarded with National Merit Scholarship by the Government of Tamilnadu in the year 1982. She served as Professor in Pondicherry Engineering College and Pondicherry University for a span of two decades. Later she joined as Professor at National Institute of Technology, Puducherry, and served as head of the Department of EEE, ECE & CSE. Subsequently, she served as Registrar in charge for a period of three years at NIT Puducherry. In 2022, she took over as the Director of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.

Her areas of specialization are Ontology Engineering, Cheminformatics, Block chain technology, Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence.

She is a Life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Computer Society of India (CSI) and Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE).

During her tenure, NIT Tiruchirappalli was bestowed the 9th best Engineering Institute in India by NIRF ranking and is poised to reach greater heights under her leadership. While taking charge, she said that her priority is to make NIT Trichy more visible at the national and global levels. Prof. Dr. G. Aghila brings with her the wealth of a 32-year career in which she has carved a niche as both an academician and an administrator. Welcome Madam.

I extend my warm welcome to Mr. A. Karthik, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt., Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. He is very dynamic 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 in NIRF Innovation Band of 11-50. Periyar University is the only state-run university in Tamil Nadu awarded four-star rating by the MoE, New Delhi for the activities under Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), consecutively for the past two years.

Ours is the 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.

Our old student Mrs. Pavithra Venkatesh secured Silver Medal in Pole-vault event conducted at Asian Indoor Athlete held in Kazakhstan, and she has participated in Asian Athlete championship held in Thailand in July and Asian Games 2023 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 as a result of performance at the Incubation Centre of Periyar University 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 establish an Information Centre at the entrance of university.

University has also submitted two projects worth Rs. 20.00 crores under UGC SATHI and DBT-SHAJ 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 representatives and 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 31 MoUs with Indian Companies / Institutions and 2 MoUs with Foreign Institutions to enhance quality education, collaborations and exchange programmes and also to establish 100 Satellite Research Centres across the country to tap the youth force.

This year we have started two new programmes namely M.Sc Bio-Statistics & M.Sc Bio-Medical Science and various Departments have submitted proposals to start new programmes like PG Diploma in Guidance and Counselling, B.P.Ed, PG Diploma in AI

and Machine Learning, MSW, Certificate Course in Quality Control, PG Diploma in Remote Sensing. In addition, two new programmes namely PG Diploma in Dravidian Literature and Journalism and Ph.D. in Dravidian Literature and Journalism have been already approved and we offer the same from the next academic year onwards, mainly for Journalists as part-time programmes.

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. University is also in the process of establishing Bio Septic Tanks towards achieving real Green Campus status.

Academic & Research Activities

Faculty members of 27 University departments and Periyar University Centre for Post Graduate and Research Studies have been actively involved in carrying out UGC, DBT, DST, ICMR, ICSSR, MOEF & CC, MOFPI, TANSCHÉ & TNSCST funded projects worth Rs.2.6 Crores. Around 708 research papers / chapters have been published in peer reviewed journals and Book Chapters. The department faculties have organized 76 Conferences / Workshops / Seminars and imparted around 54 skill oriented training programmes. Our University have also organized nearly 30 events related to G20 Presidency to familiarize the students with the key sustainable development initiatives and policies for India. Kalaignar Research Centre has actively organized various lectures to create awareness on social justice. Our faculty members have participated/ presented papers / delivered lectures in 285 conferences / workshops / seminars at National/ International level. Our faculty members and students have bagged 36 awards for their contributions in various fields.

Periyar University has released Rs. 65.02 Lakhs to 146 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.

Foreign Visits

Prof. K. Murugesan, Department of Environmental Sciences visited the Hong Kong Baptist University as visiting scholar and also visited Cambodia to attend workshop on Climatic change.

Prof. M. Ramkumar, Department of Geology visited Al Khalifa University, UAE as an expert for establishing collaboration and MoU with Periyar University.

Prof. P. Viswanathamurthy, Department of Chemistry visited Comenius University, Slovakia under National Scholarship programme.

Dr. P. Thangavel, Department of Environmental Sciences visited Mexico to attend International conference on Environmental research and to deliver an invited lecture fully funded by SERB.

Infrastructure

All the 27 departments are facilitated with Computer Labs 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 Kalaignar Research Centre Block to enhance the infrastructure facilities.

Affiliated Colleges

At present there are 118 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. It is proposed to provide such awards to the teachers of the University departments and Periyar University Centre for PG and Research Studies from the next academic year.

Service to the Society

The NSS cell of Periyar University has actively took part in various social outreach programmes by conducting blood donation camps, tree plantations, eye testing camps, International Yoga Day and Awareness Programme, Drive against Drugs & Tobacco and Gender sensitization. Periyar University has 178 NSS units (as on date) 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 on Disaster management, 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 94 National and International periodicals and 88 online journals are subscribed at the cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. ETD lab was established at the cost of Rs. 10.06 lakhs under UGC Shodhganga Project and around 3064 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. As new initiative the old books in the library of Vijayaragavachariyar Hall is planned for digitalization and also the library is involved in establishing Salem Pedia, a digital resource of erstwhile Salem District.

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 200 mts 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 4 Assessment & training programmes and 7 Faculty Development Programmes during last year. 163 students from University departments 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. 3450 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 University Centre for Online Learning and Distance Education (PUCODE)

Periyar University Centre for Online Learning and 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 for English and Commerce and 5 Master programs in History, 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 104 candidates are to be awarded University Rank Medals for the academic year 2022-2023.

Gold Medalist	Number of Graduands
Affiliated Colleges - UG	40
Affiliated Colleges - PG	31
University Departments - UG	03
University Departments - PG	30
Total	104

Along with these 104 gold medallists, 153 Ph.D. Awardees will be receiving their degrees in person.

In Absentia:

44,524 candidates will be awarded degrees in absentia.

Degree Programme	Number of Graduands
Affiliated Colleges UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees, Diploma Courses	42,915
University Departments UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees	978
Distance Education (UG, PG, MPhil. Degrees, Diploma and Certificate Courses, University and Industry Collaborative Programme)	631
Total	44,524

I am happy to indicate that in total 44,781 candidates will be awarded degrees in the 22nd Convocation of Periyar University.

It is my duty and privilege to welcome all the gold medalists, and Ph.D. graduands 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. G. Aghila, Director, National Institute of

Technology, Tiruchirappalli for graciously accepting our invitation and consenting to deliver the convocation address.

I am duty bound to record my gratitude to Mr. A. Karthik, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Higher Education for his continuous support and guidance.

In this occasion, I extend my gratefulness to the Members of the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly for their keen interest shown in the holistic development of 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”.