

PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

PERIYAR PALKALAI NAGAR

SALEM - 636 011

SEVENTEENTH CONVOCATION

March 20, 2018

Welcome Address and Report

By

Prof. Dr. P. KOLANDAIVEL

Vice Chancellor, Periyar University

ஒருமைக்கண் தான்கற்ற கல்வி ஒருவற்கு

எழுமையும் ஏமாப் புடைத்து.

The learning, which a man acquires in one birth, will last him for seven births.

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.” - Robert Frost (American Poet)

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University, **Shri. Banwarilal Purohit**, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and the Pro Chancellor of Periyar University **Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan**, Distinguished Chief Guest **Dr.B.Chandrasekaran**, Director, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai, Members of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty members, Officers, Principals and Secretaries of the colleges,

Administrative Staff and Employees, My dear Young Graduands, Parents, Distinguished invitees, Representatives of the press and electronic media, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Periyar University, I extend a warm welcome to all of you to this 17th Convocation. It is an occasion for the University to share her honours, achievements and social accomplishments with all the well wishers.

I am extremely thankful and grateful to Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University for having accepted our invitation to preside over this convocation.

Shri. Banwarilal Purohit is a senior political personality having shaped public affairs in a big way for the last four decades. He represented Nagpur Lok Sabha constituency three times. Besides being a people's representative, he is a journalist, renowned social reformer, prolific orator, nationalist thinker and an eminent educationist. He was born on April 16, 1940 and obtained his commerce degree from Nagpur University. He won the Assembly elections from Nagpur East in 1978 and from Nagpur South Constituency in 1980. He served as a Minister of State for Urban Development, Slum Improvement and Housing in the Maharashtra Government in 1982. All through his political career, he has carried out a relentless fight against corruption in public life.

He has been associated with many social, charitable, religious and sports organizations and has generously donated to the cause of education and social welfare. He is the National Trustee and Vice President of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, one of the premier societies running more than 250 educational institutions across the globe.

He served as Governor of Assam from 22nd August 2016 till 05th October 2017 and also held the additional charge for the State of Meghalaya. Shri. Purohit assumed office as Governor of Tamil Nadu on 06th October 2017 since which time Tamil Nadu State Universities have been witnessing sweeping reforms.

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

I am extremely happy 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. Our Hon'ble Minister has been showing keen interest in the various developmental activities of Universities and Colleges in Tamil Nadu under the dynamic and able guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He made several reforms in higher education and established new Government colleges in rural areas. Because of this Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students in higher education is top in Tamil Nadu among the states in India.

I am immensely pleased to welcome our Chief Guest Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai. CLRI is one of the prestigious laboratories of CSIR. Dr.B.Chandrasekaran specializes in Cleaner Production Technologies, Leather Education, Leather Product Design & Development and CAD Techniques for Leather Product Design.

He is the recipient of Kannammal Memorial Award for holding First Rank in M.Tech, Sulabh International Award and the AIMO Award. He is the Vice-President of Indian Leather Technologists Association, and Life-Member A.C. Tech Leather and Footwear Association (ALFA), ISO-Leather, American Leather Chemists Association, International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Society. He is the Project Coordinator for CSIR's prestigious International Consultancy assignment in Ethiopia which focuses on capacity building for Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) at Ethiopia and Kenya, respectively.

He is the coordinator for the National Monitoring Unit (NMU) for Department of Industrial Policies and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India. He is the principal leader for the Project Design Innovation Center for Life Style Products for providing designers for the leather products sector. He has been associating with Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) in development of curriculum and vertical growth integrating the skills with levels of education.

Periyar University – An outline

Periyar University was established on 17th September 1997 by an Act of the Legislative Assembly. Started with three departments in 1997, the University has five Science and three Arts Schools comprising 27

departments offering 29 PG programmes and 27 Research programmes. Periyar University has been re-accredited with 'A' Grade (CGPA of 3.15 on a four point scale) by the NAAC in 2015 and obtained 85th rank among 724 entries across India in the NIRF-2017. The faculty strength is 158 in the University departments, 57 in six constituent colleges and 21 in the PG centre at Dharmapuri. At present, 101 colleges are affiliated to Periyar University from the districts of Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri which cater to the needs of students from rural and urban areas. This includes 14 Government colleges and 4 Government aided colleges. The student strength has been steadily increasing and nearly one lakh eighty thousand students have enrolled — University departments (2,311), Affiliated colleges (1,66,716) and Periyar Institute of Distance Education (10,971).

Academic and Research Activities

The University departments have taken up 63 research projects with a financial outlay of **Rs.10.31 crores** during the last three years. So far, **193** projects have been completed with an outlay of **Rs.19.22 crores**. The departments of Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Food Science and Nutrition and Biotechnology have been recognized by the DST under the FIST program. The UGC has granted **Rs.12.67 crores** under the 12th plan. Faculty members have published more than **4500** articles as on date of which **1999** articles have been cited in Web of Science and SCOPUS. The average h-index is **39**. The faculty members of the University departments are carrying out major research projects sponsored by DST, DBT, MoEF & CC, ICMR, UGC and CSIR to the tune of **Rs. 6.5 crores**.

Further, a total of **79** Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and Awareness programmes have been organized during this academic year. Our faculty members have delivered lectures in national and international academic platforms. Eminent Professors and Scientists were invited to the departments to share their experiences with students and faculty members.

Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology conferred the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) last year to Prof. D.Gopi of Department of Chemistry for his contribution in the biomedical domain. The article published by Dr. M. Ramkumar, Department of Geology has been awarded for Best Paper 2017 in Geoscience Frontiers published by Elsevier.

The University hosted the Forty First Indian Social Science Congress with the focal theme of “Indian Universities Educational System – A Critical Appraisal” during December 18-22, 2017 in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad. The Hon’ble Governor Chancellor inaugurated the Congress and the Hon’ble Minister for Higher Education delivered the valedictory address.

Faculty Lecture Series Programme

To encourage faculty members to interdisciplinary and cutting edge research, Faculty Lecture Series Programme has been launched recently. The idea is to bring eminent scholars of national repute every month to deliver lectures in their respective domain. This programme was inaugurated and the first lecture was given by Padma Bhushan Prof. P.Balaram former Director of IISc, Bangalore.

Infrastructure

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 various buildings worth of **Rs. 38 crores** are in the completion stage and the construction of new buildings to the tune of **Rs. 19 crores** are to be commenced soon.

The campus is Wi-Fi enabled and all the departments are provided with internet connectivity through optical fiber cable. The Central Library is well equipped with 87,200 volumes of text and reference books, 167 journals and magazines, 3,926 back volumes, 2,629 CD's/DVD's. We have also established a digital library to access 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.

The Student Amenity Centre is providing reprography, refreshment, health care, LAN connectivity etc. to students and research scholars.

Placement Cell

The Placement Cell of Periyar University has conducted campus recruitment drives at regular intervals and more than 750 students have been placed in various leading companies including Infosys Technology, IDBI, HCL, Maruthi Suzuki Ltd. etc. Further, 200 teachers from affiliated colleges were trained by companies through the Placement Cell.

Physical Education

The Physical Education Department has organized twenty nine intercollegiate tournaments during the academic year 2017-2018. The hand

ball teams — both Men and Women — of Periyar University have won Gold Medals in the State level Inter University, South Zone and All India tournaments.

Periyar Institute of Distance Education (PRIDE)

Nearly 65,000 students have enrolled in the 200 study centers across Tamil Nadu for various UG and PG programmes. We have introduced online admissions from this academic year.

Activities of NSS, YRC and RRC

Our University NSS unit is implementing the vision of Swachh Bharat through ‘**One student one tree**’ programme. Up to 12th March, 2018 our NSS volunteers have planted 28,615 saplings in the main campus and in the Constituent College campuses. Our students observe days of national importance and take pledge.

YRC and RRC have conducted numerous camps and training programmes pertaining to social issues in many villages of Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

University Gold Medals

A Total of 128 candidates are awarded gold medals for securing University First Rank in this convocation and the details are furnished below:

Affiliated Colleges

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----|
| Undergraduate Candidates | : | 32 |
| Postgraduate Candidates | : | 30 |
| Master of Philosophy Candidates | : | 17 |

Undergraduate – History Endowment Medal
(First Girl Child Award) : 01

University Departments

| | Postgraduate |
|--|-----------------|
| Candidates | : 26 |
| Master of Philosophy Candidates | : 22 |
| Total Number of Gold Medallists | 128 |
| Doctor of Philosophy Candidates | : 380 |
| Total Number of IN-ABSENTIA Candidates | : 66,573 |
| Total | 67,081 |

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome all the gold medallists, recipients of the doctoral degree and parents to this convocation.

I express my thankfulness to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the Periyar University for his contribution in the development of Universities and upholding quality in higher education.

I am immensely thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Pro Chancellor for his support and encouragement.

I express my profound thanks and gratitude to the distinguished Chief Guest Dr.B.Chandrasekaran, Director, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), 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 and Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty members, Principals and

Secretaries of all the affiliated colleges for their abundant support and cooperation in the development of the University.

I appreciate the members of faculty, administrative and other staff of Periyar University for their dedication in making this convocation a success.

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