

# PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

SALEM - 636 011

## EIGHTEENTH CONVOCATION

November 27, 2018

Welcome Address and Report

By

**Prof. P. KOLANDAIVEL**

Vice Chancellor

The most respected and Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the dignitaries on the dais, it is my pleasure and privilege to present the Welcome Address and Annual Report of Periyar University.

யாதானும் நாடாமால் ஊராமால் என்னொருவன்  
சாந்துணையுங் கல்லாத வாறு.

For the truly learned every country and every town his/her own.

This being so how is possible for some to spend the entire life without learning.

**The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet**

**- Aristotle**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Periyar University,  
**Shri. Banwarilal Purohit**, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of Periyar University and  
Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Tamilnadu Thiru K.P.Anbalagan,  
Distinguished Chief Guest **Justice S. Jagadeesan**, Former Judge, High  
Court of Madras, Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Principal

Secretary for Higher Education, Deputy Secretary to Governor (Universities), 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

I am extremely thankful and obliged to the 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 for the last four decades. He has represented Nagpur Lok Sabha constituency three times. He won the Nagpur Assembly election twice and served as a Minister of State for Urban Development, Slum Improvement and Housing in the Maharashtra Government in 1982. Besides being a people's representative, he is a journalist, renowned social reformer, orator, thinker and an eminent educationist. 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 causes 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 August 2016 to October 2017 and also held the additional charge for the State of Meghalaya. Shri Purohit assumed office as Governor of Tamil Nadu on October 2017 since which time Tamil Nadu State Universities have been witnessing sweeping reforms.

Periyar University places its appreciation on record for the presence of such a talented administrator and a commendable public personality with enormous 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 with us today. 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 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 operational 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. He has introduced many PG and Research programmes in the Government Arts and Science Colleges located at remote places in our State. During his stint, the Government has sanctioned many Government Colleges - Arts and Science, Engineering and Poly-technic. Almost all the taluks of Tamil Nadu have any one of the above colleges. The fee structure in these colleges lends affordability enabling poor students to enroll. Thanks to this step, the higher education gross enrollment ratio has

shot up to 46% in Tamil Nadu. Further, the Hon'ble Minister has allocated several hundred crores of funds for the infrastructural development of Universities and Government Colleges.

I am extremely pleased to welcome our Chief Guest **Justice S. Jagadeesan**, Former Judge, High Court of Madras, Chennai. Thiru S. Jagadeesan, was born in Salem town in the year 1941. He had his primary and secondary education in Salem. He graduated from Presidency College, Madras and got his Law Degree from Madras Law College.

He was enrolled as an Advocate on 19.10.1964, after completing his apprenticeship in the office of Hon'ble Justice Thiru. V. Ramaswami, former Supreme Court Judge. Justice S. Jagadeesan has worked with Padma Vibhushan K. Parasaran former Attorney General, Government of India.

He was appointed as Judge of Madras High Court in October, 1994. As a Judge, he has dealt with cases of great importance and held the chairmanship of various executive and administrative committees of State and Central Governments. He was the Chairman of Ethiraj College Trust Board for 10 years and served as a Syndicate Member in the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University. He was the educational advisory board member in Queen Mary's College, Chennai and Vel's University, Chennai.

After attaining superannuation, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board headquartered at Chennai. Apart from Judicial committees, he is the honorary President of Mylapore Arts Academy and a Member of Board of Directors in Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan.

It is my immense pleasure to welcome **Shri R. Rajagopal**, Additional Chief Secretary to Governor. Shri. R. Rajagopal is 1984 batch IAS officer. He was former Principal Secretary Home, Prohibition and Excise Department of Government of Tamilnadu. He was the district collector for Kanyakumari and Virudhunagar. He held several positions in Government of India Service as Joint Secretary of Department of Environment, Youth Welfare, Cement Corporation, Agriculture, Planning etc. He was formerly Adviser, Inter State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs and has held the present post since November 2017.

A dynamic personality and a visionary, he has contributed significantly in Skill India, Digital India, Clean India missions. It has been a turnaround period for Tamil Nadu State universities since he assumed charge in the current post. His artistic inclinations are well known which make him, besides being a performer, a judge of fine taste in music and culture.

I extend a warm welcome to **Shri Mangat Ram Sharma IAS**, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. His proactive measures in the domain of Higher Education have helped enhance the quality of the academic programmes and also transparency in administration. His intense listening and instant grasp of the intricacies of the portfolio are a great boon to the academics providing inspiration and motivation.

### **Activities at a Glance**

#### **(i) New Initiatives / Innovations (University)**

In the past ten months we have introduced innovations in Periyar University some of which are appended.

An additional Research Fellowship (URF) was sanctioned to each Department. At present a total of 162 research scholars are beneficiaries of University Research Fellowships.

The University is providing 50% of travel expenses for faculty to attend International conferences abroad. A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs is allotted for the purpose.

A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum is earmarked for research scholars to participate and present papers in International academic events.

Monthly lectures by eminent academics and researchers are arranged to expose faculty and scholars to excellence in teaching and research and to enable them to set benchmarks for themselves. The first lecture was by Padma Bhusan Prof. P. Balaram former Director of IISC, Bangalore and the second was by Prof. Sathiyamoorthi, former Director IISER, Mohali. Five such lectures have been arranged so far.

Accepting our proposal on “Food Science and Nutrition” the Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned Rupees **One crore** to establish an incubation centre for developing entrepreneurial skills in the domain.

The syllabi and the question paper pattern of the University Departments are revised on a par with national institutes with an aim to improve the analytical and critical thinking skills of the students which came into effect from 2018-19.

A five year M.A. integrated course in Journalism and Mass Communication (Electronic Media) is offered from this academic year.

MoU's were signed by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication with SKOPIC, Chennai, the Department of Environmental Science with Korean Smart Farm Centre, Gyeongsang National University, Korea, Department of Microbiology with VIRPAC, Mumbai. Further, our University and Curtin University Sarawak have signed an agreement for the internship of two post graduate students of Department of Geology.

A free education scheme was implemented to benefit students with poor economic background irrespective of caste at the Postgraduate level in 27 Departments. Under this scheme one student from each department will be selected based on merit. The selected students are given tuition and hostel fee waiver. Affiliated colleges are also advised to implement this scheme and some of them have already done so.

The University brings out a Newsletter once in four months giving brief accounts of academic and extension activities by faculty and students.

## **(ii) Academic and Research Activities**

The faculty members of 27 departments of study and research are actively involved in carrying out 16 funded projects to the tune of Rs.2.89 crores, 700 papers were published, organized 124 conferences and awareness programmes, participated and presented 618 papers in National / International conferences. Nearly 16 faculty members have visited foreign Universities to carry out collaborative research / invited lectures.

The Tamilnadu State Council for Science and Technology has conferred the TANSA award (2016) on Prof. S. Anbazhagan, Director,

Centre for Geo-informatics and Planetary Studies for his contribution to Environmental Science.

Dr.M.Ramkumar, Department Geology has received the “Best Paper Award” at the international level instituted by Elsevier and China University of Geosciences, Beijing for his paper published in the International journal “Geosciences Frontiers.”

### **(iii) Infrastructure**

Works relating to auditorium renovation, additional floors in the Computer Centre and Guest House are in progress. The estimated cost for these works is around Rs. 14.00 Crores.

Skill Development, Bakery Unit and Incubation Centre, additional floors in Instrumentation Centre and Women’s Amenity Centre, Controller of Examinations office second floor, primary sewage treatment plant, two wheeler and four wheeler sheds, extension of compound wall and construction of an arch are the new works proposed at a cost of Rs.15.00 crores.

### **Affiliated Colleges:**

- ❖ Faculty Training Programmes for teachers of the affiliated colleges have been instituted and so far programmes have been conducted in the disciplines of Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science. Around 400 teachers were trained.
- ❖ Best Teacher and Best Researcher awards are instituted to the teachers of the affiliated colleges.
- ❖ The University has introduced online payment of remunerations and honorariums.



## Service to the Society:

- ❖ The Department of Psychology took initiatives for 'Cognitive Skill Awareness' about the mental health in few Tribal Villages of Salem District.
- ❖ Nearly 15,000 volunteers from 250 units of NSS from the Affiliated Colleges and University Departments are actively participating in the programmes of social relevance and importance.
- ❖ Flood relief material worth of Rs.59 lakhs and Rs.7 lakhs for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund was given to Government of Kerala in August 2018.
- ❖ Recently our NSS volunteers distributed the flood relief materials worth of about Rs.10 lakhs to the *Gaja Cyclone Victims* of Delta Districts in Tamil Nadu on 20.11.2018.
- ❖ Dr. G. Hema, NSS Programme Officer along with 10 NSS volunteers has participated in the National Integration Camp held at Gujarat during October 2018.
- ❖ The University is collaborating with Corporation of Salem to implement **Swachh Bharat**. The staff and students of the each University departments are taking this mission on every week by rotation. This scheme will also be extended to jurisdictional districts of Namakkal, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri.

We have adopted Sangeethapatti Village in Salem District and we are providing computer education and organizing science exhibitions to the students of the Panchayat Union middle schools. Adoption of villages in the districts of Namakkal, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri is being planned.

## **Library**

1,931 new books worth Rs. 30 lakhs have been added to the Library this academic year. The total holding now is 90,871 volumes. We subscribe to 167 periodicals and 16 online journals. So far 1321 theses have been uploaded in the inflibnet.

## **Physical Education**

Our University is placed in the third position in the South Zone International Hand Ball tournament for Men. In the All India Inter University Athletic Meet (2017-18) our University won the Gold Medal in 400 meters.

## **Placement**

We have conducted eleven campus recruitment drives in the past ten months by inviting Multinational Companies. 200 students have secured various positions based on their performance.

## **University Gold Medals**

A Total of 130 candidates are awarded gold medals for securing University First Rank in this convocation.

## **Affiliated Colleges**

<b>Undergraduate Candidates</b>	-	<b>36</b>
<b>Postgraduate Candidates</b>	-	<b>28</b>
<b>Master of Philosophy Candidates</b>	-	<b>17</b>

## **University Departments**

<b>Postgraduate Candidates</b>	-	<b>28</b>
<b>Master of Philosophy Candidates</b>	-	<b>21</b>

<b>Total Number of Gold Medalists</b>	-	<b>130</b>
<b>Doctor of Philosophy Candidates</b>	-	<b>130</b>
<b>Total Number of In-absentia Candidates</b>	-	<b>49,274</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>49,534</b>

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

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

I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education for his constant support and encouragement for the welfare of the University.

I express my profound thanks and gratitude to the distinguished Chief Guest Justice S. Jagadeesan, Former Judge, High Court of Madras who has graciously accepted our invitation to be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address.

My sincere thanks to Shri. R. Rajagopal, Additional Chief Secretary to Governor for his keen interest in the development of our University.

I am duty bound to record my gratitude to Shri. Mangat Ram Sharma, the Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education for his support.

On 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 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 great success.

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