

# PERIYAR UNIVERSITY

SALEM - 636 011

## NINETEENTH CONVOCATION

October 24, 2019

Welcome Address and Report

By

**Prof. P. KOLANDAIVEL**

Vice Chancellor

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

கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி யொருவற்கு  
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை.

-திருக்குறள்

Learning is excellence of wealth that none destroy;

To man nought else affords reality of joy.

***A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. The teacher who has come to the end of his subject, who has no living traffic with his knowledge but merely repeats his lesson to his students, can only load their minds, he cannot quicken them.***

**– Rabindranath Tagore**

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 Shri. Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India and Former Governor, Kerala State, 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

We are immensely grateful 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 leader of great political wisdom and sagacity who has shaped policies that have benefitted the public for the last four decades. He has represented Nagpur Lok Sabha constituency three times. He served as a Minister of State for Urban Development, Slum Improvement and Housing in the Maharashtra Government in 1982. He was elected to the Nagpur Assembly twice. In addition to his public life, he is a journalist, renowned social reformer, an orator, intellectual and a well-known educationist. He has carried out a relentless fight against corruption in public life throughout his political career.

He has been associated with many social, charitable, spiritual and sports organizations and has generously donated to causes pertaining to 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. After he assumed the office of the Governor Chancellor, he brought reforms to enhance the quality and status of the universities. We express our sincere gratitude to the Governor Chancellor for his benevolent co-operation and encouragement to our University that have helped bring in significant reforms in our system.

We are thankful to the Governor Chancellor for nominating Dr. Arunachalam Angappan, (Rtd. Professor) and Dr. T. Poongodi Vijayakumar, Professor and Head, Department of Food Science and Nutrition as members of the Syndicate (Governor Nominees).

On behalf of the Syndicate, Senate, Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, Faculty members, Administrative staff, students and every one assembled here, 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 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 instrumental in the promotion of developmental activities in the Universities and Colleges of Tamil Nadu. He has introduced new Postgraduate and Research programmes in the Government Arts and Science Colleges located at remote places in our State. During his tenure, I am happy to mention, the Government has started Government Colleges Arts and Science, Engineering and Polytechnic almost in all the taluks of Tamil Nadu. He has sanctioned grants to ensure infrastructure facilities in universities and colleges. The fee structure in these colleges lends affordability enabling poor students to enroll. All the proactive measures of the Government have helped Tamil Nadu stay at the top of the list in Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) of students in Higher Education across the country. This is a good occasion for me to mention that the Higher Education Department of Tamil Nadu has generously allotted money to strengthen research activities in the Universities. He has taken sustained efforts to introduce programmes with employment potential in the Government Arts and Science Colleges. In this academic year 2019-20 many new programmes are being introduced at the UG and PG levels.

I am extremely pleased to welcome our Chief Guest Shri P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India. He was born in an agricultural family as the son of late Thiru.Palaniswamy and Smt. Natchiyammal at Kadappanallur Village near Bhavani in Erode district. Graduating from the Government Law College, Madras, he enrolled as an advocate and subsequently occupied the post of Additional Government Pleader and he became the Special Government Pleader in the High Court of Madras. He served as Legal Adviser to several state-owned

corporations, municipalities and banks. He was appointed as a permanent judge of the High Court of Madras on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1996 and was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2007. He was elevated to the post of Judge of the Supreme Court on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007. He was sworn-in as the 40<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013. It was a proud moment for the people of our country that a person with humble background from an agricultural family residing in a remote village attain the highest position in the judiciary. I am immensely happy to inform the august house that our chief guest has been recently conferred the Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) in Law by the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.

Shri Justice Sathasivam has to his credit several path-breaking judgments which include the 'Reliance Gas Judgment' wherein he observed that 'in a national democracy like ours, the national assets belong to the people' and the same should be explored through Public Sector Undertakings. Along with Justice B.S. Chauhan, he delivered the judgment in the '1993 Mumbai blasts case', sentencing several accused persons to five year imprisonment. This was the biggest case heard in the history of Supreme Court. In consonance with the international conventions and treaties, he delivered another important judgment in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, holding that unexplained and unreasonable delay in disposal of mercy petitions by the President leads to commutation of death sentence into life sentence.

He delivered a landmark judgment in the abolition of manual scavenging and also to prevent future generations from this inhuman practice, he issued a series of directions to all the States to prohibit manual scavenging. The order also had a rehabilitation package, which included

the grant of Rs. 10 lakh as compensation to the families of everyone who died in sewers since 1993. Another laudable judgment of his is the one that led to 1% increase in the quota for the disabled persons.

He also authored leading Judgments in electoral reforms such as 'Nota' and 'Paper Trail'.

Shri Chief Justice (Retd) P. Sathasivam, who assumed office as the Governor of Kerala on 05<sup>th</sup> September 2014 has pioneered a quality improvement drive in higher education by instituting the Chancellor's Award for the best university in the State. All the universities in the Kerala State have witnessed enhancement of quality in academic and research activities during his tenure.

A person with long standing association with the people of India, he has made significant contributions to the judiciary, education and well being of the people.

I extend a warm welcome to **Shri Mangat Ram Sharma IAS**, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. His suggestions and guidance in various matters of Periyar University are very useful to our administration. Very particular in maintaining cordiality with the university authorities, he has been proactive in promoting quality teaching and research in Higher Educational institutions. He has been instrumental in sparing the Government funds for the universities and colleges by way of awarding projects.

## **Activities at a Glance**

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

We are very proud to share with this august gathering that Periyar University has bagged 68<sup>th</sup> Rank in NIRF-2019 by MHRD.

The Boards of Studies for the affiliated colleges and the university departments are being revised. We have planned to introduce the revised curriculum from the academic year 2020-2021. The university departments have introduced outcome based curricular design.

Examination reform is one of the challenging tasks of the universities and in this regard we have made reforms in the question papers pattern including space for critical thinking, reasoning and analytical skills.

In order to ensure transparency and expedite the purchase process we are using the Government Electronic Marketing (GeM) portal and our purchases through GeM are more than that of the other state universities in Tamil Nadu.

Our faculty lecture programme is being very successfully organized. So far, 10 lectures have been delivered by Padma awardees and eminent scholars.

Most of the administrative work in the office of the Registrar, the Controller of Examinations and the Distance Education Institute is being processed for office automation. Online system is introduced for obtaining applications, payment of fees etc.

Periyar University has approached the nearby big industries and corporates for establishing Science Park and Construction of Research Scholars Hostel in the university campus under the corporate social

responsibility (CSR) scheme. We are expecting a positive response from the corporates.

Sophisticated analytical instruments such as Single Crystal XRD, Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), Gas Chromatography Mass Spectroscopy (GCMS) and a few other major equipments have been purchased under the RUSA scheme and these instruments are already dedicated to the faculty and research scholars, which is one of the milestones of the university to ensure quality research publications.

Ten MoU's were signed by the Departments with the leading national and international institutes for collaborative research and exchange of students and faculty. The MCA programme of the Department of Computer Science was recently accredited by the AICTE.

Media and Entertainment Skill Council which comes under National Skills Development Council has recognized the B.Voc. programme in AR/VR offered in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication as Centre of Excellence for Skill India Mission.

### **Academic and Research Activities**

The faculty members of 27 departments of study and research are actively involved in carrying out 13 funded projects worth Rs.2.91 crores. In this academic year 537 research papers / articles were published in the peer reviewed journals. The departments have organized 76 conferences / seminars during this academic year. The faculty members have participated in national and international conferences and presented 355 papers. Further, in this academic year, 20 faculty members have visited



foreign Universities to carry out collaborative research and to deliver lectures.

We have introduced Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) and Doctor of Letters (D.Lit) programmes in our university and I am happy to share that Prof. R. Balagurunathan, Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology is the first candidate to be awarded D.Sc. in this convocation. Two of our senior professors have been selected for the prestigious UGC - BSR fellowship for three years.

It is proposed to invite every year five renowned Professors from foreign universities to Periyar University.

The university has instituted twelve University Post Doctoral Fellowships (UPDF) in Arts, Humanities and Science.

We are very happy to inform you that we have planted more saplings in our campus. We have also constructed a sewage treatment plant in the campus and the output is used for watering plants and lawns. The rain water harvesting units are effectively functioning and we plan to create more rain harvesting systems in the campus.

The construction of administrative and academic buildings for the PG Extension Centre in Dharmapuri will commence soon. We are expecting financial support from the Government of Tamil Nadu for this purpose.

### **Infrastructure**

The renovation of auditorium, additional floors in the Computer Centre and Guest House has been done at a cost of Rs. 14.00 crores.

The Construction of additional floors in instrumentation centre, women centre, office of the controller of examinations are under progress and the work will be completed in a few months. The cost for the work is around Rs.9.00 crores.

The construction of Skill Development, Incubation and Entrepreneurship centre is under process and we plan to carry out renovation of the amenity centre and the construction of additional hostel rooms and dormitory hall.

### **Affiliated Colleges**

At present 106 colleges are affiliated to Periyar University and two more new colleges have applied for the same this academic year.

Faculty Training Programmes for teachers of the affiliated colleges are conducted for biological sciences and the experts have given hands on training to 140 participants. We are planning to conduct two more faculty training programmes this academic year.

To enhance the quality of research, the university is planning to conduct two day workshop for the research scholars of the colleges and university departments in Arts, Science and Humanities.

The university has changed the question paper pattern of the affiliated colleges by introducing objective and analytical type questions which is expected to induce greater confidence in the students to face various competitive examinations.

### **Service to the Society**

The NSS units of Periyar University have conducted blood donation camps and 89 units of blood have been donated to the Government Hospital, Salem.

A week long residential camp at Thannithotti Village and Omalur taluk was organized by the NSS units and awareness programmes were conducted for the general public. The village is earmarked as a plastic free zone.

The NSS units conducted life skill training programme for the volunteers.

The Department of Sociology has invited sixty aged people from different old age homes in Salem to the campus for an interaction with the faculty and students. The university provided hospitality to the elderly and honored them with memento. A health camp at Kottakoundampatti was conducted by the Department of Sociology in collaboration with Kurinji Hospital, Salem.

## **Library**

Our library is partially automated and 93,637 volumes of books are available in different subjects. We are providing 164 online database and 117 journals. We are uploading the Ph.D. theses in the national repository, "Shodhganga".

## **Physical Education**

The Physical Education Department is very active and motivating the students to participate in the inter university and inter collegiate level athletics and tournaments. 32 events at the inter collegiate level were

conducted in 2019-20. The facilities in the indoor stadium are improved to practice Yoga, Meditation, Weight lifting and other indoor games. Tamil Nadu Inter University men and women handball tournaments were conducted recently which was sponsored by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT).

## **Placement**

The placement cell has conducted eight campus recruitment drives in 2019-20 and about 350 students were recruited to various positions in corporates and multinationals.

## **University Gold Medals**

A Total of 95 candidates are awarded gold medals for securing University First Rank in this convocation.

### **I-In Person**

Doctor of Science	01	
Doctor of Philosophy	261	<b>262</b>

### **Gold Medalists**

Affiliated College–UG	35	
Affiliated Colleges–PG	20	
Affiliated Colleges–M.Phil.	14	
University Department-UG	02	
University Department-PG	24	<b>95</b>
<b>Total Number of In-Person Candidates</b>		<b>357</b>

## **II-In-Absentia**

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Affiliated Colleges UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees, Diploma Courses	44497
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University Departments UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees	1099
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Distance Education (UG, PG, M.Phil. Degrees, Diploma and Certificate Courses, University and Industry Collaborative Programme)	9831
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<b>Total Number of In-Absentia Candidates</b>	<b>55,427</b>
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<b>Total Number of candidates to be awarded</b>	<b>55,784</b>
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It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome all the gold medalists and recipients of the doctoral degree to this convocation.

We are very grateful to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Periyar University for presiding over the 19<sup>th</sup> convocation of our University.

We are thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education for his constant support and encouragement for the welfare of the University.

We express our profound thankfulness and gratitude to the distinguished Chief Guest Shri Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of Supreme Court and Former Governor of Kerala State who has graciously accepted our invitation to be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address.

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.”**