



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(A State University Established in 1985)

Vallal Alagappar Valagam

KARAIKUDI - 630 003, Tamil Nadu, India

www.alagappauniversity.ac.in



2017	2018	2019	2018	2020
 Accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC (CGPA: 3.64)	 Graded as Category-1 & Granted Autonomy	 Rank : 28	 Swachh Campus Rank : 4	 India Rank : 24

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Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University receiving the QS India Ranking 2020 Certificate from the Hon'ble Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in the presence of QS Vice-President Mr. Jason Newman



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(Accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC (CGPA: 3.64) in the Third Cycle, Graded as Category – I University and Granted Autonomy by MHRD – UGC, 2020: QS India Rank - 24)



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From the Vice-Chancellor

Documenting the significant academic events in Newsletters or Magazines has assumed greater importance and relevance in recent years owing to institutions of higher learning and research are being expected to get ranking from the accreditation institutions functioning at the national and global levels.

The main objective of a newsletter is to disseminate academic information to the stakeholders of universities and public at large. Besides it helps to construct the history of the institutions concerned. It also helps the institution to gauge its progress from time to time and also helps the academics to assess their past work and plan for future work. No doubt, collecting and compiling news is a worthy task yet it is fraught with difficulties. But the *Azhagu Newsletter* marches ahead steadfastly appearing once in three months.

The current issue reports on the prime events that happened on the campus during October-December 2019. The 32nd Convocation held on 1st October was a grand occasion. In his scintillating Convocation Oration Dr. J.S. Sathyanarayana, a renowned Cardiologist and Former Vice-Chancellor of Sri Ramachandra University, said “whatever course a student pursues should be relevant to job placement and professional ascent. Both academia and industry cannot function in isolation.” He averred that “curriculum should be designed in such a way as to produce graduates suitable for employment immediately on their completion of degrees”. Alagappa University for its part is striving to give this orientation. As a first initiative the University conducted broad based boards of study of all the departments, integrating industry experts and foreign faculty providing momentum for placement and global reckoning.

The University hosted the most spectacular event of the Five-Day 35th edition of South Zone Inter University Youth Festival during December under the sponsorship of the Association of Indian Universities. It was, indeed, a mega cultural fete in which more than 1200 students-artistes from 36 universities showcased their exemplary artistic talents making it a gala festival on the campus.

This issue which has reported on other significant events, I am sure, will attract the attention of the readers.

Prof. N.Rajendran
Vice-Chancellor

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY GETS 24TH PLACE AT QS INDIA RANKING - 2020

The World Institutions of Higher Learning are ranked by their performance by Quacquarelli Symonds, Times and Shanghai Ranking institutions. QS India Ranking was introduced in 2018. In the recently held QS India Summit Second Edition at Goa from 20th to 22nd October 2019, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, has been ranked at the 24th place in the QS India Ranking among the State and Central Universities, Institutes and Private Universities in India.

In Tamil Nadu Alagappa University has secured the third place with IIT-Madras and Anna University securing the first and second places respectively. Alagappa University has secured the first place among the Arts and Science Universities; and it is the only State Arts and Science University from Tamil Nadu to obtain a place within top 25 Higher Educational Institutions at the National level.

QS India University Rankings are based on a number of parameters including academic reputation, research by faculty, citations of research papers, staff with Ph.D. qualification, student – faculty ratio, international students, international faculty and employer reputation.

Dr.Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, announced the QS India ranking 2020 at the QS India Summit held at Goa on 21st October 2019. Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, received the rank certificate from the Hon'ble Minister Dr.Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in the presence of QS Vice-President Mr.Jason Newman.

At the Press Meet held at the University on 24.10.2019, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, briefed about the QS India Ranking Summit 2020 held from 20th to 22nd October

2019 at Goa. Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Prof. J. Jeyakanthan, Director, Alagappa University Ranking Cell, Prof. B. Vaseeharan, Director, Online Programmes, Prof. K.Uthayasuriyan, Controller of Examinations i/c, were present on the occasion.

32ND CONVOCATION OF ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY



The 32nd Convocation of Alagappa University was held on Tuesday, the 1st of October 2019 at 1.15 p.m. in the University Convocation Hall. Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of Alagappa University Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit presided over the function and gave away the degrees to the new graduates. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor of Alagappa University Thiru K.P.Anbalagan graced the occasion and offered felicitations. Dr. J. Satyanarayana Murthy, a renowned Cardiologist and former Vice-Chancellor of Sri Ramachandra University delivered the Convocation Address. Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, delivered the welcome address and recounted the achievements, activities and programmes of the University.

2,080 regular students from the University Departments, 11,020 students from the Affiliated Colleges, 1,062 students from the Collaborative Programmes and 12,646 students from the Distance Education Stream received their degrees during this convocation. Of the total

26,808 students 8,715 were men while 18,093 were women.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

In his welcome address, Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, gave a brief account of the significant achievements and activities that happened at the University during the year 2019. He said that in addition to the 39 Departments, 5 new Departments of Study were started during the academic year 2019-2020. Presenting the highlights of the major works undertaken under RUSA 2.0 scheme he referred to the redesigning of syllabus in all the departments of study with the help of 44 distinguished professors / experts invited to the campus from 17 countries and also to the expert lectures delivered by 10 Adjunct Faculty from abroad. Besides a number of MoUs signed between Alagappa University and Foreign Universities and Indian Institutions, 64 Faculty Members and 22 Research Scholars of the University were given financial support of Rs. 85 lakhs to present their research papers in conferences held abroad, he added. 35 Post Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) and 8 Senior Post Doctoral Fellows have been selected among 350 candidates and they are paid a monthly remuneration of 75,000 and 1 lakh respectively.

The Vice-Chancellor also said that the University has planned establish a world-class State level research consortium comprising state universities to work jointly to seek solutions for real life problems in various spheres. The university also proposes to establish a centre of excellence in proteomics at a cost of Rs. 11.62 crore and a Centre for Tamil Antiquity at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. A sports complex with synthetic track at a cost of Rs. 15.32 crore is also on the anvil, he added. He also said the University has planned to establish a technology park to encourage entrepreneurship skill among

students and envisioned to make the campus as a full fledged solar campus.

HIGHER GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU

In his felicitation address, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru.K.P.Anbalagan, Government of Tamil Nadu, said that the Govt. of Tamil Nadu which is keen on providing inclusive education to all has initiated various measures and as a result the Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education in Tamil Nadu has increased to 49% against the national average of 26.3%. He added that Tamil Nadu is one among the eight states which are ranked high in Higher Education. According to an All India Survey of Higher Education done in 2018-19 by the Ministry of Human Resource 993 Universities are functioning in India of which 59 are in Tamil Nadu. He also stated that 25,820 students have registered for their doctoral research programmes in Tamil Nadu. He added that in the history of Higher Education in Tamil Nadu a total of 65 Colleges were started in the last six years which included 21 Govt. Arts and Science Colleges, 16 Govt. Technical Institutions, 4 Govt. Engineering Colleges and 24 University Constituent Colleges.

LET EDUCATION BE RELEVANT TO JOB MARKET



While delivering the Convocation Address, Dr. J.S. Satyanarayana Murthy, a renowned Cardiologist and former Vice-Chancellor of Sri

Ramachandra University, said that the entire education system has changed completely and “whatever course a student pursues should be relevant to their job placements and professional ascent. Both academia and industry cannot function in isolation”. He averred that curriculum should be designed in such a way as to produce graduates suitable for employment immediately on their graduation. Practical orientation has become imperative in the current context. It is a serious matter about which the academicians and administrators should ponder over and act pragmatically so as to avoid unemployment and consequent frustration among the youth. Youth on their part should work very hard for a bright future.

NEED FOR INCREASING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

The speaker emphasized the need for increasing innovative research output in universities to ascend the academic ladder. He stated that in assessing the standard of a University 40% weightage is given for scientific publications in Scopus Indexed journals by the National Assessment and Accreditation Committee (NAAC). Besides International agencies like UNSECO, WHO, Bill Gates Foundation, Obama-Singh Foundation, there are many Indian Funding agencies such as DST, DBT, ICMR etc. to support serious researchers. Today as result oriented institutions alone are preferred by the stakeholders, only such institutions can thrive in future. Thiru. Mangat Ram Sharma, Principal Secretary to Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.C.Muthukumaran, Deputy Secretary to Governor (Universities) , and Thiru.J.Jayakanthan, District Collector and Higher Police Officials Thiru.K.P.Shanmuga Rajeswaran, I.G., South Zone, Thiru.Rupesh Kumar Meena, D.I.G, Ramnad, Thiru.Rohit

Nathan Rajagopal, S.P. Sivagangai and Thiru.S.S.Saravanan, P.R.O. Raj Bhavan were among those who graced the occasion with their presence. The Former M.L.A. of Karaikudi Constituency Thiru.H.Raja was also present on the occasion.

Earlier Hon'ble Governor laid the foundation stone for five new buildings and one solar park to be constructed at a cost Rs.16.5 Crores under RUSA 2.0 scheme.

MEGA CULTURAL FETE

AIU-Sponsored 35Th South Zone Inter University Youth Festival Celebrated



The 35th edition of the mega South Zone Inter University Youth Festival began on a note of jubilation with a massive rally taken out by the students of 36 universities from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra, Karnataka and Pondicherry. The two-hour procession showcasing the typical cultures of the regions started from the College Road and ended at the Convocation Auditorium of Alagappa University. The spectacular event hosted by Alagappa University under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) concluded on 22nd December. On the inaugural day the rally was flagged off by Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University, in the presence of Prof. Ranjan Kr. Kakati, AIU Observer, Guwahati University and Prof. T.R. Gurumoorthy, Syndicate Member, Alagappa University.

GALA INAUGURAL CEREMONY



In the inaugural ceremony that followed the rally Dr. M. Jothi Basu, Organising Secretary of ALAGU FEST 2019, said, in his welcome address, that this major cultural fete hosted by Alagappa University is one of the landmark-happenings on the campus to be documented in its annals.

Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, who presided over the inaugural session, said that Alagappa University, besides offering importance to imparting quality education, gives importance to co-curricular activities such as sports and cultural activities. He thanked the AIU for selecting Alagappa University as the venue for this youth festival. He stated that Alagappa University has obtained many awards and accolades at the national level; and by conducting this event it has added another feather in its cap.

Prof.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of the Syndicate, in his inaugural address, emphasised the significance of fine arts which demanded greater perfection, precision and involvement on the part of the practitioners and that would help the practitioners in their future careers too. Further he said that all performing artistes integrate people of different regions through their exemplary demonstration of fine arts. It is with real blessings of God, artistes exhibit their talents and submit their performance at the lotus feet of God.

Prof. Rajan Kr. Kakati, AIU Observer, Guwahati University, Guwahati, in his felicitation address, said that more than 1200 students were competing in various competitions such as classical and folk dance recitals, drama and mime competitions, elocution and debate etc. He added that the beautiful, green, clean and vast Alagappa University Campus would be highly suitable for conducting cultural festivals not only at the South Zone level but also at the National level.

Dr.P.Eswaran, Co-organising Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

GRAND VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

The Five-day South Zone Inter University Youth Festival concluded on 22.12.2019. 1253 students representing 36 South Indian Universities showcased their artistic talents in 27 events conducted at the mega cultural fete.



The University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram emerged as the overall winner, and the Calicut University, Calicut, secured the runner up position.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, presiding over the valedictory function, said it is a red letter day in the annals of Alagappa University as it has hosted this huge cultural event for the first time on the campus. The University which has acquired a niche for its academic excellence at the national level is also giving importance to cultural activities. He added that India has all

along been giving importance to finer aspects of culture which are intrinsic part of Indian life. The aim of fine arts in Indian ethos has been one of spiritual and ethical elevation. By hosting this cultural festival Alagappa University has done its part to uphold the tradition of our land appropriately in the Tamil month of Markazhi which is glorified as the month of music and dance. The Vice-Chancellor recalled how the mammoth festival began on a note of jubilation on 18.12.2019 morning with a massive rally taken out by the participants from South Indian Universities. The two-hour procession was a grand spectacle showcasing the cultures of the regions, he added.

Prof. Rajan Kr.Kakati, AIU Observer, Guwahati University, Guwahati, while offering felicitations at the valedictory function, said that the objective of conducting this festival was to bring forth the hidden artistic talents and potentialities of the youth so as to encourage them to become performing artistes. He stated that mastering the fundamental concepts of the chosen subject or art would help one to succeed in the chosen field. He exhorted the youth to cultivate self discipline and self confidence which would stand them in good stead in their future careers.

The Ghatam maestro and Grammy award winner renowned percussionist Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan Thiru.Vikku.T.H.Vinayakram, in his valedictory address, referred to his pleasant experience of performing a ghatam recital at the United Nations and said that Chettinad region has been supporting artistes by giving them chances to perform in temple festivals and other festivals and functions. A brief ghatam recital by him accompanied by his grandson Mr.S.Swaminathan on kanjira was a great attraction at the function that enthralled young audience who responded to the beat of rhythm with great enthusiasm and involvement.

Members of the Syndicate Dr.R.Swaminathan and Prof. T.R.Gurumoorthy offered felicitations.

Earlier Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, welcomed the gathering and Dr.M.Jothi Basu, Organising Secretary, read the report of the five-day activities. He said that competitions were held at five venues – 1. Convocation Hall, 2. Seminar Hall at the Convocation Auditorium, 3. L.C.T.L Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium, 4. Central Library Seminar Hall and 5. Skill Development Centre Seminar Hall – on the University Campus. 24 renowned artistes and experts drawn from different parts of India by the AIU acted as juries and adjudged the performances. He also said that 28 Committees consisting of more than 150 University staff had made excellent arrangements for the smooth conduct of this festival on all the five days.

Dr.P.Eswaran, Co-organizing Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

FACULTY OF ARTS

150th Birth Anniversary of
Mahatma Gandhi

Seminar on Gandhian Philosophy for Contemporary India

The Faculty of Arts, Alagappa University, Karaikudi and Desiya Chithanai Kazhagam, Chennai, jointly organized a “One-Day Seminar on “Gandhian Philosophy for Contemporary India” to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, in his presidential address, stated that the inspiring life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi acted as a great motivating factor in the lives of many eminent leaders like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King (Jr), Mother Teresa etc. in achieving their respective mission. By faithfully adhering to the principles advocated by Gandhi,

they could succeed in their pursuit. He added that the history has documented how Gandhi as an individual using the single weapon of “ahimsa” could drive away the mighty British Empire from the soil of India. Gandhiji’s unique approach in winning the freedom for his country from the imperialist regime became a source of great inspiration for many enslaved countries to seek freedom in a non-violent way. The violent incident of the killing of 22 policemen in Chauri Chaura made Gandhi to call off the Non-Co-operation Movement. Gandhi attributed violence to the inability of people to understand the great concept of non-violence. Even though many leaders insisted Gandhi to continue the movement, he refused to do that; and this significant event has been recorded in history. “Non-violence is not cowardice rather it is an act of bravery at its acme”. Gandhiji practised what he said. The speaker also stated that Machiavelli remarks in his book “The Prince” that one need not worry about the means to achieve the end. But Gandhi said “means” is equally important. He concluded his speech by exhorting the students to practise the ideals propagated by Gandhi for a fruitful and peaceful life. He added that the peaceful and steadfast “Chipko Forest Protection Movement” organized by a group of village women in Uttarkhand is an example of how Gandhian policies still have an impact today.



The State Organiser of “Desiya Chinthanai Kazhagam” Thiru Ma.Ko.Chi. Rajendran, in his special address, said that Gandhiji,

throughout his life, fought for the welfare of the underprivileged classes. He was indeed a lifelong champion of the welfare of minorities and on no occasion he did swerve from this stand. He said that every Indian should feel proud of Gandhi as his ideals act symbolically as driving force for struggling people everywhere in the world where injustice is being done to minorities. He asked the youth of today not to be critical of India and Indians but act pragmatically to bring about desirable changes. He urged the students to study the noble lives of great leaders like Tirupur Kumaran, Subramanya Bharathi and Subramanya Siva and imbibe the noble ideals advocated by them.

Dr. Sunil Krishnan, a Gandhian Scholar and Ayurvedic Physician, in his special address, mentioned that majority of Indian masses viewed Gandhi as a God and kept him at the highest pedestal; and they believe that his principles and policies are too difficult to follow by ordinary people. He added that people in other countries have a better understanding of Gandhi than the people of India. We have failed to bring the correct understanding of Gandhi to the common man. The common people in India view Gandhi as a strict idealist and an uncompromising moralist. Gandhi’s remarkable sense of humour and his intimate identification and movement with ordinary people remain unknown to many people. He stated that Gandhi was the epitome of simplicity and sweetness; and he never isolated himself from ordinary people and in fact travelled along with them.

As part of the celebrations, Essay Writing Competition, Oratorical Contest and Quiz Programme were conducted for the students of Affiliated Colleges. The winners were given prizes.

Earlier Prof. KR.Murugan, Dean Faculty of Arts, and Convener of the Seminar, welcomed the gathering and Dr. A.R.Saravakumar, Head

i/c, Department of History, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Special Lecture Programme

A special lecture programme was organized at the Department of English and Foreign Languages on 23rd October 2019. Former Professor of English S.Venkateswaran from Regional Institute of English, Bangalore, delivered a lecture on Romantic Literature. The distinguished speaker stated that Romantic Movement is a break from earlier Neo-Classical Movement. When the literature produced during the Neo-classical period focused on urban people and spoke about their way of life besides insisting on the adoption of classical rules on the creation of literature, romantic literature departed from previous school of thought and highlighted the lives of the rural folk, nature and so on. The publication of Wordsworth's Preface to Lyrical Ballads which he brought out in association with his bosom friend S.T. Coleridge marked the beginning of Romantic Literature. The distinguished speaker said that both Wordsworth and S.T Coleridge sowed the seeds of Romantic Movement. If they are said to have commenced the movement, it was taken forward by the contributions of other poets like Byron, Shelley and Keats. The distinguished guest speaker made references to Wordsworth's ideas in many of his poems including "Tintern Abbey" and "Ode on Intimations of Immortality".

Prof. Venkateswaran explained further in his address how Wordsworth felt when he paid a visit to "Tintern Abbey" after a gap of about five years. The guest speaker brought out the aesthetic appeal of the description of Wordsworth in the following way. "Five years have passed, Five summers, with a length of five long winters and again I hear this water rolling from their

mountain spring with a soft inland murmur". He made a mention of Shelley's expression of pain in "Ode to the West Wind". "Lift me as a wave, leaf and cloud; I fall upon the thorns of life and I bleed". The expression of pain is followed by the self-consolation and comfort of the poet. The poet, Prof.Venkateswaran added, consoled himself by saying "If Winter comes can spring be far behind". By making profuse references to Romantic Literature he explicated how literature always does the neat job of purifying the minds of the masses and strengthening their confidence. He explained that literature is a repository of lessons of life from which one can learn how to live and how not to live. His lectures dealt with the idea that literature which comes from human life and which speaks about human emotions provides identity for a race. Earlier, Dr.P.Madhan Associate Professor of English and Head i/c, delivered the welcome address and Dr.M.Natarajan proposed a formal vote of thanks.

CENTRE FOR TAMIL CULTURE

கோயில் பண்பாடு பற்றிய பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கம்

காரைக்குடி அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழக தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு மையத்தின் சார்பில் "கோயில் பண்பாடு" என்னும் பொருண்மையில் பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கம் 6.12.2019 வெள்ளிக்கிழமை அன்று லெ.சித.லெ. பழனியப்ப செட்டியார் நினைவரங்கில் நடைபெற்றது. தொடக்கவிழாவில் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு மைய இயக்குநர் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் சே. செந்தமிழ்ப் பாவை அவர்கள் அனைவரையும் வரவேற்றார்.



விழாவிற்குத் தலைமை தாங்கிய பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் மதிப்புறு கர்னல் பேராசிரியர் நா. ராஜேந்திரன் அவர்கள் தம் உரையில் "இன்றைய அறிவியல், பொறியியல் துறைகள் வியந்து பார்க்கும் வண்ணம் தமிழகத் திருக்கோயில்கள் அமைந்துள்ளன. பழங்காலத் தமிழர்களின் தொழில்நுட்பம் வியக்கத்தக்கது. அவர்தம் கட்டுமானக் கலையை அயல்நாட்டு அறிஞர்கள் வியந்து போற்றுகின்றனர். தமிழகத் திருக்கோயிலில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ள கல்வெட்டுகள் இல்லையெனில் தமிழர்தம் வரலாற்றை அறிவது மிகவும் கடினம்" என்று உரைத்தார்.

இக் கருத்தரங்கில் சிறப்புரை வழங்கிய குன்றக்குடி திருவண்ணாமலை ஆதீனம் தவத்திரு பொன்னம்பல அடிகளார், "கோயில்கள் என்பவை வழிபாட்டு மையங்கள் மட்டுமல்ல, வழிகாட்டும் மையங்கள். திருக்கோயில்களுக்கு தங்கள் இன்னுயிரையும் தரக் கூடியவர்களாக தமிழ் மன்னர்கள் விளங்கினார்கள். ஆகவே, இன்றைய இளைஞர்கள் கோயிற் பண்பாட்டைக் காத்து நடக்க வேண்டும்" என்றார்.

தொடர்ந்து கலைப்புல முதன்மையர் முனைவர் கே. ஆர். முருகன் அவர்கள் வாழ்த்துரை வழங்கினார்.

மலேசியாவின் ஜெனோவா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பதிவாளர் முனைவர் கே.புண்ணியமூர்த்தி அவர்கள் "மலேசியாவில் திருக்கோவில் பண்பாடு, சிங்கப்பூர் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் எம். எஸ். ஸ்ரீலட்சுமி அவர்கள் "சிங்கப்பூரில் கோயில் பண்பாடு, என்னும் தலைப்புகளில் ஆய்வுரை வழங்கினர். பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கிற்கு எழுதப்பட்ட ஆய்வுரைகள் நூலாக்கம் செய்யப்பெற்று வெளியிடப் பெற்றது. இதனுடன் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாட்டு மைய இயக்குனர் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் சே.செந்தமிழ்ப் பாவை அவர்கள் எழுதிய "தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டில் தொன்மங்கள்" என்னும் நூலும் வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

முனைவர் சொ. அருண் நன்றி கூறத் தொடக்க விழா இனிதே நிறைவுற்றது இதில் பல்கலைக்கழகப் பேராசிரியர்கள், மாணவர்கள், கட்டுரையாளர்கள் திரளாகக் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

கருத்தரங்கின் நிறைவுவிழா 06.12.2019 வெள்ளிக்கிழமை மாலை 04.15 மணிக்குத்



தொடங்கியது. இவ்விழாவில் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு மையத்தின் இயக்குநர், பேராசிரியர் சே.செந்தமிழ்ப்பாவை வரவேற்புரை வழங்கினார். அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழக ஆட்சிக்குழு உறுப்பினரும் வணிகவியல் துறையின் தலைவருமாகிய பேராசிரியர் டி.ஆர். குருமூர்த்தி அவர்கள் தலைமை தாங்கினார். அவர் பேசுகையில், நாயன்மார்களின் வாழ்விலிருந்தும் தேவார இசையிலிருந்தும் கோயிற்பண்பாட்டை இன்றைய இளைஞர்கள் கற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். உணவுக்கும் உறைவிடத்துக்கும் இடம்தேடுவதைப் போல, மனத்துக்குரிய இடமாகக் கோயிலைப் பேண வேண்டும் என்று குறிப்பிட்டார். இவ்விழாவில் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராகக் கோவிலூர் ஆதீனம், சீர்வளர்சீர் மெய்யப்ப ஞானதேசிக சுவாமிகள் கலந்து கொண்டு, தமது உரையில் கோயிலில் வழிபடுமுறைகள் சரியாகப் பின்பற்றப்பட வேண்டும். அடுத்த தலைமுறையினருக்கும் தொடர்ந்து பயிற்றுவிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். கோயிலின் அமைவே பண்பாட்டின் அடையாளம் என்று குறிப்பிட்டார். இப்பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கில் மூன்று அமர்வுகளில் 50-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட பேராளர்கள் கட்டுரை வாசித்தளித்தனர். நிறைவாக தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டுமையத்தின் உதவிப்பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் கா.கணநாதன் நன்றி நவில், நாட்டுப்பண்ணோடு கருத்தரங்கம் நிறைவுற்றது

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

International Conference on Addiction to Social Media and Its Impact on Family, Youth and Children

A Two-Day "International Conference on Addiction to Social Media and Its Impact on Family, Youth and Children" was held at Alagappa University, Karaikudi on 05th and 06th November 2019. The Department of

Social Work organised the conference under the sponsorship of RUSA phase 2.0 scheme.

While welcoming the gathering Prof. K.R.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, said in recent times youth use electronic gadgets excessively to access social media which impact negatively on their psyche and stated that the objective of the conference is to focus on the impact of social media addiction on family, youth and children and find out ways towards healthy use of social media for better familial and social relations. "Disconnect to Connect" was indeed the key theme of the conference. He added that 60 research papers have been received for presentation in the conference and it is attended by more than 200 participants which interestingly include 100 adolescent school students.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference, Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabhu, Registrar, Alagappa university, recalled the remarkable technological advancement in the last 50 years and referred to the positive features of social media such as whatsapp, facebook and other media sites, which helped to get required information in a fraction of a second but at the same time he warned how the excessive usage of social media by children and students has resulted in the decline of their academic performance and creative visualisation.

Inaugurating the conference Prof. Mojca Pajnik, Department of Media and Communication, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, said that according a survey conducted by the International telecommunication Union in 2017 71% of the youth (15 to 24 years) are the active users of social media compared to 48% of the general population. She emphasized that social media could be used effectively and safely and it is unfair to blame the social media alone for all kinds of social disorder. She added: "Think critically and teach the younger generation

the fair and responsible ways of utilizing the technological development. She also said that it is the duty of parents and teachers to monitor the online activities of youth and children and make them aware of the risk involved in using them without self control. Cyber bullying and Selfie culture have become crucial issues today posing threat to women and children.



In his special address, Prof. Rachmat Hidayat of University of Jember, Indonesia, listed out three major symptoms and behaviour of the social media addicts and said that addicts check their mobile phones every few minutes for any notification or information posted through different social media sites. They announce to the world through the media what they are doing right from brushing their teeth in the morning and whatever they do till they go to sleep during late night. When they have no access to internet or social media they feel that their world has crumbled. He added quoting researches done between 2012 and 2017 in the West that the excessive and multiple usage of social network is associated with the addicts experiencing psychological stress, anxiety, sleeping problems, feeling less happy and less confident and destabilized personal self control. All these impact and damage the addicts' personal relationship with others in the family and the society. He concluded his speech that self control is one of the most powerful mechanisms for maintaining social order and well being. He advised the users to logically

think before posting any information on social media and they have to pose to themselves the following pertinent questions --- 1. Is it true? 2. Is it helpful? 3. Is it inspiring? 4. Is it necessary? and 5. Is it kind?. If answers are positive then they can post the information for people's consumption.

Prof. Gihani De Silva, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, in her special address said that Sri Lanka too faced similar challenges and problems like in India owing to boundless use of social media. Besides many many advantages reaped by the users of social media, it could also destroy the inner peace of individuals when their confidential information is hacked by antisocial elements. Withdrawal symptom is one of the ill effects encountered by addicts who use social media in thoughtless ways.

Addressing the participants at the valedictory function of the conference held on 6.11.2019, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, mentioned that social media addiction is said to be a major behavioural disorder according to social scientists. This new addiction which has come to light currently has created a serious gap in social interaction and human relationship. It has led to strained social relationship among people and it could be solved by self control. He said to his astonishment that he could see this problem prevailing even among elderly people. He exhorted the youth to be cautious while using the media; and said that indiscriminate use of social media will affect their mental, physical and social well being and retard their progress in education and employment, ultimately affecting their overall personality. He asked the researchers to suggest concrete solutions to solve this problem. He congratulated the organizers of this conference for making adolescent school children to participate in this meet.

Mr. J. Vignesh Sabarikiran, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Social Work, proposed a vote of thanks.

Road Safety Awareness Rally



The Department of Social Work, Alagappa University, in collaboration with Sivagangai District Road Safety Corps organized a rally on 16.10.2019 to create an awareness among the people on road safety. The event was organized by Dr.K.R. Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts. Mr. Anand, Inspector, Regional Transport Office, Karaikudi, flagged off the rally. The students numbering about 300 along with the teaching staff enthusiastically participated in the rally and took a vow to follow all road safety rules and to create an awareness on road safety among the general public.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Seminar on Greening the Blue: Nourishing People and Nurturing the Planet

The Department Economics and Rural Development, Alagappa University, organized a One Day Seminar on "Greening the Blue-Nourishing People and Nurturing the Planet", on October 16, 2019. The World Food Day is observed on 16th October every year by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to raise awareness about the importance of healthy food and wellbeing. Presiding over the seminar, Prof. M. Selvam, Member of the



Syndicate, Alagappa University, stressed the importance of a balanced diet to maintain a healthy life.

While delivering the keynote address, Prof. S. Rajendren, Head, Department of Economics, Gandhigram Rural University gave a detailed account of the changing pattern of food production and consumption in the country since the introduction of Green Revolution. Rice and wheat are considered as superior grains by people, and millets such as ragi and bajra are stigmatized as inferior crops. He pointed out that the two major challenges facing Indian Food Economy today are inefficient production system in terms of resource use in the context of depleting water resources and wastage of food. Both food production and consumption have become centralized and it should be decentralized in order to ensure food security and protect the production environment. The speaker emphasized the role of minor millets in ensuring food security of the country in the context of climate change. He appealed to the policy makers to give due importance to the production and consumption of minor millets which have enormous potential to eradicate malnutrition and hunger in the country.

In his valedictory address, Dr. R. Swaminathan, Member of the Syndicate, Alagappa University, stressed the importance of moral and ethical values of consumption, particularly on consumption of food.

Earlier Dr. A. Narayanamoorthy, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Economics and Rural Development, welcomed the gathering and introduced the distinguished guests. Dr. Suresh delivered the vote of thanks.

As part of the World Food Day Seminar, a total of 43 power point presentations were made by students on various aspects of food. Of these five presentations were selected and the presenters were given prizes.

Faculty Honoured with ISAE Award



Dr. A. Narayanamoorthy, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Economics and Rural Development, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, received the ISAE FELLOW 2019 award from the Honourable Governor of Chhattisgarh State, Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, at the 79th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held at the Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, during November 21-23, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

One Day National Symposium on Keeladi Archaeological Excavations

A One Day National Symposium on “Keeladi Archaeological Excavations” was organised by the Department of History of Alagappa University on 30th October 2019 in the University Campus.

While inaugurating the symposium, the Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University Prof. N.Rajendran stressed that the study



of epigraphy and archaeology is immensely important not only for understanding the past, but also for advancing the society in the future. He mentioned that one will remain a child, if one does not know what happened in the past. Hence the youth, particularly the students, should come forward to study and do research in the field of history which would help them interpret the results of archaeological excavations. Without the historical evidences all the epics, poems and literature would be rootless trees. It is in this context a research centre for epigraphy and archaeology is important in a University. Alagappa University has submitted a proposal to the University Grants Commission for a financial support of Rs.4.5 crores for establishing the Centre. While emphasizing the need for excavations, he appreciated the outcome of Keeladi archaeological excavations, which revealed to the whole world the advanced science and technology that were prevalent in this part of India even before 2500 years ago. In trade too, South India has got a long history, which supplies evidences for the long travels of the traders from south to north. Underlining the need and significance of the excavations, he said that Alagappa University stands first in Tamil Nadu to organize a symposium on Keeladi Archaeological Excavations; and also it sent its students to the actual spot namely, Keeladi for observing and participating in the excavation activities, for which permission was sought from the Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Government

of Tamil Nadu. Thiru.T.Udhayachandran, I.A.S., Principal Secretary and Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu delivered the keynote address through video-conferencing. He invited the Universities and research institutions to jointly undertake the archaeological researches, which are basically multi-disciplinary and inter disciplinary in nature. Dr.S.Rajavelu, Adjunct Faculty in the Department of History gave a thematic introduction about the symposium. Thiru.K.Amarnath Ramakrishna, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Guwahati, Dr.S.Sridharan and Dr.R.Poongundran, both retired Archaeological officers, Chennai, Thiru.M.Seran, Archaeological Expert, Dept. of Archaeology, Chennai, spoke on various topics relating to the Keeladi Archaeological Excavations and their impact. Dr.KR.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts delivered felicitation address. Dr.AR.Saravanakumar, Head i/c, Department of History, welcomed the gathering. Dr.G.Parhanthaman, Assistant Professor of History, proposed a vote of thanks. Faculty members and students of various departments and nearby colleges participated in the day-long symposium. Besides the symposium, on behalf of the Archaeological Survey of India, Excavations Branch, Bangalore, T.Sreelakshmi organised a three-day photo exhibition from 30.10.2019 to 01.11.2019 in the University auditorium. The organising committee member Mrs.R.Radha, a faculty member of the Department of History, coordinated the events of the programme.

WORLD HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATIONS

The World Heritage Week Celebration was jointly organised by the Department of History, Alagappa University, Karaikudi and the Archaeological Survey of India, Temple Survey Project, Chennai, on 19.11.2019 at the L.C.T.L.

Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium of the University, Karaikudi.

Inaugurating the celebrations, Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran emphasised the need for the study of history, citing the importance given to the history subject at the national level in science institution like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the management institution like Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He added that we would remain as children if we do not study history as stated by the Roman historian Cicero. Without studying history, we will not be able to understand the nuances and greatness of our culture, language, science, technology, literature and so on.

The society does not possess organic memory. Hence it is the duty of the people to record all the events of the past so that the present and future could be understood in a better way. It has already been said by Toyanbee that among all the world civilisations, Indian and Chinese civilizations are the living ones.



The Vice-Chancellor listed out three sources of historical evidences such as (a) archaeological research (eg: Keeladi), (b) surface research and (c) under water research (eg: Poombuhar). Citing the architectural nuances of the Brahadheeswarer Temple, Mahabalipuram Cave Temples, Grand Anicut (Kallanai) etc., the Vice-Chancellor drew the attention of the scientists and technologists and told them that there is still a lot of knowledge to

be gained from these monuments by a careful and proper study.

Dr.Samy Sathyamoorthy, District Educational Officer, Devakottai, delivered the key-note address. In his address, he referred to the glories of the Tamil Culture and added that Keeladi archaeological excavations point to this. He observed that history is the root of all social sciences. Tamil Nadu is fortunate enough to have huge and remarkable temples in Thanjavur, Tharasuram, Gangai Konda Chozhapuram, beautiful monuments in Mahabalipuram and useful Kallanai (grand dam) which proclaim the aesthetic and technical skills of the ancient Tamils.

Mr.M.Prasanna of the Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai, explained the objectives of holding the exhibition of photographs of heritage monuments. The exhibition was inaugurated earlier by the Vice-Chancellor at the L.C.T.L.Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium of the University. In this exhibition, photographs of all the important heritage monuments were displayed.

Dr.K.R.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Alagappa University, offered felicitations. Dr.AR.Saravanakumar, Head in-charge, Department of History and the Coordinator of the celebrations, earlier welcomed the gathering and Dr.G.Paranthaman, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Alagappa University, proposed a vote of thanks.

The faculty members of Alagappa University and students of the university and various schools and the staff of the Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai, including Mr.T.Samuel Joshua, participated in the programme.

National Unity Day Celebrated

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary was celebrated as "National

Unity Day” by the Department of History, Alagappa University, on 10th December, 2019. In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Prof.N.Rajendran recapitulated Patel’s achievements and contributions to the nation-building activities. Though Patel was a remarkable leader by himself, he was also a faithful follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he added. The Vice-Chancellor also exhorted the youth in general and the students in particular, to adore Patel as a role model and work for the betterment of the large majority of Indians.

Prof.P.B.Gopalakrishnan, Former Senior Professor, Head and Chairperson of School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, observed in his keynote address that Patel was able to carry the people along with him in the struggle to unite the country. The leader relegated even his family responsibilities and his own health while working for the country, he added.

Prof.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of Syndicate, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, offered felicitations.



In a bid to carry the message of Patel to the students of Affiliated Colleges and the Departments of Alagappa University, various competitions were organised and certificates and prizes were given to the top three winners of the competitions.

Dr.A.R.Saravanakumar, Head (i/c), Department of History, welcomed the gathering and Dr.G.Paranthaman, Assistant Professor,

Department of History, proposed a vote of thanks. Teachers and students from Alagappa University and Affiliated Colleges and Schools took part in large numbers in the programme.

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

World Literacy Day Observed



The Department of Library and Information Science, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, organised a one-day long programme to celebrate the “World Literacy Day” at the Convocation Auditorium of the University on 11.11.2019.

In his inaugural address Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran emphasized the importance of reading not only subject books but also general books, novels, fiction etc., for widening one’s own horizon of knowledge. While quoting historical evidences, he observed, that the history of most countries have been written by citizens of the respective countries. To understand our own history, we need to read the books written by Europeans. This is so because the scholars in India, though wrote more secular and non secular literature and poems, have not written the history of their own regions and their own country. Kautilya is in fact, as good as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. However, legal and political aspects are found more in European writings than in Indian writings. Without literacy, literature could not have been developed to such extent in India. So, ancient India was very rich in literature owing to literacy. However the historical evidences are absent

to show the earlier developments. The recent Keeladi archaeological excavations have given some strong evidences to prove that the Tamils were literates even 2500 years ago.

In spite of all developments, still there are many illiterates in the world. Serious and continuous steps have to be taken to improve literacy among the peoples of the world. Emphasising the importance of literacy and languages, the UNESCO has announced the main theme of this year's World Literacy Day as "Multilingualism". All languages have to be given equal importance so as to develop them to be useful instruments for the advancement of the nation. The only way to quench the intellectual hunger is to read more and more and particularly history, he observed.

Mr.J.D.Cruise and Mr.Akara Mudhalvan, distinguished writers, were the guest speakers at the programme. They stressed the need for inculcating the reading habits among the students and general public. Unless we read, we cannot contribute substantially to the development of our society, they observed.

In order to stimulate the reading habits among the teachers, research scholars and students, three best users of University Library were identified and they were awarded with prizes and certificates. The coordinator of the programme and Head of the Department of Library and Information Science Dr.S.Thanuskodi welcomed the gathering earlier. Dr. KR.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, offered felicitations. Dr.Jayashankar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Library and Information Science, proposed a vote of thanks. Students, research scholars and faculty members of various Departments participated in large numbers in the programme.

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

Two-Day International Conference on Regional Art: Melding Tradition with Modernity



Under the aegis of the Department of Fine Arts, Alagappa University, a "Two-Day International Conference on Regional Art : Melding Tradition with Modernity" was organised on 09th and 10th December 2019. Funded by the RUSA Phase 2.0 Scheme, the meet attracted 76 research papers for deliberations among the scholars, academics and performing artistes.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said that places of worship have all along been serving the cause of spreading and protecting the aesthetically appealing and morally elevating art forms. The continuing tradition of Fine Arts such as music, dance, drawing and painting vouchsafe that they are intrinsic part of the culture of our society. The temple at Chidambaram with its numerous dance postures of danseuse presented through exquisite stone carvings is considered the centre of classical dance. Koothu (drama) has remained as a favourite form of entertainment among the people in the rural regions but it took a modern garb in the 20th century and emerged as social drama.

The Kudumiyamalai inscriptions have documented the development of the art of music. Some of the fresco paintings which

are considered masterpieces were drawn on wall surfaces with the colours obtained from natural sources and they have withstood the ravages of time. The practice of these art forms need to be refreshed from time to time with newer perspectives as no art form can survive without changes. The changing times and changing tastes demand changes. It is then modern ideas merge with the traditional ones satisfying art lovers. To preserve all art forms more opportunities and encouragement should be given to the students who are devoted to the pursuit of art forms and Alagappa University for its part would encourage such talented students.

While speaking at the inaugural session Mrs. Katja Ingrid Skudelny, Kalamitra, Centre for Classical Indian Dance, Germany, said that Bharathanatyam recital helps to keep the body, mind and soul refreshed. Prof. K.R.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Alagappa University, said that modernity and tradition are interconnected as today's innovation becomes tomorrow's tradition.

While welcoming the gathering, Prof. S. Rajaram, Professor and Head i/c, Department of Fine Arts, Alagappa University, referred to the thematic significance of the conference. He added that it is human creativity that turns clay or a piece of stone into an art object or sculpture. Art and craft education should be given more importance in the school curriculum as it would kindle and develop the imaginative and creative faculties of children. Later when they grow up as young men and women and pursue research in different fields the well-developed faculties would help them invent new things.

Dr. Raman Vimalan, Subject Head, Uamr Pulavar Tamil Language Centre, Ministry of Education, Singapore, Dr. S. Chandrsekaran, Head, McNally School of Fine Arts, Singapore, Dr. Gobal Jeyaraman, Professor and Director,

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Puducherry and Dr. D.Umadevi, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Library Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi, chaired the technical sessions and also enlightened the audience on varied aspects and nuances of combining tradition with modernity.

Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabhu, Registrar, presided over the valedictory function. Dr. T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of the Syndicate, while offering felicitations, dwelt on the musical quality of Tamil religious masterpieces such as Thevaram, Thiruvasagam and Thirmanthiram and recited the select verses to show the words preferred by the authors to create lilting music.

Dr. M.S. Kanagathara of the Department of Fine Arts proposed a vote of thanks.

Five-Day Workshop on Conglomeration of Regional Folk Art Form: Bhawai & Karagattam

Under the aegis of the Department of Fine Arts, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, a Five-day Workshop on "Conglomeration of Regional Art forms with Reference to Bhawai and Karagattam" was inaugurated on 10.10.2019 at the Convocation Seminar Hall.



Sponsored under the RUSA 2.0 Scheme, the inaugural session was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran. He said that ancient folk art forms especially folk dance and songs of various regions of India besides showcasing the cultural unity of India

have all along been fostering oneness among the people speaking different languages. He added that “Bhawai” a folk dance form practised in Rajasthan and Gujarat and “Karagattam”, a popular dance form of Tamil Nadu have many similarities exhibiting the refined aesthetic sense of the people of these regions. Both the dances demanded great skill like perfect balancing while positioning many articles on one’s head. These aesthetically enticing dance performances have been offering ample space for artistes to express the subtle inner feelings and emotions of humanity. He concluded his speech by highlighting the urgent necessity of documenting and preserving these folk art forms for the benefit of posterity. He exhorted the students to master the nuances of folk art forms so as to propagate the richness of our tradition and culture to the world at large.

The renowned folk artiste from Rajasthan Mrs.Dholya Devi accompanied by percussionist Arjun Raana and Vocalist Ramesh Raana demonstrated the subtle nuances of varied expressions and revolving movements of the Bhawai Dance to the students pursuing fine arts programme at the university. The audience were enthralled by the performances of the artistes.

While welcoming the gathering Prof. S. Rajaram, Head i/c, Department of Fine Arts hoped that this 5-day workshop with its emphasis on practical training would be of great help to the students in learning the folk art forms of Rajasthan.

Prof. KR.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts offered felicitations. Dr. B.Dharmalingam, Director, Alagappa University Skill Development Centre, Dr.A.Senthilrajan, Department of Computational Logistics, were among those present on the occasion.

Adjunct Faculty Programme

Alagappa University organized an Adjunct Faculty Programme in the Department of Fine Arts under the aegis of RUSA 2.0 Scheme from 11th to 13th December 2019. At the inaugural function Prof. S Rajaram, Head i/c, Department of Fine Arts, introduced Dr. S. Chandrasekaran, Head, McNally School of Fine Arts, Singapore and referred to his capability in the field of Fine Arts. Earlier to that Dr. K. Valayapathi welcomed the gathering.

Dr. S. Chandrasekaran introduced the theme of Materiality and Collection of Materials. In the following sessions students learnt various skills like Installation, Presentation and Creativity. On 13th evening the valedictory function was held at the Department. Mr.P. Devaraj, Teaching Assistant, proposed a vote of thanks.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

National Mathematics Day



The School of Mathematics, Alagappa University, celebrated the “National Mathematics Day” on 17th December 2019 at the Seminar Hall on the Science Campus of the University. Prof. N. Anbazhagan, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Alagappa University, delivered the welcome address.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice- Chancellor, Alagappa University, delivered the presidential

address. In his speech he dwelt on the life and achievements of Srinivasa Ramanujan and he praised Ramanujan for evincing keen interest in research in spite of hardships he faced in life. He also said that Mathematics is a subject of prime importance which no one could afford to neglect and added that there is a connection between History and Mathematics because Mathematics is the Queen of Sciences and History is the Queen of Social Sciences. He appreciated the Department of Mathematics for conducting “National Mathematics Day-2019”.

Prof. T. Sengadir, Central University of Tamilnadu, Thiruvarur, delivered a special address on the topic “Some Applications of Mathematics in Linguistics” and he described the frequency distribution of characters of languages and the idea of conditional entropy and its applications.

Dr. J. Vimala, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Alagappa University delivered the vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SCIENCE

National Energy Conservation Day Celebrations



The National Energy Conservation Day was celebrated at Alagappa University, Karaikudi, on 13th December 2019. The Department of Energy Science and Incubation and Technology Transfer Centre jointly organized the function. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. S. Karuppuchamy, Head, Department of Energy Science, Co-ordinator,

Incubation and Technology Transfer Centre, Alagappa University, Karaikudi.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, presided over the function. In his presidential address, he mentioned that the entire Alagappa University campus would go for renewable energy resources. He announced that the Roof Top Solar Panels would be installed in the University buildings by Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) through which the cost of energy can be reduced to around 40%. He emphasized that every citizen should take responsibility to save energy and encouraged to use renewable energy sources to make the world survive in future. He also quoted that the vast usage of non renewable energy resources would push our environment into a dangerous zone. He concluded his speech by asking the students, not to waste the energy inside and outside the campus.

Prof.R.Karvembu delivered the Keynote Address. He related the energy usage and economy of the country. He exhorted the people to use public transport system to save energy and economy. He stressed that the energy conservation should become our habit.

Dr. C. Karthikeyan, Department of Energy Science, delivered a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Two-Day International Conference on Computational Sciences

A Two-Day International Conference on Computational Sciences organised by the Department of Computer Science, Alagappa University, was held on 23rd and 24th October 2019.

In his presidential address, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that the credit of Alagappa University securing the 24th rank

among Indian Universities in QS India Ranking 2020 goes to the Faculty and Scholars. The RUSA fund received from MHRD is utilized for conducting research conferences at the national and international levels for ensuring quality enhancement in teaching and learning at the University Departments. He emphasized that the curriculum and syllabi should meet the industrial and societal needs. Towards this 46 Professors from 18 countries from different parts of the world including Singapore and U.S.A. were invited to the campus to participate in broad-based boards of studies meetings conducted to upgrade the syllabi and curriculum of various disciplines. He stated that 123 research scholars pursuing their Ph.D. programmes in Alagappa University are receiving a stipend of Rs. 20,000 per month. 35 Post Doctoral Fellows are receiving a stipend of Rs. 75000 per month. He appealed to the scholars and students to develop their skills and equip themselves to match the needs of industrial sector and asked them to publish their scholarly work only in SCOPUS indexed journals. The Vice-Chancellor released the conference proceedings.



Prof. S. Rajasekaran, University of Connecticut, USA, inaugurated the conference. Prof. S.R. Subramanya, National University, San Diego, USA, delivered the special address. Dr. Gokula Krishnan, Additional Director, Technology Park of India, Chennai, offered felicitations. Earlier, Prof. E. Ramaraj, Head, Department of Computer Science, welcomed

the gathering. 132 research papers were presented by the participants. Dr. Balakrishnan Athiyaman, Head, Supercomputing Centre, Ministry of Earth Science, New Delhi, Dr. Suresh Sundaram, Aerospace Engineering Department, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Dr. Kalyana Saravanan, Kongu Engineering College, Perundurai delivered expert lectures in Data Mining and Neural Networks, Robotics and IoT respectively. Research scholars, students and faculty members numbering about 200 attended the conference. Prof. S. Dhenakaran, Department of Computer Science, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL LOGISTICS

Two-Day State Level Symposium on Technical Innovations - TECHNOVATION 2K19

The Inaugural function of a Two-Day State Level “Symposium on Technical Innovations - TECHNOVATION 2K19”, organized by the students of Department of Computational Logistics, Alagappa University, was held on 14-10-2019 at the L.C.T.L Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium. The symposium aimed at providing a forum for the students from all over Tamilnadu to exhibit their technical skills and innovative ideas. Miss.R.Aarthi, a student of II – M. Sc (IT) presented the thematic address.

Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, who inaugurated the symposium, stated that this symposium organized by the PG students is a welcome feature and a valuable thing as only research scholars have organized this kind of conferences and symposiums earlier. He pointed out that Alagappa University is the first state University in Tamil Nadu to receive Rs.100 Crores under RUSA 2.0 phase for developmental activities. He also stated that under RUSA 2.0 scheme,

student support system has been well planned and implemented in the University by giving sizeable funds to each department. Rs.25 Crores has been allotted for infrastructure development. He also pointed out that ₹2000 to ₹3000 per month is offered as fellowship for 5 students of P.G. programmes from each department covering all the 39 departments. He said that the University aims at supporting not only the faculty but also the students. He concluded his speech by saying that, this kind of function organized by the students will improve their leadership quality which is one of the aims of education.



Mr.I.Johnson, CEO, Shalom Infotech, Thiruchirappalli, delivered the special address and said that the event management is one of the leadership qualities. He emphasized the importance of Information Technology in everyday life by illustrating the growth of science and technical courses. He illustrated this with relevant examples. He also suggested that IT students should generate ideas and work hard for realising their dreams as mentioned by Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam.

A Symposium Souvenir was released by the Vice-Chancellor and copies were given to the distinguished delegates. A total of 80 participants from various colleges took part in the events. Earlier Dr.K.Kuppusamy, Head of the Department of Computational Logistics, welcomed the gathering. Dr.A.Senthilrajan, Professor & Director, proposed a vote of thanks. Faculty members from School of Computer

Science, staff from other departments and students from other educational institutions participated in the Symposium.

Research Paper Presented Abroad



Dr. A. Senthilrajan attended the International Conference on Advances in Mathematics, Computers & Physical Sciences which was held at Build Bright University, Siem Reap, Cambodia, on December 13-14, 2019 and presented a research paper titled “Automated Weed Removal Using Image Processing and IoT Techniques”.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOELECTRONICS AND BIOSENSOR

Three-day International Conference on Nanomaterials Driven Advances in Chemical and Biosensors

A Three-day International Conference on Nanomaterials Driven Advances in Chemical and Biosensors (NanoSe 2019) (27-29th November 2019) was organized by the Department of Bioelectronics and Biosensors, Alagappa University, in association with the Biosensor Society of India (BSI) and Materials Research Society of India (MRSI), Trichy Chapter. The inaugural function was held on 27th November and was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. N Rajendran and it was inaugurated by Dr Sudeesh Kumar Vasudeva, Consultant, Defence Technologies, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, New Delhi.

In his presidential address, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the need for interdisciplinary research for innovation and product development in the era of Industry 4.0. Moreover, Government of India's New Education Policy attaches much importance for multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches both in teaching and research in all areas of study. He added that Alagappa University has such innovative Departments as Biosensors which covers subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, electronics engineering, agriculture and food technology, environmental monitoring, and defence technology. The Department has produced several sensors which could be scaled up and marketed in the near future. In order to promote device design and development, the Vice-Chancellor assured that the University is willing to support Start Ups and venture businesses both financially and logistically.



A compendium containing research articles was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the dignitaries.

In his inaugural speech, Dr Vasudeva emphasized the importance of biosensors for security applications in addition to several areas where sensors find an important place. As an expert in the area of explosive materials and devices, he pointed out that the nano-biosensors made of nanomaterials are more sensitive and selective that could surpass even the intelligent sniffer dogs. Miniaturized portable high performance biosensors are

essential in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Advanced Defence Technologies. He assured that the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) is willing to fund for the promotion of a National Centre of Excellence for Biosensors at Alagappa University, Karaikudi.

Prof. C. Raman Suri, Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Ropar, pointed out that there is a great demand for sensors in our day-to-day life. There are different types of sensors in our home, car, cell phones, bike, educational institutions, offices, hospitals, industries and everywhere. The best example is the smartphones and electronic gadgets that we are all using. It comprises more than 100 sensors inside such as accelerometer, gyroscope, ambient light sensor, proximity sensor, and temperature detector, to keep a track on parameters and provide a centralized system for automatic control. We need much more information about everything around us. We want to measure, detect, and quantify our air, water, food including our emotions as well. The Global sensor market will be growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.5 % from 2018 to 2025. Prof. Suri, who was formerly working with the Institute of Microbial technology- (IMTECH) Chandigarh, pointed out that we have missed such a big business opportunity.

Prof. Giovanni Neri, University of Messina, Italy, offered felicitations. Prof. C. Sekar, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Bioelectronics & Biosensors, Alagappa University welcomed the gathering and presented the thematic address. Dr.V. Dharuman, Dept. of Bioelectronics & Biosensors, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOINFORMATICS

Three-Day International Conference on “Recent Trends in Structural Bioinformatics and Computer Aided Drug Design”



A Three-Day International Conference on “Recent Trends in Structural Bioinformatics and Computer Aided Drug Design” (ICSBCADD - 2019) and the 3rd Annual Meeting of Bioinformatics and Drug Discovery Society [BIDDS] were inaugurated on 11th December 2019 under the aegis of the Department of Bioinformatics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. After conducting the National-level Symposium-cum-Workshop on SDCADD for 11 successive years, this is the first international conference to be organized by the Department.

Presiding over the inaugural function, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, enumerated the feats and milestones achieved by Alagappa University over the years and the current efforts of the University to take it to global standards. He stated that University’s h-index has risen to 74 owing to quality contribution of the Faculty and Research Scholars of Alagappa University. He stated that the MHRD-RUSA fund has enabled this University to create a conducive atmosphere for improving research and to sustain the research status already obtained. He said that ICSBCADD’2019 is a mega event with financial support from RUSA where 11 international and 22 Indian scholars of eminence in this field have

gathered to give 33 plenary lectures. He also enlightened the gathering on the importance of cross and inter-disciplinary research and hoped that Bioinformatics and other disciplines together can fulfill this aspect that has been stressed in the New National Education Policy-2019. The Vice-Chancellor, released the conference Souvenir and delegates Prof. M. Krishnan, Prof. T. P. Singh, Dr. Gulshan Wadhwa, Prof. Gerhard Grüber, Prof. Chun-Jung Chen, Prof. Balázs Zoltán Gulyás, Prof. Seiki Kuramitsu, Prof. D. Velmurugan, Dr. R. Swaminathan and Prof. Narayanan Ramasubbu received the copies of the Souvenir. Dr. Gulshan Wadhwa, Director, DBT presented the first copy of the book titled “Current Trends in Bioinformatics: An insight” authored by him to Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran.

Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, in his inaugural address, enlightened the participants on the traditional knowledge that has been available in our culture for ages to cure life threatening diseases. He said that despite the publications in high standard journals we are still lacking to make our place at the global level. He suggested to identify the medicine from the source. Secondly he made a reference to the prevalence of Cancer in India and to ensure specificity of anticancer drug delivering nanoparticles in therapeutic regimen to attain the full potential of drugs. Finally, he gave an overview of the ancient and traditional medicines available here where a small herb and medicinal plant can be used to control the disease. Prof. T.P. Singh, SERB Distinguished Fellow, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, in his thematic address, stressed on the phase of incubation, creation of knowledge and the realization of speedy Drug Discovery Process. He also said that the future of Scientific Research belongs to modern era

of Bioinformatics and the roles are changing where so much of data produced from the experimental sciences can be managed with the help of Bioinformatics tools and techniques to acquire maximum knowledge. He lauded Alagappa University for concentrating on science research and added that “great science happens in small Universities”.

Dr. Gulshan Wadhwa, Director, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi delivered a speech on Innovative Research. He cited a few examples to show how some innovations that were existing in ancient India had been modernized by the Westerners claiming them as their findings. He also said that Tamil Nadu is the only State with deep traditional knowledge and it needs to be explored. He also enlightened the gathering on the availability of the rural knowledge stored in the form of digital laboratory by the DST. He also mentioned about the spray discovered by DBT and patented by BCIL that will eat away mosquito larvae. He also motivated the faculty to keep the current continuing pace towards promoting Bioinformatics to the global level with innovative research.

Prof. Gerhard Grüber, Deputy Head, Division of Structural and Computational Biology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, delivered the keynote address. He stressed the importance of research networking and building research collaboration. Referring to the recent disease scenario in South-East Asian countries he said that diseases like malaria, TB and dengue account for 46% and out of which 25% is reported in India. He also lauded the efforts of India to make this nation TB free by 2025. He also said that the senior scientists need to be transparent in sharing their knowledge thereby paving the way for creation of interdisciplinary research; and he welcomed the collaborative efforts of Alagappa University

with NTU, Singapore and other universities.

Prof. Chun-Jung Chen, Deputy Director at National Synchrotron Radiation Research Centre, Taiwan, in his special address, highlighted the need for proper environment to carry out high level research and appreciated the growth of the Department of Bioinformatics which has progressed to a great extent in a short period of time. He also mentioned about the MoU existing between NSRRC and Alagappa University and said at present three students from Prof. J. Jeyakanthan’s lab are pursuing their research work in the area of Structural Biology and Protein Crystallography in combating malarial parasites. He also said that this International Conference will definitely pave the way for sharing of knowledge to the mutual advantage of the participants.

Prof. Balazs Zoltan Gulyas, Director, Centre for Neuroimaging Research, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in his speech said, truth and morality should be part and parcel of good science research and all such qualities need to be embedded in research institutes and this conference will provide the right platform to learn new trends. Prof. Seiki Kuramitsu, Honorary Emeritus Professor, Osaka University, Japan, while delivering the felicitation address, said that most of the biological problems can be solved through serious Bioinformatics approaches. Prof. D. Velmurugan, Honorary Emeritus Professor, Former Head, CAS in Crystallography and Biophysics, University of Madras, Chennai and Dr. R. Swaminathan, Member of the Syndicate, Alagappa University, delivered felicitation address.

Thirty-two scientists from various prestigious institutions of international repute delivered lectures about the methodologies that play a major role in developing drugs and the importance of Bioinformatics tools in health. 300

participants from across the country attended this three-day event.

Dr. J. Jeyakanthan, Professor and Head, Department of Bioinformatics, while welcoming the gathering, referred to several issues confronting India and the immediate need to find solutions using computational sources. He referred to various research findings and said that researchers in Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine have recently identified that three genes (Cyp6m2, Cyp6p3 and Gste2) as markers for insecticide resistance in malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Another complication caused by Plasmodium falciparum called Cerebral malaria has been diagnosed by scientists. According to a new study, Dengue virus replication was found to be due to the interaction between nonstructural protein 1 (NS1) in virus and a novel uncharacterized viral protein NS4A-2K-NS4B. Characterizing this uncharacterized viral protein will help to suppress viral replication and severe disease manifestations. The Department is mainly focusing on the applications of computing power to streamline drug discovery and drug development process that will facilitate the discovery of novel leads against life-threatening diseases such as Cancer, Filiarisis, Chikungunya, Malaria, Dengue, Diabetes, HIV, Zika, Cardiovascular disease etc..

Finally, a vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Singh of the Department of Bioinformatics.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Two-Day International Conference on “Innovative and Emerging Trends in Botany

The inaugural function of a two-day International Conference on “Innovative and Emerging Trends in Botany” (ICIETB - 2019) organized by the Department of Botany, Alagappa University was held on 06-11-2019 at

the Seminar Hall of the Science Campus and it was sponsored under RUSA 2.0 Scheme.

Presiding over the inaugural function, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, appreciated the Faculty of Alagappa University as contributors for nurturing education and research with the cooperation of students and research scholars. The UGC has made it mandatory to publish articles in SCI and WOS indexed journals and it has been made one of the compulsory requirements for the Ph.D scholars receiving fellowship from RUSA 2.0 grant. Although an amount of Rs. 27 crore has been equally distributed among the Departments of Alagappa University, the best performing departments such as the Bioinformatics has been recognized as the Flagship Department by MHRD-RUSA, Biotechnology and Physical Sciences have been allotted more grants under Theme based projects. He also said that this conference will provide the best opportunity for interaction with participants from the Plant Science Societies, Horticulture, Forestry, Agriculture, Agronomy and Plant Sciences academicians and will empower the participants to launch new applications to explore new trends in the field of Botany. He concluded his speech by asking the participants to make use of the opportunity to learn from the subject experts gathered here for deliberations in the conference.

Prof. J. Jeyakanthan, Head (i/c), Department of Botany, in his thematic address, briefly enumerated the progress made by the department since its inception and thanked the Vice-Chancellor for providing equal share of funds for equal growth of Departments. He highlighted the crucial role of plant sciences in the era of climate change and how this International Conference on “Innovative and Emerging Trends in Botany” has provided a platform to discuss the global needs and to learn

about advanced research and developments in every field of plant sciences. He also added that the blind dependence on synthetic drugs is over now and people are returning to the natural herbal drugs with great hopes of safety. It is time to promote herbal drugs globally, and the outcome of the conference will pave way for developing novel plant-based drug molecules and will raise hopes among the victims of all diseases worldwide.

Prof. Mui-Yun Wong, Head, Laboratory of Science & Technology, Institute of Plantation Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia, in her special address, gave a general overview on various cutting edge innovations and emerging trends in plant biology and the feasibility to curb plant pathology. She enlightened the audience on the dual prospects of the compounds/herbs identified from plant sources to deplete infestation in crops by plant pathogens as well as to protect the human kind from life-threatening diseases. She also revealed the fact that small RNA molecules identified can aid to curb the plant associated pathogenesis and laid an overview of various emerging technologies. She urged the audience that innovations should be focused on crop protection through technologies developed by agro-based companies, sustaining agriculture with active ingredients identified from plant sources and other biological, RNA's which can aid in crop protection and has a potential impact on horticulture like producing different flower colors through gene silencing. She later introduced a term "Phytobiome" that is the interaction study of plants with microbiome and environment and its sustainability.

Dr. Ganesan Vadmalai, Head, Department of Plant Protection, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia, in his keynote address, referred to the importance of agriculture progression through cutting edge technologies.

With the rising population the farmers need to meet the challenges of feed sustainability for which the Agriculture production need to be increased by 60% in accordance with the population growth that is estimated around 9.5 billion by 2050. The inclusion of Digital technology for the enhancement of Agriculture and rural life is must and the digitalization is mandatory in all Interdisciplinary Sciences to fulfill the agenda of meeting the requirements. He also mentioned that till date 120 compounds are extracted from plant sources and are used in Medicinal Chemistry and the creation of designer plants to curb pathogens and infestations. Till date, only 30% of plant resources have been explored by Agriculture and Industry that requires much exploration through Gene editing tools such as CRISPR, CASP, NGS, Phenotyping to enhance the plant productivity and performance.

Prof. N. Mathivanan, Head, Director, Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai delivered the felicitation address. In his speech he appreciated the authorities for the rapid progress the University has made. He asked the Head of the Department to keep the pace towards progress and do hard work for promoting Botany and Herbal Science on a global level. He exhorted the young researchers to find novel leads for their future work and aid in commercialization of traditional knowledge like China.



Fourteen eminent scientists from various prestigious institutions delivered lectures on various innovative technologies that could

play a major role in developing drugs for the human kind and plant pathology. 180 participants from across the country, including faculty members and research scholars attended this two-day event.

Dr. M. Jyothi Basu, Organizing Secretary of ICIETB-2019, welcomed the gathering and highlighted several issues confronting India and the immediate need to find solutions using herbal sources. Finally, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Arumugam, Co-convenor of ICIETB-2019

World Habitat Day Celebrated



The World Habitat Day was celebrated by the Department of Botany on 16th October 2019. Dr. M. B. Viswanathan, Professor, Department of Botany, Bharathidasan University, was the chief guest. While highlighting the significance of the day, he emphasized students' role in celebrating the world habitat day and its relevance to the society. Prof. S. Gomathinayagam, Director, University of Guyana, South America, gave the special address. Prof. J. Jeyakanthan, Head (i/c), Department of Botany, gave the thematic address and Dr. A. Arumugam and Dr. M. Jyothi Basu organized the programme.

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Two-Day International Conference on Recent Trends in Bioplastics

A Two-Day International Conference on "Recent Trends in Bioplastics (RTB 2019)" was organized by the Department of Microbiology,

Alagappa University, on 9th and 10th December 2019, in the Seminar Hall of the Science Campus. The conference was sponsored under the joint auspices of RUSA 2.0 Scheme and Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC).

Presiding over the conference, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said air pollution in certain cities of the country has reached an alarming stage that has led us to establish oxygen centres. It has become an urgent necessity to control various environmental pollutions to protect mankind from the perils of health issues and serious researches in this area assume significance in the current scenario. Owing to the ease of use, durability and multiple applications, plastics have become inevitable part of our life. However, potential environmental hazards have rendered them as prohibited ones. In this context, demand for bioplastic has increased to a great extent because they are produced from renewable sources which are safe for human lives. According to recent estimates, the global bioplastic market is expected to grow from 17 billion dollars business this year to almost 44 billion dollars in 2052. He concluded by saying "Better researches for creating a healthy humanity and a better society" should be the end and aim of all research endeavours in all fields of science.



In his inaugural address, Dr. Parasuraman Padmanabhan, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, said that we

have to earnestly implement all the schemes for the production of bio-energy from various renewable sources because World Health Organisation has indicated by the year 2025 we should be free from using petroleum products to a very great extent. However, only 4% of petroleum products have been used for plastic products which should be improved through biotechnological research driven approaches. Biotechnological innovations would help in three essential sectors of life such as health, energy and environment; and hence greater attention has to be paid in the biotechnological research which would ultimately safeguard the environment as well as human health.

Dr. G. Ravi, Head, Department of Physics, Alagappa University, in his felicitation address, asked the research community to focus on converting enormous agricultural wastes into bioplastic materials. He also added that the use of chemical pesticides and insecticides must be reduced to save the fertility and potential nature of the soil. He concluded his speech by saying that active conversion of agowaste into useful bioplastic materials is the need of the hour.

The first copy of abstracts of research papers in the form of CD (ISBN 978-93-89658-09-5) was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the distinguished guests. 250 participants from various Universities, Institutions across the country attended the conference. Dr. A. Arun, Head (i/c.), Department of Microbiology, Alagappa University, and Convener of the RTB-2019, welcomed the gathering and delivered the thematic address. Dr. T. Kavitha, Assistant Professor and Organizing Committee Member RTB-2019, proposed a vote of thanks.

Invited Talks Delivered Abroad

Dr. A. Arun, Associate Professor and Head (i/c) gave an invited lecture on “Microbiological

Research on Bioplastics, Bioenergy and Bioremediation” at the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering, School of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Tianjin University, Tianjin, China on 31.10.2019. He also gave a talk about his research work done at Alagappa University at the Beijing Key Laboratory of Lignocellulosic Chemistry, College of Material Science and Technology, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China on 01.11.2019.

DEPARTMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND COASTAL AREA STUDIES

Two-Day International Conference on Recent Advances in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation



A “Two-Day International Conference on Recent Advances in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation” was organised on 12th and 13th December 2019 by the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Area Studies, School of Marine Sciences, Alagappa University, Karaikudi.

Welcoming the gathering Prof. C. Stella, Head of the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Area Studies, said the marine ecosystems are deteriorating at an alarming rate and the need for conservation has become imperative in the current scenario. And with this objective the present conference has been organised, she added.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-

Chancellor, Alagappa University, said according to scientists enormous increase in human population and the consequent pollution, climate change, over-fishing and pollution caused in marine environment owing to many other factors have led to the decline in species diversity and decrease in sea population. In fact, healthy marine ecosystems would provide many benefits to humanity and hence protecting biodiversity is essential for safeguarding the ecosystem. He said that scientific community need to plan new strategies to conserve the ecosystem in its pristine purity.

Prof. T. Balasubramanian, Vice-Chancellor, Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Chennai, delivered the keynote address. He dwelt at length on how to sustain the marine biodiversity and how to utilise the marine resources without affecting the marine environment for developing various products from the sea for human consumption. Protecting and preserving the biodiversity would also benefit the fishermen community to reap the sea wealth for their economic prosperity.

Dr. Yuri Kartvtsev from the Institute of Marine Biology, Russia, in his special address, elaborated on the status of world marine biodiversity and also on identifying the marine biodiversity hot spots. Prof. N. Munuswamy, CSIR Emeritus Scientist, University of Madras, speaking on the occasion, referred to the marine biodiversity assessment in India and its significant role in increasing economic value. He added that alternative food from marine aquatic resources would help to overcome the food scarcity in India.

More than 200 participants attended the conference. A souvenir was also released by the Vice-Chancellor on the occasion. Dr.V.Sugumar, Organising Secretary of the conference, proposed a vote of thanks.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Education Day Celebrated



The National Education Day was celebrated by the Department of Education, Alagappa University, on 12.11.2019 in the University Convocation Seminar Hall in commemoration of the birth anniversary of the first Education Minister of India Dr.Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad. Prof.G.Kalaiyaran, Prof. & Head, Department of Education, Alagappa University welcomed the gathering. The presidential address was given by Prof. H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University. He recalled the contribution of Dr.Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad who helped to evolve a national education system from pre primary education to higher education.

The special address was given by Prof. Dr.M.Govindan, Controller of Examinations, Tamilnadu Teachers Education University, Chennai. He said that real education means to connect the world through education; and he exhorted students to respect elders and parents. He also stressed the importance of moral education to be imparted to students. Dr.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of the Syndicate, Alagappa University, offered felicitation and appreciated the organizers of the function. Dr.A.Selvan, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Alagappa University, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCE

International Conference on Yoga, Meditation and Sports for Peace and Prosperity

An International Conference on Yoga, Meditation and Sports for Peace and Prosperity, sponsored under RUSA 2.0 scheme was inaugurated on 17.10.2019 at Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Organised by the Department of Physical Education and Health Sciences, the conference attracted 150 research papers from the scholars.

Presiding over the inaugural function Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, referred to the performance based funding of the Government to the Universities. He said that education and sports are considered to be two eyes of the education system. Considering these two major aspects of education, Vallal Alagappan started the two colleges namely the College of Education and the College of Physical Education in 1950s at Karaikudi which later became the intrinsic components of the University. He stated that sport is an important domain which promotes cooperation, peace and harmony at the international level. Practical and theoretical aspects are given importance in sports science which helps sports persons to perceive the nuances of the sports and games and perform well. Sports is an active physical exercise helping the practitioner to keep the body fit and it helps the mind to relax. Yoga provides flexibility, balance and endurance. Meditation is a form of mental yoga that helps to keep the mind sharp and clear, relieves stress and improves overall well-being. When practised in all earnestness all the three go hand-in-hand to provide peace and prosperity to humanity.

Ultimately they enhance emotional quotient as well as intelligence quotient (EQ & IQ).



A book of Conference Proceedings was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the distinguished guests.

In his inaugural address, Prof. A.M.Moorthy, Former Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, Chennai, said that Yoga, a gift of India to the World, is a great stress buster and emphasized the need to promote peace through the practice and propagation of yoga to the stress-ridden humanity. Mantras uttered by the people of all religious faiths are found to be stress removers. "Your daily troubles both big and small will melt away during the time when you are practising yoga", he added.

Dr.Ali Bin Md Nadzalan, University of Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia, Dr.Ilayaraja Alagia Thiruvankadam, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia and Dr.Hernan C.Labao, INTI International University, Malaysia, offered felicitations.

Prof.K.Balasubramanian, Professor & Head, Dept. of Physical Education and Health Sciences welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Usha Rani, Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

ALAGAPPA INSTITUTE OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Three-Day Capacity Building Training to the Instructors of JSS on Fashion Designing

A Three-day Capacity Building Training Programme on Fashion Designing to the Instructors of Jan Shikshan Sansthan was organized by Alagappa Institute of Skill Development from 20.11.2019 to 22.11.2019.



The programme was inaugurated by Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University on 20.11.2019 at the EIC HUB - Building. In his presidential address, he said that the fashion industry is one of the most important industries in world trade. It provides employment opportunities to millions of people. This training focused on the empowerment of rural women in terms of enhancing their skills and knowledge in fashion related fields. Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. Empowering rural women is not only important to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to increase overall economic prosperity of our country. Further, he appreciated the services of Jan Shikshan Sansthan in empowering rural women by giving, employment focused training and for entrepreneurial support for production and marketing in order to make a strong contribution to the inclusive economic growth'. He asked all the participants to make use this

training programme in a fruitful manner.

Dr.K.Balakrishnan, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Kundrakudi, felicitated the gathering and explained the activities and achievements of JSS in empowering the rural women.

Twenty trainers of JSS, Kundrakudi, participated in this three-day training. The staff members of Alagappa Institute Skill Development gave training in different areas such as, fashion designing, types of necklines, pattern making and sewing process of children's wear, umbrella frock and choli dress designing. Designing of bridal blouse, fabric embellishment techniques and CAD in fashion designing were also taught to the participants.

The valedictory function was held on 22nd November 2019 in the EIC Hub Building. Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University delivered the valedictory address and distributed the certificates to the participants.

Dr. K. Balakrishnan, JSS, thanked the Alagappa Institute of Skill Development for the training provided to their trainers. He expressed that, this training would enhance the creativity of the participants to reap success in life.

Prof. B. Dharmalingam, Director i/c, Alagappa Institute of Skill Development, welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Mahesh, Assistant Professor, Alagappa Institute of Skill Development, proposed a vote of thanks.

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Inter University Football Tournament Conducted

The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), Chennai, entrusted the work of conducting the State-Level Inter University Football Tournament (for men) to Alagappa University. The tournament was



held at Alagappa University on 18th and 19th of November 2019 in which 12 university teams participated. The Vel's University team won the championship. The SRM University and Alagappa University teams obtained the Second and third positions respectively.

At the brief inaugural ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran said that Alagappa University with its numerous well developed playgrounds has been conducting many state and national level sports competitions. According to Swami Vivekananda only a strong and healthy body can help one in gaining rich knowledge. The distinguished speaker emphasized the importance of games and sports for keeping the body fit. Perceiving the significance of sports and education as two eyes of higher education, the visionary Founder of Alagappa Institutions Dr. Alagappan established Colleges of Physical Education and Education here during 1950s and they have become intrinsic part of Alagappa University today. He referred to the popularity of action-oriented game of football throughout the world and said that cricket is popular in England whereas baseball has gained importance in the USA. But football is a game that is played all over the world. This game is played enthusiastically in States like Kerala, West Bengal and Goa in India.

Dr. C. Vairavasundaram, Programme Coordinator, welcomed the gathering earlier. The tournament was arranged by Dr. M. Sundar, Principal, AUCPE, and Dr. R. Senthil Kumaran,

Director, Directorate of Physical Education, Alagappa University.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

ALAGAPPA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Two-day National Conference on Re-engineering Business Environment for Sustainable Development of India

The inaugural function of a Two-day National Conference on "Re-engineering Business Environment for Sustainable Development of India" organized by Alagappa Institute of Management, was held on 12.12.2019 at the Convocation Seminar Hall. The important objectives of the conference were to give exposure to the participants about re-engineering in business environment, how to pursue economic viability and at the same time contribute to the sustainable social development in India.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, while presiding over the conference, spoke about re-engineering in business environment, and referred to the trials and tribulations encountered by industries and said how to face adverse situations while doing business. He also stated that the important quality of a manager is to learn the do's and don'ts in the business. Learning the don'ts is more important as it would help him avoid committing mistakes and lead to success. He also mentioned about the wealth of facilities and opportunities provided to the students on Alagappa University campus and exhorted them to utilise them to their maximum advantage. He also appreciated Alagappa Institute of Management for sustaining the placement drive with earnestness year after year. He also spoke about nomothetic and idiographic methods, and added that they represent the two different approaches to understand the social life.

The conference souvenir and the placement brochure titled 25th AIMERS were released by the Vice-Chancellor.

Shri T.A. Mathew Gunaseelan, Associate Vice President – HR, Indo National Limited -



Chennai, inaugurated the session. He spoke about the emerging technologies and trends in re-engineering and reiterated that innovation always matters and said it would also pay. Shri M.V.Subramanian, Managing Director, Future Focus Infotech Ltd Chennai, highlighted how reengineering can be the game-changer in any business. If properly handled, business process reengineering can perform miracles on a failing or stagnating company, increasing the profits and driving growth with suitable examples.

Prof T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of the Syndicate and Dean, School of Management, Alagappa University, said that appropriate management strategies are to be designed and implemented for sustainable development. Business process reengineering is the act of recreating a core business process with the goal of improving product output, quality, or reducing costs and also he stressed the importance of adhering to the concept of green engineering with modern technology for creating a healthy society.

Earlier Prof.S.Rajamohan, Director i/c-AIM welcomed the gathering. Dr.K.Chandrasekar, Organising Secretary-REBSD 2019, proposed a vote of thanks.

Smart Board Presented to Government Middle School

The Alumni of Alagappa Institute of Management donated on 19.10.2019 a Smart Board costing about Rs. 41,000 to the Sakkottai Union Middle School functioning at Chinna Venkavayal. Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, presented the smart board to the school Headmaster Mrs. V. Rajamani.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

70th Anniversary of Indian Constitution Day



The Department of Commerce, Alagappa University, in association with National Service Scheme, celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Indian Constitution Day on 29.11.2019 at the Convocation Seminar Hall of Alagappa University.

Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor in his presidential address, stated that secularism is inherited by Indians and it stands supreme in Indian culture. Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are to be ensured to all citizens and that is the true spirit embodied in Indian Constitution. Part III and IV of the Constitution serve as a watchdog of Constitution and speak about rights of citizens and directive principles of state policy. When we look at our rights we should also realise our duties. Rights and duties should go hand-in-hand. We should respect and obey our Constitution as it safeguards people and the country. Cultural integration is a special feature of the republic of India. The Constitution of India was accepted by the Government of India on 26th January, 1949 and put into practice on 26th January, 1950, he added. The Students should learn civic duties and habits for their welfare and society's welfare.

Prof. G.Palanithurai, Director, SARVAM, Rural Development Unit, Sri Aurobindo Society, Puducherry, in his special address, said that students should take efforts to keep the rural households informed of their rights and duties as stated in the Indian Constitution. We can accept differences in culture but we cannot tolerate disparity, poverty and untouchability. We have to create awareness about the Constitutional rights among the people and mould them as responsible citizens of the country. The Constitution maintains democracy in our country. It was a great task for the Constitution Draft Committee to frame the Constitution for India and Dr. Ambedkar's role would ever be adored and remembered.

Prof.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Professor&Head, Department of Commerce, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the preamble to the Constitution. Dr.P.Srinivasan, NSS Coordinator, delivered the vote of thanks. Dr.G.Vinayagamoorthi, Organising Secretary & his team made arrangements for the successful conduct of the programme. Faculty members, administrative staff and students of the University participated in the programme in large numbers.

DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SECRETARYSHIP

Five-Day Adjunct Faculty Programme Organized

A Five-Day Adjunct Faculty Programme was organized by the Department of Corporate Secretaryship, Alagappa University, Karaikudi from 14th October to 18th October 2019.

The main topics of the lecture series related to Corporate Governance and International Financial Reporting System. In the inaugural ceremony Dr.C.Vethirajan, Head of the Department, referred to the significance of guest lectures and motivated the students to gain knowledge from the Guest Speaker. He introduced the resource person Dr. Desti Kannaiah, Senior Faculty, James Cook University, Singapore, to the students. He also said that the Department of Corporate Secretaryship has undertaken various projects under the MHRD - RUSA scheme such as

“Societal development through CSR activities”. The Member of Syndicate Dr. T.R. Gurumoorthy, presided over the function. He appealed to the students to enhance their standard of learning. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Morarji, Professor, Department of Corporate Secretaryship.

Dr. Desti Kannaiah started his first lecture by sharing his views on good Corporate Governance. He compared the Indian Corporate Governance System with Corporate Governance System followed in Singapore. He gave the example of Singapore Airline for maintaining good Corporate Governance. He also compared the International Financial Reporting System (IFRS) with the Indian Financial Reporting System.

The Visiting Professor underscored the role of Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain, Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, various Accounting forms such as Arther, Anderson Art, Sarbonas-Qxley Act 2002, Conversions and Adoption of IFRS, Window Dressing in Accounting, Creative Accounting and Activity-based Accounting.

He also delivered enlightening lectures on topics such as Global Research Dimension, Cost Analysis Statements and Innovations and Challenges in Global Business on the second, third and fourth days.



He concluded his work on the fifth day by conducting a Workshop on Publishing Articles in Scopus Index, Era and Abdc Journals. A special Address was given by Dr.Sanjeev Kumar Singh, RUSA Coordinator, Alagappa University, who brought out the importance of guest lectures of eminent scholars from abroad who are specially invited to the campus for the purpose of helping the faculty and the students

to learn what is happening at the international level. He highlighted the activities, plans and future schemes that the management has planned through RUSA scheme.

Visiting Faculty at James Cook University, Singapore

Dr.C.Vethirajan, Professor and Head, Department of Corporate Secretaryship, visited the School of Business at James Cook University, Singapore as a Visiting Faculty from 18th to 22nd November 2019. He interacted with the students of MBA and MPA numbering around 200 and delivered a guest lecture on the topic "Impact of CSR in India and Singapore".

**DIRECTORATE OF
DISTANCE EDUCATION**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Level Workshop on e-Content Development



The inaugural function of a Five – Day (18th -22nd November, 2019) National Level Workshop on e-Content Development was held at Alagappa University, Karaikudi on 18.11.19 in the Convocation Seminar Hall. Organized by the Department of Education of the Directorate of Distance Education under the financial support of RUSA 2.0 Scheme the workshop was attended by sixty University and College Teachers and Research Scholars.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the workshop, Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said that an e-Studio to prepare e-content materials for teaching and learning has been functioning effectively at the University campus. Further facilities will be added to make it a full-fledged Unit for the benefit of faculty members. The

demands on higher education are more and the current scenario of higher education has been changing owing to the impact of the Digital Age. Whatever be the technology innovations the role of teachers cannot be replaced. But, on the other hand, the teachers have to be empowered with technological tools to meet the needs of the 21st century learners.

The New National Education Policy rightly envisages the inclusion of Liberal Arts in all disciplines to inculcate humanistic values among the learners of Science and Technology programmes. The scientific discoveries should be based on the needs of the society and for the benefits of peaceful co-existence of humanity. Great educational institutions are made by great teachers and they in turn create great students who contribute to the nation's development. He added that we are living in the age of high competition and teachers should sharpen their knowledge to cater to the needs of the digital learners and e content plays a major role in teaching learning process. This National Level Workshop will pave the way for preparing our faculty to get mastery over e-content preparation.

Prof.G.Baskaran, Member of the Syndicate, Alagappa University, in his special address, stated how a knowledge of e –content would help teachers to present their lectures in a more effective and successful way. He expressed his own experiences of teaching English effectively with e-content material. He exhorted the teachers to change their mode of teaching with changing times by blending technology with teaching. Updating one's knowledge and adopting the current teaching methods will help teachers create joyful learning among their students.

Prof. P.Sivakumar, Professor & Head, while giving the thematic introduction of the workshop, said that hands on training on script writing for e-content will be given to the participants. Dr. K.Alamelu, Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Alagappa University, Dr. E. Kannapiran, Dean, College Development Council, Alagappa University and Dr. V.Bagdha Vatchala Perumal, Assistant Professor, Gandhigram Rural Institute offered

felicitations. Dr.K.Krishnamurthy, Organizing Secretary, welcomed the gathering, Dr.S.Leo Stanly , Associate Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

Two-Day International Workshop on Design and Development of Technology Enabled Courseware

“A Two-Day International Workshop on Design and Development of Technology enabled Courseware” was held at Alagappa University, Karaikudi on 6th and 7th December 2019. Teacher Educators, Research Scholars and PG Students in Education numbering about 300 participated in the Workshop organized by the Department of Education, Directorate of Distance Education.

Prof. P.Sivakumar, Head, Department of Education, D.D.E, who welcomed the gathering said that this workshop will enable teacher educators and practitioners to learn effective methods for designing, planning, developing and delivering quality e-content with high-impact results. The workshop will be a training-cum-production type, involving lecture-cum-demonstrations, interactive sessions and hands-on practice.



Presiding over the inaugural session of the Workshop, Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said that “Vision 2030” and “New Education Policy 2019” envisage a new India where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) should increase to 50% in a decade at the national level. He added that in the last 70 years since the Independence the GER in higher education has been only 26.6%. Adding another 25% increase in the targeted time of 10 years is a task that needs focused attention and serious involvement on the part of universities

to accomplish it. It has to be done without sacrificing the quality and that has laid more responsibility on HEIs.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1 crore to Alagappa University under the “Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy” (STRIDE). Of the 16 HEIs selected for this award at the national level, four universities are from Tamil Nadu, he added. The STRIDE project aims at sustainable development with a focus on improving environmental values and health.

He stated that education is the backbone of a society and it plays a crucial role in the development process of a nation. Owing to enormous technological development, digital learning has become an inevitable factor in the current scenario. Adopting technology-based multimedia teaching has become essential today for efficient teaching; and teachers have to learn to use them effectively besides continuous updating of their subject knowledge. He concluded by saying that the workshop will be of help to teacher educators to design and develop courseware.

Dr.Senthilnathan, Director, Centre for Human Resources Development, Bharathidasan University, in his keynote address, said that teachers should learn to design and develop courseware creatively with the help of modern technology so as to improve the comprehending power and retaining capacity of the learner. Preparing a script for multimedia usage involves creativity and imagination. This workshop will help the participants learn tools and techniques, he added.

Dr.Jeyagopi, Associate Professor, Teacher Training Institute, Selangor, Malaysia, highlighted the importance and components of technology enabled courseware. He added that e-learning is a student-centered innovation and it could create an efficient and attractive learning environment compared to the traditional ways.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Professor & Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, City University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, said that the developing

countries should increase the use of multimedia technology to impart quality education to stakeholders. He added that e-learning system has brought a huge revolution in the field of education. At the same time face-to-face communication is equally important in education. Combining the traditional and modern methods of teaching would prove to be beneficial to students.

Dr. Biji Jose, Associate Professor, Indus Training & Research Institute, Bengaluru, demonstrated the designing of a model multimedia courseware. She said that emerging technologies are changing the world rapidly and there is a constant need for developing new skills among the diverse group of students. Teacher educators should learn to see things in new perspectives as the domain of knowledge expands rapidly. Further she enumerated the benefits of proper courseware. Crafting the courseware as a learning resource in the form of simple game-based simulations will help in interactive learning. In crafting the courseware she discussed the "ADDIE" model in which Analysis, Designing Development, Implementation & Evaluation could be done effectively and explained how it is interrelated with the Blooms Hierarchy in defining the learning objectives. On the whole her discussion was on how to create a new courseware for the target audience in a most effective way.

Dr.S.Gavaskar, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Application, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, discussed the technology infusion in traditional classroom which would enrich teaching-learning process. He explained various uses of technology in designing and developing multimedia packages, video teaching module, blended learning, software packages and online teaching assessments. Further he said that today's educators must be reflective practitioners and lifelong learners and should provide learning opportunities and experiences rather than simply teach in the classroom. And he also discussed how Chats Worth Hills Academy integrates technology to enhance curriculum content. Rubric Categories, Virtual Classroom,

Cloud Computing, Software as a Service (SaaS) etc. help in effective Teaching-Learning Process.

Dr.S.Malathi, Assistant Professor, D.D.E proposed a vote of thanks.

One Day Workshop on Water Conservation

A One Day Workshop on Water Conservation was conducted on 22nd November 2019 at Alagappa University under the aegis of the Education Department of the Directorate of Distance Education. Sponsored under RUSA 2.0 scheme by Jal Shakti & Environmental Awareness Club, the workshop was attended by 100 students.



Presiding over the programme Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, referred to the dire need and necessity of water conservation and its management. He added that the water management has become crucial to cater to the needs of teeming millions. He highlighted how great civilisations of the world flourished on the banks of perennial rivers. He dwelt at length on the history of Chennai and said that the Dutch, the Portuguese and the British who came to the city for trading purpose felt the need for improving water resources and they helped to dig new lakes to preserve water and improved water ways. The British constructed Buckingham Canal for logistic purposes. He added that during 1940s Chennai's well maintained water resources could supply water to the people without any hindrance. He concluded his speech by saying that every citizen has to understand the necessity of preserving the water sources and keeping them in pristine condition for the benefit of posterity.

Dr.R.Ganapathy Subramanian, Deputy Hydrogeologist, Tamil Nadu Water & Drainage Board, Chennai, delivered the keynote address. He spoke about the nuances of water management and explained in detail its necessity in the present context of depleting ground water table. He had a word of praise for Alagappa University for its efficient water management.

C.Tharmalingam, Deputy Hydrogeologist, Tamil Nadu Water & Drainage Board, Sivagangai, who spoke on the occasion, referred to the important water resources in the district and the schemes that are being implemented to preserve and conserve water.

Prof.TR.Gurumoorthy, Syndicate Member, Alagappa University and P.Udayaganesan, Head, Department of Geology, Alagappa Govt. Arts College offered felicitations.

Dr.G.Selvakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, DDE, welcomed the gathering earlier. Dr.S.Subeena Begam, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, proposed a vote of thanks.

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY STUDY CIRCLE

MOCK Interview Training Given



Alagappa University Study Circle, Karaikudi conducted a free Mock Interview Training for the aspirants who have been shortlisted by Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (Group I Main). The Free Mock Interview Training was conducted on 15.12.2019 at Alagappa University Study Circle, functioning on the premises of L.C.T.PL. Palaniappa Chettiar Auditorium. The Interview Panellists included Mr. Jeyam Pandian(Retd.), Additional Registrar, Co-operative Department,

Mr. Venkatesan, Assistant Commissioner, Commercial Tax and Mr. Pandian, Assistant Director, Local Audit Fund.

Coaching Classes Conducted

Coaching classes were conducted by Alagappa University Study Circle for the following examinations: 1. TNPSC Group Examinations (General Studies), 2. SSC / RRB / Banking Examinations (Aptitude and Reasoning).

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

Run For Unity

National Unity Day Conducted



The National Service Scheme and College of Physical Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, jointly organized a Mini Marathon on October 31, 2019. The Mini Marathon echoed the slogan "Run for Unity". It was conducted to commemorate the birthday of a noble hero – Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Before the starting of the event, the participants took a pledge and then the mini marathon was flagged off by Vice-Chancellor Professor. N. Rajendran at the Faculty of Education, Alagappa University. A total of six hundred persons ran the 4 km stretch. The Mini Marathon ended at the Alumni garden, and the participants were received by Registrar H. Gurumallesh Prabu. The event was graced by the presence of Syndicate Members, Faculty members and public of Karaikudi. The event was successfully organized by Dr. P. Srinivasan, NSS Co-ordinator.

YOUTH RED CROSS

Training for Programme Officers of Youth Red Cross



The inauguration of a One-Day Training for Programme Officers of the Youth Red Cross functioning in the Affiliated Colleges of Alagappa University was held at the University's Management Campus on 17.12.2019.

Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, who spearheaded the programme, said the laudable objectives of the Red Cross Society are: helping those in distress and raising awareness among the people about the importance of blood donation and eye donation. Besides these, the branches of Youth Red Cross functioning in colleges inculcates patriotism among students and nurtures ethical values in them and motivates them to offer selfless services to the needy. He stated that among the people who have had the opportunity to receive higher education in India, 80 percent of them are graduates, 18 percent are postgraduates and only one percent of them have opted for research. He added that since India's independence, in the last 70 years, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education at the national level has been only 26.3 percent. Now the government is taking steps to increase the GER to 50% in a decade's time and it would require enormous efforts. The current education system at the global level has become technology-based. In fact, we have reached 4.0 in today's educational development. The education provided to students must lead to social and economic change. Research should be useful for community development.

He said that organisations such as the Red Cross Society and the Youth Red Cross should encourage students to bring about positive changes in the society for its betterment.

The Vice-Chancellor presented eco-friendly cloth bags to the participants and asked them to spread the message of avoiding plastic bags to protect the mother earth.

Prof. T.R.Gurumoorthy, Syndicate Member, who spoke on the occasion, said that students can achieve success, face challenges and improve their lives by identifying their real potential; and they have to work hard utilizing their skills to raise themselves.

Thiru.C.Bahiratha Nachiyappan, Chairman, IRCS, Sivagangai District, inaugurated the programme. Prof. E. Kannapiran, Dean, College Development Council, presented the felicitation address. Dr. K. Ganesamurthy, YRC Deputy Director, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the technical sessions that followed Mr.A.Narasimmamani, Road Safety Trainer, made a video presentation on the "Role of Youth in Avoiding Accidents" and Mr.K.Kannan, Field Co-ordinator, IRCS, spoke on "Disaster Management".

In the valedictory function Dr.T.Chitra, YRC_District Organizer, Sivagangai District, welcomed the gathering. Prof. H.Gurumalles Prabu, Registrar, delivered the valedictory address. Mr.A.Vallivinayagam, YRC District Organizer, Ramnad District, offered felicitations. Dr.G.Vinayagamoorthi, YRC Zonal Co-ordinator, proposed a vote of thanks.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS (NCC)

A new National Cadet Corps Unit (NCC Unit) was formally inaugurated on 20.11.2019 at Alagappa University, Karaikudi. This unit with a cadet strength of 104 has been sanctioned by the Directorate of NCC, Chennai and 34 students have joined the first batch and the unit



will function under the 9th Battalion of NCC, Karaikudi.

Launching the unit in a function organised at the University, Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that an educational institution without an NCC Unit would be considered incomplete. He added that every nation needs disciplined youth for its progress and it is indeed a social necessity too. The training imparted in NCC would help to create social consciousness among the cadets. He said that the students who have joined the first batch of the NCC Unit are lucky enough to get a place in the history of the University.

Colonel Ajay Joshi, Commanding Officer of the 9th Battalion of NCC, Karaikudi, stated that the training given to NCC Cadets would help to inculcate leadership qualities, discipline and camaraderie in them. He added that NCC made its presence as early as 1956 at Karaikudi with NCC unit started at Alagappa Arts College and Engineering College, Karaikudi. It was extended to the Affiliated Colleges of Alagappa University in Sivagangai and Ramnad Districts. Now a new unit has been launched at Alagappa University.

Prof. N.Rajendran accepted a guard of honour given by the 9th Battalion of NCC Cadets. Prof. H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, was present on the occasion. Dr.M.Sundar, Principal, Alagappa University College of Physical Education, welcomed the gathering. Dr.Vairava Sundaram, in-charge of NCC Unit of the University, proposed a vote of thanks.

Armed Forces Flag Day - 2019



The Armed Forces Flag Day - 2019 function was held on 10th December 2019 at Alagappa University Convocation Hall. The Chief Guest was Col. Ajay Joshi, Commanding Officer, 9th Battalion of NCC, Karaikudi. Dr.V.Palanisamy, Dean - Students Affairs, welcomed the gathering.

In his presidential address, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, referred to the importance of the Flag Day and the sacrifices of the soldiers who work very hard at the borders 24x7 to protect the people of our nation. The Flag Day contribution fund collected from the students and staff was handed over to the Vice-Chancellor by Alagappa University NCC Unit.

The special address was given by Col. Ajay Joshi who shared his experiences in the armed forces and reminded the youth of their responsibility towards the nation. He spoke about the hardships faced by the soldiers at the borders and hailed them for their sacrifices and added that it is the responsibility of the citizens, especially of the youth, to take care of internal security of the nation.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Alagappa University NCC Unit Care-Taker Dr.C.Vairavasundaram, Assistant Professor, College of Physical Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi.

PHOTO GALLERY



Students-artistes showcasing their talents at the 35th Edition of South Zone Inter University Youth Festival held at Alagappa University from 18th to 22nd December 2019.





The Chief Editor

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