

**Address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof.S.Subbiah
to the Press Reporters on 2.8.2017**



RUSA Grant to Alagappa University

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and Government of Tamilnadu(60:40 Sharing Pattern) under RUSA Scheme (RashtriyaUchchatarShikshaAbhiyan) sanctioned Rs.20 crores to Alagappa University, Karaikudi, for infrastructure development. Out of which Rs.9.64 crores was received earlier as first and second instalment and Rs.5.64 crores has been received recently. In total, Rs.15 crores was received so far. After the submission of Utilisation Certificate for the grant received, the balance amount of Rs.5 crores will be released.

The infrastructure grant will be used for the development of the following:

1. **Creation of new facilities (Rs.7 crore).** Out of this grant, the new buildings namely **Establishment of Material Energy Laboratories, Establishment of Skill Development Centre, Establishment of University Management Information System** and Women's Toilets are to be constructed.
 2. **Upgradation / Renovation of existing facilities (Rs.7 crores)** which include class room upgradation facilities, networking and wifi facilities, creation of Modular Laboratories, strengthening of Laboratory infrastructure, Campus beautification and Campus development facilities.
 3. **Purchase of high-end scientific equipment, sports equipment, books / journals/ e- resources and computer and IT equipment (6 crores).**
- II) The MHRD and Government of Tamilnadu under RUSA Scheme Rs.1.5 crore has been sanctioned as Research and Innovation Grant under the head "**Energy**". Out of this sanctioned amount, Rs.75 lakhs has been received as first installment.
- III) Further Alagappa University has submitted proposals for Rs.10 crore each under the head "**Health**" and "**Environment**".
- IV) With the financial support of Central, State and also from the funding of the University, a building for Alagappa University Model Constituent Arts and Science College at Paramakudih has been constructed at a cost of Rs.7.25 crores. The construction work has been completed and it is ready for inauguration.

Participation of Alagappa University Students in 7thWorld Dwarf Games to be held in Canada

Two students of Para Sports Centre, Alagappa University, will be participating in the 7th World Dwarf Games, to be held at Ontario Guelph, Canada, from 4th August 2017 to 13th August 2017. The World Dwarf Games and Sports are conducted once in four years.

Of the 17 students selected from India, one Mr. A.Selvaraj is from Alagappa University, will be participating in Javelin Throw, Shotput and Discus Throw events.

Dr. M. Sundar, Principal, Alagappa University College of Physical Education and the International Technical Official (Athletics) will head the Indian Paralympic Team.

Alagappa University signs an MoU with EDII

The Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, has signed an MoU with Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII), Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. The Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute has nominated Alagappa University as the "Nodal Hub" under IEDP of EDII, Tamil Nadu. The objective of this programme is to initiate, encourage and sensitize the management of the colleges and educational institutions about the need to launch Entrepreneurship & Innovative Training Programmes in colleges with the main objective of creating entrepreneurs within and around the campus and create a thirst for innovation among the students.

M.A. Integrated Home Science

The Department of Women's Studies has been offering a five-year M.A. Integrated Home Science Programme (as a regular course) from the academic year 2016-17. +2 passed students of any group are eligible to join the programme.

Student Talent Bank

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, in its notification 2017-18 has made an announcement about the sanction of Rs.2.10 crores for the establishment of "**Talent Bank Centre**" in Alagappa University.

The purpose of establishing Student Talent Bank is to bridge the gap between industries and educational institutions by imparting employability skills and entrepreneurial skills required by the industry and institutions. With this in view, the Student Talent Bank is being established for empowering rural youth by conducting awareness

programmes followed by various skills training programmes based on the felt-need. The rural students will be trained to face the challenges in the competitive world on par with urban students.

It has been planned to conduct one-day awareness programme about the “Job World” for all the final year students in all the affiliated colleges. It has also been planned to identify 10 students from each affiliated college from various academic backgrounds and capabilities. The Talent Bank will aim at grooming the students in a holistic way to face the future in a better manner when they go out from their academic portals. The Alagappa University Study Circle will coordinate the activities of the Talent Bank.

Waste Treatment Technology for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Environment in Alagappa University

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, in its notification 2017-18 has made an announcement about the sanction of Rs.1.25 crores for establishing a Waste Treatment Plant and for production of Bio-Gas. Under this scheme, entire bio-waste from the campus of Alagappa University will be collected and converted into renewable energy and the same will be used for cooking purposes in all the hostels situated inside the campus. Organic waste will be converted into fertilizer by using bio-composite units and the fertilizer will be used as manure for garden plants.

Another significant feature of this scheme is to train students and other aspiring NGOs to use this technology for creating sustainable eco-friendly environment.

Visit of Students from University of Florida, USA

Having achieved a top slot among higher educational institutions at the national level, Alagappa University is now concentrating on globalization of academic and research activities. Several initiatives are being taken in this direction. Students and Faculty Members of our University are encouraged with financial support to visit overseas Universities / Research Institutions for attending conferences, seminars, and to undergo training programmes.

So far, Alagappa University has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with more than 40 overseas Institutions / Universities for such exchange of students / faculty members and for promoting collaborative research activities. As a part of this on-going effort, a team of 15 students from University of Florida are visiting Alagappa University on 3.8.2017. They will interact with the students and scholars of Social Science, Science and Arts Faculty. The visit will strengthen the on-going collaboration between University of Florida and Alagappa University.

MoU with Chinese and Thailand Universities

Alagappa University has entered into an MoU with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China and Prince of Shangkla University, Thailand, recently to undertake high-end research in Biotechnology and for faculty and scholar exchange programmes for collaborative research work.

EXPLORING THE EVER LASTING MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT PORT CITY, POOMPUHAR

: A giant research under Department of Science & Technology – Alagappa University

SM.Ramasamy

Distinguished Professor, Alagappa University

The recent research on the ancient dilapidated and lost civilizations and the submerged ancient cities using the hi-tech tools around the world have amazingly pushed the human origin and the evolution of the Man to several thousands of years. The lost cities Baiae (Italy), Paulopetri (Egypt), Cleopatra Palace (Egypt), Atlit – yam (Israel), Phanagoria (Russia) stand as towering testimonies for the ancient civilizations, maritime histories, princely establishments, Neolithic culture, conflicts and wars etc. The Indian sub-continent, known for its physiographic diversities and contrasting culture & civilizations in the contemporary scenario, seems to have strong history, social systems, culture and civilization for the past several thousands of years as seen from the ruined palaces and ancient great port cities of maritime importance like Dwarka in the west coast and Poompuhar in the east coast of India.

The Poompuhar widely referred to as “Kaveripoompattinam” , means the place where the river Cauvery has entered into the sea, was established by the Chola dynasty during Tamil Sangam period (BC 300- AD 300) .It remained as one of the leading ports having intercontinental trade links with far flung Asian, Arabian and Mediterranean countries during the long Chola rule . Due to its wealth and importance the subsequent rulers from Kalapara (AD 300 –AD 600) Pallava (AD 600- AD 850) dynasties too nurtured Poompuhar port city. When the Chola dynasty re-emerged during AD 850, the later Chola Kings further fortified it , but around AD 1100 it seems to have defunct. Due to elaborate narrations in Sangam and post Sangam literature, *Cilapathigaram*, *Manimegalai*, *Purananuru*, *Agananuru*, *Natrinaid* and *Pattinapalai* and the mentions in the most north Indian literature *Bakruth*, the archeologists, epigraphers, historians, tamil scholars and geoscientists have been attracted to study Poompuhar involving under water archeological explorations .

Despite such studies , there are many enigmas on the submerged ancient city Poompuhar. It is not known whether the present Kaveripoompattinam located at the mouth of the river Cauvery is the original place or is a later shifted one . Its age too is highly speculative, varying from 20,000yrs to 2000 yrs. Again there is no much

information on how and when such a towering city of maritime importance has become defunct, except the mentions in *Manimagelai / Cilapathigaram* that the phenomenon of *Kadalkol* (swallowing up of land by the sea) and by some recent researchers on the tectonic movements as possible factors for the sudden disappearance of the port city from history .

So this calls for detailed studies for the holistic understanding of Poompuhar, encompassing , it's place and date of origin , spatio-temporal evolution of the city, architecture, culture and social systems, inter-continental trade and the factors and periods of extinction .Such a study would not only unfurl these mysteries but also would bring out the total socio-cultural evolution of this part of the country and the palaeo earth movements, flow dynamics of Cauvery system of rivers, pattern of sea level rise and the inundation pattern of the past and other palaeo natural disasters like floods, ,cyclones , tsunamis, erosion -deposition dynamics etc. leading to the revival of culture and management plans.

Under this backdrop the **DST, New Delhi** and the **Alagappa University, Karaikudi** are launching a giant inter- institutional and inter-disciplinary project networking number of Academic institutions and research organizations. The study is planned to survey the sea bed configuration of the Poompuhar region three dimensionally; bring out the already known spreads and the new possible areas of submerged Poompuhar using unmanned vehicles, multi-beam side scan scanner surveys; underwater photography and its processing for locating exposed, fragmented and buried objects and structures in the sea bed, their 3D visualization and assemblages of broken structures ; generation of narrative and GIS data bases on the life history of Poompuhar from the citations made in Tamil literature; archeological evidences; epigraphical citations and historical references; drilling and geo-chronological dating in the Poompuhar region; robotic tools for collection of under water remains of Poompuhar etc.

The final amalgamation of all ,using digital, GIS and big data analytics, would bring out a comprehensive picture on the original location of Poompuhar, the later shifts if any along with periods, the age and the time series spatial evolution of the city, intercontinental trade routes / trade links, time series spatial sprawl of architecture and social systems and their inheritance from the intercontinental trade etc. The study would further make a deeper focus on how and why such a city of intercontinental maritime importance has become suddenly defunct. This component would study the mapping of the recent earth movements using satellite technology, SAR inter-ferrometry, GPS observations, 3D visualization of off-shore and on-shore regions and time series pattern of engulfment of land by the sea water

from 20,000 yrs, elucidation of pattern and periods of River Cauvery's migration in Poempuhar region using satellite technology and geo-chronological tools, visualization of sedimentation due to paleo flood history from 10,000yrs to present day, profiling of storm surge, cyclone, and tsunami history from 20,000yrs to as recent as possible by putting deep boreholes in the creeks and in the river mouths, 3D visualization of coastal currents, coastal erosion and sedimentation histories from as back as 20,000yrs to present day ; and finally bringing out a picture of the history of extinction of Poempuhar .

Prof. SM.Ramasamy, the Distinguished Professor, Alagappa University and the co-ordinator of the project told that the study ignited by Dr. Murali Mohan, Advisor, DST would also bring out a computerized visualization model on the total life history of Poempuhar and on clicking the computer, right from its initial origin to the extinction will be sequentially displayed in an animation mode. Prof. S.Subbiah, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University told that it is yet another giant leap by the University in this direction and would bring out the socio-cultural evolution of ancient Tamils .

