



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(A State University Established in 1985)

Vallal Alagappan Valagam

KARAIKUDI - 630 003, Tamil Nadu, India

www.alagappauniversity.ac.in



2017



Accredited with
A+ Grade by NAAC
(CGPA : 3.64)

2018



Graded as Category-1
&
Granted Autonomy

2019



Rank : 28

2018



Swachh Campus
Rank : 4

2019



India Rank : 24
BRICS Rank: 104
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Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, addressing the gathering at the 73rd Independence Day Celebrations on 15th August 2019.

July - September, 2019



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, 2019: QS ASIA Rank -216, QS BRICS Rank -104, QS India Rank -24)



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From the Vice-Chancellor

With the commencement of the New Academic Year 2019-20 significant academic activities gathered fast momentum with the organization of a series of seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops of national and international importance by different Departments of our University. I am glad to know that this quarterly issue of *Azhagu Newsletter* (July-September 2019) reports on such major events that happened on the campus.

The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated with usual fervour and gaiety at the University. The highlight of the celebrations this year is the erection of a permanent 100-foot tall polygon flag mast for hoisting the national flag. The new massive national flag measuring 20 foot in height and 30 foot in length adorns the pole. Four flood light fittings have been installed with time control to focus on the flag during night. We need to take cognizance of the Industry 4.0 in the economic sphere of development in the country and Education 4.0 is complementary to Industry 4.0. This is, indeed, a significant reminder to the youth of their responsibility which they owe to their motherland. Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi had great faith in the youth power. Interestingly the year 2019 coincides with the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. To mark this occasion a seminar is to be organized by the University. It may be mentioned here that a proposal to start a Gandhian Studies Chair has been sent to the Government.

The University, besides its research activities, lays emphasis on imparting skill education to encourage the students to take up self-employment and become entrepreneurs. The Alagappa Institute of Skill Development in collaboration with Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub (EIC Hub) has planned to offer courses of three months duration in eleven government colleges affiliated to Alagappa University. The Student Capacity Building and Empowerment Cell too conducted a motivational programme with a view to empowering students with needed skills for employability. The Cell has been imparting training to the students for achieving excellence in competitive examinations conducted at the national level.

The visit of a group of students from Florida University for the third consecutive year speaks of its usefulness to the visitors as well as the hosts at Alagappa University. The American students felt that they were able to experience first-hand Indian life and culture and they felt that their interaction with the academics and students of Alagappa University enlightened them on the Indian perspective on some areas of higher education.

Prof. N.Rajendran
Vice-Chancellor

GRAND 73rd INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated at Alagappa University, Karaikudi, on 15th August 2019 with usual fervour and gaiety. Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, hoisted the National Flag and accepted the Guard of Honour presented by the students and security guards.

In his Independence Day Address, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, recalled the great sacrifices made by patriots. After gaining Independence, India, by overcoming all the challenges and difficulties, has progressed in every sphere, he added. The Colonial rulers were able to unite a vast country like India because of the cultural unity which was continuing for several centuries as a binding force. The crucial role played by stalwarts like Balagangadhara Tilak, Subramanya Bharathi, Mahatma Gandhi and others in the freedom struggle will ever be remembered. Tamil Nadu holds a significant place in the annals of Freedom Movement and Sivagangai District

has a special place in the history. According to Statistics available with the Indian Council for Historical Research, in Tamil Nadu alone 17500 patriots participated in the freedom struggle and more than 250 people sacrificed their precious life.

The Vice-Chancellor added that an International Conference on the Life and Works of Mahatma Gandhi would be organised at Alagappa University to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Father of our Nation and a Gandhian Studies Chair would also be established. He also stated that the 9th Battalion of National Cadet Corps has given permission to start a NCC Unit at Alagappa University and 200 students have expressed their willingness to join the Unit. He concluded his speech by remarking that when India obtained freedom, the population of the country was 30 Crores and today it has a population of 135 Crores. To cater to the needs of the current population, enormous efforts in every field is required and the youth should strive to contribute for the development of the nation.



In this function, Mrs. Inbavalli, wife of the Kargil Hero Mr.Thangavelu (who sacrificed his life in Kargil War during 1999) and Mrs. Selvi, wife of the BSF Hero Mr.P.Ilayaraja (who sacrificed his life in the terrorist attack in Kashmir during 2017) were honoured with shawls and citations by the Vice-Chancellor.

100-Foot Tall Permanent Polygon Flag Mast Erected

The highlight of the celebrations at the University this year is the erection of a permanent 100-foot tall polygon flag mast for hoisting the national flag. The new massive national flag measuring 20 foot in height and 30 foot in length adorns the pole. For hoisting and lowering the massive flag a three phase 1.5 hp (horse power) motor is used. Four flood light fittings with 200 watts LED bulbs have been installed with time control to focus on the flag during night. It may be noted that the government has allowed flying of national flag even at night subject to the condition that the flagpole should be tall and the flag well illuminated.

Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Syndicate Members, Dr. K.Uthayasuriyan, Controller of Examinations i/c, Prof. Chandramohan, Finance officer, Deans, Directors, Heads of the Departments, Faculty members, Administrative staff and students participated in large numbers in this function. Dr. M. Sundar, Principal, College of Physical Education, Dr. R. Senthil Kumaran, Director of Physical Education, and other faculty members of the College of Physical Education made arrangements for the successful conduct of this function.

STUDENTS OF FLORIDA UNIVERSITY VISIT ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY



A group of 28 students pursuing various programmes of study at the University of Florida, United States of America, visited Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Led by Prof.

Muthusamy Kumaran of Florida University, they have been touring different parts of India and Nepal to study the functions, roles and impact of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Non-profit Management, Community Development, Home and Community based elderly care services and environmental justice. It may be noted that this is the third successive visit of the students of Florida University to Alagappa University. This educational tour is part of their curriculum which carries six credits. The tour will help them understand and experience first-hand the Indian Culture, Educational System and Way of Life.

The visiting team met Vice-Chancellor Prof.N.Rajendran at his chamber. An interactive session was arranged at the Syndicate Hall. Initiating the discussion the Vice-Chancellor briefed the salient features of the University including its recent initiatives towards the globalisation of the University under the MHRD funded RUSA 2.0 scheme. The American students expressed their keenness in understanding the Indian society, people, culture and social life. Prof.Muthusamy Kumaran expressed his interest in forging collaborations with Alagappa University especially in the fields of Social Sciences and Agricultural Economics. Registrar Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Officials, Senior Faculties and Director of the Centre for International Relations Prof. C.Sekar participated. As part of their visit to the University, the team was taken to the Thondi Tourism Campus of Alagappa University. Dr.Rajan Chinna coordinated the programme.

SEMINAR ON DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, organised a one-day Seminar on “Draft National Education Policy”. 200 Faculty Members including 33 Principals and Co-ordinators of IQAC Cells of Affiliated Colleges participated in the seminar

sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under RUSA 2.0 Scheme.



Prof.S.Karutha Pandian, Director, IQAC, Alagappa University while delivering the thematic address highlighted the salient features of the Draft New Education Policy 2019. He emphasized the importance of uniform service conditions in all higher education institutions in India. Further he said that there should not be any age barrier for funding to researchers. He cited the example of researchers in the United States of America getting research funds even after crossing the age of 90.

Presiding over the function Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said that the aim of the deliberations in the seminar is to discuss various aspects of the new draft policy and to get the feed-back from the stakeholders. He stated that during the Colonial period education based on the Western ideologies was imparted to students in India and it did not take into account Indian ethos, culture and tradition. Ancient Indian society had been a learned society and in the ancient India quality higher education was given to the youth and the history tells us that students from the neighbouring countries came to India in large numbers for learning mathematics, astronomy and metallurgy. Compendium of literature produced in various languages in ancient India bear testimony to this fact. Since India's Independence many

changes have been incorporated into the system and the present draft on new education policy lays emphasis for providing India-Centric or Bharat-Centric education. Teacher's role in implementing the new policy is crucial. He exhorted them to help bring needed changes.

Dr.G.Gopal Reddy, Member, UGC, New Delhi in his key note address said that the well designed and drafted comprehensive New Education Policy – 2019 aimed at providing inclusive quality education from primary level to the university level. He stated that the expansion is the need of the hour but certainly not at the cost of quality. The draft envisages strong measures for improving school education. He added that teachers are the torch-bearers of change and they should play a pivotal role in implementing any new education policy. Besides access, equity and expansion, the role of quality, accountability and use of advanced technology are the key factors given importance in the draft policy.

Dr.G.Srinivas, Joint Secretary, UGC – South Eastern Regional Office, Hyderabad, in his special address explained the proposed changes incorporated into the draft New Education Policy 2019. He said that the policy aims at providing autonomy to the Colleges (type – 3 institutions) so as to help them offer innovative and creative programmes of study needed for the country's progress and award degrees without affiliation to universities. He further said that it lays emphasis on bringing uniform educational policy to be adopted for the entire country.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University welcomed the participants. Prof.KR.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, proposed a vote of thanks.

TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Teachers Day was celebrated at Alagappa University, Karaikudi on 05.09.2019 at the Convocation Auditorium. Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabhu, Registrar, while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the significant activities and recent achievements of the University and the teachers' contribution to the University for the attainment of various distinctions at the national level.

While presiding over the function, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, greeted the teachers on the eve of Teachers Day and recalled the circumstances leading to the celebrations of the first Teachers Day held in 1962. He said that the former President of the Indian Republic Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, by his massive learning and erudition, showcased the greatness of Indian Culture and Philosophy to the western world. This great teacher's birthday is being celebrated every year appropriately as Teachers' Day, he added. He highlighted the role and function of teachers in a civilized society; and he said that history shows how the gurus have been revered in the learned Indian society for thousands and thousands of years. It is indeed a day to remember the contribution and services of teachers who have all along been respected by all the people in the society. Creativity and critical thinking leads to new inventions and innovations. Education imparted should be man-making education, as advocated by Swami Vivekananda. He further said, if a society excels in culture and tradition, it is undoubtedly owing to good education offered to the people. In that respect India has all along been a living civilisation. Teachers must guide the students to identify their potential and nurture them so as to bring out the hidden talents inherent in them.

Delivering the Teachers Day Address Prof. S. Siva Subramanian, Former Vice-Chancellor



of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, appealed to all the teachers to shape themselves as student –centric educators. They should make the classroom as an effective platform and forum for students to seek and gain true knowledge and that could be possible only when they encourage the students to raise questions in the class rooms and think independently. Referring to the learners' autonomy, the speaker said that in the current scenario of digital revolution and consequent knowledge explosion, teachers should provide freedom to the students by guiding them learn from different sources. At the same time teachers should be voracious readers so as to update their knowledge and help the learners to imbibe current knowledge. By upholding the dignity and discipline, they must maintain the credibility they have already earned from the society. In higher educational institutions like Universities, the Faculty members besides teaching should concentrate on research which should be original, qualitative and innovative one that will be useful to the society at large.

Prof S.S.Dhenakaran, Department of Computer Science, was honoured by the Vice-Chancellor and the Chief Guest with a memento and a certificate in recognition of his unblemished services rendered in the University for 25 years. All the teachers were honoured with gifts on this occasion. Dr.K.Uthayasuriyan, Controller of Examinations i/c, proposed a vote of thanks.

FACULTY OF ARTS

117th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna K.Kamaraj Celebrated

Under the aegis of the Faculties of Education and Arts, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, the 117th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna K.Kamaraj was celebrated on 30.07.2019 as “Educational Development Day”.



Presiding over the celebrations Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, dwelt on the importance of education and said it helps people to lead a life of understanding and fulfilment and it also gives an identity to the individual concerned. He added there is no hierarchy in education. He said that all types and forms of education are necessary for the development of humanity as all organs in the human body are considered essential for a healthy and useful life. In our country all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) offer science and technical education as major subjects and also provide subjects relating to Social Sciences and Humanities as minor subjects. This is being done to make students learn about the society and various other issues and also to help them acquire community-based knowledge. All researches should ultimately be beneficial to society, he added. Referring to the relevance and appropriateness of celebrating Kamaraj's Birthday as Educational Development Day,

he said though Kamaraj himself did not have the opportunity to get proper education, he had the genius to understand the importance of education. The great leader believed that a nation's development was intrinsically linked to the growth of education. He introduced many schemes including the Noon Meal Scheme to attract students from rural communities and economically weaker sections to the portals of educational institutions. It is but proper for us to cherish the memory of this leader who substantially contributed to the welfare of the people.

In his special address Dr. P. Sundara Pandian, Principal, Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars' Senthikumara Nadar College, Virudhunagar, recalled the services rendered by Kamaraj for the development of education in Tamil Nadu. He said when Kamaraj became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, only 4 percent of the people in Tamil Nadu were literates. He wanted to provide education to all the students from downtrodden communities but at that time owing to financial constraints in government many schools were in a position to close down but he averted it and before laying down office as Chief Minister he could establish as many as 23,000 schools. Recognising the need for vocational education he started many ITIs and Polytechnics in our state. He concluded his speech by saying that all those who wish to achieve and succeed in life should read the biographies of great men and they should study the life history of Kamaraj who led a simple life and remained untarnished in political life.

Earlier, Dr. P. Paul Devanesan, Dean, Faculty of Education, welcomed the gathering and Dr. K.R. Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, proposed a vote of thanks. 300 students participated in the celebrations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Two-Day International Conference on Recent Trends in English Language Teaching

A Two-Day International Conference on recent Trends in English Language Teaching was held on 26th & 27th September 2019 at Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Funded by the MHRD-RUSA 2.0 Scheme, the conference was attended by 250 participants and they presented research papers on modern aspects and trends of teaching English using various approaches including multimedia application.



Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that English language, though a Colonial legacy, has all along been a binding force fostering unity in a multilingual country like India. Stressing the importance of learning English in this globalised world, he exhorted the students to cultivate the habit of reading interesting English novels and books that would enthuse them to learn the language without much difficulty. Though reading and listening are said to be passive skills, without mastering these skills, one cannot think of acquiring the active skills of speaking and writing. In a lighter vein, he said ‘forget Kindle’ (reading app) and kindle your mind and heart by reading printed books avidly. “Shed inhibitions and speak the language”. Continuous reading of English newspapers, listening to English news bulletins and other English programmes broadcast

over the radio and watching good English TV channels are some of the interesting ways to learn and master this language, he added.

In her keynote address titled “Current Trends in Teaching of Writing in the English Language Classroom”, Prof. Anitha Devi Pillai of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, dwelt at length on the three dominant approaches such as text-oriented, writer-oriented and reader-oriented approaches that are adopted in different parts of the world and pointed out the advantages and shortcomings of each approach. In doing so, she examined how these approaches were explicated in writing pedagogy in the English languages class rooms. She emphasized that there was no one model that fits all classrooms and that the approaches need to be modified to suit the learning needs of the students. She also pointed out that the traditional ways of teaching writing are inadequate to address the needs of the digital natives who need 21st century literacy skills in order to succeed in their professional careers. As such, she pointed out how multi-literacies now play a greater role in the English language syllabus in many countries, including Singapore, and shared two strategies that teachers can use to facilitate the learning and teaching of English Language by incorporating ICT such as digital storytelling as a tool to encourage students to engage with the text, visuals and sound. She asked the teachers to encourage students to study multimodal texts and to produce such texts.

In her special address, Prof. Ellis Mary, Department of English Language and Literature, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, said mastering English is essential in today’s competitive world for aspiring students. She asked teachers to be familiar with the latest developments in teaching of English at the global level. While highlighting the

needs of 21st Century students, she focused on the need to develop students' knowledge by using "collaborative technology" as a tool in classroom teaching. Further, she introduced "Padlet" as one of the best means of teaching where students can stick pictures, information and circulars making the classroom more lively and interesting. She also emphasized that an active learning needs co-operation rather than competition and hence teachers must ensure quality of linguistic input and encourage collaborative student-centred approach to develop language skills.

Dr. P. Madhan, Convenor of the Conference, in his thematic presentation, said that English is viewed as a language of opportunity today and the learning of it brings prosperity to the learner. The nature of present day job market is that those who effectively communicate in English flourish and the rest are generally marginalised. Irrespective of disciplines and regardless of fields, all job aspirants are expected to be good at English to find a safe niche for themselves in today's highly competitive world. The objective of this conference is to discuss, analyse and examine the usefulness of different methods of teaching English and to endeavour to evolve more effective English teaching methods in keeping pace with the fast passage of the world.

Dr. SP.M. Kanimozhi, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

The valedictory function was held on the evening of 27th September. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr.K.R.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts. Earlier, Dr. P. Madhan, Head i/c, Department of English, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M. Natrajan, Assistant Professor, Department of English, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF TAMIL

சமூக நல்லிணக்கத்திற்குத்
திருக்கோயில்களின் பங்களிப்பு



காரைக்குடி அழகப்பா பல்கலைக் கழகத் தமிழ்த்துறையில் ரூசா 2.0 நிதியின் கீழ் 'சமூக நல்லிணக்கத்திற்குத் திருக்கோயில்களின் பங்களிப்பு' என்னும் பொருண்மையில், 03.10.2019 அன்று பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கத் தொடக்க விழா சிறப்பாக நடைபெற்றது..

அழகப்பா பல்கலைக் கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் மதிப்புறு கர்னல், பேரா.நா.இராஜேந்திரன் அவர்கள் தலைமையுரையாற்றினார். கோயில் தொடர்பான ஆய்வுகள் சமூகத்தை மீட்டுவாக்கம் செய்வதற்கும் சமூக வளர்ச்சிக்கும் பயன்படும் என்றும், வரலாறு மற்றும் அறிவியலோடு இணைந்து கோயில் ஆய்வுகள் செய்யப்பட வேண்டும் என்றும் கூறினார். பல்வேறு திருக்கோயில்களைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டி அங்குள்ள கல்வெட்டுக்கள், கட்டடக்கலை, சிற்பக்கலை, ஓவியக்கலை போன்றவை வரலாற்று ஆவணங்களாகத் திகழ்வதை எடுத்துரைத்தார். இத்தகு திருக்கோயில்களின் சிறப்புக்களை மேல்நாட்டார் அதிகம் பதிவு செய்திருப்பதையும் தமிழ்நாட்டவரும் இதுபோல் ஆய்வு செய்யவேண்டும் என்றும் சுட்டிக்காட்டினார். கீழடியில் செய்யப்பட்ட ஆய்வு தமிழின் தொன்மையைப் பறைசாற்றுவனவாக உள்ளன என்றும், தமிழ் எழுத்துக்கள் பிராமியிலிருந்து தொடங்கி படிப்படியாக அடைந்த வளர்ச்சியைத் தமிழாய்வுகள் வெளிக்கொணர்வதன் மூலம் தமிழின் சிறப்பையும் பழமையையும் நிலைநிறுத்த முடியும்; என்றார். தொல்காப்பியம், சங்க இலக்கியங்கள் திருக்கோயில்களை வெளிப்படுத்துவதையும் பெரியபுராணத்தில் நாயன்மார்கள் சமூக நல்லிணக்கத்திற்குப் பங்காற்றியதையும் சுட்டிக்காட்டினார்.

பின்னையார்பட்டி சிவ ஆகம நெறிக்கழக, 'விஹாஸ் ரத்ன' டாக்டர் சிவத்திரு. பிச்சைக்குருக்கள் அவர்கள் தமது வாழ்த்துரையில், திருக்கோயில்கள் மக்களுக்கு மன அமைதியைக் கொடுப்பதையும், தனிநபர் வழிபாட்டையும் கூட்டு வழிபாட்டையும் விளக்கினார். ஆகம விதிகளுக்கு உட்பட்டுத் திருக்கோயில்கள் அமைந்திருப்பதையும் திருக்கோயில்களின் சிறப்புக்களையும் எடுத்துக் கூறினார். கட்டுரை வழங்கவிருக்கும் பேராளர்களை, வாழ்த்திப் பேசினார்;

சிங்கப்பூர் நன்யாங் தொழில்நுட்பப் பல்கலைக் கழகப் பேராசிரியர் பொன். சசிகுமார் அவர்கள், சிங்கப்பூர் தமிழர்களும் திருக்கோயில்களும் என்னும் தலைப்பில் சிங்கப்பூரிலுள்ள கோயில் வழிபாட்டு முறைகள் காலந்தோறும் மாறிவரும் நிலைகளைக் குறித்துக் காணொலிக் காட்சியோடு சிறப்பாக உரையாற்றினார். சிங்கப்பூரில் இந்துக்கள், சீனர்கள், பௌத்தர்கள், இஸ்லாமியர்கள் இலங்கை நாட்டவர்கள் இணைந்து வழிபாடு நடத்துவதையும், தொடக்ககால வழிபாடுகளையும் தற்கால வழிபாடுகளையும் ஒப்பிட்டு விளக்கினார். சிங்கப்பூரில் 300 மேற்பட்ட பெருந்தெய்வமற்றும் சிறுதெய்வக் கோயில்கள்; உள்ளதையும் அவற்றிற்குச் சிங்கப்பூர் அரசு உதவி செய்வதையும் விளக்கிக் கூறினார்.

தமிழ்த் துறைத் தலைவர் பேரா.மு.பாண்டி அவர்கள் நன்றி கூறினார்.

CENTRE FOR TAMIL CULTURE

அறிஞர் அண்ணா பிறந்த நாள் சிறப்பு சொற்பொழிவு

அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் அறிஞர் அண்ணா ஆய்வு இருக்கை சார்பில் அறிஞர் அண்ணா பிறந்த நாள் சிறப்பு சொற்பொழிவு நிகழ்ச்சி 17.9.2019- அன்று பல்கலைக்கழகப் பட்டமளிப்பு விழா அரங்கில் நடைபெற்றது.

அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர் பேரா. நா. இராஜேந்திரன் அவர்கள் இந்நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு தலைமையேற்று உரைநிகழ்த்தினார். அவர் தமது உரையில், தமிழ்நாட்டின் மிகப்பெரிய சமூக மாறுதலுக்கு வித்திட்டவர் பேரறிஞர் அண்ணா ஆவார். அறிஞர் அண்ணா ஒரு கற்றறிந்த மாமேதை, எதையும் ஆழ்ந்து



படிப்பவர், தனது எழுத்துக்களால் சமுதாயத்தை மாற்றிக்காட்டியவர். அண்ணா அவர்கள் மிகச்சிறந்த அரசியல் பண்பாளர், தனது ஆட்சிக்காலத்தில் தமிழ் மொழிக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் அளித்தவர். தமிழையும், தமிழ்நாட்டையும் தமது மூச்சாக கொண்டிருந்தவர். ஏழையின் சிரிப்பில் இறைவனைக் கண்டவர், மிகவும் எளிமையானவர், தனது வாழ்நாள் முழுவதையும் அப்படியே வாழ்ந்து காட்டியவர். மாணவர்கள் படிக்கும் காலத்திலேயே தங்களுக்கென குறிக்கோளை உருவாக்கிக் கொள்ள வேண்டும் அப்பொழுது தான் அவர்கள் சமுதாயப் பணி செய்ய முடியும் என்பதை உணர்த்தியவர் என்று கூறினார். மேலும் அவர் பேசுகையில், பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள் எப்போதும் சமுதாயத்தோடு ஒன்றியிருக்க வேண்டும், சமுதாயத்திற்குப் பயன்படும் வகையில் அவற்றின் செயல்பாடுகள் அமைய வேண்டும் என்ற அண்ணாவின் சிந்தனை இன்றைக்கும் பொருந்துவதாக இருப்பதை எடுத்துரைத்தார்.

சென்னை, தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி இயக்ககத்தின் தமிழ் வளர்ச்சித் துறை இயக்குநர் முனைவர் கோ. விசயராகவன் அவர்கள் அறிஞர் அண்ணா ஒரு வரலாறு” என்ற தலைப்பில் சிறப்பு சொற்பொழிவு ஆற்றினார். அவர் தமது சிறப்புரையில், மக்கள் பணி செய்து வரலாறு படைத்தவர் அறிஞர் அண்ணா என்றார். மாணவர்கள் அனைவரும் அண்ணாவின் கடிதங்களை அவசியம் படிக்க வேண்டும் என்றார். அண்ணாவின் கடிதங்களில் வரலாறு வாழ்ந்து நிற்கும், உலக வரலாற்று நிகழ்வுகளைச் சமகாலத்தோடு ஒப்பிட்டு எடுத்துச் சொல்வதில் அண்ணாவிற்கு நிகர் அண்ணாவே என்றார். ஒவ்வொரு செயலும் மக்களுக்காக இருக்க வேண்டும் என வாழ்ந்தவர் அறிஞர் அண்ணா. தொழிலாளிகளையும், பாட்டாளிகளையும் தோழமையோடு நேசித்தவர் அறிஞர் அண்ணா. உயர்கல்வி நிறுவனங்கள் இந்த மண்ணில் வரவேண்டும் என்று நினைத்தவர் அறிஞர் அண்ணா.

உலக வரலாறுகளைப் படித்ததன் மூலம் இந்த மண்ணில் மனிதநேயம் வளர வேண்டும் என்பதை எடுத்துரைத்தவர் அறிஞர் அண்ணா. அண்ணாவின் படைப்புகளை மாணவர்கள் படிப்பதன் மூலம் எழுத்தாற்றல், பேச்சாற்றல், பல்வேறு நிர்வாகத் திறமைகள் ஆகியவற்றை வளர்த்துக்கொள்ள முடியும் என்றார்.

இந்நிகழ்ச்சியில் அண்ணா பிறந்த நாளையொட்டி அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழக முதுகலை துறைகள் மற்றும் இணைப்புக் கல்லூரிகள் மாணவர்களுக்கிடையே நடத்தப் பெற்ற கவிதை, கட்டுரை, பேச்சுப் போட்டிகளில் முதல் மூன்று இடங்களைப் பெற்ற மாணவ, மாணவிகள் க.வசந்தகுமார், லெ.யோகதர்சினி, ந.சுப்ரஜா, மு.மு.ஹைருன் ஹ.பீலா, ஆ.நவீன் லூர்திராஜ், நா.சுகாசினி, ரெ.லெட்சுமிநாராயணன், வீ.ஜோதீஸ்வரி ஆகியோருக்கு ரொக்கப் பரிசும், சான்றிதழும் துணைவேந்தர் அவர்களால் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

இந்நிகழ்ச்சியில் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் ஆட்சிப் பேரவை உறுப்பினர்; முனைவர் மா. சிதம்பரம், பேராசிரியர் அய்க்கண், பேராசிரியர் இராம.இராமநாதன், மற்றும் பல்கலைக்கழக பேராசிரியர்கள், அலுவலக அதிகாரிகள் மற்றும் பல்வேறு துறைகளைச் சேர்ந்த மாணவ, மாணவியர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

முன்னதாக அழகப்பா பல்கலைக்கழக அறிஞர் அண்ணா ஆய்வு இருக்கை ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் முனைவர் சு. ராசாராம் அவர்கள் அனைவரையும் வரவேற்றார். தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு மைய இயக்குனர் முனைவர் சே. செந்தமிழ்ப் பாவை நன்றி கூறினார்.

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

Two-Day International Conference on "Women, Health and Safety In India"

A Two-Day International Conference on "Women, Health and Safety in India" was organized at Alagappa University, Karaikudi, on 19th & 20th under the aegis of the Department of Women's Studies. Sponsored under the RUSA 2.0 Scheme of MHRD, the Conference was attended by more than 100 participants from across the country and Canada.

Prof. K. Manimekalai, Professor and Head, Department of Women's Studies, in her welcome-cum-thematic address, said that health factor has become a central concern in development. It is a key to productivity. A nation cannot develop without healthy women. Gender discrimination has undermined their access to health care for a long time. Owing to lifestyle changes many women are prone to psychological problems such as anxiety, hyper tension depression and consequent infertility issues. Violence and discrimination affect seriously the lives of many women and hold them back from playing a full part in home, workplace and society. Presiding over the Inaugural Session of the Conference, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University, said that despite the fact that women play a significant role in various developments of the society, their contribution is still held in periphery. He added that health is a fundamental right that is guaranteed in several Human Rights Treaties. Many women in India belonging to various socio-economic milieu are either marginalized or neglected on account of gender discrimination. Though there is improvement in providing medical treatment for physical ailments of Indian women in the recent years, not much attention has been paid to the mental health of women. He said that mental health problems encountered by women need to be given more attention as women shy away from expressing their emotional problems in the conservative Indian society. This problem has to be viewed sympathetically and women should be encouraged to express their feelings and emotions without repressing them, he added. The advancement of gender equality and equity, empowerment, and elimination of discrimination would help in improving women's health and well-being. In spite of the best efforts to encourage women's education, studies have revealed that many rural girls reaching adolescent age tend to discontinue

their studies. It is attributed to a lack of separate rest rooms for girls in rural schools. Now steps are being taken by the governments to improve the facilities. He hoped that real issues and ground realities brought to light in the discussions of the Conference would help in policy making.



A book containing 180 abstracts of research papers was released by Prof. Vaithehi Vijayakumar, Vice-Chancellor of Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal and copies were received by the dignitaries.

In her inaugural address, Prof. Vaithehi Vijayakumar, while highlighting the advantages accrued on account of the introduction of modern smart technology, stated that the safety, security and health of women has improved in the current era of 4th Industrial Revolution. Elaborating on the factors affecting health and safety, she explained how the problems could be overcome by the efficient use of technology. She added that Internet of Things could help in the health care of women. And it has the potential not only to keep the patients safe and healthy but also helps the physicians to provide efficient health care services. She referred to the invention and use of latest health care devices which are of great help in diagnosing and monitoring the diseases.

In her keynote address, Prof. Meera Kaur, Department of Family Medicine, University of Manitoba, Canada, stated that knowledge about women's heart health and nutrition is necessary as heart disease is the

leading cause of death in women. In fact, it kills one woman in every 80 seconds in the world. According to available statistics, in today's world, one in three women develops some kind of heart ailment. Heart diseases kill more women than all cancers combined. She said that women in Indian society are expected to play multiple roles which severely impact on their overall health and affects their heart. She added that proper changes in dietary system and lifestyles can safeguard the functioning of the heart and lower the risk of heart-attack upto 80%.

Dr. P. Veeramani, Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the technical sessions that followed the inaugural function Prof. Molly Kuruvilla, Director, Department of Women's Studies, Calicut University, spoke on "Implications of Gender-based Violence on Women's Health", Dr.R.Rathinamala, Research Officer, Central Council for Research in Siddha, Puducherry "delivered a lecture on "Gender-specific Health and Treatment" and Prof.K.R. Murugan, Head, Department of Social Work, Alagappa University spoke on "Safety and Security Mechanisms for Women".

The valedictory function was held on the evening of 20th September 2019. Prof. K. Manimekalai, in her welcome address, said that many medical practitioners and students practising Indian systems of medicine and especially Siddha presented research papers highlighting the effective and safe medicines available in the indigenous systems for safeguarding the health of women and she added that some papers referred to the current scientific researches undertaken by these medical practitioners. Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University, delivered the valedictory address. He made a mention of various steps taken by

the University to safeguard the mental as well as physical health of girl-students pursuing various programmes of study in the University and also referred to various effective security measures initiated to protect women on the campus. He added that 73% of students are women in the University. Prof. K.R.Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, offered felicitations. Dr. Poul Punitha, proposed a vote of thanks.

Lecture on Social Medicine: The Future of Public Health System In India



A special lecture on “Social Medicine: The Future of Public Health System in India” was organized on 15.07.2019 under the RUSA 2.0 at the Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Prof.K.Manimekalai, Head, Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the health status of women in India. Prof.Soloman Selvam, Professor of Sociology, Department of History and Sociology, Claflin University, South Carolina, USA, served as resource person for the special lecture. The speaker highlighted the origin and history of public health system and its progress in India and focused on the understanding of how social and economic conditions impact health, and the practice of social medicine which could lead to a healthier society. Dr.I.Sivakumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Women’s Studies delivered a vote of thanks.

Special Lecture on Stress Management

A special lecture on “Stress Management” was organised on 24th July 2019 under the RUSA 2.0 scheme at the Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Dr.P.Veeramani, Assistant Professor, Department of Women’s Studies, Alagappa University while welcoming the gathering, stressed the need for concentrating on stress management activities. Dr.Lloyds Fernando, Psychiatrist, Health Care Centre, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, served as resource person for the special lecture. He traced the origin of stress management from global perspectives. He explained various types of stress experienced by people and discussed how stress could affect individual’s contribution in the workplace and students in their studies. He pointed out that ABC strategy of stress management would reduce stress and as a result the individual could feel relaxed.

Special Lecture on Mental Health

The Department of Women’s Studies organised a special lecture titled Mental Health on 31st July, 2019 under RUSA 2.0 scheme for the faculties of the Faculty of Arts, Alagappa University. Prof.K.Manimekalai, Head, Women’s Studies welcomed the gathering. Mrs.Leema Thomas, Psychologist, Health Care Centre, Alagappa University, served as a resource person for the special lecture on mental health. In her lecture, she focused on mental illness which causes disturbances in thinking, behaviour, and emotions that make it difficult for an individual to cope with the ordinary demands of life. She also explained psychosocial factors that impact employees’ responses towards work conditions, ultimately leading to psychological health problems. Further, she gave clues to build self confidence in order to overcome mental illness. After the talk, the faculty members interacted with the resource person. Dr.P.Veeramani, Assistant Professor, delivered a vote of thanks.

Faculty Development Programme

The Department of Women's Studies organised a Faculty Development Programme in association with Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Chennai on 5th to 7th August 2019 at the Mary Wollstonecraft Hall of Alagappa University. Forty Faculty Members from the affiliated colleges of Alagappa University attended the training programme. This was the first programme conducted at the university for the academic year 2019-2020. The trained faculty will in turn train the students in their respective colleges. The objectives of the programme were to train the college teachers to inculcate the needed skills among the students to promote entrepreneurship culture and activities and also to help the students pursue programmes of study related to entrepreneurship offered by the Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU).

Prof.K.Manimekalai, Dean, Faculty of Arts, in her welcome address, referred to the significance of the programme. She added that building a society which encourages new entrepreneurs for socio economic development and national progress has become imperative in the current Indian employment scenario. She asserted that an individual with innovative ideas, quality consciousness and incredible self confidence will succeed in all his/her enterprises. She stated that the new entrepreneurs should be goal specific to become a successful entrepreneur.

Presiding over the function the EDII Executive Mr.Daniel Prabhakaran, highlighted various schemes available for the benefit of students and stated the importance of developing Innovation Perspective to succeed in all endeavours. This will enhance the entrepreneurial skills in individual either in the workplace or in studies. The Master Trainer Mr.Sampath Kumar & Mr.Adarsh Mittal explained various types of EDII activities that

would help the student community to become self employed entrepreneurs. The modules prepared by EDII was given to the participants.

E-Leader Workshop

The Department of Women's Studies organized an E-Leader Workshop in association with Entrepreneurship Development & Innovation Institute, Chennai on 28th & 29th August 2019 at the Mary Wollstonecraft Hall. Sixty Four students from the affiliated colleges of Alagappa University attended the training programme. This was the second programme conducted at the university for the academic year 2019-2020. The trained students will in turn train the students in their respective colleges. The objectives of the programme were to train the college students to inculcate the needed skills among the students to promote entrepreneurship culture and E-Cell activities and also to help the students pursue E-Cell registration. Prof.K.Manimekalai, Dean, Faculty of Arts, in her welcome address, highlighted the significance of the programme and gave some tips like "enjoy what you do, plan out things, manage your resources wisely, become a self-promoter etc". Presiding over the function the EDII Executive Mr. Daniel Prabhakaran stated the importance of E-Cell registration to succeed in all endeavours .It will enhance the entrepreneurial skills in individual either in the workplace or in studies. The Master Trainer Mr.Adarsh Mittal explained various types of EDII activities that would help the student community to become entrepreneurs. The module prepared by EDII was given to the participants. Dr.P.Veeramani, Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies, delivered a vote of thanks.

Special Lecture on Rural Health Care

A special lecture on "Rural Health Care" was organised on 30th August, 2019 under the RUSA 2.0 scheme of the Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University.

Dr.K.Manimekalai, Professor and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the rural health care arrangements in rural areas. She explained the importance of rural health and how it contributes to the national development. Mr. Paul Alagurasan, Director, Ford Trust, served as resource person for the special lecture. He explained the status of rural health among women. He referred to various kinds of problems found among the rural women such as maternity risk, mother feeding, reproduction, malnutrition and sanitation. He described how these problems affect rural women and how they could be overcome. He mentioned the importance of traditional food practices and medications among rural women and how they make them healthy.

Students Win Prizes in Inter-Collegiate Competitions

The M.A. Integrated Home Science Students participated at the National Nutrition Week Celebrations held in Jamal Mohamed College, Thiruchirappalli on 03rd September, 2019. In this programme seven competitions were conducted and more than 10 colleges participated. 25 students from Alagappa University participated in all the events and won prizes.

National Nutrition Week-2019

The National Nutrition Week is observed every year from 1st to 7th September across the country in order to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for health and well-being. The theme of the National Nutrition Week for the year 2019 was 'enhancing people's awareness on nutrition and its several health benefits throughout life'. The Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University organized seven competitions viz. Power Point Presentation, Rangoli, Cookery(fireless), Collage, Nutri-Queen or King, Face Painting,

Fruits and Vegetable Carving for the students of Alagappa University on 13th September,2019. Dr.K.Manimekalai and Dr. P. Veeramani offered felicitations. S.Janaki (II), N.Noor Naina Mohammed (I)-M.A. Integrated Homescience students spoke about the importance of Nutrition. Ms.R.Ramya, Teaching Assistant, Department of Women's Studies, proposed a vote of thanks.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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



The Department of Social Work, Alagappa University, organized a Workshop on the theme of Addiction to Social Media and Its Impact on Family, Youth and Children under RUSA 2.0 Theme Based Research Project on 28th August 2019. 108 participants consisting of sample respondents representing Family, Youth and Children and Project Staff attended the workshop. The welcome address was given by Dr.K.R. Murugan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, and the thematic address was given by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, RUSA-Coordinator, who interpreted the impact of social media on

family, youth and children with statistical data.

Dr. Sunil Kumar, Clinical Psychologist from the Mind Zone, spoke on the topic illustrating the treatment given for digital addiction. He highlighted his experiences in discovering the symptoms of social media addiction and its effect. He exemplified with more live examples to the audience with video presentation. The addiction to social media drives addicts to the extreme mental state of depression and anxiety. The day-to-day normal routine of life is massively impacted by its unlimited usage. It affects the overall personality development of children and their academic performance.

He also elucidated how social media apps have been developed with the intention to make people become addicts to them. Social media addiction is a brain disease that affects the mental well-being and the normal behavior of people and makes them mentally depressed. The youth and children communities are the prey to social media. The dynamic energy of youth and children is wasted in it. The social interaction is being reduced nowadays in the family relationship owing to increase in screen time spending. He also elucidated that once they are without these gadgets or without access to social media they may show symptoms like, cravings, psychological and physical withdrawal symptoms, loss of control and lack of tolerance.

In the second session Dr. Kannan, Research Director, M.S Chellamuthu Institute of Mental Health and Rehabilitation, Madurai, spoke on the topic “Research Direction in Social Media Addiction”. He delivered his experiential input in carrying out research in this field. The technique of collecting data from the respondents was elaborated in detail. The opinions expressed by the participants were considered as valuable input for further development of research.

In the panel discussion Dr. K. R. Murugan, Dr. M. Kannan, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. B. Dharmalingam and Dr. M. A. Velusamy engaged in an elaborative discussion on the research theme.

Cultural Event of Socio-Cognizance 2019



A cultural event titled “Socio-Cognizance 2019” was organised by the Department of Social Work. Dr. K.R. Murugan, Head, Department of Social Work, welcomed the gathering. The main objective of this event was to make the people become aware of the impact of social media addiction on family, youth and children. The events conducted included on-stage programmes like Street Play, Mime, Dance and off-stage programmes like Rangoli, Mehndhi, Face painting, Mobile Photography in which 300 students pursuing social work courses in colleges and universities of Tamil Nadu participated. The event was supported by the RUSA Phase 2.0 scheme. In the Valedictory Function Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University distributed the prizes to the winners. Ms. Shanmugapriya, a II year student of MSW, delivered the vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Erudite Lecture on Union Budget

Dr. M. Sureshbabu, Professor of Economics, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-M), Chennai, delivered a Special Lecture

on “Union Budget: 2019-20” in the Department of Economics and Rural Development, Alagappa University on July 15, 2019



Professors from Japan Interact with Faculty and Students



Dr. Takahiro Sato, Associate Professor from Hirosaki University, Japan and Dr. Kazuo Watanbe, Associate Professor, Kyoto University, Japan and Ms. Natsuki Sumiya (student of Dr. Takahiro Sato) visited the Department of Economics and Rural Development and interacted with the faculty members and students on August 16, 2019

Lecture Delivered:

Dr. A. Narayanamoorthy delivered a lecture on “Agriculture in Union Budget 2019-20” at the workshop on ‘Union Budget-2019’ held at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, on August 9, 2019.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Orientation Programme for Freshers of PG Programmes



An Orientation Programme for the freshers who were admitted to various Post Graduate Programmes of Arts and Science Faculties of Alagappa University was held on 17th and 18th July 2019 in the Convocation Auditorium. The main objective of this programme was to make the freshers learn about the improvised ultra modern facilities available on the campus.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, who welcomed the participants, recalled the growth and development of the University since its inception. He highlighted the various recent achievements of the University at the national level and also spoke about the rankings the University has obtained. He appealed to the students to keep up the great traditions of the University in maintaining discipline and work towards achieving its motto “Excellence in Action”.

Presiding over the programme Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that under RUSA 2.0 scheme 44 eminent Professors from various parts of the globe were invited to Alagappa University during the last three months to redesign and update the curriculum of various programmes offered at the 44 departments of the University and also to use their expertise for the benefit of researchers

and the faculty. The purpose of their visit was to offer concrete suggestions to enhance the content of the syllabi on par with the global standard; and the updated curriculum is offered to the students from this academic year i.e 2019-20. Further he said that one in 10 students of the PG programmes of this University will be selected on merit- cum-rank basis and the selected students will be given a monthly stipend of Rs.2000/- during their period of study. He exhorted the freshers to cultivate the habit of visiting library regularly and read reference books mentioned in the syllabi. To keep the body and mind strong, he advised the students to take to the practice of doing yoga every day. For the benefit of the students and staff excellent play grounds, a yoga centre and a recreation club have been established at the University, he added.

A series of speeches were delivered on topics such as “Library Resources”, “Coaching for Competitive Examinations”, “Scholarships/Research Fellowships and Bank Loans”, “Examinations”, “MOOCs SWAYAM”, “Laboratory Facilities”, “Arts Programmes”, “Anti-Women Harassment and Anti-Ragging”, “Student Capacity-Building and Empowerment”, “Yoga”, “Startups”, “Soft Skills”, “Cultural Activities”, by the Faculty of the University namely Dr.S.Thanuskodi, Dr.P.Suresh Kumar, Dr.S.Chandramohan, Dr.K.Uthayasuriyan, Dr.C.Baskaran, Dr.K.Sankaranarayanan, Dr.KR.Murugan, Dr.K.Manimekhalai, Prof.S.Iyyam Pillai, Dr.S.Saroja, Dr.B.Dharmalingam, Dr.P.Madhan and Dr.M.Jothi Basu, respectively.

About 700 freshers from Science and Arts Faculties participated in this programme.

Prof.V.Palanisamy, Dean, Student Affairs, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

International Conference on Mathematical Modeling and Computational Intelligence



The Department of Mathematics and Ramanujan Centre for Higher Mathematics, Alagappa University, jointly organized a Two-day International Conference on Mathematical Modeling and Computational Intelligence on 3rd and 4th September 2019. Sponsored under RUSA Phase 2.0 Scheme, the meet was held at the Seminar Hall of the Science Campus, Alagappa University. Prof. N.Anbazhagan, Convener of the Conference, delivered the welcome address.

Presiding over the Inaugural Session Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that Mathematics is a very valuable subject and added that there is a connection between History and Mathematics. History is the queen of Social Sciences and Mathematics is the queen of all Sciences. Keeladi excavation has great importance in history and mathematics has helped to discover its antiquity. History and Mathematics have a strong connection in real life. Examples could be cited from tailoring, excavation and astrology. He further said that Alagappa University needs more visibility and to enhance this visibility the researchers should publish good and innovative research papers that would bring needed recognition from other countries improving its visibility. The purpose

of RUSA scheme 2.0 is to enhance the quality of teaching and research.

Prof. Meng Joo of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, delivered the special address. In his address, he said that Mathematics is widely applied in many fields and also applied in social sciences. Many countries used mathematical skills to model their economy, because they happen once in five years or ten years. Mathematical model basically consists of discrete and continuous time. The four basic pillars of Mathematics are neural network, fuzzy logic, evolution and genetic operator.

Prof Griengrai Rajchakit of Maejo University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, delivered the felicitation address. He said that Indian researchers are really dedicated in their work and they are making publications with good impact factor.

Prof. N.Sukavanam, IIT, Roorkee, in his felicitation address, said each and everything changes with respect to time and so everything which we see around us can be treated as a dynamical system., for example natural dynamical systems like wind flow changes the climate. Similarly the case with man-made dynamical systems like aircrafts, cars and so many other moving objects which are called control systems.

Prof C.Ganesamoorthy, Co-convenor of the Conference proposed a formal vote of thanks at the end of the programme. Faculty members, research scholars, students participated in the programme.

International Conferences Attended by Faculty

Dr. R. Jeyabalan presented a paper titled “Strongly Vertex Multiplicative Magic Graphs” at the International Conference on Mathematical Engineering Applications for Sustainable Development 2019 held from

16th to 18th August 2019 at the University of Malaya, Malaysia. In the same conference Dr. S. Amutha presented a paper titled “Bounds on Co Independent Liars Domination in Graphs” .

Special Lectures Delivered

Prof. N. Anbazhagan acted as Resource Person in the ISM Seminar and delivered an invited talk on “Stochastic Inventory System with Retrial and Priority Customers” held on August 19, 2019, University of Malaya, Malaysia. He also delivered an invited talk on “Stochastic Inventory System with Cancellation and Negative Customers” in the “International Conference on Mathematical Engineering Applications for Sustainable Development” held from 16th to 18th August 2019 at the University of Malaya, Malaysia.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Two-Day International Conference on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Energy and Sensor (INCAMSES 2019)



A Two-day International Conference on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Energy and Sensor (INCAMSES 2019) was held in the Department of Physics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi on September 16th & 17th 2019. More than 200 participants from India and abroad participated in the conference.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, emphasized the importance of inter-disciplinary research in science for

building new environment friendly sustainable energy materials. Researchers should borne in mind that their researches should not pollute the earth; and it has become imperative in the current scenario of global demand for a pristine earth. Referring to the relevance of the conference theme he said that “materials drive the economy of any country. It there is no materials there will not be any technology development and no economic growth would be possible”. He also pointed out that the curriculum and syllabi of various programmes of study offered by Alagappa University has been updated and enriched to the global standard with the help of subject experts invited to the campus from various QS ranked Universities functioning abroad. He further mentioned that the “h” index of Alagappa University is now enhanced after the implementation of RUSA 2.0 scheme. He also added that Alagappa University holds the second position among the leading State Universities in India. He exhorted the Faculty to remember this and publish quality research papers in Scopus-indexed journals. He concluded his speech by saying that innovative research would help in further enhancing the reputation of the University.

A compendium containing 150 research papers was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the dignitaries.

Prof. P.Manisankar, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, in his inaugural address, stated that nano materials would play a vital role as building blocks for all the upcoming research advancements in the futuristic world. He said, taking this aspect into consideration, the Department of Physics, Alagappa University has organized this international conference for identifying thrust areas of research in advanced materials; and he had a word of praise for organizing a utility - oriented conference.

Prof. Satoshi Uda, Tohoku University, Japan, Prof. S.N.Piramanayagam, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Prof. Ramesh K.Guduru, Lamar University, U.S.A. offered their felicitations. Prof. Satoshi Uda highlighted the importance of emerging Green Energy Field for sustainable energy source to build a new world of materials. Elaborating on the advantages in the adoption of new crystal growth approach, the speaker said it would help in the fabrication of opto electronic devices which will be useful in advancing military operations. Prof. S.N.Piramanayagam said that the conferences are the places where we can acquire knowledge which are not available in the books. Prof. Ramesh K. Guduru motivated the students to carry out product-oriented research which are practically useful to the society.

Prof. G. Mohan Rao, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Prof.V.Natarajan, Research Park, Indian Institute of Technology (M), Chennai, Prof. M.Aravindan, Centre for Nano Science and Technology, Anna University, Chennai, Prof. R.Jayavel, Anna University, Chennai and Prof.P.Murugavel, IIT (M), Chennai, participated in the conference and delivered Invited Lectures.

Earlier Prof. G.Ravi, Head, Department of Physics, welcomed the gathering, and said that, 2 Plenary lectures, 9 Invited lectures, 20 Oral Presentations and 150 Poster Presentations under various thrust areas of research are the highlights of the conference.

Prof. K.Sankaranarayanan, while presenting the thematic address, said that this international meet is designed to offer comprehensive sessions that address recent advancements and new strategies for development of new materials for global requirements with an objective to install a dialogue between industries and academic organizations and knowledge transfer from research institutions to industry.

At the end of the inaugural function Dr.R.Yuvakkumar, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

International Conference on “Frontier Areas in Chemical Technologies -2019” (FACTs-2019)

A two-day International Conference on ‘Frontier Areas in Chemical Technologies -2019’ (FACTs-2019) was inaugurated at Alagappa University on 25th July 2019. The Department of Industrial Chemistry organized the programme, which mainly aimed at exposing students to multidisciplinary research and work on Chemical Technologies.



Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-chancellor, Alagappa University presided over the inaugural function. He referred to the need for multidisciplinary research to understand the fundamental science of the future as well as to address the technical challenges ahead that require a shift in the way we train graduate students. “The Chemical Sciences will be able to contribute in remarkable ways to an improved future for our country, for humanity, and for our planet,” he said. Pointing that, the University has reached a significant place owing to academic excellence at the national level, he asked the faculty members and students to create benchmark in multidisciplinary research programmes. “We should compare our work with the work of universities ranking high globally to move forward,” he said.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mishra, Professor & Dean, IIT(M)-Chennai inaugurated the conference and delivered the inaugural address.

Felicitation speeches were given by Dr.A.Jean-Luc Ayitou, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA, Dr.Kang Hyun Park, Pusan National University, South Korea and Dr.Toemsak Srihirin, Mahidol University, Thailand and Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Dean, Faculty of Science, Alagappa University. All the Foreign delegates including N.Muthuchamy, PDF, Pusan National University, South Korea delivered Special Lectures in the Scientific Sessions besides Indian experts, Dr.A.Subramania, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, Prof. S. Anandan, NIT, Trichy and Dr.GA. Pathanjali, General Manager, High Energy Batteries Ltd., Pudukottai.

The Conference Convener Dr. G. Paruthimal Kalaignan, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Industrial Chemistry, welcomed the gathering. Dr. T. Stalin, Organizing Secretary, presented the thematic address and Dr. G. Gopu, Assistant Professor, proposed a vote of thanks.

The main objective of this conference was to introduce the advanced concepts of chemical techniques to faculty members, research scholars and students and to familiarize the participants with the developments in the thrust areas like Nanotechnology, Electrochemical technology, Photochemistry, Sensor technology, Green technology, Renewable energy technology. 8 Special lectures on different technologies were delivered by experts and scientists during the scientific sessions that followed the inaugural function. More than 200 delegates from various institutions participated in this Conference. 67 Oral presentations, 132 Poster presentations were made. This conference provided a valuable learning experience and

gave an excellent opportunity to researchers from various institutions to meet, interact and exchange their findings and views during the conference sessions. It also provided a platform to the researchers and practitioners from academia and industry to meet and share cutting-edge developments in the field of chemical technologies.

Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University, Karaikudi presided over the Valedictory Function on 26th July 2019 and distributed certificates to the participants and prizes to the winners in the Oral and poster presentation. Dr.S.Thambidurai, Professor, Department of Industrial Chemistry, welcomed the gathering at the valedictory function. Dr.S.Viswanathan, Assistant Professor-cum-Co-Organizing Secretary of the conference delivered a summary of the conference. Organizing Secretary Dr. T. Stalin, Assistant Professor, delivered the vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTATIONAL LOGISTICS

Two-Day International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Applications



The inaugural function of a Two-Day International Conference on “Computational Intelligence and Applications –ICCIA 2019”, organized by the Department of Computational Logistics, Alagappa University in association with the Department of PG Studies and Research in Computer Science, Mangalore University, was held on 08-09-2019 at the

Conference Hall of the Science Block. Sponsored under RUSA Phase 2.0 scheme the Conference aimed at providing insight into the recent trends in Cyber Security and the need for Computational Intelligence in Cyber World.

Dr.Doreswamy, Professor, Department of PG Studies and Research in Computer Science, Mangalore University, presented the thematic address, mentioning the very recent and emerging technologies regarding the Cyber Security. He also elaborated on the recent developments in the Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Machine Learning and their impact on the society.

Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, who inaugurated the Conference, stated that world class research facilities are available at Alagappa University and also said that Alagappa University is the first State University in Tamil Nadu to receive Rs.100 Crore under RUSA 2.0 scheme, along with nine other Universities notified in MHRD Ranking. He also said that Alagappa University under RUSA scheme offers Senior Post Doctoral Fellowships and Post Doctoral Fellowships to International Scholars to work on theme based innovative research projects. He also highlighted the various MoUs made with top ranked International Universities for research collaborations. Continuous improvements made in the Curriculum, he said, would help Alagappa University to provide world class education to the students. He also added that scholars from 19 countries have visited Alagappa University. He said that things are done at the University “Not in terms of Quantum, but in terms of Quality”, and it is, indeed, the vision of the University.

Dr.E.Khalieraaj, Additional Director - General, National Cyber Safety and Security Standards, delivered the keynote address and referred to various cyber crimes committed in this internet world. He highlighted the

importance of the Cyber Security and also added that the Cyber crime is a kind of “Bloodless War”. He illustrated various Mobile applications that are the major threats for the Cyber Security. He explained the laws enacted and implemented by the Government under “the National Cyber Safety Act” to punish cyber bullies who indulge in harassing women and children.

In his special address, Dr.Mohamed Shohel Sayeed, Associate Professor, Multimedia University, Malaysia, delivered a lecture on Artificial Intelligence and Its Applications. He said that the conference will give new ideas for the budding research scholars to explore further on new areas and topics. Dr. K.Baskaran, Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in his special address made a reference to the recent developments in computational intelligence.

In the felicitation address, Thiru M.Ravichandran, CEO, Terafast Networks Pvt. Limited, said that the theme is very apt and it has been selected at the right time, to learn about the recent developments in all areas of Computational Intelligence. Dr.K.Sankaranarayanan, Dean, Faculty of Science, in his felicitation address, explained the various facilities available for research scholars in the University.

A Conference Souvenir was released by the Vice-Chancellor and copies were given to the distinguished delegates. A total of 58 papers were presented in 3 parallel technical sessions. 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 Sciences, Faculty from other Universities and students participated in this International Conference.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

International Conference on Molecular Physiology, Therapeutics and Experimental Medicine

The Second International Conference on Molecular Physiology, Therapeutics and Experimental Medicine (MP-TEM 2019) organised by the Department of Animal Health and Management of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, was inaugurated on 180 Scholars from across the country participated in the Conference, sponsored under the MHRD-RUSA 2.0 Scheme.

The main objectives of the conference were to popularise science that helps in combating new diseases in animals and humans and to connect people for performing trans-disciplinary research with global standards.

Presiding over the conference Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, referred to the recent measures taken by the University to invite subject experts from QS Ranked Universities from abroad with a view to exposing the Faculty and students here to the very recent global developments in the respective fields. Their presence in the conference hosted by the University would help the interaction between eminent scientists and young researchers and would provide an avenue for novel findings. He also explained the level of opportunities provided by the University to inspire young and trans-disciplinary researchers in the field of biological sciences. He added that in recent years drug-resistant pathogens, parasites have created newer kinds of diseases in animals and humans and to combat these finding novel methods and products have become very essential. The present conference would pave the way for researchers to learn about new diseases in animals and humans and also to

know about advanced researches in the field of animal health and management.

In his inaugural address, Dr.ONG Ming Thong, Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM), Universiti Sains Malaysia, said that the Molecular Physiology, Therapeutics and Experimental Medicine are inseparable entities in modern medicine. Translational research in these together with the advancement of Industrial Revolution 4.0 will bring the medical world to a new level. It is also with this development that valuable traditional medicinal knowledge will have a brighter opportunity to be integrated into modern medical practice.

Dr.Sreeramanan Subramaniam, Plant Biotechnologist, School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, said that this conference is a valuable programme addressing the current and future challenges in the field of biomedicine and would help to identify the areas which needed further probe and to collaborate joint researches. Further he explained the need for inculcating science to the common man. He stressed that community service is an important factor for any kind of research which leads to globalisation.

Addressing the conference, Dr.K.Marimuthu, Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University, Malaysia, said that serious discussions in the conference and contacts may result in new collaboration between research institutes and innovative ideas for budding researchers.



A conference souvenir containing 58 research abstracts was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the dignitaries.

Prof.B.Vaseeharan, Convener of the conference, welcomed the gathering. Dr.P.Srinivasan, Organising Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOINFORMATICS

Three Scholars to Carry Out Research Work at NSRRC Taiwan



A team of three research scholars -- M.Amala, R.Guru Raj Rao and P.Saritha -- pursuing their doctoral degree at the Department of Bioinformatics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, under the guidance of Dr.J.Jeyakanthan have been selected to carry out their research work for a period of one year at the National Synchrotron Radiation Research Centre (NSRRC), Taiwan. At Taiwan they will do their research under the guidance of Prof.CJ.Chen, Deputy Director, NSRRC and Joint Professor, Institute of Biotechnology, National Cheng Kung University. Both these Universities are QS World Ranked Institutions. NSRRC, Taiwan is one among the very few institutes around the globe with high intensity synchrotron facility that entertains researchers from diverse fields to utilize their resources. The researchers will study the crucial enzymes responsible for various life-

threatening lifestyle diseases such as cancer, diabetes mellitus and infectious diseases like nosocomial, filariasis and malaria that will aid in the identification of potential novel drugs to counter the aforementioned diseases.

It may be noted that apart from the MoU signed between Alagappa University, Karaikudi and National Synchrotron Radiation Research Centre, Taiwan, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.227.29 lakhs for a research project under the India-Taiwan programme. The expenses of the research scholars will be partially met by Alagappa University through MHRD-RUSA-2.0 fund for travel and the NSRRC, Taiwan will provide accommodation and food during their stay.

On the other end, the research students from NSRRC, Taiwan, will also work in Structural Biology and Bio-Computing Laboratory at Alagappa University under this joint venture. The scholars received the permission and invitation letter for their visit to NSRRC, Taiwan from the Vice-Chancellor Prof.N.Rajendran in the presence of Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Dr.J.Jeyakanthan, Professor & Head, Department of Bioinformatics, Prof.C.Sekar, Director, Centre for International Relations (CIR) and Prof.Sanjeev Kumar Singh, RUSA Co-ordinator, Alagappa University, Karaikudi.

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Paper Published

Dr. A. Arun, Associate Professor and Head (i/c) in collaboration with Sivaprakash, G., Mohanrasu, K., Ananthi, V., Jothibasu, M., Nguyend, D.D., Ravindran, B., Chang, S.W., Nguyen-Tri, P., Tran, N.H., Sudhakar, M., Gurunathan, K., Arokiyaraj, published a paper titled "Biodiesel production from *Ulva linza*, *Ulva tubulosa*, *Ulva fasciata*, *Ulva*

rigida, *Ulva reticulate* by using Mn_2ZnO_4 heterogenous nanocatalysts" in the journal Fuel, Vol 255 (115744). (IF 5.128).

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES SCIENCE

Field Trip to Study the Blooming of *Noctiluca Scintillans*



Students pursuing the P.G. programme at the Department of Fisheries Science visited the beach at Mandapam on 18.09.2019 along with the University Faculty and Scientists from Mandapam Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute to study the suddenly bloomed dinoflagellate *Noctiluca scintillans*. After witnessing the accumulation of the phyto plankton, the students collected them for study. Dr. R. Jayakumar, Principal Scientist of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam, explained in detail about this phenomenon to the students during the field work. He highlighted the consequences of the two algal bloom attacks, saying that such events would appear to be sudden. The field work experience proved to be a rewarding one to the participants who expressed their appreciation for arranging a field-trip to study the blooming of *Noctiluca scintillans*. A memorandum of understanding is to be signed soon between Alagappa University and the Central Marine Fisheries Institute, Mandapam.

Ornamental Fish Aquarium Declared Open



An Ornamental Fish Aquarium, established by the Department of Fisheries, was declared open on the Science Campus of Alagappa University on 27.08.2019 by Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran. While addressing the gathering, he said that it was a RUSA 2.0 scheme funded project and he elaborated on the significance of breeding of ornamental fish. He added that Fisheries Science programmes have been designed to impart training to students so as to make them utilize self-employment opportunities. He also stated that there are plenty of jobs in ornamental fish culture around the world. He further said that a number of new research projects are to be initiated in this field at Alagappa University with the collaboration of Universiti of Malaysia Pahang. Dr. Govinda Nriyamurugaraj, Associate Professor, Universiti of Malaysia Pahang, highlighted the role of green flora and microorganisms in biodiversity and spoke on the nuances of ornamental fish farming. Prof. K. Sankaranarayanan, Dean, Faculty of Science, and Dr. C. Sekar, Director, Centre for International Relations, offered felicitations. Dr. C. Govindasamy of the Department of Fisheries welcomed the gathering. Ornamental fish were presented to the guests on behalf of the Fisheries Department.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

International Conference on “Open Educational Resources to Open Educational Practices – A Paradigm Shift



The Department of Education organized an “International Conference on “Open Educational Resources to Open Educational Practices – A Paradigm Shift” (OER 2 OEP) on 12th & 13th of September 2019. Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, presided over the conference. In his address he referred to the importance of Open Educational Resources, MOOC courses, and the role of SWAYAM in open educational practices. Prof.Vishalache Balakrishnan, Director, Educational Foundations & Humanities, University of Malaya inaugurated the conference. Dr. Ong Eng Tek. Professor, Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia delivered the keynote address and Dr.S.Rasul Mohaideen, Associate Professor, V.O.C. College of Education, offered felicitation. Dr.G.Kalaiyarsan, Prof. & Head, Department of Education, presented the welcome address and Dr.R.Ramnath, Assistant Professor, Department of Education proposed a vote of thanks. 200 research papers were presented in the Conference. The Valedictory function of the conference was presided over by Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University. In his speech,

he highlighted the current need for Open Educational Resources in Teaching-Learning Process.

Two-Day Workshop on Developing Edutainment Infotainment and Augmented Reality Contents



The Department of Education organized a Two-Day Workshop on “Developing Edutainment Infotainment and Augmented Reality Contents” on 18th & 19th September 2019. Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, presided over the workshop. In his speech, he asked the participants to learn module writing skills to prepare edutainment and infotainment based contents and he highlighted the role of augmented reality contents in teaching learning process. Dr.S.Senthilnathan, Director, HRDC, Bharathidasan University, inaugurated the workshop, Dr.R.Swaminathan, Member of Syndicate, Alagappa University offered felicitation. Dr.S.Senthilnathan, Bharathidasan University, Dr. Lenin, Director, EMMRC, Pondicherry and Er.S.Srikanth, Don't Worry Communications, Trichy, served as Resource Persons and offered training to the participants in writing scripts and developing modules. The valedictory function of the workshop was held on 19.09.2019. Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University, presided over the function. He spoke about the need to develop Edutainment Infotainment and Augmented Reality Contents and their role in teaching-learning process for the 21st century learners.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Two-Day International Conference on Universal Design for Learning Embedded with Assistive Technology for Children with Special Needs



Under the aegis of the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Science, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, a Two-Day International Conference on Universal Design for Learning Embedded with Assistive Technology for Children with Special Needs (UDLAT) was held on 4th and 5th September 2019.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference, Dr.N. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor of Alagappa University stated that, “The Universal Design for Learning is a framework to design teaching learning process to meet the needs of diverse learners. It is a multiple means of teaching learning methodologies to improve and optimize teaching and learning among people based on scientific insights. It addresses a group of diverse learners in a classroom including students with special needs. The Universal Design for Learning is a differentiated instruction with the help of Assistive Technology that improves the functional capabilities of students with disabilities. Special Education professionals trained with the principles of Universal Design for Learning will be effective teachers imparting education to children with special needs. The Special Education Professionals need to be trained to incorporate such current innovative intervention strategies in their teaching learning process and develop their ability to

handle various assistive technology in their instructional process”.

Dr.R. Swaminathan, Syndicate Member, in his inaugural address, said that this international conference will be of great help to Special Education Professionals to create a great impact on its implementation. A compendium of 116 research articles was released by the Vice-Chancellor and copies were given to all the dignitaries. The Chief Guest Prof. Kannamah A/P Mottan, Department of Special Needs Education, Sultan Irdi Education University, Malaysia delivered the keynote address and she stressed the need of universal design for learning to impart quality education to children with special needs. She also acted as a plenary speaker for the first session. Dr.P. Ramakrishna Pettala, Assistant Professor, Ramakrishna Mission Vidhyalya Vivekananda University, Coimbatore and Dr.C. Renuka Devi, Assistant Professor, Mother Theresa Women's University, Kodaikanal handled the second session. Dr.Rathnakumar, Principal, CSI College of Special Education, gave the plenary speech.

Prof. J.Sujathamalini, Head i/c, Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Science, highlighted in her thematic address, the immense need for differentiated instruction for children with special needs in the form of universal design for learning embedded with assistive technology. She hoped that the deliberations in this conference will be platform for the participants to restructure their teaching learning experiences for the diverse learners.

On 5th September 2019 the programme started with participants presenting their research findings. The plenary speaker Dr.T. Sharon Raju, Assistant Professor, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Andhra University, Vizag, gave the plenary speech. In the valedictory function, the presidential address was delivered by Prof. H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University. Prof. A. Jahitha Begum, Head, Department of Education, Gandhigram Rural University, while

delivering the valedictory address, appreciated Alagappa University for providing special education services for the differently abled and she pointed out that this the only State University to have a regular department for special education with a resource school. Ms. Blossom Cygnet, RUSA Research Associate, proposed a vote of thanks.

ALAGAPPA INSTITUTE OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill Development Camps of Three Months Duration to be Conducted



Alagappa University is to organise Skill Development Camps of three months duration each at 11 Government Colleges in Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts to offer high-end skill and entrepreneurial training in various job opportunity areas. These camps are to be organised by the Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub (EIC Hub) of Alagappa University under RUSA 2.0 Scheme.

The inauguration of Skill Development Camps for Government Colleges was inaugurated on 26th August 2019 at Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi. Presiding over the function Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University said, “Tamil Nadu is at the top in Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education among the States of India. According to educational planners, moulding all the students of these HEIs with employability and entrepreneurial skills should be the top-most task to be undertaken at this time. Since the future prosperity of our nation lies only in the hands of skilled youth, the Central and State Governments have been assiduously focusing to make our country to be the Skill Capital of the

world. It is our responsibility to offer our unstinted support to realise the current dream and priority of our national leaders. By keeping this in mind, recently, the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan has advised the State Universities in Tamil Nadu to conduct skill training camps in Government Colleges under their jurisdiction to increase the employability and entrepreneurial skills of students. Mr. Mangat Ram Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu has given detailed guidelines regarding the conduct of these training camps."

He added that the University has planned to offer skill training to 1250 students of final year UG classes selected from 11 government colleges with a financial commitment of Rs. 52 lakhs. The participants of the camp will be imparted training to play the job roles such as Solar Engineers, Network Management Engineers, Accounts Executives, Fashion Designers, Front Office Executives and Bridal, Fashion & Photographic Make-up Artistes. In order to offer high-tech training, trainers from National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and Tamil Nadu Skill Development Council (TNSDC) approved training organisations such as BSNL (Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Telecom Training Centre), IL&FS and other prime training organisation would be involved along with the University faculty. He concluded his speech by saying that the participants of these camps would grow up as job providers rather than job seekers.

It may be recalled that EIC Hub of Alagappa University was digitally launched on 3rd February 2019 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi.

Dr. B. Dharmalingam, Director, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub of Alagappa University explained the training strategies to be adopted in the camps.

Dr. E. Kannapiran, Dean, College Development Council and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, RUSA Coordinator of Alagappa University, spoke on the occasion highlighting the necessity of skill-oriented education to be given to the youth in higher education institutions.

Earlier, Dr. M. Durai, Principal, Alagappa Govt. Arts College, Karaikudi, welcomed the gathering. Dr. Thiagarajan, HoD of Business Administration and College Coordinator of the Skill Development Camp, proposed a vote of thanks. Reference Manual was given to all the participants of the camp.

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Two-Day "International Conference on Cognitive, Psychological and Behavioural Perspectives in Education



A Two-Day "International Conference on Cognitive, Psychological and Behavioural Perspectives in Education" was inaugurated on 11.7.2019 at L.C.T.L. Palaniappa Chettiar Auditorium, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Sponsored under the RUSA Scheme 2.0 the Conference brought over 100 scholars from across the country to the campus for deliberations.

Presiding over the inaugural session of the conference Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, referred to the theme of the Conference and said that the two vital aspects of education are empowering the mind of the individual by offering knowledge and also shaping the life of the individual by imparting values for leading a socially fruitful life. "Cognition and Psychology are, indeed, two intrinsic factors behind which the entire educational processes revolve", he added.

He further said that India has all along been a learned society. Indians had an excellent knowledge in writing which is evidenced in the great ancient Indian literature. Indian civilization and Chinese civilization were respected greatly

because they had inherited great tradition and culture where education played a vital role. And it could be seen in Nalanda, Taxila, Ujjaini and Kanchipuram. The exemplary architectural and astronomical knowledge of Indians are reflected in Konark and Kumbakonam temples and it was owing to the strong base of the education that prevailed in India.

During the Colonial rule the Indian system of education disintegrated but since independence a series of educational policies have been adopted to restructure the Indian education system. In India we have been giving importance to teacher-centric education and even today we haven't made any change in our attitude. Students' needs, ideas and creativity have not been properly understood and it is the need of the hour to have a learner-centric education. He hoped that the conference will provide a platform for discussion among the participants to suggest ways to increase curiosity and creativity among the learners. He suggested that earnest endeavours must be taken by all concerned to reach 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2035 in Higher Education as noted in the Draft of National Education Policy-2019.

A Compact Disk (CD) containing the research articles was released by the Vice-Chancellor and copies were given to distinguished guests.

Dr.WU.Longkai, Research Scientist, National Institute of Education, Singapore, delivered the Special Address. He said that the 21st Century competencies with technological innovations have to be imparted through psychological perspectives.

Dr.Sasikala Kugamoorthy, Head, Department of Special Needs Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Dr.Asheesh Srivastava, Associate Professor of Education, Visva-Bharati: A Central University, West Bengal, and Dr.P.Paul Devanesan, Dean, Faculty of Education, Alagappa University, offered felicitations.

Dr.A.Balu, Principal i/c, Alagappa University College of Education, welcomed the gathering and Dr.J.Jayachithra, Organising Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

International Conference on E-Logistics and Supply Chain Management



While inaugurating the second edition of the International Conference on "E-Logistics and Supply Chain Management (ICLSCM19), Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice Chancellor, Alagappa University mentioned that to reap success one need to look for the unexplored path for gaining quantum success. Though it is difficult, the resulting outcome will be very challenging for others to emulate and succeed. He cited historical incidences like how Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated due to the choking of the supply chain by the opponents.

He lauded the Department of Logistics Management for organizing this International Conference and also for choosing the state-of-the-art topic. He suggested the Department to take more initiatives to reach out to the target audience as MBA (Logistics Management) is a niche programme.

Prof. M.Senthil, the convener of the conference, spelt out the objectives which will bring the industry close to the academia. The department has many firsts to its' credit like inking International MoU, research scholars from abroad as well publication of patterns in the domain of management. The department has created a niche in the management education sphere and will strive hard to take it to the international level.

Dr.P.Rajan Chinna, Organizing Secretary of the conference, welcomed the gathering earlier.

Shri.T.K. Ramachandran IAS, Chairman of V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, in his special address said that E- Logistics and Supply Chain Management play a vital role in any economy, especially in an interconnected digital world. Logistics efficiency can be improved by focusing not only on the underlying infrastructure but also on the trade procedures, trade related support service using digital technology. Quoting International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts, he explained that after strong growth in 2017 and 2018, the global economic activity seems to have slowed down from 3.6% in 2018 to 3.3% in 2019. He added that during the same time the global momentum has reached 10.7 billion tonnes of global containerized trade during 2018. Today sourcing, manufacturing and distribution are constantly reconfigured to take advantage of lower costs and serve promising markets. Logistics cost in India is estimated at 13-14% of GDP, which is very high when compared with USA, Europe and Japan where it is 9-11%. Ours is a skewed modal transportation with 60% of freights moving on roads. As per the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2018, India ranks 44th in overall logistics performance among 116 economies. Emergence of new age empowering technologies like Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Machine Learning will disrupt the conventional working of the logistics sector, he added.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM, Tiruchi was the Guest of Honour during the conference. He lauded the achievements of the Alagappa University and drew parallel with BITS Pilani in the Indian academic scenario. He opined that India will rule the rest of the world for the next 10-15 years, as it has very young knowledgeable population. In the recent past China has succeeded in the logistics arena, mainly due to the superior infrastructure. He anticipated the industry 5.0 will come into existence in another 5-10 years. The supply chain need to be redefined and he added that

the speed is important than the size of the companies in the future. Even one can expect smaller companies acquiring big corporates and concluded that redefining supply chain management is going to be a real challenge in the future.

Mr.C.N.Lakshmanan, Category Demand Planner, Johnson & Johnson, UK delivered the keynote address during the conference. He mentioned that by attending the workshop on Basics of Forecasting and Demand Forecasting, which is contemplated as part of his visit to the University, one can get lots of insights about the working of logistics industry.

Prof.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Dean, Faculty of Management and Member of the Syndicate, Alagappa University, delivered the felicitation address. He listed various parameters that were taken into consideration for arriving at the performance of ports across the globe.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Coordinator, RUSA 2.0, Alagappa University and Mr.EssayasTaye Lemma, Assistant Professor, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia, felicitated the event.

Dr.V.Sivakumar, Associate Professor, DoLM thanked the participants and dignitaries of the two-day conference for making the conference a grand success.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

International Conference on FDI and Make in India – Synergists of Transforming Indian Economy

Under the aegis of the Department of International Business, Alagappa University a Two-Day International Conference on 'FDI and MAKE IN INDIA – Synergists of Transforming Indian Economy (FDI MISTIE 2K19)' was organized on 30th and 31st August at the L.C.T.L Palaniappa Chettiar Auditorium .

Presiding over the Inaugural Session of the Conference, Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that the vibrant theme of the Conference would enable the experts and delegates gathered at the University to



deliberate on causes of economic slowdown at the global level and suggest viable corrective measures to improve the world economy and in particular Indian Economy. While pointing out the importance of carefully scrutinizing Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) proposals, he said that during the pre-independence era they were the main reasons for encouraging the concept of colonialism in India. He also stated that the emergence of neo-colonialism in the form of Foreign Direct Investments should not happen and hence due diligence has to be taken by the policy makers while framing the policies on FDI investments. He quoted the “Chinese Debt Trap Diplomacy” as an example of the emergence of neo-colonialism. He stressed that the political and foreign policies should not be interfered by the foreign players and thereby no infringement happens on the sovereignty of the country.

A compendium containing 150 research papers was released by the Vice-Chancellor and the copies were received by the distinguished guests.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. Geetha Subramaniam of the Universiti Teknologi MARA, Selangor, Malaysia. In her address she brought out the significance of Globalization and how it has changed the socio-cultural and politico-economic conditions of countries around the world.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. M. Thenmozhi, Former Director, National Institute of Securities Market, Mumbai. In her address she said that FDIs are the major source of non-debt financial resources and hence countries around the world are interested in attracting FDIs. She also pointed out that various policy initiatives, lower wages and special investment privileges in

the form of tax incentives make India a favorable destination for the foreign investors. She also stressed on the importance of Make in India Initiative of the Government of India and the bright opportunities it will bring to the society and the economy.

Dr. S. Sarangapani, Ibra College of Technology, Oman and Dr. R. Swaminathan, Member of Syndicate, Alagappa University offered felicitations.

While welcoming the gathering Dr.K.Uthayasuriyan, Professor and Head, Department of International Business, said that in the year 2013, when India was put in the basket of so called “Fragile Five” the global investors debated whether the world’s largest democracy was a risky one for investments or is it a country with potential for investments, growth and profit. The Government of India in the year 2014 came up with a modern swadeshi movement called the “MAKE IN INDIA” scheme covering 25 sectors of Indian economy. Since the launch of the scheme there has been substantial improvement in the FDI inflows in our country. And within one year India emerged as the top destination in attracting FDI globally in 2015, surpassing the USA and China. He hoped that the discussions in the conference would throw light on proper linkage between FDI and Make in India and provide hints for improving the economy of the country.

More than 150 participants from national and international institutions from countries such as Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Oman and Indian states such as Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu presented their papers on various aspects of the theme of the conference. In this two-day conference Plenary Lectures were delivered by ace speakers such as Dr. M. Thenmozhi, Former Director, National Institute of Securities Market, Mumbai, Dr.P.Killivallavan, Principal FDI & Strategy Consultant, Quintez, Chennai, Dr. Alka Maurya, Amity University, Noida and Dr. Geetha Subramaniam, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Selangor, Malaysia. The above distinguished scholars spoke on the following topics 1. ‘FDI - Trends & Future Directions 2. ‘Why Foreign Direct

Investment?’ 3. ‘Opportunities and Challenges for FDI in E-Commerce in India’ 4. ‘FDI and Workforce Diversity’ respectively.

International Day of Peace Observed

“International Day of Peace” was celebrated on 23.9.2019 at the Department of International Business, Alagappa University.

Presiding over the programme, Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, said that celebrating peace is the need of the hour in the present context. He said that a peaceful society is a precursor for sustainable development. Being a historian, he described how the practice of Gandhian principles will give inner peace to the individual ultimately resulting in a peaceful society. He also quoted some examples from the freedom struggle. The freedom fighters were lathicharged when they protested against the alien rule and the adoption of the technique of non- violence and patience taught by Gandhi in handling the physical abuse proved its efficacy. He also stressed on the fact that war causes damage to the economy and he quoted instances from the First and Second World Wars and their impact on the economy of the nations. He said that recent increase in the defence expenditures by the nations across the world pose a serious challenge to sustainable economy and peaceful world. He concluded by saying that violence is not the solution for anything.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. M. William Baskaran, Professor, Centre for Peace Studies, Department of Gandhian Studies, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul. He brought out the recent downfall of India in the Global Peace Index to 141 out of 163 countries in 2018 compared to the rank 136 in the year 2016. He brought out the significance of social, environmental and cultural peace which is necessary for the economic growth as well as sustainable development in the country. He said because of the misinformation that is being circulated in the social media, trust deficit is prevailing in the society which in turn disturbs peace in the society. He also pointed out the trust deficit that is prevailing in the great powers such as the USA and China and how the economic

impact is disturbing the peace in the society. He also did a comparative analysis of the Global Peace Index of our neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Bhutan and stated that there are some declining trends in some countries’ Index as well. He concluded by saying that peace within oneself and peace within society are necessary for a progressive and ever-growing economy.

The Felicitation Address was delivered by Dr. M. Selvam, Member of Syndicate, Alagappa University and Dr. T.R. Gurumoorthy, Member of Syndicate and Dean, Faculty of Management, Alagappa University.

While welcoming the gathering Dr.A. Muthusamy, Professor, Department of International Business, said that celebrating International Day of Peace is to bring out the significance of peace which is a major determinant in attracting foreign investments and hence it is important to know about the recent happenings across the globe. Dr. S. Prasad, Assistant Professor, Department of International Business, proposed a vote of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Conference on Institution – Industry Linkage

The Department of Commerce, Alagappa University, in association with the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Karaikudi, organised the National Conference on Institution – Industry Linkage on 30th August 2019 at the Seminar Hall of the Convocation Auditorium.



Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, in his presidential address, emphasised the importance of bridging the gap between theories and practical aspects of business enterprises.

He added that Institution-Industry Linkage becomes necessary to bridge this gap. This linkage provides internship, employment and entrepreneurial skills and opportunities to students. He further said that experts from industries with the academics took an active part in designing the recent curriculum for the Commerce Programmes offered in Alagappa University. He added that education system should be linked with the society for finding solutions to the problems faced by the society. He stressed the need for enhancing quality in teaching and research in higher educational institutions through Institution – Industry Linkage.

Shri V.K.T.Balan, Chairman & Managing Director, Madura Travels Private Ltd., Chennai, in his special address, hinted at the business opportunities available in travel and tourism sector in Tamil Nadu for students and said that the aspirants could get entrepreneurial opportunities through internship training in tourism sector. Mr. Boominathan, Former Head, Department of Commerce, Bishop Heber College, Trichy and Thiru Sami Thiravidamani, President, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Karaikudi, offered felicitations and the latter arranged 25 business enterprises for providing internship training to the students of Commerce Department.

Prof. T.R.Gurumoorthy, Dean, Faculty of Management, delivered the thematic address and narrated the importance of institution-industry linkage in higher education institutions. Prof S.Ganapathy, Department of Commerce, welcomed the gathering. Dr.G.Nedumaran, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, delivered the vote of thanks. Faculty members and students of University Departments and Affiliated Colleges participated in large numbers at the conference.

DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATE SECRETARYSHIP

Two-Day National Seminar on CSR towards Societal Development – Issues & Challenges

The Department of Corporate Secretaryship, Alagappa University, Karaikudi,

organised a Two-day National Seminar on “CSR towards Societal Development – Issues and Challenges” (NSCSR – 2019) on 28th & 29th August 2019. The seminar was presided over by Prof. N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University. In his presidential address he spoke about the successful implementation of socially useful work by the University students. He said that 80 villages have been adopted by the University Departments and Affiliated Colleges of Alagappa University and students are offering their services to these villages through Village Extension Programme. The Vice-Chancellor said “if big corporate companies adopt villages, then within 10 years Ramanathapuram & Sivagangai districts would develop to a great extent and the individual families in the region would become economically prosperous. He added that Alagappa University is providing a stipend of Rs.25000 per month for each Ph.D research scholar. Also each post doctoral fellow is given Rs.75000 per month as fellowship. In the list of Top World Universities no Indian institution is found whereas there are many universities from small countries like Singapore and South Korea have found places in the list. He exhorted the faculty and researchers to make earnest attempts to raise Alagappa University as one of the top class Universities. He also listed out various milestones of Alagappa University

Thiru.Rajesh Khanna, Deputy General Manager, United India Insurance Co.Ltd., Chennai, in his inaugural address, referred to the uncertainty of the definition of profits and the background of CSR in India .He compared how the CSR operations of the United India Insurance Company are similar to the CSR activities performed by Alagappa University .He gave the details of the CSR activities of U.I.I and said that the company has adopted and developed many villages by providing education.

In the first technical session that followed the inauguration Prof.P.Saravanan, Professor - Finance and Accounting , Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirapalli (IIM-T), in his



keynote address, said that a part of profits earned by Corporate Companies are to be spent for social welfare measures as per the law. The session was then continued by Prof.T.R.Gurumoorthy, Member of Syndicate, Dean-Faculty of Management, Alagappa University. He expressed his opinion on CSR. And he referred to CSR activities performed by Alagappa Chettiar. Though the government did not ask the corporate companies to initiate CSR activities in those days, the Founder used not only profits but also all his earnings for establishing educational institutions in this region. Indeed, Alagappa University is the outcome of his love for society. Dr.C.Vethirajan, Professor and Head, Department of Corporate Secretaryship, welcomed the gathering earlier.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University presided over the valediction ceremony. He referred to the history of CSR in India. He spoke on the CSR activities initiated by Alagappa University. He pointed out that the University has adopted many villages and is helping in their development. The University provides a platform for young entrepreneurs through financial assistance. He congratulated the Organising Secretary for his meticulous planning in conducting this conference effectively.

The felicitation address was presented by Dr. R. Swaminathan, Syndicate Member, Alagappa University. He referred to the awards and accolades won by the University.

Mr.Dillibabu Krishnan, Corporate Lawyer and CSR Consultant, distributed the certificates to the participants.

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING MANAGEMENT

Two-Day International Conference on Digital Banking for Sustainable Development

The Department of Banking Management, Alagappa University organised a Two-Day International Conference on 'Digital Banking for Sustainable Development'. The inaugural session was held on the forenoon of 24-09-2019. While inaugurating the conference, Ms. Hema Chatterjee, AGM, Reserve Bank of India, said that the Reserve Bank of India is playing a crucial role in digital banking and payment system of our country. The banks are slowly moving from cheques as a mode of payment to digital payments through internet banking and mobile banking. She also added that it is a challenge for the central bank to maintain the trust of the people for all types of digital payments by preventing frauds.

Dr. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, Alagappa University, in his presidential address, said that the University has started digitalisation of all its operations. As a first step, the payment of tuition fee and the examination fee by the students has been digitalised. Also digital evaluation of the answer scripts of regular examination has been introduced by the University in April 2019. He pointed out that digital banking offers a lot of comfort and convenience to the customers through various channels such as ATMs, Mobile phones and the internet.

Dr. Jayaraman Krishnaswamy, Professor, Department of Management Studies, Taylor's University, Malaysia, in his keynote address pointed out that digital banking will increase transparency of accounting and will reduce corruption, consumption of papers and duplication of work. Also he stated that it will give more employment opportunities to the youth and it will result in a cashless society.

Dr. T.R. Gurumoorthy, Dean, Faculty of Management, in his felicitation address, stated that the infrastructure of banks is the testimony of the economic fundamentals of the nation.

The banker as a trusty of the customers must evaluate the liquidity risk, market risk and operational risk related with the digitalisation process. The banks can increase their spread through effective digitalisation of their operations through which they can find the place in the list of top ten banks in the world.

Dr. K. Alamelu, Director i/c, Distance Education, delivered the thematic address and Dr. G.Jayabal, Professor and Head, welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Alamelumangai, Professor, proposed a vote of thanks. Students and scholars of the Faculty of Management participated in the conference.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT

International Conference on “Recent Trends in Global Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Research”



A Two-day “International conference on Recent Trends in Global Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Research” was organized on 6th and 7th September 2019 under RUSA 2.0 Scheme by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management. It was inaugurated on 06th September by Prof Abhishek Singh Bhati, Campus Dean, Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement, James Cook University, Singapore and in his speech he referred to various measures taken by the United Nations for sustainable tourism and highlighted how it is being implemented in various countries worldwide. Prof Mohd Raziff Jamaludeen, Deputy Dean, Industry and Research Linkages, Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Universiti of Teknologi, Mara, Malaysia delivered the keynote address in which he elaborated on sustainable tourism

practices followed in Malaysia, China and Korea and referred to the ample untapped tourism potential available in the State of Tamil Nadu.

“Alagappa University will help preserve heritage sites in Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts to boost tourism” said by Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar Alagappa University during the Valedictory Function of the International Conference held on 7th September 2019 at L.C.T.L.Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium. In his valedictory address Dr. R. Swaminathan, Member of Syndicate, Alagappa University stressed the need for promoting tourism in Tamil Nadu which has a host of rich natural sites and exhorted the tourism researchers to carry out extensive work to bring to light the glory and history of the tourist spots and prepare policy documents for effective implementation. Prof T R Gurumoorthy, Dean, School of Management, in his special address lauded the Department for organizing the First International Conference and also elaborated on the GDP contribution of Tourism Sector in India through MICE tourism.

During the conference more than 100 participants that included researchers, academicians and students from Malaysia, SriLanka and many parts of India presented their research papers. Dr. V. Sivakumar, Associate Professor and Head-in-charge, Department of Tourism and Hotel Management welcomed the participants and took the participants on a short trip to Pillayarpatti, Kundrakudi, and Athankudi to show the rich and unique cultural heritage of Chettinad.

Special Lectures Delivered

The Department of Tourism & Hotel Management invited Dr. Mohd Raziff Jamaluddin, Deputy Dean, Research and Industry Linkages, Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA 42300 Puncak Alam MALAYSIA as adjunct faculty under RUSA 2.0 Scheme. He visited Alagappa University during 2nd to 6th September 2019.

Orientation Programme to Students

The Department of Tourism & Hotel Management conducted an Orientation Programme for the 4th batch of B.Sc Catering Science & Hotel Management students on 05.07.2019. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Mohammed Sheriff, Senior General Manager, Regency Madurai (GRT), Madurai. He spoke to the freshers and their parents about the future scope for employment in tourism and hotel industry and highlighted the importance of skilled and professional manpower required in the Tourism Industry. He exhorted the students to evince keen interest and enthusiasm in their studies and said they have a bright future .

Reading Hall Declared Open



Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, declared open on 05.7.2019 a free Reading Hall at Alagappa Institute of Management Campus exclusively meant for students preparing for various competitive examinations. The vast hall containing a built-in area of 1300 Sq. feet with all facilities will be open from 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 3.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAY CHAIR

Integral Humanism Day-2019 Celebrated

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Chair of Alagappa University organized 'Integral Humanism Day-2019' on 25th September 2019 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit. Deen Dayal Upadhyay. The function was held at the L.C.T.L. Palaniappa Chettiar Memorial Auditorium of the University.

In his presidential address, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor said, "In ancient days, India was the knowledge capital and had renowned ancient universities like Nalanda, Takshashila and Kanchi. Owing to the colonial impact, our traditional education system has been modified into European based education system. To explain to our Indian students and scholars, we are following the western models and examples. To rejuvenate the glory of our traditional educational system, we have to follow the Indian-centric educational models. Moreover, it is the need of the hour. For this purpose the MHRD has proposed several reforms in our education system in its draft National Education Policy (NEP) and the same is going to be implemented soon. These kinds of Indian-centric development models are the baseline of 'Integral Humanism' proposed by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. He visualized a decentralized polity and self-reliant economy with the village being the core basis. He was the greatest leader of our country and his ideologies suit for the contemporary situation of our nation. To disseminate the ideologies and principles of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Alagappa University has established a Chair in his name under the aegis of UGC, New Delhi. As a pioneering initiative, from this year onwards, we are going to celebrate 'Integral Humanism Day' on 25th of September every year, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. By keeping the principles of both Mahathma Gandhi and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on development of villages, this year, Alagappa University has adopted 80 villages, viz. 39 villages by the University Departments and 41 villages by Affiliated Colleges, and the students have rendered social service in these villages.



Dr. P. Kanaga Sabapathi, Member ICSSR, New Delhi, delivered the inaugural address. In his address, he said, "India's traditional and cultural ethos has laid a strong foundation for our economic stability. Indigenously we are practising several economic development models with our strong family and societal structures. Savings is the part and parcel of our culture, as statistics says, that Indian families have deposited more than 100 lakh crore of rupees in the banks and own more than 25,000 crore tons of Gold in their homes. Even though, Nobel prizes are awarded to the propounders of western economic theories, we have several examples of failures of those prize winning economic models. However, our economic models are proven ones. The glory and success of our Indian economic systems are often reflected in the OECD reports. Instead of practising the development models of foreign nature, we have to follow and practice the Indian-centric economic development models as proposed by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Our younger generation should learn the ideas of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and follow the foot-steps of this great savant for the future glory of India; indeed, it is the need of the hour".

Prof. H. Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar and Prof. T.R. Gurumoorthy, Member of the Syndicate of Alagappa University offered their felicitations.

Prof. B. Dharmalingam, Chair Professor, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Chair, welcomed the gathering and Dr. C. Balakrishnan, Assistant Professor, Alagappa Institute of Skill Development proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier in the function, the dignitaries and the participants paid their homage to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Mr. Saikishore, a first year M.Sc. student of Microbiology spoke about Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and Ms. Javanniya of first year UG student of Performing Arts sang 'Vande Matharam' song to pay tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. More than 500 students from various Departments of Alagappa University participated.

DIGITAL EDUCATION CELL

Three-day International Workshop on E-Content Development for Massive Open Online Courses among the Faculty Members

The inaugural function of a "Three-day International Workshop on E-Content Development for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) among the Faculty Members" organized by the Digital Education Cell of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, was held on 10-09-2019. Sponsored under RUSA 2.0 scheme, the conference was attended by 200 participants. Dr. C. Baskaran, Co-ordinator of the Cell, welcomed the gathering.

Inaugurating the Workshop, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, pointed out that enrolment in SWAYAM has been steadily increasing year by year at Alagappa University and currently the student enrolment has reached 6500 under SWAYAM. The government of India has started initiating various measures to reach 50% of GER in another five years from the existing 25%. The SWAYAM online portal has a great role in accomplishing this task of increasing GER. SWAYAM lectures have become so popular in India and as a result even Professors working in IITs and IIMs have shown keen interest in studying these lessons and recommending the same to their students. He added that SWAYAM is indeed a boon and it helps and motivates people towards life-long learning. In the present context, trans-disciplinary and multi disciplinary researches which are complicated to carry out, have become very essential and it has been made possible through sources like SWAYAM. Highlighting the utility of SWAYAM, he said that it helps the learners acquire deep knowledge and skills and to become entrepreneurs. It also provides equity and access without any discrimination. Teachers of today have the great responsibility of learning from different sources to cater to the needs of students whose levels of Intelligent Quotient (IQ) have been very high. This has to be borne in mind by every teacher who wants to be a successful one.



In her inaugural address, Dr. Victoria Naomi of Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, said that MOOC has given a new face to the higher education in India. It has facilitated expansion of higher education in India and has paved the way for world class learning at home for students. Prof. S.Senthilnathan, Director, Human Resource Development Centre, Bharathidasan University, in his keynote address, pointed out that the Government of India has allocated a huge sum of money for the preparation of E-Content Materials. He added that SWAYAM is likely to become a Virtual University in the next four years. Currently there are 2000 modules that are readily available in SWAYAM portal and efforts are on to make it 10,000 modules when it becomes Virtual University.

Dr.Arulselvan, Director, Educational Multi Media Research Centre, Pondichery Central University and Dr. TR.Gurumoorthy, Member of Syndicate, offered felicitations. Dr.Ramnath, Deputy Coordinator, Digital Education Cell, proposed a vote of thanks.

DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

Interface Meeting with the Coordinators of Learning Centres



The Directorate of Distance Education of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, organised

an interface meeting with the Coordinators of Learning Centres of the Distance Education Wing on 10.07.2019.

Presiding over the meeting Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, emphasised the need for improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in a developing economy like India. He pointed out that distance education programmes as channels of non formal education are very much essential for filling the gaps in the educational infrastructure. He appreciated the role of the learning centres in strengthening the distance education programmes. He reiterated that learning centres not only fulfil their entrepreneurial aspirations but also join the nation-building process by serving the cause of education through this mode of education. The Vice-Chancellor also pinpointed the unique features of the Distance Education Programmes offered by Alagappa University, such as online admission, affordable fee structure, effective grievance redressal mechanism, timely publication of results and Wi-Fi connectivity. He dwelt on the recent initiatives taken by the University for improving the quality of the content of course materials and to make it equal to the course content of regular programmes. Being in the list of top ten Universities in India in terms of NAAC accreditation and the resultant autonomy, the University is privileged to offer Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes in tune with regulations of the Distance Education Bureau (DEB). The introduction of semester pattern, internal assessment component and scope for placement drives have made the courses of Alagappa University more learner-friendly, he added. The Vice-Chancellor gave away the renewal agreements to the learning centres.

In his felicitation address Prof. H.Gurumallesh Prabu, Registrar, stressed the need for serving more number of students who could not join the formal stream of education owing to many reasons. He added that Alagappa University strictly adheres to the norms and conditions laid down by the Distance Education Bureau and as a result the University does not

face any problems and it is an added advantage for the students of the directorate.

The University also has the rare distinction of offering online learning programmes. In the interface meeting, coordinators of 117 learning centres interacted with the faculty members and administrative staff of the University.

Dr.K.Alamelu, Director i/c, Directorate of Distance Education, welcomed the participants and Dr.P.Sivakumar, Professor of Education,

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY STUDY CIRCLE

Capacity Building and Motivational Programme Organised



With a view to empowering students with needed skills for employability, a Capacity Building and Motivational Programme was organized jointly by Alagappa University Study Circle (AUSC) and Student Capacity Building Empowerment Cell (STEMCELL) with the support of Rotary Club of Karaikudi Heritage on 26.08.2019 at the University Convocation Seminar Hall. The participants were, “willing students” of Alagappa University departments and students from various affiliated colleges of Alagappa University. The programme comprised (1) the induction of Rotractors from Fine Arts Department of the University, (2) Speeches on Career Guidance for Students and (3) Tackling Competitive Exams -- An Overview with Special Reference to UPSC Civil Service, Staff Selection Commission, Banking and Railway Recruitment Board Exams.

Prof.N.Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the importance of developing interest outside the academics and learning

skills in various spheres that would fetch them jobs. He gave the example of renowned Physicist Sir Isaac Newton who wrote a book on history because of his immense interest in a subject outside the realm of Science. He advised the students to cultivate the habit of visiting libraries and developing reading habits to enlarge their mental horizon so that they could understand the ground realities and accordingly they could equip themselves for a career of their own interest.

Rotary Governor Dr. S.Sheik Shalim, in his speech, referred to the success story of P.V Sindhu and narrated how the change of strategy gave her the advantage to win the match. He insisted that consistent hard work in acquiring skills alone could help the students improve their job prospects.

Mr.V. Pandiaraj I.R.S, Joint Commissioner of Goods and Service Tax and Central Excise and Mr. R.Ram Krishnan I.R.S, Assistant Commissioner shared their work and life experiences and they said that both were from very humble background but with unstinted efforts and hard work they could achieve their goals. They gave valuable tips as to how to face and succeed in the UPSC and Staff Selection Commission exams. They advised the students to shun inhibitions and start preparation with sincere commitment. They said that everyone has certain unique qualities in him/her and by identifying the same they could draw their career graph without comparing themselves with anyone else. Mr.S.Praveen, an alumnus of Alagappa University Study Circle and currently a Railway Station Master in Indian Railways, dwelt on the importance of writing various competitive exams notified by various agencies. He shared his experience in succeeding the Railway Recruitment Board exams (RRB) and his success story.

Rotary President Rtn.Er.V.Xavier Antony Raj and his team of Rotarians gave all support to make the programme a grand success. 250 students got benefited by the focussed speeches.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

Legal Literacy Training to NSS Officers

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of Alagappa University in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, Sivagangai, organised a meeting on 28th August 2019 at the Seminar Hall of the Central Library, for NSS Programme Officers at the District level to plan for “Legal Literacy Training”.



Dr.P.Srinivasan, NSS Programme Coordinator, while welcoming the participants, highlighted the need for imparting training to the NSS Programme Officers. Inaugurating the programme Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Rajendran outlined the importance of giving legal literacy training to the students and faculty in higher educational institutions and informed that a Legal Literacy Cell will be established in Alagappa University in the near future for the benefit of students and faculty members. The District Judge B. Karthikeyan, District Legal Services Authority, outlined the significance of imparting Legal Literacy and he specified the root causes of various problems that arise in day-to-day life and said that solutions could be obtained via Legal Literacy Services Committees functioning at taluk and district levels. Thiru. V. S. Balamurugan, Principal District Munsif, Karaikudi, spoke about free legal services offered to people by the government and highlighted the importance of getting legal solutions at free of cost to the problems that occur in social life. At

the end, Tmt. R. Rajeshwari, Secretary/Senior Civil Judge, District Legal Services Authority, proposed a vote of thanks. In this programme, a total of 30 Programme Officers from various NSS units of Sivagangai District participated. The event was organized by Dr. P. Srinivasan, NSS Programme Co-ordinator.

LAUNCHING OF INTRANET

As a part of e-governance initiatives of Alagappa University under MHRD-RUSA 2.0 scheme an Intranet Application for the University was launched by Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. It was developed by the faculty and students of Alagappa Institute of Skill Development. The launching ceremony was held on 1st July 2019 in the Convocation Seminar Hall. After launching the application, he said, “this application will serve as a portal to share and display the University information such as, Circulars, about Conferences and information about all other events in a single platform”. Since, this Intranet Application is working in Local Area Network (LAN), there is no requirement of Internet. As this application is having the report repository facility to share reports and images about a particular event, it is easy to share the reports to Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Special Officer (Planning &Development) and Azhagu Newsletter. This application is also having the facility to ensure that all the recipients have received that particular information. Further he added that, this application will enable the University to facilitate paperless administrative communications and several management data that are useful to the staff and students of the University.



ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)

(A State University Accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.64) in the Third Cycle and Grade as Category - 1 University MHRD - UGC)
Karaikudi - 630 003. Tamilnadu, India.



RUSA DIRECTORATE

Achievements and Highlights under RUSA phase 2.0 scheme

Alagappa University has been Sanctioned Rs. 100 Cr. grant under RUSA – Phase 2.0 for Component 4 (Quality Enhancement in Teaching & Research). Rs. 40 Cr. has been released as first installment in Dec.2018 with the proportion of 60% share from Central Government and 40% share from State Government.

SI No	Component	Status
1	EIC HUB	Established "Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Career Hub" at a cost of Rs.15 Cr. for youth empowerment through Innovation, Incubation support and Placement & Career guidance.
2	Construction	Six academic buildings, Three State-of-the-art Sports facilities, one hostel for girls and one solar park. Construction work has been given to the Public Works Department (PWD) of Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
3	Equipment	The Process to purchase High end scientific research instrument such as NMR and XRD have been completed and soon it will be added in University Science Instrumentation Centre (USIC) as common facility. Along with this DNA sequencer, Supercomputing facility and SCUBA diving instruments purchase processing is in progress.
4	Broad Based Board of Studies	44 Professors from top QS ranked Foreign Universities participated in the Broad Based Board of Studies
5	Adjunct faculty	10 Adjunct faculty from top ranking Foreign Universities and 2 from IIT delivered special lectures, participated in International Conferences and offered for collaborative research projects
6	Senior Post Doctoral Fellowship/ Post Doctoral Fellowship	Alagappa University recruited 8 Senior Post Doctoral Fellows at Rs 1,00,000 per annum and 36 PDFs at Rs 75000 per annum on merit basis to work on Theme Based Research.
7	PhD Fellowship	Awarded 184 PhD fellowships to the merit scholars of all disciplines. Efforts are taken to award more fellowship through RUSA special drive.
8	PG Merit Scholarship	Provided 317 Merit scholarship to Post Graduate students of the University.
9	Research Scholar Foreign Lab visit	Provided financial support to Ten Research Scholars to carry out research works in top Ranking foreign university/ laboratories.
10	Financial support to Faculty/Research Students to attend International Conferences abroad	85 faculty members and 15 Research scholars have been given financial support to present research papers in the International Conferences held in foreign Countries.
11	Organizing International Conferences in collaboration with top ranked Universities	22 Departments have organized the International Conferences in collaboration with foreign Experts.
12	Online Programmes	Established 19 On-line programmes offered by Alagappa University.
13	Village Extension Programme and Centre of Swachh Bharat , Swasth Bharat and Ek Bharath Shreshtha Bharath	81 villages were adopted towards achieving ODF villages, improved sanitation, cleanliness, hygiene and youth empowerment through village Extension Programme and Centre of Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharath. Ek Bharath Shreshtha Bharath initiated Academic and Cultural Exchange with Jammu and Kashmir Institutes.
14	MOU initiated	Signed / steps initiated for MoU with top ranking US Universities, viz. Cornell University, Drexel University, North Eastern University, Stanford University, Purdue University, Yale and California University for undertaking research and exchange of faculty and scholars.



The Chief Editor

Azhagu Newsletter

Publications Division

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

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