

Vikrama Simhapuri University Nellore

6th & 7th Convocations Ceremony



**Vice-Chancellor's Report
Prof. G.M. Sundaravalli**

**Tuesday, 24th May 2022 at 11.30 hrs
Vikrama Simhapuri University Campus,
Kakutur,
Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District
Andhra Pradesh**

GREETINGS

Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University - His Excellency Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan ji, the eminent Chief Guest of the Convocation - Dr.D.N. Reddy, Chancellor of Mallareddy University, Hyderabad, Recipient of Honoris Causa - Shri Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sri City, Tada, esteemed Members of the Executive Council, Deans, University Officials, Directors, Principals of Constituent Colleges and Affiliated Colleges, Academic and Non-Academic Staff, Former Vice-Chancellors, Rectors and Registrars, Graduating Students, Gold Medal winners, Parents, representatives of the Print and Electronic Media, respected guests, invitees, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore, I deem it a great honour to welcome you all to this 6th & 7th Convocations of our University. It's a great pleasure, and indeed an honour to have our revered Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor-His Excellency Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan ji, this morning. The University is privileged to have Dr. D.N. Reddy as Chief Guest-*cum*-Orator and Shri Ravindra Sannareddy as Honoris Causa recipient on this memorable occasion. I extend a warm welcome to all of you on this happy occasion of 6th and 7th combined convocations of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore. Though there is no need of introduction about the three dignitaries on the dais, it is customary to briefly introduce them with their kind permission.

Chancellor of the University

His Excellency the Hon'ble Governor was born on 3rd August 1934 as the second son of Late Parasuram Harichandan ji in a family of warriors having a lineage of the Harichandan dynasty of erstwhile Banpur Kingdom. A versatile genius and an ardent fighter for the cause of Odisha, obtained his Honors degree in Economics and LLB. After earning a high reputation in his legal profession, he came into the limelight in politics by virtue of having high morals, integrity and efficiency. As a Cabinet Minister of the Govt. of Odisha, he was successful in handling all the portfolios and left indelible marks. The people of Odisha always remember his significant contributions to economic development, culture and literature and now the newly carved state of Andhra Pradesh as he assumed charge as Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh on 24th July 2019.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University for giving me an opportunity to serve this University as Vice-Chancellor and contribute to the progress of Higher Education in this State.

Chief Guest-cum-Orator

Today's Chief Guest, Dr. D.N. Reddy, presently the Chancellor of Malla Reddy University-Hyderabad, was Chairman for Board of Recruitment and Assessment Centre, DRDO. Dr. D.N. Reddy, Former Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad, is a reputed academician and is known for his affable and inspiring personality. He began his academic career as a member of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Osmania University-Hyderabad, where he was actively engaged in teaching, research, institutional building and academic administration under various capacities.

On this occasion, I am very much thankful to Dr. D.N. Reddy for accepting our invitation to participate in this convocation as Chief Guest-*cum*-Orator.

Recipient of Honoris Casa Doctorate

Shri Ravindra Sannareddy is the Managing Director of Sri City, which is the largest Integrated Business City in South India. He has been involved in creating and sustaining high-tech ventures for two decades. Today, Shri Ravindra Sannareddy is an established industry-captain with diverse interests in Infrastructure Development and other allied businesses. He also personifies the success story of a young first-generation entrepreneur who has his roots in rural background and who has grown his personal stature and his businesses to immense international scale and size in a short span of time. As a “son of the soil”, he decided to give back to the society and uplift the economically backward region where he was born. He amalgamated his extensive experience gained by living and doing business abroad with his strong roots in the local communities in creating Sri City, a striking example of new urbanism in India. He has been successfully leading his team to accomplish his mission to make Sri City, as the destination for the best companies of the world.

He holds an M.S.E. Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA and an M.S. Degree in Water Resources Management from Utah State University, Logan, Utah, USA and a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from National Institute of Technology (formerly REC), Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

On this occasion, my special thanks to Shri Ravindra Sannareddy for his presence here today as Honoris Causa doctorate recipient.

CONVOCATION REPORT

I wish to present a brief report on the major activities and achievements of this University in the last five years with a focus on the last academic year, 2020-21.

Vikrama Simhapuri University was established on 25th June 2008 in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. The brainchild and founder of the University Late Sri Y. S. Rajasekar Reddy garu has created this University with a vision and mission of developing quality, equity, access and relevance. It is pertinent to mention here that dreams of the visionary are being fulfilled with hard working and dedicated team of staff working for the University. The Post-Graduate Centre, Kavali with 77.8 acres campus, established in 1979 was transferred to Vikrama Simhapuri University by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 6th January 2011. In 2022, the PG Centre-Kavali is renamed as VSU College-Kavali. Presently there are 98 affiliated Colleges under the jurisdiction of Vikrama Simhapuri University offering diversified study programmes.

The University has been functioning from its own campus at Kakatur in Venkatachalam Mandal since March 2017. Strong foundations were laid down by my predecessor Vice-Chancellors - Prof. C. R. Visweswara Rao, Prof. G. Rajarami Reddy, Prof. V. Veeraiah and Prof. R. Sudarsana Rao during the period of 2008 to 2021. I have been putting my best efforts to develop this University in all facets of academics and research to achieve the objective of excellence since I assumed charge on 26th of November 2021. The First Convocation was held on 9th June 2014 and Dr. V. Bhujanga Rao, Chairman, DRDO was the Chief Guest-*cum*-Orator and Honoris Causa Doctorate recipient. The combined second, third, fourth and fifth convocations were held on 21st January 2020 and Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Hon'ble Vice-President of India was the Chief Guest-*cum*-Orator.

Academics and Faculty

The University has grown from six regular Departments to 17 Departments besides having self-supporting postgraduate programmes like Microbiology, Analytical Chemistry, Commerce, Applied

Mathematics, Statistics, Education, English, Telugu and Computer Science, Computer Applications and Business Administration. The University is offering 13 diploma programmes viz., PG Diplomas in Fire and Industrial Safety, Environmental Health and Industrial Safety, Port Operations and Terminal Management, Bioinformatics, Marketing Management etc., At present, there are three Faculties in the University- Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Commerce & Management and Faculty of Sciences. There is a proposal to start locally, regionally and industrially relevant PG programmes to cater to the needs of the society and industry in the next academic year and also to close down certain programmes which are found to be not viable.

Recently, the Govt. of India took a giant leap forward by announcing its new education policy-2020 (NEP-2020), almost three decades after the last major revision was made to the policy in 1986. According to the guidelines of NEP-2020, the already existing programmes in the University are designed to cater to the needs of the industry and society. Revamping of the existing syllabus is under process by including value added courses, internal electives, open electives, skill development courses, skill enhancement courses and specializations with necessary internship and projects. Multi-disciplinary curricula will also be designed based on the guidelines and framework of NEP-2020. All this is being planned by duly involving the industry and after taking their inputs and suggestions. Recently, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh had an interactive session with Vice-Chancellor's on NEP-2020 on 5th May 2022 which was encouraging.

At present the teaching programmes are run by 40 regular faculty, 38 Academic Consultants, and 40 Guest Faculty. Recently, 8 Assistant Professors are promoted to Associate Professors under Career Advancement Scheme.

During the last year, Departments of the Constituent units have organized many activities which attracted a large number of participants from all over India. Faculty members of the University have attended several training programmes, workshops, National/International Conferences and have delivered invited talks, presented papers and chaired sessions. Further, faculty members have got several awards, Distinctions and Appreciations to add to the glory of the institution.

Dr. Ch. Venkatrayulu, Head (I/c), Department of Food Technology, VSU College, Nellore acted as Co-organizer for the 4th Postgraduate Symposium (Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Food Security) in collaboration with University Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Malaysia through online on 9th December 2021. (Faculty)

Dr. Kiranmai Chadipiralla, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology has organised an international webinar on “Present and Future Prospects of Stem cell Biology” on 17th October 2020. Dr. Vidya Prabhakar Kodali, Departments of Botany, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore organized the International Webinar on “Advances in Health Care Technologies” through online on 16th December 2021.

In tune with the directions given by our Hon’ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Sri Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy garu, the University is contemplating on increasing the gross enrolment ration to the country’s best while not compromising on providing quality education to the students. The student community today is amply benefited through government schemes such as Jagananna Vidya Devena and Jagananna Vasathi Devena and are being encouraged to avail quality education for otherwise deprived downtrodden communities.

The University has conducted Online Classes to the students during lock down period of COVID-19 pandemic. The University

entered into a MOU with Code Tantra a Teaching and Learning Platform for the purpose of conducting online classes in addition to Google Meet, Zoom etc., to facilitate the faculty and students to take up more number and better Quality of Online Classes during 2020-21.

Research and Development

The Ph.D. programme has been offered in 13 Departments since 2010. As many as 160 full-time scholars and 85 part-time scholars were admitted and so far 60 full-time scholars and 45 part-time scholars successfully completed and awarded Ph.D. degrees. As many as 40 full-time research scholars have been awarded research fellowships by various agencies like UGC, CSIR, DST, ICSSR, etc. I am happy to inform that the faculty have been sanctioned research projects worth of more than 5 crores. In addition, the Biotechnology Department has been sanctioned 78 lakhs for DST-FIST programme for a period of five years. I am very happy to inform that the Department of Biotechnology has been equipped with advanced laboratory equipment worth of 3 crore rupees and the Department is hopeful of getting patent rights for its research work shortly. In order to share the research findings and with an objective to disseminate the same to the larger public, University has launched a new platform “University Research Forum” on 16th November 2018. The Research and Development Cell is also established in February 2022 to monitor all research activities in the University as per the guidelines of UGC. Incubation and Innovation Centre is also established to enrich ideas of both students and faculty to disseminate the knowledge and outputs to the society and industry.

The faculty are academically active and have been pursuing research in the subjects of their interest. Thrust areas of research with societal significance have been identified and proposals are being prepared by the faculty to submit it to the national and state level agencies

for research funding. In this connection, a complete roadmap is being prepared for establishing quality research ecosystem in the University to motivate and monitor the research work of doctoral students and faculty.

Research Publications

In general all the faculty members have good numbers of research publications in top tiered scientific journals with good impact factor and with highest number of citations being 1690 and h-index between 10 and 25.

Dr. Vidya Prabhakar Kodali, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, VSU, Nellore has ongoing project i.e “Antagonistic activity of *Pongamia pinnata* against quorum signal molecule produced by a marine bacterium” by the funding agency of National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) Govt. of India, New Delhi with a total grant of Rs. 37.12 lakhs. Dr. P. Srinivas, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, VSU College, Kavali has ongoing project i.e “Impact of Skill Development Training programme of Livelihoods of Youth” by the funding agency of ICSSR with a total grant of Rs. 7.5 lakhs.

The University has strong industrial linkages and has undertaken MOUs with six industries and enterprises. The University organized University-Industry interaction workshop on 14th February 2018 and in view of the overwhelming response and its usefulness, the University has decided to organize more of such interactive workshops in future. It's really a matter of pride to enter into collaboration with the following industries and reputed institutions in India to achieve excellence in scholastic activities.

The University has entered into MOU with Adani Skill Development Centre (ASDC), Krishnapatnam to start the courses viz.,

Certificate and Diploma programmes and introduction of courses related to Industrial and Port Operational Skills (IPOS) in existing MBA programmes offered in the Colleges under the jurisdiction of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore for the academic year 2021-22. The MOU has been established for a period of three years for the purpose of cooperation, coordination, support and exchange of knowledge with regard to programmes to be offered at ASDC and affiliation of the courses and development of curricula by the Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore.

The University has also entered into MOU with KVR Scientifics Services, Nellore for providing external service server management for implementation of Microsoft Office 365 in the University for the purpose of Teaching and Learning Environment to have effective online teaching. Some of the other MoUs are:

1. Lincoln University College, Malaysia Since May 2018
2. University of Kabangsaan, Malaysia (2018)
3. Millennium University, Malawi (2018)
4. Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT), Chennai, India Since May 2018
5. BMR Group of Industries & Exports Pvt. Ltd., Chennai & Andhra Pradesh
6. Narayana Hospitals (in association with Biotechnology Dept.)
7. Krishnapatnam Security Services (Pvt) Ltd. Krishnapatnam, Nellore
8. Hi-Tech Pharma Limited, Nellore (in association with Marine Biology Department)
9. Iranian Ornamental Fish Society, Tehran by Department of Marine Biology in 2020
10. Sahasra Crop Science Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad since 2022.

Vikrama Simhapuri University is having international linkages with Universities in USA, UK, Australia and Malaysia to promote exchange programmes of faculty and students for academic and research studies in the identified subjects and to undertake mutually beneficial collaborations. In this connection, a Centre for International Academic and Research Studies has been established in the University in 2019.

In the last two years, 25 National Seminars / Conferences / Workshops and Symposia and 1 International Seminar was organized in the University.

International seminar on “Impact of Globalization on MSMEs- Prospects, Challenges and Policy Implications on Growth” organized by Prof Suja S Nair, dept of Business management (2019) sponsored by ICSSR-under the scheme “ Impactful Policy Research in Social Science ”

International Webinar on “COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on sustainable aqua culture and global trade” during September, 2020 organized by Dr. Ch. Vijaya, Dept. of Marine Biology.

Examination System

The entire examination process, except valuation of scripts, has been digitalized. During the last five-year period, about 56,000 students completed their academic programmes in the University as well as through its affiliated colleges. Moreover, the examination system is also under process of transformation to meet the requirements of NEP-2020. To support the controller of examinations , three additional controller of examinations were appointed.

Infrastructure Facilities

At present, the University has a central Administrative Building (Sri Potti Sriramulu Bhawan), one academic block (Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Building), Pinakini Men's Hostel and Swarnamuki Women's Hostel and a Seminar Hall (Sir C.V.Raman Seminar Hall).

The University has witnessed notable augmentation in infrastructure in the recent past by expanding its facilities through completion of incomplete buildings and also building a Pariksha Bhavan, open gyms, expansion of both boys & girls hostels.

Student Support Services

I am happy to inform that Vikrama Simhapuri University is a ragging free University. Anti Ragging programmes were organized every year to bring awareness among the students. The University has been trying to provide all student support services. Study tours in the concerned Departments have been resumed since last academic year. The APSSDC sanctioned three Skill Development Units in 2018. The University has established a Centre for Skill Development under which three programmes were conducted during 2018-19. University has also made a tie-up with IIT, Mumbai for online software tutorials with free of cost certification in 2020 with a view to enhance the soft skills of the students. For the first time, Inter-Collegiate Youth Festival has been organized in Vikrama Simhapuri University in September 2019 in both cultural and literary events. Various facilities relating to medical, grievance redressal, transport are being provided. A Legal Aid Cell has also been launched in the University in December 2018.

The Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore in collaboration with A.P. Skill Development Corporation has organized skill connect drive on 16-02-2022. Reliance Nippon, Bharath FIH, Sree Ram City Union Finance Limited and other companies participated in the drive. A total of 97 candidates have attended the drive, of which 47 candidates got employment.

The Department of Chemistry, Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore in collaboration with Delta Bio Pharma Pvt. Ltd. has organized employment placement drive on 04-03-2022. Six candidates have been selected from Dept. of Chemistry, VSU Campus, Nellore.

Training & Placement Cell

The Training & Placement Cell of VSU acts as an interface between the industry and the students and primarily enables the students to select from their career options. It also provides a place for employers to find manpower suitable for their requirements.

The main Partners are:

1. Divi's Laboratories Ltd, Chennai
2. BMR Group of industries , Nellore and Chennai
3. Shreeja Cooperative milk Producers Society, Tirupathi
4. Sricity , Tada
5. KPCL NELLORE
6. Avanthi feeds ltd, Chennai
7. Axis Securities, Hyderabad & Chennai
8. SBI Life Insurance, AP
9. Shriram Group of industries, Hyderabad
10. Apollo Hospitals, Chennai
11. GJ Solutions, Chennai
12. Srivari Enterprises, Chennai
13. Reliance (P) Ltd, Chennai
14. Aurobindo Pharmacy (P) Ltd, Naidupeta, AP
15. CPAqua Culture, India (P) Ltd , Chennai
16. ECL Pharma Chennai

Since 2014 to till date, the Training and Placement Cell has organized 45 Campus Placement Drives and got placed 725 students from VSU College Nellore and Kavali and 2780 Students were placed through the various Off - Campus placement drives conducted by the other agencies like AP State Skill Development Corporation and AISHE-NASSUM Program.

The most important activity of the Training and Placement Cell is “University- Industry Interaction” to bring down the gap between Industry and Academia it conducts a meet every year on 14th February to discuss the various issues and breakthroughs between the industry Practices and University Curriculum since 2019.

Even in Pandemic conditions in the year 2021 we organized ‘Virtual University- Industry Interaction Meet’ under the President ship of Late Shri ‘Mekapati Gowtham Reddy’ then IT & Industry Minister of AP. Many Great Industrial persons like Shrikamath, Business Head, Sricity, A.P.K Reddy MSME National President, Sri G.J Rao, CEO Aadhani Group, Sri Rajendra, Former Head, Training KPCL, Manager District Industrial Development Corporation Nellore, Sri Balachander, MD Waterbase (P) Ltd and Chairman N. V. Ramana Reddy, Hi-tech Pharma Nellore , Sri Rammohan Rao IAS, Visakhapatnam Port Trust , Vizag.

The main Sponsors for the “University- Industry Interaction” Program are KPCL, Nellore, Hitech Pharma, Nellore, Sricity Tada, BMR Group of Industries, Nellore and Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam.

NSS Activities

The VSU NSS Cell has been very vibrant and taken up number of programmes for the community development and rendered services

during COVID-19 pandemic and Cyclones Period. At present the NSS Cell has a strength of 11,000 volunteers which is spread over 92 colleges and 110 units. There are 3 NSS units in the Main Campus in Nellore and one at University College, Kavali. The NSS Cell of VSU has been undertaking varied programmes relating to health, environment, conservation of natural resources, leadership, literacy and several kinds of awareness programmes especially among youth and rural population. Dr. R. Prabhakar, Dr. Y. Vijaya and Dr. Uday Sankar Allam got awards for their best performance at National, State and District level. The University secured second place and received National Award in National Service Scheme for the Academic Year 2017-18 from the Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind on 24-09-2019. Here we have to acknowledge the hard work of Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy, the then coordinator, NSS who succumbed to COVID-19 on 25.05.2021 while working as State NSS Officer on deputation at A. P. Secretariat, Amaravathi.

The NSS Cell had taken up many activities during the first and second waves of COVID-19 to assist the needy with basic needs enabling their survival during these tough times. Among them are distribution of masks and sanitizer bottles, raising awareness on COVID-19 through posters and banners, sanitization of local affected communities, organizing blood and plasma donation camps, lab testing for COVID-19, but most importantly feeding the hungry. No matter what may or may not be required, one needs food to survive.

The NSS Unit had been working diligently to identify the needy suffering from hunger and provided them with food required to survive yet another day during this ongoing pandemic period. A total of eight food camps were organized across highways being passed by about 1600 migrant workers walking bare-foot, going back to their hometowns

for lack of employment in their migrant state. About 250 indigent families and migrant families who did not have PDS cards were supplied with food packages comprising of fresh vegetables and other basic ingredients. The help is extended not only to humans but also to the stray animals which are deprived off no hope of survival.

Sports and Games

The University has 10 acres of land allotted exclusively for undertaking sports activities and right now moderate facilities are available to play both indoor and outdoor games. Every year the University organises Inter-Collegiate Tournaments and Athletic meets and sponsors the winners in South Zone and at the National level. The University has organized South Zone Inter-University Table Tennis tournament for Men and Women for the year 2019-20. I am happy to inform that the University has been under active consideration for Khelo India programme by the District Administration for which we are thankful to them.

The Faculty of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore, Dr. K. Suneetha, VSU Sports Board Secretary (I/c) and Mrs. Gayathri Anupama have participated in 40th Andhra Pradesh State Masters Athletic Meet held at Guntur during 8-9th January 2022 organized by Masters Athletic Federation of India. Dr. K. Suneetha got Silver Medal in Discuss throw by securing second position. Both Dr. K. Suneetha and Mrs Gayathri Anupama Qualified for National Meet in 3 events i.e Shot-put, hammer throw and discuss throw which were scheduled in the month of February-March 2022 at Hyderabad.

The selected teams of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore has participated in the sports events of Kho-Kho Men at Bangalore North University, Bangalore, Handball Men at University of Calicut, Calicut organized by South Zone Inter University Tournaments and in

the events of Taekwondo men at University of Kerala, Kerala, Softball Men at ANU, Guntur, Chess Men and Chess Women at SRM, Chennai organized by All India Inter University Tournament.

The Vikrama Simhapuri University Sports Board is striving hard to promote the sports and sports persons by organizing many of the zonal and Inter-collegiate sports events. Further sending selected teams to south India / All India Inter-University Tournaments held in various States in India. The Sports Board took the responsibility of not only providing the necessary infrastructure that helps the students to inculcate good habit of playing games and also in developing sportsmanship and comradeship.

VSU Sports Board organised 13 Inter-Collegiate Sports and Games Tournaments. A total of 1,800 students participated and among them 360 plus are winners and runners in various events. Further, 164 players of 19 teams participated in All India/South Zone tournaments held in various states of India. Sports Board is continuously organizing coaching camps for players who represented University. VSU Sports Board is providing 40 merit scholarships every year for the players who perform better in sports events with a cash award of Rs. 3,000. Further, 4 institutional championships of Rs. 25,000 each in sports and games (02) and in athletics (02) for men and women, respectively.

University has a standard size 8-line clay track at its premises, where space is reserved to conduct activities like Shotput, Javelin, High Jump, Triple Jump, etc. The university had earmarked 10 acres of land for Outdoor Games namely, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Ball Badminton, Throw Ball, Tennikoit and multipurpose ground for Soft Ball, etc.

Extension and Outreach Activities

As per the directions of AP Higher Education Council, the Community

Development Programme has been initiated to bring awareness in people of entire district through the student groups of under graduation and post graduation. In addition, the Social Science Departments particularly the Department of Social Work has been undertaking several extension activities in association with the University NSS Cell. With a view to establish the link between the College and the Village several programmes have been organized to sensitise rural people especially women and youth. It is decided by the University to adopt some villages to undertake extension activities by the students and faculty.

Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore established a Centre for Extension Activities (CEA) in 2018. Besides providing rural exposure to students, it aims to sensitize and train the rural women, farmers and rural unemployed youth in the production of bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers, tissue culture, production of horticulture and medicinal plants, mushroom culture and motivating them to take up these as small scale enterprises.

It was decided by the University during the academic year 2020-21, that every student participates in the College to Village Programme (CVP) at least twice in a semester to have rural exposure and first hand understanding of rural issues. This initiative enables the students, research scholars and the faculty of the conceptual value of Gandhian dream of Gram Swaraj.

The Centre for Extension Activities adopted Chowtapalem Village for its College to Village Programme for undertaking a social economic survey in which about 200 students and 15 faculty members along with Dr. K. Suneetha, Co-ordinator and Dr. R. Madhumathi Co-ordinator participated. Besides other socio economic aspects, the pre-structures questionnaire and personal interviews have focussed on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 1. Good Health and 2. Well Being (3) Quality Education (4) Gender Equality (5) Clean Water and Sanitation (6) and Affordable and Clean Energy.

Unnat Bharath Abhiyan

Vikrama Simhapuri University (VSU) being located in a predominantly rural environment, established Centre for Extension Activities (CEAs) with the aim of transforming the rural people into dynamic and sustainable citizens. Extension activities are particularly focused on the six mission areas of Education, Health Care, Nutritional Education, Women Empowerment, Youth Counselling, Gerontological and other relevant interventions relevant to the societal needs. VSU-CEA initiated “University to Community Interaction Programme” with a vision i.e., “Strengthening College -Village / University to Community connections through scientific service learning by raising the young students with social concern and commitment.

The Mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher education institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India.

The VSU students every Saturday along with faculty mentors and Centre for Extension Activities (CEA) coordinators visited the community to Carryout extension activities in the adopted villages in Venkatachalam Mandal.

Vikrama Simhapuri University obtained permission from District Collector of SPS Nellore to adopt 5 villages under UBA namely Kanupur Bit-1, Kanupur Bit-2, Kantepalli, Golagamudi and Kakuturuto carry out UBA programmes. VSU (AISHE code: U-0044) has been registered as participating Institution in UBA by UBA-National Coordinating Institution, IIT-New Delhi.

Further released seed money Rs. 50,000 to conduct village survey and develop rapport with community and develop village development plans. In this connection the VSU students have visited all 5 adopted villages to understand the community life, to conduct research/survey on to prepare a data base on the village which include the socio-economic status of the inhabitants, natural resources, traditional knowledge systems, cropping patterns, occupational practices, knowledge and access of welfare supports by the government and NGOs, etc. Further focused on the issues or hurdles for the development of women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups in the community. With support of student volunteers identified various prevailing social issues/problems, gaps in implementation welfare programs by Government and provided knowledge on various issues like health, hygiene, education, self-employment.

Welfare Measures

There are about 175 supporting staff in various cadres and categories. Of the total supporting staff, 53 are in the regular category. The University has been extending Education, Marriage and Vehicle Loans at subsidised rate of interest to its employees. Recently a Mutually Aided Cooperative Building Society has been established for providing houses/plots to the members of the society with the cooperation of district administration. All the employees of the University are having health insurance under Employees Health Scheme of Andhra Pradesh Govt.

Women Grievance and Empowerment Cell

The University established Women Grievance Cell which works for the women empowerment and redress of the problems. It continuously works to motivate and educate women employee in all aspects. Every year international Women's day is celebrated by conducting workshops, webinars and eminent women achievers are

invited who enlighten, inspire and motivate the women students and staff to excel in all fields.

Various Centres

There are different centres or cells in the University like the Grievance Cells for different social groups like OBC, Women, SC/ST Grievances, Disciplinary Committee, IQAC, NAAC, etc. In addition, the University established several Centres recently which will help to improve the governance and to achieve the objectives of development and social justice.

Clean, Green and Plastic-Free Campus

Under the clean and green programme on the campus, the University has undertaken a massive plantation programme in association with the Social Forestry Department, Nellore. As many as 64,800 saplings of 12 varieties were planted in an extent of 5 acres land by adopting the Akira Miyawaki Japanese method. Students Green Clubs have been formed to nurture the green cover which enhances the survival rate of the plants. It is being contemplated to make the entire campus plastic free very soon. VSU has also organized a plantation program as part of the Jaganana Pachatoranam-Vanamahostavam on 21st December 2021 by planting saplings in the campus. In order to harvest and store rainwater, 5 farm ponds have been constructed in the low-lying areas of the University campus in order to increase the ground water levels.

Distinguished Visitors

Ministers of AP Govt., MPs and MLAs and officials have visited the University on various occasions. Senior Scientists, academicians, Vice-Chancellors of State Universities and senior faculty also visited for academic and research purpose.

The University has organized the National Science Day-2022 on 28-02-2022 in the University Campus in an important way. Sri A. Rajarajan, Distinguished Scientist and Director, SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota participated as Chief Guest whose splendid speech impressed and inspired many students.

Simhapuri Distinguished Lecture Series

The VSU launched Simhapuri Distinguished Lecture Series inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Education. Under the programme the University has organized 8th lecture of Simhapuri Distinguished Lecture Series on 26.11.2021 on the occasion of Constitution Day by Prof. Y.R. Haragopal Reddy, Former Vice-Chancellor, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur delivered lecture on "Indian Constitution and the role of Judiciary in the Protection of Human Rights".

Conferring Degrees

A total number of 4323 candidates registered for taking degrees in this convocation. Out of these, 4071 graduates and postgraduates conferred degrees *in-absentia*, and 252 postgraduates are conferred degrees in-person. Five doctoral students are conferred Ph.D. degrees *in-presence* in this convocation. A total of 18 Gold Medals in various disciplines are instituted by philanthropists are given to 26 students in this Convocation. I wish to congratulate all the Gold Medal Awardees and thank the donors.

Acknowledgements

I am very confident and hopeful that this University will make good strides in its progress by exploiting its maximum potential with the cooperation and commitment of the Faculty, Research Scholars, Students and Staff of the University, the continuous support of the Government, the Chancellor, the support of various funding agencies and the

encouragement and support of the enlightened and philanthropic people of Nellore District.

The entire University is grateful to our Hon'ble Governor and the most respected Chancellor of this University - His Excellency Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan ji for his gracious presence for the valuable message and for the consent to hold the convocations. Sir I am sure that your gracious presence and the convocation address will always be remembered by the graduates and definitely will help them in shaping their careers.

I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh - Sri Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education-Sri Botcha Satyanarayana and other Government officials for their cooperation in development of the University.

I am grateful to Dr. D.N. Reddy for his acceptance and his wonderful motivational convocation address and Shri Ravindra Sannareddy for his acceptance to receive Honorary Causa Ph.D. I am thankful to all the members of Executive Council, Deans, Principals, Teaching Faculty, Staff of the University for their constant cooperation in the conduct of the convocation. I am thankful to all the representatives of Press and Electronic Media for their cooperation and good coverage of the University activities. I thank everyone who have either directly or indirectly helped in the smooth conduct of the convocation and making the event a grand success.

Prof. G.M. Sundaravalli

VICE-CHANCELLOR