

VIKRAMA SIMHAPURI UNIVERSITY

*First Convocation*



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Prof. G. Rajarami Reddy

Monday, 09 June, 2014

11.00 a.m.

SRI VENKATESWARA KASTURBA KALAKSHETRAM

Dargmitta, NELLORE

ANDHRA PRADESH

Your Excellency, Shri E S L Narasimhan, Chancellor of this University, Distinguished Guest, Dr. V. Bhujanga Rao, Distinguished Scientist, DRDO, Visiting Dignitaries, revered guests, Members of the Monitoring and Development Committee of the University and Academic Senate of the University, the Faculty, supporting staff, students, the new graduates, ladies and gentlemen, I extend a cordial welcome to all of you on the First Convocation of Vikrama Simhapuri University.

On this occasion, the University takes legitimate pride in honouring the Distinguished Scientist, Dr. V. Bhujanga Rao. He is one among the leading architects of the frontline Defence Systems and Advanced Combat Machines of the Country. It is gratifying that our University has now the opportunity of honouring him on the First Convocation.

I wish to present a brief report on the activities and achievements of the University and apprise you of the major highlights during the last six years.

VIKRAMA SIMHAPURI UNIVERSITY, Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore district, was established by Act No. 29/2008 enacted by the Legislature of the State of Andhra Pradesh on 25th June 2008. It started offering six Postgraduate courses of contemporary relevance from August 2008.

Research programmes leading to the award of the Ph.D degree have been launched on 29 August 2010. The University is given affiliating status by the Government on 09th April 2010, to exercise its powers of affiliation under the A.P. Universities Act, 1991, to bring UG/PG/ Professional/Oriental, etc., colleges in Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore district under its jurisdiction from the academic year 2010 – 11. Thus 127 colleges, hitherto affiliated to Sri Venkateswara University, have been brought under the fold of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore. The UGC conferred recognition on the degrees awarded by the University under Section 22 of the UGC Act, dated 20th January 2010. The University is admitted into the Association of Indian Universities on 02nd June 2010. The Post Graduate Centre, Kavali, with 77.8 acre campus, established in 1979, was transferred to the University by the Higher Education Department on 06th January 2011.

The first Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. C.R. Visweswara Rao laid down his office on July 27, 2011. The University achieved several milestones including development of infrastructure, setting up laboratories, implementing Choice Based Credit System, succeeded in getting land allotted, and a grant of about Rs. 15 crores for the construction of the University buildings. The University is carefully nurtured to attain the ennobled vision and mission during his term of office.

The University has two campuses. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has allotted 83.31 acres of land to the University at Kakuturu (Venkatachalam Mandal, Nellore). The PG Centre at Kavali has 77.8 acre campus established in 1979. As the District administration has recently handed over the land in Nellore, construction activity has been initiated, and very hopefully, the University operates from its new campus from the next academic year.

The University has grown from 06 regular departments to 17 departments in all, at both the campuses. From 06 courses, the University College, Nellore is now offering 12 courses under regular stream, while from 04 courses offered at PG Centre, Kavali, two more courses, Botany and Mathematics have been brought under regular stream from 2013.

The Post-Graduate Centre, Kavali, has been given its due share of development with 1.65 crores of construction and beautification activity undertaken during the past two years. The first floor of the Women's Hostel at the Centre has been completed to accommodate 90 students in the annexe. The Seminar Hall, Open-Air Auditorium, modernization of the Science Laboratories in Physics and Zoology Departments, Dining Hall Renovation in Men's Hostel and laying the internal roads of the Centre have been done along with the cosmetization of the Centre.

The University is given a block grant of Rs. 2.75 crores and 3.48 crores for VSU PG Centre, Kavali, for the 2011 – '12 financial year. The State Government has granted Rs. 15 crores for the construction of the buildings at the site allotted and Rs. 5 crores has been received as catch-up grant from the University Grants Commission.



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For the 2012 – '13 financial year, the University is allotted Rs. 9.78 crores out of which Rs. 4.78 crores has been granted for its maintenance and Rs. 5 crores has been granted for the purpose of constructing buildings in the site allotted.

For the Financial Year 2013 – '14, the University is allotted Rs. 10.38 crores, which is solely for the maintenance of the institute inclusive of PG Centre, Kavali.

Three International Conferences have been organized in two years with Environmental Pollution and its allied areas in focus. Scientists from six countries have attended the first International Symposium on "Environmental Impacts, Health Implications and Therapeutic Approaches, (ISEHT-2012), July 15 -17 2012. Five hundred scientists from all over the country presented their research insights on the myriad themes of the Symposium.

- o The second International Symposium "Current Trends in Environmental Toxicology and Experimental Therapeutics", (ISETET- 2012) was organized during 18-19 December 2012, with the Department of Chemistry playing an active role. International Scientists from the USA, South Africa, and Panama attended the event. The International Symposium on
- o The Third International Symposium, "Environmental Pollution, Nutrition & Genetics and a Special Symposium on "Cancer Biology and Therapeutics" is jointly organized by the University Health Science Centre, University of Texas, USA along with our University, during 27-29 December 2013. International Scientists from the USA, Germany, Malaysia, and SAARC countries attended this Symposium along with over 500 participants, delegates and scientists from all over India.

Doctoral study for PhD was extended to 04 more subjects in addition to the 05 subjects in which the programme was offered. VSURESET-2012 was conducted on 14th October 2012. A new batch of PhD students had been admitted in its aftermath.

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The University departments are almost full with the increase in the admissions into the departments going up from 184 in 2011 to touching the 300 mark in the University College.

The University for the First Time conducted its own Common Entrance Test VSUPGCET- 2012, for admissions into its PG Programmes. The examinations were conducted on 27, 28, 29 May 2012.

Two PG Diploma courses have been introduced in June 2012 through an MoU with Krishnapatnam Port Security Services Private Limited. Post Graduate Diploma in Fire & Safety and Health and PG Diploma in Environment Health and Safety. These diplomas are started with an intention to provide decent job opportunities to the higher secondary and under graduate students. The first batch of students passed out with job orders in hand.

Padma Vibhushan Prof. MS Swaminadhan, the architect of Indian Green revolution visited the University on 22nd July 2012. He said that the objective pursuit of Science is for social fulfillment through improving the living standards by quality solutions and technological applications.

A New website for the University is launched with an even mix of static and dynamic features on 27th December 2012.

Hostel facility is provided to both the boys and girls and transport facility is also extended to those accommodated in hostels.

Offers for financial and academic support have always been encouraging as a Young Entrepreneur, Sri Prathap Bheemireddy, founder of a US based Software firm, Business Intelli Solutions, has handed over \$ 10 K (six lakh odd in Indian currency), in a formal occasion in the University on 20th January 2014.

INSPIRE, a DST sponsored career-modeling programme, was organized consecutively for two years. INSPIRE will also be launched in July this year.

Prof. M. Srinivasulu Reddy and Prof. P.R. Siva Sankar, received the A.P State Best Teacher Award for meritorious teachers during 2012 and 2013 respectively.



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The University has extended the benefit of Vehicle Loan for the Staff with Minimum Interest Rates during the year 2013.

New faculty have been recruited in two phases. Now the University has 36 Members of faculty while the PG Centre at Kavali has 11 members.

Adjunct faculty have been appointed chosen from the academic NRI community to visit the University for academic exchange programmes. Dr. K. Chandra Reddy, Dean, Tennessee State University, USA, Dr. Seshamma T Reddy, New Jersey, USA, Dr. A.V. Ramana Reddy, Distinguished Scientist, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have joined these ranks.

The University is admitted as a full member into Association of Commonwealth Universities which has its executive office in London, UK. The University is now one among the 500 institutions across the world for having membership in the association.

The University has been admitted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961- deduction in respect of Donations to certain funds, charitable institutions, etc. in May 2014.

UGC-NET Free Coaching camps were conducted in the Departments of English, Telugu and Organic Chemistry in 2013.

08 Gold Medals and 01 Endowment Lecture have been instituted in the University Departments.

Dr. T.V. Subbaiah, USA, instituted a Gold Medal in the name of Late Sri Trithala Venkataramaiah in the Department of Marine Biology.

Prof. Raj Reddy, USA, instituted Prof. K.C. Reddy Gold Medal in the Department of Computer Science.

Prof. K. Srinivasulu and his son Com. Sridhar Kotra, NM, instituted a Gold Medal in the Department of Organic Chemistry in memory of Late Prof. V. Krishna Murthy, Retired Professor in the US.

Maj. Gen. R. Siva Kumar, Head, NRDMS, New Delhi has instituted a

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Gold Medal in the Department of Business Management for the best outgoing girl student.

Andhra Bank, VR. College Campus instituted a Gold Medal.

B. Adi Narayana Reddy, Bharat Builders instituted S.R. Sankaran Memorial Gold Medal for the best out-going student in the Department of Social Work.

Sri Beeda Ramanaiah Gold Medal has been instituted by Sri Beeda Mastan Rao, MLA Kavali, in memory of his father for the best outgoing Student in M.Com.

Seshamma T Reddy, USA, instituted a Gold Medal in the University.

Prof. Vennlakanti Prakasam, Professor of English in The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, instituted an Endowment Lecture in the Department of English.

Sri K. Prakash Rao, Chief Project Director, Krishnapatnam Port, Reliance Power donated Rs. 1 lakh for supporting poor students' education.

The University is going to start three Integrated Courses: M.Sc Food Science and Technology, M.Sc Biotechnology and Masters in Business Administration from the current year. The University from this year is also starting a constituent Engineering College.

Student Care fund initially with Rs. 2 Lakhs has been instituted to take care of the health and wellness of the students. This scheme takes its force from the current year with the Government's approval.

The National Service Scheme Cell (NSS) of the University has 100 units with a volunteer strength of 10,000 students to take active lead in social upbringing and upliftment. Since its constitution in 2009, 82 special camps have been conducted all over the district. Blood Donation Camps, Planting the saplings, Camping in the rural and semi-urban areas were organized on all the occasions of national importance. 3200 units of blood have been donated during the last three years. The NSS programme members constantly upgrade their skill-sets and shape themselves by attend

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ing Training Camps organized across the nation. Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy, Programme Coordinator received Certificate of Excellence from the Finance Minister on August 15, 2013 for all his efforts.

Seventeen Sports Camps have been conducted and 22 student teams have been sent to various inter-university tournaments all over the country during 2012 – '13 academic year.

The University has been promoting sportspersons through giving a prize money of Rs.2000 to 30 sportspersons (out of whom 20 sportsmen and 10 sportswomen) who show outstanding performance in the competitions, get the benefit under this scheme. A prize money of Rs. 20000/ for the sportspersons is awarded as motivation to the sportspersons who win gold and Rs.15000 for those who win silver and Rs.10000/ for the bronze winners in the National championships.

30 Members are paid Rs. 2000/- each as Sports Merit Scholarships which amounts to Rs. 60,000/- every year.

V. S. University Men & Women teams will field in the Zonal, All India Inter-University Tournaments in 21 events which will be hosted by the Universities all over the country.

The University students participated in several National, Inter-University and Inter-Collegiate Tournaments. The landmark achievement this year, at the National Level, is recorded by K. Tulasi who secured Gold in Women Weightlifting and Silver in Women Powerlifting in the National Championships held at Mohanlal Sukhadia University during 21 – 28 February 2013.

Traditions of celebrating Foundation Day of the University, Independence Day Celebrations, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Jayanthi, Republic Day Celebrations have been kept alive to foster national integration.

Prof. M. Srinivasulu Reddy and Prof. P.R. Siva Sankar, received the A.P State Best Teacher Award for meritorious teachers during 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The Vice-Chancellor was invited to the "Global Summit" held in Boston

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USA, in March 2013. During this visit, the NRI Associations of the USA: TANA, ATA, TANTEX and NATA have awarded the Vice-Chancellor with Academic Excellence and Distinguished Public Service Award.

The Vice-Chancellor was awarded the prestigious Science and Technology Achievement Award (STAA) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the world's premier environmental regulatory authority in 2012.

It is our earnest hope that the University will look to the future with confidence in all its endeavours. People with knowledge and skill are the most potent resource of a nation in facing the knowledge era of the coming decades. It is access to knowledge that holds the key. It is my sincere belief that the students, research scholars and faculty of this University will turn out to be valuable intellectual property of this country and will make India proud. Today is an important milestone in your lives who would be admitted to various degrees. I offer my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all of you for a bright and prosperous future.

In this Convocation, 19 Gold Medals in various disciplines, 3807 Graduates (in absentia), 04 Graduates (in advance), 370 Postgraduates (in presence) 01 (in advance) and Postgraduates (in absentia), a total of 1127 candidates are being conferred Degrees and Diplomas in various faculties. I wish to congratulate them for their creditable performance.

The success the institution is envisioning and whatever has achieved on different fronts is a direct consequence of the commitment of the members of the University community, the unstinting cooperation extended by the Government, the Chancellor, various funding bodies and the supportive attitude of the enlightened and philanthropic public.

I wish to thank the members of the Monitoring and Development Committee, the Members of the Academic Senate, as well as the students, research scholars, teaching and supporting staff for their unstinting cooperation. I also express my thanks to the enlightened public and the media for their encouragement and assistance in moulding the institution. I am also thankful to the V.R College Management for their cooperation and support.