



# TEJUS

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



All set to honor eminent personalities; His Excellency Shri. R.S. Gavai (The Governor of Kerala & Chancellor of Cusat), Hon'ble Minister Sri. M.A. Baby (Pro-Chancellor of Cusat) and Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath on the dais.

### Special Convocation

Gavai said that Dr. Sreedharan is endowed with a keen sense of social purpose”.

Stating that Dr. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair has been a vibrant presence on the kathakali stage, Sri. Gavai said that he was perhaps the oldest and most accomplished among the performers of the classical art. The Governor appreciated the laudable efforts of Justice K.G. Balakrishnan in the area of Jurisprudence. Sri. M.A. Baby, Minister for Education and Pro-Chancellor, Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath, Dr. Godfrey Louis, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Dr. N.

## Cochin University honours Men of Eminence

His Excellency Sri. R.S. Gavai, the Governor of Kerala and Chancellor of the University presented the honorary degree of doctorate awarded by the Cochin University of Science and Technology to Dr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director of the Dehli Metro Rail Corporation, Sri. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, renowned Kathakali artiste, and Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at a special convocation held on 04 December 2010.

In his address on the occasion, terming Dr. Sreedharan “an engineer of international repute,” the

Governor said that his spirit of initiative and involvement in the construction of Konkan rail project was path-breaking. Sri.

Chandramohanakumar, Registrar were on the dais. People from various walks of life including academics and VIPs attended. ●



Padma Bhushan Dr. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, Dr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Padma Vibhushan Dr. E. Sreedharan after receiving the Doctorates.



## Editorial...

It is with great pride and pleasure that I am writing this piece about the special convocation organised at the Cochin University of Science & Technology. I would like to share the ecstasy of the CUSAT

unished personalities and at the same time we are meticulously following and embellishing our tradition of honouring great sons of our magnificent country who have made valuable contributions in the frontier areas of science, technology, humanities, social science and performing arts.



Sri. N. R. Narayana Moorthy.

On the 4th such grand ceremony, the University has had the unique privilege of honouring three personalities hailing from entirely different fields. While Dr. E. Sreedharan has gained fame and reputa-

## A moment of pride and pleasure

fraternity on the occasion of the special convocation by publishing this special issue.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Convocation in the history of our University, we are indeed privileged to confer honorary doctorates (*honoris causa*) on three eminent personalities who have made an indelible mark in their respective professions. And it requires special mention that the contribution of each of them has helped to enrich the scientific, social and cultural fabric of our great nation. Needless to say, the esteem of our University is immeasurably enhanced by honouring these disting-

The practice of awarding honorary degrees dates back to the middle ages. The earliest honorary degree on record was awarded by the University of Oxford in the late 1470's. Many universities around the world continue to award honorary doctorate degrees to the high achievers and distinguished personalities in recognition of their achievements. It is our firm belief that through this association with persons of repute our university has a lot to gain in terms of reputation & goodwill.

At this moment of pride, I wish to recall the three earlier occasions when we had such august personalities in

our midst. Prof. E C G Sudarshan who is an internationally acclaimed Physicist was the first in the history of CUSAT to be conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1992. The second special convocation was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1997 to confer honorary degree of Doctor of Law on the then Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice A. M. Ahmadi. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006, the third special convocation was held to confer honorary degrees on Sri. G. Madhavan Nair and

tion from the field of science & technology, we have Dr. K G Balakrishnan from the area of law & justice and Dr Kalamandalam Raman-kutty Nair from the field of performing arts. I am certain that this special edition of Tejus with its colourful images and thought-provoking words will be a good experience to the readers. I hope this volume, commemorating a milestone in the annals of the glorious history of our university, will be enjoyed by all our well-wishers.

**Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath**



Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath is receiving His Excellency Sri R.S. Gavai, the Governor of Kerala and Chancellor of the University.



Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath is receiving Sri M.A. Baby, Hon'ble Minister for Education and Pro - Chancellor of the University.



Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath is reading the citation introducing the awardees to the Chancellor of the University.

### Citation by the Vice Chancellor

to discontinue their studies due to poverty. Very recently, a Division Bench headed by him held as unconstitutional forcible narco-analysis, polygraph and brain electrical activation profile or brain-mapping tests by the investigating agencies which were raising concerns on the human rights of the people.

He was awarded honorary Doctorates by several Universities including Kurukshetra University, University of Mysore, University of

## Introducing the persons of eminence..

Your Excellency Sri R.S.Gavai, the Chancellor of the Cochin University of Science and Technology, Sri M.A.Baby, the Pro Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cochin University of Science & Technology wishes to recognize and honour three glorious personalities in contemporary India who have made sterling contributions through their courageous leadership, visionary zeal, impeccable patriotism, absolute devotion and dedication in the fields of jurisprudence, engineering science and performing arts respectively.

Each has made an indelible mark in the hearts of millions of Indians across the world. The staff, students and entire academic community of this University are immensely blessed by the presence of these stalwarts here today. I am quite confident that the lives and works of these three doyens would inspire and ignite the young minds to realize the cherished vision of a resurgent India.

**Justice K G Balakrishnan**  
Your Excellency:

Justice.KG Balakrishnan, formerly the Chief Justice of India and currently the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission embarked on his career in the legal field as an advocate of the Kerala Bar Council and went on to scale great heights both as an advocate and as a judge, eventually attaining the highest post in Indian Judiciary, namely the Chief Justice of India.

On retirement in May 2010, he was appointed as the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, which also is a great recognition of his dedication to the law of the land and unflinching commitment to the depressed and downtrodden in the country.

During his tenure in the Supreme Court, he delivered several landmark judgments. These included an order which made the mid-day meal programme in schools a statutory requirement. This order brought relief to millions of poor children throughout the country who had

Kerala and University of Bangalore. He was also awarded first Sri V K Krishna Menon Award for his fight against corruption in the judicial system and for championing social causes.

May I,Your Excellency, seek permission to present to you, Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India and Chairman, National Human Rights Commission for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Law, *honoris causa* of the Cochin University of Science and Technology?

**Dr. E. Sreedharan**  
Your Excellency:

Elattuvalapil Sreedharan, the Engineering wizard of India is well-known for completing both the Konkan Railway and Delhi Metro projects within budget and much ahead of schedule, a very rare episode in the history of India. He is currently the Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Beginning his career as a junior lecturer, he spent a major share of his life in the service of Indian Railways. He gained great



fame by successfully completing a project to restore the Pamban Bridge which was destroyed by a tidal wave in 1963 within 46 days instead of the targeted period of 6 months. He received the Railway Minister's award for this miraculous achievement and was put in charge for implementation, planning and design of Calcutta metro, the first ever metro in India. He retired from formal service in 1990 and has been Chairman and Managing Director of Konkan Railway on contract where through his managerial acumen and technical expertise he was able to steer the company to execute its mandate within a stunningly short period of seven years. He continues with the same vigour and passion and made Delhi Metro one of the best in the world. His achievements were deservedly recognized by the Government of India by awarding the Padma Shri in 2001 followed by the Padma Vibhushan in 2009.

May I, Your Excellency, seek permission to present to you, Sri E Sreedharan, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, of the Cochin University of Science and Technology?

**Sri Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair**  
Your Excellency:

The *kathakali* legend Sri Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair is a rare personality who has the credit of spreading the dance form far beyond borders. A master practitioner and teacher of Kerala's own dance-drama form "*Kathakali*", Sri Ramankutty Nair has held his flaming torch high for more than seventy years. From childhood he had the great Pattikkamthodi Ravunni Menon as his guru and started professional training in the art form at Kerala Kalamandalam from the tender age of 13. He also spent several years teaching at his

*alma mater* Kerala Kalamandalam and also served as its Principal. Shri Ramankutty Nair is acclaimed for his portrayal of the anti-hero 'Kathi' roles. His 'Ravana', 'Duryodhana', 'Keechaka' and 'Cheriya Narakasura' are unparalleled for their power and perfection. He is equally a master in the role of Hanuman in '*Kalyanasougandhigam*', '*Thorana-yuddham*' and '*Lavanasura-vadham*'. In his early days he earned a name for his path-breaking portrayal of sage 'Parasurama' in semi-realistic make-up and costumes in place of the traditional yellow-hued pazhuppu vesham. Under his tutelage numerous artistes have attained excellence in the dance

form and gone on to popularize *kathakali* all over India and abroad.

In addition to several awards from the state and other organizations in recognition of his achievements in the field, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2007.

May I, Your Excellency, seek permission to present to you, Sri. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, noted *kathakali* maestro and former Principal, Kerala Kalamandalam, for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, of the Cochin University of Science and Technology? ●



Vice Chancellor flanked by Pro Vice Chancellor and Registrar at Academic Council



Special Academic Council meeting is progressing





Dr. E. Sreedharan is accepting the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* from His Excellency, the Chancellor of the University.

### Acceptance speech by Dr. E. Sreedharan

hailed as the proudest achievement of modern India. Delhi Metro has shown to the world that India is capable of planning and executing technically complex mega projects to international standards. These two projects are shining examples of how Government projects can be completed on time and without cost over-runs. By honouring me with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, the university has honoured the engineers who had helped me to successfully

## ***Punctuality is the cardinal principle of work culture ...***

I feel greatly honoured by the Cochin University of Science and Technology conferring on me the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science and I thank the Members of the Syndicate, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor and His Excellency the Governor of Kerala, the Chancellor of the University, for selecting me for this great distinction. As the son of the soil, it is a matter of great pride for me to get this recognition from my own native university. It is also a matter of great satisfaction that I am receiving this honour, in the company of two illustrious sons of the soil, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India and Sri Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair, a doyen of Kerala's classical art. I wish to congratulate both of them on this occasion. In fact, I stand before you in their reflected glory.

I am sure, the university has selected me for this honour, in recognition of the service I had rendered to the timely completion of the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro Project. These two

mega projects were completed on time and within the estimated costs. Konkan Railway is a 760 km. long Broad Gauge line from Mumbai to Mangalore, along the West Coast of India. It passes through one of the most difficult terrains ever encountered in the history of railway construction in this country. Konkan Railway has changed the life style and travel pattern of the people of the Konkan region. Delhi Metro project is being

complete these two projects. On their behalf I accept this honour.

What is that which has made Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro to stand different from other Government projects? It is not merely the size of the projects or the technical complexities. It is the style and manner in which they were handled that made them different. These two organizations, viz. the Konkan Railway Corporation and the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, have a very different style of handling projects. They have a unique Work Culture and Organizational Values. The cardinal pillars of the Work Culture are:- *Punctuality, Integrity, Professional Competence, and Social accountability.*

Punctuality is nothing but courtesy and consideration for the time of others. Punctuality enabled adhering to the tight time schedule for completion of works. The philosophy "unless we are punctual, we cannot expect our trains to be punctual" made this virtue a necessity. In Delhi Metro,





punctuality is reckoned with a least count of 60 seconds. If a train is late by 60 seconds, it is deemed to have lost punctuality. We run about 2800 train trips every day and carry 15 lakh passengers and our punctuality performance is 99.97%. In regard to "Integrity", for us it does not mean just "honesty" or lack of "corruption". Integrity covers the whole range of our activities. For us integrity means "having good moral values" and "absolute transparency" in whatever we do. On the corruption index scale, Transparency International has put India as the 85<sup>th</sup> most corrupted country. We should all be ashamed and alarmed at the scale of corruption taking place in this country. This is India that was Bharath. Where are all our age-old traditions and the great values and virtues handed over to us through our Scriptures and Spiritual texts? If India has to gain its past glory and prosperity, mere economic growth or GDP growth alone is not enough.

"SATHYAMEVA JAYATHE" is enshrined in our Constitution. We have to now practise "SATHYAAD PARAM NAASTI" – there is nothing greater than TRUTH. It is the Institutions like the Cochin University of

**"Punctuality is nothing but courtesy and consideration for the time of others. Punctuality enabled adhering to the tight time schedule for completion of works. The philosophy "unless we are punctual, we cannot expect our trains to be punctual" made this virtue a necessity"**

Science and Technology that should instil and imbibe good Values and Virtues in our student community so that when their turn comes, they can manage and rule the country in the most upright style and standards.

The need for "professional competence" in handling projects does not require any emphasis. The country produces 2 million engineers a year. The best of them go abroad for higher studies and do not return. The next best, switch over to Management or IT Sector, with the result, at the ground level, there is an acute shortage of good and competent engineers. There is a need for our technical institutions to improve the

quality of technical education and instil a pride for their profession. Our Prime Minister has set a target of one trillion billions of dollars (i.e. 44 lakh crore of rupees) to be spent for infrastructure creation in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period. Where are the engineers needed to handle competently so many projects?

Now I come to the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of our Work Culture – "Social accountability". In a project "Time is money". Each day the project is delayed, the cost goes up. In Delhi Metro Phase-II the cost of delay was calculated as Rs.2.5 crore per day. We are using the Tax Payers' money for implementing projects. The project authorities should realize, they have a responsibility to provide the "best value" for the money entrusted to them. The projects have to be completed not only on time but within the budget. While doing so, they should ensure high quality and standard of work, and execute the project causing the minimum inconvenience or dislocation to the people with the least damage to ecology. Delhi Metro is a standing example to this. We have created a world-class metro network, covering 180 kms. in Delhi, in a short period of just 12 years with frontline technologies. Today Delhi is the fastest growing Metro System in the world and what is more, the most profitable Metro. I wish the Work Culture and Values of Delhi Metro spreads to all areas of Government functioning.

I want to express once again, my deep gratitude to the Cochin University of Science and Technology for having conferred on me the Degree of Honorary Doctor of Science. If my acceptance of this honour can provide inspiration and motivation to the engineering students of this prestigious University, I feel satisfied.

Thanking you all.



Students are thronging to get the autograph of Padma Vibhusan Dr. E. Sreedharan





**ശ്രീ. കലാമണ്ഡലം രാമൻകുട്ടി നായരുടെ സ്വീകരണ ഭാഷണം**

പ്രിയനടനായി കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ ഞാൻ എന്റെ കലാസപര്യക്ക് തുടക്കമിട്ടു. ഏതാണ്ട് 48 കൊല്ലക്കാലം കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ അന്തേവാസിയിരുന്നെന്ന്. കഥകളിയുടെ വളർച്ചയും കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ വളർച്ചയും എന്റെ വളർച്ചയും ഒരേസമയത്തായിരുന്നു. അനേകം ശിഷ്യന്മാരെ അവരുടെ കഴിവനുസരിച്ച് വാർത്തെടുക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നുള്ളതിൽ ഞാൻ സംതൃപ്തനാണ്.

ബഹുമതികൾ ഓരോന്നും എന്നെത്തേടിയെത്തുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻ തിരിഞ്ഞു നോക്കി, എന്റെ ബാല്യം, അമ്മയും സഹോദരിയും സഹോദരനും ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന നിർദ്ധനമായ എന്റെ കുടുംബം. ഈ കാലയളവിൽ ചെറുതും വലുതുമായി 33 അവാർഡുകൾ എനിക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ കൈയിൽ നിന്നും 3 അവാർഡുകൾ ലഭിക്കുക എന്നത് കഥകളിയിൽ എനിക്കു മാത്രം അവകാശപ്പെട്ടതാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അവാർഡുകളെ എന്നും ആർത്തിയോടെ ഞാൻ നോക്കിക്കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. എന്നെ തേടിയെത്തുന്ന അവാർഡുകളോട് എനിക്കെന്നും നിസ്സംഗഭാവമാണ്. സത്യസന്ധമായ സമീപനം താണുപാടിക്കുന്ന കലയോട് ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തീർച്ചയായും അവാർഡുകളും അംഗീകാരങ്ങളും കലാകാരൻമാരെ തേടിയെത്തും. ഭാരതം പരമോന്നത ബഹുമതിയായ പത്മഭൂഷൻ നൽകി എന്നെ ആദരിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ രാഷ്ട്രപതിഭവനിൽ ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ മുന്നിൽ നിറഞ്ഞമനസ്സോടെ, നിവർന്ന ശിരസ്സോടെ, മനസ്സിൽ പല വട്ടം ആശാനെനമിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ആ പുരസ്കാരം ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങി. എന്നെ ഞാനാക്കി മാറ്റിയ എന്നും ആശാന്റെ പാദങ്ങൾ പിന്തുടരുന്ന എനിക്ക് രാജ്യം നൽകിയ പത്മഭൂഷൺ പുരസ്കാരം നന്ദിശീർസകരമായി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പാദാരവിന്ദങ്ങളിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രീ കലാമണ്ഡലം രാമൻകുട്ടി നായർ സംസ്ഥാന ഗവർണ്ണറിൽ നിന്നും സർവ്വകലാശാലയുടെ ഓണററി ഡോക്ടറേറ്റ് ബിരുദം സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നു.

## ഞാൻ എന്നെ ഒരു കഥകളി നടനാവാൻ?

എന്റെ ആത്മകഥയായ തിര നോട്ടത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യവാചകവും ഇതുതന്നെയാണ്. എനിക്ക് കലാപരമായ ഒരു പാരമ്പര്യം അവകാശപ്പെടാനില്ല. തീർത്തും യാദൃശ്ചികമായാണ് ഞാൻ ഒരു കഥകളിനടനായത്. ഒരു നിർദ്ധനനായർ കുടുംബത്തിൽ ജനിച്ചു എന്നെ ഒരു കഥകളിനടനാക്കുന്നതിൽ ഏറ്റവും സ്വാധീനിച്ചത് എന്റെ അമ്മയാണ്. അമ്മയുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യംകാരണം ഒളപ്പമണ്ണമനയിലെ കളിയോഗത്തിൽ പട്ടിക്കാത്തൊടി രാവുണ്ണിമേനോനാശാന്റെ ശിക്ഷണത്തിൽ കഥകളി പരിശീലനം ആരംഭിച്ചു. വെള്ളിനേഴിയിലെ കാന്തളൂരമ്പലത്തിൽ അരങ്ങേറ്റം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ആശാൻ കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ അദ്ധ്യാപകനായപ്പോൾ ഞാനും കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയായി ചേർന്നു. നീണ്ട പതിനൊന്നു വർഷക്കാലം ആശാന്റെ കീഴിൽ കഥകളി അഭ്യസിച്ചു. എനിക്ക് രാവുണ്ണിമേനോനാശാനല്ലാതെ മറ്റാരും ഗുരുനാമന്മാരായി ഇല്ല. എന്റെ ബാല്യം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കർശനമായ ശിക്ഷണത്തിലും ശിക്ഷയിലും നിയന്ത്രിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. അക്കാലത്ത് എനിക്ക് കഥകളിയല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊന്നും ഈ പ്രപഞ്ചത്തിൽ ഉള്ളതായി തോന്നിയിട്ടില്ല. ആശാന്റെ കഠിനമായ

ശിക്ഷയും ശിക്ഷണരീതിയും പലപ്പോഴും എന്നെ ജീവിതം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഒരു പക്ഷേ ഇക്കാലത്തായിരിക്കാം ഇന്നും എന്നിലുള്ള വാശി രൂപപ്പെട്ടത്. നന്നെ ചെറുപ്പത്തിൽ തന്നെ കലാമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ അദ്ധ്യാപകനായി നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. മഹാകവി വള്ളത്തോളിന്റെ



രനും ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന നിർദ്ധനമായ എന്റെ കുടുംബം. ഈ കാലയളവിൽ ചെറുതും വലുതുമായി 33 അവാർഡുകൾ എനിക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ കൈയിൽ നിന്നും 3 അവാർഡുകൾ ലഭിക്കുക എന്നത് കഥകളിയിൽ എനിക്കു മാത്രം അവകാശപ്പെട്ടതാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അവാർഡുകളെ എന്നും ആർത്തിയോടെ ഞാൻ നോക്കിക്കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. എന്നെ തേടിയെത്തുന്ന അവാർഡുകളോട് എനിക്കെന്നും നിസ്സംഗഭാവമാണ്. സത്യസന്ധമായ സമീപനം താണുപാടിക്കുന്ന കലയോട് ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തീർച്ചയായും അവാർഡുകളും അംഗീകാരങ്ങളും കലാകാരൻമാരെ തേടിയെത്തും. ഭാരതം പരമോന്നത ബഹുമതിയായ പത്മഭൂഷൻ നൽകി എന്നെ ആദരിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ രാഷ്ട്രപതിഭവനിൽ ഇന്ത്യൻ പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ മുന്നിൽ നിറഞ്ഞമനസ്സോടെ, നിവർന്ന ശിരസ്സോടെ, മനസ്സിൽ പല വട്ടം ആശാനെനമിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ആ പുരസ്കാരം ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങി. എന്നെ ഞാനാക്കി മാറ്റിയ എന്നും ആശാന്റെ പാദങ്ങൾ പിന്തുടരുന്ന എനിക്ക് രാജ്യം നൽകിയ പത്മഭൂഷൺ പുരസ്കാരം നന്ദിശീർസകരമായി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പാദാരവിന്ദങ്ങളിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നു.





സർവ്വകലാശാലയുടെ ബിരുദം ഏറ്റെടുക്കിയശേഷം കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം

കൊച്ചി സർവ്വകലാശാല എനിക്ക് ഡി. ലിറ്റ് ബിരുദം നൽകുന്നു എന്നറിഞ്ഞതിൽ ഞാൻ അതിയായി സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. പത്രമാധ്യമങ്ങളിൽ ഈ വാർത്ത വന്ന സമയത്ത് എന്റെ ഒരു പേരക്കുട്ടി എന്നോടു ചോദിച്ചു മുത്തശ്ശൻ ഇനി എന്തു മരുന്നാണ് കുറിക്കുക? സന്തോഷം കൊണ്ട് എന്റെ കണ്ണുകൾ നിറഞ്ഞു. മരുന്നു കുറിക്കാനറിയില്ലെങ്കിലും മുത്തശ്ശൻ ഇന്നു ഒരു ഡോക്ടറായിരിക്കുന്നു. അഞ്ചാം ക്ലാസ്സുവരെ മാത്രം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ലഭിച്ച എന്റെ പേരിനു മുന്നിൽ ഡോക്ടർ എന്ന് എഴുതിക്കാണാൻ സാധിച്ചതിൽ വളരെയധികം സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഒരു ശരാശരി മാതാവ് ചിന്തിക്കുന്നതു പോലെ എന്റെ അമ്മയും ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം, എന്നെ ഒരു ഡോക്ടറാക്കണമെന്നോ എഞ്ചിനീയറാക്കണമെന്നോ! അമ്മ എന്നെ വിട്ടുപിരിഞ്ഞ് കാലം ഏറെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്യശ്യമായി നിൽക്കുന്ന അമ്മയുടെ ആത്മാവിനോട് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നു അമ്മേ, അമ്മയുടെ ആഗ്രഹപ്രകാരം ഞാനിന്നൊരു ഡോക്ടറായിരിക്കുന്നു. ശൂന്യതയിലേക്കു നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് അദ്യശ്യമായ ആത്മാവിനോട് എനിക്ക് പറയാം എന്നല്ലാതെ ഗുരുനാഥനും അമ്മയും എവിടെ?

കഥകളിൽ എനിക്ക് അനേകം ശിഷ്യന്മാരുണ്ട്. ഗുരുസ്ഥാനത്ത് നന്നെ ചെറുപ്പം മുതൽക്കുതന്നെ ഞാൻ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശിഷ്യ

ന്മാരുടെ ഗുണവും ദോഷവും എനിക്ക് നന്നായി അറിയാം. എന്റെ മുന്നിൽ ശിഷ്യന്മാരെല്ലാം ഒരുപോലെയാണ്. ഒരാളെയും അമിതമായി എന്നിലേക്കടുപ്പിക്കുകയോ അകറ്റുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. അവരോട് നിന്നു പറയാനുള്ളത് കഠിനമായ പ്രയത്നത്തിലൂടെ ഞാൻ നേടിയെടുത്ത ഈ ബഹുമതികൾ നിങ്ങൾക്കും അർഹപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. രാമൻകുട്ടനായരാശാനുശേഷവും കാലവും കഥകളിയും നിലനിൽക്കും. കാലത്തിന്റെ മഹാപ്രവാഹത്തിൽ കഥകളിയുടെ സ്വത്വം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്ത് എന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് നിങ്ങളോട് പറയാനുള്ളത്. ഈ ബിരുദം സ്വീകരിക്കുന്ന വേളയിൽ എനിക്ക് ഊർജ്ജം തന്ന ഇന്നെന്നോടൊപ്പം ഇല്ലാത്ത കൃഷ്ണൻ കുട്ടിപ്പൊതുവാളെയും

കഥകളിയിൽ എനിക്ക് അനേകം ശിഷ്യന്മാരുണ്ട്. ഗുരുസ്ഥാനത്ത് നന്നെ ചെറുപ്പം മുതൽക്കുതന്നെ ഞാൻ എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശിഷ്യന്മാരുടെ ഗുണവും ദോഷവും എനിക്ക് നന്നായി അറിയാം. എന്റെ മുന്നിൽ ശിഷ്യന്മാരെല്ലാം ഒരുപോലെയാണ്. ഒരാളെയും അമിതമായി എന്നിലേക്കടുപ്പിക്കുകയോ അകറ്റുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. അവരോട് നിന്നു പറയാനുള്ളത് കഠിനമായ പ്രയത്നത്തിലൂടെ ഞാൻ നേടിയെടുത്ത ഈ ബഹുമതികൾ നിങ്ങൾക്കും അർഹപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. രാമൻകുട്ടനായരാശാനുശേഷവും കാലവും കഥകളിയും നിലനിൽക്കും. കാലത്തിന്റെ മഹാപ്രവാഹത്തിൽ കഥകളിയുടെ സ്വത്വം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്ത് എന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് നിങ്ങളോട് പറയാനുള്ളത്.

അപ്പു കുട്ടിപ്പൊതുവാളെയും ഞാനോർക്കുന്നു. ഓർമ്മകൾ ഈ പ്രായത്തിൽ അവ്യക്തമാണെങ്കിലും കേരളത്തിന്റെ കളിയാരങ്ങളിൽ കുട്ടിത്രയം എന്ന പേരിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയ ജൈത്രയാത്ര ഓർമ്മയിൽ തെളിയുന്നു. നഷ്ടബോധം തീരെയില്ല. ആശാൻ എന്നെ ഏൽപ്പിച്ച ചുമതല വളരെ സത്യസന്ധമായി ഞാൻ നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു എന്നതിൽ സംതൃപ്തനാണ്. ഈ ബിരുദം എനിക്ക് നൽകിയ കൊച്ചി സർവ്വകലാശാലയോടും മറ്റുബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവരോടും എന്റെ ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ നന്ദി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.



പ്രാവശംഭീരമായ വിശിഷ്ട ബിരുദ ദാനചടങ്ങിൽ നിന്ന്





*His Excellency Sri. R.S. Gavai, the Governor of Kerala in conferring the Honorary Degree on Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.*

### Acceptance Speech by Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

The makers of the Indian Constitution were fully aware of and alive to the need for providing safeguards for the weaker sections of society as is evident from the Preamble to the Constitution and Part IV of the Constitution, that is, the Directive Principles of State Policy, to ensure the creation of a just society in which human rights of all individuals would be respected and protected.

The NHRC, in tandem with this spirit of the Constitution, has

## ***Education has a crucial role in spreading the culture of human rights..***

Hon'ble Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Faculty of Law of the Cochin University of Science and Technology, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour for me to be present today in this institution of educational excellence, amidst a gathering of such distinguished individuals. The School of Legal Studies of the Cochin University of Science and Technology, through the unstinted efforts of its faculty and dedicated students over the years, has earned the honour of being regarded among the premier institutions in the country, engaged in imparting legal education and conducting research.

The impressive range of activities of the School reflects its commitment to forge young men and women who are not only professionally competent, but more importantly, mindful of their responsibility to effect a positive change in society, particularly in service of the weakest and most marginalized.

I feel honoured therefore, to have been chosen by this esteemed University to be conferred its

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, and it is with a sense of heartfelt gratitude that I most humbly accept this honour. While contemplating the topic on which I could share my views with you today, I could think of nothing more pertinent and pressing than the issue of human rights, which is not only personally, close to my heart, but also the primary concern and focus of the National Human rights Commission (NHRC), which I represent before you today.



relentlessly endeavoured to be at the vanguard of the battle to curb violations of human rights across the country and create an enabling environment for the realization of not only civil and political rights, but also social and economic justice, in its short journey of over 16 years since its inception.

For the Commission, the defence of human rights has become the defence of democracy itself – a democracy that is inclusive in character and caring in respect of its most vulnerable citizens. In furtherance of its task to better protect and promote human rights, the NHRC has realized that failures in the sphere of human rights in economic, social and cultural areas are widespread across the nation and these denials have often driven the citizens to the margins of human existence. The struggle for the promotion and protection of human rights therefore, inevitably requires the elimination of aberrations that, over time, fragment society, leaving some more equal than others.



While initially, the Commission endeavoured to promote a culture of human rights in the country by focusing on civil and political rights issues like terrorism, insurgency, prisons, custodial deaths, cases in detention including mental and juvenile justice homes, etc.; in succeeding years, economic, social and cultural rights have also gained prominence in its sphere of activity.

It is the belief of the Commission that all rights stand in a relationship of mutual interdependence and artificial divides between these only serve to weaken the struggle to realize a just and equitable society. In keeping with this perspective therefore, apart from working for the eradication of bonded and child labour, rights of children, women and other weak and marginalized sections of society, the Commission has also undertaken work in other fields such as the right to health, food, and education; right of displaced persons due to natural and manmade calamities; and disabled and elderly persons, among others.

Further, the NHRC is also seeking to explore and understand the various ways in which the business sector is undermining the phenomenal strides made in the arena of human rights, given the acute strain on the environment, damage to the planet's ecological support systems and widening gaps between the rich and poor, that have resulted from rapid industrialization and global economic processes.

The Commission has been playing an active role in stressing the need to provide social and economic justice to all citizens and has proclaimed various guidelines/ directions for the protection of human rights while considering issues of rights violations from time to time. It receives Action Taken Reports from the State Governments and other Concerned

**I believe, education has a crucial role to play in spreading a culture of human rights by making students, academics and the public at large, more conscious of individual and community rights and fundamental freedoms and empowering them to stand in defence of these. Human rights education can spread knowledge of the instruments that exist at the international and national levels to promote and protect human rights, in addition to developing knowledge, skills and the requisite attitudes, necessary to defend these rights and freedoms.**

Officials and also the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission, who have been assigned particular zones within the country for the purpose of monitoring the status of various human rights concerns.

Social justice through the realization of human rights has become a pressing issue across the world, especially in the larger context of globalization, which is altering traditional roles and relationships between states and their citizens and throwing up multiple challenges to the realization of socio-economic justice, whether in the form of the devastating financial crisis, the rising cost of essential food commodities, or the growing influence of transnational bodies such as the WTO, IMF, World Bank and Multinational Corporations.

Further, while governments find it increasingly difficult today to act with impunity or deny citizens their basic rights, there continue to exist well-entrenched socio-economic structures that pose a colossal challenge to the realization of a just and equitable social order.

Despite these challenges however, there is also a concomitant and encouraging move towards recognizing an ever-increasing number of rights, which are deemed necessary for living a dignified and full life. The ambit of human rights and social justice has gradually expanded to include among others, the right to healthcare, education, food, forest rights for indigenous communities, and policy-level interventions in the form of affirmative action for the historically marginalized and discriminated communities. Further, issues of gender, youth and the disabled are also increasingly being viewed as issues requiring policy interventions.

Among the several concerns of the Commission is the lack of awareness regarding human rights issues at the ground level. To this end, it has been conducting field visits by its team to the District Food Offices / Schools / Hospitals / Prisons / Departments of welfare of SCs and STs / Department of culture / Panchayats etc. and organizing workshops on Awareness and Facilitating Assessment and Enforcement of Human Rights at District Level Administration in select 28 districts in the country, which have been chosen based on parameters such as illiteracy rate, percentage of SC and ST population, percentage of forest area, infant mortality etc.

Thanks to these relentless efforts to promote awareness and reach out to individuals and communities across the country, the Commission has witnessed a phenomenal increase in the number of complaints it has received over the years, indicating not only a growing awareness among the people, but also the increased faith that they have reposed in the Commission for

*(Please see Page 15)*





Address by Sri. M.A. Baby, Hon'ble Minister for Education and Pro-Chancellor

### Address by the Pro-Chancellor

space for overcoming the traditional barriers of caste and the culture of dedication to work that characterised the educational institutions of the State in the past have come under heavy strain today. Several factors are responsible for such decadence, all of which need not be discussed here. Suffice it to say that a certain

## ***Knowledge Society : Education holds the key to social development ..***

Cochin University of Science & Technology is privileged to confer honorary Doctorate Degrees on Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair and E. Sreedharan. The achievements of these doyens of Jurisprudence, Performing Arts and Engineering Technology epitomize the diversity of Kerala's contributions for the collective well being of the nation. During his tenure in the Supreme Court, Justice Balakrishnan delivered several landmark judgments. These included an order which made *mid-day meal programme* in schools a statutory requirement. This order brought relief to millions of poor children who would otherwise have discontinued their studies. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair has been a grand and sober presence on the Kathakali stage for a span of over seven decades. More than the longevity, it is the poise and precision of his body movements that enabled him to stand out as a master craftsman of this heavily stylised four-century-old dance-drama, which is one of Kerala's major contributions to the world of art and culture. The Konkan Rail and Delhi Metro are technological

wonders made possible by Sri.E.Sreedharan who brought to the organizations under his command a work culture and standards of accountability till then unknown in the country.

These three illustrious sons of Kerala are the products of our cultural, social and educational ethos. But the cultural traditions that could create an internationally renowned indigenous art form like the Kathakali, the egalitarian ethos that provided adequate

sense of complacency has crept into our social and personal lives. The results are there for all to see. We are no longer producing social reform movements of the kind that the State witnessed in the early twentieth century. We no longer produce role models like Justice Sri.K.G. Balakrishnan, Kalamandalam Sri.Ramankutty Nair and Sri.E.Sreedharan.

In the emerging knowledge society, education holds the key to social and personal development. The present Government has recognized the overarching importance of education. It has been taking several steps to improve access, equity and quality of education at all levels. In School Education, efforts are on to encourage critical thinking by introducing new pedagogical practices. At the same time, comprehensive changes are envisioned in Higher Education. The choice based credit and semester system which has now been introduced in all universities, is conceived as a means to give academic freedom to students and to energize their creative potential. The Government has set up the Higher Education Council which initiates and guides the academic





initiatives. Inter University centers have been established as interdisciplinary centers for cutting edge research across disciplines, synergizing available academic expertise in the Universities. Scholar-in- Residence programme has been launched for giving opportunity to the students and faculty to interact with eminent scholars, including Nobel laureates several of whom have visited the universities over the last two years. Currently Nobel Laureate Dr. Johann Deisenhofer is visiting Mahatma Gandhi University. The presence of the newly started Central Institutions will contribute to excellence in the education system of Kerala. The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and the Central University of Kerala have already been established and the Centre of Aligarh Muslim University and

Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communication will start functioning soon.

In order to ensure equity along with excellence, the Higher Education Scholarship Scheme has been launched to provide scholarships to needy and meritorious students and to promote study and research in basic disciplines. The State is also pro-actively implementing the Central Government sponsored scholarship schemes, with the result that a large number of the students are recipients of scholarships. We are now able to ensure that no meritorious student is denied opportunity for higher education for want of financial support. It is our fervent hope that the ceremony of honoring the three illustrious sons of Kerala with the award of the Doctorate Degrees will provide inspiration to our youth to emulate

and perhaps excel them. Cochin University of Science and Technology has demonstrated its commitment to holistic education by conferring the academic honor on three great men who have enriched three different fields of human activity and experience. In doing this it has lived up to its tradition of acting beyond its field of priority, which is science and technology. The affirmation of the complementarities of different fields of knowledge and experience is extremely important to overcome what Prof Yash Pal calls the "cubicalization" of knowledge which is associated with over-specialization. I congratulate CUSAT for taking this meaningful step and profusely thank Justice Sri. K. G. Balakrishnan, Kalamandalam Sri. Ramankutty Nair and Sri. E. Sreedharan for whole heartedly responding to our request. ●







*His Excellency Sri. R.S. Gavai the Governor of Kerala and Chancellor of the University is delivering the special convocation address.*

### Special Convocation Address by the Chancellor

keralite by his elevation as the first Malayali to adorn the highest pedestal of justice in the country. Endowed with a keen sense of social purpose, his landmark judgments have been acclaimed by the entire nation. It is quite in the fairness of things that Shri Balakrishnan continues to serve the people as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

An Engineer of international repute, Shri E. Sreedharan has adorned several top positions with distinction. Hailing from

## ***Congratulations at this moment of crowning glory ...***

Dr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan  
Dr. E. Sridharan  
Dr. Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair  
Shri. M.A. Baby  
Dr. Ramachandran Thekkedath  
Members of the Syndicate and Senate  
Distinguished Academics  
Ladies and Gentlemen

august assembly. Men of renown, they represent the highest levels in their chosen pursuits, namely Jurisprudence, Engineering and 'Kathakali.' This Trinity of Achievers, I am happy to add, has done the country proud by their competence and commitment. Shri Balakrishnan has enshrined himself in the mind of every

Palakkad, Kerala, he rose to eminence through hard work and lofty motivation. His spirit of initiative and involvement in the construction of Konkan Railways has been hailed as path-breaking. Equally cardinal is his contribution in his present assignment as the MD of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

I have immense pleasure to participate in the Special Convocation convened by the Cochin University of Science and Technology to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Doctor of Science on Shri E. Sridharan and Doctor of Letters on Shri Ramankutty Nair. Let me, at the outset, compliment the academic community of the University on its initiative to honour these illustrious sons of Kerala in recognition of their invaluable contributions in their respective fields.

These awardees do not need any introduction before this



*The convocation gown of his Excellency is being arranged by Mrs. Dr. Kamal Thai Gavai together with Artist R.S. Madhu.*



Shri E. Sridharan is the recipient of a number of laurels that include the prestigious Padma Vibhushan. However, the present honour, I am sure, would enhance his pride and joy as it comes from his home State. Sri. Ramankutty Nair, the third dignitary in our Roll of Honour, has been a vibrant presence on the 'Kathakali stage' for over seven

decades. Hailed for his roles of 'Ravana,' 'Duryodhana,' 'Narakasura' and 'Parasurama,' he is perhaps the oldest and most accomplished among the performers of this classical art. As a teacher at Kerala Kalamandalam, his Alma-mater, and later on as its Principal, he has moulded many an artiste who

have earned fame and name, and proved themselves to be worthy the great master.

Let me congratulate Dr. Balakrishnan, Dr. Sridharan and Dr. Ramankutty Nair at this moment of crowning glory and wish them many more fruitful years.  
*Thank you, Jaihind*





(Cont. from page no. 10)

safeguarding their rights. While the Commission received a mere 496 complaints regarding human rights violations in 1993, the year of its establishment, during 2009-2010, the Commission registered 82,021 fresh cases and completed action in 86,050 others.

While National Human Rights Institutions like the National Human Rights Commission, India have a significant role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights in all spheres including social, economic, political and cultural, they can at best work as catalysts in assisting efforts towards protecting and promoting human rights of the most vulnerable groups. The contributions of civil society actors, notably academics and professionals, are just as crucial in this noble endeavour.

To this end, I believe, education has a crucial role to play in spreading a culture of human rights by making students, academics and the public at large, more conscious of individual and community rights and fundamental freedoms and empowering them to stand in defence of these. Human rights education can spread knowledge of the instruments that exist at the international and national levels to promote and protect human rights, in addition to developing knowledge, skills and the requisite attitudes, necessary to defend these rights and freedoms. It is only through an informed public discourse on deepening and widening the ambit of human rights that a rights culture can be ushered into the country. Further, human rights education can promote

values, beliefs and attitudes that will encourage respect for the rights of the self and others, and, in the long-run, play a potent role in preventing human rights abuses and more importantly, creating a just society in which the rights of all individuals and communities are protected and promoted. It is in this context that I believe, schools and universities, such as this esteemed institution, can play a vital role in making human rights and a humanistic philosophy the core of their academic and extra-curricular pursuits.

I would once again like to thank you for this honour, and the opportunity to share some of my thoughts with this August gathering today. I wish the University and its students the very best for all their future endeavours. May you become protagonists of a bright and just future for all of humanity. ●



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## *Glimpses of Cusat special convocation*

