



# **MEMORABLE FOOTPRINTS OF AN EDUCATOR**

**Prof M.Anandakrishnan**  
**90th Birthday Celebration 16-06-2018**

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**DR. M. ANANDAKRISHNAN'S  
90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

**Vanakkam**

**P**adma Shri Prof M. Anandakrishnan, is an extraordinary man who has been leading an extraordinary life. It is difficult to summarize the life of a man who came from a modest town and almost missed going to college in pre-independent India but then used his education in the U.S. to serve independent India in as many roles as possible. His outstanding leadership in every role was always in the service of the greater good of the society and the nation.

In the concise but crisp biography of the professor, included in this booklet, writer K.R.A. Narasiah begins with the sentence *“an inconspicuous simple apartment in Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, lives the legendary Dr. M. Anandakrishnan.”* Those of us who have known him and his wife can attest to their simplicity, humility and self-effacing modesty. Even those who have worked with him know very little about his continuing contributions in multiple other areas. That is why the members of this committee who came together to organize Professor M. Anandakrishnan's 90th birthday celebrations felt that his multifaceted contribution to the society needs to be shared with a wider circle. The result is this booklet entitled *“Memorable Footprints of an Educator.”* We hope that this will serve as a record of achievements that will continue to inspire generations to come.

Narasiah's essay touches the important milestones in the journey of Prof. M. Anandakrishnan starting from his days at Vaniyambadi through Guindy Engineering College, University of Minnesota, IIT-Kanpur, Indian Embassy at Washington D.C., United Nations, Anna University, and onwards to his continuing involvement in leading the reformation of Tamil Nadu school curriculum. The booklet includes tributes from family, friends, colleagues, contemporaries and the leaders he had worked with who have shared their experiences and impressions.

Reading through the biography and the letters, you will find a common thread that is Dr M. Anandakrishnan's obsession with using the power of education for the upliftment of the down-trodden and the under-privileged. He has an almost supernatural ability to identify the talent hidden inside an individual, and, then to entrust that individual with responsibilities to make those talents shine in the open. To put it simply, he epitomizes the Thirukural

“அன்பறிவு தேற்றம் அவாவின்மை இந்நான்கும்  
நன்குடையான் கட்டே தெளிவு”.

You will also learn of Prof M. Anandakrishnan's attention to the smallest detail, correct perceptions planning, optimism, perseverance and his reverence for science and engineering.

On behalf of the family of Prof M. Anandakrishnan and the organizing committee, our heartfelt thanks to every one of you, for having kindly accepted our invitation and spared your valuable time to grace the event today and be part of this joyous occasion. Our thanks are due to the many well-wishers of Prof M. Anandakrishnan living around the world, who had welcomed us when we approached them with the idea for this event and have supported us in every possible way to make this book and the event possible.

We are eternally grateful to Dr M. Anandakrishnan for the learnings each one of us have got from him and look forward to receiving the guidance and affection from him, for years to come!

Signed,

Members of the organising committee

*He that does good for good's sake seeks neither praise nor reward,  
though sure of both at last.  
- William Penn*

Mob: +91 94440 -75051; E-Mail: profmak90@gmail.com





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## Visionary In Education

- **K.R.A. Narasiah**

In an inconspicuous simple apartment in Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, lives the legendary Dr. M. Anandakrishnan. Meeting him, an unbelievably brisk and active person, in his late eighties, by itself, was a memorable experience. When asked about his role model in life, unhesitatingly says it was the dynamic Director, Prof. P. K. Kelkar of IIT Kanpur and reminisces about the early years of his stay in IIT Kanpur. In his view Prof. Kelkar played a pivotal role in establishing an institute where science-based engineering education was put in place for the first time. Kelkar exhorted the faculty, students and staff to strive even harder and seems to have told, "IIT is not here to produce engineers to join the Government Public Works Departments; engineers have to think ahead and do things that are good for the society and future." Prof. Anandakrishnan passionately recalls the years he spent teaching and researching. Thus teaching became his mainstay in life.

Born in Vaniyambadi a town in Vellore district, (now located in the Golden Quadrilateral, the highway that connects Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, having its own importance), Anandakrishnan after his initial education there, joined the College of Engineering, Guindy in

the then Madras, where he obtained a degree in civil engineering, in 1952. He went to the US to study further and joined the University of Minnesota - that boasts of several Nobel Laureates from among its alumni - to do his masters degree in 1957 and



**Prof. P. K. Kelkar**

subsequently his Ph. D in 1960. During the period of his doctoral studies itself he took to imparting knowledge, becoming a teaching assistant in the same University. It was his leadership qualities that propelled him into being selected as the president of the *Indian Students Association* and the *Foreign Students Council* of the University. That did not deter him from taking up a professional job and was employed as a part-time materials engineer at *Twin City Testing and Engineering Laboratories*.

In 1962 Anandakrishnan returned to India to join the *Central Road Research Institute, Delhi* as a Grade I Senior Scientific Officer, where he worked for about a year. It was then he got the job next to his heart, teaching, that too in a premier institution of India, the IIT Kanpur. It was here that he met Prof. P. K. Kelkar and felt that he should continue to impart knowledge. As one of the distinguished alumni of the IIT put it later it was not the intention of the premier institution to churn out engineers to earn but follow the ideals as seen in, the



**IIT Kanpur**





teachings of Rabindranath Tagore, C.V. Raman, P.K. Kelkar and Veena Sahasrabuddhe. “All of them submitted that the primary purpose of any creative activity is aesthetic joy, collaboration and not a suicidal rat race.”

In the IIT Kanpur, Anandkrishnan started his career as a member of the faculty in the department of Civil Engineering where he rose to the position of Chairman of Civil Engineering

department, dean and acting director. He served as Chairman of the Central staff recruiting board and as the adviser of the campus development.

It was natural that the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India chose Anandkrishnan and deputed him to the USA in 1974, for the prestigious post of Science Counselor at the Indian Embassy in Washington where he worked for four years. ■

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## CHAPTER 2

# Operation Smiling Buddha

May 1974, became a turning point in the nuclear capability history of India.

Historically, a fourteenth century citadel, now



known as Fort Pokhran, is located in the Thar Desert area of Rajasthan. This remote place was chosen by the Government of India to detonate India's first nuclear device. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre was authorized by the then prime minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi to carry out this internationally acclaimed test. It was formally known as Peaceful Nuclear Explosive

(PNE). Curiously it was named *Operation Smiling Buddha*. Though the Indian government declared the test itself was not intended to manufacture nuclear weapons, but only to make

India self-reliant in nuclear technology for peaceful purpose, many countries thought otherwise. In fact there was much opposition in the US and Canada since negotiation was going on for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Canada froze nuclear energy assistance for the two heavy water reactors then under construction in India. US initially contemplated on stopping the shipment of enriched uranium fuel for the Tarapur Reactor.

This was considered highly critical at that juncture and the Government of India needed to take some immediate action to counter this propaganda against India in the US so that Tarapur Reactor does not suffer. That needed a science counselor to assist the embassy in Washington to bridge the gap of technical

understanding between the two countries and as a strategic move it was necessary to advice the ambassador to deal with the issues raised by the congress. While the US was willing to supply the fuel to keep the trade alive, it needed to do a balancing act to politically justify the same. To enable effective justification the Embassy needed a science counselor and a post was created in 1974, in the Embassy of India, by the department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and Dr. Anandakrishnan was chosen as the first incumbent of the newly created post for a deputation period of five years. The incumbent was involved in the assessment and evaluation of Science & Technology strength in the US and act as a pivotal point for promotion of interaction and building partnership of Indian scientific agencies and R&D personnel with their counterparts in the US. The incumbent is also important key person in facilitating and formulating several technical agreements with governments. Thus Anandakrishnan occupied one of the most prestigious posts of the embassy.

This was no ordinary task, as seasoned

scientists were involved and they had to be convinced about the fuel supply to Tarapur reactor. As the shipments were made on monthly basis, the effort needed was continuous. Not only did Anandakrishnan fulfill his task effectively but also created a friendly atmosphere for Indian scientists to visit the US for furthering their knowledge.

Anandakrishnan had close contact with Homi Nusserwanji Sethna, one of the earliest nuclear scientists of India who was the central figure in the Indian civilian nuclear programme and construction of nuclear power plants. The cooperation in space science between in India and the US depended very much on the science counselor, which duty Anandakrishnan discharged most effectively.

It was at this time that the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched and used for informational television programmes to rural India. The main objective of the project was to educate poor people on various issues via satellite broadcasting. ■

## CHAPTER 3

# Instructional Television Experiment

The Department of Atomic Energy of the Government of India entered into an agreement in 1975 with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the U.S.A., to conduct jointly a Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) enabling informal education to the rural population of India through visual medium that was launched on 1st August, 1975. This was a joint venture of NASA, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and

All-India Radio (AIR) with a view to explore the possibilities of a satellite for country-wide communication through the medium of TV. It was also considered to broadcast certain instruction



programmes in the field of agriculture, family planning and education. This was introduced in 2400 villages in 20 districts of Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The Experiment envisaged visual shows for adult viewers in the evenings mainly in the need of family planning and matters of importance like healthcare, to start with in Hindi, Oriya, Kannada and Telugu languages.

Later when studied for its effect, it was seen both by NASA and Department of Atomic Energy of India to be exceptionally successful as it yielded expected results in educating people, and there was a spin off effect of research and development capability which was future friendly for further experimentation. It was also seen that general public desired further instructional programmes in other fields as well. More importantly, the results showed remarkable knowledge-gain in health, hygiene, political consciousness and socio-cultural matters and showed that female audience outnumbered the males, a most desirable effect. Naturally, therefore, Indian government wanted this programme to be continued. The US had its own agenda in positioning the satellite over India, that made it possible to monitor international affairs, especially Europe and by the way it was useful for India though the original intention of the US was not for this purpose alone. Therefore there was a need then, for the US to shift the satellite from its position over India to elsewhere to suit their changed requirements while India needed the services of this satellite very badly. Henry Alfred Kissinger was then the Secretary of State under President Nixon (both being hostile towards India) and wanted Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to request the US for the satellite positioning.

But Smt. Indira Gandhi, whose relations with the US were not very friendly, did not oblige. Indian Government wanted to break the ice and it found in Dr. Anandakrishnan the person with capability to manoeuvre for retaining the satellite with the departments concerned of the US. It was to Anandakrishnan's credit that India could get the benefit of the satellite for a prolonged period. During this time Anandakrishnan was moving so closely with the scientists of India and the US that he became a true bridge for better relations at the working level of scientists. It was then that he attended many important inter-governmental meetings. One among them was the environment programme meeting of experts designated by the governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the Ozone Layer, during March 1977. Such important participations further catapulted him into more important functions. His deputation term was over when he was asked by the United Nations to stay on further, but Indian participation in the United Nation was over-subscribed and therefore it was administratively not possible to retain him. In 1978 he was appointed therefore, just for one year as Chief of New Technologies in the Office of Science & Technology, United Nations. ■





## United Nations and Vienna Conference

Twice during the period of 1960-80, the United Nations hosted world conferences to specific problems; one of which was United Nations Conference on the application of Science and Technology for the benefit of Less Developed Areas (UNCSAT) and one on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD). In the second stated conference at Vienna, Anandakrishnan played a stellar role. Details are available in a book titled *Science, Technology and Society: Needs, Challenges and Limitations* edited by Klaus-Heinrich Standke and M. Anandakrishnan. (Standke was the first German elected director of the UN Office for Science and Technology. Later he served as the Managing Director for the science sector and subsequently it's Director General). The collection is the proceedings of the International Colloquium, Vienna, Austria, 13-17 August 1979, organized under the auspices of the United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST).

The focus was on the role of science and technology in promoting development as well as its limitation in shaping the society. The contents show the contributions the field of S&T has provided in health, industries, agriculture, transportation, and communication. The emphasis was on the role of technologists and scientists in promoting development in the sector of food and agriculture.

A note on the book by the publisher says, "The text notes the emergence of socio-economic problems in the sector of food and agriculture and how these problems can be solved by the application of agricultural technologies. Case studies in this regard that is

presented in this book include fish handling and distribution, improving soil fertility, and feed resources for animal feeding. The role of science and technology in the management of water resources is noted, and the problems associated with the application of science and technology to water resources development are discussed. Science and technology has also played an important role in improving the quality of life in human settlements. The text is a valuable source of data for scientists and technologists who aim to improve science and technology and serve the interest of mankind."

Over the ten years of this extended service with the UN, Anandakrishnan was made Deputy Director, Centre of Science & Technology



for Development, for *catalyzing science and technology in developing nations*. As said earlier there was a problem in Anandakrishnan continuing beyond five years in the UN as India was over-subscribed. Therefore, he was inducted through the under-subscribed Germany's vacant positions.

By sheer chance Anandakrishnan met José Israel Vargas, a PhD in nuclear science from the Department of Physics & Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. He was one of the formulators of Brazil's nuclear energy policy at





the beginning of the 1960s, an activity that was interrupted by the military coup of 1964, due to which he had to leave the country and live in exile in France for six and a half years. While in France, he worked as a researcher at the French Atomic Energy Commission's Center for Nuclear Studies in Grenoble.

Later during that period Vargas shifted to the US and contacted Anandakrishnan and soon they became close associates and Vargas developed a great respect for Anandakrishnan's capacity to organize and assist in developmental activities. When the civilian elected government took over the administration of Brazil, Vargas returned to Brazil. By this time, being a nuclear scientist of repute, José Israel Vargas had become one of the most influential voices in scientific and technological policy of the country and was made the Minister of Science and Technology. He was instrumental in ensuring the availability of the services of Anandakrishnan for Brazil, though Anandakrishnan, by that time was offered the post of Vice Chancellor of Anna University in Chennai. Even so, Anandakrishnan

was inducted into the International Expert Committee for strengthening Science and Technology sector of Brazil during 1990 to 1997, assisting from Chennai. This was necessary according to the germs of the aid, for the Brazilian Government to engage specialists, as it received 600m.dollars in 1989 as assistance from Inter American Development Bank, through shared participation between UNDP and governmental and academic organizations in improving human development through science and technology, and Anandakrishnan did play an important role in the system. Anandakrishnan's notable service to the country was recognized by the Government of Brazil and he was given by its president Brazilian Government's highest civilian award *Order of Scientific Merit*. (*Ordem Nacional do Mérito Científico*, is an honor bestowed upon Brazilian and foreign personalities recognized for their scientific and technical contributions to the cause and development of Science in Brazil. Out of about ten foreign nationals who received this order Anandakrishnan is the only Asian.) ■

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## CHAPTER 5

# Anna University Gets A New Vice Chancellor



A search committee that included Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah (a great economist and founder of the Madras Institute of Development Studies) recommended Anandakrishnan's name for the post of Vice Chancellor, Anna University. As he was completing his term with the International Body then, he could easily fit into the post with his vast experience both in administration and education. Anna University was

established on 4th September, 1978 as a unitary type of University comprising four outstanding engineering institutes, College of Engineering Guindy, (CEG 1794), Madras Institute of Technology, Chrompet (MIT 1949), Alagappa College of Technology (ACT 1944) and the School of Architecture and planning (SAP 1957) and it was planned to be equivalent to the IITs. It was to this Premier University that Anandakrishnan was appointed in 1990 and served as its Vice Chancellor for two terms, till 1996. It was to his credit that many changes were brought in to improve the functioning of the University, the important one being the *single window admission system* for admission to engineering courses across the state by doing away with the *common entrance test system*. This brought in transparency in admissions and avoided malpractices. He was also responsible for bringing changes in external examination system.

He is remembered for the Alumni Club near Boat club of Chennai. Anandakrishnan noticed a scramble for a piece of prime property that belonged to the University in the Boat club area. It was almost overnight that the club was born as Anandakrishnan and Professor Dr Hedge were keen that the huge area in sylvan surroundings that was the varsity's boat yard from about 1969 should not be lost to 'property' collectors or even senior bureaucrats looking for a housing colony. Immediately they formed a club for engineers passing out of the four star colleges. (During the club's silver jubilee celebrations, as prime mover of the idea to make the land over for a common purpose, defeating the plans of rich landlords,

Anandakrishnan was invited to preside over the function.)

The Centre for University –Industry Collaboration (CUIC) was established during his time in 1991. The focus was on domains of Campus placement, Faculty empowerment programmes and arranging Industrial training with leading industries, together with Industrial projects for students.

CUIC has a unique scheme called Industrial Associateship Scheme (IAS) wherein, small,



medium, large scale industries, R&D and Educational institutions are enrolled with the main aim to enable them to utilize the various facilities available in the library with a subscription fee of Rs. 10,000/- per annum. Interactive Programmes are conducted every year for the benefit of the member-institutions. Programmes for promoting Industry-Institute interactions, Regional Get-togethers of industries, Government-funding agencies, R&D and Educational institutions, etc., are also organized at regular intervals for cross pollination of industrial / academic ideas. ■



## An Education Specialist Par Excellence

After completing his tenure as Vice Chancellor of Anna University for two terms, Anandakrishnan was appointed Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCH), while simultaneously holding the post of Advisor to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on matters relating to Information Technology and e-governance. TANSCH was established by an Act of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1992 for the promotion and cooperation of higher education at the state level and coordination of the state level programmes with that of the University Grants Commission.

The Parliament during the Budget Session in 1986 discussed and adopted the "National Policy on Education 1986" with a view to move the higher education system to the central slot and had spelt out the strategies to impart the needed dynamism and vibrancy all over the country. For its implementation, the states needed to set up State Councils for Higher Education



education – planning and coordination, Academic, Advisory and Administrative functions.

The important function of TANSCH included the administration and release of grants-in-aid from the Government to the Universities and release research funds and to identify innovative programmes for sustainable growth through self generated funds from consultancy services to industries. It was also to liaise with AICTE in technical education. Anandakrishnan's choice to function as its administrative head was due to his vast experience both as administrator and educationist.

As advisor to the Chief Minister Tamil Nadu in Information Technology and e-governance, Anandakrishnan guided the setting up of TIDEL Park in Taramani. The name TIDEL is a portmanteau of TIDCO and ELCOT, coming from the first two letters of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu

(ELCOT). Located within the city, the park is the largest IT facility Promoted by TIDCO and ELCOT both fully owned organizations of Government of Tamil Nadu. The park was completed on record time of 15 months from the date of its start. The then Prime Minister of India, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, inaugurated the Park, a 990 million Rs. project, on July 4, 2000. Stated to be the largest in Asia, of its type, the park has a built-up area of 1,280,000



as statutory bodies. Thus TANSCH, was created to perform according to the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission, mainly to cover four important areas of higher

sq ft. While serving with the TN Government, Anandakrishnan was involved in many schemes through e-governance, though later the e-governance did not take off in full swing



due to governmental policies. Anandakrishnan having completed his specific jobs with the State Government in IT sector, moved to another research oriented centre, Madras Institute of Development Studies in August 2003. The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) was founded by Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, in January 1971, shortly after Dr. Adiseshiah's retirement as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, supported by his wife.

In 1976 the Government of India through the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), reconstituted MIDS as a National Institute in March 1977 under the joint sponsorship of the Government of India through the ICSSR and the Government of Tamil Nadu. The founders gifted to the reconstituted National Institute its land and buildings, its library, furniture and equipment and a cash endowment. ■

## CHAPTER 7

# Madras Institute of Development Studies

Anandakrishnan took over as Chairperson of the Madras Institute of Development studies in August 2003 and worked in that capacity till July 2008. As said earlier MIDS is a unique organization in the field of research in social and economic sciences. Established in 1971 by Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah through his personal funds and resources (after retirement as Deputy Director General of UNESCO), MIDS was reconstituted in 1977 as a National Institute with support from Govt. of India through Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the government of Tamil Nadu. RBI supports Ph.D. Fellowships and has active doctoral programme. It also has one of the finest libraries in the field of Social Sciences in India with over 50,000 volumes and more than 200 journals. The book "Tamil Nadu Economy: Performance and Issues" (Oxford and IBH) was its landmark contribution. As chairman of the Board of Trustees Anandakrishnan had the privilege of facilitating the programmes of the Institute through active engagement with funding agencies besides supporting faculty initiatives.

During the same period Anandakrishnan had also held several other responsibilities that included Chairman, Science City, Chennai (2005 – 2010) and Chairman, Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies (RCIS).

Science City Chennai is an autonomous organization established in 1998 under the Department of Higher Education of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the promotion and popularization of science and technology. Under this umbrella come more than 60 educational and research institutions in Guindy







- Taramani area belonging to both Central and State Governments. It organizes hands on science activities for students, Science day celebration, Inter City and Intra City Science Exhibition and science talents contest etc., In addition, it organizes scientific inputs to farmers through Training programmes. More importantly, it conducts Summer Training Programmes in Basic Sciences, and science based programmes for the Differently Aabled.

Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies was originally set up under the stimulus provided by late C. Subramaniam. Under the guidance of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan it grew and Anandakrishnan took over the reins in 2005. The centre has been contributing to the awareness of communication technologies through its celebrated journal. The emphasis the Centre places is on indigenously generated, processed

and disseminated information and information systems to accomplish local, national and global needs covering all sections of the population. Named after S. R. Ranganathan, acknowledged worldwide as the greatest librarian of the 20th century, the centre organizes symposiums of importance in the sector of Information technologies, such as the symposium on 50 years of Information Technology (IT) in India in early years.

Anandakrishnan considers his role as the Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Kanpur for an unusual three term period from 2007 to 2015 as most satisfying. Naturally it was a rare privilege for one to be the Chairman of an Institute in which one began one's career five decades before assuming the position of its Chairman, as a young faculty member, especially when the period saw a steep growth of the Institute.

Anandakrishnan was also the Chairperson of International Forum for Information Technology for Tamil (INFITT), that was formed to promote Tamil culture and language through Information Technology, computing, Tamil Internet, Tamil electronic content by the coordination of their regional, national, international and individual efforts and resources worldwide. ■



## CHAPTER 8

# Higher Education Committee

Anandkrishnan feels another role that satisfied him most was being the Chairman, Higher Education Committee of FICCI (2009 – 2012). This was initiated by the FICCI to take active part in higher education of India where with over 700 universities and over 30 million students, the public expenditure was only 1.25% of GDP against 3.1% in the US and therefore it was necessary for industries to come together. For this committee Anandkrishnan was appointed chairman for three years. He feels the work done by this committee was quite immense.



FICCI, the nongovernment, no profit organization with its connections with industries and institutions wanted to create a knowledge network with the leading universities and the industries. Anandkrishnan was one of the people who ideated this initiative. FICCI took the initiative to take active part in higher education because in India with over 700 universities and over 30 million students, the public expenditure was only 1.25% of GDP against 3.1% in the US and therefore it was necessary for industries to come together to raise this. Anandkrishnan feels that the work done by this committee was quite immense.

In his current involvement as head of the committee for reforming the Tamil Nadu School Curriculum in which he is now fully engaged, his commitment is remarkable. According to press reports, the Government issued orders indicating that this high level committee would focus on corrective measures to be implemented

to better the education system in the state and examine the infrastructural developments needed for the schools. The committee would focus on examination-related reforms as well as implement training methods for school teachers. The committee would go in detail into the defects of the current education system and initiate reforms for all the classes.

Thus for this massive challenge, Anandkrishnan feels happy to be doing this work for future state of education in Tamil Nadu. He says the task of the committee far beyond simply revamping the curriculum and the syllabi. It is set to be comparable to the best in the world. Its emphasis is on specified learning outcome for every subject and every class from 1st to 12th standard. Special recommendations are made for teachers' up-gradation, adequate infrastructure and technical devices such as computers and internet facilities, experimental facilities, teacher Guide books, career counseling of students, learning opportunities beyond syllabus and so on. The textbooks are being designed to attract and hold the attention of the students. When the draft curriculum was placed for public comment in the web, it was gratifying that more than 2000



positive suggestions were received.

A seminar was conducted where 800 teachers, academicians and officials participated, when Anandakrishnan remarked that the challenges before the committee was to create a curriculum for children to be able to keep up with the rapid changes all around them and adequately equip themselves with knowledge. He said, “A child who starts school next year will pass out sometime around 2030 and by that time, there would

have been enormous changes — ecologically, economically, socially as well as in the knowledge system. Tamil Nadu has about 58,000 schools with 5.7 lakh teachers and 13 million students and these numbers are bound to increase as well.” He feels that it is necessary to have a curriculum which strengthens the fundamental concepts and not just promotes learning, and it was imperative to train teachers with regard to the learning capacity of the students.

Talking to him one feels the committee is in safe hands as he says that the learning material available for children should be interesting and the examination system which is now being used to simply filter students should be made part of the learning system where students are benefited and says that the Universities in the country which have ignored the school education system so far should become a collateral part of it. ■

## An Awardee of Padmashri





## Dr. Ramamurthi Anandakrishnan and Pam



**D**ear Mom and Dad,

Congratulations on your 90th Birthdays! We look forward to celebrating many more with you.

We cannot begin to imagine all that the two of you have seen and experienced over your 90 years. And, all the lives around the world that you have touched. Together, you have made this world a better place. From being instrumental in starting the IITs, to establishing scientific policy, to implementing progressive educational systems, your contributions are countless and far reaching. All made possible by the two of you working as a team.

We love you very much and wish you both a very happy birthday with many more to come.

*Love Pam and Ramu*

**M**om and Dad,

I am what I am today because of the both of you. You taught me, by your example, the importance of hard work and personal responsibility. From you, I inherited the love of knowledge and independence. Throughout my life, you have shown me love, patience and understanding. You always challenged me to do better and be better. For this and so much more, I will be forever in your debt.

Growing up I could not have been happier. I wanted for nothing and knew that I could always turn to you for help. You were always there when I needed your support and guidance. Thank you.

*Love you always, Ramu*

**A**untie and Uncle,

You opened your hearts and welcomed me into the family with open arms. You showed me your homeland and taught me to embrace all the wonderful traditions, sights and flavors of India. Because of you, my visits to India are not just enjoyable, but also educational. You bravely endured my attempts to prepare Indian food without any complaints. I have learned a lot from your keen insights into the history and traditions of India for which I will always be grateful.

*Love you always, Pam*





## Dr. Ravi Anandakrishnan and Uma



I was lucky enough to grow up with my brothers on IIT Kanpur's campus. While dad taught, we were under mom's strict household. I saw the seamless team they formed as mom would discipline us more freely and would rely on dad to put his weight behind her when we got too unruly. Of course, this was rare as we were very well behaved young boys – except for Ramu 😊

I also watched as they created a life far from their homes in Tamil Nadu, and how easily they were able to build a community. They invited similarly displaced students of my dad to dinner on holidays, such as Deepavali. I remember helping mom in the kitchen as she made fresh pooris for these gatherings. Both mom and dad filled our humble home with love.

With mom giving him a strong base at home, dad has devoted his life to education. He has shared with all what he emphasized to us growing up: "As a professor, the only inheritance I can leave you is a good education. No one can take this from you, so make the best of it as you are able."

Thank you, mom and dad, for everything. Happy Birthday to you both!

My first interaction with Uncle was over the phone, me in India and him miles away in New York. I will never forget the question,

"EnnammaRavi'yapudichieruka?" The rest is history. At my wedding, I remember my friends remarking to me how well dressed Titi was and making fun of my sloppy fashion sense.

After the wedding, Uncle was nice enough to swap his First Class seat with my Economy Class seat. I felt like I was traveling to the US in style, and this has since set the tone for the love and warmth I have been surrounded by.

In New York, Titi showed me all the ropes for living in the US. I was amazed by how easily she moved around in the city wearing her saris. To this day, I buy all the same brands she introduced me to then.

Happy Birthday Uncle and Titi!!

***Love Ravi and Uma***

## Satyan Anandakrishnan and May



From the post-dinner, backyard story-telling and star-gazing sessions, Sunday biriyani lunches, muruku frying sessions, glider rides, to hounding me to study and agonizing over my report cards in IITK, to freezing cold dips in ice melt streams in Kashmir, to almost missing the train in Agra, and excursions in Jhansi, to cross country drives in the US, and trips to NZ, Bali, Sri Lanka and Bangkok you have opened our eyes to the world - to see with our own eyes, and think with our mind, heart and soul.

We learned early and throughout our lives by example that we must do the right thing, regardless of convention, tradition or the easy way out. When we come to these cross roads, our conscience is always asking us what would mommy say, what would daddy do, would they be proud of us? While we don't always live up to these standards, we are still young, kind of...:-)

Thinking back, we wonder how you must have agonized and even now agonize over our choices and decisions, but still whole heartedly supported us.

Early on we used to think the power lay in the throne, but as we grew older and wiser, we realized that the power lay behind the throne. The Anandakrishnan boys have learned the lesson well and the four princesses rule the roost. Arun is fighting the good fight. Let us see how long it takes him to wise up:-)

But in the final analysis, it is the power of love that we see in them that inspires us every day.

Now that we are going to retire (Not fake retire like you, and Ramu and Pam), we hope to keep learning at your feet for a long time to come. You are still young, kind of...:-

*Love, Mr Travis, May and Satyan*



## Dr. Sridhar Anandakrishnan and Martha



**E**verything we are is due to our parents.

Our parents have been our inspiration. They have always seen the best side of people and taught us to do the same. Their examples of generosity and openness and courage is always a guide for us. I think of them setting out to Minneapolis as a young couple and braving the unimaginable cold and distance from home with courage, and that wish to see what is down the road is what I inherited from them. I think of them returning to India to help and serve and teach and that generosity is something that has led me to the work I do (along with item one above - travel!). Finally, their unconditional love, even when we are exasperating, has given me stability and strength all my life.

*Love Sridhar and Martha*

## Arun Anandakrishnan and Dr. Vaishnavi



**H**appy 90th Birthday, dear Thatha and Titi! As time continues to push forward, I am more grateful than ever for these joyous occasions to bring all our family and friends together. Time spent with you in New York, Maryland, KFC, India, Atlanta, McDonald's, Brazil, Kenya, Italy, and Pizza Hut will be the memories we will forever cherish. As much as we wish you would move closer to us, we are extremely proud of your commitment to the people of India.

You have both been a true inspiration not only in our lives but to the many people who so fondly recount to us their encounters with you. We are lucky and truly honored be able to call you our grandparents and hope our lives will one day be as meaningful and significant as the both of yours. Wishing you many more years of love and happiness!

*With lots of love, Arun and Vaish*



## Ms. Archana Anandakrishnan



In honor of my grandparents' 90th birthday, I am excited to share my experience of being their granddaughter. My earliest memories of my grandparents are fleeting: having my hair plaited by my grandmother, sitting at the dining room table sneaking snacks with my grandfather, and other moments of that nature. My more concrete memories came later, usually at various events celebrating their accomplishments. I remember playing the piano at their 50th wedding anniversary and dancing at a small gathering celebrating my Thatha's Padma Shri Award. While I can now appreciate the gravity of these achievements, my favorite memories are those where I got to spend time alone with them.

More recently, I was able to spend an entire week alone with them, including Pongal – my first in India. My Thatha took me to the book fair and bought me as many books as I wanted because he shares my love for reading. Later that week, we went to the exhibition and while Thatha waited for us by the food stalls, Titi came with me on a ride that went up and down and twisted us around. She kept her eyes closed the entire time, but she knew I wouldn't have gone alone and chose to accompany me. We also went to DakshinaChitra, the living-history museum, where I got to learn more about the history of Pongal and South Indian culture.

My grandparents are well liked and respected by many, as they should be. They have done a great deal for their communities and, as their granddaughter, I hope to one day be a reflection of them in this way. Overall, I am appreciative of the love they have instilled in me for India, where I have only spent short increments of time. I eagerly await trips to India where I can speak Tamil, wear jasmine in my hair, and feel at home. The life they have built is a strong example for me. Without their ambition and perseverance, my parents, and so I, would not be leading the fulfilling lives we are today. I will continue to strive to be as accomplished in my studies as my Thatha and as strong a woman as my Titi. Happy 90th Birthday!

*With Love Archana*



## ‘கணித்தமிழ்’ தந்தை பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன்



**சொ.ஆனந்தன்**  
தலைவர், கணித்தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்  
உரிமையாளர், வள்ளி மென்பொருள் நிறுவனம்

ஒரு சிறந்த கல்வியாளர் என்பவர் ஒரு கல்விக் கூடத்தில் கற்பிப்பவர் மட்டுமல்ல. தான் பயணிக்கும் பாதையில் உள்ள அனைவருக்கும் அறிவூட்டி சமூகத்தில் பல முக்கிய மாறுதலுக்கு தானும் ஒரு முக்கிய காரணமாகி ஒரு இயக்கமாகவே மாறிவிடுபவர் ஆவார்.

அத்தகைய மிகச்சிறந்த கல்வியாளர்களில் ஒருவர்தான் நம் பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அவர்கள்.

தமிழ்கணினி உலகில் எங்களைப் போன்றவர்களை ஒருங்கிணைத்து, ஊக்குவித்து 1999ல் ‘கணித்தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்’ ஆரம்பிக்க முக்கிய காரணமாக இருந்தவர் ஐயா அவர்கள்.

நாங்கள் 2000ம் ஆண்டில் மதுரையிலும், 2001ம் ஆண்டில் சென்னையிலும் நடத்திய மிகப்பெரிய ‘கணிப்பொறித் திருவிழாக்கள்’ ஐயாவின் முழு வழிகாட்டுதல் மற்றும் ஆதரவின் பேரிலேயே பெரிய வெற்றி பெற்றது.

அதைத் தொடர்ந்து பள்ளிகள், கல்லூரிகள் பலவற்றில் நடைபெற்ற தமிழ்க்கணினிப் பயிற்சிப் பட்டறைகள், உலகத்தமிழ் இணைய மாநாட்டு ஏற்பாட்டுக்குழுக்களில் முக்கியப் பங்களிப்பு, தமிழ் மென்பொருள் விற்பனைக்கான உலகம் தழுவிய ‘தமிழ்மென்பொருள் கண்காட்சிகள்’ முதல் தற்போது 2015ல் நாங்கள் நடத்திய ‘முதலாம் தமிழ் எழுத்துருவியல் மாநாடு’ வரையில் கணித்தமிழ்ச் சங்கத்தின் அனைத்து முயற்சிகளிலும் ஐயாவின் பங்களிப்பே பிரதானமானது.

1994ல் அண்ணா பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் வளர்தமிழ் மன்றம் சார்பில் ஐயா நடத்திய தமிழ்க்கணினி மாநாடுதான் உலகில் நடைபெற்ற தமிழுக்கான முதல் கணினி தொழில்நுட்ப மாநாடு.

அடுத்து 1997ல் சிங்கப்பூரில் நடைபெற்ற முதலாம் உலகத் தமிழ் இணைய மாநாட்டில் எடுக்கப்பட்ட தீர்மானங்களுக்கு இணைய சென்னையில் 1999

பிப்ரவரி 7 மற்றும் 8 தேதிகளில் பேராசிரியர் ஐயா ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் சீரிய முயற்சியால் தமிழக அரசின் சார்பில் 2-வது ‘தமிழ் இணைய மாநாடு’ நடைபெற்றது. அதில்தான் எங்களைப் போன்ற தமிழ் மென்பொருள் தயாரிப்பாளர்களையும் கணினி அறிஞர்களுடன் இணைத்து ‘கணித்தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்’ அமைத்து உலக ளாவிய தமிழ்க்கணினியின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு வித்திட்டார் பேராசிரியர்.

2000ம் ஆண்டில் சிங்கப்பூரில் ‘உத்தமம்’ அமைப்பைத் தொடங்கி உலகளாவிய தமிழ்க்கணினி ஆய்வுகளுக்கு அடித்தளமிட்டார். அதே ஆண்டில் சென்னையில் ‘தமிழ் இணையப் பல்கலைக் கழகமும்’ ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது.

1999ம் ஆண்டிலும், 2010ம் ஆண்டிலும் தமிழக அரசு சார்பில் தமிழ்க்கணினி தொடர்பான ‘முக்கிய தரப்பாடுகள்’ குறித்த அரசாணைகள் வெளியிடச் செய்தார்.

அவரின் அன்றைய கனவு தற்போது இருபது ஆண்டு காலத்தில் பெருமளவு நிறைவேறி உள்ளது. இன்று நவீன தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பக் கருவிகள் அனைத்திலும் தமிழ் தங்குதடையில்லாமல் செயல்படுவதற்கு காரணம் இந்த 20 ஆண்டு கால தொலைநோக்கு முயற்சிகளே என்றால் மிகையிலலை. இந்திய மொழிகளில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பக் கருவிகளில் அதிக அளவில் பயன்படுத்தப்படும் முதல் மொழி தமிழ். தற்போது அவர் எங்களைப் போன்ற பலரால் ‘கணித்தமிழ்த் தந்தை’ என்றே அழைக்கப் படுகிறார்.

ஐயாவின் பல உயரிய கல்விப் பணிகளை விடவும் தன் தாய்மொழி தமிழுக்கு ஐயா ஆற்றிய இந்த பங்களிப்பைத்தான் மிக உயர்வாக நான் கருதுகிறேன். ஒரு தொழில்நுட்பப் புரட்சியில் தமிழ் பின்தங்கி விடாமல் முன்னோக்கி பாய்ந்து பயணிக்க மிகப்பெரிய உந்துசக்தியாக செயல்பட்டதில் ஐயாவின் பங்கு போற்றுவதற்குரியது.

என் தனிப்பட்ட வாழ்க்கையில் ஐயாவின் பாதிப்புகள் மிகவும் அதிகம். 2002ல் நான் முதன்முதலில் வெளியிட்ட ‘சங்கப்பலகை’ தமிழ் விசைப்பலகையை ஐயா அவர்கள்தான் வெளியிட்டு வாழ்த்திப் பேசினார்கள்.

தற்போது 2018ல் என்னுடைய மூத்த மகள் திருமணத்தை ஐயா அவர்கள்தான் முன்னின்று நடத்திக் கொடுத்தார்கள். என்னுடைய இந்த 20 ஆண்டுப் பயணத்தில் ஐயாவிடம் தொடர்ந்து கற்றுக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறேன். அந்தப் பாடங்கள் எங்கள் வாழ்க்கையை மேலும் செம்மைப்படுத்திக் கொண்டே வருகிறது.

ஐயா அவர்களின் 90-வது பிறந்த நாள் கொண்டாடும் இந்த நிகழ்விலும் எங்களுக்கு முக்கியப் பங்காற்ற வாப்ப்புக் கொடுத்தமைக்கு மிகவும் மகிழ்கிறேன். நன்றி கூறுகிறேன்.

வாழ்த்த வயது தேவையில்லை.. அன்பு மட்டும் போதும்...!

ஐயாவும், அம்மாவும் நீடுழி வாழ்க...!

## Uncommon Common Sense



***Prof. M.S. Ananth***

*Former Director,  
IIT Madras*

I have had the privilege of knowing Prof. M. ANANDAKRISHNAN since 1990, when he came to Anna University (AU) as its Vice Chancellor. We, in IIT Madras, knew him earlier by his reputation as an outstanding Professor of Civil Engineering and Administrator in IIT Kanpur. He came to AU as a breath of fresh air, bringing an open and transparent administration to a university that was woefully hierarchical. He would much later tell me that he had overestimated AU's capacity to change its mindset and benefit fully from the academic freedom that he offered to the faculty.

Subsequently I was fortunate to be a member in a

few MHRD and AICTE Committees and participant in education panels chaired by Prof. Anandakrishnan. I had a ringside seat to watch the Maestro conduct each of the meetings with exceptional grace and extract a meaningful consensus out of the apparently divergent views expressed by the members. Over the next few decades he became a friend, philosopher and guide. As Director, IIT Madras I benefitted from his sage advice on tricky issues on several occasions. He is direct and simple in expression yet complex in thought, open minded yet difficult to budge from his course, generous yet demanding as a boss and radical in thought yet pragmatic in action.

Prof. Anandakrishnan's striking qualities include his uncommon common sense, the courage of his convictions and his uncanny ability to purposefully steer any discussion in which he was in the chair to the conclusions that he wanted! His general articles that all of us have read avidly are a testimony to these. Despite his constant pursuit of quality in higher education as VC of AU, he was always an Administrator with a truly human touch. On the occasion of his 90th birthday let me join his numerous admirers in wishing him many more happy returns of the day.

■



***Prof. S. Sadagopan***

*Director, IIIT-B,  
26/C, Electronics City,  
Bangalore - 560 100.*

**D**ear Sir,

In my 25+ years of acquaintance, I have found three things about Prof. M. Anandakrishnan which are unique.

1. Very high energy level even at his advanced age!
2. Laser sharp focus on academics with a special / emphasis on academic administration.
3. Open to new ideas even from people much younger to him

I wish this "90 year 'Young Academic Leader'" many more years of 'active professional life'

With best wishes,

■



## A Student's Tribute To His Prof



**Arun Mahizhnan**

*Former member of INFITT,  
Singapore.*

Prof, as he was called by everyone in the Singapore circle, though he never taught us in any university, had a unique presence in the International Forum for Information Technology (INFITT). There were several other academic professors in the group but "Prof" as a moniker meant only Professor M Anandakrishnan. In many ways he was exceptional and inspiring -- which is what everyone in this commemorative book will say. However, as a Singaporean, representing the Singapore beneficiaries of Prof's role in INFITT, I wish to place on record some of his exceptional and inspiring ways through which Singapore's destiny was linked to INFITT and vice versa.

I first encountered Prof in August, 1999, in Colombo, where a number of non-Sri Lankans were invited to attend the preparatory meeting for the third Tamil Internet conference to be held in Colombo in 2000, after the first inaugural conference in Singapore in 1997 and the second one in Chennai in 1999. It became clear to me very quickly that Prof not only preceded all of us by age but also in wisdom. Representing the country that inaugurated the international Tamil internet conference series, I thought Singapore's role would then on be important but not critical, especially in the presence of India and Sri Lanka, our seniors by far. But Prof's

intervention changed that trajectory.

Though the preparatory meeting went very well, demonstrating the fabled Sri Lankan efficiency and hospitality, the actual conference had to be called off around March, 2000 because of political turmoil in Sri Lanka. The question before us all was whether to postpone the conference to the following year in some other country. There was a great sense of disappointment that we just could not hold on to the annual schedule which was proposed in Singapore in 1997. First, India delayed the second conference by a year and now this. Prof had emerged as the de facto leader of the international group by then. He asked me if Singapore could possibly step into the breach and hold a small stop-gap conference in 2000, just to maintain the annual schedule. I consulted my team and accepted the daunting task of organizing the third conference in less than six months.

In the meantime, some of us were also in the throes of setting up a formal international organisation that would become the nerve centre of the Tamil internet movement globally. The name of that organisation – International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT) in English and உலகத் தமிழ்த் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மன்றம் (உத்தமம்) in Tamil -- was decided in Sri Lanka during our earlier visit. However, most of the leg work in drawing up the constitution, structure and functions was yet to be done. The guiding spirit above all of us was Prof. Many of us in Singapore were surprised and impressed by Prof's special mix of Indian wisdom and international sensibility, honed over decades. He was able to exert his leadership over us in a way that the Tamils love to call வாழைப் பழத்தில் ஊசி ஏற்றுவது போல் (Like sliding a needle into a banana). That we were bananas and not buffalo hide is another story. The Singapore group developed not only respect but also affection for Prof.

I'm happy to report that our feelings for Prof was

not unrequited. Though everyone agreed that INFITT should be inaugurated at the Singapore conference, and that Prof M Anandakrishnan would be elected as its founding Chair, there was division among members about where INFITT should be headquartered.

The Singapore conference did not turn out to be the make-do conference with about 100 odd participants that everyone expected it to be at such short notice. Thanks to the enormous government financial and political support and massive public participation, the Singapore conference was conceived and delivered as a three-ring conference – one platform for conference, one for exhibition and one for business – that later became the template for INFITT mega conferences. More than 35,000 people attended the exhibition and nearly 600 took part in the conference.

What Singapore demonstrated within an

extraordinarily short time -- the organizational skills, the intellectual and creative talent and, above all, the political support that did not play petty and personal politics – impressed Prof to such an extent he proposed that Singapore should be the headquarters for INFITT. The majority deferred to Prof's judgment. Thus it came to pass that Singapore and some Singaporeans would forever be remembered in the annals of INFITT and Tamil internet history.

Not only during his chairmanship of INFITT but even after he vacated the chair, Prof continued to be the guiding spirit for the Singapore group. We continued to heed his advice and guidance. I can only hope that in the five years that INFITT remained in Singapore, we lived up to Prof's expectations and to all others' satisfaction. The fact that Prof still mentions Singapore fondly in his remarks about INFITT's early years is a good report card from the Professor for us, his eternal students. ■

## பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களது 90வது பிறந்தநாள் வாழ்த்துகள்



அப்பாசாமி முருகையன்

தலைவர்,  
உத்தமம்

தொண்ணூறாவது பிறந்தநாள் காணும் பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களுக்கு உத்தமம் நிறுவனம் சார்பாகவும் எனது தனிப்பட்ட நிலையிலும் மனநிறைவான வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். அவர்களது 90வது பிறந்தநாளன்று அவர்கள் தொடங்கிய உத்தமம் நிறுவனத்தின் தலைவர் பொறுப்பில் இருப்பது எனக்கு கிடைத்த பேறு எனத்தான் கூறவேண்டும். ஐயா அவர்கள்

தொடங்கிய இந்நிறுவனம் கடந்த இருபது வருடங்களுக்கும் மேலாகப் பல சாதனைகளைப் பலரின் வழித் தமிழ்க் கணினிக்கும் தமிழுக்கும் படைத்து வருவது மிகவும் மகத்தான செய்தியாகும். தமிழ் வளர்ச்சியின் புதிய காலகட்டம் இது. இவ்வளர்ச்சிக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருந்து வரும் பேராசிரியர் அனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களது தொண்ணூறு அகவை நிறைவு விழா மலர் வெளிவருவது மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சிக்குரியது.

ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் உத்தமம் நடத்திவரும் தமிழ்க் கணினி மாநாட்டைத் தமிழர்கள் பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களின் பிறந்தநாளாகவே கொண்டாடி வருகின்றனர். அவர்களின் பிறந்தநாளன்று தமிழ்க் கணினியாளர்கள் தங்களின் ஆராய்ச்சியின் முதிர்ச்சியை பலர் முன்னும் படைக்கின்றனர். இவ்வாய்ப்பை நல்கிய பேராசிரியர் மு.ஆனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களது பிறந்தநாள் மிகவும் மகிழ்வாக, சிறப்பாக அமைய உத்தமம் நிறுவனத்தின் சார்பாக மீண்டும் எங்களது வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதில் மட்டற்ற மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறோம். ■

## Institution Builder



***Dr. V. Balaji***

*Commonwealth of Learning  
Vancouver, BC. Canada*

Professor M Anandakrishnan (MAK) is renowned as an institution builder as well as a leader in education. Among the small number of such individuals that are in our midst, MAK has many characteristics that confer a true distinction on him.

He is a leader that is committed to advancing the well-being of masses of people. MAK became Vice Chancellor of Anna University in early '90s after a distinguished career at national and international levels. One of the first tasks he accomplished was to introduce a rural work experience program for undergraduate students. Each student opting for this program was required to live in a rural setting for a defined period of time while undergoing a specific course work in that milieu. MAK personally selected resource persons who would teach or otherwise support the students. I was one of them and spent time with a compact group of students of Anna University that took residence in a village in Chengalpattu district. Much later, when I learnt about the Flexner Report of the US National Academy of Sciences (1911), I understood how a sustained program of this nature would have created a cadre of students that were well-versed in "engineering" changes in rural lifestyles and consumption. The Flexner Report led to the creation

of teaching hospitals that are part of the standard practice to this day. MAK's vision would have led to a similar institutional arrangement for rural families where academics and students together would find lasting solutions to their technology or productivity related challenges. I would hope that the newly-announced Prime Minister's Senior Research Fellowships can be structured along these lines.

MAK is an individual of great courage, courage that is born of conviction that one is in the right. He stood his ground firmly in defence of ethical and good conduct in institutional matters and did not give in to pressure. A well-known instance was how he stood his ground against formidable powers even when much pressure was brought on, including physical threats. In these matters, he paid no attention to whoever was in power. Even a few years back, he had the courage to speak his mind to the highest authority of the land when he thought that persons holding elected offices were not paying adequate attention to matters of merit and substantive academic conduct.

MAK is dedicated to students. Almost sixty years back, MAK was part of a small group of distinguished scientists and scholars that joined the Late P K Kelkar to build the new IIT in Kanpur. A campus school was one of the first things they built. MAK took delight in bringing the students from the school to the labs at IIT-Kanpur which at that time had some of the finest research equipment in India. He and his friends among the faculty taught them problem solving through analysis. They were even taught programming, a very rare practice at that time. His dedication to teaching and to students has endured all through these years. As a former student, I had access to his time even when he was holding influential offices in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. While serving as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT-Kanpur, he was keen to find ways and means to link the research in the labs there with improving livelihoods



of farmers and rural families, and encouraged much original thinking and effort. I was connected with some of them. He made it a point to inquire about the current work I was doing and sought to receive key documents to gain familiarity with emerging developments. I am personally aware how deeply familiar he is with some of the frontline developments in learning technology today. He is an example of a

Lifelong Teacher who constantly adds to his own knowledge through lifelong learning.

It is this rare blend of commitment to social advancement, courage of convictions and dedication to teaching and learning that makes MAK unique among the small number of institution builders today. I am honored to have been asked to felicitate him on his 90th birthday. ■

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## An Educational Experience



***Dr. P. Balaram***

*Professor Emeritus and  
Former Director,  
Indian Institute of Science,  
Bangalore.*

Professor M. Anandakrishnan

I first saw Professor Anandakrishnan, albeit from a distance, in the second half of 1967, shortly after joining IIT Kanpur as an MSc student in the Chemistry Department. I had a close friend in the Civil Engineering department, which Prof. Anandakrishnan was then heading. Now, half a

century later, I can say that I have watched with admiration Prof. Anandakrishnan's many contributions to the sphere of higher education in India and his very important contributions to the state of Tamil Nadu. It was my privilege to meet him on the occasion of the award of the Padma Shri by the Government of India. His long tenure as Vice Chancellor at Anna University has undoubtedly contributed greatly to the growth and reputation of the institution. Although I have met him on many occasions, I had the opportunity of working more closely with him towards the end of his tenure as Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur. Watching him, conduct the affairs of an institution, was an educational experience for me, although it might have come too late in my own career. Age had not diminished his considerable energy and his affection for the institution was infectious. On his ninetieth birthday, I would like to wish him smooth passage to a century and the very best for him and his family in the future. ■



## A Visionary



***Dr. N. Balakrishnan***

*Associate Director,  
IISc, Bangalore.*

Prof M Anandakrishnan is a visionary son of India and has played a seminal role in advancing or fostering science and technology in India and elsewhere for over five decades. A distinguished alumnus of both the College of Engineering, Guindy and the University of Minnesota, Prof Anandakrishnan has been recognized

world over through several awards, and accolades. Aside of all these greatest accomplishments, Prof Anandakrishnan is a very humble and pleasant person to work with. I had a few opportunities to work on national committees under his Chairmanship. It was always a very pleasant learning experience for me. His deep understanding of the issues and the commitments to absolute fairness and transparency demonstrate that he is not only a great scientist but also a person who holds high ethical standards. He is always supportive of the views expressed by younger members and gives a willing hand and guidance to mentor them. His passionate indulgence in making sure that science and technology should act as a vehicle for the society to benefit is legendary. I am very happy to note that the scientific community is celebrating his 90th birthday. It is my pleasure and honour to wish Prof Anandakrishnan very long productive, active and healthy years ahead. ■

## Embodiment Of Efficiency



***Colleen Louis***

*United Nations*

Dear Mr. Anandakrishnan,

Whenever I think of you, it is always with much affection and respect. How clearly I recall your retirement party at UNCSTD and how sad we all

were to see you leave. I remember working as part of a team with you, Milen, Hans Karpe, Atul, Hiroko and others. I remember ACSTD, and how you ran those meetings so effectively and efficiently every year. I remember the get-togethers and picnics we had - sometimes with your sons and their families. So many happy memories! How I wish we could meet you again - I am sure Milen would echo that sentiment! She and I still keep in touch and meet every so often.

On this your 90th birthday, I wish you God's blessings of peace, love, joy and good health for many more years to come. You have touched so many lives - your family members, colleagues and friends. I am sure all of them will shower you with good wishes on the occasion of this great milestone in your life.

I send you a big birthday hug. Do give my warm regards to Mrs. Anandakrishnan, ■

## Tranxparency And Probity



***Dr. V. Devanathan***

*President,  
The Academy of Sciences,  
Chennai – 600 025.*

I had the good fortune of knowing Dr. M. Anandakrishnan from the year 1990 when he assumed office as the Vice Chancellor of Anna University. I was at that time CSIR Emeritus Scientist attached to the Crystal Growth Centre of Anna University. He has overhauled the administration of Anna University with his past experience of over 10 years in Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur as a Faculty, Dean and Acting Director, prior to going to USA as Science Councilor in Indian Embassy. He has introduced the Single Window admission for Engineering Courses and abolished the Entrance Test.

Later on, I had the opportunity of working with him closely from the year 1996 when he became the President of the Tamil Nadu Academy of Sciences, now renamed as “The Academy of Sciences, Chennai”. He gave full support for the Summer Training Programs for the post-graduate students. The Academy initiated first the program in Physics in 2000 and he was mainly responsible for the financial support received from the Science City. Later, when he became the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Science City, this program was extended to other subjects – Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. This program has the salutary effect of creating awareness among the science students, especially in rural areas, the opportunities available to them and

motivate them to take to research and teaching.

Dr. M. Anandakrishnan is the most respected educationist and his services are sought after by both the state and central Governments. This may not be possible without the explicit support of political leaders. He had the unique distinction of moving with political leaders of different parties without getting involved in politics. He advocates transparency in the recruitment of faculty members and the selection of Vice-Chancellors. He bemoaned the rampant corruption that is creeping into the higher educational system and made a remark openly some time ago that the aspirants for Vice-Chancellorship are shuttling between the Raj Bhavan and the Fort with a brief case. This had the salutary effect in introducing new selection procedures which are more transparent and check the corrupt practices. This is the first step to get rid of corruption in the higher educational system and one needs to free it from political interference too.

Dr. M. Anandakrishnan has occupied many positions of responsibility and served them with distinction. He was the Vice Chancellor of Anna University for two terms, the Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, the Chairman of the Governing Council for the Science City, I.T. Adviser for the Government of Tamil Nadu, Chairman of the Governing Council for the Madras Institute of Development Studies, and the Chairman of the Governing Council for the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for three terms. He has served in many committees of U.G.C. AICTE and Government of India. Currently, he is the chairman of the committee appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu for Revamping the syllabus for the school education.

Although Prof. Anandakrishnan started his career with qualifications in Civil Engineering, soon he acquired vast knowledge in other areas of Science and Technology, including Information Technology,

e-Governance and Tamil internet. He has the remarkable quality of eliciting the views of others and making constructive suggestions. Although he has occupied many high positions of authority and wielded power, he is always unassuming and has shown great simplicity in social gatherings and functions. That is the secret of his success in life and the younger generation should imbibe his qualities

and emulate him if they wish to serve the society at large and succeed in life.

Let me, in conclusion, convey my heartiest greetings and respectful regards to the great educationist, Prof. M. Anandakrishnan on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. I pay my humble tribute to him and pray for his long and healthy life for many more years of active service to the society. ■

## My Humble Tribute and Reverence to Professor M Anandakrishnan



***Prof. Indranil Manna***

*Former Director,  
IIT-Kanpur.*

I am glad to hear that Professor M Anandakrishnan will soon turn ninety and reach another momentous landmark in his long and most illustrious life. The highest form of academics, which is all about pursuing knowledge either through dissemination (teaching) or by creation (research), crucially depends on maintaining proper ambience, spirit and guidance. Hence leadership and mentoring is no less important than the quality and magnitude of activities in academic institutions. In my honest assessment, Professor Anandakrishnan is one such peer who not only fulfills the dimension for this onerous task, but actually can serve as a role model because of his exemplary competence, experience and vision with a judicious mixture of humility, calmness and firmness.

Professor Anandakrishnan has served the country with aplomb for several decades in various capacity in university and institutions, government bodies, foreign and international organizations, and policy making agencies. Everywhere he left an indelible mark of excellence with landmark contribution. He is revered in all quarters for his wealth of experience and clarity of thoughts.

As one of his ardent and closest admirer, I cannot help admitting that I have singularly benefited from his fatherly and affectionate mentoring, ever since I took over the reign as the Director of IIT Kanpur. As he would be hardly a few years younger to my father, who is no more, I certainly looked at him with the same reverence and dependability as with my own father. The most amazing feature that I have noticed about him is that he never repeats a sentence or a word, rarely misses a point in meetings or conversations, and is always as punctual and prompt as one can ever imagine. Even at ninety, he has lost none of his precious touch or quality. He is obviously a lesson worth emulating for all of us, in education and administration.

May GOD grant him many more years of happy, healthy and active professional and personal life ahead! My best wishes to his family members, too. ■

## Academic Leader



***Dr. Dev Swarup***

*Joint Secretary,  
University Grants Commission,  
(Ministry of Human Resource  
Development, Govt. of India).*

It is my proud privilege and deep honour to have an opportunity to pen down my personal feelings about Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday on 16 June, 2018. I have known Prof. Anandakrishnan for more than a decade, and have interacted and been motivated and inspired, as being a part of UGC and several policy making processes. His highly intellectual pursuits, leadership and eminence,

created an everlasting impression in my memory. His unending devotion, professional approach, clarity of views and thought provoking discussions, inculcating the perspective of all members of a team, is highly commendable.

It has been a memorable moment of honour for me to have worked with Prof. Anandakrishnan, when I was Vice Chancellor of the University of Rajasthan; a proud moment when he graciously accepted my request to plan a vision and a mission for the University, with a team of eminent academicians. His deep concern for the cause of academics, long term vision and professional commitment have left me spell bound and in awe. I have never seen him flustered even during interminable discussions. My life has been undeniably enriched by his sustained friendship and academic commitments.

My heartiest congratulations to Prof. Anandakrishnan and his family, on this joyous occasion. I wish him robust health and everlasting happiness. ■

## Man Of Foresight



***Dr. Jagdish Arora***

*Director,  
INFLIBNET Centre,  
Infocity, Gandhinagar - 382007.*

Dear Mr. Ananthan,

Thanks for organising 90th Birthday celebration of Dr. Anandakrishnan. I have worked with him on e-PG Pathshala project. I was highly impressed with foresight and working style. He could foresee credit-based MOOCs wayback in 2012 when SWAYAM was no where in sight. Now after, 6 years UGC is reformatting e-PG Pathshala content into MOOC format (which would not have been necessary Dr. Anandakrishnan's foresight and instructions were followed).

My best wishes for his long and healthy life. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the celebrations since I will be out of country that time. ■



## Prime Mover And Leader



***Dr. K. Kalyanasundaram***

*Professor of Chemistry,  
Lausanne, Switzerland.*

Indeed it is a great personal pleasure and honor to greet and convey our very best wishes to Prof. Anandakrishnan on his 90th Birthday. "Prof." as we affectionately call him, is a remarkable person in many ways. I had the pleasure of getting in touch with him almost 25 years ago when internet was just evolving. Even when he was busy as the Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, with avid interest he was following closely development of the Internet. After visiting my "Tamil Electronic Library" website he sent me by email his appreciation of my initiative on enabling Tamil usage on computers and Information dispersal through the internet. Later on, on his proposition, I had the privilege to participate in a net-based initiative to define a 8-bit encoding scheme for Tamil (called Tamil Script Code for Information Interchange TSCII), its revision and extension by the IT Task Force of the Govt. of Tamilnadu and later on in defining the Tamil language block within the multilingual Unicode.

During the discussions on an encoding scheme for Tamil, we all realized the need for a global organization to promote Tamil computing and Information Technology. Prof. was the prime mover and leader for us to launch the International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT). Prof. himself led the initiative as Founder Chairman for few years and still continues to support the organization as a key Advisor. The flag, annual event of INFITT, Tamil Internet Conference is the only annual forum for everyone working on (or interested) in developing the basic and advanced applications in Tamil computing.

As someone who has entered post-retirement period, to me, Prof. remains as an outstanding role model. Instead of spending more time with his children and grand children, Prof. has been spending phenomenal amount of his time in helping out the educational cause both at the central and state level. The leadership role he played in many positions that Prof. has held during the post-retirement is long and his achievements unique in several fronts. He has the unique capacity to keep together people with divergent viewpoints and drive them together to deliver goods. His energy and enthusiasm is phenomenal and viral. On this seminal occasion, let me join others in thanking him sincerely for all the good things he had done for us through his leadership and Pray to God to give him many many more years of healthy life. Prof. we are proud and fortunate to be under your circle of followers and shall remain grateful for ever. ■



## Saying a “thank you” to Prof. MAK!



***Prof. C. N. Krishnan***

*AU-KBC Research Centre,  
Anna University,  
Chennai – 600 025.*

It is a matter of great honour and happiness for me to be able to say a few words about Prof. M. Anandakrishnan on the occasion of his turning ninety. My earliest recollections of Prof. MAK goes back to early seventies of the last century when he was the HOD, Dean etc at IIT Kanpur where we were graduate students then. Ever since his return to India in 1989 as the VC of Anna University, I have had numerous opportunities to interact with him on a variety of matters, academic and intellectual. To me, the most significant contribution of Prof. MAK has been in transforming the processes and culture of Anna University into that of a modern Institution of Higher Education and Research (HE&R). In an environment that was largely bureaucratic, feudal and hierarchical, his message to the occupants of the Admin block was to “...remember that we are only an overhead on the University system whose actual work is getting done in the departments, centres, libraries and playgrounds of the university” - a message that when followed up with concrete steps of implementation brought about a magical transformation of the university. If today we are celebrating the fact of Anna University being the only state level institution coming within the top ten institutions of HE&R in the country, the foundations that Prof. MAK laid during 1989-95 has played a decisive role in it. Decades after his leaving the

university, the general sentiment among most of the senior academics within the university has still been that what we need most is a VC like Prof. MAK!

Prof. MAK was always ready to listen to what the other person was saying, irrespective of the stature of that person, and was ready to accept good ideas irrespective of where it came from. As long as he was convinced of the integrity and honesty of purpose of the person sitting before him, he would trust him/her and back him/her to the hilt. These are the hallmarks of a true leader and a democrat that encourages and enables ordinary persons to do extraordinary deeds, and Prof. MAK possessed them in abundance. He had the ingenuity to come up with solutions that served the interests of both quality and equity in an optimum manner that is workable in the given context.

While his contributions to the national HE&R domain has been quite significant, his role in the elevation of Anna University is particularly significant as it gives a possible roadmap to the future of HE&R scene for the whole country. With the Central government institutions coming to only a few percentage of the total, the future of higher education and research in the country rests largely on the State system, which also includes the private colleges through the affiliation route. But the prolonged neglect both by the Central government as well as the States themselves has brought the state level institutions of HE&R to rather poor levels, and an impression has been gathering that they are altogether irredeemable. It is here that the work of Prof. MAK becomes very relevant, as he had shown that, with the right leadership and vision, many of these state level institutions can rise to national status and broaden the base of quality in the country's HE&R scene. This message is most relevant today once again.

It is interesting to observe that, after leaving full time office positions, Prof. MAK continued to influence and lead many aspects of public policy in

the education field in the country without setting up any institutions of his own; he became an institution by himself, and worked with zero overheads!

For generations of people like me who have known and worked with Prof.MAK in various capacities, his presence and easy accessibility has been a most reassuring and energising factor in our lives – something that we have been taking fore-

granted for long!

Along with all of them, I express my gratitude to Prof.MAK for having been an inspiration and role model for so many, at a time when desirable role models are hard to come by. We wish and hope that Prof.MAK would continue in good health and spirits for many more years and would be available to us whenever we need – as has always been the case. ■

## Mentor And Advisor



***Hiroko Morito -Lou***

*United Nations*

Dear Ananda,

I am so happy to be able to send my personal message for your 90th birthday celebration! It is a real blessing that I can join with all your admirers to be there with you in spirits at such a happy occasion. You have been the mentor, an advisor and a great friend for me at the United Nations, taught me so many things and enriched my early years at the UN Headquarters in the 80's. It was one of the great career opportunity for me to serve the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for

Development, first in assisting you and then succeeding as its Secretary. You have contributed a great deal intellectually, organizationally and creatively. You have always maintained your cool and a good sense of humor. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for many wisdoms you shared with me during that period.

I myself retired from the UN at the end of 2015, after serving the total of 35 years, and now shuttle between Connecticut and Tokyo. At UN, I spent most years on Sustainable Development issues, and the last 7-8 years on issues related to Small Island Developing States as a Unit Chief. I published a book in Japan last year on my experience as being a UN working mother for my three daughters (currently working on English version). I've been lecturing and will probably take up an adjunct position and serve as an advisor at my Alma Mater in Tokyo next year on UN and sustainable development issues.

I send you my warmest regards and the very best wishes for you to enjoy a good health for many more years to come. ■



## Devotion To Education



**Lakshmi Narayanan**

*Former CEO and President,  
Cognizant.*

He is a person who has spent his entire life with a single-minded focus, can also be called devotion, on educating people, not just in India but globally. Not just through teaching and research, but also thru curriculum development at both school and university levels, academic administration and above all guiding education policy.

Many will not be aware of his entrepreneurial spirit and energy that guided ICT Academy during its formative years, as a start-up. I was the founding chairman of ICT Academy and it was a tough task to convince the administrators of colleges to enrol their teachers for continuing education thru the Academy. Dr Anandakrishnan gave us the model which focussed on the theme "continuous learning is the only way for teachers and institutions to earn the respect of students and society". Much can be attributed to Prof Anandakrishnan for the success of ICT Academy.

He always believed in the immense potential each individual possesses and to empower them to realise that potential with a larger purpose and with the pursuit of excellence. To me he embodies what Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan said; "A true teacher is one who helps us think for ourselves".

May the almighty be so kind to allow Prof Anandakrishnan to continue his work with diligence and passion for many many years. ■



**Prof. Mrinal Miri**

*Former Member of  
Rajya Sabha.*

I have had the opportunity of working with Professor Anandakrishnan on various Government of India Committees, and my admiration for him grew with every meeting he and I attended. Professor Anandakrishnan would have done his unfailingly

## Meticulous Person

meticulous homework before every meeting; He had a total grasp of the facts and crucial insights into their significance - insight also into the significance of various combinations of these facts. His sense of the just and the fair is exemplary. While it is unfortunate that persons of Professor Anandakrishnan's insight, integrity and understanding of the problems of academic institutions and academic life generally in our country are increasingly becoming a rare breed, I think it is important that we celebrate his ninetieth birthday with much energy and joy to drive home the point that we need him to be with us for many more years to guide and inspire us.

A happy birthday to you Professor Anandakrishnan, and many happy returns of the day! ■



## Committed To Anticorruption



**L. M. Menezes IAS (Retd.)**

*Served in the districts of  
Tiruchirapalli, Kanyakumari,  
South Arcot.*

**M**y association with Dr. M. Anandakrishnan for 7 years was entirely the support he gave the Anti-Corruption Helpline which I had installed for Transparency International India - Tamil Nadu Chapter.

Among all the states which had shown interest in this field, Tamil Nadu Chapter in Chennai was the only one which translated the programme operationally.

Dr. Anandakrishnan being the Chairman of TII-Tamil Nadu Chapter supported it fully. Since we were still looking out for suitable office accommodation, he generously offered us space in an NGO which was set up by Tamil expatriates to do service to underprivileged people (Tamil Nadu Foundation). But by luck we discovered that Guild of Service had a large space where Trainers were being trained and a building not being used and was offered to us. Dr. Anandakrishnan took keen interest in our Helpline which was always kept busy and we persistently prevented officials from taking bribes and insisted on them to render the service being asked for under threat of taking the matter to Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Department.

The Helpline, launched in 2007, was managed entirely by Mr. V.T. Ranganathan as well as Mrs. Annette Vijaykumar.

Mr. Ranganathan meticulously maintained details

of helpline calls and action taken. From 2007 to 2013, 2085 calls were attended to.

When Dr. Santosh Babu IAS was Director of E Governance Agency, we organized a seminar on E Governance. Since Dr. Anandakrishnan was Chairman of Birla Planetarium at that time, the seminar took place there.

When Dr. Anandakrishnan was Chairman of MIDS, we had two very important and interesting meetings at which we invited like minded NGOs like 5th Pillar, Lanjam Kodathor Iyakkam, Anti-Corruption Movement & Catalyst Trust.

We also conducted RTI Act 2005, Awareness Meetings at different places.

We also conducted a study on Hospital Corruption at Government Hospitals in Chennai and sent the report to the Chief Secretary to Government and the Vigilance Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu.

We also received generous donations from Dr. Anandakrishnan, Mr. K. Pandiarajan and Mr. S.P. Ambrose IAS Retd, Mr. D.K. Oza IAS Retd. The A.M.M. Foundation also donated a sum of Rs.3.00 lakhs to TII-TN Chapter. We also received generous donations from RRB Energy Ltd. (Rs.1.00 lakh), Mr. K.R.N. Menon (Rs.1.00 lakh) TII-New Delhi (Rs.25,000/-), Mr. A. Vaidyanathan (Rs.10,000/-), Mr. Paul Pandian (Rs.2.00 lakhs) and Dr. V. Bakthavatsalam (Rs.25,000/-).

From 2011-2013, an organization called Hand-in-Hand UK, after seeing the good work done by TII-TN Chapter, donated Rs.27.00 lakhs which was routed through TII-New Delhi, which had FRCA clearance.

Mr. A.M. Swaminathan IAS Retd. was one of our distinguished BoardMembers who was very regular in his attendance and brought to bear in all our discussions not only his experience in Chennai but also his vast experience in the districts where he was aware of large number of people who could not get their legitimate work done without paying bribes.

■

## Simple And Erudite



***Mahendra P Lama***

*Former VC,  
Sikkim University.*

**R**espected Dr. Anandakrishnan,  
Namaskar!

I am deeply delighted to hear about your attaining 90 years of public service as a widely acclaimed and respected public intellectual. How happy and joyful all of us are to celebrate your 90th birthday. I frankly could not believe that you have attained 90th year of nirvana that enlightened to many of us, so varied institutions and so contrasting geographies. I would fondly recall the following during our association with you as a distinguished Member of the First Executive Council of Central University of Sikkim in Gangtok (2008-2011).

1) We were always touched and impressed by your humility, simplicity and eruditeness and your openness to express so forthrightly yet softly and politely. Since we were in the very inception of this University building project, your presence along with all other distinguished members made a huge difference.

2) Nothing forbade and stopped you from reaching Gangtok despite rugged terrains, poor road conditions and vagaries of monsoon and winter. You were just there in each and every meeting of the Executive Council to guide us, to share your

experience with us and to connect us with the national and global world. You were younger than the young in your sprightly dressed presence and intellectual presentations. Most beautiful pictures of yours adorn the University today.

3) What was very amazing is your deep understanding about the pangs of newly born institution characterized by all kinds of negative pulls and adverse pressures from some local people and institutions who found it difficult to grasp, assess and value the criticality of world class institution and significance of quality education. You remained calm and firm in building an oasis of knowledge and institution of promise for our young children from the hills and mountains and rest of India.

4) Equally vital for all of us were your nuanced arguments and forward looking interventions as to how we could provide this new University a global orientation with a strong local ethos. Your firm views on issues of land allocations by the State Government despite paying an unusual compensation package by the Government of India actually put the University at a higher moral pedestal. This has to be done to make University free from any encumbrances from the very beginning of its foundation. Its eleven year now and I am told that the students are still studying in the building and class rooms spread across the highway.

5) When I was appointed as the Founding Vice Chancellor of this University, I had reached Gangtok with just an appointment letter of mine and also a gazette notification. Ministry of Human Resources Development just advised me to go and build the institution without even a single Rupee given to me. When I reached Gangtok, in a way there was not even the proverbial scratch in the name of the University. For two months I did not get my salary and had to open the bank account of the University also with my personal fund. It was a difficult situation.

However, we did well as we were fortunate to gather a team of experienced officials topped by very robust and powerful set of persons in the Academic Council and also in the Finance Committee. You would kindly remember that we used to narrate these stories quite often to you and other members and we all celebrated these pangs of institution building in such a difficult geography.

6) How strong was our team led by the Chancellor of the University Prof M.S.Swaminathan. In fact, all the University gatherings used to be high profile with speakers, guests and intellectuals from all over the world. It was in your initiative that the University started engaging with some of the best Universities in the world on issues of climate change, global studies, science and technology, traditional medicines and peace and conflict studies and disaster management. We very soon had students and faculty from all over. It truly became a national University.

7) We did try to provide an environment of free thinking, all inclusive and competitive atmosphere

and pluralistic existence. This is why we introduced semester system, open internal assessment, interdisciplinary courses, exposure of students to realistic situations through term papers and a constant review of our policies. I personally used to ensure that all the visitors had the best of local food and many a times, I found you enjoying and relishing the local food without any reservations. Our team used to whisper as to how you developed taste and liking for the mountain food. Amazing! You could walk the local, national and global path with same ease, comfort and commitment. This is what Sikkim University needed at its very formative stage.

We salute you for what you have contributed in building a modern, high quality and all inclusive institution. Though I am no longer associated with Sikkim University, all of us would like to wish you a good health and equally fruitful decades ahead. We send our warmest congratulations to all the members in your esteemed family on this rare and joyful occasion. ■



**Dr. Manmohan Singh - IIT Kanpur Convocation**

## A Multifaceted Personality



***S. Rajarethinam IAS (Retd.)***

*Chairman, Tamilnadu Foundation.  
Former Secretary,  
Govt. Of Tamil Nadu.*

It was when Dr. M. Anandakrishnan was Vice Chancellor of Anna University during 1990-1996 that I acquainted him first. Subsequently, between 2007 and 2011, when I had served as a Secretary to the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, I had interacted with Dr. M. Anandakrishnan frequently. Needless to say, Dr Kalaingar had high regards for him and it was on the advice of the Former Chief Minister that I held

discussions with him on many occasions regarding educational programmes and schemes for the welfare of the student community.

When my innings with TNF, a NRI (American Tamils) supported-trust, began after my retirement from the Government Service, I came to know much more about the extraordinary and multifaceted personality of Dr. Anandakrishnan and his outstanding contributions as an academican. In the formative period of the TNF, he had played a pivotal role.

I deem it a privilege and honour to convey my admiration and hearty wishes to him on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

The members of the organising committee and the family members of Dr. Anandakrishnan deserve appreciation and thanks for their thoughtfulness in bringing out a souvenir - a document for posterity - about an educationist who had rendered yeoman services to the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular not only in the area of education but also human development. ■



**Honoured by Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi**



## Friend Philosopher And Guide



***Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal***

*Former Vice-Chancellor, BPS,  
Women University, Haryana.  
Additional Secretary, UGC.*

I am a great admirer of Prof M. Anandkrishnan Sir, who has been my friend, philosopher and guide for about twenty long years. He has been on innumerable committees of University Grants Commission, guiding it through thick and thin on various policy issues. It was surprising to note that age never acted as a barrier for him and he has been energetically leading committees on contemporary issues like MOOCs,

e-content development and has been surpassing much younger counterparts by his academic acumen and long experience.

He was even instrumental in producing an excellent "Vision Document" for Bhagat Phool Singh Women University in Haryana where I got an opportunity to serve as the Vice Chancellor from 2008 to 2014.

I feel privileged and honored to be associated with him for a long time which apart from being a rich learning experience, also helped me in honing my academic and administrative skills. He has given a yeoman's service to the higher education system of the country and has been a "Brand Ambassador" for Indian Higher Education System abroad. He is of the firm belief that the quality education has the power to transform societies, by giving it the knowledge, skills and confidence to reach its full potential.

On his 90th birthday, I pray to the Almighty, to give him a long, healthy, happy and peaceful life ahead and wish him to be our real life "Amitabh Bachchan" of the film, "102 Not Out". ■

## Eminent Scientist And Administrator



***Dr. C. Rangarajan***

*Chairman,  
Madras School of Economics,  
Chennai - 600 025.*

I cherish greatly my friendship with Prof. M. Anandkrishnan who has made a remarkable contribution in the fields of science, technology and educational administration. It is rarely we come across an eminent scientist

or technologist being also an able administrator. But Prof. Anandkrishnan is an exception. In the fields of science and technology, he has helped to create new institutions and in general encourage innovations. He is a scientist with an inbuilt entrepreneurial orientation.

He guided the development of two important institutions namely, Anna University and IIT, Kanpur. He was fully convinced that institutions of higher education could flourish only with sound school and undergraduate education. Lately, he has spent a lot of time improving the curriculum and the teaching technology in schools. The Indian education system owes him a lot. Even at the age of 90, he is busy continuing to initiate changes wherever needed. He is extremely polite and gentle and has the capacity to carry people with him. The country wishes him many more years of active life. The beneficiary is the nation. ■

## Amiable And Knowledgeable



***Prof. S. Parthasarathy***

*Former Director,  
National Institute of Science Communication  
and Information Resources, New Delhi.*

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Dr M. Anandakrishnan on his 90th birthday and wish him many more years of leadership in Higher Education. Having scored ninety, 100 is just round the corner. India needs his services.

I have the privilege of working with him for the last 25 years, as a founder member of the Ranganathan Centre for Advanced Studies, set up under the Chairmanship of Sri C. Subramaniam, former

Governor of Maharashtra. Dr. Anandakrishnan has been the Chairman of RCIS for some years. I worked with him as its Honorary Secretary. Under his guidance and leadership, RCIS functioned as centre of excellence. The first Seminar was inaugurated by the then Finance Minister, Prof Manmohan Singh and many industrialists were invited. Later events were held at Hotel Connemara. Major topics of national importance were discussed. In a seminar on IT and national Development video conference was used to enable experts from Delhi, Bombay, and Calcutta could participate during the Panel discussions.

It is a pleasure to work with Dr Anandakrishnan. He is amiable, knowledgeable and positive in his approach. He appreciates quality of performance. Under his leadership as Chairman, we worked as a happy team of friends. In all his speeches, he would praise the work of his colleagues in glowing terms. His qualities of head and heart endeared him to one and all.

I wish him a bright future.



**Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi and Professor K. Anbazhagan and members of  
Kani Thamizh Sangam (1999)**

## மு. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கட்கு 90வது பிறந்தநாள் வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி



முனைவர் மு.பொன்னவைக்கோ

முதன்மைக் கல்வி அதிகாரி,  
வினாயகா கல்விக்குழும ஆய்வு நிறுவனம்.

அய்யா அவர்கள் ஒரு பெருங்கல்வியாளர்.

தொழில்நுட்பக் கல்வியில் ஆழங்கால் பதித்தவர். சிறந்த பொறியாளர், அறிவியல் அறிஞர், கணித்தமிழ் வளர்ச்சிக்கு வித்திட்ட வித்தகர். ஆளுமைத்திறம்மிக்க ஆட்சியர். என்பணிக்குப் பெருந்துணையாக என்னை நெறிப்படுத்திவரும் போற்றுதலுக்குரிய நெறியாளர். தமிழ் மென்பொருள் வளர்ச்சி, பள்ளிக் கல்வியில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பக் கல்வியை வழங்குதல், அரசுத்துறைகளில் கணிப்பொறியின் பயன்பாடு போன்ற செயல்பாடுகளை திறம்பட ஆற்றிய பெருமைக்குரியவர். ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் தலைமையில் கணிப்பொறியியல், C மொழி, IITML ஓர் அறிமுகம், விஷுவல் பேசிக் ஆகிய நூல்களை என்னையும் பேரா. வெ. கிருமணமூர்த்தி அவர்களையும் எழுதவைத்து தமிழ்நாட்டுப் பாடநூல் கழகத்தால் வெளியிடச் செய்து பள்ளிக் கல்வியில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பக் கல்வியை வழங்கும் பெரும் பொறுப்பினை எங்க ளுக்கு அளித்தவர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள்.

சிங்கப்பூரில் நடைபெற்ற முதல் தமிழ் இணைய மாநாட்டில், (தமிழ்இணையம்97) எடுக்கப்பட்ட முடிவுகளைச் செயற் படுத்தும் வகையில் பணிகளைத் தொடர, தமிழகஅரசு 1998ஆம் ஆண்டு அக்டோபர் மாதம் மாநில அளவிலான தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பப் பணிக்குழு ஒன்றை தமிழக முதல்வர் கலைஞர் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் அமைத்து, தமிழ் மென்பொருள் அறிமுகம், மேம்பாடு, வளர்ச்சி, பரப்புதல், பள்ளிக் கல்வியில் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பக் கல்வியை வழங்குதல், அரசுத் துறைகளில் கணிப்பொறியின் பயன்பாடு போன்றசெயல்பாடுகளைமேற்கொள்ளபேராசிரியர்

மு.ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் மாநிலத்தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பப் பணிக்குழுவின் துணைக்குழு ஒன்றை நிறுவியது. அக்குழுவில் என்னையும் ஒரு உறுப்பினராக நியமித்திருந்தார்கள். அன்று முதல் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்களுடன் செயல்படும்வாய்ப்பைப் பெற்றேன். அவருடன் நான் கற்ற பாடங்கள் பல.

‘தமிழ்இணையம்99’ மாநாடு 1999ம் ஆண்டு பிப்ரவரி மாதம்7, 8ஆம் நாட்களில் சென்னையில் நடைபெற்றது. அம்மாநாட்டில் தமிழ்எழுத்துருக் குறியீட்டுத் தரப்பாடு செய்யமுனைவர் C.R.. முத்துகிருஷ்ணன் மற்றும் எனது தலைமையில் கலந்தாய்வுசெய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருந்தது. கலந்தாய்வில் இருதரப்பட்ட விவாதங்கள் இடம் பெற்றன. ஒன்று, திரு. முத்துநெடுமாறனின் கருத்தைச் சார்ந்தவர்கள் Extended ASCII அமைப்பில் 8, 9 நெடுவரிசைகளில் குறியீடுகளை இடலாம் என்பது, இரண்டாவது, முனைவர்நா.கோவிந்தசாமி அவர்களின் கருத்தைச் சார்ந்தவர்கள் 8, 9 நெடுவரிசைகளில் குறியீடுகளை இடக்கூடாது என்பது. கருத்தரங்கின் முதல்நாள் (7.2.1999) மாலை7 மணிவரை விவாதம் தொடர்ந்தது. மாலை 8 மணிக்குத் தமிழக முதல்வர் கலைஞர் அவர்கள் கருத்தரங்கப் பேராளர்களுக்கு விருந்து ஒன்று ஏற்பாடு செய்து அதற்குப் பேராளர்களை அழைத்திருந்தார்கள். எனவே, விவாதத்தை விருந்திற்குப் பின் தொடரலாம் எனக் குழு விருந்திற்குச் சென்று மீண்டும் இரவு10 மணிக்குக் கூடியது. விவாதம் இரவு12 மணிவரை தொடர்ந்தது. ஆனால் கலந்தாய்வு முடிவுக்கு வருவதாகத் தெரிய வில்லை. இந்நிலையில் துணைக்குழுத் தலைவர் பேராசிரியர் மு. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அவர்கள் தலையிட்டு விவாதத்தை முடிவுக்குக் கொண்டுவர “இப்போதைக்கு ஒரு வரைவுத் தரப்பாட்டினை முடிவு செய்வோம். அத்தரப்பாட்டினை உலகின் பல்வேறு நாடுகளில் உள்ள தமிழ்க் கணிப்பொறி வல்லுநர்களும், மென்பொருள் செய்வோரும், பிற ஆர்வலர்களும் சோதித்து 100 நாட்களுக்குள் தங்கள் முடிவுகளைத் தெரிவிக்கட்டும். ஆய்வு முடிவுகளின் அடிப்படையில் தரப்பாடு பற்றி முடிவெடுக்கலாம்” என்று அறிவித்தார். அதனைக் குழு ஏற்றது. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்களின் அறிவிப்புபடி 100 நாட்களுக்குப் பிறகு TAM, TAB தமிழ் எழுத்துரு தரப்பாடுகள் தமிழக அரசால் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்களின் இந்தத் தலையீடு இல்லாதிருந்தால் இந்த தமிழ் எழுத்துரு தரப்பாடுகள் செயல்பாட்டிற்கு வந்திருக்க மாட்டா. இந்திய மொழிகளில்



எழுத்துருக்கள் தரப்படுத்தப் பட்ட முதல் மொழி தமிழ் என்ற பெருமையை வாங்கித் தந்த பெருமை ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்களையேச்சாரும்.

‘தமிழ்இணையம் 99’ மாநாட்டை அடுத்துத் ‘தமிழ்இணையம் 2000’ மாநாடு இலங்கையில் நடத்தத் திட்டமிடப் பட்டு இருந்தது. அந்த மாநாட்டின் முன்னேற்பாட்டுக்கருத்தரங்கக்கூட்டம் 2000ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்டு மாதம் 12, 13, 14 நாட்களில் இலங்கையில் நடைபெற்றது. அந்தக் கூட்டத்திற்குத் தமிழ்நாட்டிலிருந்து பேரா.வா. செ.குழந்தைசாமி அய்யா மற்றும் பேரா.மு. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா ஆகியோருடன் நானும், சிங்கப்பூரிலிருந்து திரு. அருண்மகிழ்நன், மலேசியாவிலிருந்து திரு. முத்துநெடுமாறன், சென்றிருந்தோம். ஆகஸ்டு 12ஆம் தேதி ஆயத்தக் கூட்டமும் 13ஆம் தேதி விழிப்புணர்வு மாநாடும் நடைபெற்றன. 13ஆம் தேதி இரவு கிதூல்கலாவில் உள்ள விருந்தினர் மாளிகையில் தங்க மாலை 6 மணி அளவில் கிதூல்கலா சென்றடைந்தோம். அங்குச் சென்றடைந்ததும் பேராசிரியர் குழந்தைசாமி, பேராசிரியர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன், திரு. அருண்மகிழ்நன், திரு. முத்துநெடுமாறன், திரு. சிவதாசன், திரு. சோமசுந்தரம், திரு. குமாரதாசன், ஆகியோருடன் நானும் தமிழ்இணையம் 2000 மாநாடு தொடர்பாகக் கலந்துரையாடிக் கொண்டிருந்தபோது திரு. அருண்மகிழ்நன் “International Steering Committee on Tamil Inaiyam” என்ற அமைப்பை உருவாக்க வேண்டும் என்று முனைவர். கல்யாணசுந்தரம் வரைந்தனுப்பிய திட்டத்தை முன்மொழிந்தார். அது தொடர்பாகக் கலந்தாய்வு நீண்டநேரம் நிகழ்ந்தது. தமிழ்த் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பம் தொடர்பான ஆய்வுகளை உலகளவில் தொழில் நுட்பக் குழுக்களையும், ஒருங்கிணைப்புக் குழுக்களையும் அமைத்துக் கூட்டு முயற்சியுடன் செயல்பட இப்படியொரு அமைப்பு தேவையென்பதை அனைவரும் வரவேற்றனர். ஆயினும் அமைப்பிற்கு Steering Committee எனப் பெயரிடுவதில் யாருக்கும் உடன்பாடில்லை. என்ன பெயர் வைப்பது என்பதில் நீண்ட நேரம் கதைத்த பின்னும் முடிவுக்கு வரமுடியவில்லை. இரவில் தூங்கிக் காலையில் கூடும் போது ஏதேனும் ஒரு பெயருடன் வருவோம் என்று ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் கூற அனைவரும் உறங்கச் சென்றோம். நான் காலை 4 மணிக்கே விழித்துக் கொண்டேன். இந்த அமைப்பின் செயல்பாடுகளை வெளிப்படுத்தக் கூடியவையாக தமிழிலும் ஆங்கிலத்திலும் சிறப்பாகச் சுருக்கி வைக்கும் பெயர்களாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று ஆழ்ந்து சிந்தித்து ஆங்கிலத்தில் International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT) என்றும் தமிழில் ‘உலகத்தமிழ்த் தகவல் தொழில் நுட்பமன்றம் உத்தமம்’ என்றும் பெயர்களை வடிவமைத்தேன். காலையில் எல்லோரும் சிற்றுண்டி அருந்த வந்தனர்.

அப்பொழுது ‘யாரெல்லாம் என்னை பெயர்களை முடிவு செய்து வந்துள்ளீர்கள்’ என்று ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா கேட்டார்கள். ஒருவரும் பெயர் பற்றி சிந்தித்ததாகவே தெரியவில்லை. என்னைக் கேட்டார்கள். நான் இந்த இரு பெயர்களையும் கூறினேன். உடனே, அனைவரும் ஒருமனதாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்டனர். அவ்வாறு உத்தமம் உருவாக உறுதுணையாக இருந்தவர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள்.

கணிப்பொறியில் தமிழ் காலுன்றிய காலம் முதல் கணிப்பொறியில் தமிழைக் காண உலகில் கணிப்பொறி அறிவுசார்ந்த வல்லுனர்கள் பலர் ஈடுபட்டு பலகுறியீட்டு முறைகள், பலவிசைப்பலகைகள் ஆகியவற்றை வடிவமைத்திருந்தனர். ஒரு குறியீட்டு முறை, ஒரு விசைப்பலகைத் தரம் என ஒரு தரம் இருந்தால் தான் கணித்தமிழ் வளரும் என கணித்தமிழ் வல்லுனர்கள் உணர்ந்தார்கள். தமிழ்கூறும் நல்லுலக அரசுகளை அணுகினர். ஒருதரம் தோன்ற உத்திகள் பிறந்தன. ஆனால் படைப்பாளிகள் கருத்தால் பிளவுபட்டுக் கிடந்தனர். அவர்களையெல்லாம் ஒன்றிணைத்து தமிழக அரசின் மாநிலத்தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பதுணைக்குழுத் தலைவர் முனைவர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் தரப்பாட்டுப் பணியைச் செவ்வனே செய்தார்கள். தரம் ஒன்று பிறந்தது.

இதே காலகட்டத்தில் யூனிகோடு குழுமம் தமிழ் எழுத்துக்களில் உயிரெழுத்து மற்றும் மெய் எழுத்துக்களைக் கொண்ட 31 இடங்களில் யூனிகோடு தமிழ் உருவாக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. ஆனால் இந்த யூனிகோடு தமிழ், கணித்தமிழ் செயல்பாடுகளுக்கு ஏற்றதல்ல என்பதைக் கருத்தில் கொண்டு ‘தமிழ்இணையம்-99’ மாநாட்டில் அனைத்து எழுத்துரு தரப்பாட்டினை யூனிகோடு குழுமம் ஏற்க வேண்டும் என்று ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது. ஆனால், 2007ஆம் ஆண்டுவரை அது நிகழவில்லை. 2007ஆம் ஆண்டு மே மாதம் நடைபெற்ற யூனிகோடு குழும தொழில்நுட்பக் கூட்டத்தில் பங்குபெற பேராசிரியர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் பெயரும் எனது பெயரும் அரசால் பரிந்துரைக்கப் பட்டது. ஆனால் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்களால் வர இயலாத சூழல் ஏற்பட்டதால் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் என்னை அனுப்பி வைத்தார்கள். நான் அப்பொழுது அமெரிக்காவில் இருந்த திரு. மணிமணிவண்ணன் அவர்களுடன் சென்று யூனிகோடு குழும தொழில்நுட்பக் கூட்டத்தில் கலந்து கொண்டேன். அப்பொழுது யூனிகோடு குழுமத் தலைவர் மார்க்டேவிஸ் அவர்கள் “இத்தனை ஆண்டுகளாக எங்கு இருந்தீர்கள்? ஏன் யூனிகோடு குழுமக் கூட்டங்களில் பங்கு பெறவில்லை?” என்று கேட்டுவிட்டுக் கூறினார்கள், “உங்கள் தேவை ஏற்கக் கூடியதே. ஆயினும் காலங் கடந்து விட்டது.



இப்பொழுது யூனிகோடு தளத்தில் இடமில்லையே” என்று கூறினார். அப்பொழுது யூனிகோடு BMP தளத்தில் 484 இடங்கள் உள்ளதைச் சுட்டிக் காட்டினேன். கருதலாம் என இசைந்தார்கள். இந்திய அரசிலிருந்து வந்திருந்ததிரு.பங்கு அகர்வாலா, IAS, இந்திய அரசின் முழு ஆதரவை அப்பொழுது தெரிவித்தார். அந்தக் கால இடங்களில் தமிழ் எழுத்துகளை இடுவதால் ஏற்படும் விளைவுகளை ஆய்வு செய்யவும், கணித்தமிழ் தேவையை நிறைவு செய்ய வேண்டிய வழிகளைக் கண்டறியவும் தென் ஆசிய துணைக் குழுவை யூனிகோடு குழுமம் அமைத்தது. இக்குழு மின்னஞ்சல் வழியாகக் கருத்துகளைப் பரிமாறிக் கொண்டன. தென் ஆசிய துணைக்குழு உறுப்பினர்கள் மார்க்டேவிஸ், மைக்கேல் கப்ளான் ஆகியோர் சென்னை வந்தனர்; தமிழக இந்திய வல்லுநர்களுடன் கலந்தாய்வு செய்தனர். பல மாற்று வழிகளைப் பரிந்துரைத்தனர். தமிழகம் சோதனைகள் செய்து TACE16 சிறந்த குறியீடு என முடிவு செய்தது. TACE16 குறியீட்டைத் தமிழக அரசு தமிழக அரசின் தரமாக அறிவித்தால் யூனிகோடு குழுமம் ஒத்திணைப்பு அட்டவணை அமைத்து யூனிகோடு தமிழும் TACE16 குறியீடும் இணைந்து செயல்பட வழி செய்யும் என்று அறிவித்தது.. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் தலைமையில், தமிழக அரசு 20 இலட்சம் ரூபாய்

செலவிட்டு சோதனைகள் பல செய்து TACE16 சிறந்த குறியீடு என முடிவு செய்தது. அதைத் தொடர்ந்து TACE16 குறியீட்டைத் தமிழக அரசு தமிழக அரசின் தரமாக அறிவித்தது. இது பேராசிரியர் ஆனந்த கிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் கணித்தமிழ் உலகிற்கு அளித்த பெருங் கொடையாகும்.

பேராசிரியர் ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் உத்தமம் தொடங்கியதில் இருந்து பல்வேறு நாடுகளில் நடைபெற்ற எல்லா தமிழ் இணைய மாநாடுகளிலும் பங்கு பெற்று கணித்தமிழ் ஆர்வலர்களை ஊக்குவித்து வருகின்றார்கள். தமிழ் மென்பொருள் வளர்ச்சியை ஊக்குவிக்க தமிழ் இணைய மாநாடுகளில் வழங்கப்படும் சிறந்த கட்டுரைகளுக்கு வழங்க பரிசுத்தொகையாக ரூபாய் 5 இலட்சம் வழங்கியுள்ளார்கள்.

இவ்வாறு கணித்தமிழ் வளர்ச்சிக்கு வித்தாக விளங்கித் தொடக்கக் காலத்திலிருந்து செயல்பட்டுவரும் பேரா. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் அய்யா அவர்கள் நூறாண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக நோய்நொடிகள் இன்றி வளமோடும் நலமோடும் பல்லாண்டுகள் வாழ்ந்து கல்விப்பணிக்கும் கணித்தமிழ் வளர்ச்சிக்கும் துணையாக இருந்து எங்களையெல்லாம் வாழ்த்தவேண்டும் என்று வாழ்த்தி வணங்குகின்றேன். ■

## A Visionary



**Mani M. Manivannan**

*Co-Founder and former Chair,  
INFITT.*

The world knows Prof. M. Anandakrishnan as a great educationist and an administrator. But he is also a great builder of institutions. I was privileged to have had the opportunity to see him boot-strap the Tamil computing institution International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil commonly known as INFITT since 2000. He brought his considerable

prestige and experience to give credibility to INFITT on the international stage. He was our face to the world and India. He dealt with both the demands of Tamil Nadu and the diaspora with skill, sensitivity and diplomacy while guiding the rocky period of institution formation with parental patience and affection. In each of the Tamil Internet conferences that we hosted, he enunciated our shared vision to shape the future of Tamil computing. He completely integrated the efforts of the diaspora with that of Tamil Nadu state and coordinated those with those of the global businesses and brought the chaotic Tamil computing environment to adhere to global standards. It was that effort that unified the users of Tamil computing to create the market that the MNCs recognize and serve. Herding cats is tame when compared to the challenges that he encountered in leading the Tamil computing community towards this common vision. We are grateful to him for his vision, wisdom and leadership. ■

## A Great Speaker



***Poornalingam R, I. A.S. (Retd.)***

*Former Secretary,  
Govt. Of Tamil Nadu.*

I know Dr. M Anandakrishnan from my days as Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu.

He was then the Vice Chancellor of the Anna University where he did pioneering work. I was impressed with his knowledge, intellect, and administrative acumen whenever I attended the Governing Council meetings of the Anna University. He is one of those who added dignity to the office of the Vice Chancellor and brought credit to the post he held.

After his retirement, he chaired many National

committees focused on the quality of higher education. He made valuable contributions to many policy initiatives of the Government of India to improve the quality of higher education in this country.

He is also a great speaker. I heard him when he released my book and also when he was the Chief Guest of the annual day function of the Indian Officers' Association, Royapettah. His speech was an eye opener to all of us with peripheral knowledge about higher education. He was forthright in his criticism of the functioning of our Universities starting from the appointment of Vice Chancellors with words of wisdom as to how to improve the situation.

Above all, he is a great human being known for his humility and courtesy to others. Even at this age, he continues to contribute to the society.

I wish him many happy returns of the day on this occasion of his 90th birthday. I pray for his long and healthy life with a lot more contributions to the society.

■



**At INFITT Inaguration in Singapore (2000)**

## A Tribute to Professor M. Anandakrishnan



***K. S. Raghavan***

*Former Dean (Academic),  
University of Madras.*

When Dr. C. Ananthan wrote to me asking for a message for inclusion in the compendium being brought out on the occasion of the 90th birthday celebrations of Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, some sterling qualities of Dr. Anandakrishnan immediately came to my mind: Highly principled, a visionary, always open to others' viewpoints, a mentor, an excellent academic administrator, a good friend and, above all, a wonderful human being. He is best remembered for the remarkable work he did as Vice Chancellor of the Anna University; had there been an effort to carry forward some of his ideas after his retirement, Anna University would have emerged as a role model for higher education in Engineering & Technology in the country. His work as Chairman of IIT Kanpur, as chairman of MIDS, as a member of the national higher education commission, and more recently, as chairman of UGC's E-PG-Pathashala programme and many other bodies concerned with education have all greatly benefited the country's education system as a whole. He has left his footprints

in every activity, institution, he has been associated with.

My first formal meeting with Prof. M. Anandakrishnan was in 1993 at the residence of Bharat Ratna Late Sri C. Subramanian where some of us had gathered at the culmination of the year-long birth centenary celebrations of the library scientist, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. The idea was to establish a centre in the name of Ranganathan to create awareness among policy makers and people at large, about the inevitability of having a solid and sound information architecture for transforming a society into a knowledge society; thus came into existence the Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies thanks to the efforts of Sri C. Subramanian, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Prof. Anandakrishnan and a few others. I have been fortunate to be associated with this centre since its inception and have worked closely with Prof. Anandakrishnan, especially in the last nearly one decade since he became the Chairman of the Centre. Speaking for myself, it has been a rewarding learning experience to work and interact with this giant.

ARISTOTLE said: "man is at his best when he is doing his best at what he likes doing best". Dr. Anandakrishnan put this philosophy into practice in everything he did, especially in the all-important education sector.

On the occasion of his 90th birthday, I salute this visionary and wish him many more years of meaningful, productive, happy and healthy life; May he live long to continue to guide us and to see the dreams he holds dear come true. ■



## A Motivator And Leader



**Dr. T. Ramasami**

*Former Secretary,  
Department of Science & Technology,  
Chennai - 600 036.*

I am privileged to have known Professor M Anandakrishnan personally for more than 25 years. What a valuable and productive life his has been! There have been a few who strived to shape the landscape of higher education in the country and the State of Tamil Nadu. There have been only fewer who succeeded in their efforts. Professor Anandakrishnan has been a

resounding success in his efforts of high value to the education sector at the times of transition.

He made historical contributions to the development of Anna University which would be etched in the minds of people who shared the journey. He was an inspiratory, motivator and a leader all rolled into one.

As he turns 90 years of age, his path in the professional journey has become a role model. He broke and paved new paths which have now come to be followed by many. He set bench marks for probity in public life. He is certain to lead the higher education sector in the state and country from the front in the future too. Let me pray that his friends and well-wishers would be celebrating the centenary landmark of educator, researcher and leader in governance all rolled into one in 2028.

I convey my most sincere wishes to him and his family on this momentous and happy occasion. ■

## Inspiring Teacher And Administrator



**Dr. K. Ramasamy, Ph.D.,**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore - 641 003.*

Service to education is a greatest gift one can be proud off and more than above bringing up good citizens for the country is nobler task one could still be feeling the sense of achievement in teaching profession. The

nobility of a teacher like Dr. Anandakrishnan, in the pursuit of his duty bound life in shaping the destiny of many students who have later become teachers, administrators, successful businessmen in different sectors. His walk of life as a teacher was unique and inimitable.

Good people show the way; great people inspire the others to follow, nevertheless, he is an inspirational teacher, administrator in his own right, knowing full- well the task at hand, he always remind fair and just a trait that earned his due respect and regards from all at large. He was very much organized and worked in synergy with his comrades and compatriots. Eventually he made a difference in every aspect of his prized career! I wowed at his geniality and piety! He grew stronger and mightier to endure the tides of life with smiling face all the time. We wish you many more happy returns of the day. ■



## Humane Outlook And Caring Attitude



***Prof. R.C. Kuhad***

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Central University of Haryana,  
Mahendergarh -123031.*

It's heartening to note that the 90th Birth Anniversary of an eminent humanitarian scientist, Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, is being celebrated to commemorate his contribution in the field of science, technology and educational administration. I cherish awe-inspiring memories of my association with him and I am proud to share that his professional acumen, humane outlook, and caring attitude influenced me a lot in my journey as an academican. Meeting with him has always been a rare human experience for me. He is an epitome of scientific wisdom who has received several prestigious recognitions including The Order of Scientific Merit from the President of Brazil (1996); Padma Shri from the President of India (2002);

Distinguished Leadership Award from the President of the University of Minnesota (2003); Platinum Jubilee Award from Indian Ceramics Society (2004); ICCES Outstanding Achievement Award, Portugal (2004); UGC National Swami Pranavananda Saraswati Award (2004) and Honorary Fellow of Indian Society for Technical Education (2005). In addition to his accomplishments in the field of science and technology, he has set new benchmarks in the sphere of educational administration during his term as the Chairman, IIT, Kanpur and the Vice Chancellor of Anna University.

On this special occasion when the 90th Birth Anniversary of Prof. Anandkrishnan is being celebrated by the fraternity of scientists and educational leaders, I would like to put on record my sincerest thanks and gratitude for his motivation and blessings to this humble soul and Central University of Haryana as our mentor, guide and a great source of inspiration. I wish him a healthy and long life ahead so that we remain blessed with his exceptional scientific wisdom and philanthropic attitude.

I congratulate the organisers for such a wonderful initiative to compile and share the best of attributes of the great visionary soul, Prof. M. Anandkrishnan.

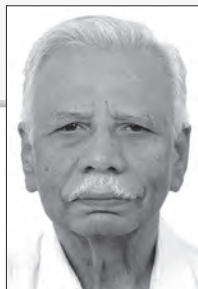
May he live long!

■



**with Honourable President Pranab Mukerjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and  
Chairman and Directors of all IITs**

## Dedicated And Caring



***Dr. V. Sankaranarayanan***

*Professor and Director (Retd.),  
Ramanujan Computing Centre,  
Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.*

I deem it an honour and I have great pleasure in felicitating Dr. M. ANANDAKRISHNAN, former Vice Chancellor, Anna University on his 90th Birth anniversary. I have always been wondering about his dedicated work, care and concern for others.

He was concerned about the development of our country, particularly in education. He felt good education should start at school level. Soon after taking over as VC, he expressed his concern about school children of not having exposure to modern equipment and facilities. Schools should be connected in some way to the University as they are the input to the university. With his initiative, all the laboratories were open to school children on Saturdays and Sundays. University faculty members voluntarily worked on these days and exposed the children to the new developments in Science and Computers. He also announced another scheme, Computer Training for Rural School Children. Training was given to 11th std. children with the computers taken to their

place and our faculty worked after 4 p.m. in training the students. With the help of Tamil Nadu Foundation, 2 computers were provided to each school, after the training was over.

He had great care and affection towards his colleagues. There was a wrong news in the press about RCC in a court case, in giving data to CBSE. All of us were upset and were in tears. Dr. Anandakrishnan came to RCC on a holiday early in the morning and consoled and encouraged us. He asked me to meet the Judge in his chamber and explain about the facts and our stand was upheld. Still I remember his affection and concern to us.

He was worried about lot of time being wasted in the process of engineering admissions, where top ranking students would get admission in all the five streams engineering lists, and can join only one and other streams are going vacant and took a long time to complete admissions. Prof. Anandakrishnan suggested to the Government on Single Window Counselling, where in all the seats are pooled and students are given full information. Student will choose a seat as per his rank, from the available seats as per his wish. I was given the responsibility with the assurance from Dr. Anandakrishnan that there will not be any interference from the government. He sat with us and discussed with every detail and procedure. Single Window Counselling was his brain child and it was appreciated by everyone and successfully completed 21 years of operation in Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions.

I wish and pray that Prof. Anandakrishnan should live many more years and serve this country and society. ■



## Encourages Talented Colleagues



***Prof. S. Sathikh, B.E, M.E, Ph.D***

*Former Vice-Chancellor,  
Madras University,  
Chennai - 600 020.*

I am happy to recall my first meeting with Dr M. Ananthakrishnan. It was when I dropped in to his room to greet him when he assumed charge as the third Vice Chancellor of Anna University. Then I had joined the main campus as Dean of Engineering (P.G), after voluntarily relinquishing my position as Director of MIT. It was only for a few minutes; but it was a pleasant meeting. Normally any short contact could be pleasant but a long contact need not be so. But it was disproved in our case.

Immediately the very next day I went on a long leave to attend some family functions in my native place, since it was summer vacation. There has been wide gossip that I was disappointed and depressed as I was not chosen to be the VC, since my name was also in the list. But on my return, Dr MAK called me to his office, when I was busy looking into PG admissions and struggling to fill in MBC vacancies. It was just then the CM Kalaigarnar has bifurcated MBC from BC. Since earlier MBC students did not get the opportunities to join UG courses, especially BE and BTech and top-notch BSc courses, naturally there were not enough applicants to PG courses.

I went a bit delayed to meet him. I expected him to be angry for the delay. But he was smiling. It impressed me very much of his reasonableness on the commitment of his younger colleagues. He said he was going to visit MIT and wished me to accompany

him. It showed his sense of respecting the predecessors in any position. We got in to the car and sat together in the rear seats. All the earlier gossipers got surprised the mutual respects we showed to each other.

I had no surprise that Dr MAK became VC. It is because Dr Malcolm Adiseshaiya who was Chairman of the search committee, phoned me to prepare me informing that only when Dr MAK could not take it up, I had a chance. Dr MAK was expected to attend a wedding reception on 6th of that month and made it. Then itself I was prepared to receive him with warmth and happiness. Over the next few months we were busy with our own works.

On 13th November 1990, he arranged the opening of Rajam Hall at MIT by the CM Kalaigarnar. Peraasiriyar also took part. The foundation stone was laid by Peraasiriyar himself in the presence of Thamilkudimagan, then Education Minister in the previous year, when I was the MIT Director. It is the Hall for which immediate past Vice Chancellor Dr. V.C. Kulandaisamy was kind enough to allot Rs 25 lakhs and delayed my departure from MIT to take up the position of Dean of Engineering (P.G) at Guindy Engineering College, a post first held by Dr VCK. It was because he was keen that my name must be inscribed in the foundation stone. That showed his magnanimity and recognition of my contribution to MIT over 9 plus long years.

Now the turn of respecting and recognising me by the present VC, Dr M. Ananthakrishnan arrived. By protocol he could not seat me on the dais. I was among the audience. So he used some other way. In his welcome speech Dr.MAK extensively praised my efforts in developing MIT in general and in building the Rajam Hall, which was completed in a record time of 11 months by the efficient Institute Engineer Mr. C. Rajasekaran. "At the time of foundation itself, Dr Sathikh had procured the necessary furniture for this auditorium, a rare thing in Government organizations. This was his vision and forethought", he said. I was highly elated by this encomium. That



started a discussion between Kalaingar and Peraasiriyar in the dais itself. .

Believe me exactly in 9 days on 22nd November 1990 I was appointed as Vice Chancellor of University of Madras. I strongly believe, Dr MAK's views were taken on this matter in addition to what he expressed in that function, since he was my immediate superior.

In all I am sure that Dr MAK had the quality of encouraging the potential, promising and talented colleagues of his to grow. This could also be a lever of his growth to reach greater heights in his profession.

On 17th or so I requested him for leave to go to my native place to attend family weddings. Dr MAK asked me "Why do you go away at this time?" I did not attach much importance to this question. He had known the news of the paper moving up. When I phoned him on the evening of 22nd from Palayamkottai after hearing the radio news, he said, "I hinted you even that day. You did not get it. Come

soon". It is because I was not chasing after the file, as it was not my practice and also I had my own doubt as to how I would be appointed as VC to such a premier University.

Over the 27 years of my acquaintance with Dr Ananthakrishnan I have noticed in him his smiling face, simplicity in dress and appearance, frankness and openness, strait-forwardness, articulation in speech and writing. His experience in Washington perhaps inculcated some of the qualities in him. Among other things, I learnt from him how to write a letter almost giving the purpose of it clearly at the start itself without the need for the reader going through its detailed content.

In the manuscript of my book in Tamil I wrote his name as Aanantha (ஆனந்த) Krishnan. My friend corrected it as Anantha (அனந்த) Krishnan. The first means BLISS; the second means ETERNAL. In the same sense therefore, I join with all of you to wish him both – happy and long life on his 90th birthday. ■

## Warm Hearted And Radiant



**Prof. Dr. Ulrike Niklas**

*Institut für Südasien- und  
Südostasien-Studien  
- Indologie und Tamil-Studien -  
Universität zu Köln, Liliencronstr. 6*

I wish from my heart to congratulate Prof. Ananthakrishnan on the occasion of his 90th birthday. I regret not to be able to come to Chennai to celebrate with him.

I had the great privilege to host Professor

Ananthakrishnan here, in Cologne University in Germany, when we held the 2009 Tamil INFITT conference within the premises of this University. Professor impressed me greatly with his great knowledge in so many fields - combined with an exceptional warmhearted and radiant nature. All through the conference, he always appeared smiling.

Later on, I met him on several occasions in workshops and conferences in India, and it was always a very, very great pleasure.

Even in his considerably high age, Professor always appears active, energetic, focussed and interested in all kinds of topics.

Ever since I met him, he was a great source of inspiration, energy and self-discipline for me.

Professor Ananthakrishnan is one of the great and charismatic persons of this time, and I regard myself very lucky to have had the chance to meet him.

With all my best wishes for his birthday. ■



## Source Of Inspiration



***Prof. N. R. Shetty***

*Chancellor,  
Central University of Karnataka.*

**P**rof. Munirathna Anandakrishnan is very well known to me for more than three decades. His achievements in the field of technology are the sources of inspiration forever to the young technocrats. During early fifties of previous century he did showcase his talents and skills at the most prestigious Minnesota University, USA by obtaining Masters Degree in Civil Engineering and later Ph.D. He taught at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur as a Professor and went on to become its Chairman. Prof. Anandakrishnan also served as Science Counselor at Indian Embassy in Washington. I am happy to note that his academic abilities attracted United Nations Organization also and he served United Nations Commission on Science and Technology as well as UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for quite a long time. His contributions as Vice Chancellor of Anna University

are still remembered as he has laid the foundation for the systematic and creative study of technology for the betterment of the Nation.

It was my fortune that I was associated with him at several Institutions of National importance to formulate valuable suggestions to the Government of India for the implementation in the field of higher education. Prof. Anandakrishnan always has shown affection blended with love towards me. Even though he was one of the senior most academicians, he used to listen to me and always supported my thoughts. I am ever grateful to him for the support he has given and for the insightful inputs he has provided to me during personal conversations. In February, 2015 I had an opportunity to facilitate the release of his two books titled 'Higher Education at the Crossroads' and 'Technical Education: Trends, Policies and Prospects' at Bengaluru in a function organized jointly by Indian Society for Technical Education and Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology. The first book deals with variety of generic and practical issues, including access, equity, and quality with the core concerns of higher education in India. The second book deals with a range of issues from development of curriculum to opportunities and constraints in a National and Global context.

I wish him all the best for his 90th birthday. I pray Almighty to bless him further to showcase his skills so as to improve quality of higher education in India. ■



**With Honourable President Pranab Mukherjee at IIT Kanpur Convocation**

## Eminent Educationist And Administrator



***M. V. Subbiah***

*Managing Trustee,  
A.M.M. Foundation,  
Chennai.*

For us in the Murugappa Family, it has been an honour and privilege to have known Dr. M. Anandakrishnan for over three decades. He has been kind enough to serve on the Board of Governors of Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre, a Non-Profit Research Organization from 1991. It has been my personal privilege to have been a colleague of his at the

Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust for the last eight years. His contribution, not only in the fields of Science and Education but in the form of preserving knowledge and encouraging research, is indeed admirable.

Dr Anandakrishnan is an eminent Educationist, Institution Builder, Science Administrator, and more. He has contributed immensely to public good by leading Anna University as VC and IIT Kanpur as Chairman and several other Institutions with great distinction and setting high standards for others to emulate. He has also served on several National and International Committees and seeded several innovative ideas on technology, science and education.

Dr Anandakrishnan has been decorated with several Awards and Honours, both in India and abroad. None of these could ever move him from the value driven path of honesty and simplicity. He continues to be active and it is hard to believe he is entering his nineties. India needs his continued commendable service. I wish him a long and healthy life. ■



**Qimpro 2017 Award**

## Intellectual Leader



***Sudhir K. Jain***

*Director,  
Indian Institute of Technology,  
Gandhinagar.*

### About Professor M Anandakrishnan

It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Prof M. Anandakrishnan, who has been a valuable mentor and guide to me over a decade, on his 90th birth anniversary.

His contributions to IIT Kanpur, first as one of its pioneering faculty members, and subsequently as Chairman of the Board of Governors, were

instrumental in its growth and pursuits of excellence. I had the privilege of interacting with him while he was IIT Kanpur's BoG Chairman and I served as Dean of Resource Planning and Generation during 2005-2008. I will be forever grateful for his insights, guidance and encouragement. I have always admired the passion, clarity of vision and integrity he brought to all institutional and academic initiatives at IIT Kanpur.

Not surprisingly, Prof Anandakrishnan was among the select intellectual leaders I sought out for advice soon after I was selected as Director of IIT Gandhinagar. Among the areas he counseled me on was to promote an ethical and principled culture in all areas of institutional operations. His advice resonated with me and has found reflection in IITGN's institutional ethos.

Prof Anandakrishnan has been a source of inspiration, wisdom, and creativity for my generation of scholars and academic leaders. Thank you and congratulations on your 90th birth anniversary! ■



**With Family at Thekkady**

## A Gentle And Pleasant Person



***A.M. Swaminathan IAS (Retd)***

*Former Secretary,  
Govt. Of Tamil Nadu.*

**D**r. Ananthakrishnan is one of the greatest Educationists of our time. He has kept in touch with the latest developments in the fields of Higher Education and Information Technology. He gives his views without fear or favour in a language which is opposite to the Bureaucratese most of us are used to. No wonder Governments of India and Tamilnadu, various IITs and Universities (in particular Anna University) have utilised his services for decades.

I was fortunate to receive my Ph.D. from him in 1999 in his capacity as the Chief Guest at the Convocation

of the Pondicherry University. He readily advised me on some issues on Higher Education when I approached him. I was also associated with him as a member of the Tamilnadu Chapters of Transparency International and Tamilnadu Foundation, where he was President.

Dr. Ananthakrishnan is a gentle and pleasant person who can make a contrarian viewpoint without offending the other person; he never indulges in fruitless arguments. He can make effective platform speeches extempore. He has written many laudable articles in English and Tamil which have commanded a wide readership.

Mrs. Ananthakrishnan is a gem of a person who quietly stands behind him at all times without any fuss. Ever smiling, she is always helpful and hospitable.

On the occasion of Dr Ananthakrishnan's 90th birthday, I join thousands of his well wishers and admirers in wishing many more years of healthy life for this wonderful couple.

My congratulations to the Committee for arranging the celebrations and inviting us to participate. ■



**with Mr. N.R. Narayanamoorthy at IIT Kanpur**



## Practical And Highly Motivated



***Prof. M.S. Swaminathan***

*Founder,  
M. S. Swaminathan,  
Research Foundation,  
Chennai - 600 113.*

I feel very privileged to have been invited to write briefly on my association with Dr M Anandakrishnan. Dr Anandkrishnan, after a wonderful career at IIT, Kanpur, decided to help the Government of India, in the capacity of Scientific Advisor in our Embassies in Tokyo and Washington. Here he made a mark by bringing local Japanese scientists and American Academies into meaningful partnerships with our institutions. He was a great builder of bridges among scientists both in interdisciplinary and inter-institutional terms. I came into close contact with him around 1970, when I was elected as Chairman of the Science Advisory Committee in the United Nations. This committee was set up soon after the Vienna Plan of action, as it is called, was formulated, at one of the largest scientific conferences under UN auspices held in Vienna. The work he did in this Science Advisory Committee was very significant. He helped the Committee focus attention on key issues, one of the first being science and employment for young people, another on science and women. This is significant in the scientific history of the country as till then women scientists were not encouraged or enabled to contribute equally. Even today we find that in India the number of women scientists who have been elected as Presidents of Academies or as Presidents of the Indian Science Congress are very few. Gradually this gap is being filled, with the Department

of Science and Technology developing policies, including personnel policies, to provide opportunities to women scientists to excel in science without sacrificing their families.

Dr Anandakrishnan and I worked on several projects when I was with the UN Committee on Science and Technology. I found him always practical, highly motivated and sharply focused on key issues like women and science. He placed great emphasis on translational research which converts scientific know-how into technological do-how, thereby helping industrialists, agriculturists and all concerned with the application of science. We were together in that Committee for a few years until I resigned, because I was joining the International Rice Research Institute.

My contact with Dr Anandakrishnan got renewed after I came to Chennai in 1989 to set up the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). There from the beginning, from day one, I took the advice of Dr Anandakrishnan. He was the Vice Chancellor of Anna University (1990-1996), succeeding another very eminent scientist Dr V C Kulandaiswamy. He did a great job in developing Anna University as the flagship of our science for society movement. Anna University became famous globally as a leading technological university. He played an important role as Vice Chancellor in helping other institutions including the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in many areas. For example, in MSSRF he helped establish the JRD Tata Ecotechnology Centre, and the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy. In fact, he chaired a committee which selected the first 'Academicians' of the Virtual Academy, rural women and men, not highly sophisticated, urban youth. They were inducted as Academicians by Shri Ranil Wickramasinghe, the then (and present) Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Many of these Academicians have grown into experts in the application of information technology in their day-to-day life.



The facilities at Anna University in the area of biotechnology, training and capacity building, amongst others, were freely made available, not only to MSSRF, but all other institutions which wanted to take advantage of these opportunities. He trained a large number of people. He was one of those who is outward and forward looking and not inward looking. He tried to spread technology far and wide. His interest in the development of both women scientists, and SC and ST scientists, is well-known. He identified the causes why some people are unable to take advantage of science education in universities and scientific research opportunities and sought remedies for them. Addressing social problems in order to assist young students to shine in science was one of his great contributions. His contributions in the area of information technology are also monumental.

He developed a new participatory administrative culture in Anna University, wherein all Professors could play a role in shaping the programmes of the University. In recent years, after he retired from Anna University, he has been very active in helping to shape our policies and programmes in information technology. He has given his time freely to deliver lectures, seminars and help less endowed institutions come up in their academic capacity and status. I can go on, my contact and knowledge of Prof Anandakrishnan as I said earlier, is from the seventies, so about 50 years of association. Every year, every day my admiration for him has grown. My admiration comes not from adulation of a blind type but from good knowledge of his wonderful capacity.

Before I close, I should also mention that he played a very important role in the development of science and technology in Brazil. Even today, if the Brazilian Academy invites him, he spends a little time there. As Secretary of the Science Advisory Committee to the UN, he helped a number of countries develop their science and technology programmes and policies. He laid the Foundation for a science and technology world. A world in which information technology, space technology, biotechnology, and other new technologies could help the common person. He was not interested in science for science's sake, rather in converting into technology through translational research. At the same time, he was committed to the growth of scientific knowledge, the scientific spirit, what Jawaharlal Nehru used to call, scientific temper. He is a living example of how scientific temper can be spread among people and as a result life as a whole can improve.

On the occasion of his 90th Birthday, I want to say that India is fortunate to have a scientist of the calibre and the dedication as Prof Anandakrishnan, serving not only IIT, Kanpur, but also building our relationship with scientists abroad, particularly in Japan, Brazil and the USA. Above all through the science advisory committee to the UN, he has made an unparalleled contribution to spreading a scientific temper all over the world. I pray that he may be given a long and healthy life and blessed with opportunities for service for a long time to come.

Nineties. India needs his continued commendable service. I wish him a long and healthy life. ■



## “கமிட்டிமேன்”



தியடோர்பாஸ்கரன்.

சுற்றுச்சூழல் நிபுணர்,  
பெங்களூரு.

சிகாகோ பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் பேராசிரியராக பணியாற்றும் என் நண்பர் ஒருவர் அங்கு “கமிட்டிமேன்” என்று அறியப்படுகின்றார். எந்த மேலாண்மைக் குழுவில் அங்கம் வகித்தாலும் அதில் அவரது பங்களிப்பு உன்னதமானதாக இருக்குமாதலால் அவருக்கு இந்த செல்லப்பெயர்.

கடந்த சில ஆண்டுகளில் இரு குழுக்களில் திரு. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணனுடன் சேர்ந்து பணியாற்றி நிறைய சுற்றுக்கொள்ளும் அரியவாய்ப்பு எனக்கு கிடைத்தது.

குழுவிலிருக்கும் மற்ற உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு அவரது உந்துதல் ஒரு உற்சாகத்தை அளிக்கும். முதலில் ரோஜா முத்தையா ஆராய்ச்சி நூலக அறக்கட்டளை குழுவில். பின்னர் தமிழக அரசின் பள்ளிகலைத்திட்ட சீரமைப்பு குழுவிலும் நான் அவருடன் இருந்தேன். இரண்டு குழுக்களிலும் தமிழகம், தமிழ் மீதான அக்கறை ஒரு அடிநாதமாக இருந்தது. அவர் ஒரு மேலாண்மைக் குழுவில் இருப்பது அந்த நிறுவனத்திற்கு பெருமை சேர்க்கும்.

ரோஜா முத்தையா நூலகத்தில் ஒருமுறை பணத்தட்டுப்பாடு ஏற்பட்டது. எதிர்பார்த்த நல்கைகள் வந்துசேரவில்லை. அவ்வப்போது நடத்தப்படும் சொற்பொழிவு நிகழ்வுகளை நடத்த முடியாத நிலை. ஒரு அமர்வில் இதைப்பற்றி இயக்குனர் பேசியபோது ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் “நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நிறுத்த வேண்டாம். நான் பணம் தருகிறேன்” என்றார். அவர் அளித்த ஐந்து

லட்சத்தில் இன்றும் அவர் பெயரில் காலம் தவறாமல் சொற் பொழிவுகள் நடத்தப்படுகின்றன. அமர்வுகளில் முக்கியமானகட்டத்தில்மட்டும்அவர்பேசுவார். கச்சிதமாக, அளந்து வைத்து போன்ற சொற்களில் தன் கருத்தை முன்வைப்பார். தனித்துவமான கண்ணோட்டத்தில் இருக்கும் அவரது நிலைப்பாடுகளில் நிறுவனத்தின் நலன், எதிர்காலம், இவைதான் அழுத்தம் பெற்றிருக்கும். “நான் இன்னஇன்ன செய்திருக்கின்றேன். எனக்குத்தெரியும்” என்று தன்னை முன்னிலைப்படுத்தவே மாட்டார். நாட்டின் பல முக்கிய நிறுவனங்களின் மேலாண்மையில் அவர் பங்களிப்பதன் காரணங்களில் இதுவும் ஒன்று என்று நினைக்கின்றேன்.

நான் உறுப்பினராக இருந்த இரண்டாவது குழுவிற்கு அவர் தான் தலைவர். தமிழக அரசு நியமித்த இது கல்வி சார்ந்த குழுவாகையால் இதில் இவரது திறமையை அவதானிக்க முடிந்தது. வெளியூர்களுக்கு அவருடன் பயணம் செய்து ஆசிரியர்கள் கூடுகையில் பங்கெடுத்தபோது விவாதங்களை அவர் நடத்திசெல்லும் திறன், ஆசிரியர்களிடம் அன்புடன் உரையாடும் முறை, இவற்றைக் கண்டு நான் வியந்ததுண்டு. தனது நிலைப்பாட்டை, கல்வி சார்ந்த கருதுகோள்களை எளிய தமிழில் விளக்குவார். பள்ளிக்கல்வியின் பிரச்சனைகளை நன்கு உணர்ந்திருந்தார். தான் தமிழ் வழிதான் பள்ளியில் படித்ததாக ஒருமுறை என்னிடம் கூறினார். எவ்வகைகுழு அமைத்தாலும் அதன் காலக்கெடுவை நீட்டித்துக் கொள்ளும் பழக்கம் கொண்ட அரசு பாரம்பரியத்தில் அவரது வழிகாட்டலில் இயங்கிய இந்தகுழு, குறித்த காலத்தில், அரசு அதிகாரிகளின் அயராத ஒத்துழைப்புடன், தன் பணியை முடித்தது. காலம் தாழ்த்தாமல் பள்ளிபுத்தகங்கள் வெளியாயின.

பன்னாட்டளவில் உயர் பதவிகளில் பதித்த முத்திரைகள், கல்விப் புலத்தில் களங்கமற்ற பணிஆண்டுகள் இவற்றின் பாதிப்புகளை உள்வாங்கிய அனுபவத்தை அவர் தலைமையில் காணலாம்.

நாட்டை கருமேகங்கள் சூழ்ந்திருக்கும் இக்கால கட்டத்தில் சீரிய விழுமியங்களை உள்வாங்கியிருக்கும் திரு. ஆனந்தகிருஷ்ணன் போன்ற ஆளுமைகளுடன் பழகுவது, அவர்கள் பணியில் பங்களிப்பது, பிறந்தநாள் நிகழ்ச்சியில் கலந்துகொள்வது இவைகளை நான் ஒரு பேராகவே கருதுகின்றேன். ■

## Example Of Purpose Driven Life



**Ram P. Thukkaram**

*Chairman & CEO,  
American Metal Technologies,  
Wisconsin, USA.*

I met Dr. Anandakrishnan 25 years ago in his office at Anna University. He was one of the six Board of trustees of Tamil Nadu Foundation that was formed at that time to manage the affairs of the Foundation, with the main task of constructing the TNF Center at Kilpauk in Chennai. At the same time, I was appointed by the TNF USA board to be the TNF Center Coordinator to work with the board of trustees to provide the necessary support for the completion of the Center. You should know by now, when Dr. Anandakrishnan is involved in any project, it will get done; so, it was with the Center.

As a trustee, he guided TNF to complete the first phase. It took six years involving legal disputes that took the TNF all the way to the supreme court. The second phase was completed during his time as Chairman of the board of Trustees. The 10,000 square foot building is living memorial of the commitment of TNF members in USA. Dr. Anandakrishnan played a significant role in making the dream of the TNF USA a reality. Completion of the Center was just the beginning. He led us to do something significant: Until his stewardship, small amounts of donations received from TNF USA members were distributed to the projects. He motivated us to do big projects that would have lasting value. He said rural children have limited or no opportunity to learn about computers. He recommended that TNF take computers to the villages. His vision was both challenging and exciting. The vision involved the government, TNF and an educational institution (Anna University Computer department) working together

to provide computer training in rural villages. The program was launched in six schools the North Arcot district. A total of twelve teachers from each school received computer training at Anna University. A total of 120 students from the six schools were trained by twelve teachers over a period of eighteen months. Computers were moved from school to school every six weeks to train the students. It should be noted, that "Computer on Wheels" in North Arcot district was long before the software revolution in India or computer training centers in Chennai.

The benefits of the computer training program were immense. A fully equipped computer center was established at TNF to train hundreds of part-time students to gain BCA and MCA degrees. Close to 100 schools were assisted by TNF to establish computer centers in each school. This model of three distinct organizations working together for a common purpose is being practiced today at TNF. The Anganvadi project of providing smoke-less kitchens to 17,000 daycare centers as well as the ABC education project of assisting rural children in more than 30 schools were based on the concept conceived by Dr. Anandakrishnan.

I am graduate of the class of '63 from the College of Engineering Guindy. For our 25th anniversary, we wanted to give something of lasting value to the college; an Alumni Center. The Alumni Center came to fruition and is used extensively for educational seminars, meetings, cultural programs, training and so much more. After nearly 200 years of existence, finally the College of Engineering has an Alumni Center. This would not have been possible without Dr. Anandakrishnan. When issues of the land arose, serving in the capacity as Vice-Chancellor of Anna University he was able to allocate the land for its construction. Thank you Doctor.

Ever since I have known Dr. Anandakrishnan, we have met more than 100 times either for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or for a quick chat. Every time I have met with him, I have learned something. His advice was sound, his thoughts were measured, and his words were inspiring. Through my association with Dr. Anandakrishnan, I can honestly say I understood what is meant by a purpose driven life. Thank you Doctor for showing it to me by leading one.

■



## Pragmatic Analyst



***Prof. S. P. Thyagarajan***

*Former Vice Chancellor,  
University of Madras,  
Chennai - 600 020.*

I have been one of the highly privileged Professors in the Indian Higher Education institutions to have very closely interacted with Professor. Anandakrishnan on various academic and administrative policies in Indian Higher Education, both as a professor and as Vice Chancellor of University of Madras. Our interaction still continues. Hence I consider as an honour to write on my reminiscences about him for the compendium of messages planned for release on the eve of the 90th Birthday celebrations of my mentor, Prof. Anandakrishnan.

Even though I have known him from the time he assumed the Vice Chancellorship of Anna University, He recognised me as a quality scientist from the time I was serving as Professor of Microbiology at Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras (Taramani campus). During this period, I had been keenly observing and admiring the academic and administrative reforms he has been doing, initially, at Anna University and subsequently to the Tamilnadu Higher Education policy development by the Government of Tamilnadu and parallel to the Indian Higher Education system. His clarity on higher education policy deliberations, international expertise and immaculate courage in public speaking on sensitive issues like Vice Chancellor appointments, interference into the

autonomy of the University system etc., have made me his ardent admirer.

I had several opportunities subsequently to work with him in UGC Committees and Governing Councils of Central Universities. In all these, I learnt his methodology of pragmatism, analysis of facts, his approach towards the strengths and weaknesses of the issues taken up for discussion. He has always been a solution provider for developing sustainable and implementable policies and governance strategies. His approach to develop Vision Documents for Central and State Universities is an emulatable model. In fact, I have adopted his approach in some of the Committees, in which, I was the Chairperson. I have also read through his reports and books on Higher and Technical education reforms, which I frequently refer as ready reckoner in my Expert Committee meetings.

I cannot resist from quoting two instances of Prof. Anandakrishnan's remarks about my academic contributions. While I was the Director of Dr. AL. Mudaliar P.G. Institute of Basic Medical Sciences at the Taramani Campus of University of Madras, Prof. Anandakrishnan has kindly graced the 'Institute Day' as the Chief guest. In his Chief guest address, he narrated his conversation with scientists at a University in Brazil. When he was introducing himself with them that he is from Madras (Chennai), one scientist asked him, whether he is from the place, where, Dr. Thyagarajan is working. When Prof. Anandakrishnan attempted to cite, that scientist seems to have clarified that he is mentioning about the Thyagarajan, who invented a drug for Hepatitis-B from the medicinal plant, *Phyllanthus amarus*. Dr. Anandakrishnan seems to have overwhelmed at this recognition for a fellow scientist of Tamilnadu in the foreign soil. The fact that Dr. Anandakrishnan openly narrated this incidence in a public meeting of academics denotes his benevolence of encouraging.

## Insightful and Helfful



***Prof. Jandhyala BG Tilak***

*Former Vice Chancellor,  
National University of Educational  
Planning and Administration.*

**Dr M Anandakrishnan**

I am very much delighted to learn that the 90th birthday of Dr M Anandakrishnan is being celebrated in a fitting fashion. 90th birthday also known as Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshan, is a very special event in the life of anyone; it is more special in case of those who made great contributions to the development of the society, like Dr Anandakrishnan. First, my hearty congratulations to Dr Anandakrishnan on nine decades of valuable service to the nation, and I wish the country benefits from his continued services for many more years to come.

As a young researcher in education policy issues, I had the privilege of reading and benefiting from some of Dr Anandakrishnan's valuable popular pieces on higher education policy in India, before I came into contact with him in person. As an educational administrator, he pioneered, when heading the Anna University and the Tamil Nadu State Council of Higher Education, quite a few major reforms in engineering education in the country. I could have more personal contact with him when he was on the board of management of the National University/ Institute of educational Planning and Administration. As a senior faculty member, and as a member of the

respective committees, and later as Vice Chancellor of NUEPA, I found his observations on many issues in the meetings very insightful, helpful and forward looking. After all, they are based on enormous experience as a successful educational administrator. NI/UEPA benefited immensely from his contributions. Personally I too benefited from his advice on many occasions.

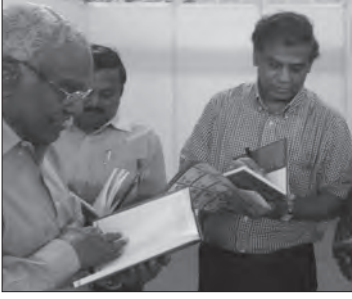
I also had a privilege of working with and watching him working, when I was working in a high power committee of which he was the Chairperson, constituted by Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education. After the meetings he used to sit in the hotel rooms, with me and others and or alone, like a young research scholar, with piles of reports, papers, tables, and laptop, making calculations and writing and correcting drafts of the report. Younger generations would certainly feel partly ashamed, but more importantly inspired to work. I felt the same. That was indeed a special experience for me to watch a senior and highly respected person at work.

As the Editor of Journal of Educational Planning and Administration, I received a lot of help and cooperation from Dr Anandakrishnan. While many senior scholars at NI/UEPA or in other universities refuse to evaluate a paper, or make a review of a book, considering it too small a job for them, Dr Anandakrishnan would very happily and graciously accept my requests almost every time I made. Even when he was very busy, he used to find time to accept another request from me.

I also had the privilege of receiving the 2003 Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah award from his hands at the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

I wish the birthday celebrations a grand success and Dr Anandakrishnan many more years of productive and joyful life. ■

## பேராசிரியர் மு.அனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களுக்குப் பிறந்தநாள் வாழ்த்துகள்



முனைவர் வாசு அரங்கநாதன்,

பென்சில்வேனியாப்  
பல்கலைக் கழகம்

நம் அன்பிற்கினிய பெருந்தகை பேராசிரியர் மு.அனந்தகிருட்டிணன் அவர்களின் தொன்னூறாம் அகவையின் மகிழ்வான தருணத்தில் வெளிவரவிருக்கும் பிறந்தநாள் மலருக்கு எனது வாழ்த்து மடலை அளிப்பதில் பேருவகை கொள்கிறேன்.

பேராசிரியர் அவர்கள் பலரின் மனதில் நீங்கா இடம் கொண்டு தமிழர்களின் நினைவலைகளில் தளம்பித் திகழும் பேரண்ணல்! உலகத் தமிழ்க் கணினி நிறுவனத்தை நிறுவிய பெருமைகொண்ட ஐயா அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் கூடும் உலகத் தமிழ் மாநாட்டில் தவறாது கலந்துகொண்டு கணினிப்

பேராளர்களை ஊக்குவித்த நிகழ்வுகள் பல நம் மனதில் நிலைத்திருக்கின்றன என்பதைவிட நம் கண்விழ்களில் அவை ஒளிப்படமாக என்றென்றும் திகழ்கின்றன எனவே விளம்பவேண்டும்.

கணினித்தமிழ்வளர்ச்சிக்கு வித்திட்ட அவர்களின் ஊக்கத்தில் வெளியிட்ட எனது தமிழ்க் கணினி மொழியியல் நூலின் பக்கங்களை அவர்கள் புரட்டியது இன்னமும் எனது மனதில் நீங்கா நினைவுகளாகத் தளம்புகிறது. தமிழ்க் கணினியின் பக்கங்களை ஆண்டாண்டு காலமாக அவர்கள் புரட்டியது அருவி ஆர்க்கும் அலைகளின் அரவமென நம் செவிகளில் இன்னமும் ரீங்காரமிடுகிறது.

2011ம் ஆண்டு பிலடெல்பியாவில் நடந்த தமிழ்க் கணினி மாநாடு தந்தையர் தினமன்று நடந்தது ஒரு எதிர்பாரா மகிழ்ச்சியாகத் திளைந்ததோடல்லாமல் தமிழ்க் கணினியின் தந்தை கணினிப் பேராளர்களுக்காக அனைவரின் தந்தையெனும் நிலையில் அந்நிகழ்வைக் கொண்டாடியது எமது மனதினின்று என்றென்றும் நீங்காமல் நினைவலைகளாக ஆர்ப்பரிக்கிறது. (<https://youtu.be/Ac1ObdMhWhk>). ஐயா அவர்களுக்கு எங்களின் அன்புகெழுமிய பிறந்தநாள் வாழ்த்துகள் உரித்தாகுக. ■



At Tamil Internet Conference 2015 in Singapore



## My Experiences with Prof. M. Anandakrishnan



***Prof. Ved Prakash***

*Former Chairman,  
UGC.*

I met Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, for the first time, about sixteen years ago when I was working with the University Grants Commission (UGC). During the course of this meeting, I was deeply impressed by the range of his knowledge and ideas and also by his extraordinary personal qualities. Since then I became one of his constant admirers. It has, indeed, given me a wonderful opportunity to learn a great deal from this towering figure of the Indian higher education. I had initiated a number of reforms during my tenure at the UGC and Prof. Anandakrishnan had been of great help to me in formalizing all those reform measures.

Prof. Anandakrishnan is one of the outstanding academicians of the present era. He is very likeable and because of the exceptional qualities of his heart and mind everyone venerates him as a very fine person. A celebrated academic, who has been at the forefront of numerous reforms introduced in higher education, Prof. M. Anandakrishnan is greatly admired and respected by one and all. He is endowed with brilliant mind and a unique array of talent. Prof. Anandakrishnan, who is very sharp and known for speaking his mind valiantly, has always been the champion of inclusive and qualitative development of higher education in the country. His vision and thoughts are so clear that they invariably leave an indelible mark on the minds of informed populace. In fact, his words describing his vision and his goal are

admired by one and all. It is for that reason that he has commanded enormous respect not only from his contemporaries in education sector but also from different quarters of the civil society.

I would like to share, among others, one of my unique experiences which truly portrays the quality of his heart and mind and love for the country. I was a part of a high-powered delegation visiting an important office at Washington. Prof. Anandakrishnan, who was already visiting his family in US came to know about our visit. He reached there before the commencement of the meeting and took me aside and told me that there were some people in that group who were lobbying for massive privatization of Indian higher education. He said that the country was not yet ready for that kind of massive privatization and that we must be extremely cautious about that move. He did not stop there, he also gave me fine points to argue in support of making a strong case for higher education as a public good in a developing economy like ours. It speaks about the quality of his mind and love for the people of the country. These are some of the inescapable qualities of Prof. Anandakrishnan which we are going to cherish forever. There are many more such instances which I am not able to mention here for the paucity of space; but they were truly great learning experiences and I have been very fortunate to have those privileges.

Prof. Anandakrishnan is very broad minded, very sophisticated and yet a simple man. He is a celebrated academician who has been at the forefront of numerous reforms introduced both in general and technical higher education in the country. He would always be remembered as a soft-spoken and truthful person who treated everyone around him equally. He continues to be a great source of inspiration for me as ever before. I have admired him most for decades and now with the same respect and admiration, when we are celebrating his 90th Birthday, I wish him Very Many Happy Returns of the Day and pray to the Almighty for his long and healthy life.

■



## Visionary Leader



**S Viswanathan**

*Editor & Publisher,  
Industrial Economist.*

In my long association with celebrities, I cherish one with Dr M Anandakrishnan (MA) among the most precious. When I converted my publication business into a public limited company, Economist Communications Ltd, he extended my company and myself the privilege of joining it as a Director. For over a decade from the inception of ECL, I have had the pleasure and privilege of his participation in and guidance of the affairs of our company. He spared his time liberally for attending the board meetings as also our special committees and initiatives. I refer to two of these: the first one was his presiding over the IE Business Excellence Award 1996 function on 30 March 1996 when Dr Manmohan Singh was the chief guest. In his last address in Chennai as finance minister, Dr Singh delivered an hour-long lecture on the unfinished tasks of structural reforms.

The second one was MA's lead in a detailed survey on the poor consumer concerns of refrigerator marketers. This was based on sampling 400 hundred housewives spread across Chennai metro on their criteria for choosing a brand. The findings pointed to the absence of concern over energy efficiency and lack of knowledge on the harm caused by the refrigerant freon.

### **Eventful tenure at AU**

I consider Dr MA's term as the Vice Chancellor

of the Anna University as among the most eventful. He put his 15 years experience in the US and UN to introduce several advanced systems and practices. The single window system for engineering college admissions is among the most important ones. MA opened up the university for participation by a wide cross section of specialists from different professions. The regular discussion programmes in the round table conference hall used to throw a lot of light on current and emerging issues. I enjoyed attending these at MA's invitation.

During 1990-97 MA was an adviser on science and technology for Brazil. MA used to host informal dinners in Chennai for the Brazilian Ambassador. In one such meeting of three of us, I got, for the first time, a detailed exposure to this large South American country and its rich resources.

I also admire the phenomenal contribution of MA to expand computer education, standardising and simplifying the usages in Tamil. Well into his 70s, as the Vice Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHHE). MA steered the higher education policy of the state. His long years of experience working for IIT-Kanpur as a faculty and later as chairman of Board of Governors have been a big boon in charting the course of education in Tamil Nadu.

MA was not in agreement with the sidelining of merit in the caste- based reservation policy of Tamil Nadu. When the state increased reservation to 69 per cent he, along with senior advocate K Vijayan, took bold to oppose this through the court intervention. I remember the proponents manhandling them on their way to the airport.

### **Bane of the edu-business...**

MA has been expressing deep anguish over the extremely unsavoury conditions and steep deterioration in standards in higher education. His



talk at a presentation on 150 years of Madras University was particularly poignant. He pointed to higher education in our country outside government as largely an edu-business: “these were promoted and owned by families of politicians, real estate barons or other sundry businessmen. Rarely one finds an educationist of standing heading or managing a higher educational institute.” He also pointed to the Provost or President of MIT, Princeton or other prestigious American business schools invariably a renowned academic of standing. He contrasted this with the sons, daughters or in-laws (and outlaws) functioning as the Pro-Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and directors/principals of our educational institutions.

In a series of articles in Industrial Economist (IE), MA has pointed not just to the serious deficiencies in higher education, but made invaluable suggestions for improvement.

In his article on VCs, he said: “thanks to the various scams and corruption charges in several state universities in Tamil Nadu over the last 15 years, there is total loss of credibility over the appointment process of vice-chancellors. There were charges of corruption, caste favouritism, political influence and nepotism.

“The candidate chosen for the vice-chancellor’s post should be a distinguished academician with a minimum teaching experience of 25 years as a professor or its equivalent at a reputed research or administrative organisation,” MA said.

**NEET breathed fresh air...**

In another article on NEET exams he stated: “the level of higher secondary syllabi of most state boards is far below that of the CBSE. NEET will be instrumental in remedying this lacuna. NEET is a fresh air in the polluted atmosphere of admission scandals.”

Thanks to the consistent and frequent caution by MA, a decisive education Minister, K A Sengottaiyan and bureaucrats like T Udhayachandran have brought about welcome changes. For the first time in a couple of decades vice chancellors have been selected on merit without political interference. In quick time the obsolete school education syllabus had been updated and text books for classes I, VI, IX & XI have been brought out for the coming academic year thanks to the committee headed by MA. The revised syllabus for other classes will be implemented in a phased manner in a couple of years.

Tamil Nadu seems all set to reform its education system from the school stage and to regain its past glory as among the leaders. Much of this is owned to the vision, exertion and leadership of dedicated leaders like MA.

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#### **Photo caption:**

*Dr M Anadakrishnan who presided over the IE Business Excellence Award function on 30 March 1996 when then Finance Minister presented the award to K S Raju of Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Ashok Leyland Chairman R J Shahaney, recipient of the Award for 1995 is at the right.* ■





With Family and Friends early years





**Relaxing while touring at Western Ghats.**





**Padmashri Awardee 2002**

