

KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Thiruvananthapuram

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Fellowship Conferment Ceremony-2023

Kerala Academy of Sciences (KAS), has conducted the sixth fellowship conferment ceremony on 25th October 2023, 11.30 am to 12.30 pm, at CSIR- National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) Thiruvananthapuram. Sri. Arif Mohammed Khan, the honourable Governor of Kerala, was the chief guest of the function.

Six stalwarts in different fields of Science and Technology were conferred with Honoris Causa Fellowship while ten KAS members were conferred with elected fellowship in the programme.

KAS Fellowship Honoris Causa;

1. **Sri. Somanath S** Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (Space Science and Technology)
2. **Dr. Chandrabhas Narayana** Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram (Biotechnology and Spectroscopy)
3. **Dr. Sanjay Behari** Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) Thiruvananthapuram (Medical Sciences and Neurosurgery)
4. **Dr. Anandharamakrishnan C** Director, CSIR- National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) Thiruvananthapuram (Food Science and Technology)
5. **Prof. (Dr.) Mohanan Kunnummal** Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Health Sciences and University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram (Medical Sciences and Radiology)
6. **Dr. Ramchand C N** President and CEO Saksin Lifesciences Pvt Ltd Chennai (Biotechnology and Genomics entrepreneurship)

KAS Elected Fellows (FAS);

1. **Dr. Jasmine M Shah** Central Uty of Kerala, Kasaragod (Plant Biotechnology)
2. **Dr. Mohanan P V** SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram (Toxicology)
3. **Dr. Narayanan Unni K N** CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram (Energy Devices and Organic Electronics)
4. **Dr. Pramod Gopinath** CUSAT, Cochin (Photonics)
5. **Dr. Raghu K G**, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram (Pharmacology)
6. **Dr. Rameshkumar K B** KSCSTE- JNTBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram (Phytochemistry)
7. **Dr. Reghu Ravindran** College of Veterinary and Animal Sc., Wayanad (Veterinary Parasitology)
8. **Dr. Sabu Thomas** DBT-RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram (Molecular Microbiology)
9. **Dr. Sreejith Parameswara Panicker** Uty of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram (Cutaneous Biology and Tissue Regeneration)
10. **Dr. Swapna T S** Uty of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram (Plant Biotechnology)

The programme started at 11.30 am with National Anthem, and the august audience were extended a welcome by Dr. M. Shaneeth, Vice-President, KAS, followed by special addresses by the honorary fellows.

Sri. Somanath highlighted the achievements in Space Science and Technology, and the reforms taking place in various sectors across the country. He emphasised the importance of connecting between the academia, research and industry. The society should place scientists and technologists on a higher pedestal, and showcase how their work contributes to the growth of the nation. The Chairman ISRO appreciated the efforts of KAS to recognise S&T persons in various domains through the fellowship programme.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohanan Kunnummal mentioned the legacy of the country in celebrating knowledge with the contest of Vijayadesami, and mentioned that KAS is continuing the knowledge celebration. Though during the colonial invasion we missed the industrial revolution and the steam engine, now we are on the right track, on gaganyaan, towards a knowledge economy.

Dr. Chandrabhas Narayana told that a silent revolution in the field of Biotechnology is taking place especially during the post covid era, and RGCB is pioneering in exploring the possibilities in favour of the State. He also mentioned that KAS is playing a significant role in scientific popularisation in the State.

Dr. Sanjay Behari emphasised the developments in health care sector of the State, and mentioned that the innovation and scientific temper has led to a self-reliant India.

Dr. Anandharamakrishnan hailed the knowledge base of the Honble Governor and praised the achievements of ISRO under the able leadership of Mr. Somanath. He warmly extended welcome to all the guests to CSIR-NIIST, and also briefed the national stature of CSIR NIIST.

Dr. Ramchand fondly recollected his journey towards an entrepreneur in the field of Biotechnology and Genomics. He emphasised that the technological advancement should be made into societal benefit through such enterprises.

Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair, President, KAS delivered the Presidential Address followed by the special addresses by the Honorary Fellows. He elaborated the genesis and activities of KAS. The academy is thriving to fulfil the Nehruvian vision of inculcating scientific temper in the society through its multifarious activities, especially addressing the contemporary scientific issues of social relevance. The president also introduced the fellows and the plethora of scientific activities they are delving in to. He also urged the wholehearted support of the proposed fellows in strengthening the activities of academy towards promoting S&T in the State.

Sri. Arif Mohammed Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala conferred KAS fellowships to the 6 Honoris Causa and 10 elected fellows. The Fellowship consisted of gold medal and citation.

The fellowship conferment ceremony was followed by the address of the Hon'ble Governor, Sri. Arif Mohammed Khan. The governor congratulated all the fellowship awardees,

mentioning the diversity of scientific sectors they represent. He mentioned that every scientific progress registered in large nations like India impacts the world. He also hailed the ISRO and its chief Sri Somanath, and said that the progress made in space science has inspired so much confidence and enthusiasm in public mind towards Science and Technology. The dedicated efforts of the scientists are contributing not just to our progress, but reviving the age-old identity of India as a knowledge civilization. Acquisition of knowledge and sharing that knowledge with others for common good was our culture. It was our faith in Science and Technology that helped India to transform itself from a food deficient nation to the top 10 countries in the agricultural exports. The progress we made in drugs and pharmaceutical is also phenomenal, and the Indian companies exports 20 percentage of world's generic drugs and India being described as world's pharmacy. Such a boom in Science sector requires total devotion by the involved persons and KAS is honouring such scholars and in turn celebrating the knowledge.

The programme concluded with National Anthem at 12.35 pm.

The programme was well attended by around 300 participants, consisting Senior faculties and Researchers from CSIR-NIIST and various R&D institutions in Kerala and academicians from various colleges and Universities, Research students, College students and general public. Senior faculties and scientists from VSSC and LPSC including Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, VSSC and Dr. V. Narayanan, Director, LPSC also participated in the programme. Around 50 students from The Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram has attended the programme and had a discussion session with the Chairman, ISRO. All the participants were served with a high tea after the programme.

A meeting of the fellowship awardees, the esteemed guests and EC members was conducted after the fellowship conferment ceremony at the Board Room of CSIR-NIIST. The president addressed the esteemed guests and EC members and acknowledged everyone for the conductance of the fellowship ceremony in a blissful manner. Esteemed guests including Sri. Somanath addressed the meeting and hailed the activities of KAS. The president mentioned about the need for an office space for KAS, and urged the distinguished guests for valuable suggestions in this regard. The esteemed VC of the University of Kerala suggested to approach the University for the space, while the ISRO Chairman suggested to make a fund-raising campaign for the academy space and building. SCTIMST Director suggested to have a medical wing of KAS at SCTIMST campus. RGCB Director suggested that the facility at KINFRA campus may be extended to KAS for its office, and the meeting cheerfully accepted the offering. The President once again extended heartfelt thanks to all the dignitaries and participants for their gracious presence in the programme.

Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nayar
President, KAS

Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar
Gen. Sec., KAS





- Professor of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU)
- Head of the Veterinary Parasitology Department of KVASU
- B.V.Sc. & AH from Kerala Agricultural University, M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Parasitology from Indian Veterinary Research Institute
- Worked as a Veterinary surgeon in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kerala. Join teaching career at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Thrissur in December 2001
- Best Agricultural Scientist Award in 2011 by the Govt. of Kerala; PUBLONS Peer review - 2018; Visiting Fellowship 2018 (ICASR); IRESA Teacher Award 2020
- Executive Council Member of Kerala Academy of Sciences
- Completed several research projects funded by DBT and KSCSTE. Over 80 publications in reputed international journals. Granted one patent. Index of 21 with more than 1500 citations
- Guided one Ph.D. scholar. Supervised six M.Sc. students. Review Editor for Frontiers in Veterinary Science. Managing Editor of Journal of Veterinary Parasitology. Member of the Executive Committee for Antibiotics, Infection, and Immunotherapy



- Former Faculty Scientist and Principal Investigator at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Govt. of India
- M.Sc. in Zoology from Mahatma Gandhi University; PhD from the University of Madras
- Global Task Force Member of the World Health Organization (WHO); task force to control Cholera by 2030
- Member of the Second Indian Arctic Expedition team to study the Polar region; Substantial contribution to Polar Science research in India
- Task Force Member of the Indian Council of Medical Research; Kerala; AMAR research; Chairman of the Working Committee to set up a Centre for Microbiome in the State
- 'Fellow Award' in Medical Biotechnology by the Society for Applied Biotechnology for the Best Scientist in 2022
- More than 90 research articles in reputed journals. Authored 1.6 books. Completed 12 research projects funded by DBT, ICMR, and Government of Kerala. Supervised several Postgraduate and M.Phil. students



- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Government College, Thiruvananthapuram
- Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research in Cutaneous Biology
- Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Kerala; Post-Doctorate from Cleveland Clinic, USA, the University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Western Reserve University, Ohio, USA
- Recipient of several international fellowships: University of Manchester, Family Welfare, University of Southampton, London, and UK. High conjunction with FLAIR Program, Govt. of Kerala.
- Received Research funding amounting to about 8 Crone, from several agencies: ICMR, Dept. of Health Research, DST, KSCSTE, KBC, MHRD, Education, Govt. of Kerala
- Joint Secretary of the Kerala Society for Natural and Economic Diseases, Kerala Society for Alternative Animal Health, Cancer Research Society, Kerala Society for Veterinary Education, Kerala Veterinary Society



- Prof. (Dr.) T.S. Swapna
- Professor of the Department of Botany, University of Kerala; Officiating Head of Botany, University of Kerala
- 26 years of teaching and research experience
- Chairperson of the Board of Studies in Botany and Biotechnology, University of Kerala
- PhD from Cochin University of Science and Technology; Post-Doctoral research from Paul Cézanne, Marseille, France
- Best Women Scientist Award in Botany by PEARL Foundation Educational Excellence Awards, 2017
- Executive Council Member of the Kerala Academy of Sciences; Member of Kerala Board
- Guided 9 PhD students; Supervised several Postgraduate and M.Phil. students
- More than 100 research papers in reputed journals; Authored 1.6 books
- National/International Seminars/Conferences as a reviewer in many journals
- Completed 12 research projects funded by DBT, ICMR, Dept. of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Kerala, ICMR, and Government of Kerala



