

New Registrar assumes Office in Gandhigram Rural University

Dr.K.Marimuthu, who served earlier as Professor & Head, Department of Physics, GRI assumed office as Registrar, Gandhigram Rural University on 07th September 2026. Dr.K.Marimuthu was born on 04th September 1972 and hails from a village Jathigoundanpatty located near Chinnalapatti in Dindigul District. He completed his schoolings at Thambithottam Higher Secondary School, Gandhigram. His higher education began with a B.Sc. in Physics from St. Joseph's College, in 1992, followed by an M.Sc. in Physics from the same institution in the year 1994. He subsequently obtained his B.Ed. in 1996 and M.Ed. in 1998 from Annamalai University, PGDCA from Madurai Kamaraj University in 1999, and Ph.D. from Gandhigram Rural University in 2002.

Dr. Marimuthu began his professional career as an Assistant Professor at PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul during the period from June 2003 to November 2005. In November 2005, he joined Gandhigram Rural Institute, where he has continued his academic career for more than two decades. Over approximately 21 years of professional experience, he has progressively taken up responsibilities in teaching, research, student welfare, academic committees, institutional coordination and university administration.

At present, he is serving as Professor and Head of the Department of Physics at The Gandhigram Rural Institute since December 2025. Coming from a rural background, he reflects sustained commitment, perseverance and dedication to higher education, teaching, research and institutional development. His strong academic foundation in Physics subsequently developed into a career encompassing teaching, scientific research, research supervision, funded projects and academic administration. His experience in different institutional positions has given him exposure to several dimensions of university administration, including academic coordination,

student affairs, hostel administration, quality assurance, public relations, legal matters and institutional programmes.

His major research interests are in Physics, particularly luminescence studies on rare-earth-doped glass materials, phosphors, photonic applications of glasses and radiation-shielding glasses. His research has focused on developing and characterizing advanced glass materials for luminescent, photonic and radiation-shielding applications.

Dr. Marimuthu has established a substantial research record, with 202 international SCI journal publications and 5 national journal publications. He has presented his research at 45 international conferences and 97 national conferences. His Google Scholar profile records 8,935 citations, an h-index of 63 and an i10-index of 129. These indicators demonstrate the sustained visibility and impact of his scientific publications and research contributions.

One of the major recognitions of his research career is his inclusion among the world's best Top 2% Scientists in the Stanford University-based ranking for research publications, citations and scholarly contributions during the listed years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. He also has made significant contributions to research supervision and the development of young researchers. 16 Ph.D. scholars have been awarded their doctoral degrees under his supervision, while 8 Ph.D. scholars are currently pursuing their research under his guidance. He has also guided 13 M.Phil. scholars and completed 1 postdoctoral fellowship supervision.

He has demonstrated substantial experience in obtaining and managing externally funded research projects from reputed national funding agencies. His research projects have been supported by prestigious organisations including DRDO, UGC, DAE-BRNS, NPIU and IUAC, with a total sanctioned funding of around ₹60 lakhs. These projects have covered areas such as luminescence and energy-transfer studies, rare-earth-doped glasses for white-light applications, luminescent devices, optical waveguides and plasmonic glasses. All five projects were successfully completed during the period from 2012 to 2022, demonstrating his ability to effectively manage externally funded research activities and deliver project objectives.

Dr. Marimuthu has substantial exposure to university governance through his institutional responsibilities and participation in academic and administrative bodies. His international academic exposure includes professional visits to Thailand and Sri Lanka. He served as a resource person in in-service teacher training programmes in Sri Lanka in the year 2009 and 2010 and delivered an invited talk at an international conference in Pattaya, Thailand, in the year 2025. He is a member of professional organisations including the Luminescence Society of India, Indian Society for Technical Education, Indian Laser Association and Rare Earth Association of India.

Dr. K. Marimuthu has taken over charge as the Registrar of The Gandhigram Rural Institute on 07th September 2026. His appointment is made through a formal selection interview conducted on 03rd September 2026, followed by the approval of the Executive Council of the University. The Registrar appointment is for a five-year term, providing him with an opportunity to contribute to the long-term academic, administrative and institutional development of the University.