



THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade (4th Cycle)
Gandhigram - 624 302 :: Dindigul District :: Tamil Nadu
CENTRE FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS



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GRI ALUMNI AWARDS FUNCTION-2026 REPORT

One Hundred Alumni Honoured as Gandhigram Rural Institute Celebrates Its Golden Jubilee

GANDHIGRAM, 15 August 2026 — The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) honoured 100 of its alumni today at the GRI Golden Jubilee Alumni Awards Function 2026, held at the Silver Jubilee Hall. The function was organised jointly by the Alumni Association of GRI (AAGRI) and the Centre for Alumni Relations (CARE).

The date carried its own meaning. On the morning the country marked its Independence, an institution founded by two disciples of Mahatma Gandhi called its children home.



Delivering the Welcome Address – Dr. M. Mary Shanthi Rani

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. M. Mary Shanthi Rani, Director, Centre for Alumni Relations, traced the journey of an institute founded in 1956 by Dr. T. S. Soundaram and Dr. G. Ramachandran — seventy years of rural higher education rooted in Gandhian ideals, and fifty years as a Deemed to be University. She noted that GRI continues to march ahead, most recently securing an A++ grade in its fourth cycle of NAAC accreditation, striding steadily with education embedded in research and in commitment to society.



Presidential Address – Dr. N. Panchanatham, Vice-Chancellor

In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Dr. N. Panchanatham underscored what alumni networking means to the growth of any institution. Alumni, he said, are the architects of their alma mater — returning to reconstruct and transform it in step with the emerging trends of higher education. The institute takes pride in honouring them, because their lives are the testimony of the difference GRI has made.



Keynote Address – Dr. M. Sundaramari, Registrar i/c

Delivering the keynote address, Registrar i/c Dr. M. Sundaramari spoke of the brand value GRI holds in higher education at national and global level. This award function, he observed, reflects the yeoman service the institute has rendered in empowering rural society with quality education — producing civil servants, scholars, and human resources who meet the demand at regional, state, national and global levels.

The Chief Guest, Shri M. Venkatachalam, Former Director (Power), NLC India Ltd., Neyveli, described GRI as a pioneer in providing education with the flavour of integrated rural development — a distinct difference in principle and philosophy. The students of any institute, he said, are its real assets, its ambassadors, carrying the knowledge and wisdom gained on campus outward, so that the name of the institute flourishes along with their own growth. The bond between an alumnus and an institute, he added, is more like that between a mother and a child. It asks nothing, and it does not end.



Special Address – Dr. B. Subburaj

In a special address, Dr. B. Subburaj, Former Vice-Chancellor and alumnus of GRI, shared vivid memories of his own association with the campus, where he learned to integrate his life with community outreach silver-lined with higher education. This institute, he said, has meticulously interwoven the pressing social concerns of our time — health, hygiene, education and employment — with sustainable solutions.

A special address was also delivered by Shri G. Ramakrishnan, IAS (Retd.), distinguished alumnus of GRI. Felicitations were offered by Dr. K. Raja Prannmalai, President, AAGRI, and Dr. S. Manivel, Secretary, AAGRI.

The GRI Alumni Awards were instituted in October 2024 at the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, and this is the second edition. One hundred alumni were honoured this year, recommended by the Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors and Coordinators of the various schools of GRI, across six categories: Academic Excellence, Professional Excellence, and Outstanding Contribution to Society, Young Alumni Achiever, Alumni Ambassador, and Alumni Entrepreneurial Excellence.



Vote of Thanks – Dr. C. Raja Mohan

The souvenir of the GRI Alumni Awards 2026 was released during the function. Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Joint Director, Centre for Alumni Relations, proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

Speaking on the significance of the day, the organisers noted that the Centre for Alumni Relations exists as a bridge — between alumni and each other, between alumni and today's students, and between alumni and the campus that shaped them. In recent months, twenty-five batch-specific alumni meets have been organised by departments across the institute, alongside golden jubilee meets in every department. Alumni have contributed to the institute's growth through endowments and through donations of computers, furniture, books and equipment.

Awardees were invited to stay engaged — through student mentoring, through participation in academic and research events, and through sharing their expertise. Every drop in the ocean counts, and big things have small beginnings.



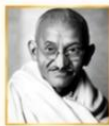


Alumni Awardees Receiving Their Certificates

INVITATION

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



Alumni Association of GRI (AAGRI) and Centre for Alumni Relations (CARE)

jointly organize

GRI GOLDEN JUBILEE ALUMNI AWARDS FUNCTION 2026



Date: 15.08.2026



Time : 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM



Venue: Silver Jubilee Hall

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

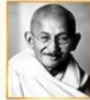
10:00 AM	Prayer Song	
10:05 AM	Lighting the Lamp	
10:10 AM	Welcome Address	Dr.M.Mary Shanthi Rani, Director , Centre for Alumni Relations, GRI
10: 20 AM	Presidential Address	Dr.N.Panchanatham, Vice-Chancellor, GRI
10: 35 AM	Keynote Address	Dr.M.Sundaramari, Registrar i/c, GRI
10:45 AM	Release of GRI Alumni Awards 2026 Souvenir	
10:55 AM	Special Address by Chief Guest	Shri. M. Venkatachalam, Former Director (Power), NLC India Ltd., Neyveli, Tamil Nadu
11:05 AM	Special Address by Distinguished Alumnus	Shri. G. Ramakrishnan, IAS (Retd.) Alumnus of GRI
11:15 AM	Felicitation	Dr.B.Subburaj, Former Vice-Chancellor & Alumnus of GRI Dr.K.Raja Pranmalai, President, Alumni Association of GRI Dr.S.Manivel , Secretary, Alumni Association of GRI
11: 30 AM	Presentation of Alumni Awards	
12:27 PM	Vote of Thanks	Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Joint Director, Centre for Alumni Relations, GRI
12: 30 PM	National Anthem	
12.31 PM	Photo Session	
01.00 PM	Lunch	

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

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Presidential Address

Dr. N. Panchanatham
Vice-Chancellor, GRI.



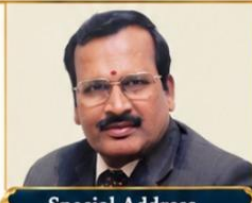
Keynote Address

Dr. M. Sundaramari
Registrar i/c, GRI.



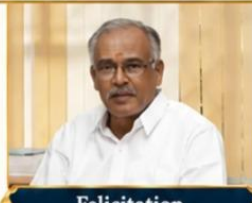
Special Address

Shri. M. Venkatachalam,
Former Director (Power),
NLC Inida Ltd., Neyveli, Tamil Nadu



Special Address

Shri. G. Ramakrishnan, IAS (Retd.)
Alumnus of GRI



Felicitations

Dr. B. Subburaj,
Former Vice-Chancellor &
Alumnus of GRI



Felicitations

Dr. K. Raja Pranamalai
President
Alumni Association of GRI



Felicitations

Dr. S. Manivel
Secretary
Alumni Association of GRI



Welcome Address

Dr. M. Mary Shanthi Rani
Director
Centre for Alumni Relations



Vote of Thanks

Dr. C. Raja Mohan
Joint Director
Centre for Alumni Relations

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