
Name: Prof. V N RAJASHEKHARAN PILLAI

Brief Biodata

Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai is the Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, since April 2003.

Prior to that, he was the Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) (in the rank of Central University Vice Chancellor) since April 2001.

He has been the Vice Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. He held additional charge of VC Cochin University of Science and Technology.

Dr. Rajasekharan Pillai has 32 years of teaching, research, research guidance and administrative experience in the Universities of Kerala, Calicut, Cochin, and Mahatma Gandhi University.

He is the Founder-Director of the School of Chemical Sciences and has been the Dean of Faculty of Science, Controller of Examinations, Director of College Development Council and Chief, Employment and Information Guidance Bureau of the Mahatma Gandhi University.

He has held post-doctoral and visiting research Professor positions in the Universities of Tubingen, Mainz (Germany) and Lausanne (Switzerland).

He is leading an internationally renowned research group in the area of biopolymers, specifically peptides.

He has published extensively (about 200 refereed research publications in international journals) in this area and has guided the doctoral research of a large number of students (45) who occupy leading positions in academia, R&D, and industry in India and abroad.

His research publications have received over 1500 citations during the last 15 years and he is one among the top cited scientists in the country.

Successfully executed a large number of sponsored research schemes of UGC, CSIR and DST.

He has served on several expert committees in education, science, technology and culture.

Widely traveled all over the world, Dr. Pillai has presented papers and given invited and plenary lectures and chaired sessions in a large number of National / International conferences.

As Vice Chancellor & Director, NAAC, he had occasion to visit and interact with the Higher Education Systems and Quality Assurance Agencies of several countries in Europe and Asia-Pacific Regions.

He has hosted several National and International discussions, meetings including Indian Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting and Vice Chancellors Conference.

Prof. Pillai is an elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and an Honorary Senior Fellow of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore.

Recipient of Materials Research Society of India Lecture Award (1997).

Chairman, Convener and member of several national and international committees on Science, Education, and Technology.

He has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Asia-Pacific University Presidents Association representing India (1998).

Member of the Working Group constituted by the MHRD for the preparation of Indian Science Policy Document for UNESCO.

Convener and Member of the Search Committees of Vice Chancellors for Central and State Universities.

Chairman of Deemed Universities Committees, AICTE –Accreditation teams and AIU Affiliation Committees.

Serves on the Governing Boards and Executive Councils of several National Bodies in Education and of Central Universities (BHU and Pondicherry); Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, and National Library, Kolkatta.

Under his leadership, the NAAC has formulated an Action Plan for quality evaluation, sustenance, and quality upgradation for the higher education institutions in the country, which has been accepted and being implemented by all the State Governments. He was a Member of the Working Group, which prepared the 10th Plan vision – Document for Higher education.

Married to Dr. P Geetha (Professor, School of Letters, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala)

Children: P Balanarayan (Research Scholar, Pune University); P Gayathri (Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore).
