The renowned educationist and visionary, Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, who was the third Vice Chancellor of Anna University, passed away on 29 May 2021 at the age of 93.

An Alumnus of the College of Engineering Guindy (Civil Engg.1952), Prof. M Anandakrishnan pursued higher studies and Ph D at the University of Minnesota, USA. He served in several positions in the United Nations (1978-1989) and was the Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT, Kanpur.

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan served as Vice Chancellor of Anna University for two consecutive terms between 1990 and 1996. During his tenure, the University and its departments had seen tremendous development in their structure and services. Prof. Anandakrishnan implemented single window system for admissions to Engineering programmes in Tamil Nadu. He established AU-FRG CAD CAM Centre, AU-TVS Centre for Quality Management, Anna University, Central Library, Anna Gem Science Park School and many more academic facilities. His record of achievements in promoting University-Industry interaction gained wide acclaim. Alumni activities of Anna University have taken huge strides by his efforts in starting Alumni Club in the boat club facilities of the University. Even after the completion of his terms, Prof. Anandakrishnan was closely associated with Anna University till his last days by way of advising in many of the policy matters which paved the way for lifting the University to its glorious pinnacle in the country.

Outside the University, his mammoth contribution was in introducing Tamil in computer applications which made a revolution in evolving a common encoding system. This was a landmark achievement which will facilitate Tamil language to keep pace with emerging advances in computer and internet technologies. His keen interest in upgrading the standard of school education in the state to global levels has helped in bringing broad changes in curriculum and syllabus for the secondary education setup. Prof. Anandakrishnan headed a large number of committees both at the state and central level in shaping up the higher education scenario particularly in technical education. He has been honoured with the prestigious Padmashri Award in 2002 followed by numerous awards and honours both inside and outside the country.

Anna University is proud to have been guided by such an illustrious person and at this hour of sorrow, the administration, faculty and students of this University express their deep-felt condolences for the loss of this acclaimed academician and administrator.