

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR & CHANCELLOR, STATE UNIVERSITIES OF
TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF
TWO DAY CONFERENCE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS OF STATE
AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OF TAMIL NADU – 2024 AT
RAJ BHAVAN, UDHAGAMANDALAM TODAY (28.05.2024)**

Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor of State Universities of Tamil Nadu Thiru. R.N.Ravi presided over the valedictory session of the two day Conference of Vice-Chancellors of State and Private Universities of Tamil Nadu – 2024 today (28.05.2024) at Raj Bhavan, Udhagamandalam.

Hon'ble Governor in his valedictory address, thanked the participants and expressed happiness at the conference being very useful in building a collaborative eco-system of higher education in the state. He expressed hope and confidence that the takeaways from the conference will help build a better academic environment. He recalled his numerous interactions with the students, and how they amply demonstrated that our human resources are among the finest in the country. Given proper guidance, motivation, and mentorship, our students are capable of doing wonders. However, due to the lack of these, they are not able to fulfill their potential and aspirations. Our students are not even aware of the numerous opportunities available to them in the country. They need guidance. It is a matter of concern that even our PhD scholars, who are bright students, are either without any fellowship or get a meager amount of about ₹5000 per month. Due to lack of proper guidance and motivation, they are not able to obtain the UGC run NET-JRF fellowship, which is about ₹40-45 thousand per month, almost double the salary of our guest lecturers. Some private universities in our state are doing very well in this regard. He urged the Vice Chancellors of the state universities to take

serious note of this issue and collaborate with such private universities.

The Hon'ble Governor highlighted how the severe shortage of teaching faculty in our universities, almost 40–50% shortage has heavily compromised the future of our students.

Deliberating over the curriculum, the Governor expressed concern over unacceptable distortions in History and Political Science syllabuses of B.A and M.A. courses of the state universities. There is a total blackout of the National Freedom Movement in the syllabus.

People of Tamil Nadu had played a leading role in the National Freedom Movement. He elaborated how several thousand freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our Nation. Several thousand youths from Tamil Nadu joined the Indian National Army of Netaji and fought the British, and many gave their lives. The massacre of freedom fighters at Devakottai and Perungamanallur can't be forgotten. Poligars resistance and popular uprisings at Palayamkottai, in which several thousand Tamils were killed by the British, and just a few to quote, Mahatma Gandhi visited the state more than 16 times. The Swadeshi Movement and Salt Satyagraha had a huge response in Tamil Nadu, and the people of Tamil Nadu played a leading role. When the British partitioned Bengal communally, there was a huge uprising in Tamil Nadu, which motivated the great freedom fighter V. O. Chidambaram Pillai to join the National Freedom Movement. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Punjab outraged the people of Tamil Nadu and prompted young Kamaraj to abandon his studies and jump into the National Freedom Movement. Tamil Nadu played a crucial role in the framing of the Constitution of Free India. There are just a few illustrations.

The impact of British rule on the social, economic and political fabric of Tamil Nadu is totally blacked out from the curriculum. Instead, the curriculum is filled with the stories of Dravidian movement. With respect to

social and political awakening, all the movements, to name a few, the Ayyavazhi movement of Ayya Vaikundar, the Sanmarga movement of Vallalar, and the Nandanar movement led by Dalit leader Swami Sahajananda are missed altogether.

In the 19th century, several hundred thousand Tamil people were forcibly taken by the British as indentured labours to their colonies in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Fiji, where they were auctioned like slaves to the British landlords. They were treated like animals. Those who resisted were imprisoned, tortured, and even killed.

Erasing the sufferings and sacrifices of the millions of Tamil people for the freedom of India and the suffering of countless people at the hands of the British is an insult to our countless martyrs and a denial of the true history and sacrifices of our forefathers. It also weakens the sense of nationalism among our youth and fosters an eco-system that emotionally disconnects our youth from the national mainstream.

Hon'ble Governor emphasized the significance of emerging technologies like Generative AI, Quantum Computing, Advanced Robotics, Ultra Nanotechnology, and Synthetic Biology, highlighting their profound impact on the world and the world order. He stressed the importance of investing in our youth to invest in these technologies so that they are equipped to harness the true potential of these transformative technologies.

Earlier, Prof. H.D. Charan, Chairman of the National Committee on Universal Human Values at AICTE, gave a detailed presentation on Universal Human Values, emphasizing their role in Human Education and how institutions can develop into living models of a humane society. He highlighted how these institutions can serve as resource centers for their communities, and how personal and societal transformation can occur in a natural and evolutionary manner.

Dr. Jayanti Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation, engaged in insightful discussions with Vice Chancellors about the exciting opportunities for students across various colleges and universities, aligning with the National Education Policy-2020. These opportunities span from volunteering and internships in Auroville to collaborative research projects with faculty members. Auroville, often referred to as the City of Dawn and rooted in the vision of Sri Aurobindo, offers a vibrant ecosystem for evolving consciousness.

Thiru. Karthik Thirunarayan, Member of the Committee of Administrators at the Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu State Branch, Chennai, illuminated the invaluable services rendered by the IRCS, emphasizing the pivotal role of the Youth Red Cross. He urged the Vice Chancellors to designate a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for comprehensive engagement and underscored the importance of maximum participation from college youths to foster a culture of social responsibility.

On this occasion, Governor distributed the certificates to the Vice-Chancellors and the participants. Students and scholars qualified in NET and UGC-CSIR tests and obtained Junior Research Fellowship shared their experience about their preparations. Thiru. R. Kirlosh Kumar, I.A.S., Secretary to Governor, Vice-Chancellors of Central and State Universities, Heads of Education Institutions, faculty members, research scholars of state universities, students, officials and staff of Raj Bhavan took part in this two days conclave.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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