

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AND CHANCELLOR OF STATE UNIVERSITIES OF TAMIL NADU INAUGURATED TWO DAY CONFERENCE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS OF STATE AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OF TAMIL NADU – 2024 AT RAJ BHAVAN, UDHAGAMANDALAM TODAY(27.05.2024).

Thiru. R.N.Ravi, Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor of State Universities of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the two day Conference of Vice-Chancellors of State and Private Universities of Tamil Nadu today (27.05.2024) at Raj Bhavan, Udhagamandalam.

Thiru. R.N.Ravi, Hon'ble Governor - Chancellor of State Universities of Tamil Nadu in his presidential address at the inaugural session today extended warm greetings and best wishes to the university leaders from across the state, faculty experts and educational scholars from across the country who are participating in the two day conference. Hon'ble Governor said, when he came to Tamil Nadu two and half years back, he noticed that the state universities were working in isolation and facing challenges in improving their standards due to lack of communication and coordination among them. To overcome this situation and provide a forum where the eminent leaders of higher education can learn from each other, this conference is being organized.

Hon'ble Governor underlined that the core thrust of this conference is to bring about research excellence, innovation, and entrepreneurship, provide an insight in to artificial intelligence, human values and introduce new ideas from the experts, for improving higher education in the state. All these discussions will be instrumental in strengthening our education system, making younger generation skilled and confident to find solution to the prevailing challenges.

Our Country was the 6th largest economy at the time of independence, but it was reduced to 11th position till a few years back. With the new initiatives over the last ten years, the country is now the 5th largest economy in the world and soon will reach 3rd position. We were innovative, good entrepreneurs and rooted to Indian education system of learning. All these glories were reduced to null during the colonial rule.

Before colonization, our economy was the largest economy in the world, our education system was innovative and enterprising, we did not have rote learning. Indian made goods were exported all across the world and were known for their good quality. This spirit of innovation and research was decimated during the colonial period and we have to overcome it.

Bharatiya Knowledge System (Indian Knowledge System – IKS) is not static but keeps improving standards to meet the challenges of technologies. Governor quoted the popular **Thirukkural Couplet**

**“Karka kasadara karpavai katrapin
nirka adharkuth thaga’** (Kural -391)

“கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்
நிற்க அதற்குத் தக” (குறள் -391)

which means learn hard and heart, break frontiers, create new knowledge, after acquiring that live by that make it part of your living improve your life and address the challenges of life, create new technology to make our life better. Thiruvalluvar emphasizes the knowledge should not be for the sake of knowledge, but our education is to make learning better to address the challenges faced by humankind.

The above Kural is the inspiration for our New Education Policy-2020 which talks about transformative education system. Education is empowerment and we have to make a concrete platform to ensure that students come out with the confidence to live with dignity by exploring

their true potentials. He highlighted that we are in the era of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and we need to have transformation in our approach of teaching pedagogy which is one of the core focus of National Education Policy -2020, which would usher in a new higher education system for India.

Governor, said that the two days conference would give lot of food for thought, experiences and excellent ideas to be shared by intellectuals in drafting a long term plan and action to reach milestones.

During the two-day conference of Vice Chancellors from state and private universities in Tamil Nadu in 2024, Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, emphasized the importance of addressing concerns related to sustainability in a world where developments in various technologies are rapidly advancing. Despite progress in fields such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and information technology, there is still a pressing need for a sustainable, healthy, secure, and peaceful way of life.

Professor M. Jagadesh Kumar, highlighted that achieving sustainability hinges on factors such as meeting the increasing requirements of a growing population, respecting societal and cultural values, considering the human-built environment, and respecting the boundaries of the earth's systems. He mentioned that by addressing the challenges of the interconnected world, it can become a solution for the rest of the world as well, which will further our position as world leaders. For this we have to work in cooperation, in a way that we are working for a collective goal of society. That is why we have to inculcate these human values at the individual and societal levels. Therefore, there is a need for the convergence of knowledge, society, and values. As education institutions are knowledge creators, passing this knowledge across generations, you have to be at the forefront. He mentioned the document

"Guidelines for Institutional Development Plans" developed by the University Grant Commission and urged the universities to prepare their own IDPs as per their aims and objectives. He also discussed about transforming the institutions as centers of excellence.

He emphasized the importance of transforming education to make students both knowledgeable and employable through skill development programs, as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP). During the first day of conclave, the presentations given by the Guest speakers were "Building Research Excellence and Future of Artificial Intelligence" by Prof. Partha Chakrabarti, Former Director, IIT-Kharagpur, "Innovation & Entrepreneurship" by Ms. Sruthi Kannan, Engineering Leader, CISCO, "Institution Development Plan - Vision Document for Universities" by Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA University.

Thiru. R.Kirlosk Kumar, I.A.S., Secretary to Governor, Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvarur, Dr.(Mrs).G.Aghila, Director, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, Dr.L.Rathakrishnan, Registrar(i/c), The Ghandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul participated in the Conclave.

Vice-Chancellors of State Universities, Dr. M.Selvam, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Dr.K.N. Selvakumar, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Col.Prof.N.S.Santhosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University, Prof.R.Jagannathan, Vice-Chancellor, Periyar University, Prof.R.Velraj, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, Dr.V.Thiruvalluvan, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Dr.M.Sundar, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, Dr.V.Geethalakshmi, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Prof.Dr.N.Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Prof.G.Ravi, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University,

Dr.T.Arumugam, Vice-Chancellor, Thiruvalluvar University, Dr. K.Kala, Vice-Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University, Dr. K. Narayanasamy, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr.M.G.R. Medical University, Dr.N.Felix, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Prof.G.R.Senthil Kumar, Registrar, Tamil Nadu Open University, Prof.S.Elumalai, Registrar, University of Madras, Prof.Dr.Rupa Gunaseelanm, Registrar(i/c), Bharathiar University, Prof.N.Ramakrishnan, Registrar(i/c), Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, Dr.K.Vijayarani, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Annamalai University participated in the conference.

Also, Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Education Institutions, Dr.Bharathi Harishankar, Vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute of Home Science and Higher Education for Women Dr.S.K.Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, Chennai, Dr. S.Narayanan, Vice-Chancellor, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Higher Education, Virudhu Nagar, Prof.S.Salivahanan, Vice-Chancellor, Vel-Tech Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Dr.V.S.Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Vice-Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Prof.Dr.G.Srinivasu, Vice-Chancellor(i/c), Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Vishwa Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram, Dr.Sasangan Ramanathan, Dean, School of Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore and Prof.Rajeev Sukumaran, Director, Learning and Development, SRM Science and Technology, Chengalpattu participated in this conclave.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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