

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS RELEASE

HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU.R.N.RAVI
PRESIDED OVER GOVERNOR'S 'THINK TO DARE' SERIES-16 :
INTERACTION WITH TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONALISTS AT
RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI TODAY (05.09.2024) ON THE OCCASION
OF TEACHERS' DAY

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R. N. Ravi presided over the Governor's 'Think to Dare' Series-16: Interaction with teachers and educationalists in which the Governor felicitated and interacted with the teachers and educationalists on the occasion of Teachers Day organised at Raj Bhavan, Chennai, today (05.09.2024). Governor paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the eminent philosopher, educationalist and former President of India on his birth day anniversary. **Hon'ble Governor also felicitated 17 teachers for their exemplary services to the Nation.**

In his presidential address, Governor Ravi elaborated the pivotal contributions of Teachers, Rishis and Gurus in shaping Bharat as a strong Rashtra. He mentioned how profoundly the teachers shaped and inspired the students. They spread this light across this great land. As a result, with most vivid diversity, we kept growing as one Rashtra. Teachers had a greater connect and respect in the society. They not only were imparting education, but also values to the students. He also mentioned about the depiction of Gurukul in the very first part of our original constitution. He expressed dismay over the present-day relationship between teachers and students which has reduced to transactional because of following European ideology. It has taken away the soul of what in our country meant by teachers and gurus. He said that the time has come where we realize it and restore the glory of our teachers. He further explained how

the Bharatiya Gyan paddhati has three stages, viz. Adhyayan (studying), Manan (think over it) and followed by Chintan (expand it to larger). Passing through all three makes it a comprehensive knowledge carrying a greater value. That is what needed. Today we talk about critical thinking, which is nothing, but Manan and Chintan. Today challenges are such, we have to work in this direction.

Hon'ble Governor recalled how K. Kamarajar, with his great vision, established large network of government schools, throughout Tamil Nadu, and initiated mid-day scheme. It established a robust foundation for our state, making it a leader in many fields. We kept moving forward in that foundation. Unfortunately, the foundation is weakened. He mentioned about the steep sharp decline in the quality of education. As Tamil Nadu is the engine of growth for the nation, he calling it as a dangerous situation both for the state and the nation. As per surveys, he said that the standards of teaching in our government schools is gone lower than the national average. He said around 75% of our class 9 students doesn't recognize two-digit number, while 40% of them can't read textbook of Class 2, making them unemployable. He further underlined its much serious consequence, which is the widening differential of knowledge between poor going to government school and those who go to private school. This is mortgaging the future of our people, he said. We can't afford to be in denial mode, it has to be corrected. He mentioned about the rampant drug menace in our state, again there we are in denial mode. The threat chemical and synthetic drug are posing to our society, He mentioned how the drug corroded Punjab, which once was one of the most prosperous states.

Hon'ble Governor exhorted the teachers to uphold the highest standards of quality in education and remain ever-vigilant against the drug abuse. He urged them to remain mindful of our national goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and accordingly discharge their responsibilities in a way

that furthers this goal. With emerging advanced technologies, it is imperative that teachers guide students and ignite their dreams of excellence in innovation. He called on teachers to plant the seeds of big dreams in young minds, instill self-confidence and discipline, and prepare them to tackle future challenges.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Governor had a insightful interaction with participants on a range of topics, including Artificial Intelligence, Generative Adversarial Networks, Generative Biology, their productive uses, and the challenges posed by deepfakes. While acknowledging the potential disruptive impacts of these technologies on the job market, he emphasized a strong belief in human capability. The discussion also covered fostering creative thinking among youth, the National Education Policy-2020, the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme.

On issues related to the exposure and addiction to gadgets Governor Ravi stressed the critical role of discipline and family values in guiding young minds through these challenges. In response to a question, he highlighted the importance of instilling a genuine spirit of community service among youth. He advocated for this spirit to be developed as an organic cultural value with compassion, rather than merely a mechanical obligation. Citing Mahatma Gandhi's favourite prayer, "*Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye Je Peer Parayi Jaane Re*," he underscored the need for this approach to be deeply ingrained in our societal ethos.

During the function, Governor honoured Dr. M. Ravi Chandran (esteemed academician), Tmt.K.Banumathi (Principal, Revoor Padmanabha Chetty's Matric Higher Secondary School, Chennai), Dr.S.Muthukumar (Professor & HoD, Sree Sowdambika College of Engineering, Aruppukottai), Tmt. Bhuvana Shankar (educationalist, Chennai), Tmt.B. Shanthi (Headmistress, Hayagrivar Vidyaashram Senior Secondary School, Arakkonam), Thiru. N. Ramu (Govt. Higher Secondary School Nedumpira, Thiruvannamalai District), Thiru. T. Kalyana Sundaram

(Guntur Subbiah Pillai Government Aided Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai), Dr. Anuradha Sriram (Principal, Army Public School, Chennai), Ms. B. Subashini Haridas, Principal, Amrita Vidyalayam Senior Secondary School, Chennai) Tmt. C. Elavarasi, (Principal, Chinmaya Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Chennai), Tmt. V.Gowrilakshmi(Principal, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar, Chennai), Ms.Latha Ganesan (Principal, V.G.N.Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Ambattur, Chennai), Tmt. Vijaya Devanathan (Principal of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kilpauk, Chennai) Ms. M. Sujatha (Principal, D.A.V. Public School Velachery, Chennai) Tmt. M. Vijayalakshmi (Educationalist), Thiru.E.Vasudevan (Principal, Unity Matric Higher Secondary School, Sholinghur) Tmt. R. Muthulakshmi, Headmistress, Primary School, B.V.Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyasharam, Kilpauk, Chennai) for their distinguished service in the education to the nation.

On this auspicious occasion, Dr. Deepa, Principal, Vivekananda Educational Society Dr. Bhavani Shankar Subramanian, Director, Lalaji Memorial Omega International School, dignitaries, distinguished invitees, faculties, teachers across the State officials and staff of Raj Bhavan were present.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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