

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR-CHANCELLOR OF STATE UNIVERSITIES IN
TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF THE
TWO-DAY VICE-CHANCELLORS' CONFERENCE OF STATE,
CENTRAL AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OF TAMIL NADU – 2025
ORGANISED AT RAJ BHAVAN, UDHAGAMANDALAM, TODAY
(26.04.2025)**

The Two-Day Vice-Chancellors' Conference of State, Central and Private Universities of Tamil Nadu concluded today (26th April 2025) at Raj Bhavan, Udhagamandalam, with the valedictory address delivered by Thiru R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of State Universities. The conference witnessed participation from thirty-four vice chancellors, administrators and senior faculty members.

The conference convened by the Raj Bhavan, Tamil Nadu, for the fourth consecutive year, was inaugurated on 25th April 2025 by Thiru Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, who participated as the Chief Guest. The event brought together academic leaders, policymakers and subject-matter experts for comprehensive deliberations on the evolving contours of higher education. The inaugural session commenced with a solemn moment of silence in tribute to the innocent lives lost in the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The discussions throughout the conference centered on a range of critical themes, including the implementation of the National Credit Framework, integration of Artificial Intelligence in learning, fostering academic collaborations, ensuring financial sustainability, advancing research excellence, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, capacity building for learners and faculty and strengthening inclusive and technology-enabled education.

Thiru. R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of State Universities, in his valedictory address, appreciated the active and insightful participation of Vice-Chancellors and domain experts throughout the conference. He underlined how, over the past four years, the Vice-Chancellors' Conference has evolved into a purposeful platform—bringing together leaders from education, industry and policymaking to shape policy, foster technological transformation and reform Tamil Nadu's higher education ecosystem by drawing on the wisdom and experience of stalwarts from across sectors.

Mentioning the youth as national assets, he underlined how each successive edition of the conference is equipping Tamil Nadu's youth to become skilled, confident and future-ready contributors capable of transforming global challenges into opportunities. Governor remarked that today, a transformative shift where research, science and technology are increasingly being shaped by purposeful collaborations. These collaborations are fostering a comprehensive, interconnected knowledge ecosystem, dismantling the silos that persisted in our higher education institutions since independence, limiting innovation. The current landscape is breaking down these barriers, creating new avenues for growth and progress.

Governor highlighted the evolving technological landscape, noting how, just two years ago, Artificial Intelligence was seen as an emerging idea. Today, it is not only relevant—it has become indispensable, reshaping sectors such as learning, employment and governance. He also pointed out how India's contributions to intellectual property have grown five-fold, reflecting the country's rising innovation capacity. In the rehabilitation sector, there is a growing need for a skilled and compassionate workforce that ensures dignity and social inclusion of differently abled people. As technology continues to disrupt and redefine

every sector, India must not merely catch up, but lead from front with our youth driving the growth economy through innovation, resolve and bold actions.

Governor mentioned that this conference will continue to serve as a vital platform to strengthen institutions and equip our youth to be the driving force behind India's journey toward becoming a fully developed nation by 2047. By fostering collaboration, innovation and leadership in higher education, it will contribute to building a sustained ecosystem where youth remain at the heart of national progress.

The second and final day of the Vice-Chancellors' Conference brought together a great mix of voices and ideas, diving into some of the key priorities in higher education. Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, former Director of IIT-Madras, spoke about *Fostering Academic Collaborations to Make Tamil Nadu a Knowledge Hub*. He highlighted how meaningful partnerships between universities and other stakeholders can drive innovation and open up new opportunities for shared growth.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR) at the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India, followed with a session on *Capacity Building for Learners and Faculty*. He focused on building both skills and leadership qualities to help academic communities grow stronger and more adaptable.

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Jain, Former Vice-Chancellor of BHU and Former Director of IIT-Gandhinagar gave an enlightening talk on *Financial Management for Universities*. From managing externally funded projects to adopting performance-based funding, he shared strategies to help institutions stay financially healthy and future-ready.

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, spoke on *Frontiers in Science and Technology*. He shared insights into emerging research areas and how they could help

shape the next wave of academic and scientific progress in India.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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