

**ADDRESS BY THIRU CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE
PRESENTATION OF TECHKNOW 2017 AWARDS AT VIVEKANANDA AUDITORIUM ANNA UNIVERSITY,
CHENNAI ON 18.04.2017 AT 5.30 PM**

Thiru K.E.Raghunathan, National President, All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO), Thiru S.Srinivasan, Chairman, AIMO, Tamil Nadu State Board, Tmt S.Malarvizhi, Chairperson, Sri Krishna Institutions, Thiru R.Radhakrishnan, Chairman, TECHKNOW 2017, Dr.S.Ganesan, Registrar, Anna University, distinguished invitees, Students, Friends from Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure to present the TECHKNOW 2017 Awards to enterprising students for their innovative projects across various domains and address this distinguished gathering here this evening.

I am happy to note that the All India Manufacturers' Organisation and Anna University have joined hands in organising "**Techknow 2017**" to enable young Engineers to translate their "**Innovation to Implementation**".

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today India ranks third among the most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions in the world. It is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research and is positioned as one of the top five nations in the field of space exploration.

The economic growth of a country largely depends on technological innovations and skilled human resources. The Industrial development mirrors the strength of the Technical Education of a country. Technical Education acts as a prime mover for skilled manpower catering to various sectors of the economy.

'Startup India', the flagship initiative announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji intends to foster entrepreneurship and promote innovation by creating a strong eco-system that is conducive for national development. This will bring sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

Manufacturing has emerged as one of the high growth sectors in India. The 'Make in India' initiative is to place India on the world map of manufacturing hubs. The day, India becoming the largest manufacturing country in the world, is not far off.

Government of India has set an ambitious target to increase the contribution of manufacturing output from 16 to 25 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.

India's manufacturing sector is estimated to touch 1 trillion US Dollars by 2025 with a potential to create up to 90 million jobs. Business conditions in the Indian manufacturing sector are blooming.

In a bid to push the 'Make in India' initiative to the global level Hon'ble Prime Minister pitched India as a manufacturing destination at the Hannover Messe Fair 2015 in Germany. He

had showcased India as a business friendly destination to attract foreign business to invest and manufacture in our country.

The startup ecosystem in India is now gaining momentum. The entrepreneur culture is spreading well beyond big cities and major universities. Techknow 2017 bears testimony to this. Yet we have a long way to go to spread the culture of research and innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.

Dear Academicians, Faculty Members and Students

India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25. It is expected that by the year 2020 the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, which would be 8 years less than Chinese, Americans and 19 years less than Japanese. Harnessing the Demographic dividend is the need of the hour.

Our nation is blessed with such a huge youth power. Taking them in the right direction and utilizing their potential into a positive and creative energy is necessary. Educational institutions, universities, parents, teachers, AIMO & the like and the society as a whole should join hands in this mission. Parallely the education system should be enhanced to inculcate research and innovative knowledge to nurture the spirit of creativity.

Innovations & Research are not new to India. Great Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, renowned Physicist Sir CV Raman, Homi J.Bhabha, Theoretical Physicist and the architect of Indian Atomic Energy Programme and others were world renowned scientists. This legacy of innovation and scientific spirit should be rejuvenated in the youth of our nation. I appeal to the students and youth to draw inspiration from these great scientists.

Research based knowledge has the potential of generating productive human resources. Coming up with more academic collaborations with foreign Universities to stretch the frontiers of knowledge and research and adopting qualitative parameters will help to compete globally.

I am pleased to learn that more than 2000 student projects have been received in Techknow 2017 and 3 best projects have been selected in 9 disciplines. I am sure that such events will bring to the fore many budding innovators.

I congratulate All India Manufacturers' Organisation and its members who are from Small, Medium & Large Scale Industries for dedicating themselves to create a conducive environment for co-operation between Government and Industry in promoting industrial and economic growth.

I congratulate Anna University for taking the lead in collaborating with All India Manufacturers' Organisation to promote the spread of Innovation and Research among the students and to enable young Engineers to convert their Innovation to implementation.

I wish you all success.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.