

**Address by Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at the One day Conference on Startup Policy and Skill Development for employment – An initiative by State Universities on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam**

Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan  
Minister for Higher Education

Thiru R. Rajagopal,  
Addl. Chief Secretary, Raj Bhavan

Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe  
Chairman, AICTE

Thiru. Sunil Paliwal,  
Principal Secretary, Higher Education

Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar,  
Principal Secretary for Youth Welfare & Sports

Prof. M.K. Surappa,  
Vice-Chancellor, Anna University

Vice Chancellors of State Universities

Teachers and students

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great joy to be here at the Anna University Auditorium at the inaugural function being held for the purpose of designing a Policy for Startups and Skill Development with particular focus on the Universities of Tamil Nadu.

As you are all aware, Tamil Nadu enjoys an enviable reputation for higher education in the country. Apart from the tremendous diversity of courses that the State Universities provide, they also provide educational facilities for almost twice the number of students who pass out of schools when compared to the average for the rest of the country. This is possible thanks to the enormous investment that has gone into University education

particularly after Independence. The State Universities of Tamil Nadu have about 8.86 lakhs of students passing out every year. It is therefore only appropriate that as a response to the clarion call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to promote Startups and Skill Development in the country, the State Universities and the Raj Bhavan Secretariat have taken the initiative to organize this conference. We are here today, apart from the Vice Chancellors and senior functionaries of all the State Universities, Principals and students from nearly a 1000 Collages all over Tamil Nadu. I am sure that they will not only benefit from the deliberations at the conference but also carry the message of the conference to other fellow students so that Startups and Skill Development assume the form of a movement in Tamil Nadu.

However it is important to remember that the mere design of a policy will not be sufficient. It is necessary to adopt a syllabus which is relevant and purposeful. It will be useful to study the syllabi being used by other leading Universities in India and abroad so as to meaningfully incorporate elements of useful instructional courses found elsewhere in our Collages and Universities. We must always be guided by the golden maxim "One must always remain updated to stay relevant".

Universities and Colleges are the seats of higher learning at which it is important to scrupulously practice the virtues of transparency, efficiency and honesty. We at Raj Bhavan have set an example in this direction in the matter of selection of Vice Chancellors. The Vice Chancellors in turn should follow this method of being totally honest and transparent when it comes to the selection of the University faculty.

I am sure that all of you in the auditorium were as disturbed as I was when we found sitting Vice Chancellors and former Vice Chancellors being raided and arrested for serious acts of graft and impropriety. It is clearly a case of the fence swallowing up the crop that it is meant to protect. If the higher echelons of University and College managements do not practice proper moral values how can there be an expectation about the inculcation of the right values in the youth of the State. Vice Chancellors and Professors by

their conduct should serve as beacon lights to guide the younger generation on the right path so as to achieve the goal of progress and prosperity in society. It is a matter of simple inference that we become what we want to become and we want to become what we feel successful people have become.

Apart from inculcating the right instruction and values teachers should also function as friends in need. Students today are beset with many problems and look for a friend and guide to dispel the confusion in their minds. Vice Chancellors and Professors should give a patient hearing to the problems of the students and help in enabling them to find solutions for them. Vice Chancellors should set apart at least one hour everyday for their important area of activity. This will help to develop better bonding with the students and result in greater productivity.

It was the concern for the growth of the nation that resulted in the Hon'ble Prime Minister announcing several initiatives for promoting Start up and Skill Development in India. The details of the initiatives being taken by the Centre and State Governments are going to be discussed at the conference today and so also the success stories of many entrepreneurs of India both in the national and international arenas. All this will provide the inspiration to follow in their footsteps and enable the participants here and their fellow students who are not here to advance in life towards a brighter future. I have great pleasure in inaugurating this conference on "Startups Policy and Skill Development for employment – an initiative by State Universities". May the youth of the Nation and the State derive the maximum benefit from it.

Nandri      Vanakkam  
Jai              Hind.