

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE GRADUATION DAY OF APOLLO GROUP OF
COLLEGES ON 16/06/2018 AT 11.00 AM**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Thiru. P. Subramani

Thiru. S. Priyadarshan

Thiru. Suthakar

Dr. Ramkumar Prabhu

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

Teachers & Students

I am happy to be here at the convocation function of the Apollo Group of Institutions. It is always a pleasure to be amongst young, creative minds who are idealistic and intelligent. It is you, my dear young men and women who will be the architects of the New India that is now fast emerging.

As the Governor of the State I can justifiably take pride in the fact that Tamil Nadu has always had a rich tradition of scholarship. Even ordinarily placed families place great emphasis on education. This has had a direct impact on social development indices and on the economy. The State has a proud culture of research and innovation in the fields of science and technology. This is complemented by many historical firsts in the field of humanities. It is therefore no surprise that the state has soared to great heights making it an important educational hub for the country.

All this has been possible, because the Government of Tamil Nadu, since independence, has focused on educations & human resources development in a remarkable way. The 50s saw the emerge of a plethora of Schools funded by the state all over the state this made sure that education was accessible to the common man. The trend continued well into the 60s and 70s. Specialized institutions such as the Tamil Nadu Text book

corporation were set up to make sure that standardized text books and note books were available to the students at an affordable price. The 80s saw the provision of nutritious noon meals in Schools on a universal scale. This was expanded a further to provide for a variety of benefits for students such as distribution of uniforms, footwear etc. All this resulted in a sharp decline in the dropout rate.

The rapid expansion of school education paved the way for expansion of higher education facilities with the lead particularly being taken by the private sector. The continued focus on education in the 90s and in the first decade of the new millennium was reflected in the measures taken by the Government such as distribution of free bicycles to students in the higher classes and in provision of financial assistance to all students at the +1 and +2 levels. This resulted in the gross enrolment ratio in higher education going up to 46% in Tamil Nadu as against a national average of around 25%. Undoubtedly the strong foundations of the educational system in Tamil Nadu has been built up over decades with care and affection.

Institutions such as the Apollo group have been a part of the growth process. They have contributed to it and also benefited from it. The Apollo group which started its educational activities in 2005 has grown to a strength of 7 Colleges in which around 6000 Students are engaged in pursuing courses in various branches of engineering such as Aeronautical, Computer Science, Civil, Electronics and Communication, Electrical and Electronics, Mechanical, etc., B.com and BBA, B.Sc. and B.Ed. etc.

The need for skilled human resources is growing day by day. The need of the hour is to make sure that students in adequate number are trained in the fields in which there is a requirement. The match between supply and demand has to be carefully monitored not merely in terms of mass quantity but also in ensuring quantitative availability in sectors of education and training for which there is a demand. And this demand in certain sectors has to be assessed at a global level. This makes the task challenging and intellectually stimulating.

It is also important to ensure when managing institutions of higher learning that the prescriptions of the law are fully complied with. The legislations of the Centre and the State and the orders of the Hon'ble Courts should be fully respected and followed. On my part I have been doing my best to eliminate the scourge of corruption in higher education. As you may all be aware, the process of selection of Vice Chancellors has been made completely open and transparent. No interference of any kind is tolerated and candidates for Vice Chancellorship are assessed based on their ability to bring about a change for the better in the Universities. This process of selection has led to persons of caliber and merit applying for the post of Vice Chancellor. I am sure that all this will result in Tamil Nadu rising to a position of eminence in higher education and stem the rot that was threatening to lead institutions of higher learning towards definite extinction.

I have a special message for the teachers and students assembled here. To the youth let me say "Youth is the best time in a person's life. The way in which you utilize this period will decided the future of the coming years that lie ahead of you." You should also keep in mind this famous saying of Swami Vivekananda.

"Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested all your life. We must have life-building, man-making and character-making assimilation of ideas.

If you have assimilated five ideas and made them your life and character, you have more education than any man who has got by heart a whole library."

It is important to remember these words of wisdom and understand and assimilate what is taught in the classroom.

To the teachers, I only wish to say

A teacher plays a crucial role in developing the abilities of students. The job of the teacher is to actually uncover knowledge by guidance. The teacher's guidance must make the mind active so that the student understands the subject. A good teacher is one who loves his students,

influences them through example and teaches them according to their needs, abilities and interest. You are all experienced people who are fully aware about what your role is. I am sure that the management will guide you on the right path to enable you to achieve your fullest potential.

I wish to appreciate the efforts of the organizers who have arranged an excellent convocation function today. 904 graduates are getting their degrees today. I wish them all success in their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind...