

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the 19th Graduation Day of Rajalakshmi Engineering College

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the 19th Graduation Day of Rajalakshmi Engineering College at College Campus, Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Thandalam, Chennai today (14.03.2020) and address the gathering.

I am delighted to be here at the 19th Graduation Day function of the Rajalakshmi Engineering College. 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.

Today, is a special day for all the graduands who will receive medals and degree certificates. I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to all of you and your family members on this happy occasion.

It is your duty to keep yourself firmly grounded on the principles given as inputs by your parents, teachers and our forefathers.

Swami Vivekananda believed that the key for solving problems that India faced is with the nation's youth. He called upon the youth to awake, arise and work for the nation and its people. He said, and I quote "I have faith in my country and especially in the youth of my country. My hope is in you".

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in his book "Pathways to Greatness" outlined his vision for the youth of the country. He wanted the youth to work and succeed with integrity. He wanted them, not to have a small aim but a big dream. So, my dear young graduands, draw inspiration from these visionary leaders and embark on a journey into the future that holds so many promises.

The world around is changing and is being shaped by several mega trends like urbanisation, climate change, resource pressures, technology shift etc. Each mega trend brings with it a host of challenges for young people but at the same time offers lot of opportunities.

The direction that you decide to go and the choices you make will have enormous impact on your lives, careers, society and India. Use the opportunities that come by your way to create a better future for you, your families and for your country.

Today, my dear young friends, as you embark on the next phase in your life, let me remind you that you are the torch-bearers of the Indian education system. You are all stepping into the wide world from the sheltered cocoon of the portals of your college. Having been equipped with academic qualifications and armed with the training that university education has given to you, you are fully prepared to overcome the challenges that you may encounter. Step out with confidence and strength; lead from the front; conduct yourself with dignity, grace and discipline. The world is yours.

India has always been a land of scholars. Ancient India had global universities at Nalanda and Takshashila which attracted many scholars from all over the world. However, we lost our position of eminence. But today we are going through a period of awakening; an awakening to bring back the lost glory to the Indian higher education system.

The various policies and schemes provided by both the Central and State Governments have accelerated the pace of establishment of new institutions, which have ensured that higher education is accessible to large sections of the society.

The Central Government has started an initiative called GIAN (Global Institution of Academic Networks) aimed at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs internationally and augment the country's academic resources. The Government has also created a 'SWAYAM' platform through which the best teachers in the country are available to teach courses free of cost to any learner. This, you can utilize to update your knowledge.

I am aware that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is 26.3 per cent in our country. The Gross Enrolment Ratio of Tamil Nadu is 49.3 per cent. Another positive news is that the GER which was highly skewed towards male students is neutralizing, as the number of girl students who are enrolling for higher education is on the rise with an increase of 30 per cent over the last 5 years.

Today, India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to China and the United States.

Recently, we had Vice-Chancellors' Conference in Ooty on 'Chancellor's Vision 2030: Innovating Education in the Era of Industry 4.0'. During the Conference, we discussed methods of improving higher education scenario in Tamil Nadu and methodologies for bridging the gap between the curriculum that is being offered by the universities at present and the expectations of the industry from students.

In this era of industry 4.0, there is a big challenge for all of us to bring about a revolution in the quality of engineering education under constrained budgets. There lies the challenge and there lies our ability to innovate and adopt the latest trends in curricula and pedagogy.

The future disciplines would be extremely different from the engineering streams of the recent days. More emphasis will be societally-relevant, multi-disciplinary streams while emphasizing on students' choices and experience outside the classroom.

I am told, engineering programmes are moving towards delivering integrated student-centered learning at scale through a combination of off-campus and on-campus learning that is personalized, experiential, and flexible.

My young friends, I request you to be aware of real life socio-economic problems to solve them by using technology learnings. For that you need to learn emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Data Sciences, Cyber Security, 3D Printing & Design, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) etc.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to specially stress the importance of character-building in educational institutions. Education in colleges should lay stress on inculcating moral values and a national spirit in the students. The teachers here have extensive knowledge about their subjects and enormous experience in various facets of life. Their skill, learning and experience provide them with the necessary capability to mould the student in a manner that is helpful to him, his family and to the society. A society properly educated is always progressive, peaceful and prosperous. With this as your strength, you should be the torch-bearers who lead other peoples of the world from darkness to light. The greatness of a civilization lies not in what people enjoy but in what people can provide for the betterment of mankind and continued civilization in a sustained manner.

I wish all the students of the college a bright future. The world of today has enormous employment opportunities. Prosperity is waiting to knock at your doors, if you have talent and sincerity. Let discipline be your watchword; let dedication be your friend and let devotion to God be your guide. When such values mould your character, the impact of your knowledge is bound to be respected and recognized. May God bless you with success in all your future endeavours.

I congratulate the management, the Principal and the staff of Rajalakshmi Engineering College for having organised the Graduation Day in a befitting manner. I am sure that with your untiring efforts the college will rise further to attain the highest levels of eminence.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to all of you from the bottom of my heart. May success greet you all at every step along the way on the forward march into the future.

I conclude with the quotation of Swami Vivekananda, and I quote "We want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet".

On this occasion, Dr. Thangam Meganathan, Chairperson, Rajalakshmi Institutions, Thiru. S. Chandramohan, Group President, TAFE Ltd., Dr. S. N. Murugesan, Principal, Rajalakshmi Institutions, Dr. C. R. Muthukrishnan, Advisor, Rajalakshmi Institutions, Prof. Dr. M.Subbiah, Rajalakshmi Institutions, Dr. Murali Bhaskar, Dean (Academics), Rajalakshmi Institutions and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 14.03.2020

Addl. Director (PR)