

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of Gyanotsav 2020 (An Educational Conclave) organised by National College and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas (SSUN)**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the inauguration of Gyanotsav 2020 (An Educational Conclave) organised by National College and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas (SSUN) at Dr. V. Krishnamurthy AC Auditorium, National College, Tiruchirappalli today (19.02.2020) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to be here today at Tiruchi for the inauguration of the Gyanotsav 2020 – an educational conclave being jointly organised by National College and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas.

Gyanotsav-2020 aims to bring likeminded people who have made significant contribution to making education system Bharatiya. I am impressed with the themes of this conference in the field of Character Building, Personality Development and Values Based Education, Quality Education and Research, Education in Mother Tongue and Environmental Education etc.

India, the seventh biggest country in the world by area, housing more than a billion people, has strong-rooted higher education system built on fundamental values and systems which have evolved over time from the most successful Gurukula System.

In ancient times, India had global universities at Nalanda in the kingdom of Magadha and Takshashila in Kushan Empire which attracted scholars from all over the world. These institutions of higher learning were famous for their greatness, encouragement to diverse fields of learning and quality of knowledge creation. With passage of time, these world renowned institutions declined. The British started institutions of learning modelled on what was happening in Europe, but their focus was limited to the needs of the colonial government and had no concern for the welfare and skill development of the masses.

After independence, India has made remarkable progress in the field of higher education. India has one of the largest networks of higher education institutions in the world with 993 universities and 39,931 colleges. Tamil Nadu enjoys a coveted reputation for higher education in the country. The State has a gross enrollment ratio of 49.3% compared to a national average of 25.8%. The State of Tamil Nadu has 59 Universities, 2,466 Colleges and about 8.64 lakhs of students passing out every year.

Out of 130 crore Indian population around 70 crore are youths. If this youth population is properly educated and provided with proper skill sets to take advantage of all that 21<sup>st</sup> century India has to offer them, they will contribute to the major demographic dividend which shall provide the country with potential quality work force for the next three to four decades.

Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in man. He elaborated on how all the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help themselves. He therefore exhorted that our work should be mainly educational-based, both morally and intellectually.

Nelson Mandela the great leader of South Africa once said and I quote “If you talk to man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language it goes to his heart.”

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

Education institutions should become the centre for social transformation. Institutions shall adopt villages, provide them support, enlighten them about various schemes of Centre and State Governments and contribute to the welfare of the society.

Recently we had Vice-Chancellors’ Conference in Ooty on ‘Chancellor’s vision 2030: Innovating Education in the Era of Industry Four Point Zero’. 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 my

speech, I spoke about seven sins mentioned by Mahatma Gandhi in 1925 and I want to repeat them here. The seven sins are

1. Wealth without work
2. Pleasure without conscience,
3. Knowledge without character,
4. Commerce without morality,
5. Science without humanity,
6. Religion without sacrifice and
7. Politics without principle.

These seven sins are like cancer. They are biggest obstacles in nation-building. It is important to identify the people who practise these sins and reform them.

When speaking about education, Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education”. Hence, besides encouraging the students to think, the goal of education should also be character-building.

An institution is known by the students that it produces and the students are known by the values that they display and the values are born out of the character-building that is undertaken by the teachers and the teachers are guided by the policy set out by the management. Hence it is the responsibility of management and teachers to impart right guidance, right knowledge and right values to their students.

Saint poet Thiruvalluvar said and I quote “Those who possess wisdom, possess everything; those who have no wisdom, whatever they may possess, have nothing”.

Knowledge is power and if this is imparted using our rich knowledge traditions and values, learning would be enjoyable. If these learned citizens understand, as a society, as a nation, where we stand and where we are lagging behind and take appropriate steps to close the gap, then I am confident that the Nation will soon emerge as one of the productively developed countries in the whole world.

Today I am glad to see all of you stepping into the new domain of providing quality education to the stake-holders. I can feel the vibrancy and enthusiasm in you. I firmly believe that if these practices are imbibed into the curriculum the number of years of study

of a student would certainly be a time of excitement, amusement and joy to cherish for the rest of their lives.

I am sure that the deliberations that are going to happen in these two days shall be a great boon and serve as an impetus to drive changes in the education sector. It will be a platform where educationist can share and learn from each other. This will equip and help the students to come out of comfort zone and go beyond to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully in Nation Building.

I appreciate the efforts of National College and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas for having taken painstaking efforts to organise this conclave. I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

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, Thiru. Atul Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Thiru. Mukund Ji, All India Joint Secretary of RSS, Prof. P. Manishankar, Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Thiru. Anbarasu, Director of Studies, National College, Dr. Sundararaman, Principal, National College, Thiru. A. Vinod, MHRD Member & Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas South Zone Convener and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

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Addl. Director (PR)