

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, Thiru. R.N. Ravi presided over the 37<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Bharathidasan University at Convocation Auditorium, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, Thiru. R.N. Ravi presided over the 37<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Bharathidasan University at Convocation Auditorium, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli today (09.12.2021) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted indeed to be at the 37<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Bharathidasan University and feel blessed being in the spiritual city of Tiruchirappalli in the lap of holy river Kaveri. Srirangam is among the holiest places of pilgrimage and a dream of every Indian to visit at least once in their life.

This ancient seat of Indian culture and spirituality suffered brunts of multiple attacks, plunder and destruction by foreign invaders and colonial powers who did their best to destroy it. They saw in it the selfhood of India and thus they decided to destroy it at all cost. However, as a living testimony of India's eternal, indestructible and resilient cultural spirituality, Srirangam stands today in its glory and spiritual majesty.

A river is a giver and sustainer of life. In Indian cultural spirituality it is divine. Kaveri is among the holiest rivers of India. From Kanyakumari in South to Kashmir in the north, from Kutchch in the west to Kamrup which is in Assam, in the east, on every auspicious occasion an invocation is made to the river Kaveri.

"Ganga Cha Jamune Chaiva, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu, Kaveri, Jaleasmin Samnidhim Kuru".

To be physically present in Tiruchirappalli in the lap of Kaveri is a life time spiritual experience.

It is heartening to see that today this city is also a hub of education, science, technology and industry. A vibrant blend of the past and present with the promises for a bright future; a healthy symbiosis of spirituality and modern science.

Bharathidasan University, a citadel of learning and knowledge exploration is named after the great son of India, a revolutionary poet Kanagasabai Subbu who took the name Bharathidasan in deference to his ideal and icon Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathi. Bharathidasan dedicated his life for the freedom of India from the colonial rule and also for eradication of evils that had permeated our society and perverted it. Through his revolutionary writings for freedom and justice, he inspired the youth and galvanised the society. His dream was to build

a "Puthiyathor Ulagam Seivom",

"a new world, a new India".

When the country is celebrating 75 years of Azadi ka Amrut Mahatsava, it is our duty to pay our heartfelt tribute to this great freedom fighter who ignited the suppressed soul of the country and infused it with hope and aspiration which eventually led to the freedom of India.

India owes its freedom to countless heroes who fighting for freedom suffered untold and unspeakable torture and miseries at the hands of the British and countless were martyred. It is indeed unfortunate that a large number of them still remain unknown and unsung. I would expect Bharathidasan University to survey the area of its coverage, dig up those heroes and build profiles of their contributions lest they are lost forever. A nation that forgets its martyrs and heroes is ungrateful and has a bleak future. In order to be worthy of their sufferings and sacrifices, let us find them out and honour them.

I am glad to note that Bharathidasan University caters to the higher educational needs of a vast section of Tamil Nadu through its more than 80

Centres and more than 160 affiliating colleges. Some 10 of these are functioning since pre-independence period. About 280 thousand students pursue varied programmes of learning, each year. Today some 106 thousand candidates including 86 Medal Winners will be awarded with degrees, diplomas in this Convocation.

The University sports many National and International facilities adding to the character & class of its research and academic infrastructure include National Repository for Polar Strains, National Representative for Microalgae & Cyanobacteria (Fresh water); Centre for Non-Linear Dynamics; National Centre for Alternatives to Animal Experiments; Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDU-KAUSHAL)-Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood Kendra, Pulsed Magnetic Field Facility - Raceway Algal Pond, Computer Science Program for Differently-abled Persons and more.

I am happy that the Academia of Bharathidasan University with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) culture, global-connect and spirit of innovation have won titles from Fellow of Science Academies- India & UK, and Funded Projects from National, Regional and State-level bodies.

It is a matter of pride that the faculty members of this university have bagged many laurels - three Professors of Eminence; two Professors with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards, One Professor with the Department of Science and Technology's National Science Chair Award 2021 as well as Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award 2021.

I appreciate and congratulate Ms. Sushmita Krishnan, student of our Bharathidasan University for getting international ranking in the 'Game-changers of Digital Games for Peace Challenge', organized jointly by UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Education and Peace and two more UN bodies.

The Bharathidasan University Entrepreneurship Career Hub (BECH) was registered as a company under Companies Act 2013. During the year, a

total of 34 research projects have been funded by various funding agencies to the tune of Rs. 28.27 crore.

Covid-19, the global pandemic played havoc with our life and livelihood. Education too was affected. Making optimum use of the on-line platforms for education by the Colleges and the University – helped minimise the damage. I congratulate the University faculty and staff for ensuring on-line education and minimising the adverse impact of Covid.

Under the dynamic, visionary and extraordinarily innovative leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Narendra Modi and co-operation of the State Governments and the people of India, we have managed the Covid situation in such a way that it has become envy even of the advanced countries. We have given over 1.3 billion doses of vaccine to our people. Timely pre-emptive measures, indigenous production of vaccines, unprecedented escalation of health infrastructure, huge scale production and distribution of medicines and periodic infusion of positive energy psychological boosts to our people not only saved the country from the worst as predicted by several experts but has made the Indian experiment and experience a curious case study for the advanced countries of the world.

Here, I would like to sound a note of caution – COVID-19 is not yet gone. Many countries are still reeling under its impact. New variants with uncertain consequences are emerging. At this time our people must be more vigilant. Let us not lower our guards. Those not fully vaccinated, please get the vaccine. See that you and those around you are fully vaccinated.

The National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 is a revolutionary document aimed at creating an India of the dream of Bharathidasan and his mentor Subramaniya Bharathi “a new India” - An India which leads the world. It envisions an education system rooted in the Indian ethos enabling the transformation of Bharat, into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society. All educational institutions, primary to tertiary must commit to provide affordable, a high-quality education to all.

The NEP 2020 places thrust on to end certain hurdles in the present education system, such as: Fragmentation of higher education in narrow divisions instead of being inter-disciplinary and holistic, suboptimal governance and leadership of Higher Educational Institutions, Inadequate development of cognitive skills and learning outcomes, Rigid separation of disciplines, Limited access, particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, Limited teacher and institutional autonomy, etc.

Besides initiatives through the NEP 2020, numerous initiatives have been taken, and are being taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister to make education inclusive and modern. Those schemes include the Prerana Scheme for preparing SC/ST students for higher education, Samriddhi scheme for setting start ups, SSPCA-which is the support given to students to participate in competition abroad, Smart India Hackathon and so on.

Other initiatives for building a new India include Swasth Bharat, Samruddha Bharat, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana, Online Education, Direct Benefit Transfer, Enhanced MSP, Indigenous Defence Industrial Complex, Global Collaboration, Multilateral Initiatives, and many more for building an inclusive progressive and a India, a role model for the world.

Through the Start Up India Scheme, young budding entrepreneurs are backed up with reliable support to showcase and implement their novel ideas which will not only benefit the individual but also the Nation. And India is becoming the world's fastest-growing start up ecosystem with over 60 unicorn (unicorn-meaning with a valuation of over \$1 billion or more) startups as of now.

The Central Government has opened platforms for young graduates to open up new avenues through innovation of products and services to make a Shrestha and Samruddha Bharat.

Dear graduands, as the saintly, **Avvaiaar**, said, about two millennia ago, 'however much one had learnt that is only a hand-full and that, that to be learnt is world-wide', keep reading more, listening furthermore, exploring the

new horizon of knowledge and experimenting with new ideas. It is imperative to remain relevant in a fast changing competitive world.

I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, the faculty and staff members of Bharathidasan University for arranging this function in befitting manner and I wish them all the best in Future Endeavours – Elevate Bharathidasan among the top Universities of India in coming years.

I once again congratulate the Medal winners, and all the graduates from Bharathidasan University. Wish you all the very best in your academic career, personal, professional and public life.

I urge you to

“Perisaa Yaoseenga;  
Perisaa kanavu kaanunga;  
Kashtapattu velai seiyunga;  
Thannambikkaiyoda Irunga;  
Appadi seidhaal,  
Ulagam ungal vasamaagum.””

On this occasion, Dr.K.Ponmudi, Hon’ble Minister of Higher Education, Pro-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Dr. P.Kanagasabapathi, Chairman (In-Charge), Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, Prof.M.Selvam, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Dr.D.Karthikeyan, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Thiru. Anandrao V. Patil, I.A.S., Secretary to Hon’ble Governor and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Date : 09.12.2021

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Addl. Director (PR)