

**PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE 16 TH ANNUAL  
CONVOCATION OF THIRUVALLUVAR UNIVERSITY,  
VELLORE**

We all have the solemn responsibility to do our part in making India shine on the world stage, said the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the 16th annual convocation of the Thiruvalluvar University in Vellore today (March 10, 2021).

The President said that it is a matter of great satisfaction that India's higher education system has expanded to reach out to serve the rural and marginalised sections. In the process, it has become the third largest education system in the world. However, there is no room for complacency, and we have to catch up for the lost time if we aspire to scale greater heights.

The President said that India had a rich system of education prior to the British rule. Gandhiji described it as a "beautiful tree" that was cut down by what the British rulers called reforms. We are yet to fully recover from those drastic changes and recover our legacy. The National Education Policy 2020 is a well-planned and decisive step in that direction. It has a holistic vision of transforming the way children and youth will be educated to make learning a part of personal development while also serving the needs of society.

The President said that the new policy also takes into account what is needed to build a prosperous and self-reliant nation. For this, the higher education system must enable equity, expertise and empowerment. The

National Education Policy seeks to achieve these objectives. As Sir C.V. Raman had put it, higher education institutions should lead the nation towards knowledge expansion and economic growth. That precisely is the thrust of the new policy.

The President said that in a short span of about two decades since it was established, Thiruvalluvar University has emerged as one of the prestigious universities in the country. It has blossomed into a premier institution, imparting quality education to students, many of whom are from economically and educationally backward regions. This also includes women who come from socially challenged sections. He was happy to note that 65 percent of the students in the university are women. He said that our daughters and sisters are breaking barriers and achieving success in all fields. This was clear from the fact that today out of 66 students conferred with gold medals for academic excellence - 55 are women students. Similarly, doctorate degree has been conferred upon 217 scholars today of which 100 are women candidates. This reflects bright future of India. When the women of our country are educated, it not only secures their own future but also of the entire country.

Addressing the students, the President said that we all have the solemn responsibility to do our part in making India shine on the world stage. We also have the opportunity to do so. Our country is in a unique position to offer crucial lessons to the world in how to live together peacefully and how to nurture nature. As India achieves more economic growth and more equity, the world is eagerly turning to us to learn more. Each of them has the capacity to write the next chapter in this India saga. All that is needed is the right aspiration.

\*\*\*\*\*

