

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH ANNUAL
CONVOCATION BEING HELD AT THE COIMBATORE CAMPUS OF
RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIVEKANANDA EDUCATIONAL & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (RKMVERI) TO BE HELD IN BLENDED MODE
(BUT LARGELY ONLINE) ON 12.01.2021**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

Revered Swami Suviranandaji,

General Secretary of the worldwide twin organizations Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission

Swami Atmapriyanandaji,

Pro-Chancellor,

Swami Sarvottamanandaji,

Vice Chancellor,

Swami Kirtipradanandaji,

Registrar,

Swami Garishthanandaji,

Faculty and staff members,

Parents and My dear students,

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure and privilege to join you all on this joyous occasion of the 15th annual convocation and to deliver the address via video-conferencing.

Education is the basic requirement for a person to make himself economically and socially useful to society. Education

brings out the best skills available within a person, hones them and enables him to achieve perfection in the field of his aptitude. It moulds his personality and gives him an identity. That is why Swami Vivekananda said “Education is not being but becoming”.

Swami Vivekananda was a symphony of many melodies. He was a scholar, a poet and an orator; a mystic, a devotee, a worker, a yogi; a nationmaker and a world-builder; a worthy disciple and a compassionate master; a divine dreamer and a man of action-he was all these and many more.

He was a great champion of nationalism, whose patriotic speeches awakened the national consciousness, at a time when the road ahead was dark and the quest for freedom was in a dormant state.

It was Swamiji's hope that India shall combine her best spiritual tradition with the latest advancements in Science and Technology and Administration and good organizing capability, and Management practices of the West. In Swamiji's integral vision of truth there was no cleavage between Science and Religion, the East and the West, secular and spiritual, work and worship.

Swamiji emphasized that we should have the spirit of self-reliance, the immovable fortitude, that dexterity in action, the bond of unity of purpose, and the thirst for self improvement.

The vision of Swami Vivekananda went beyond religion. He was a patriotic saint who engaged himself with the problems of day to day life like poverty, slavery and education.

He lectured on a variety of topics such as the importance of education and the need for emancipation of women. He feelingly spoke of Daridra Narayana when he said that service to the poor is equal to service to God.

That the greatness of Swamiji was recognised even more than a hundred years back by stalwarts such as Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi is evidence of his lasting glory. Tagore said of Swamiji and I quote “If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative.”

I emphasize the fact that a society can ascend to greatness only if its citizens follow the path set by great personalities. Let us try to make our nation great by following the path of Swami Vivekananda.

The vision nested out by our Swami Vivekananda in Education now brought out by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji by transforming the concepts in the newly enacted National Education Policy for our country. Here are a few highlights:

- Swami Vivekananda wanted that Indian youth should study technical and vocational education, English language, Western Science with Vedanta, the Indian spiritual Science in

their stream of education so that they become an entrepreneur, self-dependent and will provide jobs instead of seeking jobs.

- NEP 2020 has taken special care to incorporate the vision of Swami Vivekananda, places great emphasis on technical and vocational education, professional and skill-oriented education, in order to educate youth to become self-dependent and stand on their leg with dignity. NEP 2020 is also taken a huge step by liberating education from the shackles of compartmentalization into science versus arts/humanities, making learning flexible, humanistic and oriented towards making educated youth noble citizens, good human beings. NEP 2020 gives a big boost to research and innovation through critical thinking. NEP 2020 tries to orient higher education towards making the educated youth socially responsible, to engage in creative research to solve the daily problems of life in the rural and urban settings as it was done in ancient India long ago.

Swami Vivekananda repeatedly stressed that mere accumulation of information is not education but the transformation of character through enlightened wisdom engendered through education.

Besides development of skills, education in colleges should also lay stress on character building and in inculcating a nationalistic spirit in the students. On the subject of character

building, Swami Vivekananda has pointed out, and I quote, "We need education through which character is formed, strength of mind is increased and the intellect is expanded by which one can stand on his own feet". This is the true essence of character building. Academic brilliance, combined with a healthy mind in a robust body and character embellished with a nationalistic spirit is what a student must aspire for. All the institutions which provide education should focus on guiding and leading the students on this noble path.

I have a special message for the 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 decide the future of the coming years that lie ahead of you."

My good wishes to all the students, parents, faculty, staff, all the stakeholders in Swamiji's University. I wish all the students well in their academic career here and hereafter and firmly hope that they would prove worthy of the great legacy bequeathed to them by this University and grow as men and women of impeccable character, devoted to the values of truth, purity and selflessness, serve our beloved Mother India in her march towards becoming a Global Superpower.

I emphasize that the path to progress is illuminated by the lamp of education. Prosperity knocks at your door when people in society acquire the asset of education. Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa used to say "As long as I live, so long do I learn".

Let me conclude by recalling the following stirring words of Swami Vivekananda: “Arise, awake and stop not till the Goal is reached.”

Nandri Vanakkam...

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu...