**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as Chief Guest at the inaugural function of the
National Conference on "Indian Higher Education : Agenda for Innovation –
Leapfrogging Inspite of All Constraints" organised by Education Promotion Society for India**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as Chief Guest at the inaugural function of the National Conference on "Indian Higher Education : Agenda for Innovation – Leapfrogging Inspite of All Constraints" today (14.09.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "I am pleased be here at the inauguration of the National Conference on "Indian Higher Education: Agenda for Innovation – Leap Frogging Inspite of All Constraints" being organised by the Education Promotion Society for India.

The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world. At the School Level, about 26 crores students are enrolled in about 15 lakh Schools affiliated to various central and State Boards. In 900 Universities covering nearly 40,000 Colleges, about 4.00 Crores Students are enrolled in various Programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level.

It is expected that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for the nation will go up from current level of around 25 percent to 50 percent by the year 2035. This will raise the enrolment in HEIs from 35 million to at least 70 million by 2035.

The challenges being faced in the field of higher education system are enormous. There is a need for innovation if solutions are to be found for meeting these challenges comprehensively and quickly.

It is well understood that Institutions of higher education both in the public and private sectors should lay stress on the inculcation of skills that enable the students to get employed after completing their education.

The need for skilled human resources is growing day by day. At least ten million Indian youth enter the country's workforce each year. The benefits of the

demographic dividend will be realised fully when this large workforce finds gainful employment.

The need of the hour is to make sure that students in adequate number are trained in the fields in which there is a requirement. The match between supply and demand has to be carefully monitored not merely in terms of mass quantity but also in ensuring quantitative availability in sectors of education and training for which there is a demand. And this demand in certain sectors has to be assessed at a global level. This makes the task challenging and intellectually stimulating. Communication skills, vocational skills and creative skills also need to be honed along with the learning of subjects to enable this to happen.

The impact of technological advancement on educational transactions - both academic and administrative - indicates that our system of education is still uncomfortable with new technology. At a time when our educational institutions are expected to do more with less inputs, one should make greater use of the technological innovations that are readily available.

Higher Education Institutions have to shoulder the responsibility of inculcating proper value systems among the students. In a country like India with cultural pluralities and diversities it is essential that the students imbibe the values consistent with social, cultural, economic and environmental realities at the local, national and universal levels.

There are over 900 universities in India at present. Of them 325 only are accredited by the NAAC i.e., a figure of 36%. With regard to colleges the figures are even worse. Out of the approximate number of 40000 colleges in the country, of which only around 5300 are NAAC accredited i.e., a figure of 13%.

Clearly here is a need to spread awareness among colleges and universities to become a part of the accreditation network. For reliable accreditation and rankings to be truthful, there is a need to ensure that the accreditation system is simple, fair, precise, transparent, uniformly applicable, effective and less time consuming.

Random verification and validation of data provided by the institutions is also essential to make sure that the data provided by the institutions is factually correct.

In order to have a discussion about innovation and innovative organizations it is important to start with a clear understanding of what it means to innovate. A recognized author on the subject of innovation is Clayton Christensen.

Christensen defines different types of innovation. Sustaining Innovation is a process, system or modification that improves an existing product or system. It may make it better, bigger, more efficient and/or more beneficial to the end user. An example of sustaining innovation is a new, updated model of a car that gets better gas mileage.

Disruptive Innovation is another form of innovation that "brings to the market a product or service that is not as good as the best traditional offerings, but is more affordable and easier to use".

"Disruptive innovation replaces the original complicated, expensive product with so much more affordable and simple products that a new population of customers….now has enough money and skills to buy and readily use the product."

An example of this is the internet which has significantly altered the way we do business.

Clearly India needs to innovate if it has to grow rapidly. We have huge resources of manpower that need to be skilled and trained. At the same time there are many constraints among which are the unhelpful mindsets and inheritances from centuries of foreign rule. The benefit of technology can be utilised for leapfrogging. For that we need to acquire the boldness to break out of existing barriers.

The EPSI initiative for holding this National conference on "Indian Higher Education : Agenda for Innovation – Leap Frogging Inspite of All Constraints" is a well timed move which is certain to result in useful recommendations for Central and State Governments and regulatory bodies to bring about the needed reforms in a specified time frame.

It is only through conferences such as these that ideas get exchanged, experiences get shared and the way for great achievement is prepared.

I am sure that the galaxy of eminent people assembled here will brain storm the relevant issues without bias. I extend my best wishes and greetings to the President of the Education Promotion Society of India and the office bearers who have taken painstaking efforts to stage this conference. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours".

On this occasion Prof. Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE, Dr. G. Viswanathan, President, Education Promotion Society for India, Thiru. Mangat Ram Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education, Dr. S. Mazharvizhi, Vice President, EPSI, Dr. H. Chaturvedi, Alternate President, EPSI, Dr. Prashant Bhalla, Treasurer, EPSI and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22   Sd/-

Date : 14.09.2019   Joint Director(PR)