

**Address by Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu at the  
One day Conference on Startup Policy and Skill Development for employment  
– An initiative by State Universities on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at 5.30 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Thiru. R.Rajagopal  
Additional Chief Secretary, Raj Bhavan

Thiru. Sunil Paliwal

Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar

Prof. Anil Sahasrabudhe  
Chairman, AICTE

Prof. M.K. Surappa

Vice Chancellors of State Universities

Teachers and students

Distinguished invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

The conference on start ups and skill development which was inaugurated today is coming to a close. I am sure that all those present had a productive discussion.

The conference was organised in several parts to make the discussion meaningful. The success stories that were narrated by software entrepreneurs and others like Cavinkare were meant to inspire the students in the audience to take up similar ventures.

Subsequently the skill development initiatives were discussed covering a variety of sectors such as automobiles, textiles and nursing. To cap it all the steps taken by the Government were also elucidated so as to add clarity to the subject.

I should say that the brainstorming session evoked the maximum response with the lively participation of the audience. Many ideas that came up during the brainstorming session have been recorded for the purpose of enabling early implementation.

The opportunities available in the international arena were also covered in depth by a team of expert speakers. The sky is the limit is the general word of advice that these speakers had for the budding entrepreneurs of Tamil Nadu.

The session on opportunities available in India must have spurred on many a student to become an entrepreneur. To allay fears about funding a banker was also invited to provide information on how funds can be accessed for start up initiatives.

The final session which included a number of Vice-Chancellors provided inputs on how even those who are not students, but are residents in the neighbourhood of University or a college can be assisted to become part time entrepreneurs.

Such an exhaustive coverage of initiatives for startups and skill development has been done for the first time in the country in Tamil Nadu with the assistance of 21 Universities. The preliminary exercises for the Conference were commenced nearly 2 months back and speakers were assembled from far and wide.

I am sure that this initiative has taught many lessons to the Vice Chancellors, the AICTE and the Principals of the Colleges on what we need to do to promote entrepreneurship and skill development.

India's biggest resource is its youth who can be trained gainfully to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend.

I wish to conclude by sounding a note of optimism by declaring that we in India and more particularly in Tamil Nadu have the best potential for start ups and skill development since a) the weather conditions enable work to be

done all 365 days of the year, b) the infrastructure already built up is sound and robust and c) the early leaps already taken by our institutions and entrepreneurs have shown great promise.

The time is ripe for a quantum leap forward. Let the Universities, colleges and students of Tamil Nadu perform this leap with aplomb. The whole world is our stage and our performance is going to spur us on a path of high growth employment and prosperity. I wish you all the best in your endeavours and may success greet you at every step.

Nandri Vanakkam

Jai Hind

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