

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
OF ALAGAPPA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, ANNA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI
AT VIVEKANANDA AUDITORIUM, ANNA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI
ON 21.12.2019 AT 10.00 A.M**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

Prof. M. K. Surappa

Vice Chancellor, Anna University

Thiru N. Srinivasan

Chairman,
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Committee

Prof. S. Meenakshisundaram

Dean,
Alagappa College of Technology

Thirumathi. Vidya Shankar

President,
AC Tech Alumni Association

Alumni of AC Tech,

Faculty, Staff and my dear students

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Alagappa College of Technology, which is one of the campuses of Anna University. It is always a matter of joy to be among radiant young faces of students and alumini of AC Tech who are full of hope and cheer. It is a matter of pride that the youth of India represent the true wealth of India.

I was told that the institute was started by University of Madras with contribution from Philanthropist Vallal Dr. Alagappa Chettiar expressing interest in starting unique programmes in the fields of chemical, textile and leather. Alagappa College of Technology was started in the year 1944 with the intake of just 43 students. I am happy

that today the college has 9 undergraduate programmes and 13 post graduate programmes with the intake of 800 students every year.

I am also very happy to note that this institute offers unique technology programmes in

- Leather technology in partnership with Central Leather Research Institute, which is a CSIR Institute.
- Undergraduate Professional Biotechnology to be the first in the country
- Post graduate programmes such as Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Food Technology and Computational Biology started with the support of Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Our nation is the source of many world class educational institutions and emerging as one of the fastest developing nations in the world. In this developing nation, the strongest future pillars are going to be you, my dear students. The Government of India is leaving no stone unturned in building world class engineers by offering its vital support in terms of finance and in creating platforms for the students to shine. To make you shine, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which looks after higher level education, is supporting through various programmes such as Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan. I am also very happy that the Anna University has been shortlisted for support under Institute of Eminence scheme.

The world famous Tamil Poet **Thiruvalluvar** has said this about education, and I quote **“Learn thoroughly and flawlessly, without any doubt, that which is worthy of learning, and abide by what you have learnt”**.

Swami Vivekananda said and I quote **“Give me a hundred youth and I shall transform India”**.

What kind of young people was Swamiji looking for? He was looking for young people with strong muscles, alert minds, large hearts, sharp intellect, clean character, patriotic feelings, and willingness to offer greatest sacrifices.

I am sure, our young generations have the potential to develop all such qualities.

Today India has one of the youngest populations of the world with more than 60 crore people below the age of 30. This huge asset, if properly trained and deployed in

the service of the people of India, can bring about a major transformation. Colleges such as yours are performing that noble role of training the youth and offering them skill-education so that they may lead gainful lives not just for themselves but also for the nation.

India is at the third place behind US and Britain in terms of the number of startups. In the past five years, the Government of India has come up with a wide array of startup schemes and funds to encourage, launch and growth of startups in the country. The Anna University is coming up with Atal Incubation Centre supported by Atal Innovation Mission of Niti Ayog. Also this AC Tech campus is having University Innovation Cluster supported by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, which is supporting innovative ideas of young minds to experiment and establish proof of concept.

All India Council of Technical Education has also announced various schemes to promote student Innovation and entrepreneurship and also it is conducting Hackathons with the support of Industries.

Make in India initiative by honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives is a major national programme of the Government of India designed to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill-development, protect intellectual property and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure in the country.

Now Government of India has widened the scope of Corporate Social Responsibility in Research and Development and is supporting startup initiatives. With this, successful industrialists will be able to widen their support to the institution.

Among the alumni, I see many who have succeeded in the manufacturing sectors of Chemical, Textile, Leather and Pharmaceuticals. I hope, with their mentorship and support, this institute can be a forerunner in creating first-generation entrepreneurs who will be stakeholders to the Make In India initiative.

Alumni are the hallmark of an institution. In developed countries, the contributions of alumni are significant in Institution-building.

From that point of view, today is a memorable day for this institution, as many successful members of the body of alumni have come from all over the country. I am

happy to note that this institute has produced industry captains such as Thiru Srinivasan, Thiru Murugappan, Thiru Sankar, Thiru Venketrama Raja and many first-generation entrepreneurs, besides many academicians of high repute.

From all these past students, the current students can learn a lot and make significant contribution to nation-building, besides taking care of their personal lives and families.

For all of you, I have a few words to ponder over. Please never think that whatever you own is meant for you alone or your family. It's God's way of giving you an opportunity to do good things for others, for the society. If you want to corner everything for yourselves, you will always feel poor. And if you give to others, you will feel rich. Charity gives you peace and real happiness. Simplicity in our lives will bring forth a sense of fulfillment and peace of mind.

With these words, I appeal to alumni to support the Institution in its journey towards Institution of eminence.

As I mentioned earlier, dear students, you are the future pillars of our motherland and it's the need of the hour to repay the nation with your knowledge which is the powerful tool to chisel our developing nation into a developed one.

I am happy to see that the professionals graduated from the institute are of high quality which is evident from the distinguished alumni award given today in the celebrations. I congratulate all the Distinguished Alumni awardees. They are the role models for these young students. I request you to follow them.

An institution is known by the students that it produces and the students are known by the values that they display in life. As all of us know, values are borne out of character-building efforts undertaken by the teachers within the policy-framework put in place by the management.

Dear young friends, when you set out to find meaning of life through your chosen disciplines, please remember that you have to pass the test of fire. Fire purifies gold, wisdom purifies human being. Dream high in life, make all right efforts to fulfill your dreams. Make India proud with your achievements. Make Alagappa College of Technology proud!

I wish to conclude by recalling the words of our most popular former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam which gained great appreciation at the Golden Jubilee event of the European Parliament for the following address.

“When there is righteousness
in the heart, there is beauty;
when there is beauty in
character, there is harmony;
when there is harmony in the
home, there is order;
when there is order in the nation
there is peace in the world.”

I convey my appreciation for the efforts of the management, the faculty, the staff and the past students who have built the image of the Alagappa College of Technology. This must have been a long journey until this moment of the Platinum Jubilee today. The students of today who are assembled here will, I am sure, strive to make the College's reputation go up even higher. May success greet you all at every step along the way on the forward march into the future.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu....

Jai Hind.....