

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AND CHANCELLOR OF
TAMIL NADU STATE UNIVERSITIES, THIRU. R.N.RAVI INAUGURATED
THE SOUTH ZONE VICE-CHANCELLORS' MEET AT BHARATHIAR
UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE, TODAY (11.03.2022)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R.N. Ravi inaugurated the South Zone Vice-Chancellors' Meet under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, today (11.03.2022). The Meet is held to discuss about its theme, "Realising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), with special reference to SDG-4 (Realising SDGs through HEIs for Ensuring Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education).

In the function, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.M.K.Stalin participated in the Meet virtually as the Guest of Honour and delivered his address for the Conference.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu in his inaugural address, said the Higher Education is to be transformed in the context of an 'Indian vision of India' and "Indian vision for India". Initial six and half decades since independence those who governed India had a vision of India similar to that of the colonial power as a land of diverse geographies and diverse sets of people, separated from each other by language, culture, cuisine, race and geography. Their mode of India's development was through

5 year plan. It resulted in uneven development and aggravated regional imbalances and increased social tensions. Even after six and half decades, India had the dubious distinctions of a home of largest number of poor, sick and illiterates. Internally India was riven by social tensions. Being weak, vulnerable and poor it was not taken seriously by the international community.

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made a fundamental departure from the old paradigm and articulated the Indian vision of India which is Bharat, as one living entity. Hon'ble Governor urged those who talk about federalism and Indian Union to remember that India was not born in 1947, nor it is a contractual union like United States of America. Union of India was organically forged and sustained since some thousands of years by the shared cultural spiritualities of people who lived as one from one end to the other of Bharat irrespective of numerous kings and kingdoms.

Article 1 of the constitution of India before it says India is an union of the states, it says 'India that is Bharat'. Bharat has been one living entity since ages, praised by the ancient Rishis and common people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamrup in their every day's rites and rituals. Hon'ble Governor recited a poem of Mahakavi Bharathiar in praise of Bharat Mata that "Bharat Mata speaks in eighteen languages but her thinking is one". India is not a contractual Union of disparate

people. Here diversity is like diversity of various parts of our body where each part has its own function and apparently looks different from the others but is integrally connected and has no existence whatsoever outside the body. With such an organic vision of India, Prime Minister Modi has been launching various schemes for the people of India specially the poor, marginalised and deprived without any regional, religious, community or political discrimination.

Over 400 million Jan Dhan accounts assure that the direct benefits reach to the poor and vulnerable people without interference of middlemen who were eating out major chunk of the money meant for them. Hundreds of millions of small and marginal farmers all over the country, are regularly receiving direct benefit transfer to their accounts. Under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, the poor are receiving medical support upto Rs. 5 lakh per year. Millions of houses have been built for the poor people irrespective of their religion or political affiliation.

The chronic gender disparity has been significantly reduced through various campaigns like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (save the daughter, educate the daughter) by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Campaign to build toilets has succeeded in India becoming open defecation-free by October 2019. Water, Electricity and Cooking Gas to every house has eased the day to day living of our people specially our sisters and mothers. Unlike in the past, the development and growth is holistic, non-discriminatory and

being driven by the youth and entrepreneurs of India. As against hardly 400 start-ups in 2014, there were over 10,000 start-ups in 2021 and the country is at third position globally in start-ups ranking. More than 50 start-ups are Unicorns each worth over 1 billion US dollar. Two major global crisis, Climate crisis and Global Pandemic, have made clear emergence of India as a world leader. Long before the UN came up with SDG plans, India under PM Modi had set on such a comprehensive missions since 2014 itself.

Hon'ble Governor urged all the Vice-Chancellors gathered in the conference, to work out the plans for the future and to formulate strategies for transforming our higher education consistent with our national dream to make it the world leader by 2047 when the Nation will be celebrating 100 years of Independence. The crucial 25 years of Amrit Kal for the Nation is very important and we have no time to loose. The targets and millstones for achieving for various goals should be fixed and seriously pursued. The University is an institution of Knowledge dissemination and knowledge creation, he urged the vice-chancellors to create and disseminate useful knowledge, so that our youth coming out of colleges and universities are confident enough to take on the world, rather than running around for jobs carrying their certificates.

On this occasion, Prof.Dr.P.Kaliraj, Vice-Chancellor of Bharathiar University gave welcome address for the conference following by presidential address given by Colonel Dr.G.Thiruvassagam, President, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi. Dr (Tmt).Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU, Prof.(Dr).K.Murugavel, Registrar i/c, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, special invitees and other dignitaries were in presence.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 11.03.2022

Addl. Director (PR)