

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS OF
CONFERENCE OF VICE CHANCELLORS OF STATE AND PRIVATE
UNIVERSITIES OF TAMIL NADU AT
RAJ BHAVAN, UDHAGAMANDALAM ON 05.06.2023.

Thiru.R.N.Ravi, Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated the conference of Vice-Chancellors of State and Private Universities of Tamil Nadu at Raj Bhavan, Udhagamandalam On this occasion, Prof. Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry, Chairman, BhararatiyaBhashaSamiti, Ministry of Education, Government of India; Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, and Chairman of the UGC Committee for the production of textbooks in Indian languages; Dr. Buddha Chandrasekhar, CCO, AICTE, and Devoloper of the Anuvadini Translation Tool; Prof. Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Lucknow;Thiru. Anandrao V. Patil, IAS, Principal Secretary to Governor; Vice-Chancellors of State and Private Universities of Tamil Nadu; and other dignitaries participated in the conclave.

In the inaugural address Hon'ble Governor Thiru. R.N.Ravi emphasised on imparting education to the youth which meet needs and demand of the time.

In the decade, the early decades of independence, there were leaders here like Thiru Kamaraj and all who gave a huge boost to education. Subsequently, it spread, and subsequent governments' policies made it widespread, making it accessible to a larger number of people, and we reaped the benefits of it. This spread of education gave a boost to our economy and delivery of services, and Tamil Nadu

became the leading state in the country, and we kept that position for quite some time. Now, what is the situation today? Today we see that our state, which was leading, is among the leading states of the country in many areas. From number one, we have come down to number 5, number 6. Our spread of education has been phenomenal, and that's why our Growth Enrollment Ratio (GER) is almost double the national average. But the question is whether the horizontal spread of basic education is enough to meet the needs and demands of today. As a result, our youth are not getting jobs commensurate with their degrees. The industrialists also expressed their concern about not getting employable engineers. Today, the situation is anomalous that our polytechnic students are getting better jobs and better prospects than our engineering graduates. Postgraduates teaching in colleges are getting 15-20 thousand a month, like a daily wage earner. This steadily decline in our human resources is our most serious concern. Today, we are relatively better than many states, but there is a relative decline that is steady. It is primarily because we are not able to provide education that are aligned with the needs and demands of the time. We have to think about it seriously!

Another problem is related to the graduating students in humanities. Their job prospects are bleak. Here comes the prospect of multidisciplinary teaching which will make him qualified to look for a job which met the needs and demands of time.

They are the core elements of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020). How to impart education which are relevant to the time by imparting multidisciplinary skills.

Universities are autonomous entities and within that autonomy, there are many areas where we can work and make our graduates

worthy of the time and enable them to live a dignified life, earning dignified livelihood.

Many entrepreneurs that have been interacting their bodies, their associations have been interacting. Because I've been concerned about why is it that? Still, we have a significant number of our youth going to humanities. Why are they not confident to go towards? One thing which emerge from all this interaction is, many of our students, a large number of them are not comfortable with English language. They have a problem, we can't blame. After this is a foreign language. But we are comfortable in the mother tongue. And here when the Prime Minister with his vision of building a nation for future, preparing the nation for the future and back to the time bound future next nearly 25 years, when this mission was launched, how to make our education more time appropriate through all this journey it also came out that teaching and learning in mother tongue in regional language, not only Schools, but even in higher institutions.

We have been so much enslaved with English that this believe is lodged in our subconscious is that it is important to learn English to learn Science and Technology. This has to go. Today we have huge deficiency of textbooks in STEM in native languages. If we translate and create textbooks of science and technology in Tamil, our youth who are moving away from STEM due to their discomfort with English, that can be overcome. We have to create textbooks in Tamil Language. We have talked about it but we need to do sufficiently in timebound manner that we produce enough of it. To both the State and Private Universities, I have written letters after Prof. Jagdish Kumar (Chairman, UGC) wrote to us requesting our universities to take lead role in translating and creating

new texts in Tamil language. It will give a huge boost to our human resources.

When we talk about time appropriate education, we must be conscious of the global situations. The geo political situation in the world is such that is heavily impacting global geo economy. A large number of Tech Giants are shifting their manufacturing from China and looking for area and countries where they can relocate their business and manufacturing. They are looking at India with a great hope. Because last about a decade the transformation that has happened in the country, the way we have built infrastructure, improved our power generation, created an ecosystem of innovation and enterprise. Today we are among top 3 start-up ecosystem in the world, we are most digitalized country in the world. This transformation is giving them confidence that India is prospective destination for relocating their manufacturing.

In our state we have to create more and more environment to attract more and more of them. Investors will not come just because we ask them or we go and have talk. They are hard bargainer. In our country there are many states which are doing it. Haryana is having FDI equivalent to our state. We have to create the ecosystem for Global Giants for which essential element is to create competent, appropriately skilled human resources only then we will avail ourselves of the advantage of this opportunity.

Teaching and learning, it improves, we all benefit if we share, if we exchange. Last year when we had Vice-Chancellor Conference, then I shared with you my concern that each institution is working in isolation in itself, in silos, especially the State universities. That is not a right approach. We must meet and exchange our knowledge and experiences. The reason of bringing State and Private universities all

together, it will stimulate more exchange and experience sharing. There are institutions in our country which are doing very well and have a lot to share with us. We need to get into an active collaboration with them. It must be a qualitatively operational exchange of faculties and students. I would urge Vice-Chancellors to identify and actively collaborate with such institutions. Then only we will be able to produce our youth who can compete and win. Else it will be a great loss not only to the individual, but loss to the state and to the Nation. A significant degree of culpability will fall on us. We are in a serious business to provide our youth appropriate education, skill and confidence to take up challenges and to meet needs and demands of the time.

If you think in any stage Chancellor can be a catalyst, I will be happy to organise in future such meets on specific themes. I would be very happy to be a facilitator and will be happy to call all the resource persons from outside.

Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission elaborated on the reforms and progress introduced in the last three years through NEP-2020. It has promoted an equivalent, vibrant knowledge ecosystem in a sustainable manner, instilling in the learner deep-rooted pride in being an Indian not only in thought but also in spirit, reflecting true global citizenship. There is also an increased emphasis on the NEP-2020 as compared to previous policies on strengthening Indian knowledge, heritage, and culture. NEP-2020 is a vision document is working on holistic and multidisciplinary education as well as making the youth future ready. A lot more emphasis is placed on digital and online education. To bridge the gaps between knowledge imparted and skills expected, increasing employability, and encourage the research ecosystem. He mentioned that today, India is among the

top three nations in terms of research publication. He emphasised the quality of research and publication. He also talked about the governing structure of universities. He mentioned how the inclusive and equitable education system is helping the majority of our educational institutions, which are located in rural areas. He further discussed the revolutionary Academic Bank of Credit system. Further, he mentioned introducing a one nation, one test by consulting all the stakeholders in the future.

Prof. Chamu Krishna Shastry, Chairman, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, in his address said, we are aware that the present ecosystem is primarily in English, but the English ecosystem, which has been running for 200 years, is now moving towards an Indian language ecosystem. There are 40 lakh manuscripts available in India, but their translations are not available. Languages contribute to the overall development of Nation. 90% of the population knows Indian languages, but only 10% knows English. Are we reaching 90% of people with knowledge? In India, 70% of our GDP comes from Indian languages. Only 30% of sectors use English. For the industrial growth of the country, all Indian languages have to be used. Language in U.G. and P.G. courses need not teach only literature; Tamil for artificial intelligence, Tamil for digital technology, and Tamil for doctors There is no language proficiency testing or language certification for regional languages. We are working on it. Startups must come up with operating systems in Indian languages.

Dr. Buddha Chandrasekar, CCO- AICTE and developer of the Anuvadini Translation Tool, said that Anuvadhini, the AI-based translation tool for Indian languages developed by AICTE is presently available in 13 Indian languages and will be further expanded to 22 Indian languages.

A two-minute silence was observed at the beginning of the conference to pay homage to the people who lost their valuable lives in the tragic train mishap in Odisha. The welcome address was given by Thiru. Anand V. Patil, Principal Secretary to the Governor.

Prof. S. Gowri, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras; Dr.G.Sugumar, Vice Chancellor,TN Dr.J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University; Prof. M. Selvam, Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University; Dr.K.N.Selvakumar, Vice Chancellor, T.N. Veterinary & Animal Sciences University; Dr.N.S. Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, TN Dr.Ambedkar Law University; R. Jagannathan, Vice Chancellor, Periyar University; Prof.R.Velraj, Vice Chancellor, Anna University; Prof.RM.Kathiresan, Vice Chancellor, Annamalai University; Dr.V.Thiruvalluvan, Vice Chancellor, Tamil University; Dr.M.Sundar, Vice Chancellor, TN Physical Education and Sports University; Dr.V.Geetha Lakshmi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University; Dr.J.Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University; Dr.N.Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, ManonmaniamSundaranar University; Dr.G.Ravi, Vice Chancellor, Alagappa University; Dr.T.Arumugam, Vice Chancellor, Thiruvalluvar University; Dr.K.Kala, Vice Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University; Prof.S.Arumugam, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Open University; Dr.K. Narayanasamy, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University; Dr.K.Murugavel, Registrar(i/c), Bharathiar University; Prof.PC. Nagasubramani, Registrar(i/c), Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University; Dr. V. Bharathi Harishankar, Vice Chancellor, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women; Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice Chancellor, Shanmuga Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy(SASTRA); Dr.Sriman Kumar Battaccharyya, Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University; Prof.Gurmeet

Singh Vice Chancellor (i/c), Gandhigram Rural Institute; Dr.S.Narayanan, Vice Chancellor, Kalasalingam Academy and Education; Prof.S.Salivahanan, Vice Chancellor, Vel Tech Institute of Science and Technology; Dr.S.Sriman Narayanan, Vice Chancellor, VELS Institute of Science and Technology and Advance Studies; Prof. Venkataramanan, Dean, Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Viswa Maha Vidyalaya and other dignitaries participated in the conference.

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