



सत्यमेव जयते

Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh  
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan  
participated as Chief Guest  
in the "South Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet -2020-21"  
organized by Association of Indian Universities  
at 11 AM on February 24, 2021

Dr. Tej Pratap, President, Association of Indian Universities & Vice Chancellor, G.B. Pant University of Agricultural and Technology, Pantnagar, Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, Sri M. Sri Bharath, President, GITAM, Prof. K. Siva Rama Krishna, Vice Chancellor, GITAM, Visakhapatnam, South Zone Vice Chancellors, other dignitaries participating in the meeting. A very Good Morning to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in the "South Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet -2020-21" organized by Association of Indian Universities.

The Association of Indian Universities, is an Apex Inter-University Organization, established in 1925 as an authorized Central agency to support the Government and Higher Education Institutions in shaping the Higher education system of country. AIU has been playing a vital role in shaping Indian Higher Education since its inception by being an integral part of all major decision making Committees and Commissions apart from being a representative body of Higher Education Institutions of the Country.

I am happy to learn that the AIU is a flagship body for Indian higher education institutions and valued source of research-based policy advice institution to the Government of India in the field of Higher Education, Sports and Culture.

As you all are aware, the Ministry of Education has launched a forward looking, innovative, democratic and learner-centric National Education Policy (NEP-2020) after a long gap of 34 years. The NEP-2020 envisages to develop knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living and global well-being, thereby reflecting a truly global education.

The NEP-2020 has the potential to transform the Indian Higher Education system to cater to the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the greatest challenge lies in its strategic implementation. For this, a well laid down action plan is required for its implementation in letter and spirit.

I am happy to note that as a step in this direction, the AIU has decided to organise for its annual National Vice-Chancellors' Meets with the theme '*Implementing National Education Policy - 2020 to Transform Higher Education in India*' and is now organizing the Zonal Meets on implementation strategies of different dimensions of the Higher Education section of the National Education Policy-2020, as run up to the national conference.

We are living in the era of knowledge and therefore higher education assumes unprecedented importance as it is recognized as a capital investment all over the world, especially after the emergence of a new world economic order. Higher education is of paramount importance in grooming the future leaders with advanced knowledge and skills to contribute to nation-building and socio-economic development of the country.

More than ever, today, India is at the threshold of regaining her place as a knowledge super power and one of the fastest progressing countries in world driven by growth in key sectors, improved higher education, quality of human resources, job creation, improved health care etc. and is marching towards becoming a super power.

Whereas, we take a lot of pride in these facts, when it comes to higher education it is a typical case of development paradox. In terms of quantity it is one of the fastest growing systems occupying third position in the world, after US and China, but as far as quality is concerned the Indian universities do not figure in the world ranking of universities among the top rankers.

The Indian higher education is also grappling with issues such as lack of employability skills, lack of student engagement, teacher quality, inadequate staff infrastructure, lack of quality research, poor extension and outreach etc.

India's young population is its most valuable asset and most pressing challenge. It provides India with a unique demographic advantage and at the same time the opportunity will be lost without proportionate investment in human capital development. In these circumstances, the country needs to be transformed into a developed nation within next two decades by implementing the recommendations of National Educational Policy 2020.

NEP-2020 identifies the key and long-term thrust areas in higher education for financing to cultivate an education system by revamping colleges and universities to foster excellence; Cultivating research; extensive use of technology and online education; investing in teacher education and continuing professional development of teachers. The Policy also calls for the rejuvenation, active promotion, and support for private philanthropic activity in the education sector and commercialization of higher education for resource generation.

Now the need of the hour is to ensure that higher education institutions implement the recommendations of NEP-2020 effectively so that the aims and objectives of higher education are realized.

The world of tomorrow will be driven by knowledge, machine-intelligence and digital pathways and to prepare ourselves for this transformation it is necessary to redesign our higher education policies with new courses and deeper research-orientation. Ideation, innovation and incubation should be given primacy in our curriculum. India has the third largest scientific human resource pool in the world and has the potential to become the R&D capital of the world.

I am happy to note that our Universities have already made some progress with inter-disciplinary approach, combining courses in mathematics with music, and artificial intelligence with animal husbandry etc.

I hope the two-day Meet of South Zone Vice Chancellors will bring out effective strategies to implement the National Education Policy-2020, to transform our higher education system in the country.

Jai Hind