

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE LAUNCH OF 'EDU ICONS
2017' COFFEE TABLE BOOK AT HOTEL LEELA PALACE, RAJA ANNAMALAIPURAM, CHENNAI
ON 28.11.2017 AT 07.00 P.M.**

Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar
Adviser- National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC)
Thiru. Deepak Saluja
Director, Response – South India, The Times Group
Thiru. Anand Moorthy
Assistant Vice President & Response Head – TN, The Times Group
Thiru. Ravi Chivukula
Education Vertical Head, Times Response Tamil Nadu
Recipients of Edu Icon Awards
Staff of Times of India
Distinguished Invitees
Friends from Media
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to Launch the 'EDU-ICONS 2017' Coffee Table Book brought out by Times of India, felicitate the Edu-Icons and address this distinguished gathering here this evening.

Press and Media have been playing a stellar role as the fourth pillar of democracy in nation- building, moulding the thinking of the people and are one of the vital forces which transform the society. I commend the role played by 'Times Group' especially Times of India. Right from its inception, since 1838 Times of India has been sensitizing the people and the society on their role as citizens of this great nation. It has been dedicating itself for the betterment of the people.

21st century is driven by knowledge economy. Education is one of the keys to national development and is imperative for building a humane society. Education serves as the powerful tool to create a knowledge based society. Ancient India was a renowned knowledge centre. Universities like Nalanda and Takshashila were centres of excellence which attracted students from Europe, South East Asia and other countries. But we have lost this glory due to foreign invasion and various conflicts.

Excellence in Higher Education can be achieved only by sustained efforts in teaching and learning and efficient management of the institution. The pursuit of excellence is an endless one. I appeal to the educational institutions to strive for excellence and it should be a continuous and never ending process.

Educational Institutions face many challenges. There needs to be special emphasis on access, equity and quality. Our new education policy rests on five pillars. They are accessibility, quality, equality, accountability and affordability. A renewed enthusiasm and spirit is required among the educational institutions, especially Universities and Colleges, to upgrade the quality of education so as to find a distinct place in the global ranking.

The 'SWAYAM' initiative of Govt.of India is designed to achieve access, equity and equality in education to create a knowledge society with more autonomy. The National Institutional Ranking Frame work has been launched so as to promote competitive excellence in Higher education. I am sure this will certainly help to bring quality in education.

Special thrust and focus is needed on research and innovation work. Cultivating a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation will lead to creativity. This will make our nation excel in the global arena. To be an innovation institution there should be a motivational environment in the educational institutions. Create a motivational environment for promoting quality education. Special attention needs to be given right from the secondary level across all levels of education and also in the specialized areas of education.

Our Prime Minister, Thiru. Narendra Modi Ji said and I Quote,
 "Development now depends on the quality of institutions and ideas".

Shouldering the responsibility of taking India to greater heights rests with the educational institutions, Management, Faculty and the students.

India is an ancient land with rich culture, heritage and tradition. Today our nation is one of the youngest nations in the world. It is high time we channelize this youth power in the right direction. Harnessing this abundant human resource rests with the educational institutions.

The mission of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi Ji is to develop a 'Skill India'. From learner driven education system of today we need to focus on research development and skill development education. Educational institutions, whose core values are combined with the twin qualities of influence and transformation to inculcate character and discipline, have been at the forefront of this knowledge driven education.

I commend the educationists who are committed in their mission to achieve excellence in education.

I congratulate Times of India for spearheading several initiatives like Lead India and Teach India. Its efforts to bring out the Coffee Table book on the Educational Institutions and to recognize the contribution made by the icons in Education Sector deserves appreciation.

I convey my warm felicitations to the recipients of EDU-ICON Awards.

I conclude with the words,

"A Dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true."

Quality education is a dream for every institution. Be dedicated in your mission to carry forward your institution to higher levels in global ranking.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind.

Jai Tamil Nadu.

Nandri, Vannakkam.
