



IIM Trichy Inaugurates the first Vice-Chancellors' Conclave on 'Redefining role of Universities in the era of Industry 4.0'

The first Vice-Chancellors' Conclave on *Redefining role of Universities in the era of Industry 4.0* is being held at IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) from 22nd to 23rd October 2018. The conclave is in collaboration with University Grants Commission and it aims to discuss how Indian universities may contribute to the social and economic development of the nation in an era of Industry 4.0.

The conclave commenced with a grand inaugural function on 22nd October 2018. The event began with a lamp lighting ceremony where the Chief Guest, **Prof. Dharendra Pal Singh** (*Chairperson, University Grants Commission, UGC*); **Padma Shri Prof. Pritam Singh** (*Former Director, IIM Lucknow and MDI, Gurgaon*); Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy along with Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Prof. Satish S Maheshwarappa and Prof. Prashant Gupta from IIM Trichy lighted a traditional lamp.

Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava delivered the welcome note in which he briefly touched upon what Industry 4.0 constitutes and its implications on the economy and the labour market. He highlighted the opportunities and challenges which the Indian universities might face due to Industry 4.0. He also discussed about the paradox which exists between creation of safe and rewarding jobs and displacement of labour by technology.

Prof. Satish S Maheshwarappa, Chairperson- Executive Education and Consulting (EEC), spoke about how the EEC acts as a bridge between academics and the industry by facilitating knowledge sharing through various mediums like online spaces and hybrid studios. He stressed on the need for each educational institution to develop their own version of Industry 4.0 to stay relevant in the dynamic global economy.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director IIM Trichy in his inaugural address spoke about the relevance of Trichy being the location for this conclave as it is a hub of several intellectuals and leaders from India. He stressed the need for educational institutions to manage their curriculum and administration to cope with the fast changing and dynamic world. As new jobs would be created due to Industry 4.0, he also mentioned how universities should develop the skill sets of the students to meet the needs of the industry. He expressed his gratitude towards UGC for collaborating with IIM Trichy in organising this conclave.

Prof. D.P. Singh, Chairperson UGC congratulated IIM Trichy on its progress on behalf of UGC. He thanked all the Vice Chancellors for participating in the conclave. He encouraged collaborations between institutions, industries, government agencies and NGOs in the era of networking and information technology. He mentioned that institutions should equip students and professors with better employable skills and soft skills. He briefly described the Quality Mandates implemented by UGC which includes induction training for students and teachers. He focused on the need to identify the major thrust areas of each educational institution and contribute to addressing socio-economic, environmental and climate change issues based on their strengths. He further touched upon the topics of focusing on academic research and India becoming one of the elite players, globally in terms of research.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Prof. Prashant Gupta. The inaugural session concluded with the National Anthem.

The conclave has a participation from 35 vice chancellors and senior academic administrators from across India. The conclave would witness sessions on - "*Higher Education: Leadership in the Era of Disruptive World*" (by Padma Shri Prof Pritam Singh, *Former Director, IIM Lucknow and MDI, Gurgaon*), "*Industry 4.0: Employability & Industry Connect*" (by Shri Avinash Arora, *ED & Global CIO, TrakItNow Technologies*), "*Leveraging Technology in Higher Education*" (by Shri. Richard Rekhy, *Board Member, KPMG*) and a panel discussion on "*Developing World Class Universities*" over two days.