



सत्यमेव जयते

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

LT GEN NIRBHAY SHARMA

PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD),

GOVERNOR,

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION

OF

ANNUAL PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE

OF THE

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

AT

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, TEZPUR,

ASSAM

ON

MONDAY, 14TH JULY, 2014

- Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University
- Lt Gen AK Ahuja, AVSM, SM, VSM, GOC 4 Corps
- Dr Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur Central University
- Air Cmde. Ajay Rathore, VM, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Tezpur
- Shri Ajay Pant, Deputy Commissioner, KVS, Regional Office, Tinsukia
- Officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Regional Office, Tinsukia and the Tezpur Central University
- Delegate Principals & representatives of Kendriya Vidyalayas, teachers, students and friends from the media
- Ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me immense pleasure to address this Annual Conference of Principals of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan of Tinsukia Region. More so, since I missed your Golden Jubilee celebrations last year.

At the outset, **I extend warm greetings to this august gathering of various stakeholders from the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.** I felicitate each one of you for your contribution in imparting education in the far-flung areas of the North East Region and for the remarkable service in moulding the character and careers of the children given in your trust and care.

A forum like this provides a platform for the academicians and stakeholders to share their perspective strategies. Through interactions and discussions, we can improve, reorganize, restructure and most importantly revitalize ourselves and direct our efforts in the right direction. It provides an opportunity for introspection, assessment, and to analyze the challenges encountered in the sphere of education in the region, which is unique and different from other parts of the country.

North East, as you know, is India's gateway to South East Asia and has tremendous strategic significance for us. And you ladies and gentlemen are nurturing the youth of the North East, who will shape the future of this region and the country. Well done!

With a humble beginning of 20 regimental schools in 1963, the organization has developed enormously to almost 1,100 schools under the umbrella of KVS, providing immense service in the field of education, especially catering to the educational needs of the children of the Central Government employees who serve in various parts of the country and are frequently transferred.

This region has 25 KVs in Upper Assam, 5 KVs in Nagaland and 11 KVs in Arunachal Pradesh. I am hopeful that the number will increase in the near future for providing quality education at the doorsteps of the needy and in remote areas of the region.

The organizations are known best by their results. I am told that KVS Tinsukia Region has produced excellent results, especially in the North East, which is commendable. It is also emphasizing on an Adolescence Education Programme, the National Cadet Corps and Scout and Guide activities.

I am sanguine that it will help in curtailing the menace of drug abuse and alcoholism in the North East, at the same time strengthen the spirit of nationalism, cooperation, self-dependence and service to others.

The Introduction of German Language has added an international flavor to the ambience of Tinsukia Region by introducing it as a third language / optional language. I am also apprised that Shri Ajay Pant, the Deputy Commissioner and Miss Shyamaleema Deka, Principal, KV Duliajan, visited Germany in the month of June-2014 to share their experiences.

This is the conference of the Principals or the 'Guru of Gurus.' On this occasion, I would like to share my ideas and vision for my children of the North East region, which is based on my experience of service in the border and remote areas of our great country as an army officer and now as the Governor.

Learned Principals, you are in a noble profession, in fact noblest of all. It is because in the shell of education lies the jewel of abiding glory and you are its prime source. If we actually want to make the world, a better place, then we have to give joy and fulfillment to our students, and empower them to do the same for others. We have to build the foundation of our education on human values. The onus is on you and your team.

The challenges are -how to insulate and protect the children from the evils of society, inculcate values and motivate them to rise up to their potentialities. To my mind, the **triangle of the teacher-parent-pupil relationship** has to work on it, but the teacher has to be the prime mover. You have to develop the capacity to create a vision and communicate it clearly and passionately, and at the same time work single mindedly to achieve it. **For that you have to follow a few principles:**

1. Do not be locked in the 'status quo syndrome' and be open to finding a better way of doing the same thing.
2. Have practical ideas and identify 'This will work or this won't.'
3. Be mentally tough and accept criticism without being discouraged or defensive.
4. Do not shy away from accepting responsibility and take the blame if something goes wrong, rather than passing it on to your subordinates.
5. Remember, loyalty is a two way lane.
6. You must groom your subordinates and give them the environment to succeed.
7. Magnanimity means giving credit where it is due. "A good leader takes a little more share of the blame, a little less than his or her share of credit."
8. Anticipate and ride the events. Recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency and keep hope alive.
9. Remember, the leader leads and the boss drives. Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.
10. Above all, lead by example. People don't believe in what you say, but believe in what you do. Do not try and manage people, because inventories can be managed, but people must be lead. Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the only thing.

AREAS OF SPECIAL ATTENTION

We are a young country and nearly 30-40% of our population is in its formative years. They are our future leaders and the schools are springboards from where a quantum jump of leadership can be taken to achieve various landmarks. Through education feelings are disciplined, passions are restrained and true and worthy motives are inspired. We have to provide a good environment to the students to develop and inculcate the right values.

Today, we are facing increasing challenges due to the drastic erosion of moral values. We have to take concrete steps to rationalize the unsettled mind of our students, widen their horizons, inflame their intellect and teach them to think straight. Always give your best to provide a healthy, safe and conducive environment to your students to enable them to develop pride for their own culture and traditions.

Inculcate a scientific temperament among your students and instil team spirit and an attitude of sportsmanship in them. You have to inspire your staff and balance exciting initiatives and necessary mandates into a vision that will move a faculty. If you want to establish and sustain a good academic environment in your school, you have to confront behaviours that aren't favourable. **Prepare yourself for the challenge.**

All of you must have realized that the youth of this region has potential for excellence in games and sports. Therefore, we must promote such activities in our educational institutions.

As you all know, the entire northeastern region is prone to natural disasters due to floods and landslides. **We must educate our children on Disaster Management and ensure their preparedness for any eventuality.** In this regard, I would like to call upon the GOC in particular to assist our Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Another important point where we can make a difference is the **preservation of our forests.** You will be happy to know that India's overall forest cover has increased by 5,871 sq km since 2011. **However, we need to do more, specially in the North East.**

To arrest natural disasters and preserve our environment we have to emphasize on an afforestation programme. **Let us make this programme, a compulsory programme in our co-curriculum activity.**

We also have to translate the literacy rate of the North East into more employability by making education more relevant and focused on job orientation courses along with basic education.

In the Union Public Service Commission Civil Service Examination 2013, very few from the northeast region could make to the list of successful candidates. Let us start early with a focus on such examinations. As a former member of the UPSC, **I know what it takes to qualify in the UPSC and such like competitive exams.** Our students have it in them, provided we build their confidence and make them believe in themselves. There are many bright sparks amongst your students. You need to encourage and groom them from now on.

As I conclude, I call upon all the stakeholders present here to contribute their best for achieving excellence in the all-round development of children in their trust and care. Remember, **in the world today excellence is mandatory as mediocrity has no place.** We have to harness the potential of our children to excel, nothing less. As mentors and leaders, remember "**Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.**" Said Colin Powell, an American General and former Secretary of State.

On this momentous occasion, let me compliment **the young budding talents from various KVs who have just made colourful cultural presentations on various themes and genres.** I congratulate each one of them and the teachers for the beautiful presentation, which reflected the cultural diversity of our country.

I also place on record my appreciation to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Regional Office, Tinsukia for organizing this annual meeting of the Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas.

I wish a grand success to this conference.

Thank you.

JAI HIND !