

Accent on biodiversity research

Staff Reporter

“Study began in pre-Vedic period and went on till 1850s”



Governor K. Rosaiah handing over the certificate to a student at the convocation of Thiruvalluvar University on Tuesday. Photo: Special Arrangement

With biodiversity facing destruction in the country, K. Venkataraman, director, Zoological Survey of India called upon universities to take up research on biodiversity conservation for future India.

Delivering the convocation address at the 10th annual convocation of Thiruvalluvar University in the presence of Governor K. Rosaiah on Tuesday, he appealed to university faculty to lay emphasis on basic research on biodiversity conservation and awareness on conservation.

There should be emphasis on applied research topics too that are relevant to national needs and attention should be paid to solving problems that are specific to the local region, he said, adding, “Think locally, act globally.”

The problem, according to him, was that people expected incentives. “Like, there is no incentive for conservation of tigers in the country,” he noted.

Talking about scientific developments, he said, “Scientific development did not begin in Europe as many think. Rather, it started in India, in its caves where men drew pictures of animals and started their research.”

Mr. Venkataraman said that research began in the pre-Vedas period and went on till 1850s until the British came into the country and stopped all research, except those that they needed.

With biodiversity being crucial for the survival of all, he said, “Biodiversity is very important but we are destroying it. We need to conserve it for the future generation,” he added.

He pointed out that destruction to environment and biodiversity was the reason for presence of nutritional deficiency, diabetes and hypertension among people. “We are entering into an artificial world from being closer to nature. Hence, our lifestyle is changing,” he added.

The country accounts for diverse ecosystems. “We need to protect our country’s wealth. For this, we need research,” he insisted.

“Universities are the focal point of creative young minds, which if synergised with knowledgeable faculty can act as a seeding and breeding ground for new innovative ideas and technologies,” he added. This will lead to advancement of science and development of innovative home grown technologies, he pointed out.

Mr. Venkataraman stressed that the prospective for science-based economy is enormous and is the very reason why international communities are coming forward to work with us,. He urged students and faculty to work towards nation building using modern knowledge.

A total of 45,016 candidates were awarded the degrees – 1,139 diploma, 35,963 undergraduates, 6,349 post graduates and 1,518 M.Phil candidates.

P. Gunasekaran, Vice Chancellor of the university was present.