

11th South Asian Universities' Cultural Festival- SAUFEST-2018.

(3rd March, 2018)

- It gives me an immense pleasure to be here on the occasion of the 11th edition of the International Cultural Festival of South Asian Universities- **“SAUFEST-2018”** organized by the Ganapat University. I welcome all the participants who have come to attend the **SAUFEST** from different countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Maldives, Myanmar, Bhutan, Afghanistan and from various states of the country.
- In the beginning, I pay my rich tribute to late Shri Anilbhai Patel, who was President of Ganpat University. His untiring dedicated efforts and far reaching vision have played pivotal role in establishing this educational campus. The divine soul of Shri Anilbhai left for heavenly abode on last 8th February. His unique leadership qualities, love and affection for North Gujarat will be remembered for ever. We pray to the Almighty God to grant the divine soul eternal peace.
- I am glad that the *Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi* has offered an opportunity to the University to host the **SAUFEST -2018** in Gujarat. It is undoubtedly a matter of great pride and privilege for the University to have such an international event being organized in its campus. I hope that this certainly will leave a memorable mark in the historical timeline of the State. The event acquires special significance also because it is being hosted in the lap of nature and amidst serene surroundings of natural beauty.
- I am informed that one of the key objectives of this Festival is to strengthen unity, harmony and bond of relationship among the participating countries.

Imagine how extraordinary will it be when the captivating poetry of footsteps will combine with divine melodies of vocals and when a cultural diversity of the South-Asian nations will create a versatile and vibrant spectrum of youthfulness and unstoppable energy.

- Our nation has highest young population in the world so far and as the future is in the hands of these young stake holders, we have every chance to shine out and claim the lion's share. Benjamin Disraeli had rightly evaluated the power of youth by saying that the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity.
- India has a glorious tradition of education from ancient times. In fact, India was once the global knowledge giver and called as 'Vishwaguru'. People seeking knowledge used to come from different parts of the world and study in ancient universities like Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramshila, which were world renowned seats of learning.
- In the era of globalization, we have to pace with the changing time. At the same time, we have to preserve our best practices rooted in our glorious culture, traditions and ethos while acquiring latest knowledge and skills from across the globe.
- I am happy to note that the University and the township of Ganpat Vidhyanagar are supported by a large number of industrialists, technocrats, farmers and businessmen. The University facilitates and promotes studies, research and extension work in emerging areas of higher education with a focus on professional education in the disciplines of engineering and technology, pharmacy, management, computer applications, science, social sciences and humanities and education and many more.

- I am glad that the University has been constantly engaged in organizing seminars, workshops, conferences of national and international level for exchanging the knowledge which is a core component of education and industry. I am highly impressed to notice that the University has a number of research projects in various faculties.
- I also appreciate the efforts of the University with its motto of serving the society and promoting social welfare by spreading education in the small and remote villages. Apart from this, the University promotes sports and cultural activities among the students.
- I congratulate the Ganpat University for organizing such an international event at its campus. Earlier, I had an opportunity to attend the Convocation Ceremony of the University. I am thankful to the University for inviting me to attend the function. I also warmly greet all the participants from various countries.