

Andhra VCs meet

HYDERABAD: The Governor, E.S.L. Narasimhan, has sent a strong message to the Vice-Chancellors to set the academic house in order or else face action.

"I propose to take education seriously and anyone found guilty of violation of norms will not be spared," he warned, adding that the future of students was of utmost importance and that they have the responsibility of providing quality education to them. He expressed these views while inaugurating the Vice-Chancellors' conference here on February 8.

Seeks periodic reports

Stating that he meant business, the Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the State Universities, suggested that the universities send a quarterly performance appraisal report to the officials, Minister concerned and himself. He said that this would bring in the much needed accountability and chance for mid-course correction. It can be taken forward with the constitution of a Vice-Chancellor's committee, he said. He reminded them that autonomy has to come with accountability. Examinations, he said, have to be conducted according to the academic calendar at any cost as any deviation would ruin students' lives and no one has the right to play with students' future.

"We will be committing biggest sin of our lives if students' interests are ignored and their future is spoiled."

Stresses fiscal discipline

Mr. Narasimhan said financial planning was a must for all the universities for judicious spending of resources. He made it clear that budget allocations should not be spent at the end of the year without any planning. Mere buildings do not make institutions, he felt and asked the VCs to ensure that details of all the colleges, including infrastructural facilities, courses and teachers are posted on the website for students' benefit.

He said universities should not become breeding grounds of indiscipline and Vice-Chancellors must step in a timely manner and bring about the desired course correction, and towards this end must act decisively without fear or favour.

The Minister for Higher Education, D. Sridhar Babu, said the government was planning involving students in environment protection and this would be made mandatory for all students to plant trees and preserve them during their course. APSCHE Chairman K.C. Reddy and C.R. Biswal, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, also spoke.