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AT EDII CONVOCATION

TN Governor: India undergoing revolutionary transformation

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INDIA IS undergoing a "comprehensive revolutionary transformation", Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi asserted on Friday as he addressed the graduating students of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in Ahmedabad during the institute's 22nd convocation ceremony.

He also spoke about the country's growing economic potential, the change of approach towards China after 2014 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership among other issues.

"You are graduating at an opportune time when the country is undergoing a comprehensive revolutionary transformation. This era is unfolding infinite opportunities for each one of us. So, you explore your destiny and soar high. Today, the entire country is one big family and every problem of the country is being dealt with as a whole. The diversity of the country is special and imparts an identity to India. The country is encouraging its youth to tap their energies and potential; it is creating an ecosystem where the youth can step forth. Today, India is the fastest-growing economy in the world, with more than a lakh startups. This is only because of the enterprising spirit of our youth," the Tamil Nadu Governor said in his message to the students.

In reference to the changes the country has seen after PM Modi took over, he said, "Earlier, we kept

addressing the issues as piecemeal and locality-wise. It was that sense of country, India as a geography that led the countries like China and Pakistan to occupy a large part of our territory and we kept looking the other way."

Citing Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India, he said, "In 2014 September when the Chinese President was in Ahmedabad, he was received with all the warmth India has. But they did what they had been doing. Earlier, whenever a delegation went to China or their delegation came to India, the Chinese military would move forward and try to capture our territory and the government of that time would be busy to see that the event goes off peacefully amid photo opportunities with smiles on faces. And after the event was over we gave them a piece of paper as a protest. But by that time they had grabbed a part of our territory," he stated in his address.

"In September 2014, when our Prime Minister hosted the Chinese president," he further said, "At that point of time, the Chinese military moved in Ladakh. And so the question was... do we follow the pattern that we had followed all the previous years since the 1950s? Keep quiet and let the visit go on because the Chinese were promising that they would invest \$100 billion dollar. Our Prime Minister said no they must be pushed back, the military got clear instructions and they were pushed back. The Chinese President said this is a small matter and we will resolve it. What our PM demonstrated was the

new vision of looking at the country," the Tamil Nadu Governor further added.

"He said, 'No Mr President. It's not a small matter'. When the tooth aches the whole body suffers. The meeting went sour but we pushed them back. The country is not transactional," he added.

Talking against the political ideologies of socialism and populism, the Tamil Nadu Governor said, "The combination of socialism and populism caught the country in a vicious trap. We began distributing wealth without creating it and we distributed poverty. We remain trapped in the quagmire of populism and socialism and in this, we did not realise that in our country creating more poverty."

He also discussed energy and climate and how India has paved the way, especially in solar energy. "The way we started in 2015-16 when we created the International Solar Alliance we looked at the sun as an inexhaustible energy and not dependent on carbon. There were very few countries who had joined us at that time but today more than 140 countries are part of this alliance," he added.

"I am sure this creative power of youth will make India the top economy in the world. India is on the path of sustainable development; so you all become a part of this unique India and lead the change.

At the ceremony, diplomas and fellowships were conferred on 54 students, including 52 post-graduate diplomas and two fellowships in management.