

## Convocation of Shraddha Maanu Foundation organised

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The Shraddha Maanu Foundation held a Convocation ceremony for women trainees who recently completed "Upasana" certificate programme in multiple intelligence-based training for primary school educators.

The programme focuses on women, predominantly from marginalised backgrounds, and enables them to become part-time after-school educators. Following a survey the foundation undertook, the programme was conceived for women who were looking for an opportunity to begin working and put their education to use but were being limited by their circumstances. As a part of the programme, women were trained in functional English, teaching methodologies based on multiple intelligence theory, primary math, science, value education and in music.

Madhumati Narayanan, CEO of Shraddha Maanu Foundation, said it had worked with more than 180 women as part of the Upasana programme.

Srilalitha Gopal Srinivasan, MD, TVSE, who was the guest of honour at the convocation, said: "The foundation is empowering women to conquer problems in their environments, build resilience and impact them positively."

C.K. Kumaravel, CEO, Naturals Salon and Spa, stressed the importance of women being able to channel their education to help children and contribute to their holistic development as model citizens.

# New jobs will be in knowledge sectors: Industries Secretary

Policy-makers should move up that value chain, though artificial intelligence-linked developments pose a challenge, says S. Krishnan

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Industries Secretary S. Krishnan on Wednesday said new jobs in a tech-oriented economy would be in the knowledge sectors and the policy-makers should move up that value chain, though artificial intelligence-linked developments pose a challenge.

Mr. Krishnan was participating in a round table discussion on "The Challenges of Rebuilding a Resilient Economy in the Post-Pandemic Era" as part of the golden jubilee of the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

Mr. Krishnan said that despite the challenges, there were opportunities in the knowledge economy and that Tamil Nadu was "cost competitive" as compared to many other parts of the world.

"There are three or four policies that, hopefully, should bring us some dividends in that sector. These include our research and development policy, which includes what we want to do with global capability centres. The second element is our Fin-Tech policy, which is to develop more Fin-Tech related industries, which is another big element. The third policy is a life sciences policy, which looks at various parts of the medical industry and what we need to do in that sector," he said.

Speaking about nutri-



**Positive note:** Industries Secretary S. Krishnan says that despite challenges, there are opportunities in the knowledge economy.

tion parameters post pandemic in Tamil Nadu, Brinda Viswanathan, Professor and Dean Of Research, Madras School Of Economics, Chennai, said that nutrition outcomes can be improved by creating more frameworks where most of "caregiving activities" by women workers.

"In the urban areas, when you see the case of Amma Canteens, which are largely managed by women...self help groups but almost all of them are informal workers. So clearly, we need to have some frameworks where most of these caregiving activities enhance the nutrition outcomes by better labour time and better quality labour time. If remunerations and their social security can be improved, it can make a very important contribution to the changes that we want to look at. Because all of us

know that most of our nutrition parameters in the state of Tamil Nadu are better, but the numbers are not really good compared to the world standards," she said.

Kala Sridhar, Head, Centre for Research in Urban Affairs, while recalling how stranded migrants struggled to get back home during the lockdown, said, "India can take a leaf from the books of Dublin and the United States, and where the cities declared themselves a 'sanctuary city', in which migrants and immigrants cannot be questioned by police or urban local bodies on their immigrant status. And, in Dublin migrants can easily vote right? And if we adopt such a best practices, I think that we will tackle a major problem which characterise the pandemic," she said.

## U.T. schools to close for Classes 1-8 till March 20

**The Hindu Bureau**  
PUDUCHERRY

The government has suspended in-person classes for students studying Class 8 from March 16 at all government and private schools to prevent spread of the flu.

Home Minister A. Vigneshwaran said in the assembly that there were reports of children falling sick due to the H3N2 type of seasonal influenza.

The Directorate of School Education said teachers should be present during office hours. There is also no change in the National Means-cum-Scholarship examination scheduled this month.

## L&T EduTech for engineering

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L&T EduTech, a hybrid learning platform, L&T Larsen and Toubro launched a competitive test for engineering students.

The National Engineering Competency (NECT) would be a common assessment for level hiring programme corporates, providing them an understanding of the candidates' skills, abilities thus saving education cost and time, according to the company.

The test would be