

## **Tap foreign firms for more jobs: Governor**

The support of foreign companies should be sought to ensure job opportunities for candidates who have completed professional courses in the State, Governor P. Sadasivam said here on Friday.

The Governor, who is also the Chancellor, was briefing the decisions of the Vice Chancellors' conference held at the Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy. Vice Chancellors of 13 universities in the State participated in the conference. He asked the Vice Chancellors to take initiatives to create more job opportunities for students.

“The Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) is a model for seeking collaboration with foreign firms to create more job opportunities. The CUSAT is in 30th position in the country. Universities should sign a Memorandum of Understanding with foreign companies.”

The Governor said the universities should spell out the steps they had taken to address complaints of increase in incidents of sexual violence on campuses.

“Steps would be taken to make the campuses free of tobacco and sexual abuse,” the Governor said.

He said a Vice Chancellors' conference would be held soon to discuss ways to improve the quality of education. Discussions were held in connection with examination timetable, curriculum and faculty. More On-line open courses would be started.

The Governor called for systematic conduct of examinations in self-financing colleges.

“CCTV cameras should be installed in examination hall. Timely improvement should be done for faculty. More focus should be given to research,” the conference noted.

He said the Chancellor's trophy with Rs. 5 crore cash award would be given for best university this year too.

Minister for Agriculture V.S. Sunil Kumar, who participated in the press conference, said a decision on appointment of Vice Chancellors would be taken by next week.