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Press Release

Vice President addresses students at DBRAIT

**Education should lead to enlightenment, enhancement of
Knowledge & empowerment: Vice President**

Exhorts students to aim high, dream big & work hard



Port Blair, June 5: The Vice President of India, Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu has said that Education is the most important tool for transformation of the society through enlightenment and empowerment. Addressing the students and others present in the Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT) in Port Blair today, he said that Indian higher education system needs to reinvent itself to respond to the emerging challenges of a rapidly changing knowledge economy. The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd), Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Education, Shri Arava Gopi Krishna and other senior officers of Administration and academicians were also present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that the 'real education' must foster all-round development of students. It should lay equal emphasis on academic excellence and skills for self-employment or gainful employment, he added.

Talking on the need to reorient teaching methods, syllabi and the learning processes to meet the challenges of the globalized 21st century knowledge society, he called for revamping the education system from KG to PG to make it more rigorous, effective and quality-oriented. Emphasis should be there on developing a holistic personality and not merely producing certificate holders, he added.

Stressing that students coming out of higher educational institutions must have empathy, compassion and respect for elders and teachers, he said that they should not only be tech-savvy and scholarly but more importantly, they should have unshakeable integrity and honesty with strong ethical and moral values.

The Vice President said that there is a need to inculcate scientific temper and cultivate a scientific outlook right from early childhood. Children should be made to learn through hands-on experiments rather than focusing on rote-learning, he added.

The Vice President has advised students to become job creators rather than becoming job seekers. He further advised the students to be creative, innovative and try to explore uncharted territories and not to be afraid of setbacks. Dedication, passion, commitment, hard work, discipline and perseverance will make realize your dreams and achieve your goals, he added.

The Vice President cited the exemplary lives of late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, who was from a very humble background, but rose to become a great scientist and the President of India through sheer hard work. He also mentioned about Dr. B.R Ambedkar, who championed for the cause of the down trodden and became the Father of the Indian Constitution and also Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, who is today known world-wide.

Remembering the contributions of the great freedom fighters of our country, the Vice President said, "the A&N Islands are an Islands of 'sacrifice', Islands which gives 'inspiration' to the rest of the country because, it is this place, where many of our freedom fighters, right from the 1st war of Independence were brought, incarcerated and tortured. But they inspired others and rekindled the spirit of patriotism in other generations to fight for freedom". The Vice President saluted the great

freedom fighters led by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and others, who have made supreme sacrifices here in A&N Islands.

The Vice President disclosed that it is his 3rd visit to the Islands today. He stated that it was his desire to meet the various sections of the society residing here, Scientists & researchers of ICAR-CIARI, Islands' farmers, students and also to visit the Cellular Jail, which drew him here for the third time. After becoming the Vice President of India, Shri Naidu said, his mission was to tour the length and breadth of the country to interact with students from colleges, IITs, IIMs, Medical Institutes, scientists, researchers and the farmers, who are the back bone of our country. His visit to various parts of the country were aimed at enquiring about the fruits of various scientific research and developments and finding whether it reaches to the farmers or not, to know and understand the problems of the farmers, to empower them and to work out ways to strengthen the Agriculture sector of the country.

The Vice President further stated that about 65 % of India's population is below the age of 35 and we have a young population who are breathing with confidence. "I am reassured about the future of this country because this land is very fertile", he said, adding that Indians have made their marks in every sphere of life across the globe. "India's philosophy is based on 'Share & Care', hence we must continue to care for every stratum of the society and share the knowledge we acquired", said Shri Naidu.

Urging the students to respect every human being, Shri Naidu said, women should be respected and treated well. The atrocities meted out to women/girls cannot be wiped out unless the society's mindset is changed. India was a country where women were given utmost respect and hence we call it our 'Mother Land'. The rivers of our country are named after women. The regard for women was high and we must continue to exhibit the same because it is the culture of our country to respect women. "Women should be empowered and given the opportunity to pursue their dreams", said the Vice President. He also listed the names of prominent Indian women who have made a mark for themselves in various fields.

The Vice President also spoke about the initiatives of the Prime Minister towards empowering citizens of the country viz. 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and 'Clean India'. Shri Naidu said, it is the duty of every individual to keep our surroundings clean and the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' should be a people's movement. Maintaining good health is equally important and hence every individual must remember the saying 'health is wealth'.

The Vice President also threw light on various burning issues viz. global warming and climate change and urged the citizens to do their bit

to combat these challenges. He also exhorted them to harness solar energies and take care of the environment we live in. Shri Naidu also highlighted about the country's 'Look East Act Policy', which is bound to provide opportunities to the citizens. He said, the future is bright and we must take advantage of it and education should be used for transforming the society. He also reminded the students of the Prime Minister's vision of 'Reform, Perform & Transform'. Shri Naidu concluded his address by bestowing his best wishes to the students.

The Vice President also interacted with the media persons and the students soon after his address.

Earlier, the Principal DBRAIT, Dr. Utpal Sharma welcomed the gathering while the programme culminated with the vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Anumita, a student of DBRIAT.