

# INSTITUTES SHOULD AIM TO BE WORLD-CLASS, SAYS MURMU

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PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu said the number of Indian institutions in international rankings must rise for India to become an educational superpower.

Speaking at the inauguration of the recently established St Joseph's University, she said universities must help train students in a multi-dimensional way, and respond to their aspirations. "Many Indian institutions have earned a place in international rankings, but their numbers are very small. It should be the aim of every Indian educational institution to become a world-class centre of learning. I am sure that if we take the right steps now, our country will emerge as a knowledge superpower," she said.

The 140-year-old St Joseph's University was upgraded under the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme, with President Murmu inaugurating the university on Tuesday. "The university has earned a good reputation by setting high academic standards and contributing significantly to its co-curricular activities. Education is the most important means for social transformation. Our universities have to play the role of change agents, it is the responsibility of educational institutions to train and equip students in such a way that they are prepared for the demands of the future. Students have to be made future-ready," the President said.



President Droupadi Murmu in conversation with CM Basavaraj Bommai at the inauguration of St Joseph's University, which was given autonomous status recently, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot looks on | WINOD KUMAR

She said that universities must also accommodate students' aspirations, instead of pursuing methods of rote learning in education. "Today's younger population is very aspirational, and universities need to respond to their diverse aspirations. Education should be more about critical thinking over rote learning. There are many opportunities being given out in the world, but the skills needed are multi-dimensional, working and studying must also be multi-dimensional in nature," she said.

She also pointed out that the current movement of science and technology in India is vital for its national development, and to help ensure the well-being of people, especially those coming from the lower strata of society.

## 'HAL, ISRO reinforce our strategic defence'

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LAUDING the role of HAL and ISRO, the President said, "HAL and ISRO together contribute to strategic defence and development. Both organisations have played a major role in the development of various equipment and programmes which have reinforced the security and development of our country. HAL with its high-end facility of manufacturing defence-related equipment has proved to be an invaluable asset for our country."

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said India can emerge as a superpower in rocket technology only with the help of HAL which has shown the ability to absorb complicated space technology with perfection.

Referring to Bengaluru as Space City, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the state has contributed most of the space and defence related manufacturing activities to the country.

HAL, a Navratna defence PSU, stated that the commissioning of all the critical equipment for the manufacturing and assembly requirements is completed.

The pre-production activities which involve the preparation of the process plans, drawings and quality plan have also commenced.

HAL will start realising the modules by March 2023.

India successfully flew GSLV-D5 with a cryogenic engine made by ISRO through private industries on January 5, 2014.

In 2013, HAL and ISRO signed a memorandum of understanding for establishing the facility and it was subsequently amended in the year 2016 with an investment of Rs 208 crore towards setting up of the ICMF.

Meanwhile, President Murmu also virtually laid the foundation stone for the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) of the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Bengaluru.



President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pawar, Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar and ISRO Chairman S Somanath during the inauguration of ICMF in Bengaluru on Tuesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL