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SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE
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Online Newspaper Clipping Service
Dtd- Thursday, 13th, April- 2018

Page No. 05



Take pride in regional identity, also have 'desh bhakti,' Venkaiah to medicos

26,469 students graduate at RGUHS conovcation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Google can never replace the Guru, said the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the 20th annual convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

A total of 26,469 students graduated on Thursday and 84 students of undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programmes were awarded gold medals at the ceremony held in the Nimhans Convention Centre here.

Naidu surprised the gathering by delivering the first few lines of the convocation address in Kannada. Switching to English, Naidu said, "I can't speak in your beautiful Kannada but I can understand it. When I was young, our elders used to say 'Kannada Kasturi'.

Naidu then said that while taking pride in regional identity, citizens should have 'desh



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu blesses BDS course gold medalist Lim Boon Hul at the 20th annual convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in Bengaluru on Thursday. Governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala and RGUHS vice chancellor Dr M K Ramesh are seen. DH PHOTO.

bhakti', stay united as one country and should be proud of its diversity.

"Mother tongue is like your eyes and other languages are like spectacles. I have no problem with English but one should not forget one's mother tongue," he added.

Naidu also told students that if they leave the country, they should learn, earn, and return to the country. "This country has given you so much. Enjoyment

is when you enjoy with family," he said.

Naidu urged students to serve in rural areas, too.

"I have told the health minister to make rural service mandatory for a doctor to get their first promotion. We cannot have two Indias, with the cities having state-of-the-art facilities and rural areas lagging behind," Naidu said.

He stressed the importance of empathy and compassion,

quoting from the Charaka Samhita. "The healing touch goes beyond medical knowledge. My wife was unwell so we went to many doctors but nothing helped. Finally, we met a doctor in Mumbai who spoke very kindly and patiently listened to her. When we came out, my wife said that half her illness was already cured," Naidu said.

At the end of the ceremony, Naidu posed for a photograph with all the awardees.

'Need education in mother tongue'

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu addresses students at the 20th convocation of RGUHS

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu made a case for education in one's mother tongue during the 20th convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) on Thursday when 26,469 candidates were awarded degrees and 84 of them were presented gold medals.

He started his welcome remarks in Kannada, which won several rounds of applause from students and faculty members. "I am hoping to see the day when all courses could be taught in Indian languages," he said,



Lim Boon Hui, Arpitha, Swetha Sridhar, and Sujan Kandel who won gold medals. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

adding that by focusing on education in their own language, people will be able to articulate their thoughts better. "Your mother tongue is your eyes, other languages are like your spectacles."

He stressed on the need for students to familiarise themselves with other languages. He told the graduating students to learn the local language of the place they would be serving in as it

would benefit patients.

'Draw inspiration from ayurveda and yoga'

He advised graduating doctors to take inspiration from ayurveda and yoga so that the focus would be on a holistic approach to health and well-being. "You would do well to draw inspiration from some of these traditions and integrate them with your medical practice," he said.

He pointed out that India is waging war on the dual disease burden and is seeing a rise in communicable diseases as well as a spurt in non-communicable or 'lifestyle' diseases.

'Needed in rural areas'

Mr. Naidu said that serving in rural areas must be made mandatory.

"As you all are aware, there is an acute shortage of doctors as well as healthcare facilities in rural areas. India has less than one doctor for every 1,000 people. There is an urban-rural divide that needs urgent attention and action," he said.

The graduating batch of students had a mixed opinion on rural service. While some said that they would opt for rural service, others said they would consider it only after completing their post-graduation.

WHO directives call for support for breastfeeding

Health facilities requested to follow 10 important guidelines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Thursday issued a new 10-step guidance to increase support for breastfeeding in health facilities that provide maternity and newborn services, which provide the immediate health system platform to help mothers initiate breastfeeding within the first hour and breastfeed exclusively for six months.

Breastfeeding all babies for the first 2 years would save the lives of more than 8,20,000 children under age 5 annually, noted a release issued by the WHO.

Fact check

The guidelines describe how hospitals should have a writ-



It also recommends limited use of breast milk substitutes.

ten breastfeeding policy in place, required staff competencies, and antenatal and post-birth care, including breastfeeding support for mothers.

It also recommends limited use of breast milk substitutes, rooming-in, responsive feeding, educating parents on the use of bottles and pacifiers, and support when mothers and babies

are discharged from hospital.

"Breastfeeding saves lives. Its benefits help keep babies healthy in their first days and last well into adulthood.

"But breastfeeding requires support, encouragement and guidance. With these basic steps, implemented properly, we can significantly improve breastfeeding rates around the world and give children the best possible start in life," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore.

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that in many hospitals and communities across the world, the question whether a child can be breastfed or not can make the difference between life and death.