

“Arunachal never been far from consciousness of the nation”

## President Patil addresses NERIST convocation

Staff Reporter

**ITANAGAR, Apr 01:** Arunachal Pradesh the land of the rising sun, may be our Eastern most State, but it has never been far from the consciousness of the nation, said Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India at the 1st convocation of the North Eastern Regional Institute Of Science And Technology (NERIST).

On this landmark occasion of the First Convocation of the NERIST, the President of India urged the institute to work through Women SHGs in Arunachal, to incubate innovations that would be of practical use in the daily lives of women of this region.

Patil further said that women have been found to be important drivers of change in many parts of the country. Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) are a good way of mobilizing women and empowering them as well as giving them eco-

nomie independence, she said.

“This could be done through inter and intra SHG discussions on innovations which women would like to see, that would reduce the daily drudgery. The ideas generated could be given final shape in your labs,” Patil said.

She further said that this could be a good example of how innovations by the people, for the people, practically usable in daily life, can be delivered to them with fine-tuning from technologists.

Arunachal Pradesh has various tribal communities living together in peace and harmony for thousands of years. As the State is moving on the path of development, it retains its distinctive culture showing that the traditional moorings of a society can be retained, while development takes place, Patil said.

The President said that today there is great concern



around the world about the impact of human activity on the environment and the adverse fallouts of climate change. Respect for nature

that is ingrained in the tribal communities here, gives me confidence, that as Arunachal Pradesh continues to progress, special

care will be taken of the ecological system, Patil said and added that the North East perhaps can prove to be an example of how de-

velopment and the well being of the environment need not be antithetical to one another.

Development and

progress become sustainable only when the people receive the benefit of education, she said. Education should be a process that imparts knowledge and values, develops the personality of the individual and opens up new opportunities, Patil added.

Challenges are a daily occurrence, we should not get intimidated by them but rather learn to surmount them, the President said.

Science and Technology will increasingly influence the course of human civilization and hold the key to economic growth and social development in the 21st century Patil said and added that technical institutes around the nation including NERIST will play a major role in making India a major scientific and technological power in the world. Science and Technology, Research and Development, and innovation must continue to receive high priority, she further said. (See P-2)