President Patil addresses NERIST convocation

Staff Report
ITANAGAR, APR 4: 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 Patil. The President of India at the 1st convocation of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST).

On this auspicious occasion, the President of India urged the institute to work through Women SHGs in Arunachal to facilitate 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 actors 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 economic independence, she said.

"This could be done through interaction with SHGs, discussions on innovations which women would like to see, that would reduce the daily drudgery. The idea is that if you have a solution that has a practical use, you can deliver it to them with fine-tuning from technologists," Patil said.

"Arunachal Pradesh has various tribal communities who are 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, moving in the traditional mores 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 fallout of climate change. Respect for nature that is ingrained in the tribal communities here, she said, and adds that Arunachal Pradesh continues to progress, special care will be taken of the ecological system.

Patil said and added that the North East region perhaps can prove to be an example of how development and the well-being of the environment need not be antithetical to one another.

The President further said that on issues 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 demoralized by them rather learn to turn them to our advantage."