

# Kalam lauds NERIST for pioneering dev, favours PURA for NE

By Special Correspondent  
**NIRJULI, Aug 04:** Describing technology as the foundation for the sustained development of the nation, former President APJ Abdul Kalam today advocated the PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) mission for the North East.

Addressing the second convocation of the North East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) here today, Dr Kalam said economic development has to translate into better income and quality life for all in the nation. Collective prosperity of the nation should meaningfully transpire into individual welfare across state, across society and across cities and villages, he said.

PURA, developed by the CSIR to convert local resources into products for use by the local population, could fill the gap as a technological revolution with the synergy of all departments resulting in all-round progress of the PURA cluster as seen as a model not only in the country but also by the world at large, Dr Kalam said.

The Bharat Ratna awardee exhorted the technical graduates to contribute to nation-building by putting into action their out-of-the-box ideas into action through hard work and determination.

He said: "If you take up any mission with the motto 'work with integrity and succeed with integrity', you will succeed even though you may have to face certain challenges in your career," he advised.



To drive home his message, Dr Kalam dwelt at length on 'research training research', saying technology is non-linear, available to humanity, and can affect fundamental changes in the ground rules of economic competitiveness. Science is linked to technology through applications and technology is linked to economy and environment through manufacture, he said, adding, "We have to use innovation to generate high value added products for becoming a global player. The foundation of academic research is creativity."

He emphasized on learning integrated system design - the global need of the hour - and stressed on convergence of technologies hinting at the emergence of new world order, saying technology has made world to come together.

The distinctive profile of India in 2020, he envisioned: A nation where the rural and urban divide would be reduced to a thin line; equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water; where agriculture, industry and service sector would work together in symphony; the best destination for the most talented scholars, scientists and investors; best of health care available; the govern-

nance is responsible, transparent and corruption free; where poverty has been totally eradicated, illiteracy removed and crimes against women and children are absent and none in the society feel alienated; a nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, devoid of terrorism, peaceful and happy and continues with a sustainable growth path and one of the best places to live in and proud of its leadership.

However, Dr Kalam outlined agriculture and food processing, infrastructure, automobile, ship building, IT, pharma, aerospace, rail-vision and energy independence by 2030 as future missions of the country.

Appreciating the NERIST's pioneering development in various branches of engineering, he congratulated the institute's community including director Dr Joram Begi but urged the graduates to go for a second independence movement to achieve the Vision 2020.

Expressing satisfaction at the qualitative and quantitative growth of NERIST, Governor JJ Singh, who is also the NERIST Society president, said that the state is passing through an exciting but challenging phase of development with an unprecedented number of infrastructure

being initiated during the last two years. As these projects would require qualified manpower, he stressed the need to ensure that the requirements should be met within the state.

Describing the NERIST leadership in promoting higher and technical education as praiseworthy, the governor asked the graduates to set up a water bottling plant to receive a gold medal from him. When Arunachal Pradesh has enough water resources to meet the country's needs why is bottled water imported from outside? he questioned them.

"An educational system isn't really worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living without teaching them how to make a life," the governor concluded.

In his address, Dr Begi said apart from fulfilling technical manpower demands for planned development of the region, the NERIST has also provided support to the challenge of rapid development and growth of the country.

After arresting the severe leadership crisis, the institute is flourishing and poised to become a true centre of excellence, he said while highlighting the chronological

**(Contd from pre-page)**

## **Kalam...**

*From P.I...* achievements of the NERIST and its future plans.

Prof Goutam Barua, Director of IIT Guwahati, who is also the chairman of the NERIST board of management, said funds will not be a problem as the government is aware of the importance of the NERIST.

Earlier, Dr Kalam gave away gold medals to the toppers of various departments, while Prof Barua awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates to the students of 2009 and 2010 of various departments including Ningrinla Marchang, the first Ph D (computer science & engineering) awardee of the institute.