

### **Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu addresses 17<sup>th</sup> Convocation**

The Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, attended the 17<sup>th</sup> convocation of the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) held at its Bidholi campus in Dehradun. Shri Naidu congratulated the students and applauded UPES for producing 14000 professionals who are contributing in over “700 national and international companies.”

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya, CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank also attended the function.

Shri Naidu called for imparting entrepreneurial education in our technical institutions so that graduates do not end up as mere job seekers. He emphasized that students should possess confidence and the skill-set to create businesses, and flourish in their jobs.

Expressing concerns about the employability of our young graduates, Shri Naidu urged universities and the industries to collaborate, thereby grooming students to become future-ready professionals. Since routine jobs are now being replaced by Artificial Intelligence and Automation, the Vice President asked educational institutions to adapt and evolve. He further emphasized that universities must equip students to perform tasks that machines cannot.

The educational institutions should abandon the rote learning methodology and focus more on assimilation of diverse information, problem solving, decision making and critical analysis. “Design thinking principles should be introduced in schools along with digital skills,” he added.

Stressing on the fact that India needs to rethink about the entire education system, Shri Naidu cautioned that if we don’t innovate today, we run the risk of falling behind. He said that students must develop not only cognitive skills, but also social and emotional ‘soft’ skills, including cultural awareness and empathy, perseverance and grit, teamwork and leadership, among others.

The Vice President said that culturally, India has been, and continues to be, a cradle of great diversity in all walks of life. These rich legacies to world heritage must not only be nurtured and preserved, but also enriched. He urged universities to bridge the gap between theory and practice and promote research in a big way by networking with top-notch industries and R&D labs within India and abroad.

India’s strength lies in its youth who will play a key role in transforming India into a major economic and technological power. Therefore, Shri Naidu asked them to recognize their social responsibility and share the fruits of technological advancements with the people of India.