

**SPEECH OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF
BIHAR, SRI RAM NATH KOVIND ON THE
OCCASION OF ANNUAL DAY-2017
FUNCTION AT PATNA
WOMEN'S COLLEGE, PATNA**

Date-30.01.2017, Time-03:15 PM, Place-Patna

Vice Chancellor Patna University
Mr. Y.C. Simhadri, Member of Lokayukta
Mr. K.C. Saha, Principal Secretary Dr. Bala
Prasad, D.I.G. Patna Range Mr. Shalin,
Principal Patna Women's College Dr.
(Sister) Marie Jessie A.C., Provincial
superior, apostolic Carmel, Patna Sister
Lily D' Souza A.C., Superior Avila
Convent Dr. (Sister) M. Reema A.C.,
Dear Students, Media Persons, Ladies and
Gentlemen.

I am indeed happy to be here today and speak to you on this special occasion, the Annual Day of Patna Women's College. When a college celebrates its Annual Day in this manner, it shows that the College is active and alive; and it has to be because what we produce in our Colleges and Universities lay the foundation of our society and turn round the wheel of progress. We have always been keen to produce good citizens in the State who are well aware of the local and global issues, are sensitive to human needs and are adequately equipped to contribute effectively to the well being of our society, State and the Country. I am glad that Patna Women's College which is one of the oldest colleges for women in the State of Bihar and that has recently celebrated its Platinum Jubilee, is still so young and energetic, full of bright and innovative ideas and is courageously moving ahead in

pursuit of excellence. In our State, where the college density, i.e., the number of Colleges per lakh eligible population in the age group 18-23 years is still low i.e. (7 as compared to the all India average of 27) However, the no. of female enrolment in Higher Education is slightly above 40%. This is a positive sign to find Colleges like this, that have nourished promising young girls who have reached a landmark in life and are ready to take up new challenges ahead. I must congratulate the Principal, staff, parents and students.

Education has always been a major agent of social change. However, to bring about desirable changes in the social structure and functioning in tune with the ever changing and ever evolving needs of people in the era of globalization is a very challenging task, particularly in our country where around 70% of the population still lives in rural areas, many of whom are at

the periphery of education. A truly viable education system is responsive to the needs of all so that students with different backgrounds, abilities, aptitudes and interests are able to make use of their potentials to the full. The administrators, policy makers and educationists realized it long back and have taken many initiatives in this regard.

Women have proved their mettle at all fronts. Hence, it is our responsibility to strengthen and enrich the opportunities available to them from the very beginning to their higher learning. The institutes of higher education have to contribute enormously in this context to ensure their enrolment and retention. All the teachers involved in higher education must develop themselves as ardent researchers and instill a research culture where everyone learns by self-engagement. Then only we will be able to equip our youth with the necessary

knowledge attitude and skills so that they can meet the demands of a fast changing world, create their own niche and become lifelong learners.

All these require restructuring of higher education system. It depends on everyone's commitment and the resolute efforts of the government, the educational institutions and the wider community in bringing the expected benefits to our younger generation. As Patna Women's College has a team of dedicated and hardworking teachers, I hope that you will be able to cope up with the challenges and pursue excellence by scaling new heights. The accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council at 'A' grade with a high cumulative grade point average definitely indicates that in times to come, the College has enormous potentiality to enhance its status.

I know the College has nurtured a galaxy of women who are well placed in our country and outside and I hope that the College continues to nurture a generation of young women who are self-motivated, self-reliant, and open minded.

Dear students, you are the sculptors of your destiny. Never be complacent. Life is to live, to move forward, to have a dream and to pursue it. Always look for opportunities hidden behind adversities. Probably this is what the Father of our Nation also wanted from the Indian youth.

I congratulate the management, staff and students of the College for putting up this wonderful programme. All the best to you for all your future endeavours.

Jai Hind

Prepared by-Public Relation Section, Raj Bhavan, Patna