

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF IBSD-KALINDI COLLEGE CENTRE AT KALINDI COLLEGE, NEW DELHI ON 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017

Prof. Dinabandhu Sahoo, Director, Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development,

Dr. Anula Maurya, Principal, Kalindi College,

Distinguished Invitees,

My dear students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here to inaugurate IBSD-Kalindi College Centre for Women Entrepreneurship in North East during the Golden Jubilee year of Kalindi College, University of Delhi and I thank you for this opportunity.

I am particularly pleased to know that the Centre will focus towards entrepreneurship for the women of the North East and to secure their economic development in a sustainable way. The Centre will see the collaboration of Kalindi College with the Institute of Bio-resources & Sustainable Development, National Institute under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India for achieving the targeted goal of empowering women from the North East. The Centre will also help in overcoming the perceived negligence of the women from the North East and to enable them to join the national mainstream.

Today, when we are on the thresh-hold of a new era of industrialization and all-round development, we are in a better position to appreciate the regional imbalances which can form the essential background for any present-day development plans. The current economic doctrine is not socially sustainable unless it is tempered with human concerns. It can achieve efficiency but not equity. Hence, there is a need to integrate economic policy with comprehensive social policy.

It is indeed very encouraging to know that the Kalindi College Centre itself has been functional to impart education to the students who come to attend classes in the centre on Sundays and during the vacation or semester break of the regular students. The centre, ever since its inception, strives to forge morally and educationally strong and socially productive citizens of our nation. This perception has been ancestral in our nation as the visionaries of

our nation's past believed that both physical and mental strength is requisite for the citizen of a strong nation. Kalindi College Centre has always taken the necessary measures to maintain pedagogical excellence as well as a balanced exposure to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for its students.

North East is a genetic treasure house of plants, animals and microbial resources. It is one of the 12 mega biodiversity rich zones under Indo-Burma Hotspot that ranks 8<sup>th</sup> among the 25 Biodiversity Hotspots of the world. Realizing the importance of the rich biodiversity and the unique bioresources of the region, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India established the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) at Imphal, Manipur in the year 2001. It is not only a unique institute of its kind in India but also amongst the very few in the world. The main mandate of this Institute is conservation and sustainable utilization of bioresources for the socio-economic development of the region. We are aware about the expectation of the people not only from this region but also from across the world. In the changing global scenario we have no option but to utilize our limited resources in a judicious manner and go for inclusive growth. We have to find out new ways to solve old problems. Our major challenge will be creation of new employment opportunities for the people in this region over and above the scientific pursuits.

I am by education a student of bioscience but from my childhood I have been a great supporter of environment protection. I remember as a young girl I used to fight with everyone who tried to cut any tree around the lake in Bhopal where our house was. Later, I became Chairman of the Environment Committee of IPU and formulated the policy of Environment protection for Parliaments of the world democracy which was presented to Rio Conference and supported at Brasilia Conference subsequently.

Now in Manipur I am actively involved with cleaning of Loktak Lake which is the biggest lake of North-East as well I am getting school children involved in "*Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*" which was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014.

Being the Governor of Manipur, one of the states of North East Region of India, I would like to present a brief portrayal of the development potential in the state. Manipur is definitely a hotspot of bio-diversity and it is gifted with diverse agro-climatic conditions suitable for growing various cash crops,

fruits, vegetables, flowers and a wide spectrum of handloom and handicraft activities. Yet, the state is bogged down by poor economy which is characterised by a high rate of unemployment, low capital formation, inadequate infrastructure, communication bottlenecks, lack of industry and so on. Women in the state could be encouraged to take up suitable economic activities and play a pivotal role to break the backbone of the state's poverty and placing the people as a whole on the parabola of progress. The soils in the state are conducive for plantation of a variety of flowers, fruits, medicinal plants, tea or coffee. Various economic activities such as food processing, floriculture, handloom and handicraft under small and scale industry could also be taken up. The caveat, however, is that the men and women alike need to be skilled to become successful entrepreneurs.

It is commendable that IBSD has taken an initiative to establish an IBSD-Kalindi Centre for Women Entrepreneurship in North East at Kalindi College with some broad objectives, viz, exchange of students and faculty for training programme to explore the bio-diversity of North Eastern states for achieving sustainable economic development, entrepreneurship and value added production of bio-resources, awareness of ethnobiological studies and research on both animal/plant bio-resource to carry forward economic development of the region.

On this happy occasion, once again, I offer my felicitations to IBSD and Kalindi College and wish them all success in their effort to bring happiness and prosperity to the North East region and the country at large.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.