

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE VALEDICTORY SESSION OF 'WOMEN SCIENTISTS & ENTREPRENEURS CONCLAVE' ON THE OCCASION OF SIXTH EDITION OF INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL ON DECEMBER 24, 2020 (ONLINE)

Mrs. D. Thara, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs,
Govt. of India,

All the respected dignitaries present today,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed delighted to address you at the valedictory session of this important Sixth Edition of India International Science Festival through virtual mode. I am thankful to Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences for having invited me. I would have been very happy to be in your midst in person but cannot do so because of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of this valedictory session - "**Women Scientists & Entrepreneurs Conclave**" is quite appropriate at this juncture.

In this modern era, particularly in the 21st Century, Scientists, Engineers, and Medical professionals play a pivotal role. These professionals in these fields, in turn, will explore ways and means in solving the problems faced by the people such as problems in energy, sustainability, the environment, water, food, disease and most importantly in healthcare sector. Since the percentage of the scientific and technological workforce has been increasing day by day, women, at this juncture, need to participate and explore solutions to technical problems as well as for generating employment in Scientific and Entrepreneurship. In order to accomplish this, I would like to appeal that more women in science and engineering should endeavour to be entrepreneurs in order to start new companies; create business units, organizations, etc., and

function as social entrepreneurs focused on societal issues. In this modern age, entrepreneurship represents a vital source of change in all facets of society, empowering individuals to seek opportunity where others see insurmountable problems.

I am fully confident that our female Scientists and Engineers and Entrepreneurs are quite capable to undertake entrepreneurial activity in technical fields, to better understand the nature of the barriers they encounter in this modern society and also to identify the barriers for women scientists and engineers to succeed as entrepreneurs. On the other hand, to provide exposure and training to impart the skills that will enable more women to move from the role of expert to that of leader in dynamic new business enterprises is also equally important at this juncture.

Today's Women Scientists Conclave with the theme "**Women Scientist and Entrepreneurs**", I am sure would motivate young women to pursue science and entrepreneurship and explore new opportunities. The conclave will certainly showcase the strengths and activities of women in science and entrepreneurship and provide a platform for the young women scientists and entrepreneurs to interact with experts in these fields.

I hope this Conclave is being attended by a number of Women Scientists, Researchers, Faculty and Entrepreneurs from different parts of the Country. A good number of Senior Scientists, Entrepreneurs who are role models might have shared their experiences in this important Conclave. The efforts made by the Ministry of Science and Technology to organize such a mega event at this critical juncture is quite commendable and praiseworthy.

I strongly believe that this conclave will provide a platform for young women scientists to interact with the women leaders in science and

technology towards risen India. This is an effort to acknowledge the contribution of women in catalyzing sustainable growth.

I must speak now briefly on the North East and make a special mention of Manipur. One thing that can be safely said that, besides other fields, is the boys and girls from this region are most suitable for service in IT sectors. Thousands of young persons from the North East are working in these sectors and earning a good name for themselves and their organisations. In Manipur, for example, hospitality comes naturally to the younger people and their IT skills are par excellence. In my view, organisations in the country should have special focus on the North East with the aim of training them in these sectors and giving them good employment and entrepreneurship ideas, particularly young girls and boys and in the process also help their assimilation in the national mainstream. More fascinatingly, there are talented young men and women who have possessed the potential of becoming Scientists and Engineers. Many Manipuri Scientists, Engineers and IT sectors are working not only in the country but in various foreign countries. I am sure, Ministry of Science and Technology will certainly explore the ways and means to hunt these talented young men and women from the North East States in the coming years.

The North-Eastern States of India have their unique requirements in skill based training depending on the natural resources, industry and native trades. The Governments of these States have embarked on skill development missions to meet the aspirations of youth through training, enhance employability and employment. Several training partners, academic institutions and vocational training centers are actively involved in a range of programs that enable livelihoods, increase productivity and income levels of people in the States.

With these words, I, once again, express my happiness for being here on virtual mode on this great venture.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.