PM calls upon youth to adapt to changing nature of jobs

He urges students to not forcibly fit into any box
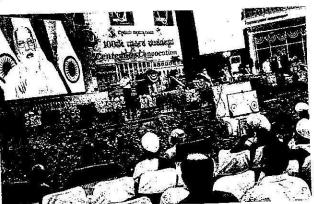
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called upon youngsters to be flexible and adaptable to the changing nature of jobs. Delivering the centenary convocation address of the University of Mysore (UoM) virtually, he emphasised the importance of "skilling, reskilling and upskilling" in the modern-day world and how the National Education Policy (NEP) unveiled by his government recently paid attention to this aspect.

The NEP, Mr. Modi said, ensures a multi-dimensional approach towards education and will bring about fundamental changes in the field of education and make youngsters more competitive.

He called upon the student community to strive for excellence based on their individual strength and ability, but advised them against restricting themselves to fitting into a box. "Probably, the box in which you are trying to fit yourself into may not have been made for you," he said.

"Take time out for yourself, introspect, understand your strengths... This will help you choose your future path," he said. He sought to draw the attention of students to the startups floated by youngsters during COVID-19 times and said startups were the strength of the country. "Your progress is also the country's progress. If you become self-reliant, so will the country."

Saying that it was heartening to note the University of Mysore's plans to start multi-disciplinary programmes as envisaged under the NEP, the Prime Minister said students can simultaneously study "global technology" and "lo-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually delivering the UoM centenary convocation address on Monday. ■M.A. SRIRAM

On reforms and seats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the reforms in medical education would ensure more medical seats for students in the country.

Delivering the centenary convocation address of the University of Mysore virtually, Mr. Modi said the BJP government at the Centre, which had "ensured transparency and vision in medical education" by setting up the National Medical Commission, was bringing in two new laws to usher in reforms in homoeopathy and other Indian medicine studies.

Mr. Modi also said that ever since his government came to power in the country in 2014,

several premier engineering and medical education institutes have been opened.

For six decades, there were only seven All-India Institutes of Medical Sciences in the country. But after 2014, their numbers more than doubled with 15 AIIMS being either established or in the process of starting. Similarly, he said there were 16 Indian Institutes of Technology in the country prior to 2014. But during the last six years, one new IIT has been opened every year, including one in Karnataka's Dharwad, Mr. Modi claimed. During the last five years, a total of 16 Indian Institutes of Information Technology have been added to the nine that existed prior to 2014.

cal culture" under these programmes.

He said it was incumbent upon UoM, one of the top educational institutions, to innovate. The university should start more incubation and technology development centres, besides ensuring industry-academy linkage while focusing more on inter-disciplinary research, he said.

Earlier, UoM Vice-Chancellor G. Hemanth Kumar welcomed Mr. Modi from Craw-

ford Hall in Mysuru, where the centenary convocation was organised amid COVID-19 restrictions.

Governor Vajubhai Vala, who was at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru, presided over the ceremony virtually. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan gave away the gold medals, cash prizes and certificates to the students before the Prime Minister's address.

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