

**Use technology to identify traditional knowledge of NE: Patil**



**NIRJULI, Apr 01 (DPNN)**

The President of India, Pratibha Devisingh Patil today exhorted the need to make practical uses of technology so as to ensure that terrain and geography are not an impediment to expedite development in the North East.

Speaking at the first convocation of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST) here this evening on her maiden visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Patil

said that efforts should be made to democratize innovation by tapping into innovative ideas at the grassroots of society.

"The North East region is known for its vast pool of traditional knowledge in many fields," Patil said while emphasizing upon the need to identify this knowledge, document it, conserve and improve upon it, and urged the NERIST to take the lead in this direction.

Stating that better connectivity will help in forging back-

ward and forward linkages, the President opined that it will help in the process of national integration with North Eastern states benefiting from as also contributing to national growth. "The North East can also be at the vanguard of India's Look East policy to work meaningfully with South Eastern countries," Patil added.

She further said that women have been found to be important drivers of change in many parts of the country, adding that women self help groups (SHGs) are a good way of mobilizing and empowering womenfolk for economic independence.

Patil urged upon NERIST to incubate innovations that would be of practical use in the daily lives of women of this region that would reduce the drudgery a woman is subjected to in her daily life.

Expressing happiness that the NERIST is contributing towards creation of a skilled workforce for bridging the technology gap between the states of the North East and rest part of the country, Patil opined that higher education must make our youth able to set up their own enterprises. She especially appreciated the institute for adopting an innovative teaching-learning scheme through a unique modular pattern in several technical courses at the certificate, diploma and degree levels.

She further hoped that the modular course concept would