



## V Prez calls for mandatory inclusion of skilling initiatives at school level

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has called for mandatory inclusion of skilling initiatives at school level saying schooling and skilling must go together. Mr Naidu said that not enough attention was paid in the past to skilling in the education system and called for revisiting the education policy to make it compulsory for imparting skills to school students. He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating Residential Skilling Center of Deshpande Foundation in Hubballi yesterday.



Mr Naidu said there is a need to introduce vocational education in the curriculum to create an ecosystem that produces skilled manpower. He also called for augmenting of the skills relevant to the needs of rural India and agriculture as part of the initiatives to make agriculture viable and profitable. Mr Naidu appealed to the industry and the corporate sector to join hands with the Universities and academic institutions for strengthening Research and Development and preparing youngsters to adapt to 21st century requirements. He said with 65 percent Indian population below 35 years of age, India was a young nation and has the unique opportunity to serve as a global human resource hub.

In another programme in Hubballi, the Vice President stressed that environment-friendly, financially and operationally viable mass transport solution is the need of the hour. He said that there is an urgent need to control the emission of Green House Gases and vehicular pollutants before the damage to the environment becomes irreversible. Speaking after inaugurating the Hubballi-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit project, he called for steps to bring in behavioural change among urban dwellers to use mass transportation rather than using private vehicles. He asked local, municipal authorities of cities to encourage people to become pro-active partners in this process of transformation. Pointing out that cities account for two-thirds of global energy demand and 70 percent of carbon emissions, Mr Naidu stressed the need to build low-carbon, green and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.