

State of primary education in the country not satisfactory, says former Chief Justice

Facilities for higher education should go by 20 per cent: Venkatachaliah

Special Correspondent

UDHAGAMANDALAM:

Restoration of values will help meet the challenges of the 21st century, observed the former Chief Justice of India, M.N. Venkatachaliah, while participating in the 32nd founder's day celebrations of the Good Shepherd International School (GSIS) at M. Palada near here on Thursday.

Adverting to the most striking aspects of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, he said that the present century will be very challenging for the younger generation.

Pointing out that apart from the 120 million people killed in wars during the last century about 110 million had lost their lives in civil conflicts related to religion, ethnicity, language and a host of things that divided men, he said that during the 21st century the children have an opportunity to live together in a world where they can understand each other.

Stating that they can cast away their old prejudices and unite, he said that family values and values which generate compassion and friendship and promote honour and dignity can play a significant role.

Such values will keep the people and families together when the storm in the form of great changes triggered by



FOR EXCELLENCE: The former Chief Justice of India, M.N. Venkatachaliah, distributing prizes to a student at Good Shepherd International School in Udhagamandalam on Thursday.

Technology blows across the world during the current century.

Pointing out that the thrust areas at least during the first 20 years of 21st century would be education, energy, biotechnology and health care, Mr. Venkatachaliah said that owing to the increasing population there was a need for thousands of additional primary schools.

There was a strong interlink between education and economic order.

He regretted that the state of primary education in the country was not satisfactory. The facilities for higher education were now restricted to only eight per cent of the population. It should go up by 20 per cent.

Only then the country can be part of the middle income world economy.

Stating that mind-boggling changes are on the anvil, he said, "Our children have to be prepared".

Referring to the growth of the GSIS, he said that it was a model for other educational institutions and added that it had the potential to become a university.

Mr. Venkatachaliah inspected a guard of honour presented by the Sea Cadet Corps and distributed prizes to students who had excelled in various competitions. The Founder-Principal P.C. Thomas also spoke.