

'Varsities should be centres of excellence'

Venkaiah Naidu expresses concern over deteriorating standards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VISAKHAPATNAM

Stating that education was empowerment of youth, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said universities should become centres of excellence.

Addressing the third annual meeting of Andhra University Alumni Association (AAA), after inaugurating the convention centre on the Beach Road here, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said: "I owe my success in life to Andhra University, where I studied law and became a student leader."

Expressing concern over the deteriorating standards



Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu being felicitated at the AU Alumni Association meeting on Saturday. ■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

in educational institutions, the Vice-President said all vacant teacher posts should be filled immediately.

"I urge the University Grants Commission, the Go-

vernment of India, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take steps to fill all vacancies," he said.

"Universities should be centres of learning and re-

search. Now, liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation has become the order of the day. Accordingly, our students should be prepared to face the challenges. They can chant success mantra only if they get good mentors in the form of teachers as their gurus," he stated.

Mr. Naidu regretted that universities hit the headlines when they turned into centres of unrest. In an oblique reference to incidents in Jawaharlal Nehru University, he said those who raised slogans in support of Afzal Guru were bringing disrepute to the institutes.