

Former Prez Kovind urges students to have positive mindset

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St. Joseph's University hosted the 6th edition of 'Open Heart 2024' on Monday (Jan. 29) at its campus. Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind was the chief guest. The event promoted openness, dialogue, inclusivity and served as a platform for engaging discussions, cultural celebrations, and the exchange of ideas aimed at advancing societal progress and unity.

The Open Heart 2024 was presided over by Pro-Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Swebert D'Silva SJ, Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Dr. Victor Lobo SJ, Pro-Vice Chancellor's, Registrar and Public Relations Officer, D. Kiran Jeevan. The event saw a diverse audience comprising students, faculty members, researchers and policymakers.

The Open Heart talk by the former President, Ram Nath Kovind highlighted the importance of hard work and reminded the

participants to remember one's own roots of origin. He pointed out and said India has made great achievements as a nation in recent years from the military feat of building aircraft carriers, showcasing India's historical heritage to the major countries through the G20 Summit, and becoming the first to land the Chandrayaan on the South Pole of the Moon and Aditya L1 Observatory including XPoSat.

He expressed the hope that the students of St. Joseph's University will the leaders of tomorrow's India.



He advised the students "to keep a clean heart and a positive mind taking positive

decisions for a positive future". The former president quoted Swami Vivekananda

in his speech and said, "We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about

what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far".

The event witnessed the launch of the University Gandhian Centre commemorating the upcoming 76th Shaheed Diwas of Mahatma Gandhi. Kovind unveiled the poster of the establishment of the St. Joseph's University Gandhian Centre. The center aims to serve as a beacon of Gandhian principles, promoting truth, non-violence, and service to humanity. The former president also unveiled the International Students Information Brochure, signaling the university's dedication to global engagement and cultural exchange. The brochure serves as an invitation to talented individuals from around the world to join the vibrant academic community of St. Joseph's University, enriching the learning experience for all. On a closing note 'Open Heart 2024', reflected as a testament to the university's unwavering commitment to quality.