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Fight fissiparous trends, RV tells students

From Our Staff Reporter

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The former President, Mr. R. Venkataraman on Saturday called upon students to fight fissiparous tendencies that threaten the country's economic union and integration.

Addressing the College Day celebrations of Stella Maris College, Madras, Mr. Venkataraman said the enormous social development in the last four decades had been achieved only because of the unhindered movement of goods allowed by the economic union in the country. For instance, Madras had become the country's automobile capital only because there were no customs or tariff barriers for moving in iron ore and steel from other States. But of late, chauvinistic tendencies were clouding even economic issues in some States. The younger generation should not be misled by people who create these fissures. Regional chavinism should not be at the nation's cost, he said.

Another factor threatening the country was the lack of morality in public life. Women stu-

dents in particular should fight for maintaining purity in public life. In this venture, the dictums of all religions should guide the women.

Pointing to the various educational and job opportunities available to women in individual and public life, Mr. Venkataraman said students should be allowed to choose the subjects that would help them earn their livelihood.

Mr. Venkataraman, who unveiled the foundation stone for the an administrative block, lauded the institution's success in all spheres of activities and termed it as one of the best institutions in the country.

Dr. P. Govindarajulu, Registrar, Madras University, presented prizes to students for academic excellence. Dr. Merlyn D'Sa, president of the college governing body, offered felicitations to retiring staff members. The foundation stone was blessed by Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

Prof. Annamma Phillip, Principal, presented a report on the achievements of the students in educational, social and sporting activities.