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Arjun Singh calls for cohesive approach to issues

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, MARCH 19. Divisive minds cannot serve the purpose of the nation; only a committed and comprehensive approach will solve its problems, the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Arjun Singh, said today.

Advocating a cohesive approach to handling issues, he said it was an important aspect the nation would have to focus on as it marched towards a bright future.

It would also be important to build a bridge spanning the past, present and future. "We should not allow the present and future to be hostage to the past; at the same time, we should not cut them away from the great heritage of this country."

'Open minds needed'

Speaking at the 58th College Day function at Stella Maris



The Union Human Resource Development Minister, Arjun Singh, presenting the Viswanathan Memorial Award for the best outgoing student to Kavya Krishnakumar of Stella Maris College in Chennai on Saturday. — Photo: V. Ganesan

College here, Mr. Singh said education should evolve a thought process for youth and

open their minds. "The first precondition for education should be an open mind." The citizens

should be individually and collectively responsible for shaping the country's future.

Later, Mr. Singh distributed awards to the best outgoing students of the college for 2004-2005.

The University Grants Commission Vice-Chairman, V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, said education was for life, through life and throughout life and advised students to retain their quest for knowledge even after acquiring degrees.

"The knowledge and skill we generate in colleges is only 'text.' It would have to be read in the 'context' of society in order to be applicable to life."

The principal, Annamma Philip, presented the annual report. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior, Chennai, presented mementos to the retiring faculty — Margaret Clarence, Theresa Gregory, Kamala Vishwanathan, Kamala Aravind and Prabhavathi Nair.