

On August 24th, 2018, at a function organised by the GITAM School of Gandhian Studies, Visakhapatnam, the book *Colonial Syndrome – The Videshi Mindset in Modern India* authored by Prof. K. Ramakrishna Rao Hon'ble Chancellor of GITAM and Chairman GITAM School of Gandhian Studies was released by the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book release function was graced by eminent dignitaries from different walks of life including Dr. K. Haribabu, MP, Visakhapatnam, Shri Praveen Kumar, District Collector, Visakhapatnam, Dr.MVVS Murthi, Hon'ble President GITAM and Prof.M.Gangadhara Rao, Hon'ble Vice President GITAM, academicians, heads of institutions, faculty and students.

Prof. K. Ramakrishna Rao the author of the book *Colonial Syndrome – The Videshi Mindset in Modern India* is an internationally acclaimed scholar, author, philosopher, psychologist, educationist and administrator. A recipient of the Padma Shri, he was awarded national fellowships by both the Indian Council of Philosophical Research and the Indian Council of Social Science Research. He has devoted his academic life to highlighting the current relevance of Gandhi's dharma and breathed new life into Gandhian values as a solution to the troubled world. Prof. Rao has been credited with resurrecting Indian psychology which was overshadowed by Western psychology and with finding a true place for Yoga as an academic discipline and introducing it into the Indian university curriculum. He is on a mission to identify and root out the colonial mindset that plagues modern India and to resurrect the Indian ethos and cultures. His book attacks the cultural colonialism or colonialism of the Indian mind by Western civilization and exposes the videshi mindset and the massive neglect of the Indian cultures and knowledge systems that continues in Indian education, psychology, philosophy and other domains. In his speech Prof.Rao highlighted the need for Indians to stand on their own feet without any sort of inferiority complex and aim for the sky to fulfill every dream.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India, in his address full of wit and eloquence, recalled his long association with Prof. Rao, his teacher and also with GITAM, appreciating the ambience and growth of the university. He spoke in detail about the spirit of Swadeshi and the greatness of Indian culture which was suppressed by the West. He spoke for the need to have a holistic system of education which rooted the younger generation in their culture while giving them wings to accept their role as world citizens. He criticised the domination of Western culture over every aspect of Indian life and called for re-asserting the glorious past of India and fighting every form of discrimination, narrow mindedness and exploitation which continue as the by-products of colonialism. He also appreciated the Architecture students of GITAM who had completed a project documenting the village of Chavutapalem in Nellore adopted by his Swarna Bharat Trust. Prof. Rao's book has been dedicated to Shri Venkaiah Naidu who represents Indian values and Swadeshi spirit at its best especially in his role as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Similar sentiments were echoed by the other dignitaries. The thought-provoking event was widely appreciated.