

Arjun Singh calls for revival of value-based education

BY A STAFF REPORTER

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VARCA: The Union HRD Minister Arjun Singh said here on Friday that "more thought should be involved in educating young minds - rather than falling prey to the persuasive talk of divisive and communal forces". "The educators should revive value-based education relevant to the knowledge society," he added.

This is the closest the minister went as far as his ongoing battle with the RSS and the former HRD Minister Murli Manohar Joshi is concerned. Otherwise the tenor of his speech was broad-based and forward-looking.

Addressing the brain thrust of India's education sector - almost 150 Vice Chancellors from across the country, he reminded them of the poorest man's face as Gandhiji's development parameter. The HRD Minister stressed the need of egalitarian higher education expanding to the smallest village for creation of a

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'dynamic, sensitive and compassionate society'.

He highlighted the role of Indian

universities in mobilising the freedom struggle and inspiring the realms of progress in post-independence India.

"India was constituted of islands of knowledge and sea of ignorance fifty years ago. Unfortunately, even after the info-tech revolution, things haven't changed much.

"Indian universities need to ensure that the education sector reflects the principles that make India a republic, while they are taking the education to the doorstep of students through new technology," he added.

Singh congratulated the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Sakal Group for creating a forum where the country's best educators are to discuss the future of the education sector.