

PRESS-NOTE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE STARTS ON SPIRITUAL NOTE AT THE SMS
VARANASI CAMPUS

Spiritualism has to go with materialism today, need is to develop this 'emerging segment': Dave

VARANASI : The three day International Conference on "Spiritual Paradigm for surmounting Global Management Crisis" started on Friday on a spiritual note at the Khushipur campus of School of Management Sciences (SMS). The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. S. A. Dave, Chairman-CMIE and former chairman-SEBI & UTI. Other Guests of Honour who were present amidst high profile dignitaries in the inaugural session included Prof. M. J. Xavier, Director-IIM Ranchi, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President Claflin University, USA, besides Prof. K. D. Tripathi, Hony. Director of the Centre for Spiritualism & Human Enrichment (C-SHE) of SMS Varanasi. Delegates from the two 'conference-associate' American Universities, Claflin University, South Carolina, Columbia (USA) and California State University, San Bernardino, California (USA) were also present. More than five hundred delegates were present on the first day of the three day long event. International delegates have come from Pakistan, USA, UAE, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Turkey and Hungary.

Inaugurating the Conference, Dr. Dave said "It is my great pleasure to have been associated with this unusual Conference, unusual because prima facie it seems contradictory what world of money and management of money has to do with spiritualism at it is commonly understood. Marx predicted doom of the capitalist society because of inherent conflict it had with the interest of workers. A blind or excessive drive towards profits at the cost of workers invites the fall of the system. Capitalism was too materialistic system interested only in returns on capital of those who owned it. There was no place for spiritualism in working of such a system. Today, profit is considered a necessity of the

organization, but the maximization of profits is no more the sole aim. Societal and environmental concerns have started appearing in the Corporate Vision statements in an increasing way. All these developments have something to do with spiritual transformation of the system. Bringing about radical changes in the attitude is a gradual process and I am happy that SMS and their collaborators in US think that it is possible, achievable and worthwhile disseminating this message to the larger audience. I compliment the sponsors for the bold theme of the Conference and wish that these subjects are discussed and become part of teaching in all the business schools of the world, under whatever nomenclature they prefer to use. And hopefully, they become an integral part of practice in the corporate world". He also requested to all that let spiritualism enter management, in a disguised form if need be, without even being called spiritualism. One comes across several managers, both in east and west, who are highly spiritual in their conduct and work and display extraordinary concern toward their colleagues and customers. It would seem, as if spiritualism and materialism is working hand in hand. The problem before the conference is how to multiply the members of this group, or enhance the spiritual content of their lives and work, he added.

Prof. MJ Xavier in his address opined that instead of being aggressive, we should be humble. We should not have greed, we should not compete and compare, instead we should have and believe in harmonious coexistence. Instead of having goal orientation, we should have role orientation. In management education we learn about destroying competition through creation of competitive advantage but on the other side we also say don't compete - it is here that another paradigm needs to be developed and hopefully this international conference would help in doing the same. He also asserted to develop intellect and intuition together. Dr. Tisdale highlighted the tripple bottom line approach which Claflin University is following. It includes value maximisation through business ethics and sustainability, visionary leadership and selfless service. He said we should trained the mind to think, hand to execute and soul to feel.

Former Professor of Delhi School of Economics, Dr. B. P. Singh talked about global turbulence and said the essence of spirituality is self liberation. He also said that a modern leader should be like a saint. Spirituality has to be master of materialism and not servant. Earlier the Conference Director and the Director of SMS

Varanasi, Prof. P. N. Jha welcomed the dignitaries and delegates to SMS Varanasi. The organizing secretary Mr. Sandeep Singh (Associate Prof.) gave the theme presentation. The inaugural session was coordinated by Dr. Meenakshi Singh while the Vote of Thanks was presented by the Hon. Director of the Centre for Spiritualism and Human Enrichment, SMS, Varanasi, Prof. K. D. Tripathi.

The entire three day event has been divided into eight plenary and eight technical sessions. The plenary sessions would witness experts like world renowned spiritual guru Sri Sri Shudhaananda Brahmachari, Swami Satya Vedanta, Former Chancellor-Osho Multivaristy, Pune, Prof. Samani Charitra Prajna, Vice Chancellor, Jain Vishwa Bharati University, Rajasthan, Prof. A. N. Tripathi, Former Head, Malviya Centre for Human Values, BHU, Dr. Subhash Durlabhji, Retired Professor, North Western State University, Louisiana (USA), Prof. Amita Singh, Centre of Law and Governance, JNU, Dr. Shugan C Jain, Chairman, International School of Jain studies, New Delhi, Prof. P. Krishna, Krishnamurthi Foundation India, Ms. Brenda Roberts, Executive Director, Centre for living in harmony, USA, Prof. B. P. Singh, Former Professor, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, Prof. Sanjoy Mukherji, IIM-Shillong, Dr. Lois Hecht Oppenheim, American Jewish University, USA, Mr. Kaushik Chakraborty, VP-T&D, Royal Bank of Scotland, Prof. S. S. Khanka from NIFM, Mr. Janardan Jee, principal scientist-ICAR, Mr. N. C. Asthana, IPS besides the film personality Mr. Mahesh Bhatt.

Later specialties like Shiv Tandav, Sama veda recitals, peace meditation were also held. A spiritual tour of Varanasi is also on the Conference schedule. A souvenir has also been published covering more than 200 paper abstracts which are being presented in the Conference. Corporate bodies and financial institutions like Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, Kashi Gombi Samyut Gramin Bank, Airtel, Hewlett Packard, Taj Estates, Jalan Group, Galaxy Hospital, Career Launcher, IMS Learning Resources, Ganga Saran & Grandsons and Banaras Swarna Kala Kendra.