

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Seventh National Biennial Conference on The New Frontiers of Entrepreneurship

The Seventh National Biennial Conference on **The New Frontiers of Entrepreneurship** was recently organised on EDI Campus. The three-day Conference was attended by over 85 academicians, practitioners and researchers from prestigious institutes. 65 research papers were presented on themes such as; International and Corporate Entrepreneurship; Micro-enterprises, Micro-finance and Sustainable Entrepreneurship; Agripreneurship and Ecopreneurship; Technopreneurship; Innovation and Leadership Dimensions of Entrepreneurship; Edupreneurship; Public Services, NGOs and Social Entrepreneurship; and Women and Entrepreneurship. Special lectures by eminent professors viz. Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Prof. N. R. Sheth, Prof. Devanath Tirupathi and Prof. Sasi Misra were highly informative.

The Conference was inaugurated by **Prof. G. K. Chadha, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council**. Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director, EDI was also present on the occasion. In his welcome address, Dr. Awasthi threw light on the illustrious career of Prof. G. K. Chadha and spoke about various prestigious awards that Prof. Chadha has been honoured with. Dr. Awasthi then reviewed the changing scenario of entrepreneurship and the need, therefore, to research the emerging trends and patterns. He hoped that this Conference would contribute to this area.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural function, Prof. G. K. Chadha began by congratulating India for taking a leap in the field of entrepreneurship, and EDI for being a forerunner in teaching, training and research in entrepreneurship development. He felt that the new frontiers in the field of entrepreneurship are infinite and constantly emerging in the context of the growing Indian economy and, therefore, the need to analyse the patterns becomes a must. The Chief Guest laid emphasis on the 'Structure and the Hierarchy of Enterprises and the Entrepreneurs' to explain how the field of entrepreneurship was a mass of heterogeneous people with different and varied thinking processes. He emphasised on understanding 'entrepreneurship' at the levels of local, national and international as the Indian economic scenario was undergoing remarkable changes. Expressing faith in the present growth pattern, he felt that the time was ripe with "Indian entrepreneurs making a mark, Indian capital going out and transnationalisation of investment fund awaiting you". The Chief Guest pointed out how agriculture in the 1950s contributed to nearly 60% of GDP which has today reduced to about 18 to 20%. He saw this as 'a good turn of events, adding that the manufacturing and the service sectors' contribution has not only increased but the rate of growth of the economy is also at an impressive 9%.



*Academicians seen with
Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director-EDI*



Showing how the consumer demand patterns were changing with only about 55% of income going towards food consumption expenditure and the rest into non-food items' expenditure (NSSO survey 2004), he emphasised that potential entrepreneurs have opportunities galore. He asked the entrepreneurs to feel the pulse of the market and sense opportunities as there are many, but at the same time urged them to understand the nitty gritty of globalisation and innovate in a way that they remain ahead, in today's competitive times which do not boast of a protective regime. Concluding on an optimistic note, the Chief Guest talked about the high growth pattern of the Indian economy and its reigning place, next to the U. S. and China, in the world, in a few years from now

Dr. Sasi Misra, Conference Chair, briefed all on the key focus areas of the 3 day conference. He called the deliberations enriching and expressed the need to hold such seminars more frequently.



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