

Exploring contemporary issues in entrepreneurship

The Ninth National Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship, organised by the Institute during February 16-18, 2011 was inaugurated by Shri Jay Narayan Vyas, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Family Welfare and Tourism, Govt. of Gujarat. This three-day Conference was attended by over 150 academicians, practitioners and researchers, engaged in the field of Entrepreneurship, from prestigious national and international institutions.

In his welcome address Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director-EDI introduced Shri Jay Narayan Vyas to the august gathering, as a renowned Economist, Politician and Policy maker who has played a key role as an academician and a leader. Dr. Awasthi felt that the scenario of entrepreneurship was undergoing

significant changes and the need, therefore, was to research the emerging trends and patterns. He hoped that this Conference would serve as a platform to researchers and academicians from across the world to generate productive, enlightening and exciting responses, and will provide an opportunity to professors, practitioners and thinkers in India and abroad to assimilate, communicate and disperse their experiences and experiments.



Shri Jay Narayan Vyas, Hon'ble Minister - Health, Family Welfare & Tourism, Govt. of Gujarat, inaugurating the Ninth Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship. Also seen are (R-L) Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Eminent Historian; Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director-EDI & Conference Host and Prof. Sasi Misra, Conference Chair



Shri Vyas, addressing the delegates



Shri Jay Narayan Vyas in his inaugural address congratulated the Institute for organizing this conference and significantly broadening the frontiers of the important discipline of entrepreneurship. He said that while there are a large number of management institutions, there are very few institutions committed to developing entrepreneurial personalities. And in this context, EDI, he said, was doing a great service to the nation by promoting this discipline, as entrepreneurship alone can make India carve out a niche for itself on the world map. Dwelling on how entrepreneurship wasn't easy, the Hon'ble Minister said that successful entrepreneurship demands high, and then even higher levels of performance; a mindset that goads one into taking calculated risks; great drive and a frame of mind that encourages decisions and action in the face of a crisis. That all of these qualities can be developed in entrepreneurially inclined individuals, and that individuals can be trained to become entrepreneurs is something that the Chief Guest appreciated calling it a big work. Congratulating the delegates of the Conference for championing the cause of entrepreneurship, he said that they were on the right track in joining hands with EDI to research how this area could be strengthened to



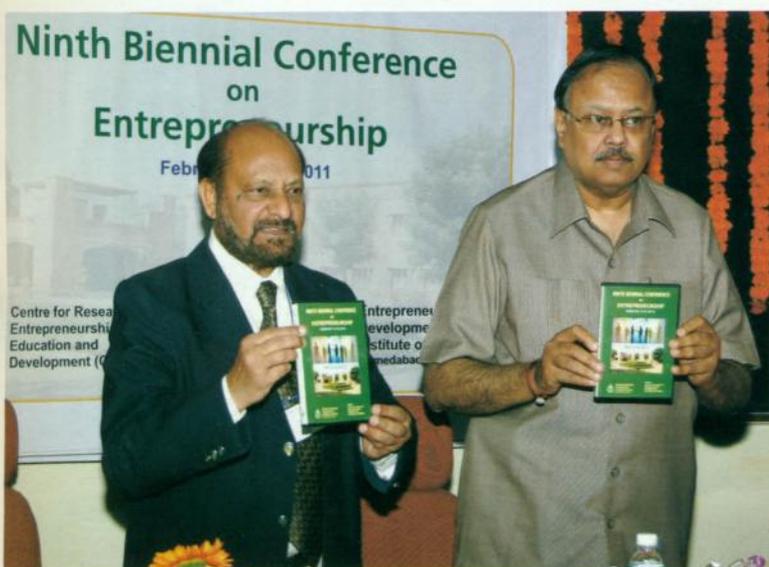
Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Eminent Historian being felicitated by Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director-EDI

make a bigger impact on the Nation's growth, as entrepreneurs, he said have been important at every stage in history, they are the ones who built nations and started the process of globalization centuries ago, created societies and brought together different civilizations.

The process of globalization has infused a new dimension of competitiveness and inflow of foreign investment, a fact which he said necessitated holding such conferences such as the present one, as it would go a long way in strengthening the inputs that reach out to potential entrepreneurs. The Chief Guest felt that this Conference would unfold more than one aspect about entrepreneurship, prompt changes, make it easier and appealing for the masses so that they harness the potential that lies in the expanding manufacturing and the services sectors. The Chief Guest concluded with his best wishes to the delegates and EDI for its work.

Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Kasturbhai Lalbhai Chair Professor of Business History & Entrepreneurship (Emeritus), Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad was felicitated during

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Mr. Jay Narayan Vyas, Hon'ble Minister - Health, Family Welfare & Tourism, Govt. of Gujarat, releasing the book on ABSTRACTS of 'Ninth Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship.' Also seen with him is Dr. Dinesh Awasthi, Director-EDI

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the inaugural function. In his address, Prof. Tripathi brought before the gathering, as to how his inquisitive minds questioned the existing theories in history, identified the vulnerable areas, appraised the environment and evolved several new schools of thought and comprehensible frameworks. Prof. Tripathi also gave an insight into how his being a business historian made him review the discipline of entrepreneurship leading him to evaluate some crucial aspects of it and evolving enlightening pieces of work.

Prof. Sasi Misra, Conference Chair, briefed the house about the conference. The Conference bears testimony to the institute's pursuit of excellence and clear contribution to entrepreneurship education, training and research within India and South East Asian Countries. Consonant with eight biennial conferences over the past 16 years, the **Ninth Biennial Conference**

on **Entrepreneurship** continues to be an established forum for researchers, educators and practitioners to share their ideas and research results with other researchers and thinkers in the field, interchange feedback and sharpen their own ideas.

Over 270 papers were submitted for the conference. Of these 117 selected papers were presented at the conference on themes viz., Entrepreneurship Education, Women Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises, Micro-Enterprises, Innovation, Agripreneurship, etc. Seven papers by International delegates from countries like Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will also present the papers. Twenty Ph.D./Research Scholars in entrepreneurship are actively participating in the conference. The Conference was attended by 150 delegates.