



All India Conference ON BETTER GOVERNANCE



AROUND 1000 politicians from all over India and Nepal recently gathered at the Academy for a Better World to deliberate upon Better Governance. The participants included cabinet ministers, MPs, ministers from states and MLAs.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State for Urban Development, lauded the pure and soul-uplifting atmosphere of Gyan Sarovar and said that such an atmosphere should be built in the Parliament and other assemblies. He lamented that today politicians had lost all respect because of their conduct in House and in public. The sad state of Indian polity was due to the divorce of spirituality from governance.

He said that 'Rajniti' (governance) today was without any 'niti' (principles), hence, it had become synonymous with everything corrupt. Decrying the dearth of honest and inspiring leadership, he emphasised that loyalty, integrity, and transparency are the values that are needed utmost in the political system today. When political leaders serve the masses honestly, they would win respect. He believed that the spiritual training imparted by Brahma Kumaris was a new inspiration for him and wished that all parliamentarians would participate in such training in the future.

In her benedictory address,



Mt. Abu : Lighting candles to inaugurate All India Conference of Politicians are Dadi Prakashmani, B.K. Mohini, Karnataka Minister Rani Satish, Andhra Minister E. Peddi Reddy, Former Haryana Chief Minister Ch. Bhajanlal, Member of Parliament Sushil Kumar Shinde, Maharashtra Speaker Arun Gujarati, Maharashtra Minister A.T. Pawar, Madhya Pradesh Minister Manvendra Singh and others. A view of the audience (pic. below)

governance follows from sound spiritual values. He said that leaders should use their position and power to do justice to all in accordance with one's

India an elevated nation. But this vision would come true only when they have uncompromising ideals, true love for service and an unselfish attitude. He

a society that would require least use of power.

Hon. Manvendra Singh, Minister of PWD, Madhya Pradesh, recalled the saying "What shall profit a man if he wins the whole world and loses his soul?" He hoped that the participants in the conference would empower their souls during their stay so that they could face the challenges of their work without giving in to negative forces.

Hon. R. Subba, Minister of Education and Law, Sikkim, said that charity begins at home, therefore, he urged that the change that the leaders want to bring in the society or the political system has to begin with the self. Spirituality, he averred, was the strength of India, hence, self transformation through spirituality is the best way to bring about good governance.

PLENARY SESSION-II

Inspirational Leadership for Better Governance

Sharing his views on the topic, Hon. Arun Gujarati, Speaker, Maharashtra Assembly said that the duty or *dharma* of a leader is to give, not to take. The leader's mark is to inspire others through one's example and to work as a team without any selfish motives. He decried the culture of greed and selfishness that had spawned the disease of corruption in politics. Along with a good character, leaders should be accountable to the people they

Rajyogini Prakashmani, Chief of the Brahma Kumaris said that the real Ram Rajya would come when each person in the country will perform deeds like the deities. It is said once there was Vaikuntha in Bharat where everyone was elevated and happy. So she exhorted them to imbibe divine virtues in order to transform Bharat into a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous land as dreamt by Gandhiji. She said that 'rajneta' (political leaders) should become 'rajrishi' (spiritual sovereigns). The true religion of the soul is to become like the Supreme Soul who is the Ocean of love, peace and knowledge. She proposed that each leader should promote spirituality by starting meditation at work place as well as through value education in their constituencies.

Speaking at the Reception session, Hon. Bhajan Lal, former Chief Minister of Haryana said that good

conscience.

Hon. Anandrao Deokate, Minister for Dairy Development and Fisheries, Maharashtra said that just as Gandhiji had led the nation during the freedom struggle on the principles of truth and non-violence, today's politicians should also uphold such values, only then can there be true progress of the nation.

INAUGURAL SESSION & PLENARY-I

Better Governance-Need of the Time

A galaxy of political leaders from different states addressed the inaugural and plenary sessions.

While welcoming political leaders from India and Nepal, Sr. B.K. brother Nirwair, expressed his joy on seeing so many participants who had gathered there because they were concerned about better governance. He said that the leaders must work together on a vision that would make

urged leaders to work as a trustee and rise above the divisions of religion, caste, creed and party with the help of a spiritual attitude.

Conveying his greetings to all, Hon. T.N. Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament, said that the concern for giving a new direction to governance should not end at deliberations and soul-searching at the conference. It should bring about a decisive action. He said it is good to speak about high ideals but it is best if we live by these ideals. He said that politics per se is not bad but politicians have defamed it.

Hon. Krishna Kumar Rai, Ex Health Minister, Nepal said that it was essential to educate both the political leaders as well as the masses to have better governance. He said that self-rule was the best policy, because least governance is the best governance. Hence, he said that value education could help people to build

represent. Better governance, according to him, meant security for all, stable polity, stable economy, social justice, education for all and social reformation. To work for this, he said that a leader should have dedication, devotion, diligence and discipline.

B.K. Brij Mohan, Chairperson, Politicians' Service Wing stressed that it was not enough to speak of inspirational leadership but it was essential to practise it. Truth and love, he said, were two values that were essential for inspirational leadership.

On Page 5

PRACTICE

Practice makes you perfect so be careful what you practice !



Golden shackles are worse than Iron ones



Mt. Abu : Rajyogini Dadi Prakashmani, Chief of Brahma Kumaris addressing a group of senior Politicians during All India Conference on Better Governance.



All India Conference of Politicians on Better Governance



From Page 4

God inspires all and these two values are often attributed to Him as Truth is God and Love is God. Inspiration can come from one who is above hatred, discrimination, jealousy and prejudice. He said that God loves all therefore He inspires all, so, we cannot say that it is all right to love all but hate one or two persons.

True love has to be free from selfish desires. Truth, he said, is that which is eternal—the eternal self, its eternal values and its eternal relationship with God. Where there is truth and love,



Hon. Arun Gujarati

there is also true service. To serve means to give without any desire to take. One fundamental truth is that everything in the world exists for service of others. The other truth is that we cannot own anything in this world but only use it as a trustee. What we give is what we get. If we use everything in the world as a trustee then there will be no cause for sorrow, he explained.

instead of self-transformation, there is frequent change of leadership. He said that in order to become an effective leader one has to introspect and act on the basis of the laws of karma. The only investment that



Hon. Bala Bachchan

remains eternally is what we have invested through our actions. Hence, he stressed that leaders should use their positions to do good for others. Self-transformation begins with the true understanding of the self and its original values and relationship with God. He urged political leaders to rise above narrow differences and work for social harmony and holistic progress.

Hon. Peddi Reddi, Minister for Tourism Development, Andhra Pradesh called upon politicians to explore the spiritual dimension for finding solutions to current problems. He said that effective leadership is greatly dependent on the inner



Hon. E. Peddi Reddi

responsibility, co-operation and accountability. The key to developing inner powers is self-introspection and self-realisation, she added.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The highlight of the Valedictory Session was the passing of Resolution unanimously by all participants. The salient points included in the resolution were :

- The goal of better governance means providing basic necessities of life to all citizens, protecting their human rights and fulfilling their expectations.
- It is the responsibility of political parties to nominate good candidates in elections. They should maintain transparency in all dealings regarding funding of election campaigns.
- The need to make all four pillars of governance more accountable

population control, electoral reforms, Constitutional amendment, women empowerment etc.

Apart from the open sessions there were discussions in various parallel streams. The senior politicians got together in two groups to discuss the main values proposed in the Position Paper on Values for Better Governance. Hon. P. Upendra, Former Union Minister, I & B and also the main author of the position paper steered the discussions in the first group and Hon. T.N. Chaturvedi, MP who co-authored the paper expressed his views on it in the second group.



Hon. P. Upendra

Mr. Upendra listed six main values underlying the paper. He said that the first value, which he considered essential for good governance, was accountability. Along with that decentralisation of authority is also essential. The other value is

Hon. Bala Bachchan, Minister of Sports, Youth and Welfare, MP said that there have been many leaders in the country who have been inspirational and there are still some who continue to inspire the younger generation. He said that it is a big challenge for today's politicians to restore the faith of the public and to inspire them to follow higher values for building a better society. He believed that stability of governments was essential to provide good governance and once a leader is elected to a position the best way to inspire others is to fulfil his responsibilities with sincerity.

PLENARY SESSION-III

Self Transformation for Effective Leadership

In his keynote address, B K Ramesh Shah, Managing Trustee, World Renewal Spiritual Trust said that today's political scenario was such that

personality, the attitudes and the motives of a leader. He said that a virtuous person always rules the hearts of the people. Effectiveness and efficiency are qualities that emerge from the inner self. He stressed that more than anyone else, politicians need to adopt a value-based life in order to render effective leadership. He also mentioned that the AP Govt had already begun value based training of politicians in collaboration with Brahma Kumaris.

Hon. Mrs. Guramma S. Siddareddi, Chairperson, Task Force for Women Empowerment, Karnataka said that those who aspire to lead others must have a humane attitude towards all, a sound moral character and dedication to serve others. She stressed that leaders can be effective only when they rise above all divisive barriers of caste, culture, religion etc. Spirituality develops the values of courage,

to the people—the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and the media.

- A code of conduct for elected representatives for running the government efficiently. Upholding the values of probity, honesty, political will, freedom, social justice, secularism and unity in governance.
- Political leaders should work unanimously towards addressing the problems of poverty eradication,



Hon. Mrs. Guramma

transparency. Every citizen has a right to know what is happening in the government. Probity in public life is the next value.

Protection of freedoms, human rights and social justice is also an essential



Hon. T.N. Chaturvedi

element of good governance. Responsibility of political parties and public awareness during elections is the fifth value. Parties have to take responsibility for fielding good candidates and ensuring good behaviour. Constituting voters' council consisting of intellectuals and morally upright people to ensure clean elections is essential. Role of spirituality for upholding moral values is the sixth value that would ensure good governance.

Speaking on the theme 'Spirituality and Politics', Hon. MVVS Murthy, MP, Vishakhapatnam, said that leaders should first introspect what they are doing is beneficial for the society or not. He said that a true leader is one who does not think about himself but constantly works for others. Spirituality should bring in a very high degree of moral values in the people. Spirituality when

On Page 7



Mt. Abu : Hon. Bandaru Dattatreya, Union Minister of State for Urban Development meeting with Dadi Prakashmani, Chief of Brahma Kumaris



Mt. Abu : Hon. Rani Satish, Karnataka Minister of State and Ch. Bhajanlal former Haryana Chief Minister meeting with Rajyogini Dadi Prakashmani, Chief of Brahma Kumaris.

Conference on Better Governance

From Page 5

applied in politics means working for social uplift, removing the inequalities, and empowering the poor and the underprivileged. Sharing with others is the most important value for making this country a golden Bharat.

SHARING OF EXPERIENCES

On the last day of the conference, there was sharing of experiences by a few delegates. Hon. Manvendra Singh, Minister of PWD, Madhya Pradesh : I feel that one of the things I have realised here is that nobody is indispensable. Everything gets done even if I am not there. Another thing I feel is that we cannot win the heart of any person if we take away his initiative. We cannot get respect by insulting someone or by showing them to be inferior. I also felt the need to keep one's mind pure. We should lead a balanced life in which we remain calm and peaceful in both high and low times.

Hon. Indrajit Singh Namdhari, Speaker, Jharkhand Assembly: I have arrived on the last day. Those who have been here for the last three days must have experienced a lot but I have been here for a few hours and I have already experienced a few things. I wish to congratulate the organisation for bringing together all politicians on a spiritual platform. If politicians are enlightened, a whole

Navi Mumbai : I am from a religious family but I am very impressed by what I have observed here. Everyone works here peacefully, nobody tells anyone to do anything. If we can practice even half of this experience at our workplace, our coming here would be worth.

Mrs. Indu Prasha, Municipal Councillor, Ludhiana : I feel extremely fortunate for having got the chance to come here and experience the fragrance of spirituality here. I have never seen such a peaceful and blissful place before. I am taking with me such an income that will enrich me for the rest of my life.



Hon. Inderjit Singh, Namdhari

EDUCATIONISTS' CONFERENCE

From page 6

He decried the loss of moral and human values by the sweeping winds of modernisation. He believed that values cannot be taught; values have to be emulated. Value education, he said, cannot be taught as a curriculum, it would then become another subject. Value education has to be a movement which inspires students to inculcate

Dialogue-cum-Retreat Exploring the Spiritual Dimension

Chennai : An inspiring Dialogue-cum-Retreat on Exploring the Spiritual Dimension was held for officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) at Happy Village, Brahma Kumaris Retreat Centre at the outskirts of Chennai. Fourteen officers participated.

one's personal, family, professional and social life.

The two-day programme covered topics like managing the self to take full control of destiny; stress management, journey to inner space, harmony in relationships connection with



Chennai : A group photo after Dialogue cum Retreat for I.A.S. Officers conducted by B.K. Asha from New Delhi at Happy Village, Retreat Centre. Sitting (L to R) Mrs. & Mr. Adimoolan, I.A.S, B.K. Neelima, B.K. Asha. Mrs & Mr. Shanmuga Sigamani Retd. I.A.S. Standing (L to R) Mr. Pradeep Yadav, I.A.S; Mr. Subburaj, I.A.S; Mr. Rajaram I.A.S; Mr. Shivakumar I.A.S; B.K. Beena & Mr. Sambandham.

Mr. R. Shanmuga Sigamani, Special Secretary to Chief Minister and Government of Tamil Nadu (retd.) spoke about the vast reservoir within and said there should be a will to open and use

Supreme Consciousness and Karma philosophy.

Meditation sessions conducted by B.K. Beena were found very beneficial through which they learnt the technique of

...and are bringing... society is enlightened. More good people need to join politics so that they could provide good governance. Politicians have to face the maximum challenges and here we can learn how to face them. Hon. Haribhau Mahale, MP, Maharashtra : Unless you have an intense desire to learn or explore knowledge or truth, you cannot walk on the path of spirituality. We should have that dedication and love for God. I think this organisation is the place where one can find the path to attain liberation or salvation. I feel that this organisation will bring together people from all religions.

Mr. Balchandra Nalavade, Vice President, Nationalist Congress Party,



Hon. Manvendra Singh



Hon. R. Subba, Minister of Law and Education, Sikkim.

values, he stressed. He hoped that the conference would light many more lamps in the country and restore to us the lost pride of being human beings with moral and human values.

Dr. S.N. Hegde, Vice Chancellor of the University of Mysore said that good education is the means to transform man into a human. Education means imparting values and ethics along with training and skills. He said that more than anything else education should foster a sense of universal brotherhood. Education in values, he stressed is something that is not just to be taught but also practised. It has to become a culture. He also listed the efforts by his University to introduce values in the university curriculum.

B K Brij Mohan, Editor, 'Purity', New Delhi spoke about the perversion of values in our world. Even education has lost its value. There are so many ills inherent in the educational system, which has brought its value down. It has become a commercial commodity that can be bought and sold. He said that in order to improve the education system, it was essential to provide value-education to the entire society. *



Former Health Minister of Nepal, Hon. Krishna Kumar Rai

that reservoir to face the challenges thrown by the modern society.

B.K. Asha, National co-ordinator of Administrators' Wing, from New Delhi, urged the participants to begin and continue the exploration of the inner being, the source of spiritual powers. Spirituality must be translated into

visualisation. The silent and tranquil atmosphere that prevailed in the Happy Village Campus gave them enough time for inner reflection and contemplation.

At the end of the retreat, a participant said "I have no words in my vocabulary to describe this most inspiring and soul stirring experience." *



Another aim of bombardment was to attract buyers for our arms industry.

Where is justice if we fail to punish the guilty? 7