

Work harder, for common benefit: Prez

At Conclave On Spirituality At Work, Pranab Talks Of Compassion & Self-Introspection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

President Pranab Mukherjee delivered the opening address in New Delhi at a conclave titled "Sach Bharat: Spirituality@Work", co-hosted by the Times Foundation, Assocham and Srei Foundation.

"This conclave on 'world confluence of humanity, power and spirituality' is being conducted since 2010 to ignite the human spirit, and harness human potential to selfless service. Spirituality (not to be confused with religion) has a strong connect with our daily lives. What it means is to be devoted to work harder for growth of the nation and for common benefit. Human life is full of contradictions; on the other hand, we are looking for happiness. There is so much pressure to prove ourselves but we are also driven by the desire to look for peace and get inner satisfaction," said the President, after lighting the ceremonial lamp along with Assocham president Sunil Kanoria and Srei Foundation chairman H P Kanoria. Earlier, there was a rendition of Vedic chants by Manisha Kanoria Lohia.



President Mukherjee receives a gift of books from Srei Foundation chairperson H P Kanoria at the Sach Bharat: Spirituality@Work conclave in New Delhi on Friday. Assocham president Sunil Kanoria (right) is also seen

ramhansa, Swami Vivekananda and others. India is also a country that fought for freedom with nonviolence," the President reminded the audience that included spiritual masters like Swami Chidanand Saraswati of Parmarath Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, Lokesh Muni, Sarpal Singh, members of the Ananda Sangha led by Navswami Devarshi, and others; and members of the diplomatic community.

President Mukherjee continued: "I believe that, in India, we have always embraced diversity and inclusiveness, being open. Our philosophy and thought have always aimed to create a high level of being. Spirituality gives us the power to attain our goals; to surmount challenges. This conclave, 'Sach Bharat', should re-ignite our minds with its theme that is imperative for our country today: Satyameva Jayate — Truth will prevail. Stand for truth and victory will be ours. Truth was there at the very beginning and truth will remain at the very end — you cannot get rid of truth under any circumstance."

"All progress depends on productive, sustainable use of resources. We need to instil in people the culture of hard work and dedication through spirituality. Hence Krishna says in the Bhagwad Gita, 'Always perform your duties efficiently without attachment to results.' Today's world is becoming more insular; spirituality can show us how to treat others with compassion," said the President, and once again quoted from the Gita: "Do all work guided by compassion." He said that if we followed this kind of work culture in our offices and factories, "we will be happy and we will take this forward to the wider community and there will be great transformation."

President Mukherjee concluded his address by asking the following questions: How ethical and fair are our actions? Is our behaviour consistent? Are our organisations trusted for their integrity? He pointed out that organisations have to ensure

that the spirit of inclusiveness is present for self-actualisation, by instilling the spiritual work ethic among members. He said, "Youth is our greatest strength; we need to instil civilisational values in them."

The President also thanked Times Group Chairman Indu Jain, whose address will be delivered on Saturday at the same venue, ITC Maurya Sheraton, followed by a daylong programme with spiritual masters, politicians and scholars sharing their views on the theme of spirituality at the workplace.

Earlier, Assocham president Sunil Kanoria said that the few companies that had survived for more than 100 years could do so because of their commitment to social development. "Their focus is not just on material benefit; they pay attention also to spiritual and social development to give back to society," he said. According to him, spiritually-evolved persons are better able to take informed decisions; they do not look at rewards but focus on the work at hand. "Once we embrace spirituality at the workplace, we will relieve the government of having to take steps to root out corruption," he added.

Srei Foundation chairman H P Kanoria said that the spirit of service ought to be foremost in our minds and he appealed to all to work for inclusive and sustainable growth, free of ego.



President Pranab Mukherjee receives a memento from HP Kanoria during the World Confluence of Humanity, Power Spirituality programme in the Capital on Friday. Sunil Kanoria (R), president of ASSOCHAM is also seen. »Sns

Prez: India needs to strive for better eco prosperity

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to strive for greater economic prosperity to eradicate backwardness and poverty, President Pranab Mukherjee on Friday said, asserting that development of industry is central to this progress. He also said that companies must examine how ethical their actions are and how fair are their practices.

"Development of industry is central to economic progress. The success of our industrial sector depends on the efficient use of our resources including labour as much as the productive use of



capital," Mukherjee said at the World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality organised by industry body Assocham.

He said it is necessary to infuse the culture of hard work, sincerity and dedication in the workforce and this is where spirituality has a role to play. A happy and satisfied workforce is the key to a healthy industrial

eco-system, he added.

"At the organisational level, companies have to look at how they are upholding their values. How congruous are their actions with regard to what they espouse as their values? How ethical are their actions and how fair are their practices? What behaviours in their employees are they rewarding?" the President said.

Organisations have to ensure that their culture, the way they do things, promotes a spirit of inclusion and collaboration, he said, adding that working towards self-actualisation has to be a way of life for the employees.

आध्यात्मिकता का दैनिक जीवन से गहरा संबंध : राष्ट्रपति

■वस, नई दिल्ली : राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी ने एसोचैम, श्रेय फाउंडेशन और टाइम्स फाउंडेशन की ओर से आयोजित नौवें विश्व मानवता, शक्ति और आध्यात्मिकता के विश्व समागम का उद्घाटन किया। इसमें सच भारत ब्रैंड के माध्यम से स्पिरिचुएलिटी @ वर्क की नई संस्कृति पेश की गई। कार्यक्रम का मकसद जानेमाने उद्योगपतियों, कारोबारी लीडर्स, जानमाने राजनीतिज्ञ को अपने वर्क प्लेस और जीवन में आध्यात्मिकता



को आत्मसात करने के लिए प्रेरित करना है।

राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी ने कहा कि इस समागम का सब्जेक्ट सच भारत स्पिरिचुएलिटी @ वर्क बहुत ही प्रासंगिक है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस

समय धर्म के कारण भ्रम पैदा होता है, लेकिन आध्यात्मिकता का इससे अधिक गूढ़ अर्थ है, जिसका हमारे दैनिक जीवन और काम के स्थान से गहरा संबंध है। आध्यात्मिक होना काम के प्रति समर्पण के साथ समर्पित होना भी है। उन्होंने आशा जताई कि मंच इस तरह के संदेश को फैलाने में मदद करेगा। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि आज जब हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा एकाकी होते जा रहे हैं, ऐसे में यह जरूरी हो गया है कि हम अपने विचारों और कार्यों को दिशा

देने में आध्यात्मिकता का इस्तेमाल करें। सभी धर्म मनुष्य में सुधार के लिए मूल्यों का उपदेश देते हैं। आध्यात्मिकता का अर्थ अपने में दया, करुणा और निस्वार्थता को प्रत्यारोपित करना है। इस आयोजन के लिए राष्ट्रपति ने टाइम्स ग्रुप और टाइम्स फाउंडेशन की चेयरमैन इंदु जैन का धन्यवाद प्रकट किया। इस मौके पर एसोचैम के अध्यक्ष सुनील कनोरिया और श्रेय फाउंडेशन के चेयरमैन डॉ. हरि प्रसाद कनोरिया भी मौजूद रहे।

