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4th Annual Conference of RSVP to take off at Tumkur University today

Think tank to mull over indigenization

Tumkur: Tumkur University is all set to host the 4th Annual Conference of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad (RSVP), under the theme 'Indigenisation of Social Sciences in India'. The three-day mega event will be inaugurated by Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayana, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, who is also the Minister of Higher Education, at 10-30am today.

The conference, which is intended "to strengthen the indigenization base of social sciences in India and to promote native scholarship to galvanize the nation building process", will witness the participation of about 350 scholars and academicians from across the country, while more than 100 research papers will be presented.

Eminent scholar Prof. A D

N Bajpai, the President of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad, will preside over the inaugural ceremony. Sri J C Madhuswamy, Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs, and Tumkur District In-charge Minister, Prof. Y S Siddegowda, Vice Chancellor, Tumkur University, Prof. P V Krishna Bhatt, Chancellor, Central University of Orissa, who is also the chief patron of the conference, Sri J Nandakumar, National Convener, Prajna Pravah, New Delhi, Prof. Veerendra Kumar Malhotra, Member Secretary, Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), will be the chief guests.

Dr Sheela Rai, General Secretary, RSVP, Prof. K N Ganganaik, Registrar, Tumkur University, Dr Ramesh Salian, Assistant Professor, Tumkur University is the Or-

ganising Secretary of the Conference will be present.

Advocate Kasyap P Nayak, Economist and National Co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch Dr. B M Kumaraswamy, Former Rajya Sabha Member Dr Maheshchandra S Sharma, Professor of Finance at IIM Dr R Vaidyanatham, renowned columnist Dr S Gurumurthy will be the key speakers at the conference.

Speaking to 'Kalpataru Times' on the eve of the Conference, Prof. P. V. Krishna Bhatt, the Chancellor of Central University of Orissa, said the event was one among the several steps of the RSVP towards boosting native and original perspective in social sciences, which have been continuously affected by Western ideologies.



Ashwath Narayan



J.C. Madhuswamy



P.V. Krishna Bhat



Y.S. Siddegowda



J. Nandakumar



Prof. Malhotra



A.D.N. Bajpai

Prof. A. D. N. Bajpai, the President of the RSVP, observed that the conference was interested to find solutions to the challenge of transforming Indian social sciences which were heavily haunched by alien perspectives based on indigenous knowledge.

Dr Ramesh Salian, the Organising Secretary, wished that the three-day conference would result in resolutions of national significance. The historical conference will also add to the reputation of the University, emphasized.

Galaxy of thinkers at RSVP Conference

Tumakuru: A galaxy of thinkers and scholars from across the country will participate in the 4th Annual Conference of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad to be held in collaboration with Tumkur University from Dec. 13 to 15, 2019.

Advocate Kasyap P Nayak, Economist and National Co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch Dr. B M Kumaraswamy, Former Rajya Sabha Member Dr Maheshchandra S Sharma, Professor of Finance at IIM Dr R Vaidyanatham, renowned columnist Dr S Gurumurthy are the prominent speakers, who will share their thoughts during the plenary sessions and panel discussions.



Dr. Vaidyanathan

Dr R Vaidyanathan, Professor in the Finance & Control area at IIM Bangalore,

has been named in the 50 most influential management thinkers of India. He is known for his work in finance, especially in banking, insurance and capital markets, and is a National Fellow of ICSSR.

Swaminathan Gurumurthy is a Chartered Accountant by profession and a renowned columnist and political-economic analyst by passion. He serves as a part-time director of RBI and the co-convenor of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. He is known for his columns in various newspapers including the New Indian Express.

Dr Maheshchandra S Sharma was a Member of Parliament and has edited a series of volumes on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

Prof B M Kumaraswamy, National Co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, is known as a columnist, economic analyst and an environmentalist. He has written extensively on indigenous principles of development, and protection of western ghats.



Dr. Maheshchandra Sharma



B.M. Kumaraswamy



Dr. S. Gurumurthy

Cultural ethos will contribute to national development: Prof. YSS

Tumkur: We are in an era where cultural ethos plays an important role in the personality development of individuals, which in turn will contribute to national development, observed Prof. Y. S. Siddegowda.

Speaking to 'Kalpataru Times' on the eve of the 4th Annual Conference of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad, he said it had already been established that the success of the 21st century was dependent on the prosperity of social sciences and humanities.

Handling the behavior and attitudes of individuals is as important as progress in science and technology. I wish the present conference would certainly throw light on this aspect, along with pondering over strengthening native knowledge in social sciences, he noted.

Emphasizing Tumkur University's commitment towards assuring quality education in social sciences and commerce, apart from science & technology, Prof. Siddegowda said Tumkur University always kept in mind the limitations and talent of its students, majority of whom were from rural areas.

"Tumkur University has taken several steps to bridge the gap between student life and career, and several measures to make teaching and learning pedagogy more effective," he stressed.

Emphasis is laid on research, publication and extension activities. Though young compared to other universities, Tumkur University has carved a niche in the arena of higher education, and has drawn the attention of the whole state, he added.

According to him, University is not something to be seated on an ivory tower and dictate terms, but an institution that has an opportunity to collaborate with the civic society. Community and all stakeholders should be involved in the process of developing and delivering its content, he noted.

Tumkur University believes in team work,



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-Prof. Y.S. Siddegowda

Vice Chancellor
Tumkur University

giving importance to great collaboration between teachers and students. Each plan is implemented only after taking into confidence all its stakeholders. It is a unique feature of Tumkur University that every student, teacher and non-teaching staff knows that innovation and excellence are the hallmarks of progress – that's how the Vice Chancellor summarizes the University in a nutshell.

Sibanthi Padmanabha K.V./ Pruthviraja T. Umesha, Kavya N.

Stop blind imitation of the West: Prof Bajpai

“We should stop blind imitation of the western policies in the name of modernization. The western ideas can only provide an alien view about the Indian social practices” – This is the firm belief of Prof. A. D. N. Bajpai, the President of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad.

Dr Arun Diwaker Nath Bajpai, a renowned professor of Economics in Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, has the rich experience of being the Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University, Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa, and Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidhyalaya and various other significant positions at the national level.

A “spiritually charged man”, Prof Bajpai is in Tumkur University, to preside over the 3-day Conference on ‘Indigenisation of Social Sciences in India’ to be held from December 13 to 15, 2019. *Kalpataru Times* interacted with him on the eve of the conference, and the excerpts are here:

Can you kindly focus on the objectives of the present conference?

This conference includes three days of detailed discussion on academic scenario of social sciences in India. The schedule includes extensive panel discussions and interactions. We wish to throw some light on providing an Indian perspective to look at the social sciences, liberating it from the clutches of colonial ideology, and rejuvenating and transforming it as per to the need of the hour.

Will you please throw light on the mission of RSVP?

RSVP, founded in 2008, is a group of like-minded social scientists based in Mumbai. We at RSVP have observed that social sciences in India are often dictated by the colonial mindsets. India that has undergone colonial rule for a long period tend to reflect colonial preaching in its academic disciplines even today. This sector needs an updating, which is the fundamental objective of the RSVP. The Parishad has organized three mind-boggling sessions in Kanpur, Bhopal and Patna. The 4th one is being held at Tumkur University and we are very curious and hopeful about its outcomes.

Can you elaborate on how indigenization will help national rebuilding?

The systematic study of any academic discourse is aimed at shaping the social behavior of a generation. Here in this case,



Indian ancient academicians always taught humanities, philosophy and social sciences as a single entity.

-Prof. A. D. N. Bajpai,
President,
Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad

as the western ideology dominates our education system, it tends to influence our thinking which in turn shapes our behavior patterns. It is alarming to see how these colonizers are still ruling their colonies through systematic conditioning. We should at least from now onwards introspect upon what is to be taught in Indian schools. The major motive of RSVP is to match the texts of the social sciences with the Indian ethos, value system and lifestyles.

Can you elaborate further on indigenous knowledge?

India is enriched with indigenous pool of knowledge consisting of established social science scripts like Vedas, Upanishads, Manusmriti, Narada Sutra, Chanakya Sutra - and a great legacy of indigenous social scientists ranging from Shankaracharya, Swami Vivekananda, Kabir Das and Tulasi Das. Indian social scientists believed in Samatavada- as the “sarvejanaha sukhinobhavantu” verse proclaims. Indian social sciences rejoiced in the cooperative and cohesive society. Indian ancient academicians always taught humanities, philosophy and social sciences as a single entity.

Ananya M. / Sibanthi Padmanabha K.V.
Shivakumara, Bosamma O.

Flaws should be corrected at least now: Prof. PVK

Prof. P. V. Krishna Bhat, the Chancellor of Central University of Orissa, is a known personality in the academic circles of the country. A scholar of high caliber, Prof. Bhat was the Member of Legislative Council in Karnataka.

Currently a member of Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), Prof Bhat is also one of the chief patrons of RSVP Conference.

In conversation with *Kalpataru Times*, Prof. Bhat, pointed out the flaws in the academic structure of the Indian social sciences. He regretted upon the trivialization of Indian indigenous social norms over westernization. Excerpts are here:

What is the basic argument behind the conference?

Our Indian social system was always ahead of its times. Today's elected representatives are bound by the constitutional norms. However, the idea of democracy was at its top credentials even during the days of monarchs. They were governed by the norms of Dharma, designed by the seers and scholars. It was known as ‘rajadharma’. We should look at our social sciences with this perspective.

What is the fundamental difference between the Indian ethos and western thoughts?

All those who recorded our history were foreigners, and hence they had an alien approach towards the Indian social scenario.

They tend to coin the western terms to describe the native practices, for instance ‘family’ may be a common institution both to the westerners and Indians but the values and emotions attached to it differ. They were tempted to generalize their observations ignoring the indigenous diversities.

Can you further elaborate on this?

The misinterpretations of Indian social beliefs and norms by these social scientists have done a great damage to Indian history in the world arena.

For instance, new findings say, there was no such development like Aryan invasion. Aryans are the original inhabitants of India. Calling them the migrants caused the divide among Dravidians and the Aryans. There are many such distortions and misinterpretations all through the course of the history, which needs to



We need to boycott the alien approach to our social and education systems and adopt indigenous perspective to look at our society.

-Prof. P. V. Krishna Bhat,
Chancellor
Central University of Orissa

be corrected at least by now.

What is the main idea behind the Indian perspective of social sciences?

Science always aims at conquering the nature but social science wishes to live with the nature.

These social scientists in their verge to translate Indian ideology restricted Dharma only to be a religion. But Dharma sprouted from a land which needed no ruler; its norms and principles were so strong that there was no one to punish and no one to be punished. Indian social sciences were so framed that it catalyzed material progress at the same time proposed stability.

What can be done this regard?

We need to boycott the alien approach to our social and education systems and adopt indigenous perspective to look at our society.

We through this conference yearn to bring it to the kind notice of the policy makers that adopting the indigenous social practices is the need of the hour, we know it may take some time, but the change is bound to happen.

Ananya M. / Pruthviraja T.
Umesha

‘Smart Campus’ at a Glance....



Tumkur University campus blends unique features of heritage and the modern amenities. A stroll across the campus will take you to antique pieces as well as facilities provided by the Smart City Project. Photos by Kavya N. and Bosamma O.

