

The Statesman, 10th November 2006, Orissa Plus

Sermons on pros and cons of globalisation

Statesman News Service

BHUBANESWAR, Nov. 9: The rapid strides taken by Orissa in attracting huge investments to the rather less talked about issues of human security under globalisation model of development, fears of the widening gap between haves and have nots to the third option (other than tax and borrowing model) figured in a highly stimulating international workshop here today.

Organised by the Asian Dialogue Society, an international think tank, the workshop had attracted a vast pool of experts and professors to dwell on a wide range of issues relating to globalisation and development. David Pidcock, the director of Gulf Associates, UK, Mr Eusung Kim from Yonsei University, South Korea, Prof Li-Wei of Beijing University, Prof Amitav Acharya of IDSS-NTU and several others, including state government officers I Srinivas, Vishal Dev, had the gathering in rapt attention. The workshop was inaugurated by minister Mr DP Mishra, who highlighted the state government's achievements in terms of attracting investment. Mr M Rajaretnam and Mr Joydeep Nayak of the ADS delivered introductory speeches.

Mr I Srinivas, secretary to Industries, gave a presentation on the progress made by the state and the growth projections, while Mr Vishal Dev, IAS, spoke in developments in the IT sector. It is a laudable fact that not a single man-day has been lost in a decade in the IT sector in Orissa and that it is the only state in the eastern and central parts of the country to have all four big players ~ Infosys, Wipro, Satyam and TCS, he said.

Mr Dev said policies for PPP, SEZ and Bio-technology development were on the anvil in the state, while Mr Eusung Kim explained the process of development that had taken place in South Korea and Prof Li-Wei showcased the Chinese model that had made the world sit up in awe.

Mr David Pidcock laced his presentation with wit and humour by cautioning people to beware of the "gora bania". He had the audience in splits when he implicitly referred to the acquisitions and takeovers by saying it must be Tipu's revenge referring to the historic alliance between the sultan and Napoleon. My ancestors had set up a re rolling mill in Bengal and now Tata's have acquired Corus, he quipped.

History has it all, he observed, while severely criticising the perpetuation of the debt and taxation system or the development with borrowed money. Taking a dig at the IMF and World Bank, he said the IMF is, in some countries called the Infant Mortality Fund or I am fired. The system of developing with borrowed money or borrowing to repay loans is like putting the Kabab at one end of a machine and trying to get a cow at the other end, he remarked. The third option of freeing oneself of debt and writing off debt to generate money for development is never taught or discussed.

New Indian Express, Bhubaneshwar, 10th November 2006

Orissa, miniature Incredible India'

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BHUBANESWAR: Globalisation, being a dominant force in the 21st century, is providing new opportunities to countries around the world through economic liberalisation, foreign investment and capital flow, technological advances and information exchange. The forces of globalisation are transforming societies and shaping the destiny of nations and people.

As Orissa too is on development fast-track, it was essential to adopt the best practices of globalisation so that the State could move on the path of inclusive growth in a manner that not only promotes trade and investment but also protects the interests of the poor and vulnerable groups.

Against this backdrop, Asian Dialogue Society (ADS), a premier pan-Asian Think Tank, organised its first international conference here on Thursday on 'Globalisation and development in Orissa'.

Participating in the conference, Tourism Minister Debi Mishra said Globalisation had to be sustainable, eco-friendly and serve the interests of all sections. It should be all-inclusive and individual expertise cannot be marginalised in pursuit of globalisation.

Describing Orissa as a miniature of Incredible India, he said, global enterprises were flocking the State to set their base here. International hotel group Best Western is working on setting up its hotel chain here as well as a college for the tourism and service sectors at Rs 1000-crore investment. The Anand Spa group has evinced interest in developing a special tourism district between Puri and Chilika.

Industry Secretary I Srinivas said Orissa had caught the eyes of the world and it's reflected in the huge spurt of investment. In the last three years, more than Rs 20,000 crore had been invested and thus the process is irreversible.

The main challenge, however, remained to see that all the enterprises were successful in bringing in all-round development and prosperity. Experts in diverse fields from countries like China, South Korea, the UK, Singapore, Japan and the UAE participated.