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रामभाऊ म्हाळगी प्रबोधिनी
Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini



ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY CONCLAVE

Regional Conference of Young Entrepreneurs



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Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) is a Mumbai based organisation, established in 1982 as a unique Training and Research Academy (www.rmponweb.org). RMP is a premier institute that provides training and orientation to socio-political activists as well as it is a centre for overall public-awakening activities and research projects. It was initiated a memorial of Late Rambhau Mhalgi.

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Preface

Democracy Conclave held on Sunday, January 14th 2018 at the Knowledge Excellence Centre of RMP located at Uttan, Bhayandar, Maharashtra.

RMP is South Asia's only training and research academy dedicated to the cause of strengthening democracy through training and capacity building of elected representatives, as well as social workers belonging to voluntary organisations and persons running institutions. Since 1982. RMP also regularly organizes conferences and seminars on issues of national importance as a part of its mission of Public Awakening. United Nations has acknowledged RMP's unique profile and its contributions by recognizing RMP as an NGO in special consultative status.

The significance and necessity of achieving economic democracy in addition to the political democracy has been vehemently emphasised by many of our great national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. Promoting a culture of Entrepreneurship and Self-employment amongst the marginalized sections as well as providing essential ecosystem for Start-Ups including a vital mentoring support could play a significant role in achieving the goal of economic democracy. However, this could not be realized by the efforts of governments alone. While governments of the day could help create the required eco-system, corporates, business associations as well as other civil society groups must come forward to provide the multi-faceted mentorship mechanism. Such successful entrepreneurs could later act as leading lights and themselves come forward to provide mentorship leading to a positive snowball effect.

On this setting, RMP, decided to organize 'Economic Democracy Conclave' involving Entrepreneurs as well as Self Employed individuals and create a platform for them to share their agonies and aspirations, and later providing them Motivation, Networking and Mentoring opportunities. Around 300 youngsters from the districts

of Thane, Palghar, Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban Districts participated in this one-day regional conference of entrepreneurs majorly from the marginalised sections of the society.

The issue got significant attention and recognition from various quarters including academia and media after Hon President of India graced the conclave and delivered the Inaugural address. Presence of The First Lady Smt Savita Kovind, Maharashtra Governor Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao, Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu, Minister of State for Finance, Gol Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chairman DICCI Shri Milind Kamble further accentuated the importance of the subject.

The young entrepreneurs out of whom many were first generation entrepreneurs found the sessions very useful. Mhalgi Prabodhini has always taken earnest efforts to link itself with national issues. We organized this seminar with a view to enable churning of ideas on the very important issue of Economic Democracy.

We are presenting this report in an attempt to share the proceedings of the seminar. We hope the researchers as well as practitioners of this subject find this report useful.



Vinay Sahasrabuddhe



Ravindra Sathe

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD) for partnering with RMP in organizing this Seminar. Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala Chairman, NABARD as well as Shri H.R.Dave Deputy Managing Director, NABARD were very helpful in extending support to organize this seminar. We are also thankful to Avaada for supporting the seminar.

This seminar was an occasion of extreme pride and happiness for all of us at Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini since Hon President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind graced this programme as the Chief Guest, to whom we are deeply indebted for his time and valuable guidance. We want to thank Shri Bharat Lal, Joint Secretary, President of India, Shri Chhote Lal from the President of India's office and Shri Ankur Naik who helped us in making Hon President's visit at RMP possible and also help us make the necessary arrangements. We also want to extend heartfelt thanks to Smt Savita Kovind, The First Lady, Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister of State for Finance, Gol and Shri Milind Kamble, Chairman DICCI who graced the Inaugural Session with their esteemed presence. We are also thankful to Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh who graced the seminar as the Chief Guest of Valedictory Session.

Our gratitude is also due to about 13 eminent speakers including Smt Sampatiya Uikey, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Manish Kumar, CEO, NSDC, Shri. A K Kapur, Deputy Managing Director, SIDBI, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman, KVIC and Shri Syed Zafar Islam, Experts, Economic Affairs and around 350 delegates many of whom were Mudra Loanees from Maharashtra and enriched the quality of deliberation through their active presence. We would like

to specially acknowledge the contribution of Shri Nitin Agarwal, Shri Dhruv Dube and Shri Alok Rai who played a crucial role in organizing this programme at a short planning notice and who also ensured its success by displaying commitment, hard work and ample management skills.

Last but not the least we would like to thank Shri Vikas Bhardwaj for documenting the contents of this report, Shri Prashant Barthwal, Ms Hansa Sinha and Shri Tushar Suratkar for helping us with editing, proofreading and designing of this report. Of course this programme would not have been possible without the Continued Guidance and Inspiration of Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Shri Ravindra Sathe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Pokharna', written over a horizontal line.

Ravi Pokharna
Executive Head (Projects)

INTRODUCTION

Political democracy without economic democracy is meaningless. The main goal of economic democracy is to align market forces with the core aspiration of democracy -- which Mahatma Gandhi aptly expressed through the term 'Sarvodaya' – literally meaning, the well-being of all. The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is consistently working on the objective of bringing the economic democracy in India with a primary focus on GDP growth that is 'inclusive'. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while addressing the 'Advancing Asia' conference in New Delhi on March 11, 2016 said, "India has dispelled the myth that democracy and rapid economic growth cannot go together. India's growth rate of over seven percent is being achieved in a country that is also a vibrant democracy."

Modi government had the challenge of bringing the missing element of economic democracy into the largest democracy of the world. Inside a polling booth one-person- one vote policy ensures equality. However, out in the market place there is no such thing as 'equality'. In the early stages of Indian democracy, a command and control economy was acceptable to the population that was still learning self-governance. Direct control, such as through public-sector enterprises, public ownership of banks, price controls, and industrial and import licensing were the main means which could enrich any interest group. However, that resource-allocation became increasingly inefficient and growth fell, in line with the diminishing benefits of control and the opportunities available to the political class to gain rents.

This Government's understanding of the dissatisfaction with the model, along with a changing world environment, resulted in a change to a market-based economy. It placed an unwavering

emphasis on growth with equality. It's core principle is to prevent any concentration of wealth that inhibits economic freedom of society as a whole.

The share of power and the benefits of growth gained by different interest groups in India vary depending on the party in power. However, there appears to be an implicit understanding that no party can satisfy its supporters without economic growth, as only growth gives politicians the capacity to serve the interest groups that they represent. Thus, Modi Government has enabled democratic societies to foster a market system that is both dynamic and compatible with democracy's promise of empowerment-of-all, with the aim of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and 'Sabka Samman, Sabka Utthan'.

CONCEPT NOTE

Livelihood is the engine of a dynamic economy. For livelihood, the traditional avenues of farming and jobs are fast losing their centrality as both these sectors are facing enormous challenges, all over the world. The only enduring answer is going to be Entrepreneurship and India is fast moving towards an era of self-employment through enterprise. Multiple strategies are being employed and both, government as well as non-government agencies are working towards promoting entrepreneurship culture in a big way. Entrepreneurship gels very naturally with the worldview of the GenNext as it has all the three ingredients of initiative, innovation and independence.

In order to give further fillip to this new age culture of enterprise, RMP organized a Young Entrepreneurs' Conclave on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at its Knowledge-Excellence Centre, at Uttan, Mumbai. Approximately, 300 young entrepreneurs, mostly who have availed loans from MUDRA, Start-up and Stand-up India and

similar schemes from Thane, Palghar, Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban Districts had participated in this conclave. A total of about 400 participants, mainly entrepreneurs and professionals had participated in this conclave and made it a successful event.

The objectives behind this Conclave were as follows -

- A. To bring all young entrepreneurs- mainly those who have benefitted by MUDRA, Start-Up and Stand-Up India schemes-who have achieved some success or are struggling for the same.
- B. To explore the possibility of a collective mentoring mechanism for mutual entrepreneurship development.
- C. To explore the possibility of promoting innovations, and networking amongst the young entrepreneurs.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“It is very important for our country and society to strengthen economic democracy through entrepreneurship.

Political democracy cannot be strong in the absence of economic and social democracy. Improvement in the economic condition of deprived sections is imperative. Many initiatives have been taken in our country with the aim of ‘Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas’ and ‘Sabka Samman, Sabka Utthan’. These have a singular goal of strengthening economic and social democracy. The idea behind these programmes is that if anyone has to really help someone, then he/she should be made financially self-reliant.

The promotion of an entrepreneurial culture in the country is not the sole responsibility of the Government. Family, educational institutions, private sector banks and entrepreneurs, NGOs, etc. all have the responsibility to create an environment where private enterprise is encouraged. Together, we should create a culture in which self-employment is not chosen just due to the compulsion of not getting a job. The idea of becoming ‘job-giver’ instead of ‘job-seeker’ should be embraced.

The government has been running many schemes under development program for everyone, whose benefits are reaching people.”

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the ‘Economic Democracy Conclave’ organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini at Thane, Maharashtra on January 14, 2018 with an aim to create a platform for young entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals and provide them with motivation, networking opportunities and mentoring.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind praised the Prabodhini team for its contribution to strengthening the political, economic and social dimensions of our democracy for the past 35 years. The President also lauded Maharashtra government's initiative to promote entrepreneurship in the state.

PROGRAMME REPORT

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind along with the first lady Smt. Savita Kovind, Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reached at the inauguration of Economic Democracy conclave organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in Thane, Mumbai on January 14, 2018.

The President at the beginning of his speech at 'Economic Democracy Conclave' blessed the enterprising youth in attendance, in Marathi. He shared his memories about his association with the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and praised its values of discipline, dutifulness, commitment and work culture. The President also highlighted that Mumbai, the financial capital and the surrounding region hosts a number of opportunities for all, ranging from self-employed vendors to corporate industrialists. He then appealed to the youth that they should play a role in the development of society and economy by utilizing these opportunities. He further congratulated the institute for taking up this initiative and extended his best wishes.

The President acknowledged that similar to voter awareness efforts that are done for building political democracy, there is a need to inform and inspire people of their socio-political rights, policies and opportunities as well, particularly for the marginalized sections of the society. He attributed Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar as founder of economic democracy in Modern India and emphasised that socio-economic disparity must be dispelled and that socio-economic democracy is essential to strengthen political democracy. All citizens must get socio-economic and political justice. Therefore, many programmes like - Jan-Dhan Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India and Start-Up India, have been initiated based on the values of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'

and 'Sabka Samman, Sabka Utthan'.

The President highlighted that out of 30 Crores Jan-Dhan Accounts opened in banks; about 52% of accounts are of women, making society financially more inclusive. He also noted that domestic saving should not be kept idle but invested. In this context, awareness about financial literacy is critical, which shall inculcate enterprising spirit while strengthening economic democracy. He also noted that financial inclusion through Jan-Dhan Yojana and subsequent Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme has improved transparency and minimised corruption.

He further, stressed upon to imparting skill training to empower and encourage enterprising youth. Such young entrepreneurs are being supported by Prabodhini and DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of commerce & Industry) like institutions. Moreover, Private sector industrialists like TATA Group have extended opportunities, He added. He expressed confidence that youth shall make best of opportunities created through government programmes and non-government facilities through NGOs, NBFCs, Media and they will turn to self-employment as a matter of choice, thereby becoming 'job-giver' rather than job-seeker'.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis expressed confidence that, at this conclave, many of our youth would share their experiences and deliberate on it which will create a future roadmap for a strong global power called 'India'. He pointed out that, our nation achieved political equality with the power of voting to all but, our democracy can be strengthened only when financial and social equality both are achieved. This was dreamt by Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and we are marching forward in that direction. After 70 years of independence, with all such schemes we have opened up the doors of banks for the masses, which were earlier limited to only

classes. This is enabling every citizen to stand on his own feet and be independent. This is the true meaning of empowerment, he added.

'Economic Democracy Conclave' is a first of its kind initiative organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, at Keshav Srushti, Uttan Village in Thane. Member of Parliament and Vice-Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhe welcomed Chief Guest and dignitaries including First Lady of India Smt Savita Kovind, Governor of Maharashtra C. Vidyasagar Rao, and Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla. Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini Prof. Aniruddha Deshpande extended a vote of thanks to all present at the conclave.

SESSION 1: ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY - OPPORTUNITIES AND ASPIRATIONS

Economic democracy needs solutions which are sensitive to the aspirations of the majority. Economic growth will have to lead to securing basic needs for all. Our economic structures need to synthesize the efficiency of capitalism with socialistic ideals of justice and equity.

(Gist of Shri. Manish Kumar (CEO, NSDC) speech)

Meta-Analysis of Economics propounded that many countries for a period of forty to fifty years span experience of the "Demographic Window of Opportunity". In 1950, Demographic Window of Opportunity was started in South Korea. At that time the per capita income of South Korea used to be lower than that of India. But in a span of fifty years of Demographic Window of Opportunity, the per capita income hiked by 3,800 percent and South Korea became a developed nation. The reason for China's tremendous growth in present scenario is also Demographic

Window of Opportunity, which started in China in 1980 and is supposed to end by 2020. But during this period, China has transformed completely.

Similarly, Demographic Window of Opportunity started in India in 2005 and most probably will continue till 2050. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) understands the gravity of the fact that this generation has the serious responsibility to lead the country to the next level of prosperity and development. NSDC is consistently working towards the empowerment of the vulnerable group of lower middle class and people below poverty line, by enhancing their risk taking ability, so that the untapped potential of this group can be utilized to generate new entrepreneurs in the economy.

NSDC under this government, empowers with skills more than forty lakh people annually. To promote the sense of entrepreneurship, NSDC introduced a module of entrepreneurship in the forty hours training program of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, so that everyone would get to know the basic fundamentals of entrepreneurship. NSDC also provides venture capital fund to new entrepreneurs and helps them in setting up their enterprises.

In the same way, deAsra foundation lead by Dr. Anand Deshpande provides helping hand to new entrepreneurs to start their business with their experience. deAsra offers a complete ecosystem of support to small scale businesses. All their services are bench-marked, tech-enabled, expert-led, with consumer friendly functionality, convenience and speed. NSDC is helping them in spreading across seven states.

(Gist of Shri. A.K Kapur, Deputy Managing Director, SIDBI)

Similar to NSDC, SIDBI was established in 1990 to promoted

micro, small and medium enterprises. During that phase of liberalization in India, it was assumed that micro enterprises would shut down due to cutting edge competition, but in the current era, the size of Micro enterprises has seen a growth of 25x in comparison to the numbers in 1990, despite adversities faced by enterprises. The spirit of entrepreneurship has been a constant factor promoting such growth in the market for micro enterprises.

SIDBI realized that India lagged behind Bangladesh and many African countries in understanding the significance of micro finance credit institutions in bringing the inclusive and sustainable growth. Hence, SIDBI in 1999-2000 took the initiative and started establishing the micro finance credit institutions in India and so far SIDBI has established 146 such institutions, out of which 9 have transformed into (small financing) banks.

With MUDRA yojana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took this movement to the next level. The special feature in MUDRA yojana is that the government is not offering any free lunches. In fact government is just motivating the banks to sanction more and more loans in the categories of micro finance to new entrepreneurs. Since April 2015, in a span of less than three years, more than 10.5 crore loans have been sanctioned so far in this category, which is much more than the total number of loans sanctioned till 2015 since independence.

SIDBI is also promoting the STAND-UP INDIA via a web portal i.e. www.standupmitra.in. Stand Up India was started with a visionary idea of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring the “Economic Democracy” in the country. He appealed to all banks that every branch of bank should sanction at least one loan to people belonging to Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes and a loan to women for the establishment of their enterprises.

(Gist of Padamashri Milind Kamble's Speech)

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had given the slogan of "Gareebi Hatao" (eradication of poverty). Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taking this up a notch. In Dalit Samaj (unprivileged society), he boosted the spirit of "Ameer Banao" (make wealthy). After a long span, Dalit youth feel connected to the top leadership. Modi government has made a number of arrangements for the empowerment of Dalits. For instance, Jan Dhan Yojana brought them into a formal financial arrangement. More than 15 percent of beneficiaries of 10 crore Mudra beneficiaries are from Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) and in fact more than 91 lakhs are from Maharashtra only. Similarly, there are many options of employment available under various schemes like Stand up India, Skill India, Make in India, Sagarmala, Road corridors, etc.

In the current scenario, the environment and the ecosystem that India has developed is favouring Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs in an unprecedented manner. The ecosystem of policy framework had never been so perfect in this country and DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry) is providing the hand holding to SCs & STs to take the best possible advantage of this environment. DICCI is acting on the philosophy of Buddha i.e. "Be your own light" and "Madhya Marg (Middle Way)".

Smt. Sampatiya Uikey, Member of Rajya Sabha, belongs to a very remote area of Madhya Pradesh. In 1998, when she became the "Sarpanch" for the first time through Pragiti NGO, she got the training opportunity in Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, which groomed her leadership skills and then 2003 onwards, she was consecutively elected unopposed as President of "Zila Parishad"

(District Council) and now she has been elected as a Member of Rajya Sabha.

After training from Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini(RMP), she started working at the grassroots level for the empowerment of SCs & STs. With the aim of making them self-employed, she started forming Self Help Groups (SHGs) of 10 people from SC & ST community in each group. Under the guidance of RMP Vice President, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, the number of such groups has reached up to 16,000.

After the inaugural session, Economic Democracy Conclave proceeded with the next session, Chaired by Smt. Sampatiya Uikey, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). Theme of the session was “Economic Democracy - Opportunities and Aspirations”. Distinguished speakers, who enlightened the gathering of more than 400 people, came from various parts of the country. These speakers were Shri Milind Kamble (President, DICCI), Shri. Manish Kumar (CEO, NSDC), Shri. A K Kapur (Deputy Managing Director, SIDBI), Shri Prasad Dahapute, (MD, Varhad Capital).

Chair Smt. Sampatiya Uikey welcomed everyone gathered and gave a brief introduction of the session on “Economic Democracy - Opportunities and Aspirations”. “Economic democracy needs solutions which are sensitive to the aspirations of the majority. Economic growth will have to lead to basic needs for all. Our economic structures need to synthesize the efficiency of capitalism with socialistic ideals of justice and equity.

Chair was followed by Sh. Milind Kamble, President of DICCI. In his speech, the fundamental argument made by him was that it is time for Dalits to change their image of being job seekers to that of being job creators and being in charge of their own destiny – to put it pithily, “Dalits are not only takers, they are givers”. And what

better way to achieve this than Dalits becoming entrepreneurs (industrialists) themselves, and welcoming with open arms, economic reforms and favourable ecosystem for the inclusive growth SCs & STs. Sh. Manish Kumar, CEO, NSDC said that times have changed and the new generation thinks very differently about jobs, thus even we should strive to make a difference in the way people think. “From the economic perspective, three things that we need to work on are labour, capital and technology. Human capital or labor is the most essential, where the role of skill comes into play,” said Kumar. Thus today, getting skills right is very critical for India, according to NSDC.

Sh. A K Kapur, Deputy Managing Director, SIDBI pointed out that MSMEs should take advantage of the changing economic scenario for their growth and become stronger, sustainable, more inclusive and globally competitive. Since its inception in 1990, SIDBI has been working towards financing, promotion and development of MSME sector in India. It has been addressing various credit and non-credit gaps so as to build an enabling ecosystem for the salubrious growth of MSME sector. Sh. A.K. Kapur enlightened the audience with the information regarding various government schemes like MUDRA, Stand Up India, etc. and how they can bring a radical inclusive and sustainable growth in the country.

Chair Smt. Sampatiya Uikey, concluded the session with vote of thanks to speakers and audience after having suggestions and queries from the audience. Smt. Sampatiya Uikey, acknowledged the hardship of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in creating the social awareness among the masses and she also shared, how she had benefited from Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini training in 1998, reflecting on how after becoming the Sarpanch for the first time, she consistently worked at grassroot level for the empowerment of SCs & STs under the guidance of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Vice

Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini. Under his guidance she formed 16,000 Self Help Groups of people belonging to SCs & STs.

The next session was based on the theme, “Marketing, Innovations & Market Access”. It was chaired by Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman, KVIC and other distinguished speakers included Prof. Harsh Verma, FMS, University of Delhi and Shri Sanjay Tripathy, Co-Founder & CEO Agilio. Chair Sh. Vinai Kumar Saxena gave a brief introduction of the session’s theme after welcoming the speakers and the audience gathered.

Professor Harsh Verma, faculty for marketing at FMS, University of Delhi, started the session by highlighting the various reasons of failure of any business and in a very simplistic way he explained the significance of marketing and what are the ways to attract more and more customers. He said, “In order to get better consumer and employee commitment, marketers have realized the importance of articulating and assigning brands with meaningful purpose”. He added, “Product functions and benefits are easily copied and therefore fail to extract customer commitment at a higher level.” He beautifully explained the importance of quality and content of the product with an example of how Titan outdated the HMT watches.

Prof. Harsh Verma appreciated the efforts of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and he extended his thanks to his student Ravi Pokharna, for inviting him.

Shri Sanjay Tripathy, Co-Founder & CEO Agilio said, “the common feature of any business is, product, customer, and customer need; and knowing and understanding customer needs is at the centre of every successful business and once you have this knowledge, you can use it to persuade potential and existing customers that

buying from you is in their best interests.” While giving an example of taxi services in Mumbai (from ordinary taxis to MERU and then to UBER and OLA), he explained that customer does not need a new product all the time, in fact he needs the same product with better experience and if one can cater that better experience to customers (irrespective of the price) then he can make the existing products outdated.

While giving some tips to the new entrepreneurs, Sh. Sanjay Tripathy said, “disrupt your own business, before someone else does.” He further added, “Start small, do prototype and first come up with a minimum viable product, which is a product with just enough features to satisfy early customers, and to provide feedback for future product development.”

Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) talked about the establishment of Charkha Sangh by Mahatma Gandhi ji and establishment of KVIC. During the speech, he recalled his recent meeting with Smt. Tara Gandhi, great grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi ji, who said to him, “after Mahatma Gandhi ji if someone else has to be named, who did large scale massive promotion of Khadi then that could be Prime Minister Narendra Modi only.” Sh. Vinai Kumar Saxena further added, “It is the result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s promotion only that in the last three years, the growth of Khadi is 34 percent annually.”

While giving few tips to all the new entrepreneurs gathered at the event, he said, “for a successful business, an entrepreneur should always focus on quality primarily and then on the demand of the market.” Further he mentioned about the schemes launched by KVIC for the new entrepreneurs for instance, Market Development Assistance, Programme for Promotion of Village Industry Cluster - Rural Industry Service Centre (RISC) for Khadi

and Village Industry, etc.

The session was followed by the interaction with the audience, who were budding entrepreneurs or who already have a newly established start up. Queries from the audience were calmly and beautifully answered by the panelists. During the interaction session, audience had given a very warm and positive feedback of the event and request to have an extensive longer duration workshop on similar issue in near future. All such suggestions were noted down by the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and it gave the assurance to the audience to come up with a workshop on similar issues very soon.

Similarly, two parallel session were also running at the same time on the issue of “Finance and Credit Related” and “Mentoring, Networking and Other Learning Issues” in two different halls of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini campus itself.

Session with the theme of “Finance and Credit Related” was chaired by Shri Syed Zafar Islam, Economic Affairs Expert and other panelists of this session includes Mr. P. C. Panigrahi, GM, Union bank, Shri Anil Sawant, Lead District Manager, Bank of Maharashtra and Shri Ashish Aggarwal, CEO, Talento. The Government of India has undertaken several initiatives and instituted policy measures to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. This panel discussed about the wide array of startup schemes and startup funds that are highly beneficial to encourage launch and growth of startups in the country, which include Startup India initiative, Stand-Up India, MUDRA, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), etc.

Another parallel session was chaired by Dr P Sekhar, Chairman, Micro-Tech Global Foundation and Member FICCI Task force on

Blue Economy and the theme of the session was, “Mentoring, Networking and Other Learning Issues”. The other panelists of the session include Smt. Vaishali Aprajit, DeASRA and Shri Banu Chandra Nagarajan, Technology Advisor to Minister of Human Resource Development, Gol. While the country's massive youth population has been positioned as a great "demographic dividend" – a view that links the potential workforce to great economic benefits – unemployment and underemployment, statistics reveal an ominous reality: if India's youth are not given opportunities for a meaningful future, they could become an economic burden rather than an asset. The panel discussed the various government schemes for mentoring, networking and other learning issues for new entrepreneurs likewise Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), National Skill Development Mission, etc.

Every session was followed by an interaction round with the audience. In that interaction round, queries, suggestions and feedbacks were taken from the audience and all the queries were sorted out by the panelists and suggestions and feedbacks were noted down by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

After the three parallel sessions on different issues, valedictory session started with Hon'ble CM Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu and Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister of State, Finance, Government of India as the Chief Guest and Shri H.R. Dave, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD along with Vice-Chairman, RMP Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR, Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and Shri Ravindra Sathe, Executive Director, RMP were sharing the dais as the hosts of the event.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has requested

the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) to turn their focus on the Northeastern states and work to motivate, facilitate and mentor youths, who, he said, possess inborn talents but lack proper guidance and the right kind of motivation.

Expressing appreciation for the RMP for organizing the conclave involving entrepreneurs as well as self-employed individuals and create a platform for them to share their agonies and aspirations, Sh. Pema Khandu assured his all-out support and cooperation in any such endeavour of the RMP in the North East region.

Stating that economic democracy, in its truest sense, is still a far cry in the Northeast despite the region having huge potentials, Sh. Pema Khandu called upon the young entrepreneurs present at the conclave to explore the potentials in the Northeast.

“The Northeast, especially Arunachal Pradesh, still remains to be explored and exploited by entrepreneurs. You and your bright ideas, if partnered with the huge potentials and energetic local youths, would play wonders, I am sure. And rest assured, our state government will offer all possible support to your endeavour once you decide to come in,” he said.

The Chief Minister said people must be thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for seriously attempting to bring in economic democracy along with political democracy with schemes like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Scheduled Castes-Scheduled Tribes (SC-St) Venture Capital Fund, Mudra, Make in India, and others.

“Beneath all the outrage about crony capitalism, inept governance and absent jobs is an unrest that arises from a fundamental mismatch between the economic and political sphere. We are lucky to have a Prime Minister who is serious in

bringing economic democracy along with political democracy”, he said.

The Chief Minister said the main goal of economic democracy should be to align market forces with the core aspiration of democracy – which Mahatma Gandhi aptly expressed through the term ‘Sarvodaya’ – literally, the well-being of all. He reminded the gathering that “Gandhi always said India resides in its villages, and therefore economic growth of villages would only ensure economic democracy in the country.”

Speaking about the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Swavalamban Yojana (DDUSY) implemented by the Arunachal Pradesh government to offer start-ups for local youths, he informed that hundreds of unemployed youths have benefitted so far from the DDUSY. DDUSY facilitates bank loans from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs 1 crore for setting up greenfield enterprises with 30% subsidy.

He hailed the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini for also providing motivation, networking and mentoring opportunities to entrepreneurs as well as self-employed individuals, so that they can independently become not only self-employed but turn employer too.

He started with the Gandhian principles and to support his views Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister of State Finance, Govt. of India, recalls Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay vision as- ‘Vikas issey tey mat kijiye ki kaun kitna dhani ho gya, vikas issey tey kariye ki garibi ki rekha se niche rehne wale log kitne aagey bdey hai’ (Do not decide from development that who became wealthy, development decides how far people living below the poverty line have increased.)

He, further, applauded Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his vision and endeavour to show his keen concern from his initiative

of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. He was deeply indebted to Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman, KVIC and Shri H. R. Dave, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD for their motivation and supports towards the concepts of economic democracy, which he also co-relates with the 'Prabodhini' initiatives.

He showed his grave concern for economic democracy which he, further, related to political democracy. Shri Shukla focused on how an individual needs to cast their votes and be more conscious of their voting rights. He also emphasized on the issue of employment. He cited an example of Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhe's remarks on employment that – 'We should go towards giving jobs, not to get a job. He pointed out that this was being done by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also while keeping DeenDayal ji thoughts alive in his action plans.

Based on Pt. DeenDayal Upadhyay's thoughts Prime Minister Modi is introducing his working plans and other public welfare policies. For him, the main objective of economic democracy is to give progress and opportunity even to the worst-off individual of the society. As the real meaning of economic democracy would be justified only after transforming the worst-off individual to better-off individual. Jan-Dhan-Yojana, Mudra, Kaushal Vikas Yojana are the policies and initiatives which are working for the benefits of the lowest section of the society, he added. He praised Prime Minister's vision and action for giving strength to each individual to create the jobs.

Shri Shukla defended the transformation of NITI Aayog from Planning Commission contrary to the opponent's arguments that 'NITI Aayog in itself is a great initiative to balance and equalize the cooperation and coordination between the Union and States'. By comparing the situation of China and India, he highlighted those essential issues which are imperative for the success of

Economic Democracy. For him, Prime Minister Modi is doing exactly the same to increase the parameters of economic democracy by providing job opportunities even at the village level.

With his final words, he invited all feedback and queries and he reassured that he will resolve them by taking it as his responsibility. A responsibility bestowed upon him by the Prime Minister. Valedictory Session included the feedback session and discussed the road ahead in the direction of “Economic Democracy in India”. Delegates came from different parts of the country just to attend this conclave and attended all the sessions of a day long seminar with open hearts. Audience during the session not only appreciated the efforts of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini but also demanded a workshop of a longer duration on the similar idea of “Economic Democracy”.

All the panelists of the valedictory session acknowledged the patience of the audience and extended a warm thanks to everyone who came for the conclave and contributed to its success.



रामभाऊ म्हाळगी प्रबोधिनी

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini

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आत्मदीपो मयः।

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