

# Entrepreneurs to dwell on scaling up business

## Two-day Development Dialogue to be held on Feb 2 and 3 in Hubballi



**HUBBALLI: The 12th edition of Deshpande Foundation's Development Dialogue (DD), with a theme of 'Re-imagining impact' will be held on February 2 and 3 at Deshpande Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, BVB Campus in the city.**

The DD is a mega convention where experts on a wide range of subjects from national and international level will come together and discuss about social entrepreneurship, transform innovative ideas into business and thereby give a boost to the business eco-system of the country.

Giving details about the event here on Monday, Foundation Founder President Gururaj Deshpande said, IL&FS Education & Tech Services MD and CEO RCM Reddy will deliver the keynote address on 'Re-imagining skilling' at 10:30 am on February 2. Other noted speakers of this years DD are 'Year UP' Founder Gerald Chertavian, Co-Founder of Anudip Foundation Radha Basu.

Infosys Founder Narayan Murthy, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Ford Foundation Regional Director

Pradeep Nair will be key speakers on Day 2 (February 3).

Deshpande said, the Foundation has decided to scale up its reach by taking the programme to schools and colleges in the rural areas. The Deshpande Centre in Hubballi will become the research and development centre for all the programme, and the programmes thus developed would be taken to masses. On a pilot basis the centre would adopt a college in Shiggaon, where the students will be given skills training after college hours. Based on the feedback received from the college the

project will be scaled up, he said.

He also said, the Foundation will scale up its 'skilling village programme', where students of class 5 to 8 are given English and computer knowledge, to 100 schools. Currently 10 schools were under the programme.

Deshpande said, in Agriculture sector the foundation plans to set up an Agriculture Impact Research Centre, which feed information to the farm producer organisations regarding the kind of crops need to cultivated, the marketing areas and others. A

similar project was launched in Telengana, where 40,000 cotton farmers were benefited, he said and added that while the same project will be scaled up to one lakh cotton farmers in that State, in Karnataka the project will be implemented with the help of 40,000 Byadagi chilli farmers. Agriculture expert and Farmveda Founder Trilochan Sastry will deliver a keynote address on re-imagining agriculture.

Foundation members Jayashree Deshpande, Vivek pawar, C M Patil, and others were present on the occasion.

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