

Eminent people to speak at Development Dialogue



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HUBBALLI: Eminent personalities like Infosys founder Narayan Murthy, SELCO founder Harish Hande, Swamyam Shikshan Prayog founder Prema Gopalan, Samagra founder Gaurav Goel descend on Hubballi to take part in Deshpande Foundation's annual conference -

Development Dialogue to be held on February 2 and 3.

Deshpande Foundation's founder Gururaj Deshpande said on Monday that the foundation has been working in and around Hubballi and Dharwad for the past 12 years to bring social innovators, NGOs, non-profits and for-profit organizations to address some of the challenges of rural and semi-urban areas in the surrounding districts.

Listing out the achievements of the foundation Deshpande said, "Thousands of farmers have doubled and some farmers have tripled their income. Thousands of unemployed young men and women have been trained on our campus and are now fully employed. Thousands of village-based micro-entrepreneurs have been trained and have grown their business; some of them have doubled and a few of them have grown ten-fold. Tens of thousands of students have developed their leadership skills by participating in projects that improve their communities. Dozens of companies have been incubated and are now employing people and growing their business."

He said the Development Dialogue conference brings together social innovators from across the country and the world to share learning and experiences.

ILFS Education & Tech Services MD and CEO RCM Reddy will deliver the keynote address on the first day on 're-imagining skilling' at 10:30am. Other noted speakers on the session are 'Year UP' founder Gerald Chertavian and iMerit Technologies's founder Radha Basu.

Infosys founder Narayan Murthy, rural development and panchayat raj minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Ford Foundation regional director Pradeep Nair will be the key speakers on Reimagining Partnerships.

Dr Sameer Sharma, DG and CEO of IICA and Mayuri Misra, managing partner, Shaktishi will speak at 9am on the second day. Many sessions have also been organised to throw light on various issues, said Deshpande.

Deshpande said the Foundation has decided to scale up its reach by taking its programme to schools and colleges in rural areas. The Deshpande Centre in Hubballi will become the research and development centre for the entire programme. He also said that 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 are under the programme.