

■ **NDA is striving to move in tandem with advancements to make India a modern country**

Talks on with EU for free trade pact



Union minister of state for commerce and industry (independent charge) Nirmala Sitharaman delivers a speech at the international business conference of nagarathars (IBCN-2015) here on Saturday. —DC

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, JULY 25

The Indian government has been engaged in negotiations with European Union for bringing out a free trade agreement, said Union minister of state for commerce and industry, Nirmala Sitharaman.

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day international business conference of Nagarathars (IBCN-2015) here on Saturday, Nirmala Sitharaman said that NDA has been striving to move in tandem with advancements to make India a modern country.

Pointing out that a sort of gloom persists even in emerging European economies, which struggle with just one or two per cent of growth, the union minister said that India is however in the cusp of change.

"While the global economy has been struggling

with a host of issues, only India has been shining by registering 7.4 per cent growth rate. As Indians are entrepreneurial in nature and believe in savings, it helped in keeping up the momentum of the economy even during difficult times," she said. The banks have been asked to be flexible in funding innovations by realizing the need for business.

For the ease of doing business, the NDA has been taking efforts to remove unnecessary regulations. "India is changing its role from being a regulator to facilitator of business. A perception abroad is that India is full of regulations and this image has bogged us down. However all states were brought on board as, 'Team India' to identify and remove hurdles in doing business," she said.

Pointing out that the government has been encouraging entrepreneurship; the union minister said that for India, trade and commerce has gained priority from its earlier stand of political diplomacy with other nations.

The main objective of the conference is to provide world class business platform for mentoring, networking, educating professionals for the advancement of entrepreneurship in the 'nagarathar' community.

Minister for foreign affairs and law, Government of Singapore, K. Shanmugam said that Singapore is on talks to upgrade the comprehensive economic co-operation agreement with India. "We want to be a strategic partner in India's economic growth, deepen bilateral relationship and improve better ties with people," he said.

Union min challenges Rahul to tour Congress ruled states

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, JULY 25

Union minister of state for commerce and industry Nirmala Sitharaman has dared the Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi to tour Congress-ruled states and raise issues of public concern there.

"I challenge Rahul Gandhi will never visit any Congress ruled state to discuss issues. So many farmers have committed suicide in the last two months in Karnataka. He could have gone there or even to Assam, spoken to families of farmers, who died, but that will never happen," she said, speaking to press on the sidelines of a business conference here in Coimbatore on Saturday.

Terming it unfortunate, that both the Houses of parliament were stalled; the Union minister said that though NDA agreed to have a discussion on the Land Acquisition Bill, as per the demand of the opposition parties, the Congress was only bent upon paralyzing it.

"They first sought a discussion on the issue. When it was agreed, they never discussed, but began to query the need for such a discussion," she said. When asked on the migration of industries from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka, Nirmala Sitharaman replied, "Is there any proof to show that

SADHGURU TALKS ON LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AT BUSINESS MEET

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, JULY 25

Leadership does not mean dominance; it means partnership, mentoring and support, said Sadhguru, Founder of Isha Foundation.

Delivering a speech on 'Inspiring People to Impact Society' at IBCN (International Business Conference of Nagarathars) conference here on Saturday, Sadhguru said, "If you do not have loving people around you, doing business becomes treacherous."

To the budding entrepreneurs, Sadhguru said that success comes out of wellbeing, not by suffering. "And that peace is only the basic aspect of

migration of industries happens? If those who claim so come up with proof, then we would look into it and the issue will be addressed," she said.

Responding to a query on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent foreign visits at the cost of tax payer's money, the union minister said that it is essential for the cause of our nation.

"Did those parties, which raise an issue on PMs



life and not the highest," he said.

Sadhguru said that the tradition of knowledge transfer is required for the new generation. "Tradition is not about expressing the past, but it's about exploring new possibilities," he said.

(Isha's Sounds of Isha (Isha's home grown group of musicians) rendered a soulful music at the conference. The delegates also posed questions at Sadhguru and got their doubts clarified.

foreign visit, during the Congress rule, while it was looting the nation?" she queried.

Further she also said that Congress has been adopting double standards with regard to the Land Acquisition Bill.

"The Congress members participate in the parliamentary select committee and present their views on the Land Acquisition Bill. But outside, they rise up against the bill," she said.