



INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

**GEN J J SINGH, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD)
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**THE CONFERENCE ON
'ADMINISTRATION FOR A BETTER SOCIETY'**

AT

**PRAJAPITA BRAHMA KUMARIS VISHWA
VIDYALAYA, MOUNT ABU**

22ND JUNE 2008

Respected Rajyogini Dadi Janki ji, Rajyogini Mohini Behn ji, B.K. Nirwairji, B.K. Mahendra ji, B.K. Mruthyunjaya, B.K. Asha Behn ji, and other brothers and sisters from all over the country present on the occasion.

I consider it as my privilege to be here as the Chief Guest in this august company of the spiritual leaders like Rajyogis and Rajyoginis and I am sure all the participants also feel the same! When I received the invitation in Itanagar and learnt about the subject of the conference, I could not resist myself from accepting this invitation despite my previous engagements and hence, today I have come all the way from the north eastern most tip of our country to be with you.

I am glad to know that such spirituality-based programmes for different professionals such as administrators, jurists, journalists, scientists, engineers, doctors, youths, politicians, women, educationists and others are organized here at regular intervals. Further, different suitable courses are also being regularly offered for the spiritual empowerment of common people besides the development of positive thinking among youth and self-management and stress-free management for businessmen and industrialists.

Brahmakumaris is a unique organization having international recognition because of its spiritual value based education. Their very efforts of creating a spirit of brotherhood, love and co-operation, in itself is a divine task. The emphasis of Brahmakumaris is on promoting the qualities of humanism, tolerance and never ending enthusiasm for spreading the knowledge of truth. The institute recognizes the intrinsic spirituality and goodness of every human being and helps people rediscover that goodness themselves within, encouraging and facilitating and the development of spiritual awareness, attitudes, behaviours and skills through a process of life-long learning.

I must congratulate the Brahmakumaris for selecting the topic 'Administration for a Better Society'! This is the need of the hour for our country. Though the administrators are both in private sector as well as Government sector, let me deal mainly on the administrators in the Government sector as their performance has a direct bearing on the people's well being.

Today there is peacelessness in the whole world. Even those who have money and power are deprived of real peace. Whether poor or rich, all are

disturbed in their own way. Lasting peace and prosperity is sought by one and all. All types of endeavours and efforts have been and are being made to obtain peace. Despite the political empowerment, economic empowerment, empowerment through education and science, empowerment of women and empowerment in other areas, violence, crime and injustice have not come down but have been constantly on the rise.

In my more than four decades service with Indian Army, I have closely observed the administrative system in our country and now I am convinced that there is an urgent need of the entire 'Government Process Re-engineering' to make the system people centric. I am sure that this conference will dwell on various aspects of administration to make it SMART, which is Simple-Morale-Accountable-Responsive-Transparent and above all people friendly!

In fact the very existence of the Administration is for the betterment of society. At the time of independence, Sardar Patel categorically mentioned that the country needs a civil service which is competent, committed and politically neutral. However it is now a well known fact that over the years, the quality of persons administering our country has left a lot to be desired, and most alarmingly, in some cases they have lost their neutrality too. This is a very dangerous phenomenon, as for the survival and progress of any country, apart from strong defence forces it also needs equally strong and committed civil services.

What is the definition of a good administrator? What are the qualities of a good administrator? Every one of us will have different sets of values to differentiate between a good and a bad administrator! A good administrator should be free from any tension, bias, prejudice, hypocrisy, jealousy, hatred, greed, ego and such other negative virtues. He should possess the qualities of humanism, tolerance and enthusiasm! Therefore, I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhiji's words which perfectly apply to the administrator of today as well. I quote 'Recall the face of the poorest and most helpless man whom you may have seen and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him, will he be able to gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj or self-rule for the hungry and spiritually starved millions of our countrymen? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away' unquote! These few lines of Mahatmaji are worth more than any of the voluminous philosophical book one comes across. He has given a very

simple test, a litmus paper test to the administrators to decide between good and bad. At the end he talked about 'yourself melting away'! And here comes the role of the spiritual institutions like Brahmakumaris! Administrative skills based on the spiritual foundation are the hallmark of a successful administrator.

Today, when our country is developing very fast, the administrators are exposed to very complex and stressful variables. They deal with diverse, complicated, competitive and contradictory situations and are put through tremendous socio-political pressures. Under such circumstances, it is very difficult to deliver the results. But with strong spiritual mind the administrator can overcome these pressures and take appropriate decisions for the betterment of society. I appreciate the efforts of Brahmakumaris to develop spiritually sound and emotionally pious society. Their efforts on the stress management are praiseworthy and I am happy to say that very recently they have conducted a stress-relieving workshop in Itanagar, which was attended by many administrators. The Brahmakumaris believe that all the problems plaguing the society can be eradicated only by character building in all human beings. In today's world, the inculcation of moral and spiritual values is not a luxury but an absolute necessity.

Few minutes back I mentioned about diverse socio-economic aspirations of various social groups. Here, I must tell the administrators that 'Each section of our large population contributes to the making of the nation in the same manner as each flower helps to make a garden. Every flower has right to grow according to its own laws of growth; has the right to enrich and develop its own colour and form and to spread its fragrance to make up the cumulative beauty and splendour of the garden. One would not like to change roses into lilies nor lilies into roses.' This is more applicable for the administrators in the tribal areas and in North-east India.

One of the important transitions witnessed by our country is the usurpation by various social groups whose voices hitherto were curbed by the dominant groups. This has been a normal phenomena in any society of the world. However, when it takes the form of separation and isolation, then it calls for an active intervention by the administrator. Once Thakkar Bappa has said that 'Separation and isolation are the dangerous theories and strike at the root of national solidarity. Safety lies in union and not in isolation.' Today's administrator must remember this!

Development is the life-blood for any growing civilization. Today, the administrators are in true sense the developmental administrators with tremendous emphasis given on the socio-economic development and empowerment of the poorest of the poor and hitherto deprived social groups. In today's circumstances, an open and flexible mind, which recognizes the need of transformation and faithfully sets itself to apprehend new conditions, is a prerequisite of administrators usefulness. Today, we do not want administrators with bureaucratic inertia but we want those with high degree of imagination coupled with a strong sense of integrity and commitment to the job. As a Chief of Indian Army, when I deeply analysed the reasons for growth in Naxalism, I realized that failure of developmental administration is the most important contributing factor for the same. I am confident that if we post administrators who are competent, willing and most important spiritually motivated in such areas, we will be able to solve the Naxalite problem to a great extent. Another lesson each administrator working in tribal areas should learn that they must approach the tribal society not with any feeling of civilisational superiority, but with a genuine spirit of service and seek to learn from them at least as much as we would like to teach them. Our approach to the tribal people must be conditioned by human understanding and must be free from any traces of superiority. In my tribal state of Arunachal Pradesh this is what I remind the administrators.

In today's era of LPG driven economy, that is Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation, the role of the modern administrators is changing very fast from the 'Mai-Baap' syndrome to the friend, facilitator, guide with of-course some regulatory role to have level playing field. Gone are the days when your actions were not challenged. Now each and every of your action and in-action is being observed, monitored and analysed by society, media and others, and you are legally answerable to each to them for your acts of commission and omission through revolutionary laws like Right to Information and others.

For centuries ideas, ideals and ideologues have shaped our journey. Today slowly yet steadily, the realms of reality are taking their final turn towards India's tryst with its destiny. After years of hard work and sacrifice, the time has finally come to share the fruits of our endeavours. This sustained effort has seen us substantially enhance our ability, our confidence and our resolve to achieve results in an atmosphere of global competition. The country has seen rapid industrialization driving the people and the country towards the road to prosperity and self-reliance.

India ranks amongst the developed countries in its expertise in space technologies, information, bio and nanotechnology. For me, an India does not exist at the bottom end of the technology chain; it shines at the very top and our ascent towards that top has already begun. For this, we need collective advancement in the burgeoning knowledge economy. The currency of power in the 20th century was deterrence, the currency of power in the 21st century will be knowledge.

It is also my firm belief that an empowered India will only achieve its destiny if we can individually and collectively help by taking up the challenge of helping the underprivileged in our society. An India empowered can truly become empowered when the divide between the privileged and the underprivileged is bridged. This will not only happen through the policies and efforts of the Government, but by the small incremental efforts of each and everyone of us through participative empowerment of women and children amongst the weaker sections of society. For me, empowerment is a collective dream that the haves and have-nots must see together. The haves should be 'more sharing and caring'.

Collective genius evolves from a balanced approach and thinking. Ideas emerging from that genius should be implemented by firm resolve. This resolve can only find fulfillment through equal opportunity and encouragement towards the attainment of equal benefits for men and women alike. Ours is a country which has traditionally accepted and encouraged the role of women in society, a country where there are numerous deities in the female form. It is a country where women have conquered space and proven that given the opportunity, they are capable of achieving the dreams of the nation. For me, the girl child must remain the focus of collective human resource management.

Finally, I see empowerment through the collective spirit of India, which can only manifest itself if we recognize and follow the very essence of being an Indian.

I am happy to see an overwhelming response to this conference. I hope that this batch of administrators after attending this three days conference will become agents for changes in our society and bring around a revolutionary improvement in the administrative process. I appeal to each one of you not to keep the knowledge gained in this conference to yourself, but disseminate

it to as many colleagues as possible. I once again congratulate the Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya for choosing the right topic for the conference. Their efforts to create a batch of spiritually motivated administrators will go a long way in the development of India as a nation and Indian as a civilization! I also thank the organizers for inviting me here as the Chief Guest!

I am highly pleased to find that the Brahma Kumaris are trying to fill up the gap of spirituality by bringing about spiritual revolution in the country and world – a revolution based on the basic idea of brotherhood of men and the Fatherhood of God. It is this spiritual fountainhead from which all values naturally flow and purify the main stream of life.

I heartily congratulate right Revered Rajyogini Dadi Jankiji, Chief of Brahma Kumaris and her dedicated team of divine sisters and brothers for selflessly taking upon themselves the stupendous yet highly commendable task of restoring values in society through spiritual empowerment, and thus once again restore our beloved Bharat to its ancient glorious culture.

I feel proud to be here in this unique event which will promote values and spirituality among the Administrative professionals throughout the country and world and thereby build a new divine society, called deities in the scriptures.

I conclude my inaugural speech by quoting what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has once said to the administrators and policy makers. I quote '*We should judge results not by statistics or the amount of money spent, but by the quality of human character that is evolved*'. With this I declare the conference to be inaugurated and wish a great success to the participants.

Om Shanti

Jai Hind