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“Be Vigilant and Don’t become Irrelevant” – Exhort Experts on Disruptive Changes

“Today technology is all pervasive, and threatens to make many existing, and even specialized, jobs redundant. This scenario calls for vigilance on the part of students and all professionals”, said Sri J.A. Chowdary, Special Chief Secretary and IT Advisor to Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh. He was addressing the delegates at the Inaugural of the International Conference on ‘*Disruption: Ideas and Narratives for Management & Leadership*’ being organized by GITAM Hyderabad Business School (GHBS) on 9-10th March 2018, in which he participated as Distinguished Guest.

“Indians are known to adopt newer technologies quickly. It is estimated that by 2025, 80% of jobs are likely to be virtualized. Artificial intelligence is making even specialists in every profession redundant. We need to leave out conventional way of thinking and adapt to the fast changing world”, Sri Chowdary observed. He cited examples of how even companies like Sony could not foresee the onslaught of new technology and had to fall victims to their lack of foresight.

The Chief Guest in the inaugural, Prof. M.R. Rao, Dean Emeritus, Indian School of Business, remarked that disruption happens more because of innovation and not because of changing technology. He cautioned that the role of faculty in educational institutions is going to change radically, with adaptive learning and mass customization going to be the order of the day. Everyone needs to realize that learning is lifelong and not restricted to getting a degree.

Prof. M. J. Xavier, CEO, Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences, Coimbatore, who was a Guest of Honor, observed that there is currently a disconnect between the students, faculty, curriculum and the recruiters, calling for urgent redressal. He too cautioned that higher education would be in deep trouble if we are not making our students relevant to changing industry needs.

In his keynote address, Prof. Karunesh Saxena, Director, IQAC, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, dwelt on the relationship between Disruptive Technology, Management and Leadership. He equated the concept of ‘disruption’ to the role of Lord Shiva, of creative destruction. For him disruption described a negative idea with a positive outcome. Illustrating with copious examples, he explained the concepts of disruptive technology, disruptive innovation, which call for change management and a need transformation in leadership style in this environment.

Prof. K. Siva Rama Krishna, Pro-VC, GITAM, Visakhapatnam, in his address as Guest of Honour, recounted the history of GITAM, and how innovative approaches in governance gave GITAM the lead it enjoys in this field.

Prof. N. Siva Prasad, Pro-VC, GITAM Hyderabad, in his presidential remarks, called for India’s active participation in the fourth industrial revolution though the country had missed the bus with regard to the previous phases of the revolution. Our investment and energy should be completely go into this endeavor, he opined.

Earlier, Prof. Y. Lakshman Kumar, Dean & Director, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Divya Kirti Gupta, Convenor of the Conference gave an overview of the theme. Dr. K. Sreekanth, Co-convenor, proposed a vote of thanks.

The two-day International Conference will have paper presentation sessions in different tracks by scholars, and plenary sessions by experts such as **Prof. K. Sankaran**, Director, Justice K S Hegde Institute of Management, Mangalore, **Prof. John Clammer**, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, Sonapat, Haryana, **Mr. Arun Kumar**, General Manager, Corporate Responsibility, Cummins India, Pune, **Prof. Gopal P. Mahapatra**, Professor of Practice, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore, **Mr. N. Venkatesh**, Sr. Vice President, Advanced Technologies, Redpine Signals, Inc. Hyderabad, **Mr. Asim Rizvi**, Head – Human Resources & Admin, Apollo Health & Lifestyle Ltd. , **Dr. D. N. Srinath**, Scientist, GE Global Research, Bangalore, **Prof. B. Raja Shekhar**, Dean, School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad, and **Prof. A.R. Aryasri**, School of Management Studies, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad.

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