



Raj Bhavan Information Wing, Uttarakhand
Press Note

"Oriental learning is now a bond between the East and the West": Margaret Alva Uttarakhand Governor inaugurates 35th Annual Conference on Oriental Heritage at Kolkata

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Uttarakhand Governor, Smt Margaret Alva, today said that oriental learning has now evoked an active interest among the western world and become "a bond between the east and west."

In her inaugural address at the 35th Annual Conference on Oriental Heritage at the Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, Kolkata this morning, the governor said that Oriental learning had been acting as a lighthouse to the intellectuals of the west lost in the great ocean of life and to whom creation of wealth has been the central point of existence..

She said that the acceptability and utility of Oriental learning had already been recognised by the World Health Organisation. "In a report, recently published, WHO has acknowledged that the study of Astrology and Palmistry, the important streams of Oriental learning, is a helpful medium for diagnosing diseases," she added.

The governor, in her address, said that the participation of renowned scholars, Governors, Central and State Ministers, Supreme Court and High Court Judges, Vice-Chancellors, famous personalities and representatives of different religions, made the International Conference a special and important event.

She said that in today's perspective, Oriental learning faced a big challenge from the so-called intellectually advanced circles. "Therefore, the avowed and sincere scholars of oriental learning have the responsibility to upgrade their knowledge and skills and create a scientific codified system for it", she said.

The governor also expressed her wish that a similar conference be held by the Institute in Uttarakhand which had a rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

The governor also said that extensive research studies were urgently required to usher in a new era in all streams of Oriental Heritage, to illuminate the path of mankind with the light of knowledge. " In this, the Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage must continue to play a crucial role."

Quoting Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the governor said he once said "A boat may stay in water, but water should not stay in the boat. An aspirant may live in the world, but the world should not live within him."

She said this said in a nutshell, all that is needed to live a peaceful and stable life.

Mahamahopadhyay Murari Mohan Vedantaditirthasastri, Chairman of the conference, VCs of universities, national and foreign scholars and intellectuals, Dr. Ramkrishna Sastri, chairman of the Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, Professor Gopa Sastri, President, Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage, and Shri Gopal Chakraborty, General Secretary of the Institute, were present at the inauguration. ADC to the Governor, Maj. Chowdhury was also present.