

Wrong Policies Ruining Nation: Vandana Shiva

Express News Service

Coimbatore: The policies of the Central Government are ruining the nation, charged activist Vandana Shiva here on Wednesday.

She was addressing a three-day international conference on 'Sustainable Development and Governance: Building Commerce and Communities' jointly organised by Amrita School of Business and the Deakin University, Australia at Amritha University here.

"The wrong policies of Centre have put farmers in a debt trap and forced them to commit suicide. While people here are suffering without even drinking water, the government is busy in sanctioning orders for private packaged-water companies to suck our groundwater," she rued.

"The multinationals have snatched the rights on seeds

from our farmers. Now, five companies control 75 percent of the seed market," she pointed out.

For sustainable agricultural growth, organic farming



THE WRONG POLICIES OF CENTRE HAVE PUT THE FARMERS IN DEBT TRAP — Vandana Shiva, Green Activist

should be followed. However, the Centre is encouraging only chemical farming, which needs more water, she noted.

"Centralised power of the government allows it to be autocratic and take wrong decisions. Devolution of the power of the Central Govern-

ment to the states is the only solution for this," she opined.

Later, talking to *Express*, Vandana Shiva said, "FDI will surely destroy local farmers and local merchants. Wall-Marts will neither procure the products from local farmers, nor allow the poor consumers inside their shop."

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Bhaskar Bhat, MD, Tata-Titan (TT), Venkat Rangan, Vice-Chancellor, Amrita University, Jay Misra, Director, International and Alumni Relations of Amrita University and Prof Nava Subramaniam of Deakin University also spoke.

Former President A P J Abdul Kalam will attend the valedictory function on December 14.

Nearly 500 participants from across India participated in the conference.