

Chennai, August 17, 2010

Accent on role of Indian talent and research

Model UN 2010 conference inaugurated at city college



Model meet: U.S. Consul-General Andrew Simkin interacts with students at the inauguration of Model United Nations 2010 conference in Chennai on Monday. — Photo: K.V. Srinivasan

: Indian talent and research will play a key role in identifying solutions to global concerns such as increasing food productivity and cyber-security, said U.S. Consul-General Andrew T. Simkin.

He was inaugurating the Model United Nations 2010 conference at Stella Maris College here on Monday. As many as 150 students from various law schools and other colleges across the country are participating in the three-day event that aims to educate them on contemporary global issues.

Speaking on the relevance of the issues to be discussed at the conference, Mr Simkin commended the interest shown by the students in matters of diplomacy and international relations. Food aid in times of rising prices, he said, was a raging global concern that calls for appropriate and lasting solutions. Updating the audience on the policies followed by the U.N. for strengthening relations between countries, he urged the students to preserve their national identity and recall the 'justifiable pride' associated with Indian leaders of the past.

The conference replicates the U.N. in terms of its structure and functioning, and is completely being handled by students, said Jasinthia Quadras, Principal, Stella Maris College. Divided into different committees, the participants, over the three days, would discuss a whole range of global issues such as environmental problems, livelihood concerns, hunger, cyber-war and issues related to coastal degradation, she added.

The participants will debate on issues, prepare policy papers, negotiate with allies and adversaries, resolve conflicts, draft and vote on resolutions, Ms Quadras said, adding that the conference is significant because it's being organised at a time when the world is grappling with serious problems.

The experience of conducting a model U.N. would not only help the students develop the art of peaceful negotiation but would also increase their understanding of international issues, she added.