Journalist calls for ‘regeneration’ of sustainable values

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 1 FEB: Noted US journalist and author Thomas L. Friedman’s views on the delicate balance between environmental concerns and economic planning generated significant buzz at the 13th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) here today.

Addressing a special session chaired by Mr Nitin Desai, former UN Under-Secretary General and Distinguished Fellow at TERI, Mr Friedman spoke of the social, economic and political dimensions of the global environmental discourse as he commented on the ongoing change in the international energy scenario and its possible impact on developing nations. Mr Friedman stressed that the world was shaped by two forces, “markets” and “Mother Nature”, TERI said in a communique. The author of “The World is Flat***” went on to say that the key accounting principles being applied in the context of economics and nature were essentially “under pricing the risk, privatising the gains, and socialising the losses”.

Highlighting the significant transition in modern values, Mr Friedman asserted: “We need our kids to be the ‘re-generation’. They need to bring sustainable values back to the market and mother-nature. We need sustainable values not the situational values that is the current trend.”

Talking about his latest book on globalisation, “That used to be us***”, Mr Friedman pointed out that the world — in the arena of social connectivity — had transformed from being a connected world to being a hyper-connected world and from being an interconnected to an inter-dependent world. In this phase as the one where “friends can kill you much faster than your enemies” and where “rivals’ fallings are considered much more dangerous than rivals rising”.

He also pointed out that today’s political and diplomatic problems could not be solved independently but by aligning with other countries. In the Indian context, Mr Friedman maintained that a key derivative of the hyper-connectedness is seen from the rising virtual middle class.