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## INSTITUTE NEWS

### Tishyarakshit Chatterjee joins as Director



Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee assumed the charge of Director from outgoing Director Shri U.C. Agarwal on March 31. He retired as Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India on November 30, 2012. During his 37 years in IAS, Dr. Chatterjee served as the Special Chief Secretary, Planning Department,

Government of Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Chatterjee was allotted Andhra Pradesh cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and had served in different capacities at the district and state level. Some of his major postings include Member Secretary of the State Pollution Control Board of Andhra Pradesh; Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration Department; Principal Secretary of Environment and Forests; Principal Secretary of Roads and Buildings Department; and Director for the Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) in Hyderabad.

His major achievements in the environment sector include setting up India's first four common bio-medical waste management facilities as a public-private partnership in 1999; setting up India's first industrial hazardous solid waste common management facility as a public-private partnership in 2001; and the creation of environmental zones using geographic information systems to plan industrial locations. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics (Environment) from Hyderabad Central University, Hyderabad (2007); a Post-graduate Diploma in International Development and Cooperation from the University of Ottawa, Canada (1990); and a Master's in History (1975) and Bachelor's in History and Economics (1973), both from the St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi (1975). He has over 15 publications to his credit. The entire IIPA fraternity wishes him success during his stint as Director.

### U.C. Agarwal Demits Office

Shri U.C. Agarwal, Hon. Director of IIPA, demitted Office on March 31. During his short tenure, since September 13, 2012, the Institute witnessed good progress and smooth functioning in all departments. The entire IIPA fraternity wishes him and his family all the best for the future.

### APPPA Convocation

The IIPA organised its flagship, high-end and customised programme, the thirty-eighth Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA), on March 31. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, delivered the convocation address. Congratulating the participants on their success, Shri Chaturvedi hoped that they would work to help manage the enterprise of turning this country around. He called upon the participants to apply the relevant theoretical concepts of the social sciences and modern management to real life administrative situations and enrich



Shri T N Chaturvedi delivers the convocation address.

*The IIPA fraternity extends its greetings to all its readers for Chaitra Sukladi, Vaisakhi and Mahavir Jayanti*

### **B.C. Mathur Passes Away**

Shri Brajesh Chandra Mathur, IAS (Retd.), former Director IIPA, former Hon. Treasurer and former Executive Council Member passed away on March 4. A condolence meeting to mourn the demise of the departed soul was solemnised at IIPA on March 5. A two-minute silence to pay homage to the departed soul was observed and a condolence resolution passed. The resolution read as follows: This meeting of the IIPA fraternity deeply mourns the demise of Shri Brajesh Chandra Mathur and places on record its great sense of sorrow and grief at his passing away.

Shri Mathur was born on April 7, 1926. He was educated from Lucknow and Williams College, USA. He joined IAS in 1950 and was assigned Orissa Cadre where he worked in various capacities such as Collector and District Magistrate; Director of Industries and Technical Education; Chairman, Orissa Small Industries Corporation; Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa; Orissa Forest Corporation; Orissa Commercial Road Transport Corporation; and Revenue Divisional Commissioner.

In the Government of India, he served as Deputy Secretary, Iron & Steel and Ministry of Finance (Coordination), Relief Commissioner, J&K (1965-67), and OSD in Ministry of Home Affairs in 1967 to organise a Training Division. He was first Director and Joint Secretary (Training) and as such coordinated training activities in various departments and state governments. As Joint Secretary, he started the Executive Development Programme at IIPA in consultation with the then Director Dr. J.N. Khosla and directed the first training programme on "Training of Trainers". At the time of Ninth Asiad, he was appointed as Secretary in the newly created Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare in 1982. He had also held additional charge for a short period of the Ministry of Works and Housing. He also worked as Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and also Director, IIPA. He had published several monographs including Training of Civil Servants in Japan, got training in Civil Service in France. He had edited a number of volumes concerning Training including the one on HRD and Management in Government. He had also been member of the Executive Council of the IIPA for three decades.

Shri Mathur will be long remembered by all of us in the IIPA for his valuable services rendered here. The IIPA offers its sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them courage to bear the loss and may his noble soul rest in eternal peace.

their varied experiences. Earlier, Shri U.C. Agarwal, Director of IIPA, gave the welcome address. Prof. Pranab Banerji, Programme Director, presented a resume of the programme detailing its concepts.

Successful candidates in the APPPA programme who have Master's degrees in social science from recognised universities would also be eligible to enroll for Ph. D. programme of Panjab University for which IIPA is recognised as a study centre. The Prof. V.K.N. Menon prize was awarded to Brig. T.S.Narayanan for securing first position. Second prize went to Brig. Jacob Tharakan Chacko and the third went to Ms. Meenakshi Negi. The Director's Special prize was awarded to Shri Arun Singhal, while Ms. Niva Singh got the Best Dissertation prize (sponsored by APPPA Alumni Association. Smt. Kusumtai S.B. Chavan memorial prize for the Best Woman Participant was bagged by Ms. Leena Nandan; and Brig. Sunil Kumar

got the Bhupendra Hooja Award for Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities during APPPA. Prof. Pranab Banerji and Prof. Rakesh Gupta directed the programme. Prof. Rakesh Gupta proposed the vote of thanks.

### **Workshop on Skill Development Strategies for Urban Poverty Alleviation**

Sponsored by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, two programmes on the captioned topic were organised, for the officers of municipalities, urban local bodies, local self government departments, improvement trust and other organisations dealing with urban poverty alleviation management, at IIPA on March 4-6 and 11-13. Apart from sensitising the participants in the light of various skill development strategies meant for the alleviation of the urban poverty, the programme was designed to enable them to understand and appreciate: (i) strategies and

programmes of skill development among the urban poor; (ii) skill training programmes and sectoral, local and ethnic requirements; (iii) institutional support base of the skill development programme; and (iv) skill development programmes for the urban poor: paradoxes and possibilities. Programme faculty comprised guest faculty and in-house faculty. Shri Saket Bihari coordinated both the programmes.

### **Programme on Financial Management in Scientific Organisations**

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA from March 4-8. The programme-content included were: (i) financial information flows and financial statements—account standard for research and development; (ii) financial information flows for decision-making, planning and control; (iii) planning for sources of finance: self generated or grants,

their accounting treatment and cost implications; (iv) product/service cost accumulation, allocation and control; (v) budgeting as a tool for planning and control and adoption of zero-base budgeting; and (vi) project formulation and financial appraisal—techniques relevant for scientific organisations. Scientists and technologists drawn from various scientific institutions attended the programme. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Rakesh Gupta coordinated it.

### Programme on MDP: Project Management Formulation and Appraisal

Sponsored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the programme was conducted at IIPA from March 11-15. Objectives of the programme were: (i) project management and economic development; (ii) project life cycle and its relevance; (iii) project and appraisal; (iv) commercial and financial aspects of a project; (v) project implementation: network analysis; (vi) project time and cost overrun: implications; (vii) social cost-benefit analysis; (viii) infrastructure project: viability gap funding scheme; and (ix) infrastructure project: PPP—Indian and international experience. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. P.K. Chaubey coordinated it.

### Programme on Science and Technology for Rural Societies

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, the programme was conducted at IIPA from March 11-15. Apart from exposing the participants to the innovative interventions in the area of science and technology, initiated by both state and civil society institutions, the programme was designed to: (i) expose them to the complex problems facing rural societies; (ii) expose them to the existing rural development programmes; (iii) expose them to the indigenous knowledge

systems prevalent in various parts of India and its relevance for rural society, as also to encourage them to find grounds for an interface of modern and traditional systems for improving the outcomes; and examine the possibilities of applications of S&T to improve development outcomes for the rural societies. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinators, Prof. Dolly Arora and Dr. Charru Malhotra.

### Provisional Training Programme (PTP-7)

Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, the captioned programme, part of Indo-Afghan partnership for strengthening sub-national governance in Afghanistan, was conducted at IIPA for the Afghan delegation from March 18-29. Apart from providing the participants with a broad understanding of various facets of public administration, the programme was designed to: (i) expose them to various good practices in India and to draw lessons from them; (ii) equip the participants with knowledge and skills to better manage conflicts and disasters; (iii) enhance their capacity in managing development programmes/projects; and (iv) develop soft skills for enhancing their performance. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinators, Prof. Vinod K. Sharma, Prof. K.K. Pandey and Dr. C Sheela Reddy.

### Ujjal Kumar Ghosh Memorial Lecture

IIPA jointly with Purnujjal Papiya Ghosh Memorial Trust and Centre for Studies in Civilisations organised the lecture on March 14. Prof. G.K. Chadha, Professor Emeritus, JNU and President of South Asian University, delivered the



Prof. G.K. Chadha delivers the lecture.

lecture on “Land Acquisition Experience in India: Striving to Mend the Painful Past”. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, presided over the programme. In his address Prof. Chadha accentuated that ever since its enactment, the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has been a subject to controversies and fierce debate. Notwithstanding rounds of amendments, including the 1984 changes, he stated that it has failed to address some important issues associated with land acquisition. He mentioned that from an economic perspective, the question of land is linked to critical issues of agricultural productivity, infrastructure development, employment opportunities, housing, and other related issues. Prof. Chadha stated that each one of these aspects is crucial for enhancing national security by ensuring consistent economic growth, food security and so on, which reinforce the country’s economic strength. He observed that it becomes imperative to strike a balance between the economic and social functions of land. He emphasised that deeper structural reforms will ensure that the exercise of land redistribution actually becomes meaningful, enabling small farmers to turn their plots into productive assets. While giving multi-dimensional approach to the entire topic, Shri Chaturvedi emphasised that poverty alleviation cannot be possible *sans* the harmonisation of administration and academia.

### B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair in Social Justice at IIPA organised the fourth Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on March 21. Shri R.P. Singh, former DG, Post and Telecom, delivered the lecture on "Social Justice: Strategies and Challenges". Describing Ambedkar as a great personality, Shri Singh stated that Ambedkar took up the task of social change at a very difficult time and showed us a path which went through education and successfully led to social transformation. Shri A.K. Biswas, former Vice-Chancellor of B.R. Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur, presided over the programme. Prof. Sushma Yadav coordinated it.

### Seminar on Social Justice: Concept, Strategies and Challenges

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair in Social Justice organised the captioned

programme at IIPA on March 21-22. The purpose of the programme was to garner relevant and contemporary assessments from the researchers and activists on the concept of social justice along with the strategies and challenges before it in contemporary India. The programme brought together a galaxy of academics, activists and practitioners to share conceptual evaluation, approaches and common problems, and to strategise about ways which would play a key role in achieving the same. The event provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions which were initiated by the key speakers of the plenary session, through their presentations on diverse areas of development and social justice. Shri Sanjay Paswan, former Minister for HRD and Telecom, gave the valedictory address. Prof. Sushma Yadav coordinated it.

### Faculty News

- Prof. P.K. Chaubey, Professor of Economics (Economic Administration), delivered a key-note address on "Sustaining Success" and chaired a technical session in the National Seminar on "Sustaining Success: A Tight Rope Walk" on February 23 at GLA University, Mathura. He also delivered a valedictory address in a National Seminar on "NREGA" on February 24, organised by the D.S. College, Aligarh.

### Students of Shivaji University Visit IIPA

A group of 37 students along with two faculty members from Shivaji University, Department of Political Science, Kolhapur visited IIPA on March 5. They had an interactive session with Prof. Dolly Arora and Prof. Sujata Singh. Prof. Dolly Arora coordinated the visit.

## NEWS FROM BRANCHES

### Budaun Local Branch

The branch organised a meeting on March 1 to discuss the appraisal of the three-day Workshop on "Protection of Human Rights: Focus on Women Empowerment" which was held in Haridwar. Shri P.D. Upadhaya, Chief Treasury Officer, presided; and Dr. R.B. Mathur, Joint Secretary of the branch, convened it. Shri Upadhaya congratulated Dr. Har Swaroop for the success of the programme in all respect for creating the general awareness and the genuine need about the protection of human rights. It was decided that the branch should work as a facilitator to the district administration, Budaun for developing four model villages mainly for the protection of human rights of the deprived sections of the society.

### Delhi Regional Branch

The branch organised a book release function of the book entitled *Manonayan: Sansad mein Doordarshita*

*evam Utkrishita ke Samvadhanik Vyavastha* by Dr. Prabhakaran Jain February 27. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, released the book. He mentioned that factionalism in the government appeasing alliance partner in present coalition government era, giving representation of eminent personalities of particular community and religion along with other political compulsion influence the process of filling the seats of nominated members in the Upper House. Earlier, the branch organised a lecture-meeting on February 12, in which Dr. K.D. Kanodia, Sr. Vice-President of Delhi Homeopathy Medical Association, spoke on "Secrets of Health and Happiness". Shri T.N. Chaturvedi presided over the programme. The branch also organised a seminar on "Challenges of e-Governance" on February 19. Sri P.K. Tripathi, Chairman of Public Grievances Commission, Delhi Government; Shri Parkash Kumar, former Principal Secretary of Information Technology,

Delhi Government; and Shri Alok Gupta, Managing Director, Pyramid Cyber Security and Forensic (P) Ltd were key speakers. On this occasion, a book entitled *e-Governance—The New Frontier in Governance* by late Dr. D.C. Misra, former Chairman of Task Force for ICT Policy, Delhi Government, was released by Shri T.N. Chaturvedi.

### Gulbarga Local Branch

The branch jointly with Rotary Club organised a lecture-meeting on "Central and State Budget" on March 1. Shri L.B. Banni Koppa, Advocate, spoke on the subject covering rail budget. Shri Maruthi Pawar, Secretary of the branch, presided. Shri S. Basvaraj felicitated the guest and highlighted about IIPA.

### Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on February 26, in which Shri Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, President

of Criminology Society of Jammu and Kashmir, spoke on “Understanding Crime and Changing Criminal Behaviour—The New Pathways”. He observed that the crime rate is increasing due to the psychological imbalance of the victim. He stated that human behavior is based on neurons and genes, which control whole human body and thought and little predicament in these genes and neurons can lead to a person to any extent. He mentioned that this behavioural change can be controlled by combining yoga behavior therapy and neuro biology. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S.P. Vaid, Additional DGP Administration, stated that yoga exercises have the power to change human behavior. In his presidential address, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the branch, observed that religion neutral moral education can play significant role in changing criminal behaviour

#### **Karnataka Regional Branch**

The branch jointly with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka organised a workshop on “Social Audit” on March 8. Shri S. Ramanathan, Chairman of the branch, presided over the inaugural session which was inaugurated by Shri R. Subrahmanyam, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh. Ms. Sawmya Kidambi, Director of Society for Social Audit, Transparency and Accountability, Hyderabad gave a presentation on the process and methods followed in Andhra Pradesh to ensure citizen participation in social audits and the effective follow up measures taken on the findings of social audits. Among the speakers were Shri Meenakshisundaram, former Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development; Shri S. Rajaram, former Additional deputy Comptroller and Auditor General; Shri S. Prabhu, Principal Accountant General, Karnataka; and Shri Devi Prasad, Director of Fiscal Policy Institute. The programme concluded

with a discussion presided over by Shri D.N. Naik, Director of Social Audit, GoK, on suggestions to take forward social audit in Karnataka including means and measures to strengthen the social audit process in the State. Shri Ramanathan assured continuing support to the government in similar joint efforts.

#### **Kerala Regional Branch**

The branch organised a panel discussion on “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and India’s Development Needs” on February 19. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Joseph K. Alexander, Chairman of the branch. Dr. Pulapre Balakrishnan, Director of Centre for Development Studies, adopted a positive stand supporting the flow of FDI to India by citing the history of India’s development. He drew a line between the pre-liberal and post-liberal era in Indian economy. For substantiating his views he pointed out-India’s development since 1991 only because of the flow of FDI to India. Finally he stressed on the point that public sector need to perform more development oriented programmes by assimilating the private sector role players and development of India will definitely be a distant dream if FDI is not coming in the fields of infrastructure, education and health. Dr. Pushpangathan opined that FDI should be permitted only with close public scrutiny keeping in view of the resistance against possible exploitation from the corporate as they have only business interests, not welfare orientations. Dr. B. Alwin Prakash, Chairman, Kerala State and Expenditure Committee, observed that a maverick stand is not at all recommendatory for us to become one of the leading economies of the world. Dr. K.N. Harilal, former Member of the State Planning Board, expressed vociferously his discontent with the inflow of FII and FDI to India.

#### **Odisha Regional Branch**

To commemorate the National Newspaper Day, the branch teamed up with Indian Institute of Mass

Communication Dhenkanal to organise a seminar on “Paid News Affecting Credibility of India” on January 29. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pratip Kumar Mishra, Secretary of the branch, said that media faces a dual challenge from within and without. Media organisations are influenced by commercial interest and the practice of paid news syndrome has degraded ethical values of newspapers. In his address Sarat Chandra Misra, former DGP, Odisha, emphasised the significance of self regulation mechanism to check paid news culture. Dr. Mrinal Chaterjee Professor and Head of IIMC Dhenkanal presented a brief note on history of newspaper in India. Shri Batakrisna Tripathy, IPS, spoke on the vernacular press and paid news problems. Sri Bipin Bihari Mishra, Vice-Chairman of the branch, presided. The branch also organised a seminar on “Union Budget 2013-14” on March 4. Prof. Shiblal Meher of Xavier Institute of Management; and Shri Dilip Satpathy, Bureau Chief of *Business Standard* spoke on the subject. They analysed the items of receipts and expenditure in the budget at length and commented on the likely effects to make the economy turn around to path of high growth and low inflation. Shri Sanjib Chandra Hota, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

#### **Rajasthan Regional Branch**

The branch in collaboration with Centre for Administrative Change, Rotary Club Jaipur Mid-town and RA Poddar Institute of Management, University of Rajasthan, organised the Vishnu Dutt Sharma Memorial Lecture (on his centenary) on on “Good Governance and Nation Building” on March 15. The lecture was delivered by Shri T N Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA. He emphasised on the value of accountability, transparency, innovation, compassion and effectiveness in public system. Justice Shri Pana Chand Jain, former Judge, Rajasthan High Court, presided. The branch also organised an open house discussion on on “Right

to Information: Perspectives on the Present and Future” on March 18. Shri T. Srinivasan, Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan was the key-note speaker. He emphasised on the importance of making people aware of how to use RTI as a weapon to fight corruption. Shri D R Mehta, former Chairman, SEBI, in his presidential remarks lauded the role of civil society organisations like the Transparency International and NCPRI in strengthening ethics in public life. On March 25, Prof. Ramesh K Arora, Chairman of the branch, reviewed a new book You Are

Unique written by Prof. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The book highlights the value of clear vision, lofty mission, proper planning, self-esteem, hard work, team building and perseverance.

### Tirupati Local Branch

The branch jointly with the Department of Home Science, Sri Venkateswara University organised a seminar on “World Consumer Rights Day: Customer Justice Now” on March 15. In his address Shri M. Balakrishna Reddy, Secretary of Tirumal Tirupati Restaurants and

Hotels Association, stated that winning customer satisfaction is the foremost and top duty of the producer of any product in the global economy. Among other speakers were Shri P. Raja Reddy, Region Secretary of Confederation of A.P. Consumers organisation; Shri T. Adikesevulu Reddy, General Secretary of Kisan Service Organisation, Chittoor; Prof. D.L. Kusuma, HoD of Home Science, SVU University; and Prof. V. Rajagopal, President of Society for Hunger Elimination, Tirupati. Prof. A. Ranga Reddy, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

## NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

### Senior Appointments in Ministries

The Union Government has approved the following senior appointments /promotions / transfers / extensions: • Shri Rajiv Sharma as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs • Shri S.K. Sarkar as Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources • Prof. K. Vijayraghavan, as Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology • Shri Rajiv Takru as OSD, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance in the rank and pay of Secretary • Shri Ravi Mathur as Secretary, Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance • Shri R. Ramanujam as Secretary to Prime Minister, Prime Minister’s Office • Shri P. Gopinath as Secretary, Department of Posts, Chairperson, Postal Services Board and Director General, Postal Services • Shri M.J. Joseph as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs • Shri Sudhir Bhargava, as Special Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas • Shri Siraj Hussain, as Special Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation • Shri Nilanjan Sanyal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development • Shri S. Machendranathan, as Special

Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Civil Aviation • Shri Rajan S. Katoch, as Director of Enforcement, Directorate of Enforcement under the Department of Revenue in the rank and pay of Secretary • Shri Ravindra Singh, as Special Secretary, Ministry of Culture • Ms. Gauri Kumar as Special Secretary, Ministry of Mines • Shri Anup Kumar Thakur as Special Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation • Shri Afzal Amanullah, as Special Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs • Shri G. Mohan Kumar as Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources • Shri L.C. Goyal, as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat • Shri E.K. Bharat Bhushan as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Steel • Ms. Vandana Kumari Jena as Principal Adviser, Planning Commission, in the rank and pay of Secretary • Shri Bimal Julka as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs • Shri Lalit K. Panwar as Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, ITDC under Ministry of Tourism in the rank and pay of Secretary • Ms. Meera Mehrishi as Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests in the pay of Secretary • Shri Vivek Rae as Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas • Shri Dalip Singh

as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel, on *in-situ* basis, by temporarily upgrading the post held by the officer • Shri Alok Sheel as Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the PM, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, on *in-situ* basis, by temporarily upgrading the post held by the officer • Ms. Leena Nair as Chairperson, MPEDA, Department of Commerce, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, on *in-situ* basis, by temporarily upgrading the post held by the officer • Shri S Jayaraman as Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs • Shri Vinod Zutshi as Deputy Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India • Ms. Zohra Chatterji as Secretary, Ministry of Textiles • Shri Padamvir Singh as Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Department of Personnel and Training in the rank and pay of Secretary, by temporarily upgrading the post held by the officer • Shri V. Chhiber as Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

### Quality Education for the Underprivileged

Teach For India is a unique initiative that provides promising graduates and young professionals an opportunity to teach in low-income schools in

***The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal — Aristotle***

pursuance of educational equity. In India, the high absenteeism rate of teachers, increased drop-out rates and understaffed government schools impact the overall educational scenario. With the aim to address this growing gap in the capacity of service delivery between government and private educational institutions in India, the Teach For India organisation has introduced a two-year Fellowship programme for young talented individuals between the age of 20 and 35, to teach full-time in low-income schools utilising innovative teaching tools and techniques. The Fellowship provides resources and training, and encourages youth to develop leadership skills. In the short run, TFI envisages to create a pool of dedicated teachers who work diligently to impart quality education to underprivileged children, and in the process become sensitive to resolve problems in public education system. Further, the long-term goal is to utilise this sensitivity, to build a powerful and ever-growing network of alumni who will continue to work towards creating equality in educational opportunities through various avenues. Starting with 87 Fellows teaching in 35 schools in Mumbai and Pune in 2009, today 250 TFI Fellows are teaching across 130 schools in Mumbai, Pune and Delhi. TFI is reaching out to about 12,000 students, providing them an opportunity to be exposed to a quality of education which they have so far been devoid of. At the same time, the presence of young, vibrant Fellows in the public education system is bringing a fresh outlook towards addressing the urgent

need for educational reforms.

### Improving Earning Capacity of Farmers

Fasal Intuit is a free SMS-based service that connects rural farmers in Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with buyers; provides them with real-time price information to make better market decisions and earn profit. The majority of farmers in India have access to two or more *mandis* where they can go and sell their produce. Unfortunately, these farmers do not have easy access to agriculture-related information. More often than not the farmers remain unaware of wholesale market prices in their area and as a result of which they often end up going to a market with lower price or sell at the village level at lower price. To help farmers address this challenge, the Global Business Division team at Intuit conceived a simple yet sophisticated solution in 2008 known as Fasal. It is a free SMS-based service that connects rural farmers with buyers and provides them with real-time price information. This service uses SMS technology available on simple mobile phones to provide real time market price information to farmers as well as connect rural farmers (producers) with buyers in their *area/mandi* to sell their produce at best possible price. Farmers can subscribe to this service by calling the Fasal call centre 1800 102 8767. Intuit Fasal can be termed as an innovative practice because it provides personalised, real-time information to farmers for commodities and markets in local language; allows farmers to make informed decisions

about marketing their produce and helps them make, on average, 15 per cent to 20 per cent more money for their crops and finally uses widely available SMS technology to deliver relevant information when farmers need it. Currently, approximately 800,000 farmers across three states use the service.

### Educating Rural Women

TARA Akshar Plus is an innovative computer-based functional literacy programme that trains rural women to read and write in Hindi, and carry out basic mathematical calculations. It was developed in 2004 by TARAhaat Information and Marketing Services - the ICT arm of the non-profit organisation, Development Alternative Group. The software application uses a unique visual memory technique that links every letter of the Hindi alphabet to an object that the female students use in their daily lives. This linkage helps rural women to learn the alphabets quickly without forgetting what they have learned later on. A TARA Akshar+ instructor uses software, flash cards and playing cards to train the students in just 49 days through two hour classes every day. Students alternate between reading and writing lessons. A well-structured programme design and a thorough implementation plan have resulted in a very high degree of efficiency. Covering the entire Hindi speaking belt of the country, it has succeeded in educating approximately 58,000 rural women with a dropout rate of only one per cent. Its integration with the National Literacy Mission is underway.

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### Gujarat

#### Financial Inclusion through Micro Pension

In Ahmedabad, SEWA Bank has introduced a micro-pension scheme to

extend old-age retirement benefits to women employed in the unorganised sector. Sri Mahila SEWA Sahakari Bank was established in 1974 by a group of self employed women with the objective of strengthening its members'

bargaining power to improve income, employment and access to social security. The bank currently operates in 10 districts of Gujarat, and has also offered its services in a few other states. Besides offering basic financial

*Debt is a prolific mother of folly and of crime — Benjamin Disraeli*

services, the bank has gradually expanded its activities to include housing loans, insurance and pensions to women employed in the unorganised sector. The Micro-Pension scheme offered by SEWA in partnership with UTI is a pioneering initiative in India. SEWA Bank works with Unit Trust of India Asset Management Company (UTI-AMC), who is responsible for the investment aspect of the programme. At present, any women up to age of 55, having

a savings account with SEWA, can enroll in the scheme. This way, SEWA Bank deducts the monthly contribution from the individual's savings account in the form of a systematic investment plan. The minimum contribution is Rs. 50 monthly or Rs. 500 annually. SEWA Bank then transfers the money to UTI twice a month through cheque transfer. UTI opens individual retirement accounts to facilitate investment UTI mutual funds, which is 60 per cent debt

and 40 per cent equity. As a pension fund, members are eligible to withdraw money on attaining the age of 58. At that time, a member can either take the entire amount or opt to receive periodic payments through the bank. In past five year, more than 60000 women from unorganised sector have enrolled in the scheme in Ahmedabad. SEWA Bank is currently promoting the initiative by organising financial literacy camps in its operational areas.

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### Quotable Quotes

- *Growth means change and change involves risk, stepping from the known to the unknown* — Benjamin Franklin
- *Economy is the method by which we prepare today to afford the improvements of tomorrow* — Calvin Coolidge
- *Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal* — Euripides
- *Words have no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality* — Edgar Allan Poe
- *We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing* — George Bernard Shaw
- *Nothing so fortifies a friendship as a belief on the part of one friend that he is superior to the other* — Honore de Balzac

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