



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## IIPA NEWSLETTER



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[www.iipa.org.in](http://www.iipa.org.in)

### INSTITUTE NEWS

#### Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture

The Institute organised the lecture by Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, MP and Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, on "Parliamentary Democracy in India" on May 20. While paying glowing tribute to Rajiv Gandhi, Dr. Singhvi mentioned that Rajiv Gandhi always combined passion and zeal for out-of-the-box ideas with a young visionary's patience and pragmatism to achieve concrete results. He opined that Rajiv Gandhi was the first political leader, after independence, to usher in an ambience and culture of youth power. Dr. Singhvi observed that federalism is a fundamental and inalienable concept of shared and participatory democracy. He was of the view that federalism provides a shared identity without which governance becomes monopolistic and unilateral. According to him, the essence of parliamentary democracy lies more in the intangible in the spirit and less in the rules and regulations and the Constitution. In his presidential address Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA, expressed that parliamentary democracy has performed

reasonably well but there is no room for complacency. He stated that eternal vigilance is the price that the each Indian has to pay for the sustenance and efficacy of parliamentary democracy in India. Dr. Lokendra Malik and Dr. Kusum Lata coordinated it.

#### Programme for the Presidents and Members of the District Forums

Sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the guidance of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA under its Advanced Management Development Programme-II from May 2-6. Apart from elaborating and integrating the various provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and other legislations having a bearing on consumer protection, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) appreciate the intricacies of judicial procedure in general and the requirements of fairness and reasonableness in the functioning of quasi-judicial bodies such as the consumer disputes redressal agencies in particular; (ii) effectively make use of the art of judgement writing in delivering the orders of the consumer courts; (iii) appreciate the legal dimensions of the case laws developed in the area of consumer protection; and (iv) develop effective leadership for better administration of consumer justice. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Sapna Chadah coordinated it.

#### Programme on Planning, Provision and Management of Urban Infrastructure

Sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA by its Centre for Urban Studies, for senior/middle level officers drawn



*Dr. Abhishek Singhvi addresses the audience. He is flanked by Dr. Rakesh Hooja on his right.*

**The IIPA fraternity extends its greetings to all its readers Hazrat Ali's Birthday and Rath Yatra**

from various urban bodies, from May 23-27. The programme objectives were to: (i) assimilate the present system of planning, provision and management of urban infrastructure in the participating organisations like ULBs, DAs and utility boards; (ii) disseminate best practices thereby giving opportunity to the participants in adoption and replication of these best practices; and (iii) encourage networking of the participants from the respective organisations in knowledge sharing and opportunity to utilise the knowledge. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Dr. Kusum Lata and Dr. Lokendra Malik coordinated it.

### **Programme for the Presidents and Members of the District Consumer Forums**

Sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the guidance of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the programme was conducted at IIPA by its Centre for Consumer Studies from May 23-27. The objectives of the programme were the same as of the earlier one already mentioned in this Newsletter. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Dr. Sapna Chadah coordinated it.

### **Hamid Ansari Speaks on Governance and Public Service**

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India and President of IIPA, delivered lecture on "Governance and Public Service" at UPSC, New Delhi on May 3. In his address Shri Ansari observed that in the past six decades, the UPSC has ably discharged its constitutional function in the recruitment of the higher civil services which, in turn, have responded in varying measure to their core mandate of dispensing social, economic and political justice.

He emphasised that we do need reiteration that civil servants are functionaries of the state and not of the government alone, that they are paid to render honest professional advice however unpalatable, and that they should be guided in their work by the principles and objectives, and the charter of rights and duties, enshrined in our Constitution.

### **Book Discussion Meet**

The Institute organised the fifth book discussion meet on the book entitled *Enforcing Police Accountability through Civilian Oversight* by Shri Sankar Sen, former Director General, National Human Rights Commission. The book explores the sensitive issues of police accountability to civilian oversight bodies to control police excesses. At the centre of the discourse lies the tacit acknowledgement that the enormous power and authority invested in the police does lead to corruption and excesses unless adequate checks and balances are installed. The book analyses these checks and balances and how these can be made more effective. It puts forth a cross-national study of internal and external mechanisms for enforcing police accountability, and critically appraises the effectiveness of civilian oversight bodies. It also touches upon the working of the National Human Rights Commission of India. While Shri Shankar Sen spoke about the book and Prof. Jaytilak Guha Roy reviewed it. Shri B.R. Lall, former Director General of Police, Haryana, spoke on the occasion. Prof. Partha S. Ghosh of School of International Studies, JNU, moderated the discussion.

### **Faculty News**

• Prof. P.K. Chaubey made a presentation based on the draft report of the project on "Assessment

of Demand for Skill Sets in Bihar by 2024-25" commissioned by the Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar, in the presence of Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Minister of Labour Resources. The presentation was made in the workshop on "Demand Mapping of Skill Sets in Bihar", organised by the Department of Labour Resources and United Nations Development Programme at A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna on May 16.

• Prof. K.K. Pandey visited Vietnam in the third week of April to deliver university lecture at Vietnamese German University on "Urban Development in India and Feedback for Vietnam" and also had meetings at the university and Ho Chi Minh City Municipal Corporation to discuss sectoral issues with concerned functionaries. Prof. Pandey also participated in the UN Expert Group-Global Meeting on HUPI (Habitat University Partnership Initiatives) held in London (U.K.) from May 16-18. The meeting was attended by 45 urban sector experts drawn from different countries and finalised a draft for the UN-University collaboration on Urban Education and related activities such as research, training and networking.

• Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor of Consumer Affairs attended the 33rd ISO /COPOLCO Plenary meeting held in London, UK, from May 23-27 as part of the Indian delegation. About 120 delegates from 43 countries participated in the meet. ISO/COPOLCO is the International Standards Organisation Consumer Policy Committee that debates issues of consumer importance and sets consumer priorities. The Plenary meeting discussed the progress and actual problems of ISO/COPOLCO including consumer participation, consumer interest,

regional development and initiatives, and also reviewed COPOLCO work programmes which are very important for the development of consumer policy. A report was also presented on Consumer Protection in the Global Marketplace.

### Working Groups for Twelfth Five Year Plan

Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor of Consumer Affairs and Coordinator of IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies, has been designated by the Director to represent IIPA in the Working Group on Consumer Protection for the 12th Plan following Government of India's inclusion of a representative from IIPA.

Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA, has been made a member of the 12th Five Year Plan Working Group on Capacity Building for Urban Development by Planning Commission, Government of India.

Prof. V.K. Sharma has been made member of Sub Group V of 12th Five Year Plan Working Group on Disaster Management.

Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta has been made member of the 12th Five Year Plan Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment.

### Staff News

Shri. J.K. Tripathi has resigned as Deputy Registrar (Finance) to

join Jawaharlal Nehru University as Deputy Registrar. He had joined the Institute on May 16, 2011. In his place, Shri Suresh Chandra (his predecessor) has been appointed on contract basis for a period of three months or till alternative arrangements is made.

### Themes for Essay Competition, Members' Conference and Special Issues of Journals

As authorised by the Executive Council in its meeting held on March 29 the following are topics for (a) Annual Essay Prize Competition 2011, (b) Members' Annual Conference 2011, (c) Special Issue of IJPA (July-September 2011), and (d) Special Issue of Lok Prashasan (July-December 2011).

#### (a) Topics for Annual Essay Prize Competition 2011

(English and Hindi)

- (i) Role of Audit in Democratic India
- (ii) Judicial Accountability and Democracy
- (iii) Food Security, Food Inflation and the Public Distribution System
- (iv) What the Next Five Year Plan should Focus upon—Five Priority Items
- (v) Information Technology for the Masses: Bridging the Digital Divide

#### (b) Members' Annual Conference 2011

Role of Panchayat Bodies in Rural Development Since 1959

#### (c) Special Issue of IJPA (July-September 2011)

Controlling Corruption in India: Various Approaches and their Efficacy

#### (d) Special Issue of Lok Prashasan (July-December 2011)

Vikas: Dasha evam Disha

### Publication of Life Members Writings

The life time writings of late Dr. V. Nath (Life Member of IIPA) are being edited and got published through Concept Publishing Company by his wife Smt. Kamla Nath. Four volumes have already been published and the fifth one on *Administration and Development Planning in India* is now ready for release. The 600-page volume contains 22 articles by Dr. Nath (four of which were originally published in IJPA) as well as a 30-page introduction entitled "Reviewing the Relationship between Development Planning and Administration" by Dr. Rakesh Hooja (Director of IIPA) who had also provided editorial inputs to Smt. Nath while the volume was being put together.

### IIPA's Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition 2011

In order to build a body of knowledge through case studies to promote a deeper and wider understanding of the functioning of the Indian administration and governance, the IIPA organises Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition every year. The competition has a first prize of Rs. 10,000, a second prize of Rs. 6,000, and a third prize of Rs. 4,000. Besides, the award winning case studies, if any case study is considered suitable for publication, the same may be given an honorarium of Rs. 2,000 each. The case studies must cover one or more facets of public administration and must fall within the specified broad areas and the prescribed format which is available on the website of the Institute. The last date for the receipt of the case study is August 31, 2011. The cover should be super scribed with "Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition- 2011" and be addressed to the Registrar, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002. For details, please visit our website—[iipa.org.in](http://iipa.org.in) or contact Prof. Sushma Yadav, Member Secretary, Case Study Committee, IIPA, New Delhi, personally or telephonically on office tel # 011-23468337.

### हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता- वर्ष 2011

भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान लोक प्रशासन के क्षेत्र में हिंदी में मौलिक तथा सम-सामयिक लेखन को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन विगत कई वर्षों से करता आ रहा है। इस वर्ष **शिक्षा का अधिकार** विषय पर प्रविष्टियाँ आमंत्रित हैं।

निबंध मूल रूप से हिंदी में लिखा जाना चाहिए। यह शुद्ध तथा अद्यतन तथ्यों पर आधारित एवं मौलिक विचारों को दर्शाने वाला होना चाहिए। निबंध का आकार 4,000 से 5,000 शब्दों के बीच होना चाहिए। प्रतियोगी को निबंध में प्रयुक्त कुल शब्दों की संख्या बतानी होगी। निबंध प्रत्येक पृष्ठ के एक ही तरफ दोहरे स्थान के साथ साफ साफ टाइप किया हुआ होना चाहिए। निबंध की तीन प्रतियाँ जमा करना आवश्यक है। इन प्रतियों पर लेखक का केवल कल्पित नाम लिखा होना चाहिए। प्रतियोगी का असली नाम तथा पता (दूरभाष सं. सहित) एक अलग कागज पर टाइप करके सीलबंद लिफाफे में अलग से रखा होना चाहिए जिस पर लेखक का कल्पित नाम तथा निम्न शब्द अंकित होने चाहिए: हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता - वर्ष 2011, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, नई दिल्ली 110002

प्रतियोगिता के अंतर्गत प्रथम, द्वितीय तथा तृतीय पुरस्कार प्राप्त करने वाले निबंधों के लेखकों को क्रमशः 5,000/- रुपये, 3,000/- रुपये तथा 2,000/- रुपये के पुरस्कार प्रदान किए जाएंगे। पुरस्कृत निबंध संस्थान की संपत्ति होंगे। यदि निबंध आवश्यक मानक स्तर तक नहीं पहुँचते तो संस्थान को अधिकार है कि वह किसी भी निबंध को पुरस्कृत न करे। जिस प्रतियोगी को इस प्रतियोगिता में इससे पहले पुरस्कार प्राप्त हो चुका है वह प्रतियोगी दुबारा उसी श्रेणी का या उससे निम्न श्रेणी के किसी पुरस्कार का हकदार नहीं होगा। संयुक्त रूप से लेखकों द्वारा लिखित निबंध पर प्रतियोगिता के लिए विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। पूर्व में पुरस्कृत प्रतियोगी इस तथ्य से संस्थान को अवश्य अवगत कराएं।

लिफाफे के ऊपर 'हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता - 2011' अंकित होना आवश्यक है। निबंध निम्नानुसार संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए - निदेशक, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, इंद्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002। निबंध स्वीकार करने की अंतिम तिथि 31 अगस्त, 2011 है। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद प्राप्त प्रविष्टियों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। प्रतियोगिता से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के स्पष्टीकरण के लिए प्रो0 प्रमोद कुमार चौबे, संयोजक, राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, इंद्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110002 से सम्पर्क करें।

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### Delhi Regional Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on May 24, in which Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Sr. Consultant (Nephrology), Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, spoke on "How to Keep Your Kidneys Healthy?" Prof. Jaytilak Guha Roy, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

### Budaun Local Branch

The branch organised two seminars on "Problems and Challenges of Higher Education" and "Rural Development and Role of the Civil Society" on May 1. Among the speakers were Dr. Yogendra Narain, Editor of *IJPA*; Dr. Har Swarup, Secretary of the branch; Dr. Mithesh Mishra, Secretary of Bareilly Local Branch; IG of the Bareilly Range. Apart from these seminars, Dr. Har Swarup also organised distribution of sewing machines to the women of



Dr. Yogendra Narain addresses the audience. Among others are Dr. Mithesh Mishra and Dr. Har Swarup.

Data Nagar town area as part of the initiative by the branch to empower women.

### Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a panel discussion on the proposed draft amendments in the J&K State Vigilance Commission Act 2011 on May 21. Presiding over the discussion, Dr.

Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the branch, highlighted the need for state vigilance commission and opined that for making systematic changes the commission can play pivotal role. Shri D.C. Raina, Senior Advocate, described the Act as a healthy initiative but disturbed by grammatical mistakes and the language of some sections. Shri B.L. Saraf, former District

and Session Judge, expressed the apprehension on the desirability of vigilance commission in the event of passage of Lok Pal Bill. Prof. S.K. Sharma, former Professor of Law at Jammu University, called for Constitutional protection for those who would occupy positions of CVC/CVs and was opposed to making the Commission only civil service centric.

### Karimnagar Local Branch

The branch organised one-day fast for introduction of Lokpal Bill and for eradication of corruption at all levels on April 9. Shri B. Rameshwar Rao, Secretary of the branch, along with a few members participated in the camp and also took part in a rally organised by the local media *Lok Satta*. Earlier, the branch collaborated with Karimnagar Consumers' Council

in organising an awareness meeting On March 21. Prof. Iqbal Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Satavahana University, was the Chief Guest.

### Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised the following programmes in February, March and April: (i) seminar on "Judicial Activism". Justice R.K. Shukla was

the key speaker; (ii) discussion on "Knowledge Management", in which Shri Alok Shrivastava, formerly with UNDP, spoke; and (iii) discussion on "Role of Non Government Agencies in the Achievement of the Target of Education for All" in which Shri Narendar Prasad spoke. Shri Kewal Krishan Sethi, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programmes.

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## NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

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### Virtual Varsity for Technical Education

There is good news for the students wishing to take up distance learning but apprehensive of the lesser value attached to the technical degrees obtained from these courses as compared to those from regular streams. The Centre is planning to establish a virtual university that will impart training on diverse technical areas to the undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as the newly recruited teachers through flexible, credit-based correspondence courses. The proposed Virtual Technical University (VTU) will offer programmes in the fields of science, technology, management, architecture, pharmacy and other areas of applied knowledge. It would come up as part of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource development. The university will use video courses, web-based learning material and live lectures using satellite and internet-based technologies. The VTU will have a repository of video courses created by experts in the field, a website that will host learning material while live lectures will be delivered using satellite and Internet

technologies. University may also have five different schools—one each on developing teaching methodology, engineering sciences, natural sciences, management sciences and human sciences. The school of education will look at developing inner and outer strength of the individuals and their emotional intelligence while that of engineering would focus on different disciplines of engineering. The school of management sciences will look at industrial and management engineering. Human sciences like economics and humanities would be catered to by the school of human sciences. A high-powered panel set up by the Ministry for faculty development in technical institutes had recommended that each school float a suitable number of courses in order to cater to the need of various disciplines associated with the school. It was envisaged that VTU shall have at least 300 courses for the school of engineering sciences and engage a large pool of talented faculty from IITs, NITs, IISc and other institutions and retired faculty.

### Gramin Bhandaran Yojana

Storage infrastructure is necessary for carrying over the agricultural produce from production period to the rest of the year. With most of the

small farmers not financially sound to retain produce with them till the market prices are favourable, they need proper storage facilities to avoid wastage and reduce deterioration. Storage facilities also enable them to meet their credit requirement without being compelled to make distress sale of their produce.

Among the major agencies engaged in warehousing and storage. Food Corporation of India (FCI) constructs godowns for its own need of procurement and public distribution. In 2000, a High Level Expert Committee set up by the government to consider various aspects of the problems related to storage of agricultural produce and to improve country's storage space and also storage technology recommended creation of about 20 lakh tonne storage capacity in rural and semi-urban areas. The National Agriculture Policy has also emphasised creation of storage facilities for agri produce, particularly in rural areas.

Accordingly, in 2001 the government launched Gramin Bhandaran Yojana for construction/renovation of rural godowns in the country. The main objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet requirements

of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs, etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit. The scheme is demand-driven and not location specific.

This project can be taken up by individuals, farmers, group of farmers/growers, partnership, proprietary firms, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), companies, cooperatives, federations, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations. Assistance for renovation of godowns is, however, restricted to godowns constructed by cooperatives only.

Under the scheme, the entrepreneur is free to construct godown at any place, as per his / her commercial judgement except for the restriction that it should be outside the limits of the Municipal Corporation area. Rural godowns constructed in the Food Parks promoted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries are also eligible under the scheme for assistance. Subsidy under the scheme is restricted to a minimum capacity of 100 tonnes and maximum capacity of 10,000 tonnes.

Rural godowns of smaller sizes up to 50 tonnes capacity are also eligible for subsidy under the scheme as a special case based on viability analysis. In hilly areas, where the project site is located at a height of more than 1000 metres above mean sea level, rural godowns of smaller sizes up to 25 tonnes capacity are also eligible for subsidy.

The scheme is being implemented by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Faridabad and its sub-offices through NABARD and NCDC.

### **Project VigEye Launched**

In an attempt to provide a more user-friendly platform for interface between the CVC and the citizens who are harassed by corruption or those who want to disclose information about corrupt activities, the Central Vigilance Commission has launched the project VigEye an acronym for Vigilance Eye. It implies that the citizens would act as the eyes of the Commission in keeping vigil on public affairs. Citizens are encouraged to stand up against corruption by becoming a VigEye. The advantages of this include simplified process of filing complaints and it will provide authentic identity of the complainant. VigEye would be completely digitised and it will give online access to vigilance information.

### **Teachers will be Assessed and Graded**

From now on, teachers will be graded and assessed annually on their performance and become eligible for promotions and career advancements based on their teaching performance, research work and publication quality. With the University Grants Commission (UGC) notifying its "Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education", performance of teachers will be assessed on the basis of a Performance Based Assessment System (PBAS) in which scores have been assigned to each sub-dimension or Academic Performance Indicator (API). As per APIs identified by the UGC and approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), 75 per cent weightage will be given to "teaching, learning and evaluation" activities which will include lectures, practicals and tutorials taken, teaching duties in excess of UGC norms, use of innovative teaching tools and examination duties.

Fifteen per cent weightage will be accorded to "co-curricular, extension and professional development related activities" of a teacher which will comprise student-related, field based activities like NSS/NCC, contribution to management of department, participation in seminars, conferences, short-term training courses and talks. Further, selection committees will have the option of observing candidates in actual classroom situations or through research presentations. That apart, API scores are proposed for "research and academic contribution" of a teacher. While research papers, published in refereed journals, will fetch a teacher 15 points per publication, it will be 10 points in case of a non-refereed journal. Research publications like books, chapters in books and so on will also earn a teacher scores for example, 50 points for a sole-author publication, 10 points for a chapter in an edited book, 25 points for sole-author subject books by national-level publishers or Central, state government publications. For sponsored research projects ranging from Rs five lakh to Rs 30 lakh across various disciplines, 20 points will be earned by the teachers concerned for each project. Minor projects will earn teachers 10-15 points while consultancy projects will also fetch some 10 points. Relying heavily on self-assessment by teachers, these API scores will be derived from objectively verifiable criteria that will be drawn up by a screening/selection committee. UGC will soon be sending a PBAS pro forma to all varsities which will also be free to devise their own PBAS based on it. Teachers will be able to offer themselves for assessment for promotion once they fulfill minimum API scores — they will also be able to get increments to the tune of three per cent of the Academic Grade Pay (AGP) — as outlined under the Sixth Pay Commission. State governments have

***Only the extremely ignorant or the extremely intelligent can resist change — Socrates***

also been asked to amend their relevant Acts within six months to enable implementation of these regulations. Under the regulations, universities and colleges will set up Internal Quality Assessment Cells within three months and these will keep the annual database for individual and institutional

performance. The assessment system will become tougher as teachers move up from Associate Professor level to higher levels but research requirements will be kept lower for college teachers than varsity teachers, keeping in mind variations in available infrastructure. The regulations ask colleges to assign

research time to college teachers and provide necessary infrastructure. Also outlined are eligibility conditions for teachers at various levels APIs for each category and the flexibility to appoint reputed academics even if they may have superannuated or may be outside the UGC system.

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## NEWS FROM THE STATES

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### Haryana

#### Disaster Lessons for Students

Acting on the time-tested premise that it is not the hazards that kill, but ill-preparedness and lack of awareness that convert a hazard into disaster, the State's secondary education department has scripted a disaster awareness-cum-preparedness plan for students of secondary schools. Each school in the State would have a disaster management club, which would serve as a resource centre for children to create awareness generation material for disasters, including lists of some do's and don'ts, posters and calendars, etc. The target is to cover all government schools right from primary to secondary level. Training would be imparted to some master trainers, about 10 in each district, and 210 persons in all, for about 21 days by an expert agency. Four teachers in every school would be trained by one resource person from the agency. The clubs would promote the culture of safety among students and their families, teach students how to prepare hazard maps for their community and school, and equip them with basic lessons in tackling a fire outbreak, an accident in a chemical laboratory, earthquake, flood or even a bomb threat or hostage crisis

#### Panel on Infrastructure Set Up

The Haryana Government has constituted a committee of secretaries on infrastructure (CoSI) under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to facilitate infrastructure development in the State under public private partnership (PPP) mode. The principal secretary to chief minister, financial commissioners and principal secretaries of revenue, planning, law and justices, town and country planning, industries, PW (B&R) and forest departments and administrative secretary of the concerned department will be its members and the financial commissioner and principal secretary, finance would be its member-convenor. The committee will consider and formulate policy directives for facilitation and acceleration of PPP mode of delivery of public services in the State, besides considering and providing in-principle approval for projects to be taken up on PPP mode. It will also determine most preferred and optimal method based on the detailed analysis presented on alternatives for procuring the public services or utilities; consider and approve projects under PPP mode having concession period up to 10 years or involving investment up to Rs. 25 crore, besides approving bid documents risk sharing principles, dispute resolution mechanism and

bid processes. The CoSI will resolve issues relating to project approval process and approve sectoral policies and model contract principles, besides preparing road-map for project development. It will also identify inter-sectoral linkages, exercise authority for accepting or rejecting sole bid if received or limited bids for any project. It will also prescribe time limits for clearances for the projects. The panel will also recommend special legislation for formation of appropriate regulatory mechanism or robust grievance redressal mechanism as may be required and also inspect, review and monitor implementation, execution, operation and management of PPP projects.

### Himachal Pradesh

#### Sustainable Plastic Waste Management

The Government of Himachal Pradesh had undertaken proactive role and initiatives towards awareness-generation, action and advocacy to preserve and protect the environment. In April 2009, the State Government decided to work towards a comprehensive "Sustainable Plastic Waste Management Plan" to control the use of plastic and its disposal.

The initiative was undertaken in three stages. First stage was about creating an enabling framework. For

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*Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises — Samuel Butler*

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technological solution, experts from Central Road Research Institute, Delhi, worked out a cost-effective technology for use of plastic in road construction as a result of which the road showed increased strength and better resistance to rain water and water stagnation. To make it sustainable and replicable, a comprehensive plan was developed. Draft notifications imposing complete ban on use of polythene / plastic carry bags were issued.

Second stage was about enhancing awareness and broad-basing the initiative: A two phase "Polythene Hatao Paryavarari Bachao" campaign was conceived. It began with voluntary cleaning. General public was sensitized by use of jingles, video clippings, and documentary films, etc. In the next phase, this was evaluated, and outcome was submitted to the State Government based on which, the best performing districts

/panchayats were identified. In the third and final stage the actual nitty-gritty was worked out for lifting of waste from the collection centres with payment term records to be maintained on the quantity of waste collected. The State Government successfully developed and implemented the system to meet the challenge of plastic menace through the "Sustainable Plastic Waste Management Plan" and adopted it throughout the State.

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### Quotable Quotes

- *Patience is the companion of wisdom* — Saint Augustine
- *Cheerfulness and contentment are great beautifiers and are famous preservers of youthful looks* — Charles Dickens
- *Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging* — Joseph Campbell
- *The wise man in the storm prays God, not for safety from danger, but for deliverance from fear* — Ralph
- *Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure* — Norman Vincent Peale
- *Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need* — Kahlil Gibran

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