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INSTITUTE NEWS

Programme on GIS-based Mapping for Urban Development

Sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, the programme was conducted at IIPA from May 1-14. It was designed to sensitise the participants to the efficacy of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in urban development. Programme-content included were: (i) concepts of remote sensing, GPS and GIS; (ii) hands-on practical application of GPS, Total Station and Arcview (GIS software); and urban mapping and planning exercise. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinator, Dr. Kusum Lata.

Direct Trainer Skills

Designed by the Thames Valley University, UK, the programme on captioned topic was conducted at IIPA for Principals/JCs/ACs of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti from May 6-10. It was sponsored by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. The programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) distinguish between education, training and learning; (ii) describe the four stages in systematic approach to training; (iii) review the role of a trainer within systematic approach to training; (iv) apply the concept of learning unit to training activities; (v) write training objectives; and (vi) plan training activities, using the four ways of learning. Dr. C. Giri coordinated it.

Seminars on Consumer Protection and Empowerment: The Emerging Issues

The Centre for Consumer Studies of IIPA teamed up with the Consumer Rights Education and Awareness Trust (CREAT), Bengaluru, in organising the captioned programme on May 10-11 at Gubbi and Mysore,

The Executive Council in its meeting held on April 3, 2013 approved the recommendations of the Standing Committee that the topics of (a) Annual Essay Prize Competition 2013 (b) Members Annual Conference 2013, (c) Special issue of the *IJPA* and (d) Special Issue of *Lok Prashashan* can be decided by the Director in consultation with Chairman, Standing Committee and Chairman, IIPA.

Accordingly, the following topics have been decided:

(a) Annual Essay Prize Competition 2013

- (i) Public Services Delivery System - Its weaknesses and suggestions for improvement;
- (ii) Violence against Women - Causes and how to combat the menace ; and
- (iii) National Rural Health Mission - Policy and Implementation.

(b) Members' Annual Conference 2013

Food Security in India - Issues and Suggestions for Effectiveness

(c) Special issue of the *IJPA* (July-September, 2013) Ethical Governance and Society

(d) Special Issue of *Lok Prashashan* 2013

सामाजिक न्याय एवं समावेशी विकास

Karnataka respectively. It was sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The seminar at Gubbi was inaugurated by Shri S. Ramanathan, Chairman of Karnataka Regional Branch; Prof. Suresh Misra of IIPA inaugurated it at Mysore. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Prof. Venkateshwara, Principal, CIT, Gubbi, Karnataka; and Prof. K S. Suresh, Principal, JSS Law College, Mysore. Addressing the participants,

Shri Ramanathan emphasised on the need to strengthen the consumer movement in the State and stressed that the focus should be on rural areas in terms of education and awareness. The main objectives of the seminars were to enhance the knowledge and skill of the participants in the area of consumer protection and consumer welfare; understand the need and importance of Consumer Protection and Welfare and the role of various stakeholders and discuss the legal dimensions of Consumer Protection in different service sectors. The programmes were divided into various sessions covering (i) Consumer Protection Act--An Overview; (ii) Promoting Consumer awareness--The Role of Education and Media; (iii) Challenges Before Rural Consumers, Misleading Advertisements-What Needs to be Done; (iv) Consumer Grievance Redressal Machinery in Service Sector; and (v) Agenda for Strengthening Consumer Awareness--The Way Forward. More than 90 participants from various parts of Karnataka attended the programmes. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated them.

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 20-24. Apart from elaborating and integrating the various provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and other legislation 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 Globalisation and Wildlife: Problems and Prospects

Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA for IFS officers from May 27-31. Apart from sensitising the participants about the contemporary challenges faced by wildlife as posed by the different processes of globalisation, the programme aimed at deliberating on the various issues which not only emerge as problems but also as prospects in the realm of Indian forestry. The programme was inaugurated by Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman IIPA. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Shri Saket Bihari coordinated the programme with Dr. Manan Dwivedi.

Faculty News

- Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics (Economic Policy), moderated a discussion on "Gender Responsive Budgeting: Ensuring the Inclusion of Gender Commitments into Budgetary Allocation" on May 15 at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi at the Stakeholders'

Consultation, organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to prioritise strategic issues to be adopted at the IBSA Women's Forum. Earlier, at the invitation of the Parliamentary Forum on Children, she made a presentation on "Engendering Development: The Twelfth Plan Perspective" on May 3 in the Parliamentary Library Building. She also chaired the session on "Women and Social Security in India – Missing Dimensions" at the conference on "Women's Social Security and Protection in India" held at ISI, New Delhi on May 6. It was organised by The Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, UN Women, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, International Labour Organization and The University of New South Wales.

- Prof. P.K. Chaubey, Professor of Economics (Economic Administration), spoke as Chief Guest in a function to commemorate contribution of Martyr Mangal Pandey on the day of martyrism (April 8) which was organised by the Mangal Pandey Foundation at Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya Vikalanga Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot.

- Dr. Nupur Tiwari, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Rural Development, spoke on "MGNREGA and Gender Equity: Some Critical Concerns" to the district level administrative officials at NIRD, Jaipur on May 20-21. Earlier, she chaired a technical session at the National Conference on "Politics and Governance" on May 5, organised by APG-MDRF, Management Development Research Foundation, New Delhi at India International Centre, New Delhi. She also participated in a panel discussion on "Women's Role in Panchayati Raj Institutions" in a programme on Gender Discourse by Lok Sabha TV on May 2.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Andhra Pradesh Regional Branch

The branch collaborated with Economic Committee of the Osmania Graduates' Association in organising an interactive session-cum-discussion on "Union Budget--2013-14" April 22. Shri M. Gopalakrishna, Chairman of the branch, spoke on the Economic Aspects of the Budget" which highlighted the need to cover the revenue deficit, the fiscal deficit and the current account deficit. Shri T.S. Ajai, Chartered Accountant, spoke on the salient features of direct taxes and the steps needed to widen the tax net and rationalise taxation by introducing the direct taxes code. Shri S. Thirumalai, Partner, Deloitte, spoke on indirect taxes and the importance of introducing GST and also pointed out the anomalies in levy of indirect taxes. Shri S. Padma Rao, President of Osmania Graduates' Association, presided over the meeting.

Howrah Local Branch

The branch jointly with the Department of Political Science, Shibpur Dinabundhoo College organised a seminar on "Urban Development in West Bengal" on May 11. In his key-note address, Dr. Sibabrata Halder, Department of Architecture and Town Planning, Bengal Engineering and Science University, pointed out that the contemporary urban realities of West Bengal are very different from majority of its population. He stressed the need for a State-level comprehensive plan, economic development and land development as imperative task. Rtn. Dilip Kumar Das, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a seminar on "An Economic Overview with Focus of 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17)" on May 4. Prof. Dipankar Sen Gupta, HoD of Economics, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest; and Shri Y.V. Sharma, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jammu, was the Guest of Honour. Shri B.R. Lachotra, Director of Economics and Statistics, Jammu and Kashmir, was the key-note speaker. Shri Lachotra emphasised on faster, sustainable and inclusive growth. He stated that the global economic crisis of 2008-09 and 2010-11 have necessitated planner, policy makers, economist, researchers, statisticians, etc to revisit our growth models and explore ways and means to make it more inclusive and sustainable. Prof. Sen Gupta observed that maintaining growth and price stability are two major challenges of macro-economic policy making. Shri Sharma focused on the highlights and objectives of 12th Five Year Plan. During the programme, the April 2013 issue of IIPA bi-annual newsletter was also released by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the branch and Shri J.B.S. Johar, Secretary of the branch.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised a seminar on May 19, wherein Dr. Indira Misra, former Additional Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh, described her experiences regarding the working of the NGOs. Earlier, the branch also organised a seminar on "Juvenile Crime and the Age Limits" on April 13. Shri V.P. Sawhney, IPS (retd.) gave the key-note address. Shri Kewal

Krishan Sethi, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Madurai Local Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on April 29, in which Shri V. Balakrishnan, Superintendent of Police, Madurai, spoke on "Role of Public in Protecting Women". Shri G. Venkidusamy, Chairman of the branch, presided.

Odisha Regional Branch

The branch organised a symposium on "Competing Demand for Scarce Land Resources—a rational land policy" on April 8. Shri Kalyan Roy, former Chairman of Banking Service Recruitment Board; and Dr. Padmaja Mishra, Professor of Economics, Utkal University spoke on the subject. They highlighted the increasing demand for land emerging in a stiffly competitive manner for industry, mines, urbanisation, afforestation and infrastructure like road, railway, port, power, etc. Shri Sanjib Chandra Hota, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Rajasthan Regional Branch

The branch jointly with the Management Development Academy organised the following programmes: (i) Dr. Sushma Singhvi, Director of Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, spoke on "Message of Bhagwan Mahaveer" on April 23; (ii) Prof. Ramesh K. Arora, Chairman of the branch, reviewed a book entitled *The 360 Leader Developing Your Influence from Anywhere in the Organization* written by John Maxwell on April 24; and (iii) Dr. Sushila Pareek, Faculty, Department of Psychology, University of Rajasthan, spoke on "Power of Optimism" on April 27.

Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition–2013

The objective of IIPA's Case Study Programme is to build a body of knowledge in governance through case studies with a view to promote a deeper and wider understanding of the functioning of Indian Administration in its specific environmental and institutional framework and also to broaden our knowledge and understanding of international best practices. In order to develop relevant case studies for use in the learning process, IIPA has renamed its annual case study competition as the Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition.

A case study submitted for this competition should aim to facilitate the development of conceptual, behavioural and analytical skills, highlight areas for reform and promote sensitivity towards important issues, problems and challenges of public administration and governance. The Case study may cover one or more of the following facets of public administration and governance:

- i. Public policy issues and processes: conceptualisation; planning; implementation; monitoring; evaluation and review of plans; programmes; schemes and projects with special reference to a specific State;
- ii. Rural Development, Urban Development, Area based development policies, programmes, projects and schemes such as MGNREGA, Consumer Awareness, Gender Sensitisation, Social Empowerment and Social Inclusion, e-Governance, Human Rights, Elections and Electoral reforms; Law & Order, etc; and
- iii. Service sectors including physical, social and economic infrastructure development, social services, voluntary organisations, cooperatives, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The case study must be in two parts.

Part I is to comprise 5-10 A4 size pages typed in double space using

size 12 of Times New Roman font and keeping one and half inches margin on each side of the page. *It should consist of a description of an official organisational context concluding with an important decision to be made.* The following information could be provided: the decision to be made – what, why and who has to make it; a brief history of the organisation, its vision/mission/values, goals/objectives; the present scenario; key strengths and weaknesses of the organisation; challenges, threats and opportunities; influential personalities/groups relevant to the focal decision – their feelings/ views (given in quotations) as obtained through interviews or accurately paraphrased; socio-political, economic, technological and cultural pressures; group and personality factors--values, attitudes, needs and expectations; skills; organisational reward systems; behaviour modeling and example setting by the organisation's leadership and other factors relevant to the focal decision; visualised options/alternatives that seem to be available and their immediate, short, medium and long term consequences- the pros and cons thereof. Finally, instead of merely calling this part of the case study as Part I, it should be given a title based upon either one of the following:-

- i. focal organisation / department / division / unit/section, programme / project /, scheme;
- ii. focal decision to be made.

Part II is to comprise 1–3 A4 size page(s) typed in double space using size 12 of Times New Roman font and keeping one and a half inches margin on each side of the page. It should consist of the case writer(s) perceptions of what actually happened—the decision that was actually made, why, with what expectations, the actual consequences that occurred and any views that the case writer wishes to share *vis-à-vis* the case and the important learning – problems/concepts/insights and or skills – that the case may be utilised for imparting in the teaching/training

process. Finally, instead of calling this part of the case study as part II, it should be entitled: *Perceptions of the Case Writer (s).*

An executive summary of the case study is to comprise 1–2 A4 size page(s) and typed in the same way as Parts I and II mentioned earlier. Three copies each of the case study (i.e., Parts I and II) and the executive summary are to be submitted. Each case study should be accompanied by the following information: title of the case study; name of the case writer (s); address and telephone(s) of the Case Writer(s) and fax/email where available. The case writer(s) should also state whether the case study has been approved for publication by the concerned organisation or whether approval is yet to be taken; and, finally, the signature(s) of the case writer(s).

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. Excluding the award winning case studies, any other case studies that are considered suitable for publication shall be given an honorarium of Rs. 2,000 each.

Any individual or group of individuals may submit a case study to the Institute for the competition. In case of joint authorship, the award will be equally distributed. However, each individual may submit *only one* entry for the competition, either individually or as part of a group. A case study submitted for the competition must fall within the broad areas specified and be in the format prescribed above. The case study should not have been published elsewhere as the copyright will vest with the Institute and the writer, if the case study is selected for award/publication.

The last date for the receipt of the case study is August 31, 2013. The cover should be superscribed with "Annual Decision Making/Teaching Case Study Competition – 2013" and be addressed to the Registrar, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi–110002.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Senior Appointments in Ministries

The Union Government has approved the following senior appointments/promotions/ transfers/ extensions: • Shri Ameising Luikham as Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shillong, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary • Shri Sutanu Behuria as Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises • Shri M.F. Farooqui as Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology • Smt. Rita Menon as CMD, ITPO, in the rank and pay of Secretary for a period of three years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post. i.e. 03.01.2012 or until further orders, whichever is earlier • Dr. Amarjit Singh as Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary • Shri Lalit K. Panwar as Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs • Shri R. Vijaykumar as Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes • Shri A.P. Joshi as Member (Finance), Atomic Energy Commission, Space Commission and Earth Commission in the rank and pay of Secretary • Shri C.B. Venkataramana as Additional Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy • Shri J.N. Chamber as Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, in the pay of Additional Secretary • Shri B. Vijayan as Director General, National Productivity Council under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the pay of Additional Secretary • Smt. Aruna Bahuguna as Special Director

General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) • Shri Siraj Hussain as Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries • Shri Anil Goswami as Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Home Affairs in the rank and pay of Secretary till his taking over the charge of Secretary in the same Ministry with effect from 01.07.2013.

Improving Business Environment eBiz Way

To enable businesses and investors to save time and costs besides, improving the business environment in the country eBiz portal was launched on January 28, 2013. EBiz is one of the integrated services projects and part of the 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the National eGovernance Plan (NEGP) of the Government of India. The Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the Nodal Government Agency responsible for the implementation of the eBiz Project. Infosys Technologies Ltd. has been selected as the Concessionaire/ Project Implementation Partner and is responsible for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of the eBiz Solution. The focus of eBiz is to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal. This will help in reducing unnecessary delays in various regulatory processes required to start and run businesses. The project aims to create a business and investor friendly ecosystem in India by making all business and investment related regulatory

services across Central, State and local governments available on a single portal, thereby obviating the need for an investor or a business to visit multiple offices or a plethora of websites. The core value of the transformational project lies in a shift in the governments' service delivery approach from being department-centric to customer-centric. EBiz will create a 24x7 facility for information and services and will also offer joined-up services where a single application submitted by a customer, for a number of permissions, clearances, approvals and registrations will be routed automatically across multiple governmental agencies in a logical manner. The government is firmly committed to wide-ranging initiatives aimed at fostering the business environment in the country in a holistic manner. Its approach includes leveraging technology to bring transparency, improve efficiency and promote convenience. EBiz is an important step in this direction in partnership with Infosys on this project, it is hoped to be a benchmark for successful Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the country. The eBiz Project is the first of its kind ever implemented in the country. It marks the highest level of maturity in web-based e-Governance applications as it strives to achieve horizontal integration across various verticals of Central government, State governments and parastatal agencies.

Portal for Online Filing of RTI Applications

A web portal, namely, RTI Online with url <https://rtionline.gov.in> has been launched. This portal, developed

by NIC, is a facility for the Indian Citizens to file RTI applications and first appeals online besides, making online payment of RTI fees. The prescribed fees can be paid through Internet banking of State Bank of India and its associate banks as well as by credit/debit cards of Visa/Master, through the payment gateway of State Bank of India linked to the site. At present, this facility is available only for Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). It is planned to extend this facility to all the ministries/ departments of Government of India within a month. This facility is presently not proposed to be extended for field offices/attached/subordinate offices.

Digital Green

Digital Green combines

technology and social organisation to improve the cost-effectiveness and broaden the community participation of existing agricultural extension systems. By building on existing social linkages and using technology, Digital Green seeks to amplify the impact of agriculture extension workers who help farmers become more productive. It records live demonstrations of agricultural practices by experts, transmits them to a large database and distributes them on DVDs to local organisations for dissemination among small and marginal farmers. Digital Green uses low-cost and portable technology viz. camcorders, TVs and Pico projectors for the production and dissemination of videos. Videos are based on

content identified by the community, feature local farmers, are created in local dialects, and are duly checked for accuracy by agricultural experts. These screenings are mediated by an expert to help farmers adopt the practices as well as monitor their status after adoption. Digital Green partners with local organisations that are already working on agricultural extension programmes. Currently, it is operating in five states and partners with seven organisations. With more than 1650 videos in its database and a reach over 58,000 farmers, Digital Green today is ten times more effective, per dollar spent, in converting farmers to better farming practices than traditional approaches to agricultural extension.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Haryana

Mobile Phone to Check Traffic Violations

The Third Eye project, initiated by Gurgaon Traffic Police, utilises innovative mobile phone application to capture images and track traffic rule violaters in the city. Road accidents account for an alarmingly high number of deaths in India every year. Even though most of them are due to traffic rule violations, there is a dearth of adequate administrative attention on traffic management issues. Traditional methods of manually managing traffic have severe limitations in terms of time and location. Keeping this in view, the Gurgaon Traffic Police, in collaboration with Denave India Private Limited, Nokia India and Millennium City Welfare Association, launched the Third Eye project in August 2011 to provide requisite portability to tools used for monitoring traffic rules compliance.

Third Eye uses Nokia E5 mobile phones to capture clear images of traffic offenders. The phones are enabled with software Tselina, developed by Denave that assists the uploading of these photographs on a central server housed in the Gurgaon Traffic Police headquarters. The images are geo-tagged and used as evidence to issue challans to defaulters. A traffic constable is sent to the doorstep of the defaulter to recover penalty. Extensive training was provided to the constables in daily operation of the handsets, ways to capture clear images, and regular troubleshooting issues. The project is designed to cover the East, West and National Highway zones of Gurgaon and act as a complement to the outdoor surveillance system. The latter uses fixed Closed Circuit Tele Vision cameras at main junctions in the city to monitor traffic. Third Eye project has provided a cheap, portable, simplified, and familiar solution to the

problem of fixity of monitoring tools. As of November 2011, approximately 200 traffic constables have been enabled with these handsets and nearly 3000 challans have been issued. This is the first instance of using mobile phone technology for traffic management in north India.

Karnataka

Children's Panchayat

The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) is effectively leveraging the decentralised democratic set up of the country for children's engagement, by creating several local children councils, known as makkala panchayats, in the rural areas of the State. Following the panchayati raj institutions model, the CWC has created several local children councils, makkala panchayats that act as a forum of and for children. Beginning in 1995 with just five panchayats, today there are makkala panchayats across 56 gram panchayats

The elegance of honesty needs no adornment — Merry Browne

in the State. These panchayats have representation from various interest groups, and have constituted their own guidelines for operation. The members are responsible for identifying their own needs and assess issues in the community through applying various research tools. On the basis of the information collected, children draft five-year plans and negotiate solutions with the gram panchayats. The engagement of children in governance processes through makkala panchayats has resulted in a range of positive effects on children as well as the communities. Children's participation in the political process has created awareness among the village communities about children's ability and their potential to act as agents of change. In 2006, CWC's efforts were taken up at the state level when the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department in the State, issued an order to make it mandatory for all panchayats within the State to hold annual children's gram sabhas.

Rural Telecentre Project

Nemmadi telecentre project is a public-private partnership model that has contributed immensely to enhance the delivery of all e-governance services in the entire state of Karnataka and also in promoting effective governance using ICT as a tool. Nemmadi telecentre project was started in September 2006 as a part of PPP model. This partnership was formed to emphasise the goals of responsive governance by developing an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable system of public service delivery in the entire state of Karnataka. It is based on the telecentre system that avails a variety of e-governance services to all the rural citizens. This initiative has a large network including clients, private organisations and government departments that have been integrated into the system to ensure the effective

delivery of government to citizens based services and business to citizens based services. Nemmadi telecentre offers various services to citizens through internet facilities. Telecentres were operated by IT companies and telecentre operators looked after the entry of the citizen database at the time of the application for services. The data was then processed at the back-end taluk office. The citizens had to collect the digital certificates at the telecentres after few days. The geographical coverage of Nemmadi telecentre spreads across the entire state of Karnataka, in each hoblis. Citizens can access the services through these telecentres within their nearby village. The telecentre system has several unique built in features that make the application user friendly and citizen-centric. This initiative has forwarded its best efforts to make the demand and delivery of e-governance services into a hassle free, cost and time effective model. The technical cost for developing the system was incurred by private partners. As a revenue generating model, it has not only benefited the private companies to recover their initial investments but has also generated employment benefits for its citizens in rural areas in significant ways. Through the innovative use of information and communication technology, Nemmadi telecentre project has helped the citizens to get all the e-governance services at their doorstep by saving their money and time. It has been designed to promote government's efforts in making its services available in a transparent and accountable manner.

Madhya Pradesh Yantradoot Scheme

The Yantradoot Village Scheme seeks to increase agricultural productivity in Madhya Pradesh through dissemination of information and know-how on improved agricultural

technologies among farmers in the State. Under this scheme, district level agricultural officers in the State periodically demonstrate the use of farm implements to farmers in 25 villages spread across 25 districts in the State and make these implements available on hire by the farmers at nominal prices. As a result, farmers in these villages are now using modern farm tools for each stage in the production of their crops. Such mechanisation is reducing not just the drudgery faced by farmers under traditional manual practices but is also quickening agricultural processes, saving time, costs and enhancing agricultural productivity. With Yantradoot, each of these 25 villages is being turned into complete models for agricultural mechanisation. Such increased mechanisation has resulted in a 40 percent increase in the agricultural productivity of farmers because now their crops are being sown, irrigated, treated and harvested adequately and on time. Farmers' income has also seen an almost two-fold increase in the past two years that the scheme has been operational. As a result of these outcomes, many nearby villages are being inspired to switch over to the Yantradoot model of farm mechanisation. By implementing the Yantradoot scheme, the State Government is creating access to advanced agricultural technologies and machinery among farmers in the rural areas, increasing the overall agricultural productivity of the state and empowering its farming community. Inspired by the successes of the scheme, the Government of India has proposed to launch a National Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation.

Tamil Nadu Information Network for Farmers

The State Department of Agriculture has successfully created an internet based information network for 80 lakh farmers in the State. Agriculture

Ingratitude is the essence of vileness — Immanuel Kant

Resources Information System Network (AGRISNET) is a mission mode project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India to develop a comprehensive online knowledge portal to disseminate relevant information to farmers. The goal of the project is to follow an all-inclusive approach in terms of ensuring technological connectivity, development of system software and provision of hardware at agriculture department offices up to the block level in

all states and union territories. This best practice documentation focuses on the successful state-wide implementation in Tamil Nadu. The government leveraged available resources to innovatively tackle financial and technical complexities. A separate and dedicated technical team of officers was established to avoid bureaucratic delays. Funds from multiple government schemes were used to set up basic infrastructure in agricultural offices. Presently, the portal

caters to 80 lakh farmers and provides them with information on agriculture related information. Within one year of its launch, at least 33 percent of the farmers have utilised the services offered through AGRISNET. This initiative in the State is also remarkable because of G2G services incorporated in the back-end network. The government uses this feature to generate customisable reports to improve their service delivery to farmers.

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Quotable Quotes

- *The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than you settled for — Maureen Dowd*
- *Courage is the discovery that you may not win, and trying when you know you can lose — Tom Krause*
- *We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality — Ayn Rand*
- *Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn — Benjamin Franklin*
- *The power of a man's virtue should not be measured by his special efforts, but by his ordinary doing — Blaise Pascal*
- *Women are the only exploited group in history to have been idealized into powerlessness — Karl Marx*

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