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INSTITUTE NEWS

Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson gave away awards to States based on IIPA Study

On the occasion of National Panchayat Diwas, Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi gave away the awards to states ranked high on the Panchayat Devolution Index computed by the study carried out in IIPA by Dr. V.N. Alok and Prof. P.K. Chaubey. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised the ceremony at the Vigyan Bhawan Plenary Hall on April 24. On this occasion, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, welcomed panchayat representatives from all states and UTs. Prime Minister and the UPA Chairperson addressed the gathering. Shri A.N.P. Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, proposed the vote of thanks and urged the Prime Minister to accord centrality to panchayats in the 12th Five Year Plan. In the second session, Shri Deshmukh, launched the report prepared by IIPA and published by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The first copy was presented to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer, Member,



State Ministers in-charge of panchayats could be seen along with Mani Shankar Aiyer, Vilasrao Deshmukh, V N Alok and A N P Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Shri Deshmukh, Union Minister released the book

Rajya Sabha and former Union Minister of Panchayati Raj. On the basis of the study of IIPA, incentive awards were given to the states for cumulative achievements under the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS). Kerala got the first prize followed by Karnataka. Sikkim received the third prize while West Bengal got the fourth prize. In addition, for the first time, states were awarded for the initiatives taken by them since April 1, 2009. These initiatives were ranked along the parameters of (i) Institutional strengthening of panchayats; (ii) Improvement in process; and (iii) Improvement in delivery of services. As per the Incremental Panchayat Devolution Index, Rajasthan received the first prize; Kerala though ranked second did not receive the cash prize due to its first rank in the Cumulative Panchayat Devolution Index. Maharashtra received the third prize. Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Chief Minister of Haryana, was present to receive the fifth prize under the Incremental Panchayat Devolution Index. This is the second successive year that the Prime Minister gave away awards to the states on the basis of the study conducted at the Institute on Panchayat Devolution Index.

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

As authorised by the Executive Council in its meeting held on March 29 finalised the following 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

Programme on GIS-based Mapping for Urban Development

Sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA, for officers drawn from various urban bodies, from April 18-22. Apart from sensitising the participants to efficacy of remote sensing and geographic information systems in urban development, the programme was designed to introduce: (i) the basic concepts of GIS and remote sensing; (ii) components of successful GIS operation; (iii) application of GIS in various fields; (iv) examples of GIS applications in urban planning and development; and (v) networking with participants for knowledge sharing. The faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinator, Dr. Kusum Lata.

Programme on Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare

Sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the programme was

organised for the coordinators of consumer clubs at IIPA by its Centre for Consumer Studies from April 25-29. Apart from understanding the need and importance of consumer protection and the role of students in consumer awareness, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) impart knowledge about the role of consumer clubs in protection of consumer rights; (ii) acquaint themselves about Consumer Protection Act and other sectors like food safety, services, standardisation and certification; (iii) enhance their skill to manage consumer clubs; and (iv) develop motivational and communication skills to enhance the functioning of the clubs. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Mamta Pathania directed it.

Vietnamese Delegation Visits IIPA

A seven-member delegation headed by Mr. Nguyem Van Quynh, Member of Central Committee Party; Vice-Chairman of Commission for Central Organisation and Personnel, Vice-Chairman of Steering Committee of Program 165 visited the Institute on April 25. They met the Director of IIPA and the IIPA faculty to explore feasibility of collaboration for training of leaders and managers/administrators of Vietnam under Program 165 of

Vietnam Government. The delegation informed that under Program 165 they would like IIPA to conduct two or three weeks programmes for Vietnamese participants as per the mutual convenience for which a detailed discussion will be held in due course. They also visited the classrooms and Computer Centre and evinced their satisfaction and expressed hope that the collaboration between the Vietnam Government and IIPA would mutually benefit both.

CPRC-IIPA Report at Orissa Seminar

Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta moderated one of the sessions at a seminar on "Orissa at Crossroads: Emerging Aspirations and Contestations" at Xavier Institute of Management-Bhubaneswar (XIMB) on April 24. The programme was organised by Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), XIMB and Samadrishti, under the aegis of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC). This is part of a series of events organised by CPRC-India for disseminating the "India Chronic Poverty Report: Towards Solutions and New Compacts in a Dynamic Context" that was published by IIPA in February 2011. It deliberated on a number of issues to try to understand the dilemma and possibly explore

a new pathway for a sustainable, equitable and sectorally balanced development that could directly address the issue of chronic poverty faced by a large proportion of people within Orissa. A tribute was paid to Prof. Sakti Padhi who passed away almost a year ago.



Mr. Nguyem Van Quynh addresses the audience. On his left is Dr. Rakesh Hooja.

His contribution to the work of CPRC India (located at IIPA) was significant. New CPRC-IIPA Working Paper Number 51 on *Tribal Movements and Livelihoods* by Prof. Sakti Padhi and co-authored with Dr. Panigrahi was released during the inaugural session of the seminar by Shri Jugal Mohapatra, Principal Secretary, Finance, Government of Orissa. A copy of the India CPR was presented to him and also to Dr. R.V. Singh, Secretary, Planning, Government of Orissa, who moderated one of the sessions. Over 60 participants from within and outside Orissa attended the seminar. Participants included academics, activists, policy makers, and concerned civil society members. Issues covered during the seminar included: (i) recent developments in the economy and the policy paradigm, fiscal resources, and poverty scenarios; (ii) sectoral dimensions of the opportunities and challenges at the present juncture of the state's economy; (iii) new policy spaces created through the rights based approach (RBA) adopted at the central level of policy making and the problems faced at the stage of implementation; (iv) emergence of the new forms of protests and mass movements; and (v) the way forward. Prof. Amita Shah asserted that much of what has been discussed and proposed by way of future pathways has been at least partly covered in the India Chronic Poverty Report, and noted that the report is just a beginning of a process of a continued dialogue, dispassionate enquiries, and policy advocacy as well as field actions. Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta illustrated this point by highlighting how coordinated efforts by various groups have actually led to the recent modifications by Planning Commission in the poverty line used for estimating poverty in India.

Prof. Anand Kumar emphasised the four major deficits that the country is facing that include deficits of development, legitimacy, governance, and democracy and argued that the perpetuation of these deficits for long has created yet another crisis—that is of time deficit or impatience for results.

“Know India” Programme

IIPA facilitated the Ministry of Overseas Indians by arranging one-day session during the Ministry's four-week “Know India” programme for young persons of India origin (PIO) visiting India for first time. Dr. Rakesh Hooja spoke on “Understanding India: A Survey of Political, Economic and Social Developments Since 1947”. Prof. Rajesh Singh conducted the ice breaking session; and Smt. Charru Malhotra conducted a session on participants' expectations from the course. Twentyfour participants from six countries attended it.

Faculty News

- Prof. P.K. Chaubey, Professor of Economics (Economic Administration) (i) presented a paper on “Assessment of Demand for Skill Sets in Bihar” in the National Seminar on “Bihar on the Path of Development: Thrusts and Priorities” on March 26, organised by the Council for Development of Bihar and Jharkhand at IIPA; (ii) he spoke on “Management Education: Science, Technology, Art and Sophism” to the faculty of Christian Eminent College, Indore on April 2; (iii) he delivered two lectures on “Consumer Expenditure Based Poverty Line” in a ICSSR-sponsored Research Methodology Workshop organised for young scholars in Economics and other social sciences by the Economics Department, Lucknow University on April 5; (iv) Prof. Chaubey delivered two lectures on “Role of Public Sector in Economic

Growth” in the Directorate of Training, Union Territories Civil Services, Delhi on April 11; and (v) he delivered a lecture on “Cross-cultural Negotiation” to the participants from Bangladesh in Training and Technology Transfer India Office on April 11.

- Dr. V.N. Alok, Associate Professor of Public Finance, chaired a session on “Economic Diplomacy” in an International Conference on “Public Diplomacy in Theory and Practice”, organised jointly by Deakin University, Australia and Delhi University at the India International Centre, New Delhi on April 9.

Book Published

A book entitled *Civil Service Training in India* edited by Rakesh Hooja and K.K. Pamami of HCM State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur has been published by the Association of State Training Institutions in India (ASTI) and Rawat Publications, Jaipur. It contains 25 papers and two documents originally published in ASTI Journal of Training and Development, and an editors' introduction.

Articles Published

The January-March 2011 issue of *Management in Government* (journal of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) is on the theme “Ethics in Governance”. Of the eight articles included in this special issue of the Journal, four are by persons directly related to IIPA, namely Shri T.N. Chaturvedi (Chairman), Dr. Rakesh Hooja (Director), Shri U.C. Agarwal (former Editor of IJPA), and Dr. B.P. Mathur (former Treasurer). The issue was released by Shri T.K.A. Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister at the Sixth Civil Services Day function at Vigyan Bhawan on April 21 and circulated amongst all the distinguished participants there.

Staff News

Dr. C. Giri, Deputy Registrar (Administration), was nominated by the Department of Personnel and

Training for the RT Development Programme in Direct Trainers Skills, which was held at Uttar Pradesh Academy of Administration and

Management, Lucknow from January 2-21. Dr. Giri has now been certified as Recognised Trainer in Direct Trainers Skills by the DoPT.

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 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 कराएँ।

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 प्रो० प्रमोद कुमार चौबे, संयोजक, राजभागा कार्यान्वयन समिति, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, इंद्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110002 से सम्पर्क करें।

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Bareilly Local Branch

The branch organised a conference on "Budget 2011" on March 3. Shri S.K. Gupta, Chartered Accountant, expressed his views on direct budget while Shri Ravindra Agrawal, Chartered Accountant, discussed the provisions of indirect budget. Smt. Sharda Bhargava, Social Worker, was the Chief Guest; and Dr. A.K. Chauhan, Acting Chairman of the branch, presided.

Bihar Regional Branch

The branch collaborated with B.D. College, Patna in organising a UGC-sponsored seminar on

"Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities" on March 27-28. Shri S. Sinha, Chairman of Bihar State Pollution Control Board, was the Chief Guest; and Prof. N.M.P. Verma, HoD of Economics, B.B.R. Ambedkar University, gave the key-note address.

Budaun Local Branch

The branch organised a panel discussion on "The Challenges of Higher Education" on March 14. Shri Anwar Alam, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme. Earlier, the branch organised a seminar on "People's Initiative for Area

Development" on February 26. Shri Rajiv Sharma, Addl. Chief Secretary, Rajasthan, was the Chief Guest; and Dr. V.K. Sharma, Principal of Nehru Memorial S.N. Dass (PG) College, was the Guest of Honour. The branch also organised a meeting to discuss the various issues regarding the problems of good governance on February 27. Shri Rajiv Sharma was the Chief Guest; and Shri Anwar Alam presided over it.

Howrah Local Branch

The branch organised a seminar on "Judiciary Deterrent to Legislative Anarchy and Executive Tyranny" on

March 18. Shri Susanta Chatterjee, former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, gave the key-note address. Prof. Asish Ray, Secretary of the branch, gave the introductory address; and Rtn. D.K. Das, Chairman of the branch, presided.

Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a seminar on “Corrosion of the Steel Frame—Implication on Good Governance” on April 9. Shri N.N. Vohra, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Balveer Arora, Chairman of Centre for Multi-level Federalism Institute of Social Sciences; and Shri B.B. Vyas, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir were the main speakers. Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the branch, gave the welcome address; and Dr. S.S. Bloeria former Chief Secretary delivered the key-note address. Shri Vohra, while dwelling on the important achievements of the civil services over the years, stressed that strict adherence to the Constitution and rule of law and prompt and severe punishments to those who go wrong are imperative to maintaining accountability. In his address, Dr Bloeria spelt out various measures which could be taken to improve governance. Shri Vyas detailed the contributions of the civil services on varied fronts, which provided a mechanism for continuity with change and socio-economic development of the country. Prof. Arora spoke at length on the original concept and structure of civil services

Maharashtra Regional Branch

The branch jointly with Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai, organised Annual Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Lecture on March 25. Shri R.D. Pradhan, former Governor of

Arunachal Pradesh, spoke on “Politics of Governance”. Shri Pradhan narrated various instances from his own experience while dealing with politicians during the course of his service. He mentioned that political system must assess a civil servant's performance with reference to his commitment to programmes adopted by the government and by his contribution to implement through established and constitutional processes. Earlier, the branch organised a lecture and power point presentation by Shri Chandrashekhar Thakur, Head-Investor Education, CDSL, Mumbai, on Investment, Share Market, Demat and other related subjects on March 11.

Mizoram Regional Branch

The branch in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University organised a seminar on “Significant Aspects of Census 2011: Mizoram” on April 29. Prof. Lianzela, Vice-Chairman of the branch, presided. Prof. Srinibas Pathi, Secretary of the branch, introduced the topic and welcomed the guests. Prof. A. K. Agarwal, Vice-Chancellor of MZU, was the Chief Guest. Shri Bikash Nath, ADCO (Technical) of the Directorate of Census, Mizoram was the Guest Speaker.

Puducherry Local Branch

Kindly note the change of its office address as: IIPA Puducherry Local Branch, No.3, IV Floor, PWD Building, Le Eveche Street, Puducherry-605 001. Ph: 0413-2222354. E-mail: iipapdylb_723@yahoo.co.in; iipapuducherry@gmail.com; www.iipapuducherry.com.

The branch organised a seminar on “Consumer Protection in Medical Services” on April 21. Dr. P.Jayakumar, Director of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, inaugurated the programme with an

address. Shri P.K. Jha, Secretary of the branch, gave the welcome address. Prof. Pranab Banerji, Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Sapna Chadah of IIPA spoke on the topic. Dr. R.R. Dhanapall, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Tirunelveli Local Branch

The branch teamed up with the Rotary Club of Tirunelveli in organising a lecture-meeting on March 28, in which Rtn. Nagoor Meeran, Programme Chairman, spoke on “Global Warming and its Impact on Natural Resources in India”. Prof. M. Muthiah, Secretary of the branch, also spoke. Mr. D. Dalton, President of Rotary Club, presided.

Tirupati Local Branch

On the eve of Chittoor district centenary celebrations, the branch teamed up with the Centre for Peace and Non-violence, Sri Venkateswara University in organising a seminar on “Structure and Growth of Chittoor District 1911-2011 and Future” on March 29. As a Chief Guest Smt. K. Sharada Devi, Addl. Joint Collector of Chittoor, dubbed the district as miniature India. Prof. K. Venkata Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor of S.K. University, hailed Chittoor for producing four chief ministers and eminent personalities like Jiddu Krishnamurti. Prof. A. Ranga Reddy, Chairman of the branch, presided.

Uttar Pradesh Regional Branch

The branch jointly with SHERPA organised a workshop on “Corruption Eruption: Paths of Redemption?” on February 5. Shri T.N. Dhar, Secretary of the branch, introduced the theme of the workshop. A large number of participants, including judicial experts, administrators, police officers, academics, social workers, media persons, attended the programme. Shri R. Ramani, Chairman of the branch, presided.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Senior Appointments in Ministries

The Union Government has approved the following senior appointments/promotions/ extension:

- Shri Shekhar Agarwal as Special Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
- Shri Alok Rawat as Secretary, Union Public Service Commission,
- Shri Naved Masood as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Health and Family Welfare
- Shri K. Jose Cyriac as Special Secretary, Department of Revenue
- Shri Mohammad Haleem Khan as Director General, CAPART, Department of Rural Development
- Shri Sudhir Krishna as Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Shri Rakesh Kacker as Special Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs
- Shri Alok Perti as Special Secretary, Ministry of Coal
- Shri Mrutyunjay Sarangi as Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
- Shri Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary as Special Secretary, Department of Commerce
- Smt. Vilasini Ramchandran as Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure
- Shri Arun Kumar Mathur as Director (Enforcement), Department of Revenue
- Shri Radha Krishna Mathur as Special Secretary, Department of Defence
- Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan as Special Secretary, Ministry of Power
- Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff as Secretary to the Vice President of India
- Shri Ajay Bhattacharya as Administrator, Universal Services Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunications
- Smt. Loretta Mary Vas as Special Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
- Shri Vishwapati Trivedi as Special Secretary, and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Home Affairs

- Shri Pradeep Kumar Sinha as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Shri Dileep Raj S. Chaudhary as Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Shri Sharad Gupta as Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Consumer Affairs
- Shri Prasanna Kumar Pradhan as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
- Smt. Sangita Gairola as Special Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Shir N.C. Vasudevan as Director General, National Productivity Council, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- Shri Ashok Thakur as Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education
- Shri Jayant M. Mausker as Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests
- Shri Chinmay Basu as Special Secretary, Department of Land Resources
- Shri Sundaram Krishna as Special Secretary, Department of Defence
- Smt. Sushma Nath, Secretary, Department of Expenditure to be Finance Secretary as well for a period of two months beyond March 31, 2011
- Shri Shashi Kant Sharma as Secretary, Department of Financial Services
- Shri Rentala Chandrasekhar to hold the additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for a period of three months
- Shri Rajiv Kher as Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce
- Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary (R), Cabinet Secretary to hold additional charge of Director General (Security)
- Shri Sanjay Singh as Secretary (East) at the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs
- Shri Shankar

- Agarwal as Additional Secretary, Department of Information Technology
- Shri Shaktikanta Das as Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
- Ms. Vijay Latha Reddy as Deputy National Security Adviser and Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, for a period of two years till April 30, 2011 and thereafter on re-employment on contract basis
- Smt. Vijayalakshmi K. Gupta as Secretary (Defence Finance), Ministry of Defence
- Shri R.G. Nadadur as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Space.

E-Post Office Launched

Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology (C&IT) launched 'e-post office', the e-Commerce portal of India Post on March 9, 2011. The portal will enable the customers to transact postal business any time and from anywhere using either debit card or credit card through the medium of internet.

The 'e-Post Office', an ambitious project of India Post, will offer seven services in the first phase. These services are Electronic Money Order (eMO), Instant Money Order (iMO), Sale of Philatelic Stamps, Postal information, Tracking of Express and International Shipments, PIN Code Search and Registering of feed back and complaints. One of the focus areas of the first phase of 'e-Post Office' is on the Money Order service. Launched in 1880, the original paper based system of money orders is still in vogue. Though India Post has introduced electronic variants in the form of eMO and iMO, the 'e-Post Office' will revamp the money order thoroughly, after 130 years of its launch, by harnessing the state-of-art information technology.

Failure is nature's plan to prepare you for great responsibilities — Napoleon Hill

National Mission for Manuscripts

The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was created by the Department of Culture, Government of India, the Mission came into existence on February 5, 2003. The objectives of the Mission are: to facilitate conservation and preservation of manuscripts through training, awareness and financial support; to document and catalogue Indian manuscripts, wherever they may be, maintain accurate and up-to-date information about them and the conditions under which they may be consulted; to promote ready access to these manuscripts through publication, both in book form as well as in electronic form; to boost scholarship and research in the study of Indian languages and manuscriptology; and to build up a National Manuscripts Library at IGNC. The strategy adopted for this purpose has been as follows: Documentation Creation of Manuscript Resource Centres that supply data regarding manuscripts in

their specified areas (at present 46 MRCs), National Survey, Post Survey ; Conservation Creation of Manuscript Conservation Centres for preservation and conservation of manuscripts in their specified areas (at present 33 MCCs). Training programmes for Conservation (Preventive and Curative), preventive and curative conservation to manuscripts where the holders ask for it; Organising Awareness Campaigns through outreach programme. Lectures, Seminars / workshops and exhibitions.

The NMM has been able to create a database of 30.67 lakh manuscripts; these are edited and corrected for accuracy by the in-house staff before being released into public domain.

Pay Hike for NREGS Workers

The Union Government has revised wages of agricultural labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The new wages are based

on the consumer price index (CPI). Linking wages to CPI has enhanced them from 17 per cent to 30 per cent. The revised salaries would benefit more than 50 million people across India. The base wage, which was Rs. 100 as on April 1, 2009, is revised once in five years. As per the new wages, the highest pay is in Nicobar district with Rs. 181 per day, closely followed by Haryana at Rs. 179. The most poorly paid are those in the north-eastern states. Labourers in Meghalaya get Rs. 117 per day and those at Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura Rs. 118 per day. Now, MNREGS aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. In Karnataka, wages have been hiked from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125. Dharwad is among districts selected for an award for implementation of the scheme.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Delhi

Mamta Scheme

Maternal quality healthcare has always been on top of the agenda of the government. Small wonder then that the Delhi government came up with the Mamta Scheme. An important component of healthcare aimed at reducing the Maternal and Infant Mortality is provision of "Institutional Delivery" for pregnant women. In Delhi, approx. 3.2 lakh deliveries take place every year and 63 per cent (as per NFHS 3 survey report, 2005) of these are institutional

deliveries. There are pockets of populations within the NCT of Delhi with much lower rates of institutional deliveries.

The Government is trying to universalise institutional deliveries. However, there are constraints like lack of adequate government health facilities equipped and functional to provide the comprehensive obstetric services for the mother and the newborn and overburdened government hospitals. Under the scheme, healthcare services for the beneficiary would include: (i)

at least three ante-natal check-ups with all necessary investigations including ultrasound of pregnant woman registered; (ii) provision of injection TT and Iron Folic Acid tablets to all pregnant women as per RCH Schedule; (in) provision of institutional delivery facilities, including emergency obstetric care to all registered pregnant women and essential new born care to the new born including administration of birth doses of vaccines to newborns. The eligibility criteria for beneficiaries under the scheme include: the

Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach — Aristotle

pregnant woman must belong to the BPL / SC / ST category and should be a resident of Delhi; she should not be less than 19 years of age and she should not have more than one living child. The woman delivering under the scheme will also be entitled for cash incentive of Rs. 600 available under Janani Suraksha Yojna. If she delivers a girl child then the girl child will be entitled to receive benefits under 'Ladli Scheme', a scheme of Directorate of Social Welfare of

Government of Delhi.

Haryana

E-registration for Job Seekers

The tedious wait in long queues at employment exchanges would be a thing of the past soon as the State Government has introduced an online registration to cater to such people. All the services of the department, such as registration of job seekers and employers looking to fill vacancies, vocational

or career guidance, disbursement of unemployment allowance and employment market information have been made available to the public online through its website www.hrex.org. Job seekers could get themselves registered online on this web portal. After registration the applicants would have to send the attested copies of their testimonials to the local employment exchange for validation of their registration.

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Quotable Quotes

- *Failure and success are not accidents, but the strictest justice — Alexander Smith*
- *Insanity is often the logic of an accurate mind overtaxed — Oliver Wendell Holmes*
- *Talk sense to a fool and he calls you foolish — Euripides*
- *The high minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think — Aristotle*
- *The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong — Mahatma Gandhi*
- *You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time — Abraham Lincoln*

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