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## INSTITUTE NEWS

### OBITUARY

#### Dr. Rakesh Hooja



Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA, passed away on September 7. A condolence meeting to mourn the demise of the departed soul was solemnised on September 10. A two-minute silence to pay homage to the departed soul was observed and a condolence resolution passed. The resolution read as under: The meeting of the IIPA fraternity deeply mourns the untimely demise of Dr. Rakesh Hooja and places on record its profound sense of sorrow and grief at his untimely passing away in the night of September 7, 2012.

Dr. Hooja was born on November 24, 1950 at London. He had his Masters in Political Science (Rajasthan), Post-graduate Diploma in Micro-level Planning (Mysore), M.A. in Rural Development Planning (East Anglia, UK) and Ph. D. in Social Sciences from University of Rajasthan. He taught for two years at the University of Rajasthan before joining the Indian Administrative Service in 1974. This followed 36 years in the IAS cadre having reached the rank of Additional Chief Secretary to State Government in September 2007. He has been the Chairman, Board of Revenue; Development Commissioner and additional Chief Secretary, Development; Additional Chief Secretary, Training; and Director, HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration; Chairman and Managing Director, Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation; Secretary, Command Area Development; Secretary, Energy; Commissioner, Agriculture Development Project; Area Development Commissioner, Indira Gandhi Canal Project; Vice-Chancellor, Rajasthan Agriculture University; Director, Rural Development; Director, Agriculture Marketing; Special Secretary, Education; Special Secretary (and earlier Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Special Schemes; District Collector in Jaipur (1988-89) and Sikar (1980-82). From October 1997 to May 2004 he was Joint Secretary, Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs in Government of India. Since August 6, 2010, he held the position of Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration and remained with the Institute for little over two years.

Besides 430 articles, reviews and research papers in books, journals, magazines and proceedings of conferences, workshops and seminars, he authored/edited 31 books (two of which won state government awards) and 24 monographs. He was actively involved in editing of a number of journals. His areas of interest include development studies, public policy, land-water management, decentralised and district planning, rural development, public administration and governance, training and capacity building, state and district administration, panchayati raj, development administration, federalism, administrative theory, participatory irrigation management and management of irrigation command projects, watershed development, globalisation, disaster management including droughts, and civil service and administrative reforms.

Dr. Hooja will be long remembered by all of us in the IIPA. The IIPA offers its sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family. May the Almighty give them courage to bear the loss and may noble soul rest in eternal peace.

#### Condolence Message from Dr. Md. Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India

I have just learnt about the sad demise of Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA. In his untimely demise, the Institute has lost a dedicated and noble administrator who with his prolific writings contributed in the field of public administration. I have expressed my condolences to Smt. Meenakshi Hooja and all the family members. I pray to the Almighty to grant them strength and fortitude to bear this loss.

### U.C. Agarwal takes charge as Director

Shri U.C. Agarwal IAS (Retd.), former Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), was requested to take over charge of the post of Director until a regular Director could be appointed. He kindly agreed to do so in an honorary capacity and took over charge w.e.f. September 13, 2012. Shri Agarwal was earlier Editor of the *Indian Journal of Public Administration* for a couple of years and is quite familiar with the affairs of the IIPA.

### Appointment of Registrar

Dr. Chitra Giri has been appointed as Registrar of IIPA w.e.f. September 28, 2012.

### Newly Elected Members to Executive Council

The results of the election to the Executive Council of the Institute for the term 2012-2016 were announced on September 21. Sixty-eight candidates contested the election and the following have been declared elected (number of votes polled is given in parenthesis):

1. Prof. S.N. Mishra (910)
2. Dr. S.L. Goel (753)
3. Prof. Sunita Singh (716)
4. Dr. Kuldeep N. Srivastava (712)
5. Dr. Brij Mohan Sharma (700)
6. Shri Subodh Kumar (691)
7. Dr. V.N. Viswanathan (690)
8. Dr. K. Malaisamy (682)
9. Prof. N.P. Singh (656)
10. Dr. A.V. Narasimha Reddy (620)
11. Justice E. Padmanabhan (583)

12. Shri D.V.P. Raja (575)
13. Shri P.R. Shampath (559)
14. Dr. V. Shanmugasundaram (548)
15. Dr. Parvinder Kaushal (547)
16. Shri M. Krishnan (539)
17. Shri V. Veerabadrhan (515)
18. Prof. R.V. Dhanapalan (514)
19. Dr. Navanit Sinha (487)
20. Shri B.V. Krishna Kumar (480)

The four-year term (2012-2016) begins immediately after the Annual General Body Meeting of October 12, 2012.

### Seminar on Globalisation, Consumer Protection and Rural Consumers

The IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies collaborated with Kanpur Local Branch and JDVM Degree College in organising the programme at Kanpur on August 7-8. Around 80 participants participated in the seminar which included academics, researchers, representatives of VCOs/NGOs and students.

Smt. Shalini Prasad, Divisional Commissioner, Kanpur Division, inaugurated the programme. She emphasised that the NGOs, the institutions and the traders require coordination for making the society aware about consumer acts.

She observed that the villages still lack facility of basic communication and transportation. She further stated that the efforts should be made to organise these programmes in block and panchayats headquarters and women should be in such gathering to make themselves aware about this very important act for the households. Dr. K.N. Srivastava, former Vice President of IIPA and the Organising Secretary of the seminar, stated that there are various legal provisions for the protection of consumers' rights but due to illiteracy and lack of awareness it has not improved the situation of consumers so far. In his presidential address, Prof. S.S. Katiyar, former Vice-Chancellor of Kanpur University, opined that there is a need to improve the present situation through awareness campaigns rather than criticising it. In his key-note address, Prof. Suresh Misra mentioned that the whole effort of Consumer Protection Act is to formulate strong legal measures for consumer rights.



Smt. Shalini Prasad delivers the inaugural address. Sitting on her left are Prof. Suresh Misra, Dr. K.N. Srivastava and Prof S.S. Katiyar.

### Condolence Message from Chairman of SMG

The Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors of Strategic Management Group (SMG) convey their deep sorrow on the untimely demise of Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA on September 7, 2012. Dr. Hooja was a pillar of strength to SMG in collaborative efforts relating to International Programme on Project Management, (supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat) held at IIPA during the last three years and also now planned to be held from October 15-20, 2012 at the IIPA.

but ironically legal formalities for filling the complaints has been lacking. The objectives of the seminar were to: (i) acquaint the participants with the need and importance of Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare; (ii) acquaint them with Consumer Protection Act and redressal mechanism available under the Act; and (iii) build their capacity in the area to enable them to take the consumer movement to the grassroots level to make the rural masses aware about their consumer rights.

### **National Seminar on Women Consumers in the New Millennium—Problems and Prospects**

The Centre for Consumer Studies of IIPA teamed up with Montessori Mahila Kalasala, Vijayawada in organising the captioned programme on August 27-28. Around 100 participants participated in the seminar which included academics, researchers, representatives of VCOs / NGOs and students. Apart from acquainting the participants with the need and importance of consumer protection and consumer welfare, the programme was designed to: (i) acquaint them with Consumer Protection Act and redressal mechanism available under the Act; and (ii) build their capacity in the area to enable them to take the consumer movement forward. The main emphasis of the seminar was to deliberate on certain problems being faced by women in the market place and to make them aware about their rights as consumer.

### **Provincial Training Programme (PTP)- 2**

Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, the programme was the part of Indo-Afghan partnership for strengthening sub-national governance in Afghanistan was

conducted at IIPA for the Afghan delegation from September 17-28. Apart from providing the participants with a broad understanding of various facets of public administration, the programme was designed to: (i) expose them to various good practices in India and to draw lessons from them; (ii) equip them with knowledge and skills to better manage conflicts and disasters; (iii) enhance their capacity in managing development programmes/projects; and (iv) develop soft skills for enhancing their performance. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. K.K. Pandey, Prof. Sushma Yadav and Dr.C. Sheela Reddy coordinated it.

### **Programme on Development Plan Preparation and Implementation Techniques**

Sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, the programme was conducted at IIPA for the officials drawn from various urban bodies from September 24-28. The objectives of the programme were to: (i) discuss the latest tools and techniques of plan preparation and implementation post-74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act; (ii) discuss the importance of norms, standards, development, promotion rules and building bye laws for planned development; (iii) discuss the legal framework for plan preparation process; (iv) discuss the plan implementation mechanism with due consideration to resource generation for the same; (v) identify and learn from good practices so as to replicate them; (vi) encourage networking of the participants from the respective organisation in knowledge sharing and opportunity to utilise the knowledge; and (vii) exchange of views of the participants on the subject with experts and faculty. Programme

### **Shri T.N. Chaturvedi Elected Chairman of ISID**

Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman IIPA, former Governor of Karnataka and former Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi. Shri Chaturvedi has been associated with ISID, a national level policy research organisation in the public domain, right from its inception.

faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinators, Dr. Kusum Lata and Dr. Lokendra Malik.

### **Programme on Capacity Building**

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA, for the technical assistants of science and technology department, Government of India, from September 24-October 5. The programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) comprehend the role of administrative and financial support services in the management of scientific institutions; (ii) apply administrative and financial rules and procedures for enabling scientific decision-making in management of science and technology; and (iii) examine S&T-based management issues, current S&T problems and solutions. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Sujata Singh coordinated it.

### **Workshop on Gender Budgeting**

Organised jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and IIPA for presidents of district panchayats/zilla parishads, the programme held on September 25-26. The programme was designed

to enable the participants to: (i) understand gender budgeting related concepts, experiences and tools; (ii) cross learn regarding progress made and challenges faced or surmounted in incorporating and implementing gender issues through policies, programmes and schemes; and (iii) identify ways of reprioritising budgets to meet the needs of women and use gender budgeting to provide transformative leadership. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinator, Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta.

### **Report on Assessment of Food Wastage in Social Gatherings**

IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies conducted a study on "Assessment of Food Wastage and Ostentatious Behaviour during Social Gatherings". The study was funded by the Department of Consumer Affairs and the report was recently released by Prof. K.V.Thomas, Minister for Consumer Affairs. According to the study, which covered NCR Delhi, 20-25 per cent of the food is wasted in social gatherings like weddings, parties, seminars, conferences, etc. while millions go hungry in the country. Rising economic prosperity, affluent middle class, changing food habits, social status and social pressure are some of the factors responsible for food wastage. "Sanskritisation of extravagance" is a new phenomenon in the country. Larger the number of dishes more the wastage. It is also true that younger people waste more food and they are insensitive to food wastage. This phenomenon is not only confined to urban areas but is fast spreading to the rural areas as well.

The study has reviewed the one-dish order prevailing in Pakistan and various guest control orders in India

and has recommended that any legislation to control food wastage in social gatherings will only give rise to corruption and nepotism and will be difficult to implement in a large country like India. Education and awareness is the best method to reduce food wastage in social gatherings. The consumer clubs should be used as a mechanism to sensitise young children and this should also be part of the school curriculum. The Central Government has asked the state governments to implement the recommendations of the study. A number of state governments have already taken steps in this direction. Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued orders to the local bodies to ensure that steps are taken to check food wastage in social gatherings. Prof. Suresh Misra, Dr. Sapna Chadah and Dr. Mamta Pathania conducted the study.

### **National Seminar on Consumer Awareness as an Emerging Force in India**

IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies collaborated with Post Graduate Government College, Chandigarh in organising the programme on September 14-15 at Chandigarh. The objectives of the seminar were to: acquaint the participants with the need and importance of Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare; enlighten the participants with Consumer Protection Act and redressal mechanism available under the Act; critically analyse the effectiveness of consumer redressal forums in India and to analyse the role of civil society and NGOs in promoting consumer awareness and curbing consumer exploitation. The main aim of the seminar was to provide a platform to the participants to share their experiences in developing

insight regarding the consumer awareness and to make them empowered consumers. Ms. Pushpa Girimaji, Journalist and Consumer Activist, in her key-note address said that globalisation and liberalisation have opened the market making more goods and services available to the consumers but at the same time subjected them to greater exploitation due to the information asymmetry existing between the seller and the buyer. Dr. B.S. Ghuman, Dean Faculty of Arts, Panjab University, in his address stated that the MNCs are no doubt governed by the principle of maximisation of profit but it is being replaced by greed and this has given rise to the problem. The business corporations have code of ethics by their side but how much of ethics is being followed in their conduct with the customers is a question. In his presidential address Justice S.N. Aggarwal, President of Punjab SCDRC, mentioned that the subject selected for the purpose is of contemporary relevance as all of us are consumers. The aim of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, is to provide simple, speedy, inexpensive justice for which it provides for three tier redressal mechanisms at district, state and national levels. Around 100 participants participated in the seminar which included academics, researchers, representatives of VCOs / NGOs and students. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Sapna Chadah.

### **Panchayat Raj Workshop**

An Orientation Workshop for States for preparation of State Plans was organized in IIPA on 27 September 2012 under Rajiv Gandhi PanchayatSashaktikaranAbhiyan (RGPSA). Ms RashmiShukla Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of

PanchayatiRaj made the presentation on RGPSA. Secretaries in States also made presentations and shared best practices in devolution and accountability. Ms Loretta M Vas, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj presided over. 82 senior officers participated in the workshop. Dr V N Alok, who is conducting a study under RGPSA, organized the workshop.

### Faculty News

- Dr. V.N. Alok, Associate Professor of Public Finance, made the theme presentation in a consultation workshop on “Fiscal Decentralization and Local Resource Mobilization” organised by the Second State Finance Commission (SFC), Chhattisgarh on August 4 at Thakur Pyarelal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Raipur. SFC Chairman, members, sarpanches, senior officers of the Department of Panchayats and Rural Development were present at the occasion. Dr. Alok also delivered a talk on “Fiscal Decentralization” on September 4 to the group of government officers from Asia-Pacific countries attending a workshop on “Need Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Information Generation Techniques for Decentralized Governance” under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan of the Ministry

of External Affairs, Government of India.

- Dr. Kusum Lata, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, has been nominated as Expert Member of the Management Action Group on “Local Level Participatory Planning” and “Infrastructure Development” constituted by Delhi Development Authority to carry out monitoring and review of Master Plan of Delhi -2021 so as to ensure mid-term corrections and modifications in Plan Policies as well as implementation procedures. She was one of the panelists in the session on “Protecting Earth (Climate Change Agreements and Environmental Concerns)” on second day of the Shock Waves 2012 (Second International Film Festival on Disaster Risk Reduction) organised by Global Forum for Disaster Reduction (GFDR), New Delhi, in association with Japan Foundation, on August 3-4 at IHC, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

- Prof. P.K. Chaubey, Professor of Economics (Economic Administration), as Guest of Honour in the inaugural session of the seminar on “Crisis in Indian Agriculture” organised by D.S. College, Aligarh, delivered a lecture on “Agriculture in India: Issues for Policy Debate” on August 25. Earlier, Prof. Chaubey participated in a round table on “Gandhi and Micro-planning” in

Gandhirama organised by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research at JNU on August 18. He also spoke on “Adopting Gandhi for Village Planning: Issues for Consideration” at the same venue on August 21. Prof. Chaubey has published the following articles: (i) Malayalam translation of “Contributory Pension Fund: The Option for Future” in *Mathrubhumi* dated August 24; (ii) “Social Inclusion through Exclusive Provisions: The Glass in Half Full” in *Journal of Social and Political Studies*, vol. 3, No.1; and (iii) “Secularism and Communal Harmony in India: Looming Questions” in *Indian Journal of New Dimensions*, vol. 2, No. 1.

- Prof. Dolly Arora, Professor of Political Science, delivered a lecture on “Democracy, Citizenship and Electoral Reforms” in the national symposium on “Electoral Reforms and Voter Empowerment” at National Law University, Jodhpur on August 24.

- Prof. Suresh Misra, Professor of Public Administration (with specialisation in Consumer Affairs): (i) delivered the key-note address in the seminar on “Unfair Advertisements and Unfair Trade Practices” organised by the Consumer Coordination Council at Mumbai on August 24; (ii) delivered a radio talk on “Consumer Empowerment” on AIR Vijayawada on August 28; (iii) Prof. Misra has been nominated by the Department of Consumer Affairs as a Member of the Standing Committee to Harmonise Labelling Requirements on Packed Committee under Different Laws; and (iv) he has been nominated as a Member of the Empowered Committee for Creating Consumer Awareness, constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs.

- Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics (Economic

## सकल घरेलू उत्पाद एवं विकास का संबंध

संस्थान की हिंदी व्याख्यान-माला की बीसवीं कड़ी के रूप में हिंदी-दिवस पर शुक्रवार 14 सितंबर, 2012 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे संस्थान सभाकक्ष में “सकल घरेलू उत्पाद एवं विकास का संबंध” विषय पर मूर्धन्य विहान प्रोफेसर श्री निवास मिश्र, अध्यक्ष, आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक शोध केंद्र के व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया गया।

लब्ध प्रतिष्ठ अर्थशास्त्री प्रोफेसर टी.एस. पपोला, सदस्य, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम परिषद् ने कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता की।

संस्थान के निदेशक श्री उदय चंद अग्रवाल ने स्वागत किया तथा डा. उषा मुजू मुंशी, पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष ने आभार-ज्ञापन किया। प्रोफेसर प्रमोद कुमार चौबे ने इस कार्यक्रम का समन्वयन किया।

Policy), has been nominated as a Member of the Steering Group constituted by Ministry of Rural

Development for regular review and methodological guidance for research studies under Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Shri B.N. Yugandhar is the Chairman of the Steering Group.

## NEWS FROM BRANCHES

### Assam Regional Branch

The branch organised a conference on “Administration of Urban Development and Urban Service Delivery” on September 22. Sri Jatin Hazarika, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme. He gave an overview of the theme emphasising the need of good governance for better administration and service delivery in urban development sector. The keynote address on the theme was delivered by Shri Saraswati Prasad, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Assam. Sri Prasad elaborated the wide ranging responsibilities and functions democratically elected Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have to perform, according to 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act. Pointing out various issues and limitations which need to be tackled to carry forward the desired reform for different ULBs in Assam, Sri Prasad highlighted the initiatives taken by the government so far and future road map, for capacity building and empowering Urban Local Bodies. Immediately after the keynote address, theme was opened for discussions. The discussion session was chaired by Shri P.K. Chakroborty an eminent Public Health Engineer and Consultant of World Bank and ADB. The discussion was actively participated by eminent invitees from different disciplines, senior officials from various governments organisations and ULBs.

### Bihar Regional Branch

The branch collaborated with the Department of Geography, Patna University in organising a seminar on “Administration of Urban Development and Urban Service Delivery” on September 6. Dr. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Patna University, was the Chief Guest; and Dr. Rash Bihari Prasad Singh, HoD of Geography, Patna University, presented the theme paper.

### Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

Prof. Bharati Sharma of IIPA visited the branch and acquainted herself with the working of the branch and met the members. Some suggestions for encouraging applications from new members, especially from the younger generation were also given. The occasion was also utilised to have a talk on “Human Resource Development: Issues and Challenges”. The growth of the discipline was touched upon and the six phases of HR development were explained. During the interaction, it was the general opinion that while a lot of work is being done, it fails to percolate to the powers who can decide. On July 22, Shri R.K. Agnihotri spoke about the strategies to lead to rural industrial growth. He has explored the possibilities in his book and explained various steps advocated therein.

### Mizoram Regional Branch

The branch in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, organised the

prelude conference on “Administration of Urban Development and Urban Service Delivery” on September 21. Shri Lalthanzara, Parliamentary Secretary, Government of Mizoram, was the Chief Guest. Prof. C. Lalkima, Chairman of the branch, presided. Prof. Srinibas Pathi presented the theme paper. Prof. Lalrintluanga and Prof. Lalneighzovi et al presented papers. In the beginning, a minute’s silence was observed in the memory of late Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director, IIPA, late R. Thansanga and late P. Lalnithanga, Life Members.

### Nagpur Local Branch

The branch jointly with the Department of Business Management, RTM Nagpur University organised the prelude conference on “Administration of Urban Development and Urban Service Delivery” on August 23. Shri M.A.K. Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Nagpur Division, inaugurated the programme. Prof. V.S. Deshpande, HoD of Department of Business Management, RTM Nagpur University, presented a paper on “The Problems of Urbanisation”; and Dr. Mohan Kashikar, HoD of PGTD of Political Science, Nagpur University, spoke on the problems of delivery of urban services. Dr. P. Lakshminarayanan, Secretary of the branch, presented the theme paper. He suggested for better infrastructural facilities for making the service delivery to be effective and efficient.

### Tirupati Local Branch

The branch organised the prelude

*Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech — Martin Fraquhar Tupper*

conference on “Administration of Urban Development and Urban Service Delivery” on September 17. Inaugurating the programme Prof. W. Rajendra, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara University, stated that it is time to bring awareness among citizens to treat this country as a temple for keeping it as a holy place by conservation and protection of nature. Among the speakers were Prof. V.N. Viswanathan of Presidency College, Chennai; Shri T. Prasad, Commissioner of Tirupati Municipal Corporation; Prof. K. Santha Kumari of SV University; and Prof. K. Nagendra Prasad, HoD of Civil Engineering, SVU College of Engineering. Prof A. Ranga Reddy, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

### Uttar Pradesh Regional Branch

The branch held a condolence meeting to mourn the demise of Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA on September 10 and passed a resolution, which read as under: It is with great grief and shock to learn that Dr. Rakesh Hooja, Director of IIPA, passed away suddenly on Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at his residence. It is a great loss to our national institution. Dr. Hooja was a very capable, knowledgeable and academically endowed person. He was a distinguished civil servant and a scholar with long experience of public administration. He contributed immensely to this discipline in both practical and research context. IIPA (U.P. region) deeply condoles the death of Dr. Hooja. He has left a void that would be difficult to fill. At this tragic moment all of us in the IIPA (U.P. Branch) share in full measure the grief and sorrow of IIPA (Hq.) as also the family of Dr. Hooja. May God grant peace to the departed soul and give his family and friends courage and fortitude to bear this great loss.

### West Bengal Regional Branch

The branch organised a seminar on “Education: Challenges and Prospect” on March 30. Prof. S.K. Ray, former Professor of Burdwan University, highlighted on: (i) overburdening of curriculum at the school level; (ii) lack of continuation

of higher education curriculum from that of school education; and (iii) crisis of moral values mainly due to lack of value-based education. Shri Suryya Ray, Chairman of the branch, in his presidential address, emphasised on the need of man-making education of Swami Vivekananda.

## NEWS FROM STATES

### Delhi

#### Apocalypse for Malefactors

Tihar jail of Delhi has been globally acknowledged as a trend setter of jail reforms. Though jail is the other name for reforming culprits, yet over the years it has introduced and implemented successfully various initiatives for its inmates. To begin with, it has compiled a booklet containing the important information about the inmates like the kind of food to be served, clothes to be given, visitation rights, health check-ups, list of prohibited items, information pertaining to education, financial assistance and last but not the least, legal aid. The legal aid information includes details of bail, parole, furlough, releases, etc. A spice unit - the seventh in the premises - was started to retail premium quality spices.

To encourage educational activities, a comprehensive programme—‘Padho aur Padhao’ was launched for all interested. This is the first ICT enabled drive ever launched in an Indian jail. The prisoners are required to appear in the exam conducted by National Literacy Mission to confirm their literary status. It is because of the sustained efforts of the prison administration that the number of illiterates has come down to nearly 14 per cent from 40 per cent. As a corollary to education drive, inmates are now getting selected for jobs in the corporate sector.

The story of Tihar would not be complete without outlining its strides in Information Technology. It has now occupied a space on the face-book to tell all about various activities being undertaken in the correctional centre.

The centre also bagged a certificate of recognition for commendable contribution in Bhagidari Initiative - 2010. Very soon, the inmates are to have smart cards to facilitate them for numerous transactions in the jail canteen. The Tihar authorities would give the prisoners individual Aadhar cards in the coming future. The inmates can also get an insurance cover while in the confinement. To check mischief in the premises, 11 cell phone jammers have already been installed to rule out any use of mobile phones.

### Himachal Pradesh

#### E-governance to Check Corruption

Aiming to cut down paperwork in offices and check corruption, the State Government has planned to adopt the e-governance model successfully implemented in Gujarat.

*Criticism is prejudice made plausible — Henry Louis Mencken*

Tata Consultancy Services, which developed the e-budget software for the Gujarat Government, would be roped in for this purpose.

The State has already taken several initiatives to popularise information technology in the government functioning to make delivery system faster. Initiatives like SMS gateway, e-samadhan and interactive web-based services have been launched. The State IT Department has set up *sugam* centres in Shimla and Solan, where a person can deposit electricity

and telephone bills, apply for driving licence and registration of vehicles by avoiding long queues. Buoyed by its success, efforts are on to open similar centres at Hamirpur, Mandi and Kangra districts. The SMS gateway service, under which a person can get all relevant information through SMS, has been launched in Shimla, Hamirpur and Solan districts. Efforts are on to computerise the fair price shops under the public distribution system, the programme would soon start in Shimla town and Mashobra block of Shimla

district on a pilot basis.

A State-level data centre would be set up in Shimla, at an estimated cost of Rs 40 crore, to have a foolproof mechanism with anti-hacking facility and safeguard data that can even withstand a natural calamity. Work in progressing to open a *lokmitra kendra* in every panchayat that would have at least one computer operated by a locally trained person to provide facilities like application for land records and other services to citizens.

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### Quotable Quotes

- *Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted* — Albert Einstein
- *Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws* — Plato
- *The power of accurate observation is frequently called cynicism by those who don't have it* — George Bernard Shaw
- *Blessed is the man, who having nothing to say, abstains from giving wordy evidence of the fact* — George Eliot
- *The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true* — James Branch Cabell
- *An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered* — Gilbert Keith Chesterton

<p><i>Editor</i> : U.C. AGARWAL <i>Asstt. Editor</i> : SUNIL DUTT</p>
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