



IIPA NEWSLETTER

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INSTITUTE NEWS

Annual General Body Meeting

The sixty-first Annual Meeting of the General Body of the Institute will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 5.00 p.m. in the IIPA Auditorium.

Members' Annual Conference

The fifty-ninth Members' Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. in the IIPA Auditorium. The theme of the Conference is "Higher Education at Crossroads".

Know India Programme

Sponsored by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the captioned programme for Indian diaspora youth was conducted at IIPA on July 6-7 with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science and technology, communication and information technology, and culture. The programme provided a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations and experiences and to develop closer bonds with the contemporary India. In this programme, young girls and boys (18-28 years) of Indian diaspora who never had a chance to visit India were exposed to the rich heritage of the country including art/culture, impact of advertisement, theatre, astronomy and Indian eco-system. They were also exposed to deliberations on various aspects of Indian governance including federal structure of India, e-government case-studies of rural India and disaster preparedness strategies of India and ethics in administration. Dr. Charru Malhotra and Prof. V.K. Sharma coordinated it.

Programme on Leadership and Communication Skills

The Institute conducted the programme from

July 13-17. Besides understanding the significance of communication skills and leadership, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) apply innovative techniques in problem-solving to confirm stakeholders' expectations; (ii) differentiate oral and non-verbal communications; (iii) develop citizen-centric mindset through leadership and communication skills; and (iv) apply workable indicators of leadership and communication skills in their work profile. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinators, Dr. Kusum Lata and Dr. Saket Bihari.

Programme for AEEs of CPWD

Sponsored by Central Public Works Department, the programme was conducted at IIPA for AEEs (Civil and Electrical) of CPWD from July 13- August 7. Apart from unraveling their own dormant positive personality traits to be more effective and efficient professional, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) implement the principles of personality preparedness to cope up with competitive official scenario; (ii) understand the basic tenets of Indian administration, ICT implementation and trends of e-governance implementation; (iii) appreciate the various legal provisions as applicable to routine administrative functioning; (iv) understand the nuances of office noting, drafting, conduct rules, service conditions and related disciplinary procedures as stipulated by Government of India; and (v) display leadership attribute for taking charge in critical situations as well as reflect the attributes of being an effective team member for achieving desired organisation goal and objectives. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. P.K. Chaubey and Dr. Charru Malhotra coordinated it.

The IIPA fraternity extends greetings to all its readers for Independence Day, Parsi New Year's Day, Onam and Raksha Bandhan

Workshop on Consumer Protection and Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs, IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies in collaboration with Thakur Pyare Lal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Chhattisgarh organised the programme from June 26-27. Shri Sonmani Borah, Deputy Commissioner, inaugurated the programme; and Prof. Suresh Misra delivered the key-note address. It was divided into various sessions covering Consumer Protection: Law and Policy; Consumer Empowerment: Education and Awareness; Consumer Problems in Rural Chhattisgarh and Working of Redressal Agencies; Service Sector and Consumer Problems; Media and Consumer; Food Safety and the Consumer; Food Adulteration and its Impact (film-based discussion); and a panel discussion on Road Map to Consumer Welfare. The main objectives of the workshop were to: (i) enhance the knowledge and skill of the participants in the area of consumer protection and consumer welfare; (ii) understand the need and importance of consumer protection and welfare and the role of various stakeholders; and (iii) discuss the legal dimensions of consumer protection in different service sectors. A large number of participants including heads and members of zilla panchayats, NGOs and academics of different parts of Chhattisgarh attended the programme. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated it.

Seminar on Consumer Protection and Empowerment

The Centre for Consumer Studies of IIPA in collaboration with Government College of Teacher Education, Dharamshala, conducted the programme from July 13-14 at Mandi. The Department of Consumer Affairs sponsored the programme. Shri Sandeep Kadam, Deputy Commissioner, Mandi inaugurated it; and Prof. Suresh Misra delivered the key-note address. The valedictory address on the concluding day was delivered by Prof. Ashok Awasthi, Principal, Government College. The main objectives of the Seminar were to sensitize the participants about the developments taking place in the area of consumer welfare and the impact of globalization on the life of consumers, to examine the problems faced by the consumers in the service sectors like insurance, banking, telecommunication, etc to help the consumers to understand the rights and duties, to create awareness regarding the consumer protection and rights of the consumers and provide a platform to academicians, policy

makers, NGO's and other stakeholders to deliberate on various issues related to globalization, market and the consumer and motivate them to be the messengers of the awareness campaign. Around 100 participants attended the Seminar. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated the Seminar.

National Conference on Delhi: From Seven Cities to Smart City State

Sponsored by Delhi Development Authority, the programme was conducted at IIPA on July 22-23. Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Director of IIPA, delivered the introductory address by highlighting the importance of history and culture in planning of Delhi and also laid emphasis on productiveness of a city. Shri Abhai Sinha, Engineer Member of DDA, as Special Guest, deliberated on the four pillars of smart city. Shri Raj Rewal, Architect of eminence, as Guest of Honour, stated his view on importance of visions and how Delhi is in contrast with an ideal city which is supposed to be synonymous with liveliness. Shri T. N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, as Chief Guest, highlighted the social deprivation in the city which must not be disregarded while building Delhi as a smart city. The Conference comprised of four technical sessions and two panel discussions which mulled over different aspects of smart city such as mobility, environment, infrastructure, etc. In the valedictory session, Dr. Chetan Vaidya, Director of School of Planning and Architecture, underscored the importance of coordination among different departments and how all the city aspects must be intertwined in a cohesive manner with good coordination so that the city functions as one. Dr. Kusum Lata, Dr. Saket Bihari, and Dr. Manan Dwivedi coordinated it.

Training of Trainers Programme on Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare

Sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA by its Centre for Consumer Studies, for the faculty members of training institutions on consumer protection and consumer welfare, from July 27-31. Apart from enhancing the participants' knowledge and skill in the area of consumer protection and consumer welfare, the programme was designed to enable them to: (i) comprehend the need and importance of consumer protection and welfare; (ii) acquaint with the national and international dimensions of consumer protection and the role of various stakeholders; (iii) explain the various

Solicitation of Articles

Like every year the Institute is bringing out a Special Issue (July-September 2015) of the *Indian Journal of Public Administration* on "Pressure Groups and Democratic Governance". Articles (with not more than 5000 words with abstract) on the topic are solicited from willing contributors latest by August 31, 2015. Articles may be mailed to either dipankar56@gmail.com or ijpa2012@gmail.com. Following is the note on the theme paper.

Pressure Groups and Democratic Governance

Pressure groups are essentially a phenomenon of group or collective action. Interests in a society, when formally organised as associations, are called interest groups or pressure groups. Their objective is to influence a public policy and/or public opinion. Their methods range from lobbying, campaigning, protesting, and occasionally even civil disobedience. Their modes of communication may include direct contact, letter-writing, carrying placards, media advertisements, and now increasingly social media. Pressure groups differ from political parties in that the former only seek to influence the government whereas the latter also seek to form the government. Some political parties with a remote possibility of ever coming to power are actually pressure groups masquerading as political parties, although this difference tends to get blurred in the context of coalitional governance.

Pressure group politics may be seen as a pluralist democratic alternative to feudal and modern elitist corporatism, on the one hand, and radical class struggle of early stages of industrial society, on the other. It first emerged, like political parties, with democratisation of feudal societies. Early stages of industrialisation posed some threats to pluralist pressure group politics from the emergent politics of class struggle between the two fundamental classes of an industrial society – workers and bourgeoisies. But with the widening and deepening of democracy, and the subsequent trends towards postindustrial society, radical class politics showed the tendency to be supplanted by pluralist pressure group politics. Still later, people animated by postmaterialist values, transcending conflicts over production and distribution, came to compete and care more for quality of life, including hitherto neglected issues of gender justice, child rights, and sexuality. In the post-Cold War and post-communist world since the early Nineties the changing discourse on the role of the state, has demanded a shift of emphasis from *Government* to *Governance*. It has caused a new look on terms of the relationship between democracy and development, state and civil society, and state and market. Pressure groups and political parties, being vital links between these conceptual binaries, cannot escape this new paradigm shift in the role and function of government and administration.

Pressure group politics in the Indian context differs significantly from its variant in advanced capitalist liberal democracies of the West, both in terms of the nature of the interest groups and the predominant pattern of relationship of these groups with political parties. Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph (1987: 15) postulate: 'The vanguards of higher levels of political mobilisation have been, *demand groups*, India's version of pluralist representation' (italics or emphasis added by me). The Rudolphs offer the workers, students, and agricultural producers as illustrations of demand groups. These groups, they go on to say, 'mobilise ready but inchoate interests, and attentive politics.' Moreover, such demand groups 'are unlike organised interests, which rely on permanent organisations and specialised knowledge to pressure interests and long-term goals and which work in camera in the corridors and salons of power.' In contrast to organised groups, demand groups operate through ad hoc organisations on streets and *maidans* and 'are more akin to social movements than to the organised interests and political parties that they sometimes build on or use.' Not necessarily but more often than not, demand groups are a feature of unorganised sectors of the economy than the organised. Obviously, not all pressure groups in India can be called demand groups, as conceptualised by the Rudolphs.

We may add here that most interest groups in India were, at least initially, dominated and formally controlled by the leading political parties and used as parties' front organisations working among, say, the peasantry, industrial workers, miners, women, teachers, students, etc. Later on, several of these interest sectors, e.g. peasants and workers, began to organise trade unions and peasant organisations independent of political parties. Examples are mostly from the 1980s: Mumbai Girmi Kamgar Union led by Dutta Samant in the textile mills of Bombay; union of mine workers and tribal peasants in the Jharia-Dhanbad belt of Bihar (now in Jharkhand) led by A.K. Roy; Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha of mine workers, tribal youth, and landless labour in the Dalli Rajhara Mines in the Bhilai-Durg region of the then undivided state of Madhya Pradesh; Bharatiya Kisan Union led by Mahendra Singh Tikait in Western U.P.; and Shetkari Sanghatan aiming at 'freedom of access to markets and to technology' in Maharashtra. In some instances, even if some trade unions continue to be affiliated with political parties, they now tend to act independently of the party concerned. For example, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), the largest central trade union federation of industrial workers in the country and formally affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Congress-affiliated Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), have both repeatedly joined the general strikes along with the trade unions aligned with the Communist Parties during the federal coalition governments led by either the BJP or the Congress since 1998 to date (2015).

A forthcoming special issue of the *Indian Journal of Public Administration* (IIPA, New Delhi) will focus on the theme of Pressure Groups and Working of Democracy in India. You are invited to contribute a paper on any of the following topics, or any other topic of your choice having a bearing on the central concern of the special issue. It is due to be released in the annual general body meeting-cum-conference in October 2015:

(i) Comparative Theory of Pressure Group Politics; (ii) Democratisation and Pluralist Pressure Group Politics; (iii) Industrialisation and Class-based Pressure Group Politics; (iv) Impact of Globalisation on Pressure Group Politics; (v) Tendencies/Trends towards Postindustrial Society and Pressure Group Politics; (vi) Pressure Group System and Party System; (vii) Pressure Group Politics and Elections; (viii) Pressure Groups in Liberal Professions, including the Public Services; (ix) Rise and Decline of Independent Unions of Workers or Peasants; (x) Any One Pressure Group in any Interest Sector; (xi) Pressure Groups and the Parliament/State Legislatures; (xii) Pressure Groups and the Executive, including the Bureaucracy; (xiii) Pressure Groups and Independent Regulatory Authorities; and (xiv) Judicial Pronouncements on Pressure Group Activities and the Right to Strike.

provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and other legislation on consumer protection; (iv) discuss the legal dimensions of consumer protection in different services sectors such as housing, healthcare, banking, telecom, etc; and (v) develop training skills. The faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated it.

Faculty News

Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics (Economic Policy), has been appointed as Member of

Technical Advisory Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to provide advice for the preparation of a Gender Development Index for India and States/UTs for 2011-12.

Staff News

Shri Hemant Khare, Professional Assistant, attended one- day hands-on-training workshop on "Open Data Development Initiatives" of the World Bank at its Library in The Hindustan Times Building, New Delhi, organised by World Bank on July 24.

प्रशासक विभाग, दिल्ली

प्रशा.-1(10)-हिंदी-2015

27 जुलाई, 2015

प्रशासक विभाग, दिल्ली-2015

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 'प्रशासक विभाग, दिल्ली' 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 कागज़ पर टाइप करके सीलबंद लिफाफे में अलग से रखा होना चाहिए जिस पर लेखक का कल्पित नाम तथा निम्न शब्द अंकित होने चाहिए:

प्रशासक विभाग, दिल्ली-2015

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। संस्थान के कर्मचारियों से प्राप्त प्रविष्टियों का मूल्यांकन अलग से किया जाएगा तथा उन विजेताओं को अलग से समान राशि 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। पूर्व में पुरस्कृत प्रतियोगी इस तथ्य से संस्थान को अवश्य अवगत कराएँ। संयुक्त रूप से लेखकों द्वारा लिखित निबंध पर प्रतियोगिता के लिए विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। लिफाफे के ऊपर 'हिंदी निबंध प्रतियोगिता-2015' अंकित होना आवश्यक है। निबंध निम्नानुसार संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए-

निदेशक, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, इंदरप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002

निबंध स्वीकार करने की अंतिम तिथि 15 सितंबर, 2015 है। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद प्राप्त प्रविष्टियों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।

प्रतियोगिता से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के स्पष्टीकरण के लिए प्रो. कमला कांत पाण्डेय संयोजक, राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, इंदरप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002 से सम्पर्क करें।

प्रशासक विभाग, दिल्ली
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संपर्क सूची

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NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Howrah Local Branch

The branch organised a seminar on "Swachh Bharat" on June 20. Prof. Ashim Ghosh, Educationist; and Prof. Bimal Sankar Nanda, Political Scientist, spoke on the topic. Prof. Asish Ray, Secretary of the branch, gave the

introductory address. Rtn. D.K. Das, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a panel discussion on "Environmental Governance in India" on June 18. In his

introductory address, Dr. C.M. Seth, former Chairman of J&K Pollution Control Board, stated that sustainability in terms of environment, economic, social and cultural are key aspects of governance. He highlighted about the features of the new legislation that the Central Government is planning which stresses upon creating the Green Economy. Shri V.N. Sharma, Member of Regional Empowered Committee, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, enlightened the audience about the role of regional empowered committees in regulating the conversion of forest land for other uses. Shri P.P. Sharma, former Chairman of State Environmental Assessment Authority, shared his experiences regarding environment governance with specific reference to Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, Prof. Alka Sharma, Director (Seminars), spoke about the relevance of the theme and highlighted few cases regarding environmental governance in India.

Karnataka Regional Branch

Shri S. Ramanathan, Chairman of the branch, has been conferred Lifetime Achievement Excellence Award 2015 by the Indian Virtual University for Peace and Education on February 21 for his exceptional contribution, dedication and professionalism in the field of public administration. The branch jointly with IAS Officers' Association, Karnataka organised the diamond jubilee lecture on May 30, in which Shri Vinod Rai, former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, spoke on "Audit, Good Governance and Sustainable Development". Shri Rai observed that good governance is not the sole responsibility of the government rather it is a collective endeavour involving all the stakeholders in a democracy. Citing examples from the USA and Australia, he stated that audit has come to be universally acknowledged as an instrument of good governance and sustainable development. Shri S. Ramanathan presided over the programme. Earlier, on May 15-16, the Centre for Consumer Studies of the branch in association with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Karnataka organised a capacity building workshop on "Consumer Law and Advocacy. Shri S. Ramanathan delivered the key-note address and highlighted the activities of the CCS and its future plans. He called upon the participants to ensure full transparency in their working and adhere to good governance. Shri Y. Muralidharan, Consultant, CCS, spoke at length on the objectives of the workshop.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised a meeting on June 20 to discuss the need for judicial reforms. Shri Kewal Krishan Sethi, Chairman of the branch, introduced the subject detailing the four complaints of delay, dilatory tactics, corruption, lack of basic courtesies and lack of transparency. Shri K. L. Jain spoke about the current position and how to tackle it. The other participants also listed several suggestions which could lead to better results. The need for transparency was emphasised as also the need to avoid unnecessary adjournments.

Madurai Local Branch

The branch teamed up with Raja Siddha Marunthagam and Surabhi (AIMSDAEP) Trust in organising a free alternate to medical health camp at Thirumangalam Municipality on April 16. Dr. Dhulasi Brunda Varadharajan gave the key-note address elaborating the importance of siddha, ayurveda and acupuncture treatments. Dr. G. Vengidusamy, former Chairman of the branch; and Dr. K. Kalidass also spoke.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on "Social Media, Lok Heet and Manhani" by Prof. Sanjai Dwivedi. He emphasised that the ground reality has changed over the years and there is no way the media can be pressurised to avoid any criticism of the government policy and actions. He also stated that there is no need to enact laws to protect against defamation as present laws can ensure justice to the aggrieved person. Shri Sarman Nagele of *mppostnewsviews* also spoke on the subject. Among the participants were Shri C.S. Chaddha, former Vice-Chancellor of Devi Ahilya Vishwa Vidyalaya; Shri T.N. Shrivastava, former Member Secretary, Finance Commission; and Shri H.M. Mishra, Director of National Institute of Governance and Urban Management.

Maharashtra Regional Branch

The branch organised the Late Shri B.G. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture on April 22, in which Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission, Government of Maharashtra, spoke on "Sustainable Development: The Indian Challenge". In his presentation, he talked about Indians in 2035, the vision document prepared by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council to which he is

ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION-2015

The Executive Council of IIPA has approved the following topics for IIPA's Annual Essay Competition for 2015; (i) Making in India: Rhetoric or Reality; (ii) Clean India (Swachh Bharat); and (iii) Millennium Development Goals. The value of one first prize is Rs. 5000 and that of one second prize and one third prize are Rs. 3000 and Rs. 2000 respectively. There will be separate prizes for Hindi and English. The prizes will be awarded at the time of Annual General Meeting of the members in October 2015.

Any competitor who has got a prize on one occasion will not, on any subsequent occasion, be eligible for an equivalent or lower prize. The joint authorship of essays shall not be allowed and any essay under joint authorship shall not be considered for competition.

The essay writers are expected to cover the following aspects in their respective entries:

Making in India: Rhetoric or Reality

India is an agriculture economy, wherein 60 per cent of its population is dependent, directly or indirectly, on agriculture; and is also witnessing largest injection of working age population in this decade. Further, with fall in the contribution of manufacturing to GDP to 17 per cent, and the objective to increase it to 25 per cent by 2022, lays focus on the need for 'Make in India' campaign. The campaign has the objective to attract foreign investors and to make the country a global manufacturing hub, to create jobs opportunities to meet the aspirations of the young population and also those moving out of agriculture. Estimates are that such manufacturing opportunities will create millions of jobs in the next decade and are required to have a sustained rate of growth of eight per cent and above. This is on the line of the rapidly developed economies like, Malaysia, Indonesia and China which have increased the share of GDP beyond 20 per cent.

'Make in India' campaign by the present government, though laudable, has to be vigorously followed to make the Indian industry competitive for the rest of the world and also to upgrade the skills of our people as over six lakh units in medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME) sector in India provide jobs to about 65 per cent of all employed, but it is characterised as imbalanced in terms of inefficiency with productivity gains being negatives in many industries in this sector. Defence in India is dependent on imports for fifty per cent of their equipments, and the need is why not to make them in India, same is the position of various industries like, automobile, pharmaceuticals—the main drivers of manufacturing growth in India. Higher education and medical care are other areas where India is attractive and stands in favourable position in attracting customers, in particular when India is characterised having low manpower cost with better quality.

Make in India, a step towards imports substitution, to promote exports and to create job is to be adopted by States which are as most unfriendly places to do business, poor infrastructure, policy uncertainty, rigid labour laws and 'inspector raj'. India ranks 142 among 189 countries in terms of doing business, though has good record in putting down laws, acts and procedures but still is very poor in implementation. More so, emphasis required is to create a nation of 'job creators' rather than 'job seekers'. How far the above factors will 'Make in India' campaign a reality!

Clean India (Swachh Bharat)

The Government of India has shown its commitment towards Clean India to achieve related objectives in a mission mode approach covering a period of 2014 to 2019. The Clean India Mission, popularly known as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, is dedicated to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi falling on October 2, 2019, who emphasised on the importance and externalities of clean India in the overall socio-economic and development perspective of our nation. In the second decade of 21st century the relevance of SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission) is seen in a much wider perspective of productivity, inclusive growth, safe environment and climate change. The mission aims to cover all urban and rural settlements with a two-pronged focus on: (i) open defecation free (ODF) strategy; and (ii) safe disposal of solid waste and liquid waste. Successive studies show a direct implication of these two components of SBM on health (water borne and communicable diseases) and associated productivity loss (which is as high as 6.4 per cent of GDP as per a World Bank study in 2010), economic and social disadvantages, environmental degradation (pollution, congestion and related externalities) and green house gas emission related to waste disposal.

It is in this context, that essay writers may attempt to deliberate on any one or more aspects of SBM. These cover: (i) ODF strategy, (ii) community-led total sanitation, (iii) role of gram panchayat to promote ODF status, (iv) convergence and synergy for ODF; (v) toilet technologies; (vi) community toilets—investments, development, operations and maintenance; (vii) solid waste collection—methods/ financing/ manpower deployment; and (viii) financing the waste collection, disposal and community toilets in urban/ rural areas.

Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, 189 nations made a promise to free people from extreme poverty and multiple deprivations. The United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit committed Member States to a new global partnership to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015. The eight MDGs for development and poverty eradication are: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

In this context, the proposed essay may try to answer some of the following questions: What are India's achievements and challenges in respect of the Goals and Targets set at the United Nations Millennium Summit? What are the measures that are used to track progress towards achieving the MDGs? Why does the global attainment of the MDGs depend on India? What are the factors that explain why we are on track in achieving some of the targets and off track in the case of others? What are the specific challenges that we face in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger? What steps must be taken to ensure that boys and girls complete a full course of primary education? Why is our progress in reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio slow? What measures must be taken for a significant

reduction in the MMR? What are the challenges that we face in combating major diseases? Are all the MDGs gender sensitive? What proportion of our population lacks access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation? What can be done to rectify this? Have the MDGs led to reduction in disparities? How reliable is the data that is used to measure progress towards attaining the MDGs? What are the challenges that we face in the context of the post 2015 scenario? What are the lessons from unmet Goals and Targets? What steps can India and the global partnership take for enabling sustainable and more equitable development?

A competitor may attempt a comprehensive survey of all these factors or may opt for focusing only on problems of a specific sector. These are flexible guidelines, illustrative rather than comprehensive. The competitors may not feel in any way rigidly bound by these guidelines. Essay should be based on personal research or experience of the competitors and show evidence of original thinking and scholarship as well as a critical analysis of the subject. Broad generalisations should be avoided.

The essay should be in English or Hindi. The length of an essay should approximately be 5000 words and the competitors must indicate the total number of words of the essay contributed by them. Essay exceeding 5500 words will not be accepted. The contestants must indicate the total number of words of the essay, failing which it will not be accepted. All essays must be typed in double space on one side of the paper only and those entries which do not adhere to the stipulation can be rejected. It should be submitted in triplicate under a "nom-de-plume" or "alias." The full name and address of the competitor should be given on a separate sheet and enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the nom-de-plume on the outer cover with the following inscription.

Annual Essay Prize Competition-2015, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

All essays should be sent to the Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002, by Registered Post, so as to reach him not later than the August 31, 2015. The envelope should be marked "Annual Essay Prize Competition 2015". The entries received after the due date may not be entertained.

The essays will be adjudged by a body of judges and the award of the judges shall be final. The institute reserves the right not to make any award if none of the essays submitted meets the necessary standard. Any essay which receives an award shall become the joint intellectual property of the author and IIPA.

N.B.: Intending competitors who wish to seek any further clarification may write to The Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002.

related. Earlier, Shri Johney Joseph, Chairman of the branch, talked about various facets of personality of late Shri B.G. Deshmukh. Earlier, the branch jointly with Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan organised the Late Shri Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Lecture on April 13. Prof. Ankush Sawant, former Director of Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, spoke on "A Panoramic View of Sub-Saharan Africa". Discussing the history and background of the Sub-Saharan Africa region, he mentioned about how political and cultural transformation shaped in that region. He also apprised about the latest state of social, economical and political development in that region. Shri Johney Joseph and Shri S.S. Kshatriya, Secretary of the branch, also spoke on the occasion.

Odisha Regional Branch

The branch in its annual general meeting, held on May 26, elected the following office-bearers: *Chairman*: Shri Bipin Bihari Mishra; *Secretary*: Shri Damodar Pradhani; *Vice-Chairmen*: Shri Karunakar Patnaik and Shri Syed Maqbool Ali; *Treasurer*: Dr. Pratip Kumar Mishra; *Members*: Shri Kulamani Deo, Dr. Suresh Mishra, Dr. Chitra Kanungo, Dr. Ashwini Kumar Tiwari and Prof. Digambar Shatapathy. On May 22, Prof. Prakash Chandra Sarangi,

Vice-Chancellor of Ravenshaw University, released the annual journal of the branch *Smart Governance: Emerging Dimensions* edited by Dr. Chitra Kanungo.

Puducherry Local Branch

The branch teamed up with the department of Home Science, Bharathidasan Government College for Women (BGCW), Puducherry in organising a seminar on "Digital India on Consumer Welfare and State Consumer Helpline for College Students" on July 23. Dr. Sasi Kanta Dash, Principal of BGCW, delivered the inaugural address; and Shri P. Sundarajan, Deputy Director of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, delivered the key-note address. Smt. D. Reena Iyyswariya, Advocate, gave the special address. Dr. R.R. Dhanapall, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme. Earlier, the branch celebrated the International Day of Yoga on June 21. Dr. M. Suganathan, Director of Saday School for Special Needs, was felicitated. Students of Saday School for Special Needs gave the yoga demonstration. Dr. R.R. Dhanapall, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Rajasthan Regional branch

The branch teamed up with the Management Development Academy in organising the following

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness—Eleanor Roosevelt

programmes on June 12, 13 and 15: (I) Shri Vijay Bhandari, former Editor of *Rajasthan Patrika* presented a paper on “PM Modi’s First Year in Office: An Assessment”. He examined the initiatives in the realms of foreign policy, national defence, internal security and finance and dwelt upon important national campaigns like Swachh Bharat and Jan Dhan Yojana. (II) Shri Rajendra Bhanawat, MD of RIICO spoke on “Innovations and Creativity in Government Administration” and analysed the sources and instruments of administrative innovations and the obstacles in the path of their adoption. Both the programmes were presided by Prof. Ramesh K. Arora, Chairman of the branch. (III) open house discussion on “Positive and Negative Stress in Life and Work” in which

Shri H.L. Chauhan, Dr. Satish K. Batra, Prof. Ramesh K. Arora and Shri Rajendra Mathur acted as resource persons.

Tirupati Local Branch

The branch jointly with Sri Padmavathi Mahila University (SPMU) celebrated World Environment Day by planting fruit-bearing saplings on June 5. Prof. Ratna Kumari, Vice-Chancellor of SPMU; Prof. Vijayalakshmi, Registrar of SPMU; HoDs of various departments; and Prof. Ranga Reddy, Chairman of the branch, actively took part in the event and hoped that the growth and development of their saplings will help the health of students, birds and animals in the campus.

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Quotable Quotes

- *To err is human, but to persevere in error is only the act of a fool—Marcus Tullius Cicero*
- *Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn—Benjamin Franklin*
- *Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words—Edgar Allan Poe*
- *It is easier to cope with a bad conscience than with a bad reputation—Friedrich Nietzsche*
- *A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds—Francis Bacon*
- *Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother—Kahlil Gibran*

<i>Editor</i> : DR. TISHYA CHATTERJEE
