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INSTITUTE NEWS

National Seminar on Rural Consumers and the Market: Issues and Challenges

IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies in collaboration with National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi organised the captioned programme on August 16-17. It was sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs. Nearly 150 participants from various parts of the country participated in the programme. It was inaugurated by Justice D.P. Singh, President, Jharkhand State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Ranchi. In his inaugural address Justice Singh highlighted the plight of the rural consumers and called upon various stakeholders to plan new strategies to protect the rural consumers from exploitation. Prof. M.J. Xavier, Director, IIM, Ranchi delivered the key-note address on the occasion. He gave a vivid account of the rural market on which the consumer depends. He stated that the rural consumers have no choice as they live in debt and die in debt. Prof. Suresh Misra, chaired the panel discussion on "Rural Consumers and the Market"; and the plenary session on "Challenges in Empowering the Rural Consumers". A number of papers on various themes relating to rural consumers were presented in the seminar. Prof. Suresh Misra coordinated it.

Programme on Science and Technology for Rural Societies

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA, for scientists and technologists working in various scientific institutions, from September 2-6. Apart from enabling the participants to acquire skills, knowledge, techniques and attitudes to face the contemporary

For Information of IIPA Members

This is for the information of the members of IIPA that the notice for the fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the General Body to be held on October 18 along with Annual Report 2012-13 and also the suggestions/ observations made by the members at the AGM held on October 12, 2012 have been dispatched on September 27. The same can also be accessed on the IIPA website www.iipa.org.in.

and future challenges, the programme was designed to: (i) expose them to the complex problems facing rural societies; (ii) expose them to the existing rural development programmes including those with special emphasis on S&T; (iii) encourage them to analyse the scope for science and technology inputs contributing to improvement of development outcomes; (iv) acquaint them with the indigenous knowledge systems prevalent in various parts of India and its relevance for rural society as also to encourage them to find grounds for an interface of modern and traditional systems for improving the outcomes; and (v) examine possibilities of applications of S&T to improve development outcomes for the rural societies. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Dolly Arora and Dr. Charu Malhotra coordinated it.

Programme on Higher Administration and Project Management

The two-week programme was conducted at the Institute for the architects of CPWD from September 2-13. The programme was designed to enable the

participants to: (i) understand and use administrative and financial rules and skills required for more effective discharge of their duties; (ii) apply some of the good practices in their organisations and improve their decision-making capacity; (iii) develop a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust and work effectively as teams; and (iv) understand and apply knowledge and skills of project management for efficient planning and completion of socially useful projects. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Pranab Banerji, Prof. Rakesh Gupta and Dr. Roma Mitra Debnath coordinated it.

Programme on Cadre Management

Sponsored by the UNDP (Afghanistan), the captioned programme was conducted at IIPA, for senior/middle level Afghan officers, from September 2-13. Besides providing a broad understanding of cadre management, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) have an exposure on the basic cadre structure and management in government/private sector; (ii) understand the dynamic framework of personnel policies and procedures; (iii) identify the problems in cadre management; and (iv) know the objectives and broad guidelines of cadre review. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Prof. Vinod K. Sharma, Prof. K.K. Pandey and Dr. C. Sheela Reddy coordinated it.

Programme on Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare

Sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the programme was conducted at IIPA by its Centre for Consumer Studies, for coordinators

and advisors of state consumer helplines, from September 4-6. The programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) acquaint them with the need and importance of consumer helplines and the role of the coordinators and advisors of the SCHs; (ii) enhance their knowledge and skill in the area of consumer protection and consumer welfare; (iii) build their capacity to manage SCHs and redress consumer grievances; (iv) enhance their knowledge and skill to provide consumers with information related to products and services; and (v) develop communication skills. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Shri G.N. Srekumaran, Dr. Mamta Pathania and Shri S.K. Virmani coordinated it.

Programme on Knowledge Management and Knowledge-sharing in Organisations

The programme was conducted at IIPA, for all levels of scientists and technologists working in various research and academic institutions, from September 9-13. It was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology. Apart from familiarising the participants with basic concepts and practices of knowledge management (KM) and its linkage with the effectiveness of their organisations, the programme was designed to facilitate them to: (i) build relationships and organisational structure, processes and opportunities to encourage a knowledge culture; (ii) highlight the importance of human and cultural factors in successful implementation of KM systems in the organisations; (iii) collect, create, organise and disseminate scientific knowledge including methods of data, information and knowledge

exchange; (iv) provide a forum for sharing the experiences from leading public, private and corporate sector organisations which have used KM at various stages; (v) suggest broad approaches for designing and implementing KM system in their respective organisations; (vi) demonstrate select KM tools which have been found useful in implementing KM systems; (vii) explain an integrated framework of assessing performance of KM systems; and (viii) focus on legal and ethical issues of KM in S&T organisations. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty. Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi and Dr. Roma Mitra Debnath coordinated it.

Programme on Vigilance in Urban Governance

Sponsored by the Ministry of Urban Development, the programme was conducted at IIPA by its Centre for Urban Studies from September 9-13. Jointly coordinated by Dr. Lokendra Malik, Dr. Kusum Lata and Dr. Manan Dwivedi, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) describe fundamentals of adjudicative and procedural norms applicable in urban governance; (ii) state the law relating to vigilance in India; (iii) demonstrate judicial approach about the vigilance system in the country; and (iv) explain other legal issues relating to urban governance in the country. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and in-house faculty.

National Seminar on Consumer Protection and Empowerment

IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies teamed up with IIPA Bihar

Regional Branch in organising the programme on September 14-15 in Patna. Inaugurating the programme, Shri Shyam Rajak, Bihar State Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs, apprised that the government has taken a number of steps for strengthening the Department which include creation of corpus fund of Rs. 10 crore for generating awareness among the consumers, and a state consumer helpline to be launched to provide assistance to the consumers. He stressed the need for concrete steps on the part of government, judiciary and civil society to empower consumers. In his presidential address, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, observed that to make governance more purposeful, it is imperative to take into account the changing social and policy perspectives. He emphasised that Consumer Protection Act is one of the social welfare measures which provides a scheme of things where redressal is much easier and aims at empowering the consumers. The key-note address was delivered by Shri Shishir Sinha, Principal Secretary, Department of Food and Consumer Affairs. Justice K.K. Mandal, Judge, High Court of Patna, presided over the valedictory

session. Apart from appreciating the need and importance of consumer protection in market economy, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) understand the provisions of Consumer Protection Act and other legislations having an impact on consumer protection; (ii) enhance their knowledge and skill relating to services and products; (iii) understand the process of grievance redressal and filing of complaints; and (iv) build capacity of various stakeholders in the area. Around 75 participants participated in the seminar which included academics, policy-makers, researchers, representatives of VCOs/ NGOs and students. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Sapna Chadah coordinated it.

Seminar on Consumer Protection and Consumer Welfare

Sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Centre for Consumer Studies of IIPA in collaboration with Tirupattur Local Branch organised the programme on September 20-21 at the Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs) Leela Subramanian, District Chairman, Vellore. The other dignitaries present on the occasion were Thiru K. M.

Subramanian, Chairman of the branch; and Rev. Fr. K M Jose, Rector, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. Addressing the participants, Dr. Leela Subramanian, District Chairman, Vellore emphasised on the need to strengthen

the consumer movement in the State. Prof. Suresh Misra delivered the special address. On the concluding day, Shri K.G. Ramesh, MLA, Tirupattur delivered the special address; and the valedictory address was delivered by Rev. Dr. C.M. Varghese, Principal Sacred Heart College. The main objectives of the seminar were to enhance the knowledge and skill of the participants in the area of consumer protection and consumer welfare; understand the need and importance of Consumer Protection and Welfare and the role of various stakeholders and discuss the legal dimensions of consumer protection in different service sectors. About 140 participants from various parts of Tamil Nadu attended the programme. Prof. Suresh Misra and Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated it.

Programme on Basics of Administrative Structures and Processes

Sponsored by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi, the programme was organised at IIPA for the CII executives on September 28-29. The programme was basically a response to CII initiative to orient their executives on basic administrative structures and processes. It has been for the first time that IIPA has attempted to cater to the training needs of industry. Dr. T. Chatterjee, Director of IIPA, delivered the valedictory address; and Shri Sunil Misra, Senior Director of CII, gave the special address. Apart from familiarising the participants with the government structure and administration at the Centre, state and local levels and helping them understand the interface between administration, society and technocrats, the programme was designed to: (i) equip them



Shri T.N. Chaturvedi addresses the audience.

with the knowledge of allocation of business rules, transaction of business rules at the central and state levels; (ii) help them understand the dynamics of decision making, policy making, role of regulatory bodies and changing nature of administration in contemporary times; and (iii) appreciate the various initiatives taken up by the Government of India towards ensuring good governance and decentralisation of power. Dr. C. Sheela Reddy and Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated it.

Inter-school Competition on Consumer Awareness

IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies in collaboration with the Gen X Consumer Club of the Air Force School, New Delhi organised inter-school Competition on Consumer Awareness on August 27 at the Air Force School. The Department of

Consumer Affairs sponsored the programme. Shri G.N. Sreekumaran, former Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, inaugurated it. Seventeen public schools of Delhi participated in the competition. Two students from each school (one junior level i.e. VII, VIII, IX; and one senior level i.e. X, XI, XII) competed for the poster making competition. Seventeen teams from as many schools competed for the song competition. Bal Bharti Public School, Gangaram won the running trophy for the overall performance. The objective of the competition was to create awareness among the students in the areas of consumer rights, duties and responsibilities of consumers and role of individuals as consumers in the society. It was an effort to make students understand the role and importance of consumer protection and motivate them to

come forward to give an outreach to the consumer movement. Dr. Mamta Pathania coordinated it.

Faculty News

- Dr. V.N. Alok delivered a talk on "Panchayats in India: Comparing Devolution across States" in the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi as the 35th lecture of the series conducted by the Centre of Multilevel Federalism of ISS on September 3.

- Prof. Jaytilak Guha Roy, Professor of Political Science, participated in UGC-sponsored national seminar on "Contemporary Role of the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Ethnic Movement in Rural Development", organised by the Burdwan Local Branch on September 6. He also presented a paper on "Role of Women in Panchayats: West Bengal Experience".

“भारतीय न्याय व्यवस्था में सामाजिक न्याय और राजभाषा”

संस्थान की हिंदी व्याख्यान-माला की इक्कीसवीं कड़ी के रूप में 18 सितंबर, 2013 को संस्थान सभाकक्ष में “ भारतीय न्याय व्यवस्था में सामाजिक न्याय और राजभाषा” विषय पर मूर्धन्य विद्वान एवं माननीय न्यायमूर्ति श्री पलोक बसु, पूर्व न्यायाधीश हलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय तथा अध्यक्ष, राज्य उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष आयोग, उत्तरप्रदेश का व्याख्यान आयोजित किया गया।

संस्थान की भाषणमाला के अंतर्गत गत वर्ष आयोजित तथा प्रकाशित श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर, संसद सदस्य (राज्यसभा) के व्याख्यान ‘भ्रष्टाचार: समस्या एवं निदान’ का इस अवसर पर विमोचन किया गया।

लब्ध प्रतिष्ठ विद्वान प्रोफेसर एम.पी.सिंह, पूर्व प्रोफेसर एवं विभागध्यक्ष, राजनीति विज्ञान विभाग, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता की। संस्थान के निदेशक डा. टी. चटर्जी ने स्वागत किया तथा प्रोफेसर सुषमा यादव ने कार्यक्रम का संयोजन किया।

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Bihar Regional Branch

The branch jointly with IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies organised a seminar on "Consumer Protection and Empowerment" in Patna on September 14-15. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, food and Public Distribution. (For details, turn to page-2)

Burdwan Local Branch

Sponsored by the UGC, the branch teamed up with MUC Women's College, Burdwan in organising a national seminar on "Contemporary Role of The Panchayati Raj Institutions and Ethnic Movement in Rural Development" on September 6. After a brief welcome addresses by Dr. Sukriti Ghosal, Principal of

MUC Women's College; and Dr. Bijoy Chand, Secretary of the branch, the programme was inaugurated by Prof. Soroshimohan Dan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Burdwan University who dwelt upon the historical perspective of the PRIs in India. The key-note address was delivered by Prof. Mohit Bhattacharya, Chairman of the branch, who in his scholarly style laid

down the theoretical foundation for the entire discussion. The other speakers in the pre-lunch session were Prof. Jaytilak Guha Roy of IIPA; and Prof. Dyutish Chakraborty, Professor of Political Science, North Bengal University. The post-lunch session was addressed by Prof. Probhat Dutta, Centenary Prof. of Public Administration, Calcutta University; and Prof. Rabindranath Bhattacharya, HoD of Political Science, Burdwan University.

Delhi Regional Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on September 5, in which Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to India, spoke on "India-Sri Lanka Relations: Emerging Areas of Cooperation". More than 50 members attended the programme besides Dy. Head of Missions from Bhutan, Nepal, Peru and Sri Lanka. Dr. Prakash Vir Khatri, Vice-Chairman of the branch, welcomed the speakers and the members; and Shri S.N. Swaroop, Secretary of the branch, proposed a vote of thanks. The Branch organised a lecture on "How is keep your kidneys Healthy" by Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Senior Consultant (Nephrology), Apollo Hospital, New Delhi on September 26.

Howrah Local Branch

The branch jointly with the Department of Political Science, Shibpur Dinabandhoo College organised a seminar on "150th Birth Anniversary of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay and his great contribution in the field of Education" on September 7. Dr. Dilip Kr. Singha, former Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, gave the keynote address. He highlighted Sir

Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay's towering contribution to Calcutta University. Prof. Asish Ray, Secretary of the branch, gave the introductory address. Rtn. Dilip Kr. Das, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch organised a training programme on "Management Competencies" on August 31. In his inaugural address, Shri Shantmanu, Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, emphasised that during the delivery of public service the active cooperation of public at large must be ensured for the desired results. He further laid stress upon improving the management competencies by balancing the personal, professional and social life to become an effective tool in the delivery of public service. During the course of proceedings, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the branch, welcomed the chief guest, faculty and the participants and impressed upon the significance of the programme. It was attended by 56 officers from various state government departments including police, civil administration, J&K Bank, etc. Shri J.B.S. Johar, Secretary of the branch, was the organising Secretary for the programme.

Karnataka Regional Branch

The District Governors of provinces in Afghanistan, who were undergoing training programme in IIPA, New Delhi visited Bangalore on August 25-26. The branch assisted the IIPA faculty in organising the interaction of District Governors with (i) Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on the Sakala programme; (ii) the Director on Information Technology;

and (iii) Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore Rural District; and CEO of Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Rural District on district administration and panchayati raj. A group of senior/middle level officers of the Government of Afghanistan, who were undergoing training programme at IIPA, visited Bangalore on September 10-11. The branch assisted the IIPA faculty in organising the interaction with (i) Principal Secretary Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms for briefing on personnel and procedures; (ii) Secretary, Karnataka Public Service Commission for briefing on recruitment process, cadre management in Karnataka—problems and review; (iii) Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Administrative Reforms) for briefing on Karnataka Government Training Policy and Administrative Training Institute, Mysore. Shri S. Ramanathan, Chairman of the branch, had interactive sessions with both the delegations wherein he briefed them on the role of the civil services in the country and on the other initiatives taken by the Government of Karnataka in the area of e-governance. On September 12, a five-member Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Bui Van Thach, Vice-Chairman/Minister, called on Shri S. Ramanathan to know about the objectives and activities of the branch. Shri Ramanathan briefed them on the objectives of IIPA, New Delhi and the activities of the branch. A booklet History of the Branch and a leaflet on the branch were handed over to them. In the question and answer session, Shri Ramanathan briefed them on the lectures, seminars, conferences, etc organised over the years by the branch and highlighted the e-governance initiatives of Karnataka,

salient features of the State Training Policy, and the training courses organised by the Administrative Training Institute, Mysore.

Madhya and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised the prelude Conference on “Food Security in India—Issues and Suggestions for Effectiveness” on September 22. The conference was attended by a large number of members and office bearers of the branch. During the course of discussions the members welcomed and appreciated the spirit behind the recently promulgated Food Security Act. Members were of the view that there is a need to approach the problem of food insecurity in a pragmatic and realistic way. There was almost consensus that the intervening period of identifying and enumerating beneficiaries of the scheme should be used to create a fool-proof and inclusive delivery mechanism. Adequate attention should be paid to insulate the industrial sector from any possible ill-effects of the new dispensation. On the other hand, the speakers cautioned, that financial resources mustered for this scheme should not dilute other welfare schemes that are in operation.

Madurai Local Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on August 20, in which Dr. A. Madhavan of Apollo Hospital, Madurai spoke on “How to Prevent Heart Diseases”. He informed that it is good to do pranayam every day for five minutes to prevent heart diseases and also suggested to take millets daily instead of rice, in small quantity. Sri G. Venkidusamy, Chairman of the branch, presided.

Rajasthan Regional Branch

The Rajasthan Regional Branch in collaboration with Management Development Academy organised the following activities: (1) Prof. D.K. Kothari, former Director of IIMR, spoke on “The Indian Population Paradigm” on August 19. He warned that unless the demand for contraceptives was fully met, population boom will continue to be frightening. Dr. Ramesh K. Arora presided. (2) On August 21, Prof. Ramesh K. Arora, Chairman of the branch, reviewed a book entitled *The Ultimate Happiness Prescription* written by Deepak Chopra. The book highlights the value, sources, catalysts, blocks and other facets of happiness and stresses on developing a happiness culture in social organisation including families. (3) On August 22, Dr. Satish K. Batra, Director of BVB College of Management and Communication, Jaipur, spoke on “The Familiar Foes of Human Beings”. He focused the negative emotions of anger, stress and anxiety and explained the strategies to overcome them. (4) On September 17, Prof. C.S. Barla, former HoD of Economics, Rajasthan University, delivered a talk on “The Economy of Rajasthan: A Critical Review”. Shri H.L. Chauhan, Vice-Chairman of the branch, presided. (5) On September 18, Shri Rajat Hooja, a young economist delivered a talk on “The Crisis of Indian Economy”. Dr. Satish K. Batra, Vice-Chairman of the branch, presided. (6) On September 19, Shri Rajendra Shekher, former DG Police and Director, CBI delivered a talk on “Indian Security Policy”. He focused on the issues of coordination, innovation and intelligence. Prof.

Ramesh K. Arora presided over the programme.

Tamil Nadu Regional Branch

The branch organised a lecture-meeting on August 30, in which Dr. V.S. Natarajan, Senior Geriatrician, spoke on “Ageing Beautifully”. He discussed about various geriatric diseases and their prevention. Thiru P.R. Shampath, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Tirupati Local Branch

The branch organised a seminar on “Impact of Division of State on Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra” on August 17. In his inaugural address, Dr. Agarala Eswara Reddy, former Speaker of APLA, stressed for second states reorganisation committee for scientific division of states of Andhra Pradesh in particular and India in general. Prof. K. Venkata Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, criticised the failure of political system, which has created this turmoil. Prof. K.M. Naidu, former Dean of S.V. University, observed that states reorganisation committee is the only solution for India's new states' formation. Shri D. Ramakrishna, Director of Rural Institute of Social Development raised a strong point of failure of parliamentary system to deliver goods to people. Others who spoke on the occasion were Shri Lagisetty Venkataramana, Advocate; Prof. D. Subramanyam Reddy, former HoD, History, S.V. University; Prof. C. Eswara Reddy, Director of SPMU College of Engineering; and Shri D. Sreeramulu Naidu, Dy. XEN, Telugu Ganga. Prof. A. Ranga Reddy, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Genius without education is like silver in the mine — Benjamin Franklin

West Bengal Regional Branch

The branch teamed up with the Department Political Science, West Bengal State University in organising a seminar on “Governance—its various dimensions” on March 14. Dr Kausik Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of West Bengal State University, inaugurated the programme. Dr Gangadhar Jha, formerly of IIPA; and Dr. Avijit Ghosh of Burdwan University were the panel

speakers. Dr. Syamal Kumar Ray, former Professor of Burdwan University, presided over the programme. Earlier, the branch jointly with the Basanti Devi College, Kolkata organised a seminar on “Reservation: its relevance in the Indian socio-economic scenario” on February 25. It was inaugurated by Dr. Kausik Gupta. Dr. Nitish Biswas, Joint Registrar of Kolkata University; Shri D.N. Banerjee, former Principal

Secretary to West Bengal Government; Dr. Sanat Kumar Naskar, Professor of Calcutta University; Dr. Sibranjan Chatterjee, Secretary of the branch; Dr. Syamal Kumar Ray and Dr. M. Bardhan Roy, Principal of Basanti Devi College were the panel speakers. Discussion centred on (i) constitutional issues involving reservation; (ii) approach of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to reservation; and (iii) women reservation.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Senior Appointments in Ministries

Union Government has approved the following senior appointments/promotions/transfers/ extensions:

- Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, Space Commission, extension of tenure for a period of one year up to the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier
- Shri Gokul Chandra Pati as Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence
- Shri Dilip Trivedi as Director General, Central Reserve Police Force
- Shri Anup Kumar Thakur as Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
- Shri H.S. Kingra as CMD, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the pay of Additional Secretary
- Shri Jayant Dasgupta as Ambassador/ Permanent Representative in Permanent Mission of India to the WTO, Geneva for a period of six months beyond July 31, 2013
- Shri Arun Jha Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, the extension of Central

deputation tenure for a period of six months beyond 25.08.2013

- Shri Amitabh Verma as Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary
- Ms. Seema Bahuguna as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development
- Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain as Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture
- Shri R. Sridharan as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines
- Smt. Bharathi S. Sihag as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- Shri Amit Khare extension of Central deputation tenure as Joint Secretary in the Department of Higher Education for a period of one year beyond 27.08.2013
- Shri Rajeev Sadanandan as Joint Secretary and Director General, Labour Welfare, in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Ms. Abha Shukla as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Austerity Measures

Struggling to curb the fiscal deficit, the Union Government

has unveiled a slew of austerity measures. The Finance Ministry issued a circular to all government departments banning meetings at five-star hotels and restricting air travel by senior officials to economy class. The Ministry also directed other ministries and departments to not buy new vehicles, create fresh jobs or fill posts lying vacant for over a year. Restrictions have also been imposed on foreign travel and size of official delegations going abroad has to be kept to an absolute minimum. The austerity steps form part of the government's move to restrict nonplan expenditure by 10 per cent. The government had introduced similar austerity measures in 2009, when the economy had slowed down due to the economic meltdown. The Finance Ministry has asked various ministries and departments to cut non-plan expenditure by 10 per cent. According to the new circular, only seminars and conferences that are absolutely essential should be organised. Holding of exhibitions, seminars or conferences abroad is strongly discouraged except in case of exhibitions for trade promotions. All officers are to travel in the

Debt is a prolific mother of folly and of crime — Benjamin Disraeli

economy class only for domestic travel except officers in the apex scale, who may travel in executive class. The restriction will not apply for international travel. The Ministry said that the measures would also apply to autonomous bodies such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and All India Radio, adding that no fresh commitments would be made over and above what was provided in the Budget. No reappropriation of

funds to augment the non-plan heads of expenditure on which cuts have been imposed shall be allowed during the current fiscal.

Khidmat Launched

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched a dedicated toll free helpline with brand name Khidmat. With helpline being operational, initially, it will remain open from 9:00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on all working

days. Depending on success and demand, the Ministry may go even for 24X7 helpline with upgraded facilities. With launch of this helpline, a student sitting in a village or remote area can get instant information at his or her leisure about scholarship schemes. An unemployed minority youth can get instant information about skill development training programmes run by the Ministry besides, employment opportunities.

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Quotable Quotes

- *Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power— Benjamin Franklin*
- *When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps — Confucius*
- *It destroys one's nerves to be amiable everyday to the same human being — Euripides*
- *Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people — Eleanor Roosevelt*
- *The key to growth is the introduction of higher dimensions of consciousness into our awareness — Lao Tzu*
- *Writing cannot express all words, words cannot encompass all ideas — Confucius*

<p><i>Editor : DR. TISHYA CHATTERJEE</i> <i>Asstt. Editor : SUNIL DUTT</i></p>
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