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INSTITUTE NEWS

APPPA Convocation

The IIPA organised the convocation of the thirtiyninth Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA) in its auditorium on April 30. Commencing on July 1, 2013, the ten-month programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Gievances and Pensions. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Chairman of IIPA, delivered the convocation address. In his address, Shri Chaturvedi stated that it is an occasion for all of us to felicitate the APPPA participants, who are messengers of goodwill for us. Congratulating the successful participants, the Chairman called upon both the participants and the IIPA faculty to apply the relevant theoretical concepts of the social sciences and management to real life administrative situations and enrich their varied experience. He thanked the IIPA faculty for their sustained endeavour to enhance the reputation of the Institute through their scholarly contribution. Earlier Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee,



Shri T.N. Chaturvedi delivers the inaugural address

Director of IIPA gave the welcome address. Prof. Rakesh Gupta, Programme Director, elucidated the design and methodology and contents of the programme. Successful candidates in the APPPA programme who have Master's degrees in social science from recognised universities would also be eligible to enroll for Ph. D. programme of Panjab University for which IIPA is recognised as a study centre. The Prof. V.K.N. Menon prize was awarded to

Members' Annual Conference

The fiftieth Members' Annual Conference will be held in October 2014 in the IIPA Auditorium. The theme of the Conference is "Trends in Centre-State Relations".

Annual Essay Prize Competition 2014

The Executive Council in its meeting held on March 27 has approved "Social Harmony and Inclusive Development" as the topic for the Annual Essay Prize Competition.

Special Issue of *IJPA*

The Executive Council in its meeting held on March 27 has approved "Women's Empowerment" as topic for special issue of *IJPA* (July-September 2014).

Special Issue of *Lok Prashasan*

The Executive Council inits meeting held on March 27 has approved "Nagrik Samaj aur Prajatantra ki Prasangikata" as topic for the special issue of *Lok Prashasan* (July-December 2014).

The IIPA fraternity extends its greetings to all its readers for Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday, Hazrat Ali's Birthday and Buddha Purnima

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari for securing first position. Second prize went to Smt. Preeti Jha and the third prize went to Dr. Ravi Prakash Neharda. The Director's Special prize was awarded to Shri Srikanta Panda, whereas, Brig. Alok Raj got the Best Dissertation prize (sponsored by APPPA Alumni Association). Smt. Kusumtai S.B. Chavan memorial prize for the Best Woman Participant was bagged by Smt. Surabhi Varma Garg; and Brig. Sanjay Thapa got the Bhupendra Hooja Award for Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities during APPPA. Prof. Rakesh Gupta and Prof. Suresh Misra directed the programme. Prof. Suresh Misra proposed the vote of thanks.

National Seminar on Legal Protection of Consumers in a Global Economy—Recent Approaches and the Way Forward

Sponsored by the Department of Consumer Affairs, IIPA's Centre for Consumer Studies teamed up with Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University in organising the captioned programme at Law Faculty, Banaras Hindu University on March 29-30. Inaugurating the programme, Justice J. Chelamesar, Judge, Supreme Court of India, observed that the advent of modern technologies has brought good as well as evil consequences, which are posing new challenges for the law to deal with. He mentioned that with advancement of technology and information system, a consumer can purchase any commodity sitting thousands of miles away. Justice A. N. Mittal, Judge, High Court of Allahabad, in his valedictory address, stated that consumer protection is as old as consumer exploitation; even Manusmriti and Kautilya's Arthshashtra talk about protection of consumers and penalty

for con traders and service providers. He mentioned that the technological advancements are posing new issues like cyber crimes for society to deal with; and it needs to be seen as to how CPA can become effective against new emerging challenges. Apart from appreciating the need and importance of consumer protection in market economy, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) examine the provisions of Consumer Protection Act and other legislations having an impact on consumer protection; (ii) evaluate the problems faced by consumers relating to services and products; and (iii) understand the process of grievance redressal and filing of complaints. The seminar was divided into four technical sessions besides inaugural and valedictory sessions. More than 100 papers on various issues of consumer protection were presented. Around 200 participants participated in the seminar, which included academics, researchers, legal experts, representatives of VCOs/NGOs and students. Dr. Sapna Chadah coordinated it.

National Workshop on Revision of Urban Development Plan Formulation and Implementation Guidelines

IIPA' Centre for Urban Studies teamed up with the Town and Country Planning, technical arm of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), in organising the programme at the Institute on April 4.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr. Sudhir Krishna, Secretary, Urban Development, informed that the guidelines have been framed keeping in view of their adaptability and use by the state town and country planning departments, urban development authorities and urban local bodies suiting local conditions. He stressed that with the adoption of the revised Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, the state governments will be in a position to expedite the plan formulation process proactively and they are also expected to come up with state urbanisation policy. Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Organisation, delivered the welcome address. During the inaugural session three guidelines, prepared by CPWD and one guideline prepared by CPHEEO, were also released by the Secretary Urban Development. CPWD guidelines were for: "Sustainable Habitat", "Mitigation of the effects of Electro Magnetic Radiation in Built Spaces", and "Barrier Free and Accessibility". CPHEEO guideline was on "National Mission on Sustainable Habitat: Adaptation and Mitigation Measures in the field of Water Supply and Sanitation". There were only two



Dr. Sudhir Krishna addresses the audience

presentations – first was on “URDPFI guidelines-new inclusions” and second was on “Bhuvan and Application Demonstration” which was followed inputs from delegates on URDPFI. The workshop was attended by senior officers of state town and country planning department, state urban development authorities, state urban local bodies and other Central Ministries. About 175 delegates attended the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Shri R. Srinivas from TCPO and Dr. Kusum Lata from IIPA.

Programme for Staff Members of Central Tibetan Administration

Sponsored by the Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamshala, the programme was conducted at IIPA from April 21-May 2. Besides listing out the modern financial concepts of taxation, accounting and audit, the programme was designed to enable the participants to: (i) practise some of the relevant techniques in the field of accounting and audit and tax assessment; and (ii) analyse the significance of these techniques and skills as means of achieving financial prudence, better utilisation of resources and achieving the targets. Programme faculty comprised guest speakers and the programme coordinators, Prof. Pranab Banerji and Prof. P.K. Chaubey.

Round Table on Youth and Governance

As a sequel to the captioned programme, which was conducted on March 19 at India International Centre, it was decided to organise a Round Table taking on board a special group of identified experts. This Round Table on “Youth and Governance” was again organised

jointly by IIPA and Office of Public Affairs Bahá'ís of India on April 25 at IIPA. The events were coordinated by Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi and Prof. V.K. Sharma.

Sustainable Urban Strategies to Manage Urban Solid Waste: Emphasis on Reducing Land Requirement for Solid Waste Management

The IIPA collaborated with the Delhi Development Authority in organising the programme at the Institute on April 24. Shri Balvinder Kumar, Vice-Chairman of DDA, delivered the inaugural address. Shri Manish Gupta, Commissioner of South Delhi Municipal Corporation, as Chief Guest, delivered the valedictory address. The workshop deliberated on the issues of managing urban solid wastes most efficiently, sustainably and in a way that reduces our land requirement to bare minimum. Participants including policy makers, strategists, planners, environmentalists and academics discussed the problems arising due to poor solid waste management in the cities along with discussing the problems ingrained in the systems of waste management as well as suggesting feasible solutions to this problem.

First technical session on “Current Scenario—Policies, Practices and Emerging Issues” was moderated by Shri Abhai Sinha, Engineer Member of DDA. Second technical session on “Solutions for Zero Waste

Management” was moderated by Shri Sandip Mishra, Additional Secretary (Environment), GoNCTD-cum-Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee. Dr. Kusum Lata of IIPA along with Smt. I.P. Rarate and Shri D.K. Rathi of DDA coordinated it.

Workshop on Integrated Management in India: An Approach towards Sustainable Urban Development

Sponsored by the Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA), IIPA's Centre for Environment Climate Change and Drought Administration in collaboration with IPCA organised the programme at IIPA on April 25. The objective of the workshop was to deliberate upon integrated solid waste management so as to pave the way towards sustainable urban development. In his key-note address, Dr. Tishyarakshit Chatterjee, Director of IIPA, emphasised upon the role of private players in effective and efficient management of solid waste. He observed that the solutions may involve complex inter-disciplinary fields such as technology, city and regional planning, geography, economics, public health, sociology and demographical studies. Dr. A.B.



Shri Balvinder Kumar delivers the inaugural address

Akolkar, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, stressed that without an effective and efficient solid-waste management programme, the waste generated from various human activities, both industrial and domestic, can result in health hazards and have a negative impact on the environment. Prof. Pranab Banerji highlighted the economical aspects and policy initiatives such as PPP and PES to the management of solid waste management. Shri Ashish Jain, Director of IPCA, brought forward the role of his NGO in managing solid waste in the urban set-up. Around 25 participants including academics, researchers and representatives from corporate and NGOs attended the programme. Dr. Shyamly Singh coordinated the programme.

Faculty News

- Dr. C. Sheela Reddy, Associate Professor of Socio-Political Development, presented a paper entitled "Multiculturalism and Women: Approach and Search for an Identity" in a National Seminar on "Globalization, Multiculturalism and Peace-building in the XXI Century: Prospects and Challenges", jointly organised by Interfaith Foundation, India, Indialogue Foundation, New Delhi and Centre for Study of Social Systems, JNU on April 19-20. Dr. Reddy has been nominated as a Member of the First Court of Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga for a period of three years.
- Dr. Charru Malhotra, Associate Professor of e-Governance and ICT: (i) chaired the national workshop on "e-Governance in India: A Tool for Peoples' Empowerment" at Department

of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on March 1; (ii) chaired the technical session on "ICT- based Service Delivery: Reality and Way Forward" at the national seminar on "Public Service Delivery System in India—Emerging Issues, Challenges and Prospects" at St. Wilfred, PG College, Jaipur on March 23; (iii) panel expert at the Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for selecting the students for its full-time MBA programme on April 6. Dr. Malhotra published a paper on "Public Tools for Open Governance: Review of RTI Act and Social Media in Indian Context" in a book entitled *Gouvernances publiques*; and (iv) designed and conducted a

workshop on "Development and Management of MIS with Reference to M & E and Software Packages" at the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi. She also published a paper entitled "A Validated Citizen-centric Approach using Delphi Technique for Converging Indigenous Knowledge Systems using ICT" in the *International Journal of e-Government Research*, GI Publications, USA.

- Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta was a panelist in the discussion on the book entitled *India Public Policy Report 2014* by Prof. Rajeev Malhotra, O.P. Jindal University. The panel discussion was chaired by Prof. Deepak Nayyar and was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on April 2.

Professor Saroja Memorial Award

The Indian Institute of Public Administration invites articles from individual authors/ researchers for the 'Professor Saroja Memorial Award.' The article must address one or more of the many issues in the broad area of Gender Equity.

Application procedure: All submitted articles should be recent, unpublished and of a quality appropriate for publication. They should be typed in double space and both hard and soft copies of the article are required. The hard copy of the article should be sent to the Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indraprastha Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi-110002 and marked "Article for Saroja Memorial Award."

An electronic or soft copy of the article should be mailed to iipasarojamemorial@gmail.com

Word count: Less than 10,000 (ten thousand) words.

Deadline for submission: Thursday, July 31, 2014

Award: Rs 10,000/-

Selection procedure: A committee will be constituted to select the best among the articles received.

Applicants must submit:

- A nationally recognised photo id
- Contact information
- Signed statement stating that IIPA will have the right to publish the paper that is selected for the award.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Bihar Regional Branch

The branch jointly with Nalanda Open University (NOU) and Magadh University organised a seminar to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Year of IIPA, New Delhi on March 30. It discussed the regional issues of development *vis-à-vis* the role of public administration. In the opening remarks, Dr. Rash Behari Singh, Vice-Chancellor of NOU explained in details the need to discuss the issues in hand. Dr. S.K. Singh, former Director of CIRDAP, Dhaka gave the key-note address. Thereafter, a discussion followed on the key issues of economic development of Bihar and the role of bureaucracy presented by Shri V.S. Dube, former Chief Secretary of Bihar and his experiences as the Chairman of Bihar Administrative Reform Committee. Prof. Ghanshyam Singh, Chairman of Magadh Local branch, explained about IIPA's achievements during its sixty years of glorious history. He commended Dr. Navanit Sinha, Secretary of Bihar branch, for having taken an initiative to plan for a series of seminars and interactive sessions during this Diamond Jubilee Year of IIPA.

Cuddalore Local Branch

To commemorate of the Diamond Jubilee of IIPA, the branch jointly with the Lok Pal Federation and the Department of Commerce, Periyar Arts College, Cuddalore organised a workshop on "Ethical Voting" on March 14. Shri N. Rangaramanujam, Chairman of the branch; Prof. R. Natarajan, Vice-Chairman of the branch; Dr. K. Murugadoss, HoD of Commerce, Periyar Arts College; and Prof. N. Kannan, HoD of Economics, Periyar Arts College participated in the

programme. Earlier, the branch in collaboration with the Lok Pal Federation organised a discussion-meeting on "Responsibilities of Individual Citizen in the Society" on March 8. Shri N. Rangaramanujam presided over the programme.

Jharkhand Regional Branch

The branch organised a round-table conference on "Prevention of Violence in Lok Sabha Election 2014" on April 12. Prof. N.P. Singh, Chairman, Finance Committee of IIPA, delivered the key-note address. Shri G.K. Narayan, Civil Society Activist, presided over the programme.

Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch

The branch jointly with State Information Commission for different Stake-holders including PIOs/Controlling Officers and Common Citizens organised a workshop on "RTI Act—Expectations and Achievements". Shri G.R. Sufi, CIC, gave the inaugural address. He emphasised that after the initial infancy period the time has come to start using the Act more seriously. He cautioned that RTI can only provide information and not justice as far as public services or public actions are concerned. Dr. S.K. Sharma, State Information Commissioner, traced the history and development of RTI as a fundamental right before coming into existence of RTI Act. Dr. Ashok Bhan Chairman of the branch raised some important issues, which were addressed by other speakers during the workshop. Some important recommendations included relook at the procedures; infrastructure for PIOs to carry out their responsibilities effectively;

establishing an award for best PIOs/Controlling officers and citizens who contribute in successful implementation of RTI; setting up of a helpline/online facility so that PIOs/controlling Officers can seek clarifications on the day-to-day problems faced by them.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Regional Branch

The branch organised a seminar on "Non-conventional Energy—Challenges and Opportunities" on April 14. Shri C.S. Chaddha, the first Managing Director of Urja Vikas Nigam, delivered the key-note address. He outlined the need of the solar energy, the methodology of its production and its advantages. He emphasised that the social cost of solar energy is negligible, no raw material is needed and the transmission losses are avoidable. It was followed by a discussion with many suggestions including the essentiality of making people's representatives at all levels aware of the dangers to the ecology and importance of non conventional energy. Shri Kewal Krishan Sethi, Chairman of the branch, presided over the programme.

Puducherry Local Branch

On the occasion of World Consumer Day the branch jointly with Mother Theresa Post Graduate and Research Institute of Health Sciences inaugurated the "MTPG & RIHS Students Consumer Club" on March 15. Dr. R.R. Dhanapal, Chairman of the branch, was the Chief Guest. Smt. K. Thilakavathi, President of Oulgarate Commune Magila Consumer Organisation, Puducherry, Felicited; and Dr. R. Murali, Dean of MTPG & RIHS presided over the programme.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Senior Appointments in Ministries

The Union Government has approved the following senior appointments/promotions/transfers/extensions: • Shri H.C. Meena as Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat • Ms. Nita Chowdhury as Secretary, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs • Shri A.K. Jain as Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development • Shri Sudarsanam Srinivasan as Member (Finance), Atomic Energy/Space/Earth Commissions in the rank and pay of Secretary • Shri Rajeev Kher as Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry • Shri S.S. Garbyal as Director General (Forests) and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests • Smt. Aruna M. Bahuguna as Director, SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad • Dr. Vinod Aggarwal as Adviser, Inter State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary • Shri A. Vijayanand as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Space • Shri Balvender Kumar as Vice-Chairman, Delhi Development Authority under the Ministry of Urban Development in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary • Shri V.S. Madan extension of tenure as DG and Mission Director, Unique Identification Authority of India for a period of one year beyond 28.03.2014 • Shri A.K. Goyal as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj • Shri S.K. Bahri as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion • Shri M. Sathiyavathy, as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Civil Aviation • Shri Jai Priye Prakash

as Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat • Shri J.P. Meena as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries against the upgraded post • Shri Dinesh Kumar as Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in the Ministry of Textiles in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary in the vacancy • Shri Upamanyu Chatterjee as Secretary (Joint Secretary level), Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas • Shri Shailendra Singh as Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion • Shri Sushovan Banerjee as the Chief Vigilance Officer in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai, under the Ministry of Shipping • Smt. Sundari Subramaniam Pujari as the Chief Vigilance Officer in Air India, Delhi, Under the Ministry of Civil Aviation • Shri Saurabh Chandra as Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas • Shri Keshav Desiraju as Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution • Shri Lov Verma as Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • Shri Krishna Chaudhary as Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board • Shri V.K. Subburaj as Secretary, Department of AIDS Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • Shri Satanarayan Mohanty as Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs • Smt. Sujata Mehta as Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs • Ms. Anita Agnihotri, as Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation • Shri Arun Jha, extension of Central

deputation tenure as Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for a period of six months beyond 25.02.2014 • Shri R.N. Choubey as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power • Shri Gautam Guha as Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • Shri Braj Kishore Prasad as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs • Shri Sailesh as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs • Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi as Senior Adviser to Executive Director in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C., under the Department of Economic Affairs • Shri Alok Kumar as Director General (Employment & Training), Ministry of Labour & Employment • Shri Pankaj Rag as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture • Shri K.A. Prasad Sinha extension of Central deputation tenure as Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy for a period of six months beyond 15.03.2014 • Shri Ramesh Kumar Ganta as Chairman & Managing Director, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, Delhi under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Control Office Application

Control Office Application (COA), developed for Indian Railways, is a completely computer-based solution, for planning, operations and movement of trains in control office. COA is not only used for train operation and planning but also works as a backbone for National Train Enquiry System (NTES), Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) and Punctuality Analysis Module (PAM). Details of

Mediocrity can talk; but it is for genius to observe — Benjamin Disraeli

various failures affecting the train operations are now available in COA, which are accessed by various maintenance agencies. Over 11 million railway passengers per day are benefited through improved punctuality and improved train position updates. It provides various MIS, web reports to divisional railway users at various levels. Information on various events, such as unusual occurrences, captured through the application can be sent via in built SMS module to the concerned official for appropriate action. The initiative has been conferred with the Gold award of National e-Governance Awards, 2013-14.

SMS Gateway

Indian Railways has added another milestone by launching yet another innovative scheme called the SMS Gateway, which will enable passengers to get SMS alerts on the status of reserved tickets. The SMS Gateway which was developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Railways, was launched on March 03, 2014. The SMS Gateway project will be used to send SMS alerts to passengers in case of status change in the PRS tickets, as compared to the initial booking status SMS alerts prior to chart preparation will be sent once a day, in case of status change only, beginning from five days before the journey date.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the programme to comprehensively address the health needs of the 243 million adolescents, who account for over 21 per cent of the country's population. RKSK will bring in several new dimensions, which are listed as mental health, nutrition, substance

misuse, gender based violence and non-communicable diseases. The programme introduces community-based interventions through peer educators, and is underpinned by collaborations with other ministries and state governments, knowledge partners and more research. The strategic approach to RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, New born, Child Health + Adolescent) in which 'A' denotes adolescents, was unveiled last year at Mamallapuram. The active use of new technologies and social media platforms will form an integral part of the programme to reach the adolescents in their own spaces, with strategic partnerships with communities and peers.

Capacity Building for Women PRI Leaders

The Panchayati Raj Campaign (PRC), initiated by The Hunger Project, is a comprehensive programme to empower women leaders in panchayat to strengthen their participation in decision-making process. The presence of women representatives at grassroots democracy has increased over the years because of affirmative action policies implemented by the government. However,

representation is not synonymous with their participation. In a male-dominated political sphere, there is a wide-spread skepticism in trusting the capability and effectiveness of women leaders as rural women are perceived to be incapable of discharging the constitutional responsibilities. To address this concern, in 2001, the Hunger Project, a global strategic organisation designed a comprehensive capacity building programme called the PRC. Under PRC, the Hunger Project collaborates with local civil society organisations, government bodies and the media to impart trainings

through organising workshops and forming community federations. The participatory workshops that aim to inform women of their rights and responsibilities as panchayat leaders and federations facilitate bottom-up approach to development. These activities are carried throughout the entire five year term of the elected leaders. Each year a new skill is focused upon to ensure effective intervention. Presently the campaign is operational in nine states, training more than 78,000 women representatives. One of the important achievements of this initiative is the formation of successful women leaders federations that have given a collective platform to make their voices heard at the bureaucratic and policy level. As the country that has the distinction of having the highest number of women leaders in the world, this all inclusive capacity building model can be considered as a suitable initiative to be replicated in all the states for ensuring gender justice and decentralised democracy.

Saksham

The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys – Saksham has been launched for all-round development of adolescent boys to make them self-reliant, gender-sensitive and aware citizens, when they grow up. The scheme will cover all adolescent boys (both school going and out of school) in the age group of 11 to 18 years subdivided into two categories, viz. 11-14 and 14-18 years. In the first phase, the scheme shall be implemented in 20 selected districts in seven states on a pilot basis benefiting nearly six lakh adolescent boys annually. Budget allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been earmarked for 12th Five Year Plan. In 2014-15, an allocation of Rs. 25 crore is made for the scheme.

Man's greatness lies in his power of thought — Blaise Pascal

NEWS FROM STATES

Andhra Pradesh

Mee Seva

To provide smart, citizen-centric, ethical, efficient and effective governance facilitated by technology delivery, the State Department of Information Technology has come out with the project—Mee Seva (at your service). It is an online mode of communication for government, citizens and kiosks operators. The project works on an integrated service delivery model to provide a single entry point for a wide range of services to the citizens easier and faster. The project brings in strict adherence to citizen charter time

limits and ushers in a whole new paradigm of across the counter services to ostensibly work flow services through massive porting and bulk signing of databases. It started with 10 services in November 2011 and has now touched 225 services.

Chandigarh

E-Jan Sampark

E-Jan Sampark project is an efficient information dissemination system that provides citizens to avail government services by minimising multiple interaction points without any wastage of time. The project target underprivileged citizens without IT

connectivity, by providing them with information services without any cost from accessible places known as E-Jan Sampark Centres. These centres provide information on government services through multi-service delivery to citizens. Information that is available includes procedures and forms of all departments, education and health related services, Transport and tourism; and access to all government websites, etc. In addition, a grievance monitoring system under which queries are communicated via email to the nodal officer and the latter responds within a stipulated time addresses citizen grievances.

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Quotable Quotes:

- *It often requires more courage to dare to do right than to fear to do wrong—Abraham Lincoln*
- *Things perfected by nature are better than those finished by art—Marcus Tullius Cicero*
- *When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps—Confucius*
- *Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late—Benjamin Franklin*
- *Youth is the best time to be rich, and the best time to be poor—Euripides*
- *Being happy does not mean that everything is perfect; it means that you have decided to look beyond the imperfections—Friedrich Nietzsche*

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