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ADVANCING WOMENS' EMPOWERMENT IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Few days ago when the first woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, while launching 'Empowering the Girl Child' scheme at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar said that women empowerment is one of the top agendas of her government, she was very right as she herself as a woman, clearly understands the hundreds and thousands of women of the state have suffered very badly in the past 26 years of armed conflict and also in the renewed violence in the state in the past four months in the aftermath of Burhan Wani's killing in July 2016.



Dr. Kavita Suri

As the armed conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has entered its 26th year and the past decades of conflict have deeply affected peoples' livelihood, their living environments, health, eating habits, their work and workplaces, their access to education and so on, it is the women of Jammu and Kashmir who have felt its impact most severely. Women are affected by its short and long-term effects and thus are among the most vulnerable groups during conflict for more reasons than just violence. Be it the economic deprivation, displacement from the state borders, poverty or gender-based violence, the costs of conflict are borne disproportionately by women and their children. In the absence of an earning member in the family, women are forced to earn a livelihood and feed the family which is not easy being part of traditional conservative societies and also due to the shrunk economic opportunities in the wake of the conflict. Widows especially are often unable to provide for themselves and their families due to cultural and religious restraints, lack of education etc. Women are not always able to obtain meaningful employment and are therefore unable to provide for their families. In this process the pressure on women increases manifold.

Under such circumstances there is an urgent need to empower women and children. Women of the State who have huge stakes in peace as they are the first casualty of any trauma or violence, need to be empowered to face any kind of situation and stand on their own. In the light of this, though several programmes have been started, yet these have not achieved the anticipated positive impact on the status of women.

Jammu and Kashmir Women and Livelihood Issues

The female population of Jammu and Kashmir State slashed down from 47.15% of the total population in 2001 to 46.88% (prov.) in 2011. As per details from Census 2011, Jammu and Kashmir has population of 1.25 Crore over the figure of 1.01 Crore in 2001 census. Total population of Jammu and Kashmir as per 2011 census is 12,548,926 of which male and female are 6,665,561 and 5,883,365 respectively indicating a reduced sex ratio of 883. The corresponding figures of male and female as per Census 2001 were 5,360,926 and 4,782,774 respectively indicating sex ratio of 892. Women thus constitute about 47% of the total population of the State.

Women are significant contributors to the growing economy. The total work force in 2001 was 37.54 lakh workers consisting of 26.80 lakh males and 10.74 lakh females. This work force consisted of 26.09 lakh main workers and 11.45 lakh marginal workers. Work participation rate amongst females was 22.45 in 2001. A sectoral breakdown of women workers reveals that 56% women are cultivators, 5% are agricultural labourers and 10% workers in the household industry. Women development, no doubt, has been part of the development planning for all the governments. These initiatives have helped in improving the status of women in various spheres to a great extent, yet the imbalance exists.

Capacity Building of Women of Jammu and Kashmir

Keeping in view the fact that the women of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered badly during the last 26 years of bloodshed and violence, their social, political and economic empowerment through their capacity building can be one of the most important option to help and bring out these women from their economic distress. Given the fact that hundreds of thousands of women in Jammu and Kashmir have lost their male bread-earners in the family and they have to fend for themselves and their children, capacity building of these women is the only way to help the women in distress. No doubt the state government has launched various programmes in the past few years which support women to take up new ventures and start self employment, more efforts are required for the capacity building of these women.

Socio-Economic-Political Security and Livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir

As mentioned earlier, Jammu and Kashmir, a border state of India situated in the Himalayas is faced with a protracted conflict which has touched almost every single life in the region. Women

**Theme for April/May 2017 issue "Minimum
Government & Maximum Governance".**

and children are most hit by this mindless violence. In the absence of stability in the region, hundreds and thousands of women (there is no authentic data to support the claim but the data given by Kashmiri separatist leaders suggest that over 30,000 women have become widows due to conflict) continue to suffer. Widows and half widows (the women whose husbands have simply gone missing and they do not know their status-whether they are dead or alive), in particular are suffering a lot in the absence of adequate sustenance. Due to illiteracy, limited knowledge, skill and resources at their disposal, they are engaged in informal and unorganized sectors where the wages are very low. Low income degrades their quality of life and lowers their standards of living.

Programmes for Women's Economic Empowerment

Taking cognizance of women empowerment as one of the main focused area, the J&K government has launched various schemes for self employment of the women. Various programmes which support women to take up new ventures and start self employment have been initiated by Jammu and Kashmir State Women Development Corporation, J&K Social Welfare Department and J&K Rural Development in the past few years.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Women Development Corporation established in the year 1991, is the channelizing agency for implementation of the schemes for social and economic upliftment of the women living below the poverty line.

Challenges to Women Empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir

In a state like Jammu and Kashmir where a huge population of women is unemployed and another significant section consists of widows and half-widows, the importance of women's economic independence for their overall dignity and even survival is brought out by the fact that there is a linkage between the physical survival of women and their entry into the workforce.

Though there are many challenges to women empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir, the main barriers to women empowerment are:

- Violence against Women
- Lack of decision-making authority
- Lack of participation in political affairs
- Poor and low status of women
- Lack of education
- Lack of awareness
- Inadequate & unorganized health care delivery system
- Under/unemployment leading to poverty

Conclusion

Any women can grow and progress in her life if she is provided with an environment which is violence-free, where there is no violation of human rights, where there is no discrimination and she can take her own decisions. For this, it is very important that the sphere of violence which has continued in Jammu and Kashmir in the past 26 years should end. The focus needs to be also on the elimination of violence against women. Besides, more and more women from Jammu and Kashmir should be included in the dialogue processes that are now unfolding in the terrorism-hit state. Women of J&K need to be involved in various intra-state dialogue processes too. Steps need to be taken to address this serious gap. Women's equal participation in

political life, as voters, candidates and members of electoral committees, could play a crucial role in the empowerment of women and the reconstruction of violence-hit society. Adequate representation of women in the state legislature needs to be actively encouraged. And any peace process that excludes more than half the population, i.e., greatly risks the possibility of keeping several creative solutions and options out.

Women of Jammu and Kashmir need to be empowered as it would not only shape the path for peace and reconciliation but would also lead to peace and development of the state. Peace building attempts in order to promote sustainable peace need to address and transform structures which not only refer to the system of access and distribution of resources, but also social and political institutions, situations and relationships. In this process, principles of democratic participation, human rights and gender equality are crucial elements for the longer-term process of building peace based on social justice and equality for women.

Women also need to be economically empowered by providing her better employment opportunities. For those uneducated widows and their orphan children, skills building programmes or vocational training need to be given to them so that they are able to sustain themselves economically.

The female literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir is quite low though there has been some increase in it in the past few decades. The government has launched schemes like Sarve Shiksha Abhiyaan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA) and gender is one of the important components under both these centrally-sponsored schemes, yet the low literacy rates of its female folk is posing lot of challenges before the state government. Jammu and Kashmir is still educationally very backward and lagged behind the rest of the population. More sincere efforts need to be initiated by the Jammu and Kashmir government to educate girls' education which can enable the Kashmiri women to secure an emancipated position in economic, social and political fields. Much needs to be done in the rural areas of the state where female literacy figures and still depressing. Gender equation or the enrolment ratio reveals that the female enrolment ratio has remained lower than the males at all the three levels. The dropout rate was found to be higher among girls especially after the primary school.

A three-tier effort is needed which should include individuals, society and the state who need to coordinate, organize and implement relevant programs for the betterment of the women and children. There should also be the involvement of grassroots functionaries and non-governmental organizations in a big way which can help shape a community approach to tackle the problems.

And lastly, as the chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said: "Islam gives enormous rights to women but certain vested interests distort the real message to suit their politics. If we want peace and stability, women should also have stakes in our social and political processes". Carrying this message forward, women empowerment is indeed the need of the hour and all of us need to work to achieve women empowerment.

(The author is Director and Head, Department of Lifelong Learning (Formerly, Centre for Adult, Continuing Education & Extension), University of Jammu, J&K and can be reached at snowy132@rediffmail.com)

PAUL H. APPLEBY AWARD TO Dr. ASHOK BHAN AND KIRAN BEDI

Kiran Bedi, Lt. Governor of Pudichery and Dr Ashok Bhan, former Director General of Police, are amongst this year's Paul H. Appleby Awardees for distinguished service to IIPA and to the subject of Public Administration in the country. The award was given by Shri T. N. Chaturvedi, former Governor and Chairman of the IIPA in a function held in New Delhi.

The award has been instituted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration in the name of Dean Paul H. Appleby, on whose recommendation the Institute was established in 1954. Previous recipients of the award include Shri N. N. Vohra, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Karan Singh and Shri Veeranna Aivalli, former DG Police and founder Honorary Secretary of the J&K Regional Branch.



Dr. Ashok Bhan receiving the award

The award ceremony was attended by Er J.B.S. Johar, Hony Secretary, J&K Regional Branch of IIPA.

The following citation for Dr Bhan was read on the occasion:

"A Ph.D. in Botany from Kurukshetra University, Dr Ashok Bhan joined the Indian Police Service in 1976 and served the J&K State in various capacities including heading the State Vigilance Organization, Intelligence and Prisons Departments and the Police Academy.

Dr Bhan, a strong believer in ethics based public service, has been steadily pursuing the objectives of the IIPA through the Jammu and Kashmir Regional Branch which he has brought to prominence as its Honorary Secretary for a decade till January, 2010 and as Chairman till January, 2015.

He has rendered meritorious service in Jammu and Kashmir contributing immensely to intelligence gathering, anti-Terrorist operations, anti-corruption measures and Police training on which subjects he has widely lectured and written. Dr Bhan as SSP Anantnag was grievously injured in an encounter in August 1990. A highly decorated officer for Gallantry as well as distinguished service, he was awarded Chief Minister's Gold Medal for Honesty, Integrity and Meritorious service (2007) for his extraordinary achievements while spearheading anti-corruption drive in the State.

Dr Bhan served a term as Member of the National Security Advisory Board. He is currently a Member of Shri Mata Vaishno

Devi Shrine Board, Distinguished Fellow of IPCS, New Delhi and Patron of the J&K Regional Branch of IIPA."

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON "ETHICS AND MORALITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION"

A one day training program on "Ethics and Morality in Public Administration" was organized on May 7, 2016 which was attended by 140 participants from 20 departments of J&K government including Rural Development Department Jammu, University of Jammu, Traffic Police, Directorate of Sheep Husbandry, J&K SIDCO, Shera- Kashmir Police Academy, PHB Department, Zonal Armed Police Headquarter, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, CID, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Department, Directorate of Stores Procurement Department, Electrical Maintenance and RE Wing, Legal Metrology, Directorate of Horticulture, SMVDSB, Forests Department, ICDS participated in the training programme.

The key theme areas of deliberations throughout the day long program included

- Ethical Public Service,
- E-governance for efficiency and transparency
- Ethics and Morality and Governance
- Right to Information and J&K Accountability Act
- Prevention of Corruption Act



L to R : Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Sh. B.R. Sharma, Er. J.B.S. Johar & Prof. Alka Sharma during the release of IIPA Newsletter

Sh. B R Sharma, Chief Secretary, J&K ; Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd), Former DGP, J&K Police; Mr. Amit Sharma, KAS M.D., SIDCO; Sh. K B Jandial, IAS (Retd), Former Member, JK PSC; Mr. Sheikh Shakeel Ahmad, Sr. Advocate and Mr. Pranav Kohli, Advocate, J&K High Court and Prof Alka Sharma spoke during the training programme

Following issues were identified and deliberated during the training sessions

- It is important for public administrators to resist what is wrong and accept the right way of executing the service.
- Public servants should thoroughly understand the rules so that they can deliver services with utmost fairness.
- Public servants should be the role model for the civil society and should conform to high ethical standards while discharging their duties.
- Actions of a public servant should be "citizen centric" and that transparency should be reflected in the actions while performing the duty.



Dr. Ashok Bhan during the presentation

- It is important to be impartial in the delivery of services and that the public servant should be assertive and should learn to effectively execute his duties in the larger interest of the society.
- E-governance and technology driven initiatives can bring more transparency.
- Future of governance lies in creating open systems where the human interactions are minimized with an objective to eliminate bias.
- A collaborative approach with a spirit of service should be inculcated among the public servants that can help to win the public trust.
- Public Servants should be driven by values and deliver services based on basic principles of democratic accountability, participative procedures and high personal integrity.
- Any form of incompetence on part of public servant should also be treated as an abuse of the office.
- The provisions of J&K State Accountability Act and Prevention of Corruption Act were also discussed and how citizens can also play an important role in making the existing laws workable and effective.

Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary presented the report on the proceedings; Ex. J B S Johar, Honorary Secretary, IIPA presented the formal vote of thanks and Dr Komal Nagar conducted the proceedings of the function.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF SENIOR CITIZENS"

Indian Institute of Public Administration, J&K Regional Branch organized a panel discussion on the theme "Issues and Concerns of Senior Citizens" on July 2, 2016. Chief Guest at the occasion, Dr. (Prof) Nirupal Gupta, Chairperson, J&K State Social Welfare Board, in her address pointed out several serious issues and concerns of the senior citizens which should catch the attention of whole society. Some key highlights of her address include the following:

- The present government is conscious of the concerns of the senior citizens and is committed towards providing facilities to this respected section of our society.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2014 provides enough provisions which are in the interest of senior citizens.
- She called upon eminent senior citizens of the state to come forward and constitute a confederation that mobilizes resources in the interest of the community in addition to seeking support from the government agencies.



L to R : Sh. Vikram Gour, Ex. J.B.S. Johar, Dr. Nirupal Kumar, Dr. C.M. Seth & Sh. Chander Gulhati during the Seminar

Ex. V N Sharma while introducing the subject called upon the eminent retired senior citizens of the state to come forward and think about serving and repaying to the society. He suggested that all the healthy senior citizens should get associated with various NGO's of the state and contribute in their own capacities.

The panelists including Dr. C M Seth, IFS (Retd), Member, Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association; Sh. Vikram Gour, Patron, Association of Welfare for Senior Citizen, Jammu and Sh. Chander Gulhati, an eminent senior citizen of Jammu made the following observations:

- Dr. C M Seth in his presentation suggested that the retired state government employees should get benefits which are at par with the benefits given to the retired central government employees.
- He stressed that the state government should develop a mechanism through which the expertise of retired government officials should be utilized.
- Sh. Chander Gulhati in his presentation expressed his concern over depleting emotional bond between the youth

and the senior citizens and emphasized on the need for creating a social security system which takes care of the interest of senior citizens by providing them adequate insurance cover and health care facilities.

- Sh. Vikram Gour in his presentation shared various provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2014 but said that the government is yet to frame the rules and regulations to ensure the implementation of the act in spirit.
- The government itself is indulging in abuse of senior citizens by not providing adequate services and facilities to the senior citizens.

The function was attended by over 40 eminent senior citizens of the city. Ex. J B S Johar, Honorary Secretary, IIPA was also present during the occasion. Dr. Kamal Nagar, Joint Director (Seminars) conducted the proceedings of the function and Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary concluded the proceedings of the function.

SEMINAR ON "HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT"

In an effort to take an objective view at the prevailing health care conditions in the state, a seminar on "Health Care Management in J&K" was organized on September 10, 2016 which was attended by members of IIPA, representatives from the public and private health care centres and members from the civil society.

The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Medical Education, Shri Bali Bhagat was the Chief Guest at the seminar and while speaking during the seminar he said

- Government has taken initiatives to provide immediate relief to the patients by providing clean hospitals, effective nursing, easy availability of medicines etc.
- There is need to change the general perception of the masses by taking strict action against defaulters such as monitoring pilferage of medicines, cleanliness and hygiene in hospitals etc.

Dr. H.L. Goswamy, Former Principal, Govt. Medical College, Jammu; Dr. B.S. Pathania, Director Health, Jammu; Dr. Romesh Gupta, Medical Supdt, GMC, Jammu; Dr. Arun Sharma, Deputy Medical Supdt. Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu ; Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.); Dr. C. M. Sethi; Dr. Manohar Rana, BMO Sohanjana; Brig (Dr) M.M.Harjai, Chief Administrative Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital Katra and Dr. Meenakshi Dutt Sudan, Sudan Heart Care Centre, Jammu presented their views during the seminar.

Following issues were identified and deliberated during the seminar

- There exists a gap between the desired service and what is being delivered by existing health care system.
- Though the health care infrastructure in the state has improved substantially with a larger number of hospitals opening even at the district and rural levels yet there is the need to improve healthcare services at the rural areas.

- Preventive healthcare is most neglected area in health and appropriate policy should be framed.
- Shortage of qualified manpower is a huge limitation which poses as a challenge in providing basic facilities to the patients.
- Adequate focus should be on training of healthcare professionals who can further improve the quality of services.
- There is a strong need for inter- sectoral coordination with the public works, NGO, education, social welfare which can help in improving the health care services at the primary level.
- There is a strong need for private-public-partnership model which can support the government developed infrastructure and also provide quality services to patients at affordable prices.
- Role of nursing homes has been nominal in specialty care and that private sector should also conduct responsibly to improve the overall system in the state.



Dignitaries during the seminar

- Specific government schemes including drug policy, nursing council act and paramedical act and those introduced specifically for the elderly and for the women were also discussed

Prof. Alka Sharma presented a detailed report on the proceedings of the seminar; Dr. Kamal Nagar conducted the proceeding of the seminar and Ex. J. B. S. Johar, Hony Secretary IIPA presented a formal vote of thanks.

LECTURE ON 'PEACE PROCESS IN J&K' "SET OWN HOUSE IN ORDER TO MAKE PAKISTAN IRRELEVANT"

Lauding the Central Government for initiating steps to isolate Pakistan and make the hostile neighbour irrelevant, the former DG Police Dr. Ashok Bhan advocated a "look inwards" approach to set own house in order and deny Pakistan favourable conditions to foment trouble and violence in the State during a lecture on "Peace Process in Jammu and Kashmir" on October 8, 2016. Dr S.S. Bloeria, former Chief Secretary, presided over the

programme.

Dr Bhan traced the progress in conflict resolution beginning from the revival of Political process in mid 1990s. Following are the key highlights of the lecture:

- Dr Bhan traced the progress in conflict resolution beginning from the revival of Political process in mid 1990s and elaborated on the role of security forces and police to bring violence down to manageable levels, the reduction of democratic deficit through credible elections, impact of Indo-Pak relations on the peace process and role of development and good governance.



Dr. S. S. Bloeria presenting his remarks during the Seminar

- The commitment shown by successive Central Governments to allow democratic exercises particularly uninterrupted elections to the State Assembly despite serious impediments like hostile security environment, agitation of 2008, floods of 2014 was cited as huge contributor to the peace process with increase in voter turnout as well as throwing up of a variety of possibilities to govern the state.
- Dr. Bhan described the sinister role of Pakistan in fomenting trouble and how all Indian efforts to engage her in bilateral dialogue had failed. With Pakistan soil being used continuously to promote terrorism to attack targets in J&K and elsewhere in the country, India has rightly chosen to isolate Pakistan internationally and send a strong signal of its intent through "surgical strikes", said the speaker.
- He cautioned that if we don't set our own house in order, Pakistan will continue to have a fertile ground to exploit. Therefore, while preparedness to tackle any retaliation by Pakistan and strong security measures are imperative, the Government must also reach out to all stakeholders within the state. "The mandate of the Assembly Elections of 2014 needs to be understood and attempts made to fulfill it".
- He labeled development and governance as "slow healers" with chances of relapse as seen in 2008, 2010 and 2016 and advocated deft political handling to find a lasting solution within the limits set by the Constitution of India. He traced some of the causes of present turmoil and suggested short term, medium term and long term approaches to strengthen the Peace Process.

The address was followed by discussion on the issues raised by

the speaker.

In his Presidential remarks, Dr S.S. Bloeria, IAS (Retd), Former Chief Secretary, J&K said that India should focus on both the internal and external dimensions.

- While elaborating on internal dimensions he said that enough effort should be made to integrate people of the state; build and nurture credible political leadership; and build national consensus about J&K across political spectrum.
- Simultaneously on the external dimension, India should project its position at the international platforms; effectively resist and respond to nuclear blackmail of our neighbor and consolidate and use national power to good effect.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director (Seminars) introduced the subject while Er. J B S Johar, Honorary Secretary presented the formal vote of thanks. Dr. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary, IIPA conducted the proceedings of the function.

BRAIN STORMING SESSION ON "STRENGTHENING OF ETHICAL AND MORAL VALUES IN GOVERNANCE"

As a prelude conference on "Strengthening of Ethical and Moral Values in Governance", the theme chosen by IIPA for 60th Annual Members Conference to be held on October 22, 2016 at New Delhi, Indian Institute of Public Administration J&K Regional Branch organized a brain storming session under the chairmanship of Dr C.M. Seth on October 12, 2016.

While introducing the topic for discussion Dr. Seth said that the J&K Chapter has long been debating whether to discuss the issue of ethics, morals and values keeping in view the sensitive nature of the topic and pointed out the following areas of concern:

- The subject of ethics and morality in governance is of vital concern to the civil society for good governance and delivery of services.
- The issue of introducing moral values in education system has been discussed several times in the past and it was decided that since all faiths have different meaning of ethics and morals it will be difficult to introduce common syllabus for teaching subject of moral values and ethics in schools.
- Ethics and moral values have western concept and Indian concept. Western concept comes from the great philosophers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle whereas Indian concepts come from its ancient scriptures of Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata and Gita. Sages like Gautam Buddha, Guru Nanak, Bhakti Kabir, Tulsji Dass, Miranbai and Sofi saints have contributed to build the Indian society on good morals and values. Kautilya's Arthashastra was in fact first written document on good governance and conduct of government functionaries.
- Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, gave direction for self-discipline and good governance by setting example of his life. He gave two concepts of Dharma and Ahimsa. Practices of Sanskar and Parampara in Indian society are best examples to build ethics and moral values in the coming generation.

- It is a big challenge now to bring ethics and moral values in the techno-savvy youth who lives in virtual world than the real world which is far from ethical values.
- To build society on good ethical principles and values we should again bring Parampara of Sanskars in every family.
- All public and private organizations are required to have Citizens Charter. Role of civil society organisation and media has been great contributors to bring unethical practices of the government and administration to the notice of the public. He quoted example of Chipko and Ana Hazare movements which compelled government to bring legislations of Lokpal and Lokayukta.
- Ethics is a branch of philosophy which studies human behaviour based on principles of moral values while governance should build trust among the citizens and thus the relevance of instilling ethical and moral values among our administrators is even more pronounced. Furthermore, in the wake of our exposure to the rest of the world we cannot have the same definitions of morals and ethics that we used to have and therefore the Indian morals and ethics are being rediscovered and rewritten to fill the existing trust deficit.
- In the year 2015 at Paris Conference United Nations approved 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by all countries by 2030. These Goals include good governance and eradication of poverty.
- There is a growing concern of trust deficit between civil society and the government and with the globalization of economic interests there is a need to debate and discuss the issue of ethical and moral values for good governance.
- Indian Constitution is one of the finest guidelines for establishing good governance in the democratic country like India with diverse cultures and traditions. He said that Fundamental rights and Directive principals in constitution clearly define the duties and responsibilities of the government and citizens to make India a strong Nation.
- Indian system for strengthening ethics and moral values of its executive, administration and judiciary have evolved in last sixty years based on its cultural and traditional practices and experience from other countries.
- Setting up of Civil Service Codes (All India and State services) for the conduct of the administrative machinery, State Vigilance organizations, State Vigilance Commissions, central Investigation Agency, Public Service Guarantee Acts are some of the legal tools to check corruption and bring transparency in the system.
- To make Governments more accountable and transparent, its functionaries need to be ethical with moral values. He said that in India recently NIA have been constituted to probe cases against the terrorist and militant crimes which threatens the sovereignty and integrity of the country.
- For good governance in the country few suggestions have been put forth by experts like Political Commitment to Ethics and moral values, Making directive Principals of the state policy a justiciable right, setting up of National

Commission on Integrity and transparency in Governance, Transparency in delivery of public service, Use of digital technology to reduce human interface, Check on abuse of discretionary powers, protection and incentives to honest public servants, Rules for shifting from public sector to private sector, HRD training in Ethics and moral values, introduction of ethics and moral education in schools and colleges.

After the introductory remarks Dr. Seth requested all participants to give their views for strengthening Ethics and moral values in Governance. Following are the key suggestions that were put forward by the IIPA members:

- Need is to bring about an enforceable code of ethics in all the services. Therefore prepare a separate Code of Ethics for different organisations.
- Moral Code of Ethics should be in the public domain.
- As governance cannot be in isolation due to trust deficit, therefore public needs to be sensitised and Code of Ethics needs to become part of the basic education system.
- To this end, teachings of Indian saints such as Swami



IIPA members during the brainstorming session

Vivekananda, Tulsī Dass, Kabir and more should be introduced as part of the school education system.

- Also family and teachers have a major responsibility in instilling moral and ethical values in a child. Therefore, character building should start from the grassroot level by reviewing the education policy.
- Indian acts and laws are very strong however the need is their implementation and reinforcement with sincerity and they need strengthening from time to time.
- However, one cannot depend on family and school teaching alone for rectifying all that has gone wrong in ethics and morals of the society. Need is for the identification of able administrators with a strong political will.
- It is difficult to emulate Ram Rajya in today's times; however, an able administrator could be a practical solution. To this end, people in administration can give best inputs for plugging loopholes.
- Law needs to be equal for all and therefore bring in transparency.

- Common man should be given the right to know why a particular decision by the government has been arrived at and the common man should also be given the right to force the government, if the need be, to review the decision.
- There is an urgent need for the removal of discretionary powers.
- A system of incentive and punishment needs to be introduced.
- Post retirement reemployment should be stopped with immediate effect.
- Transfers/Postings in the Government Departments need to be decentralised.
- Although democracy is a painful process, yet all solutions are within democracy. Need is to own our public spaces for the betterment of our own society.
- There is a crisis of role models for our society to follow as we have nobody to look upto.
- The answer to the crisis is 'Institutionalization' and 'Democratization' and the Indian voter is the only one with the power to save democracy. System of governance should not be individual specific, rather it should be institutionalized.
- Need is to improve our infrastructure and succession

planning should be followed.

- Much like all other professions that require basic minimum criteria of assessment and selection, our politician need to be assessed on parameters of ethics and morality before selection to a post. Need is for basic political education.
- Law enforcement should be so strict to change our behaviour to follow ethics and moral values.

At the end of the brainstorming session, Er. JBS Johar, Hony Secretary, IIPA J&K Regional branch presented a formal vote of thanks. Dr. Komal Nagar, Joint Director Seminars conducted proceeding of the session.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
November 2016	Expert Lecture on the World Heritage Week
December 2016	Seminar/Panel Discussion on "Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (R-APDRP)
December 2016	7 th S. P. Sahni Memorial Lecture at Jammu

SNAPSHOTS FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN NEW DELHI



The 38th Annual Meeting of General Body of IIPA JK Branch is scheduled for January 7, 2017 (Saturday) at 7 p.m. in the IIPA Complex.

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