



# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION J&K REGIONAL BRANCH

## Newsletter



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### IIPA DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Indian Institute of Public Administration on March 30, 2014 at New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that democracy is the soul and the core of our nation-building. No meaningful growth or governance can be achieved without the preservation and nurturing of this basic grid of our polity. All the three structures of governance, the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary would need to continue striving to strengthen the democratic foundation. The President said that for inclusive growth and development, the importance of the quality and efficient delivery of public services cannot be exaggerated. The increasing expectation of the people can only be met by improving good governance practices for on it hinges the welfare of the people.



*Hon'ble President of India speaking at Diamond Jubilee Celebrations*

The President said that though the term, Good Governance, appeared more frequently in the development lexicon only about two decades back, its importance was recognized since ancient times. As emphasized by Kautiliya in his "Arthashastra", "The happiness of the people is the happiness of the king; Their good alone is his, his personal good is not his true good; the only true good being that of his people: Therefore let the King be active in working for the prosperity and welfare of his people". Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Purna Swaraj or the idea of strong and prosperous India is based on the foundation of Good Governance. The importance of Good Governance is being increasingly accepted and recognized because of its inseparable link to social welfare and public good. Good governance permeates virtually all aspects of human life. It encompasses rule of law,



*Hon'ble President of India & other dignitaries at the function*

participatory decision-making structure, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness.

The President stated that adoption of good governance practices across the entire domain of the government machinery is necessary to bring the tangible benefits of development programmes to the people. To enable people to be truly involved in formulating and implementing development plans that will shape their future, it is necessary that proper functioning in Panchayati raj institutions prevail.

The President stated that if we have to achieve a faster growth trajectory, there has to be equal urgency in decision-making. He stated that we have to transform our public administration into a dynamic and result oriented entity. Public services are critical for making India globally competitive. In this context, the role of IIPA and other similar institutions attains greater significance.

The President said that there is need to develop and impart a broad outlook among public servants. It is satisfactory to note that IIPA has assigned critical importance to social sector issues, behavioural sciences, ethical administration, urban habitat management, environmental and climate studies, gender policy and budgeting, knowledge management, and e-governance in its training curricula. Though IIPA has done commendable work, there is much more that can be done to increase the importance as a catalyst for change in public administration. It should also make ethical governance the central focus in its training calendar.

Two commemorative publications of IIPA 'Indian Governance Report 2012' and 'Jawaharlal Nehru and Indian Administration' were released on the occasion.



## 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the J&K Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration was held on January 04, 2014 in Jammu which was attended by 70 members. Sh. Vikrant Kuthiala, Joint Secretary presented the Honorary Secretary's Report and highlighted the activities of the branch 2013. Some of the major achievements of the branch in 2013 included



*Jenab Jalil Ahmed Khan addressing IIPA members at AGM*

- 17 programmes (including Lectures / Workshops / Seminars / Panel Discussions / Debate Competitions / Training) were organized
- Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Mohd Hamid Ansari released a Souvenir entitled "35 years of J&K Regional Branch of Institute of Public Administration" during the 59th AGM of the IIPA held at New Delhi on October 18, 2013.
- Late Shri Veeranna Aivalli, founder Hony Secretary of the J&K Regional Branch of IIPA, was honoured with Paul H. Appleby Award for his distinguished Services to IIPA and to Public Administration.
- A 15 KVA, 3 phase silent DG SET was installed in our Jammu Complex
- A new office was opened in Srinagar
- 24 new members enrolled

This was followed by the presentation of financial statement by Sh. T.P. Singh, Hony Treasurer. Jenab Jalil Ahmed Khan, Former Chairman and Dr Ashok Bhan, Chairman, IIPA addressed the AGM setting out future targets for the Branch in organizing activities aimed at capacity building for good governance. The major thrust areas for 2014 were discussed and suggestions were received. Election of Office Bearers and Executive Committee members for the period January 2014 to January 2016 was conducted by the returning officer Er V.N. Sharma. (See Page 8)

## NATIONAL SECURITY SEMINAR ON TERROR AND TRESPASSES IN INDIA'S NORTHERN BORDERS

The Regional Branch in collaboration with Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu organized a daylong Seminar on the theme "Terror and Trespasses in India's Northern Borders - Deciphering the Grand Strategies of Pakistan and China" on November 26, 2013. The seminar covered various aspects of border issues with Pakistan and China taking stock of the ground reality and other political dimensions. Representatives from Army, PMFs, J&K Police, Academia, Media and selected delegates from the civil society and IIPA participated in seminar. Dr S. S. Bloeria, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Patron, IIPA inaugurated the seminar and Dr Ashok Bhan Chairman IIPA, J&K Regional Branch & Former Member of National Security Advisory Board delivered the key note address during the inaugural function.

Eminent panelists included Mr. Jayadeva Ranade, Former Additional Secretary, R&AW & Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), Mr. Rana Banerji, Special Secretary (Retd.) Cabinet Secretariat, Major Gen (Retd.) Dhruv C Katoch SM, VSM, Director, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), Prof Srikant Kondapalli, Professor in Chinese Studies, JNU, New Delhi, Mr. Nitin A Gokhale, Strategic Affairs Editor, NDTV and Prof Rekha Choudhary, ICSSR Fellow.



*Prof. Srikant Kondapalli, Mr. Jayadev Ranade, Maj Gen (Retd.) Dhruv C. Katoch, Mr. Nitin A Gokhale during the panel discussion*

Some of the key observations made by the panelists included

- There is the need for a fresh look at borders and explore mutually agreed solution to the issues.
- The civil-military relationship in Pakistan would determine the terms and conditions of Indo-Pak relations.
- Emergence of new home grown terror outfits is a cause of serious concern.
- There is a need for an effective doctrinal approach to address the cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.



- There is lack of coherent deterrence from India vis-à-vis non-state actors supported by Pakistan army.
- The new leadership in China is much more assertive and ambitious in its foreign policy.
- Chinese assertiveness along LAC is largely conditioned by South China Sea dispute. India has to bear these incidents in the foreseeable future.

Shri Ashok Prasad, DGP, J&K in his Valedictory address said despite efforts of India to promote the dialogue process, Pakistan continued to support secessionism, cross-border terrorism and infiltration and whip up anti-national sentiment in Kashmir. He said that Pakistan had been following the aggressive policy in respect to its relations with India and “we have become tolerant to the level of violence perpetuated by the terrorists trained and supported by the neighboring country”. Talking about the security scenario in the country, he said the threat from northern borders (Pakistan and China) and relations with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma and Srilanka are the long-term challenge for the country.

Shri J.B.S. Johar, Hony Secretary, IIPA, J&K Regional Branch, Shri A. M. Watali, former Member J&KPSC, Dr J. Jeganaathan and Ms Neeta, Assistant Professors in Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu also spoke during the seminar.

### OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSION ON “TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN J&K”

The Regional Branch organised an open house discussion on “Traffic Management in J&K” in collaboration with Traffic Police on January 16, 2014. Jenab Choudhary Mohd. Ramzan, Hon'ble Minister for CAPD and Transport was the Chief Guest and Shri Saurabh Bhagat, IAS Transport Commissioner, Shri Muneer Ahmad Khan, IPS IGP Traffic were the Guests of Honor. Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Director general of Police and Chairman of the Regional Branch, presided over the function. The discussion was attended by senior officers from the Transport and Traffic departments including RTO Jammu, Transport Union members, Chamber of Commerce and members of the civil society. Some of

major observations made during the discussion included

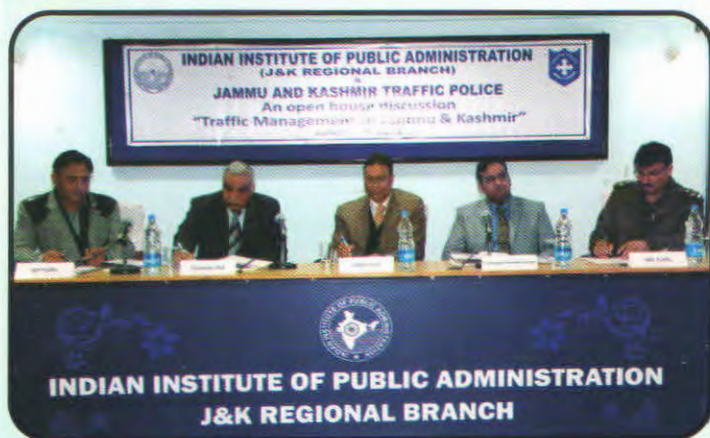
- The major areas of concern includes lack of parking spaces, commercial activities in residential areas, lack of facilities on roads for pedestrians, encroachment of footpaths, and disregard for laws and safety by the road users themselves
- There is the need for a multi disciplinary approach as traffic management was not the job of traffic police alone.
- Immediate need to amend the obsolete Motor Vehicles Act to make it more stringent.
- There was a consensus that planning of infrastructure had not kept pace with increase in number of vehicles and now corrective steps must be taken.
- Call for coordination between town planners and transport department.
- There is an urgent need for shifting the bus stands in Jammu and Srinagar in consultation with stakeholders
- The government is committed to leverage technology in issuance of driving licenses, video recording of driving tests, smart driving licenses and RCs and high security digital plates to track vehicles.
- Future plans include procurement of speed guns, gas analyzers and introduction of Interceptor vehicles as traffic patrols.
- Two state of the art driving training institutes are coming up in Jammu and Srinagar.
- A Traffic Police School has been sanctioned for training of officers joining the traffic wing.

### 12<sup>th</sup> VEERANNA AIVALLI MEMORIAL DEBATE

The J&K Regional Branch of IIPA in collaboration with Dean Students Welfare, University of Jammu organised the 12th Veeranna Aivalli Memorial Debate on November 12, 2013. The topic of the debate was “In the opinion of the House, only stringent legal provisions can ensure safety of women in the country”. Shri. N. N. Vohra, Hon'ble Governor of J&K was the Chief Guest at the Prize Distribution Function.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor referred to the topic of the debate and emphasized the need for the development of a societal code of conduct which is founded in ethical and moral values, along side effective policing, prompt investigations and speedily bringing the guilty to justice, for ensuring the safety of women, children, elders and the people at large. The Governor observed that there is crucial need for imbibing and re-invigorating ethical and moral values among the students right from junior school upwards, to the university levels, so that they can contribute towards establishing a more harmonious and peaceful society.

Prof. M. P. S. Ishar, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University, said



*Hon'ble Minister CAPD, Transport Commissioner, IGP Traffic, Chairman IIPA & DIG Traffic during the function*



that the debating contests provide the students useful opportunity to put forth their views in an effective manner. Mr. Ashok Prasad, Director General of Police, dwelt extensively on various strategies to ensure safety of women and children.



*Hon'ble Governor presenting the trophies to the winning team Govt. College of Engineering & Tech, Jammu*

A total of 27 teams from various colleges and teaching departments of the Jammu University participated in the debate. Mr. Abhinandan Singh of the Government College of Engineering and Technology, Jammu secured the first position, Ms. Akanksha Rajput of the Government College of Education, Jammu stood second and Ms. Apoorva Jamwal of Department of Economics, University of Jammu bagged the third position. Two consolation prizes were also given.

### **LECTURE ON "SUPREME COURT: EXPOUNDING PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA"**

A Lecture on "Supreme Court: Expounding Philosophy of the Constitution of India" by Professor K. L. Bhatia, National Law University, Jodhpur was organized prior to 35th AGM on January 04, 2014. He cited a number of cases including the famous Kesvanand Bharti verdict on limits to amend the Constitution, Meneka Gandhi case and S.R. Bommai case to demonstrate that the superior courts do not only interpret the textual Constitution but expound the constitutional law that



*Prof. K. L. Bhatia addressing the audience*

binds the posterity. Unearthing the "invisible state" was another theme of his talk and he cited the recent verdict on the establishment of CBI without a legal sanction as held by the Guwahati High Court as an example in this regard. Other issues covered by Prof Bhatia included expounding nature of equality as in the Novartis case, nature of locus standi and nature of Art 142 of the Constitution.

### **1<sup>st</sup> SHRI RAM SAHAI MEMORIAL LECTURE**

The J & K Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration organized the 1st Shri Ram Sahai Memorial Lecture on "GST: A Comprehensive Tax Reform" on February 15, 2014. This annual lecture series has been started in memory of Late Shri Ram Sahai, one of the founding members of the Regional Branch and former President of the Jammu CCI. Khawaja Bashir Ahmad, Advisor to Chairman, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, delivered the keynote address and Dr. S S Bloeria, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu presided over the function. Shri Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Sahai Group of Industries was the Special Guest. Some of key observations made during the lecture included



*Khawaja Bashir Ahmad delivering the keynote address*

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) will help in removing the cascading effects, shall be more comprehensive and will provide more relief to the industry while shifting the tax to the consuming state.
- There is an urgent need for fiscal autonomy to the states and harmonization of tax policies.
- Tax regime, tax collection apparatus, exemption mechanism and tax avoidance are critical.
- Fiscal prudence is necessary.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman IIPA J&K Regional Branch paid rich tribute to Late Shri Ram Sahai recalling his contribution to the IIPA, Chamber of Commerce and Industries and many other organizations.



## 4<sup>th</sup> S. P. SAHNI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The J&K Regional Branch organized the 4th Sat Paul Sahni Memorial Lecture on "India's Attributes and Interests: Who are we and what do we want?" on December 7, 2013. Prof. Varun Sahni, former Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu and Chairperson of the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi was the key note speaker.



Prof. Varun Sahni, Dr. S. S. Bloeria, Jenab Jalil Ahmed Khan, Mrs. Prem Sahni & Dr. Ashok Bhan during the function

Prof Varun Sahni stated that political processes within our country have put an end to nearly half a century of domestic consensus regarding the basic tenets and postulates of Indian foreign policy. The collapse of consensus in India as regards the country's foreign policy may indeed be the outcome not of fractured institutions or pathetic leadership, but rather of a genuine battle of ideas. He suggested nineteen attributes of India that are particularly interesting and relevant in understanding India's role in world affairs. Prof. Sahni has deduced a specific national interest for each attribute.

### India's Attribute (Specific National Interest)

A Large Country (Acquiring Strategic Autonomy), An Emerging Power (Achieving Status Transformation), The Regional Power (Consolidating its Region), An Asian Power (Promoting Cooperative Security), A Continental Power (Moderating its Maritime Ambitions), A State with Nuclear Weapons (Developing a Credible Deterrent), A Country with Disputed Borders (Keeping the Borders Secure), An Arms Buyer (Developing Multiple, Reliable Arms Supply Lines), A Target of Terrorism (Weakening Pakistan's Asymmetric War Capabilities), A Developing Economy (Reshaping the World Economy), A Globalising Economy (Responding to Challenges and Opportunities), A Technology Driven Economy (Accessing and Leveraging Technology), An Energy Deficient Economy (Guaranteeing Energy Supplies), A Liberal Democracy (Deepening Democracy Within), A Multicultural Society (Shunning Cultural Conflict), An Ancient Civilisation (Projecting Indian Culture Overseas), A Divided and Violent Society (Repairing Internal Ruptures), A Diaspora Community (Protecting Overseas Indians), A Concern for the Commons (Advancing Global Trusteeship).

He said that it is in India's interest, both internally and externally, to work for the avoidance of an Asia divided into opposing axes of power, and that this can be done only by promoting cooperative security structures on the continent and its surrounding seas. Finally, the fact that India is a liberal democracy could suggest democracy promotion as an Indian interest.

Dr Ashok Bhan, Chairman, IIPA J&K Regional Branch presented a welcome address and introduced the Keynote speaker. He also paid tributes to Late Shri Sat Paul Sahni and recalled his contribution to society in general and IIPA in particular. Dr S.S. Bloeria, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu while paying tribute Sh. Sat Pal Sahni threw light on his multi-faceted personality. Chief Economic Advisor of J&K Government, Jenab J.A Khan presided over the function. Prof Alka Sharma, Director (Seminars) conducted the proceedings and Vote of thanks was presented by Er. J.B.S. Johar, Hony Secretary, IIPA J&K Regional Branch.

## SEMINAR ON 'CONFLICT EARLY WARNING: CONTEMPORARY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND IMPLICATIONS OF J&K'

The J&K Regional branch in collaboration with Central University of Jammu & Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi organized a seminar on the theme "Conflict Early Warning: Contemporary Regional Environment and Implications for J&K", on Dec 23, 2013.



Ambassador Ranjit Gupta, Prof P. R. Chari, Dr D. Suba Chandran and Mr Sushant Sareen discussing the regional security developments in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan

Some of the key observations made by the panelists in the first session included

- Devising the mechanism and framework for early warning system is critical and such a mechanism can be helpful in systematically analyzing the conflict and working towards preventing their adverse implications.
- The vagueness of the nuclear deal between Iran and America as it is an interim agreement but it will eventually go through, with the process being slow and painful, at times taking one step forward and two steps backward redefining the US-Iran relations.
- The Afghanistan National Security Force is turning out to be a better equipped and trained force and with



the weakening of Taliban there would be lesser possibility of civil war after the Americans leave.

- The signing of Gas Sale and Purchase agreement (GSPA) will be constructive for Afghanistan as well as India- Pakistan relations.
- Indian government should consider the request from President Karzai to support the Afghan security forces in fighting militancy by providing infrastructural and transport support material.
- That there is difference between Pashtun Taliban and Punjabi Taliban, warning the latter can become a potential tool in the hands of Pakistan's Establishment to destabilize India.



**Prof. Rekha Choudhary, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Dr. S. S. Bloeria and Dr. Shujaat Bukhari discussing the recent developments within J&K**

Some of the key observations made by the panelists in the second session included

- There was a general consensus that while India has been blaming Pakistan for its intervention in J&K and aiding terrorism elsewhere in the country, not much has been done in terms of pursuing a coherent strategy in addressing them.
- The number of cases of violence has been reduced since 2001 but nature of violence has changed with stone pelting protests, beheading of soldiers and recent militant attacks in Samba.
- The need of the hour is incorporated synergy between Army, Paramilitary and Police; better border management; preventing human right violations and; holding of free, fair and peaceful elections.
- The inter-regional and inter-community tensions that may accelerate in the backdrop of coming Parliamentary and state elections in 2014.
- There have been lot of missed opportunity in last decade and one can see early warning in cases of the educated youth joining militant ranks in the recent years. These missed opportunities include lack of political initiative, issue of governance and even checking corruption in the state.

## SAFETY OF WOMEN IN WORK PLACES

J&K Regional Branch organized a seminar on "Safety of Women in Work Places" on March 12, 2014 to celebrate Women's week. In her welcome address, Prof. Rekha Chowdhary mentioned about the ways in which women are abused and victimized and their intimidation by threats of violence. Further while reflecting on the reasons of violence against women, she commented that it may be result of inequity and stereotyped thinking of gender roles, which needs to be addressed by providing women with access to legal representation and promoting gender equality by collective action of both men and women. Professor Poonam Dhawan in her keynote address provided a statistical data of women harassed at work places in different countries and also put forth several issues related to safety of women. Dr. Savita Nayar in her interaction outlined the bills drafted since 1997 and the famous Vishakha case.

These presentations were followed by a Panel Discussion on "Workplace Environment in J&K and issues related to women's safety", it was moderated by Prof. Abha Chauhan and included Mrs. Nighat Shafi Pandit, Prof. V.K. Kapoor and Ms. Ellora Puri.

Mrs. Nighat raised the issue of Child Abuse and safety of women not only in offices, but also at homes and fields where they work. She also mentioned the role of civil society in government as well as NGOs and corporate offices to help women suffering from unusual abuses at different levels.

Prof. V.K. Kapoor in his presentation talked about the laws related to the safety of women. He emphasized the role of various educational as well as law institutions, NGOs and more importantly police which can help in implementation and enforcement of such laws.



**Panelist & Delegates from various organisations**

Ms. Ellora Puri put forth the dark side of the act passed in December, 2013. She was critical of legalese language used and words like modesty & chastity and opined that the spirit of vishakha judgment has been diluted in this act and there has been excessive focus on complaint mechanism rather than preventive mechanism. She also raised the issue of



applicability of the act to state of Jammu and Kashmir as most of the acts are passed with exception to J&K.

In the end while concluding the panel discussion, the moderator Prof. Abha Chauhan put together her comments, as the laws which have been formulated should be implemented equally. She further said that the laws should be gender sensitive rather than gender neutral. She also supported the idea of participation of more women in decision making bodies. Prof. Alka Sharma presented a formal vote of thanks to all the stakeholders for making the programme a success.

The seminar was attended by officials from 21 government departments, corporate sector and IIPA members. The government departments included Education department, Health department, Mechanical Engineering, CAPD, J&K Police, BSF, CBI, Reserve Bank of India, SMVD shrine Board, J&K Forest Department, Women's Development Corporation, University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu, Tata Motors, KC Group.

### WORKSHOP ON RTI ACT

J&K Regional Branch of IIPA organized a workshop on "RTI Act – Expectations and Achievements" in collaboration with State Information Commission on April 05, 2014.

The Chief Information Commissioner Sh. G.R Sufi in his inaugural address termed the RTI Act as revolutionary tool aimed at empowering the common citizens. He cautioned that RTI Act has a mandate to only provide information and not justice as far as public actions are concerned.

Dr. S. K Sharma, State Information Commissioner, traced the history and development of Right to Information as a fundamental right before coming in to existence of RTI Act.



*Sh. G. R. Sufi, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Sh. J.B.S. Johar & Prof. Alka Sharma during the workshop*

Earlier Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman of the Regional Branch in his welcome address outlined the details of the workshop and the expectations from the workshop. He emphasized on the means for voluntary disclosures of more and more information so that most of the information is available in

public domain. Dr. Bhan was in favour of harmonizing the paramount right to information with conflicting interests of efficient running of the Government and use of its limited physical resources, as enshrined in the preamble of RTI Act. He also suggested opening of a helpline and helpdesk by the Government to help information seekers.

The other speakers during the workshop included legal luminaries like Sh. D.C Raina, Former Advocate General, Sh. Shakeel Ahmad, Senior Advocate and Sh. B.L Saraf Former Session Judge and Prof. V.K Kapoor. The speakers commented that there are teething problems but with the passage of time the precedence and judgments from the courts and commissions will make implementation of the Act smoother.

The workshop was attended by more than 190 PIOs/ Controlling Officers from various government departments, Citizens and IIPA members. Important recommendations of the workshop included relook at the procedures to be followed under the act, infrastructure for PIOs to carry out their responsibilities efficiently, 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.

### INTERACTION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Zonal Police headquarters, Kashmir in collaboration with the J&K Regional Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration and Central University of Kashmir organized an interaction-cum-presentation on the criminal justice system on March 24, 2012. Dr. Robert Hanser, Director, Institute of Law Enforcement, University of Louisiana at Monore, USA and Dr. Diana Bruns from University of Missouri USA were the key resource persons. Prof. Mehraj-u-Din, Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir was the Chief Guest and Muhammad Shafi Khan, Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, presided over the function. Joint secretary IIPA, Kashmir G M Andrabi coordinated the programme.



*International Experts & J&K Police Delegates during the interaction*



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