

Newsletter



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## Cover Story

# International Women's Day - Women Empowerment

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated across the globe on 8th March every year. In the month of August in 1910, a meeting (organised by the International Women's Conference) of the Socialist Second International was held in Copenhagen to establish the yearly celebration of the International Women's Day. Finally, the annual celebration of International Women's Day was established by the support of American socialists and German Socialist Luise Zietz. However, no particular date was decided in that meeting. The event celebration was decided to promote the equal rights for all women. It was first celebrated on 19th of March in 1911 by millions of people in Austria, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland. Different programmes like demonstrations, parades, banners, etc., were held. Other demands like voting, holding public office and removing sex discrimination in employment were raised front by the women. It was celebrated in America as a National Women's Day on the last Sunday of February every year. It was first celebrated by the Russian women in 1913 on last Sunday of February. International Women's Day celebration of 1914 was held on 8th of March. From then, it became the practice to celebrate it everywhere on 8th of March.

It is a day of celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975. In December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions. The UN commenced the adoption of

an annual theme in 1996 which was 'Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future'. This theme was followed by 'Women at the Peace Table' in 1997, and in 1998, 'Women and Human Rights', and in 1999 'World Free of Violence against Women', and the practice continues



even today. More recent themes have been included, for example, 'Empower Rural Women, End Poverty and Hunger' and 'A Promise is a Promise - Time for Action to End Violence against Women'. The theme for 2017 is 'Be Bold for Change'.

The world witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from the younger generation may feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could

think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally as that of their male counterparts. Women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them are worse than that of men. However, great improvements have been made. We do have female Astronauts and Prime Ministers. School girls are welcomed into universities, women can work and have a family and women have real choices. Hence, each year the world inspires women and celebrates their achievements.

International Women's Day is celebrated all over India with great zeal and passion on 8th of March to increase the awareness about gender equality and women's empowerment. This event celebration plays a great role in distributing the real message about the women's right, condition and position in the society. It is the time to re-ascertain the fact that women and girls should be treated equally and by taking groundbreaking action that truly drives the greatest change for women.

**-Dr. N. V. Madhuri,**

**Associate Professor, Centre for Gender Studies.**

### **International Women's Day at NIRD&PR**

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is committed for achieving the gender equality through enhancing its targeted interventions, clientele reach at national and international scenario, through enhanced networking, collaboration, capacity building programmes, research and action research. On International Women's Day on March 8, 2017, the NIRD&PR, Hyderabad organised an Action Seminar to chalk-out the gender action plan for the Institute. To pursue it, the NIRD&PR's strategy is to conduct capacity building programmes at national and international levels, exchange programmes, workshops, policy dialogues, research and action research. An Action Seminar is organised to set the priority areas in gender and deciding the way forward in setting the gender action plan in NIRD&PR for the next five years in tune with the Sustainable Development Goals.

This seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Tripurana Venkata Ratnam, Chairperson of Telangana State

Commission for Women. The Guest of Honour Dr. Satbir Bedi, IAS, Member Secretary of National Commission for Women and Dr. Sarala Gopalan, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Development set the context for this Action Seminar. The idea to have such an Action Seminar was initiated by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. Nearly 60 members, both from NIRD&PR and external members were present during this seminar. Participants of this seminar came from different walks of life ranging from academics to practitioners, scientists to journalists and bureaucrats to grassroots level workers. External participants were from UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, ICRW, ICRISAT, TISS and NGOs.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General of NIRD&PR, chaired the inaugural session and rendered a warm welcome to the gathering. In his welcome address he stated that, usually International Women's Day celebration at NIRD&PR becomes an occasion to felicitate successful women and deliver a lecture on women's empowerment. But, this time the DG wanted to make it special and design a strategic plan for achieving women empowerment by the activities of NIRD&PR.

In his welcome address, the Director General also mentioned about few prominent gender issues that are cropping up today. He said, there is a need to study the factors which account for the decline in the women's workforce participation in India. He also mentioned about the feminisation of agriculture and said that the major issue is whether women are able to get adequate returns on investment. High value agriculture, greenhouse technologies are the potential entrepreneurial activity which women can take-up and support should be extended to them.

Dr. Sarala Gopalan, IAS (Retd.), was invited to set the context for this action seminar. With her wider experience, she clearly stated the purpose of having a gender action seminar is to make plan for a reputed organisation like NIRD&PR. She said that current situation can change if society can change by altering social contracts.

Dr. Tripurana Venkata Ratnam in her inaugural address stressed for stronger laws and proper implementation of them to protect the rights of women,

in order to provide them equal opportunities in all fields.

Dr. Satbir Bedi, IAS, Member Secretary of National Commission for Women was the guest of honour for this Action Seminar. She started her lecture by stating about the commitment of National Commission for Women in capacity building and how it can help to arrange trainings to meet the different needs of people. She said, Scientific Institutions and Apex Organisations like NIRD&PR have a crucial role to play. She concluded that NIRD&PR can give right information and help women make right choices.

Following the inaugural session, five groups were formed and the aim of this Parallel Group Session was to evolve a gender policy for NIRD&PR. This session was chaired by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR with the inputs and comments from Ms. Sarojini Ganju Thakur, IAS (Retd.), Dr. Sarala Gopalan, IAS (Retd.) and Dr. Satbir Bedi, IAS. This session was facilitated by Prof. SivaRam and Dr. Madhuri.

Based on the recommendations given by each group, the outcome of the Action Seminar is precisely presented hereunder:

1. To train NIRD&PR faculty on the issues of gender
  2. Incorporating gender into all the training modules prepared by NIRD&PR
  3. To include probable identified areas of different groups in the research mandate of NIRD&PR
  4. To mainstream gender into village adoption programme of NIRD&PR
- and
5. NIRD&PR being an apex organisation can lead all other institutes like SIRDs and ETCs committed for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in mainstreaming gender.

As part of the International Women's Day celebrations at NIRD&PR, the Institute felicitated Neelima Pudota, a young mountaineer who scaled the Mount Everest, Dr. Gyanmudra, Prof. & Head, CHRD and Mrs. Chanda Pandit, Registrar & FA of NIRD&PR and presented them mementos. The Director General said, this felicitation was done as a token of appreciation for their contribution in their respective fields.

Dr. N.V. Madhuri, Associate Professor from the Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRD&PR coordinated this programme. Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Programme Analyst from UN Women extended her support in coordination.





## NIRD&PR Initiative

# Rural Innovators Startup Conclave (RISC-2017)

**M**ake in India, 'Startup India' and 'Skilling India' are flagship initiatives of the Government of India to promote innovation and transformation of the country. The initiatives for accelerating the startup culture in the country have created a great momentum in favour of innovations especially by the rural youth of India. The NIRD&PR conducted a two-day national level conclave of rural innovators and start-ups. The conclave was organised by the Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies (CIAT) at NIRD&PR premises on March

silently in use but are unknown to rest of world. Such innovations may have huge potential of transforming rural farm and non-farm sectors, if appropriate institutional and technology support are made available, and if they were brought for extensive application. RISC-2017 served as an opportunity for them to put their innovations on display, create partnerships for taking such innovations from prototypes to pilot, to scale at field level and convert that idea into viable business models which on a large scale benefit the innovator as well as the rural society and rural economy.



23 and 24, 2017, where more than 100 rural innovators and startups from all over India participated. The conclave had two sets of participants viz. (A) Rural Innovators and Startups including SRLMs; and (B) Enablers and support providers with necessary technologies and funds such as, Science and Technologies Institutions, Banks, and Corporate houses with CSR mandates.

The prime idea was to provide a platform for innovative youth in rural areas of India to bring to display the innovations and technologies/products that are

About 200 entries were received, and 110 of them were found to be relevant to the purpose of the conclave. They were from different sectors including Agriculture and Allied, Green Energy Technologies (Solar, Wind, Biogas, Hybrid, etc.), Drinking Water, Health and Sanitation, Waste to Wealth (Liquid, Solid and Recycling), Sustainable Housing and Sustainable Livelihood. They were all invited to come to NIRD&PR for a display and sharing their technologies. It provided them the opportunities for enticing financial institutions and technology support institutions, which can partner with them to refine their innovations and technologies. Each innovation/ startup had occupied one stall. There were 110 stalls in total which also included innovative students from colleges of engineering.

Shri Y S Chowdary, Honourable Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, inaugurated the conclave at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad on March 23, 2017. During his inaugural address he congratulated NIRD&PR for taking such an innovative and very important initiative. He added that Indian startups are extensively being spoken about and are very much on the limelight after the 'Make in India' Initiative. He expressed his happiness that NIRD&PR is trying to play a role of fastener/connector to enhance the interface,

and enable tie-up with appropriate institutions that can cater to the entrepreneurial aspirations of the youth who have been mulling over ideas and hopes of technology startups. He assured the support from the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India for the initiatives of NIRD&PR for making it an incubation centre for innovations while indicating that his efforts will be there in roping in the other relevant Ministries of Govt. of India wherever necessary for NIRD&PR.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad said: “We appreciate the innovators and startups for coming forward to display/demonstrate their products and technologies and assured that NIRD&PR shall put in efforts to facilitate these technologies/products which are at their nascent stage, and provide them appropriate support, required guidance to improve them suitably to attract the end users. Going forward, NIRD&PR will be opening up a new front for them and a MoU was signed in the presence of Hon’ble Minister with AUTODESK for starting a ‘Design Centre’ at Rural Technology Park which will facilitate the innovators to get trained and develop the designs for their technologies and products. We shall be engaging a large number of volunteer service providers for design improvement of these products and integrate these designs in rural ecosystem”.

Selected thirty startups were given an opportunity for pitching in the first phase and thereafter, out of the same, eleven startups have pitched their ideas before the investors and enablers.

For the selection of Innovators and Startups awards, an independent team of jury visited all the stalls, interacted with them and finally selected 6 innovations and 6 startups under the categories of ‘Best Innovations’ and ‘Best Startups’. Best Startups were awarded a cash prize of ₹100,000 each and best innovations were awarded a cash prize of ₹ 50,000 each, along with a certificate and memento. All the innovators and startups who had participated in the event were given the participation certificates.



The award ceremony was graced by Shri N Ramesh Kumar, IAS (Retd.), State Election Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad who in his address appreciated the innovative idea of NIRD&PR and for organising the event first of its kind in respect of rural innovations.

Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, DG, NIRD&PR in his concluding remarks informed that Rural Innovators Conclave will be a regular annual feature of NIRD&PR and will collaborate with all the like-minded organisations, institutions in conducting the event every year in a grand manner for the benefit of the rural innovators and startups in its efforts for rural transformation.

Having been selected as a winner under Innovator Category, Mr. Babu Rao - one of the innovators, delightfully said “We are grateful to NIRD&PR for initiating this first of its kind platform that encourages rural innovators like us to do more for our country and promote entrepreneurship amongst rural youth of this country”. In pursuance of this, there is one more Conference on ‘Frugal Innovations’, being planned by CIAT.

The event was supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Palle Srujana (Honey Bee Network), Rural

Technology Action Group (RuTAG), Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Innovation Foundation of India, Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs)/SIRDs, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Indian Institute of Science (IIS), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management

(MANAGE), National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Autodesk, TiE Hyderabad, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), Ashoka Innovation Foundation, Aspen Network and Development Entrepreneurs, NASSCOM, SANGAM.VC, Crux Management Services (P) Ltd. (CRUX), Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA), T-Hub, YOURSTORY and Agrowbook, etc.



## Training

# Management Development Programme on Rural Development Leadership

**N**ational-level Management Development Programme on Rural Development Leadership for the Prospective District Collectors/District Magistrates was organised by Centre for Human Resource Development from February 27 to March 3, 2017 at NIRD&PR. The overall objective of the proposed programme was to sharpen the fundamental competencies of officers such as knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and other personal characteristics that are needed to drive superior performance in rural development sector.

To make participants recognise potentials in the early phase of their career by addressing various social sector issues prevailing in the districts and to equip the participants with various supportive institutions like NIRD&PR and other similar agencies to get quick solutions for their district specific problems.

Participants working as Sub-divisional Magistrate/Deputy Collectors /Additional Deputy Commissioner/Project Officer/Sub-Divisional Officer/ District Collector from districts of Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Haryana participated in this programme.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR welcomed the participants and stressed upon the

importance and opportunity to work as a District Collectors/District Magistrate for rural development in his speech. Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India inaugurated the programme and made a presentation on an upcoming scheme tentatively named as Mission Antyodaya (reaching out to the last man) and talked in length about the crucial role of District Collector and District Magistrate, to achieve the targets set in this scheme.

The contents of the programme were designed based on the suggestions received during a consultative meet on the same subject held on August 19, 2016. The training programme focused to cover the following subjects:

- Soft skill and personality development
- Transforming India through RD Programmes
- Role of District Collector
- Livelihood Strategies for Poor
- Skills and Rural Empowerment
- Social Mobilisation for empowering rural poor
- Partnership with Non-Government Organisations

A case study of primary health, e-Governance for policy support and in the context of digital India programmes, innovations and improvisation in



administration, understanding of DM's role, rural development leadership for difficult areas, decentralised governance: Role of panchayat, inclusive finance and district vision document and action plan by the participants.

For each session, the well-known academicians and senior bureaucrats like Shri Bodhamayananda Ji, Adhyaksha Ramakrishna Math, Mr. Raymond Peter, Dr. Vijay Mahajan, Mr. Ravi B R, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Prof. U Balaji, Dr. C Kathiresan, CDAC and Shri K. Rajasekhar from NIC, Mr. Somesh Kumar, Mr. V Bhaskar, Dr. G Hara Gopal, Dr. Vijay Sardana, Dr. Sriram and Dr. P K Mohanti were invited as subject experts.

The training programme's content was delivered through a judicious mix training methods such as lecture-cum discussion, debate, exposure visits, group exercise, sharing of individual experiences by village presidents (success stories), and presentation by participants.

As a part of field training an exposure visit to have hands on experience on innovative development practices by two villages namely, Hajipalle and Gantlalli was arranged. Participants were also exposed to live demonstration/dissemination of cost-effective, local resource based and environment-friendly technologies of



different sectors of Rural Development located at Rural Technology Park at NIRD&PR.

The programme was well received by the participants and they expressed that this programme has come at very right time and it's a value addition to their competencies. It will help in performing better job activities. Participants also expressed to have many such programmes in future.

Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, Dr. T Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor of Centre for Human Resource Development organised this programme.

## Capacity Building and Participatory Training Programme for Nodal Officers of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

The Centre for Human Resource Development organised the 2nd Capacity Building and Participatory Training Programme for Nodal Officers of Participating Institutes under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan from March 31 to April 3, 2017 in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Shri V L V S S Subba Rao, Joint Secretary, MHRD, Government of India. The objective of the programme was to acquaint the

participants with the framework for preparing the village development plan, and orient them about tools and techniques of Participatory Rural Appraisal and its use in preparing village development plan. A total of 32 faculty members of IITs, NITs, Central Universities, and Engineering Colleges have participated in this programme. Besides NIRD&PR faculty, a few resource persons were also invited to share their expertise with participants.

The content of programme was prepared with an aim to cover the basics of a PRA tools and techniques,



framework for village development plan, technology under UBA and hands on experience on PRA and village development plan through field visit. During valedictory session, Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR interacted with the participants and emphasised the need for sustainable village development.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, Dr. T Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development.

## Certificate Programme on Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance

**C**ertificate Course on 'Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance' was organised by Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) from March 1 to 10, 2017 in collaboration with Sehgal Foundation, Gurugram, Haryana.

Good Governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions. Public Policies are formulated and implemented in order to ensure social and economic benefits in welfare state. Public and policy, an integral part of governance touches upon critical analysis and then to ensure efficient governance.

Social Accountability can be defined as an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic engagement, i.e., in which it is ordinary citizens and/or civil society organisations who participate directly or indirectly in ensuring accountability (World Bank, 2004). The aim of this civic engagement is to stimulate demand from citizens and thus put pressure on the State or private sector to meet their obligations to provide quality services. The supply side of this equation is about building State capability and responsiveness, while implementing different stages of the public financial management cycle.

Social Accountability Tools enable development

practitioners the knowledge to generate demand for and ultimately improve governance at the local, regional, and national levels. Social accountability tools are essential for learning, as many of the public policies are increasingly goal oriented, aiming for measurable results and goals, and decision centric.

Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) proposes to address the gap of knowledge and skill in social accountability tools with this certificate programme.

Certificate course on 'Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance' aimed at addressing the following objectives:

- ❖ To expose participants to the concept of Welfare State and its policies
- ❖ To identify governance deficits and gaps in existing policies
- ❖ To enable participants to learn different social accountability tools
- ❖ To apply those tools for analysing existing flagship programmes of rural development
- ❖ To verify and establish the tools
- ❖ To make the participants equip with knowledge and skills for social accountability tools for better service delivery

### Prospectus of the Programme:

- This specialisation will give the participants the knowledge and tools that an organisation needs to record and produce professionalism in dispensing public services
- The participants will learn the technical aspects of assessing public issues, including the involvement of the stakeholders
- The application of tools stimulate achievement of goals, fulfilment of duties and responsibilities and promote public faith and trust in public office
- The sponsoring organisation will obtain identity and improve vision.



This programme was scheduled to cover different topics related to 'Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance' by different subject experts by covering the scope and need of certificate programme, good governance, need and significance of good governance, significance of good governance and elements of good governance, social accountability tools - Introduction to Citizen Report Card (CRC), context and rationale, features, applications, CRC methodology, designing a CRC - the science of surveys; disseminating CRC findings, tips for effective advocacy, data collection for CRC and data analysis, etc.

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of lecture-cum- discussion, role playing, debates, hands-on training on CRC, CSC, budget analysis, group exercises, presentation by groups. Field test was planned for after completion of the classroom teaching of each tool.

A total of 29 participants from Sehgal Foundation, field functionaries and NGO partners of Sehgal Foundation attended the programme. The inaugural

session was held at Sehgal Foundation, Gurugram and it was delivered by Prof. S. Shantha Kumar, Dean, School of Law, G.D. Goenka University, Gurugram and he shared examples of citizens who have used law as a tool for social change and for promoting good governance in cities. Mr. Ajay Pandey, CEO said that the nation has a dream of seeing everyone lead a dignified life and that civil society has an important role in making it a reality.

On final day, participants made their presentation on their learnings from the certificate course and how they are taking forward their learning in future. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Sudarshan Ramaswamy, Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy and he addressed the gathering by explaining some important examples on Good Governance and Social Accountability tools for improved service delivery. Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor and Dr. M. Sarumathy, Head & Associate Professor, Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGGPA), NIRD&PR were the organisers of the this ten-days Certificate Training Programme.

## International Training

# International Training Programme on Information Communication Technology for Rural Development

The Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) in collaboration with CGARD, organised an International Training Programme on 'Information Communication Technology for Rural Development' from February 13 to March 12, 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. This programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs (ITEC&SCAAP), Government of India.

A total of 24 delegates including 10 women, representing 16 countries namely Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Malaysia, Myanmar, Samoa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zambia participated in the programme. Majority of the delegates represented Rural Development, Agriculture, Local Governance, Cooperatives, Animal Resources, Fisheries and Youth Sport and Child Development departments.

The main focus and objectives of the programme were to:

- Sensitise and orient on the potential of ICTs and its applications, especially in Rural Development, Agriculture, Health, Education, Digital India Initiative, e-Governance, Mobile Governance, Citizen-centric Services and Geo-Informatics
- Understand the challenges faced by the ICT sector for application development, deployment and implementation and
- Demonstrate a few best ICT practices, initiatives and innovations evolved over a period of time in different parts of India, particularly pertaining to Rural Development, Agriculture, Governance and Health



To meet the above objectives, lectures, discussions, and demonstrations by various in-house and external resource persons were arranged. The topics discussed in the programme include Digital India Initiative, e-Governance, M-Governance, Information Communication Technologies, Cloud Computing, Data Centres, Information Systems, Geo-Informatics and Applications, Internet of Things (IOT), ICT Applications in Agriculture, e-Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, e-Choupal, Telemedicine, Big Data Analytics, e-Learning, Ocean Information Systems, Community Media for Rural Development, Communication Skills, ICTs in Power Sector and ICT Initiatives in managing MGNREGS.

Field visits to prominent institutions of importance namely, e-Seva-&CFST-Khairatabad, National Informatics Centre, District Rural Development Agency Mahabubnagar, CARE Foundation, ICRISAT and INCOIS have become part of the programme. A study tour to Bengaluru and Mysuru was organised where the

participants along with programme team visited ANS SIRD, Infosys Training Centre, Narayana Hrudayala, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre and National Informatics Centre for inputs on Outreach using Satellite Systems (SATCOM), High Performance Computing and Applications, Application of ICTs in Natural Disaster Management, ICT and e-Governance Applications in the State of Karnataka.

To provide insight into the culture and heritage of India, the delegates visited Golconda Fort, Salarjung Musuem, Zoological Park, and Mysore Maharaja Palace.

All the international delegates stated that they got immensely benefited from this programme, expressed their gratefulness and thanked the ITEC/AARDO for the fellowship and NIRD&PR for organising this programme. They urged more number of such programmes to be organised by CICT, NIRD&PR for benefit of the developing nations.

The programme was coordinated by Shri G V Satya Narayana, Senior Assistant Professor of Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT), Dr. V Madhava Rao, Advisor & Head (CGARD), Shri D S R Murthy, Senior Assistant Professor (CGARD) and Shri K Rajeshwar.

## NIRD&PR and CIRDAP Collaborative International Training Programme on Human Resource Development for Rural Development

**T**he Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRD&PR in association with CIRDAP organised a ten-day International Training Programme on Human Resource Development for Rural Development from March 14 to 23, 2017. This Programme was sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

A total of 15 participants representing 13 CIRDAP member countries attended the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CHRD. While interacting with the trainees Dr. Gyanmudra emphasised on importance of Human Resource Development for Society Development particularly Rural Development. Further she highlighted the self- development and motivating with the people for



attaining the success of organisations working for the Rural Development. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran and Mr. Samir Kumar Roy represented the CIRDAP, Dhaka. The programme was designed with 30 classroom sessions on human capital and rural development, communication and negotiation skills for implementation of development

programmes, attitude and behavioural change for organisational climate, training and HRD approaches and trends, emotional intelligence for enhancing performance and stress management and work-life balance and study tour to visit the different training institutions.

As part of the study visits, the participants also visited the Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, Hyderabad and interacted with the Director of the institute Shri Bodhmayananda Swami on personality development for human excellence and got exposure to various trainings on human development. They also visited Shri Ramananda

Thirtha Rural Institute, Pochampally for understanding the skill trainings for empowerment of youth and human resources. The training programme concluded on March 23, 2017. In valedictory session, Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Director General, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad was invited as guest and she interacted with the participants and emphasised the need to give more importance to human resource and humanitarian approach for bringing organisational effectiveness, particularly in Rural Development. The programme was coordinated by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor and Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CHRD.



## Workshop on Transforming India by Strengthening PRIs

**A** one-day workshop on 2nd Conclave of Partnering Institutions on 'Transforming India by Strengthening PRIs through Continuous Capacity Building' was organised on March 6, 2017 at NIRD&PR Northeast Regional Centre, Guwahati.

The agenda of the programme was 'Transforming India by Strengthening PRIs through Continuous Capacity Building'. Several reputed institutes including SIRDs, ETCs, IITs, IIMs, NEHU, NEC, Central Universities, Autonomous District Councils, Village Councils, Village Development Board and NGOs were the partnering institutes for the programme.



Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR was the chief guest at the programme. In his inaugural address, the Director General mentioned that the local governing institutions are financially empowered

through 14th Finance Commission, State Finance Commission and funds from flagship Rural Development programmes are directly reaching the Panchayats. But, the skills and educational levels of ERs of PRIs are varied. It is the dire need to adopt innovative means of capacitating and motivating the ERs and functionaries of local self-governing institutions to improve service delivery standards.

So the next step is adequate capacity building of these ERs and functionaries of PRIs to utilise these funds. There are 3 million Elected Representatives of local self-government and another 3 million functionaries are in dire need of capacity building. The time frame is 5 years and early 2 to 3 years are most important. Reaching out to these 6 million ERs and functionaries is the biggest challenge.

Talking at the programme, the Joint Director, SIRD-Nagaland said that village councils are people's institutions and VDB is the best institution of development at grassroots level in Nagaland. The need of the hour is to build the capacity of members of these

institutions. Sensitisation of flagship programmes and skill development is most important for the youth of the village.

The representative from IIM Shillong felt that the gaps should be identified and the module should be designed accordingly. The training-follow up is necessary. The information in local language is needed. Employment Generation and Income generation is need of the hour. Most of the representatives expressed that establishment of RTP is necessary in NE Region. Solar Energy is very much needed in NE Region. Rural unemployed youth can be given training in creation of solar energy infrastructure. The Director, North East Council (NEC) has expressed that NEC can sponsor few projects of capacity building which can strengthen NE Region.

The faculty from SIRD, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and representatives of IIM Shillong were also present in the programme. Dr. S N Rao, Associate Professor, Centre for Panchayati Raj participated in the programme.

## **NIRD&PR Faculty Participates in Workshop on Hindi**

H K Solanki, Senior Assistant Professor, CGARD was invited to deliver a special lecture on 'Applications of Hindi in GIS at a quarterly workshop held at ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Earth System Science Organisation, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Hyderabad on Hindi on March 27, 2017.

The lecture was attended by scientists, administrative staff and project scientists of the INCOIS.



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 **Update  
for JRD**

- **The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR has gone online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.**

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