

Newsletter



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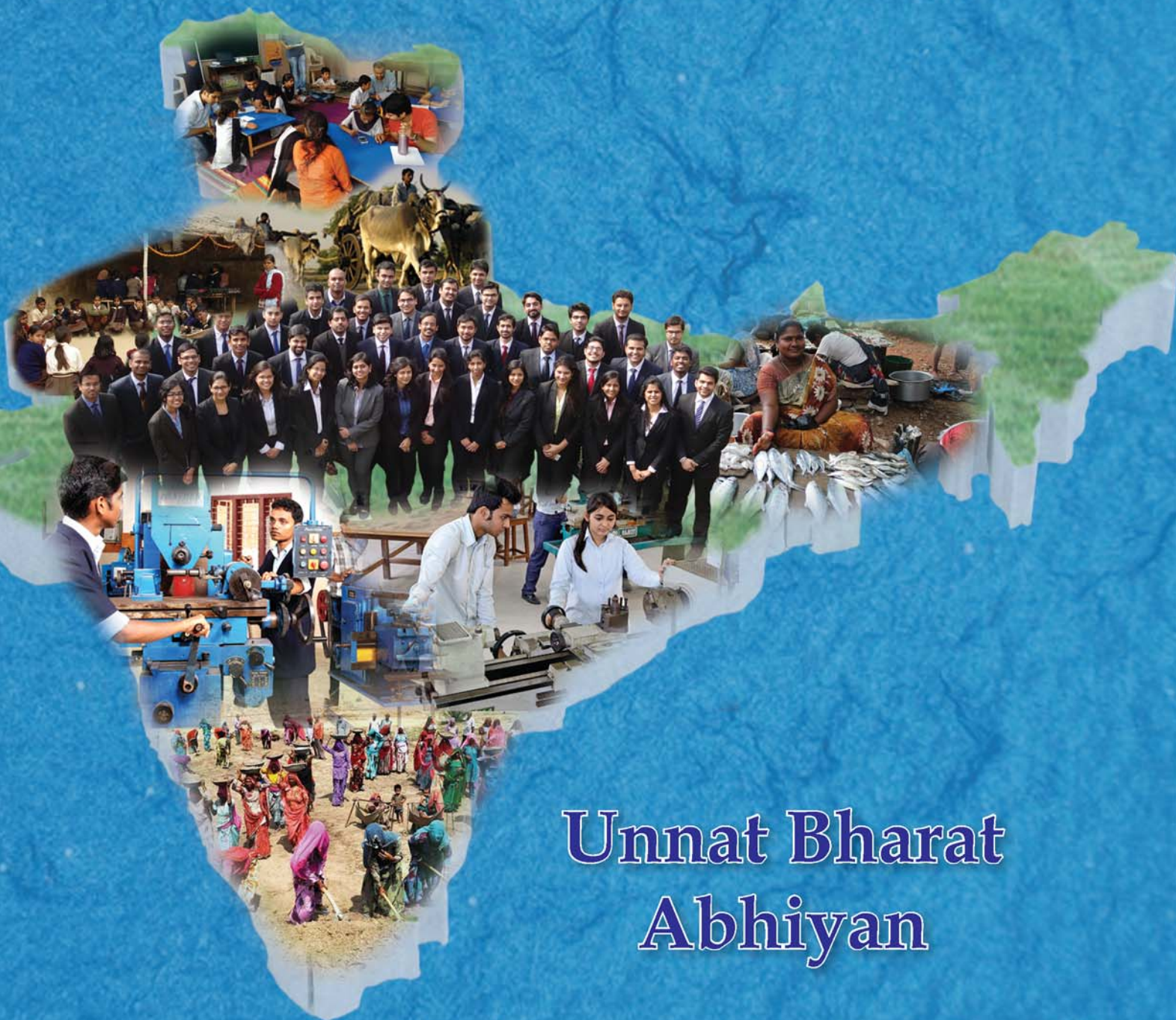


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Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

An Initiative to Connect Technological Institutes with Rural India

Census of India 2011 reveals that almost 70 per cent population of India lives in rural areas and is engaged with agriculture and allied sectors. These sectors employ as high as half of the total workforce of the country. However, it accounts only 17 per cent of the country's GDP. The disparity between rural and urban areas with respect to development indicators such as health, education, income, and basic infrastructure are huge and are leading to large scale of distress migration from rural to urban areas. Therefore, such a development is being visualised by most of the nations which can be sustained without disturbing the development paradigms of rural and urban areas. The demand of eco-friendly village development and creation of appropriate employment opportunities by using simple, local and cost-effective technologies in rural areas is one of the goals of sustainable development.

It has been felt that existing professional higher education institutions in India have largely been oriented to cater to the need of industrial sector, barring a few exceptions, have hardly contributed directly to the development of the rural sector. *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* is a much needed and highly challenging initiative in this direction. The conceptualisation of *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* began with the initiative of a group of dedicated faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) is one of the new initiatives and a fresh approach taken by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India during 2014 - 15 to meet the challenges of education in 21st century by fostering knowledge with analytical skills, logical reasoning and the

ability to imagine beyond the given time. This approach makes sure that we achieve our goals with the right value system, sensitivity and



responsibility. The programme was formally launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on November 11, 2014.

This Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. The main objective of UBA is to enable higher educational institutions of India such as IITs, IIMs, NITs, etc., to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions/technologies for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has designated IIT, Delhi as a Coordinating Institute (CI) for the *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* (UBA) to convene various



consultative workshops and meetings and 92 apex level institutions (participating institutions) to provide academic institutional resource base for implementing objectives of *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*.

In order to move towards the holistic development of villages, there are two major domains, i.e., human development and material (economic) development, which need to be developed in an integrated way. Health, education, values and perception development, skills and entrepreneurship are major components under health domain and organic agriculture and cow based economy, water management and conservation, renewable energy sources, artisans and rural industries, development and harnessing of local natural resources, basic amenities and E-support (IT enabling) are major components to be covered under economic development domain.

To implement this *Abhiyan*, the primary strategy is to encourage the participating institutions to actively participate in the process of development planning at Gram Panchayat level by creating enabling conditions and support mechanisms. There is also a strong need for capacity building and proper orientation of officials of participating institutions towards holistic development. To achieve these, workshops need to be conducted to

appraise the UBA teams about the existing government schemes from different Ministries of the Central and State governments pertaining to the development work in rural areas. They should also be acquainted with the prevailing structure of government implementation agencies, PRIs and the grassroots planning and execution process. As mentioned earlier, participating institutions need to prepare the village development plan for every cluster of villages identified in consultation with the gram sabha and district collectors.

Since NIRD&PR is India's apex body for building capacities of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj functionaries and believes in enriching the quality of life of poor rural people by meeting their basic needs and generating employment opportunities on a wider scale through decentralised planning, it has got in agreement with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi to be a partner of this important initiative. In continuation of this, NIRD&PR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on December 27, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi to develop capacity building of nodal officers of 92 participating institutions under *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* through a series of national and regional level training programmes.

In continuation of this, the Centre for Human Resource Development has organised the first Regional-level workshop on November 4, 2016 to impart orientation training on UBA to Southern Participating Institutions followed by National-level Training Programme on Capacity Building of Nodal Officers of Participating Institutes under *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* from January 4 to 6, 2107 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 coordinated by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, Dr. T Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development.

**- Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head,
Centre for Human Resource Development.**

Convocation

11th Batch of PGDRDM of NIRD&PR Graduates

The 11th convocation ceremony of Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) was held at NIRD&PR campus on December 28, 2016. A batch of 36 students who graduated received their diplomas from the Chief Guest of the occasion, Shri J. S. Mathur, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.

Gold medal for best academic performance was awarded to Ms. Sandhra Jose, while the Silver and Bronze Medals were awarded to second and third best performing students, i.e Mr. Pushphas Agarwal and Mr. P.S. Kranthi Kumar, respectively. Shri J.S. Mathur, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India graced the occasion and awarded the diplomas and medals. Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR presided over the function.

In his address, Shri J.S. Mathur, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, congratulated the graduating students and also appreciated NIRD&PR for organising this unique course in the field of Rural Development. The Secretary noticed that the students of PGDRDM have come from different academic backgrounds. He felt that it was a welcoming trend to see young talent from different fields coming to serve the rural community in this country. Reminding of the high competition in this generation, the Secretary told the students, "You have to make your mark in the profession to be noticed." He advised them to work hard and learn from experiences. He also appreciated the



curriculum of PGDRDM which includes both the classroom teaching and field visits where the students get to directly interact with the rural community. Concluding his address, the Secretary said that job satisfaction should be the ultimate aim of any profession. He said, the feel of helping someone through our job is the best thing anyone can experience.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, who administered the convocation oath to students, has congratulated the entire 11th batch of PGDRDM. In his inaugural address, the Director General informed that 98 per cent of the graduating students have secured good placements in reputed organisations including the National RURBAN Mission. The Director General expressed his gratitude to the recruiting agencies which offered good jobs to the students. Addressing the students, the Director General advised them to dream big and work hard to achieve them. He also urged them to stay connected to the Institute and comeback in future. The Director General felt that the feedback of students will help to improve the course in coming years.

PGDRDM: Batch-11: Current Profile

There were 36 students in the Eleventh Batch of PGDRDM: 2016, representing 17 States from Southern India, 2 from North-East, 2 from Northern India, 2 from Western India, 6 from

Central India and 7 from Eastern India. Of these, 11 were girls and the rest were boys with varied educational qualifications. The students came from different academic backgrounds such as Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Commerce, Management and Engineering. They have been selected through an All-India Entrance Exam followed by Group Discussion and Personal Interviews.

Placement Scenario

The first phase of the Batch-11 campus placements was held from October 24 to November 1, 2016. Reputed organisations have participated in the campus placements and offered employment to a good number of students. Around 98 per cent of the students have secured jobs in the placements.

About the Programme

The NIRD&PR's one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) has been launched when the need for Rural Development professionals is considered paramount and the concomitant grooming of talented persons non-negotiable. Developing a

cadre of committed, competent and passionate rural development professionals, is therefore, a challenge and a major mandate for all the Rural Development organisations in general and the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), the 'lead Rural Development Institution' in the country, in particular.

The first batch of PGDRDM was introduced on August 4, 2008. The successful launch of the first ten batches of PGDRDM is the seed-bed for the future PGDRDM programmes. Since 2014 two batches of NIRD&PR-PGDRDM are running concurrently with a gap of six months. Accordingly, Batch-11 started from January 27, 2016, Batch-12 started from August 16, 2016 and 13th Batch is going to start from January 23, 2017. The NIRD&PR and the Centre for PG Studies & Distance Education (CPGS&DE) leverage the governmental, voluntary and corporate industry strengths towards building Knowledge Centres, Skill Pools and Rural Development Practitioners' platforms. The aim of the programme is to develop a committed and competent cadre of Rural Development Management Professionals in the country.

Training

Training Programme on ICT Applications for Management of Rural Development Programmes



The Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) has organised a training programme on 'ICT Applications for Management of Rural Development Programmes' from December 12 to 16, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. A total of 19 participants including five women from 12 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal have participated and benefited from this programme. The participants represented various departments including the Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Zilla Parishad, SIRDs, ETCs, Agriculture, Environment and Forests and Animal Husbandry Departments.

The main focus of this programme was to sensitise functionaries of Rural Development and line departments to the potential of ICTs and its applications, e-Governance, Digital India, Geo-Informatics, Monitoring and Evaluation particularly social audit as a tool, IEC activities for better awareness of rural development programmes, project management for effective management of rural development programmes and providing skills in development of information systems.

A field visit to Choutuppal gram panchayat of newly created Yadadri district was organised for providing insight into various intricacies in managing rural development programmes at the

grassroots level concerned with MGNREGA, e-Panchayat and NSAP and also about the SHG activities. The participants, in addition to Sarpanch and officials of gram panchayat, also interacted with SHG members, learnt about the process of SHG management, livelihood activities and appreciated the efforts in the delivery of services to the rural poor and gained knowledge about the initiatives of Telangana State for poverty alleviation in general and of Yadadri district in particular. The participants were also provided an opportunity to visit RTP for learning about the innovative technologies being promoted and disseminated by NIRD&PR, and interacted with the technologists in the stalls.

The programme was well received and the participants expressed that there is need for organising many such programmes. The programme was coordinated by Shri G V Satya Narayana, Senior Assistant Professor of Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT).

Training Programme on 'E-Governance Strategies for Improved Service Delivery'

National-level training programme on 'E-Governance Strategies for Improved Service Delivery' was organised by Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) from December 5 to 9, 2016 at NIRD&PR. A total of 23 participants from State and District-level planning offices, officers (Development Branch) dealing with all Government of India and State Government schemes including flagship programmes, MPLADS, SRWP, CRRP, NSAP, IA&CDP, ISYDP and DRDA schemes, officials from RDDs, Nodal Officers, Academicians, Scholars and NGOs participated.

This training programme aimed at addressing the following objectives:



- To discuss the need and concept of E-Governance in service delivery
- To draw inferences from the best practices of E-Governance initiatives
- To generate knowledge and skills about the role of E-Governance for achieving the goal of better governance
- To make the participants adopt E-Governance initiatives for better service delivery

The training programmes focused to cover the following four modules:

Module 1: Good Governance: A disciplinary transformative concepts

Module 2: E-Governance: A significant transformative in contemporary society

Module 3: E- Governance is leading to best practices, transparency, accountability and better service delivery

Module 4: Strategies for E-Governance as empirical factors of state performance

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of Lecture-cum-discussion; Role Playing; Debate; Exposure Visits, Group Exercises; Mock Panchayats; Presentation by groups and individuals, and Report Submission.

This programme was planned to cover different topics related to **E-Governance Strategies for Improved Service Delivery** by different subject experts by covering the topics like Aspects of E-Governance in India, Good Governance-Indian Perspectives and Significance of E-Governance in Rural Development, Governance Roadmaps and Capacity Building of organisations in Planning and Implementing IT systems, Adopted E Governance strategies for better service delivery, NIRD&PR's experiences with E-office and E Procurement, ICT in Agriculture and Rural Development, Geo-information Technology in Rural Development: NIRD&PR Experiences and Behavioural Change to citizen centric approach to delivering government services.

As part of the field training, one-day field visit was arranged to observe the E-Governance initiatives by Department of Consumer Affairs and Civil Supplies, Government of Telangana mainly focusing on new E-Governance initiatives like Online Procurement Managements System (OPMS), SCM, FMS System, etc. On final day, participants made a presentation on their training and field visit learnings.

Dr.K.Prabhakar, Assistant Professor and Dr.M.Sarumathy, Head & Associate Professor, Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGGPA) were the organisers of this training programme.

International Training

International Training Programme on Tools and Techniques for Improving the Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food Processing Business

Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), Tokyo, in collaboration with NIRD&PR and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh conducted a programme for women on 'Tools and Techniques for Improving the Productivity of Micro and Small Agro Food Processing Business' from November 7 to 11, 2016.

The theme of the programme was 'Use of productivity tools and techniques in enhancing the competencies of women in improving productivity of micro and small agri-food businesses'. The programme mainly focused on 'Kaizen', a Japanese approach which calls for continuous improvement that seeks to achieve small, incremental changes in processes in order to improve efficiency and quality



of Micro and Small enterprises. The resource persons of the programme Dr. Louie A. Divinagracia, Professor, University of the Philippines, Ms. Darunee Edwards, Advisor, International Union of Food Science and Technology, Thailand, Ms. Niña Maria B. Estudillo from National Productivity Council (NPC), Tokyo and Ms. Chaya Nunjappa from India, conducted their sessions on these key areas:

- Steps and considerations for planning and starting micro and small agri-food processing enterprises
- The 5-S approach of productivity improvement in the context of micro and small enterprises in agri-food processing business

- Food safety and quality management tools and food product shelf life for micro and small agri-food processing enterprises
- Value chain upgradation in Asian agri-business industries
- Product development process (Food product development system and food innovation concept)

Apart from seventeen women participants from twelve countries, faculty of NIRD&PR from the Centres of Gender Studies and Rural Livelihoods also participated in the programme to gain their insights on improving the productivity of micro and small enterprises. The participants visited two women based enterprises of Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of Andhra Pradesh (ALEAP) and presented their feedback on the working conditions and ways to improve the productivity of these enterprises which was posted back to ALEAP by the Programme Coordinator, Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor, Centre for Agrarian Studies.

International Training Programme on Community Driven Rural Development

The International Training Programme on Community Driven Rural Development was held from November 28, 2016 to January 8, 2017. The programme was coordinated by Dr. G. Valentina, Associate Professor, CESD.

There were 25 participants attending the programme from 13 countries namely, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Botswana, Fiji, Ghana, Myanmar, Niger, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda. The participants attending the programme were from the middle level management, involved in Rural Development in their respective countries.

The programme was inaugurated by the Director General Dr. W.R. Reddy who interacted with the participants and inspired them to work for rural development with passion and suggested the participants to inculcate the habits of reading and keep abreast with the literature written by eminent persons to enrich moral and spiritual learning and living; and cultivate the habit of writing and documenting the events that surpassed during the day. He also discussed on the utilisation of the rural connect portal on the NIRD&PR Website which provides a platform for the participants to upload Rural Development experiences.

Inputs were given in the training programme to the participants on development of knowledge, skill and attitude, related to community driven rural development. Knowledge based inputs were given in the programme through classroom lectures while skill based interventions were given through group discussions, role plays and exploration of concepts on Community Driven Rural Development by the participants. Attitude-change interventions were made possible through sessions on personality development, building leadership and motivation for Rural Development.



Reputed and renowned resource persons spoke on Indicators and Measurements of poverty across SAARC, CIRDAP member countries, SDGs, Sustainable Agriculture Practices, Natural Resource Management and Biotechnology Interventions, Climate Change and Environment, etc.

Understandings on community driven rural development was organised through presentations on community driven rural development from respective countries of the participants represented through country reports and discussions with the participants on community driven rural development models available in India, South Korea (Saemaul Undong), Myanmar, North Eastern States of India, etc.

Discussions on building blocks for community driven rural development on education, health, energy management, GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plans), inclusion of transgender and marginalised sections (SC & ST), differently abled individuals provided avenues for reviewing community driven rural development interventions for the participants. Approaches of community driven rural development were discussed through PRA techniques, log frame work and participatory tools.

Best practices in community driven rural development were provided to the participants by organising field visits on sustainable agriculture practices through community involvement at Shameerpet, marketing of food grains by SHGs at Bhongir, community driven updating of land records at Jangaon, agriculture produce marketing committees and women based dairy cooperatives at Mulkanoor, Warangal, asset based community development and any time water (ATW) intervention at Gangadevipalli, social audit intervention for community development at Ibrahimpatnam, technology transfer through community participation - ARTI Pune, CSR intervention in rural development by Zuari Agro Chemicals at Goa and model village interventions at Ralegaon Siddhi and a lively interaction with Padma Bhushan Shri Anna Hazare have been part of the field visit interventions.

Role of women in community development was specially emphasised to recognise that women too have an important role to play in community development, which was neglected. Session on gender budgeting and best practices on livelihoods in women SHGs and empowerment of women and community interventions in managing human trafficking and sexual harassment in women incorporated additional inputs for community driven rural development

Community based disaster management by national disaster response force was a challenging experience, who displayed all the indigenous and

scientific techniques (which can be utilised in disaster management) and demonstrated the role of community in management of national disasters.

Marketing and packaging techniques for community based entrepreneurship development, skill development, role of GIS application were additional inputs for strengthening community driven rural development, extended to the participants.

Finally, planning, monitoring and evaluation on community driven rural development programmes gave a clarity to the participants to

view community driven rural development in a project mode. In conclusion, participants gave five group presentations on classroom based learnings on community driven rural development, field based learnings on community driven rural development, perceptions of participants on community driven rural development, challenges on community driven rural development and role of government and NGOs in affecting community driven rural development which were assessed by an external expert and participants received valuable comments on how to draft and work for community driven rural development projects in their countries.

International Programme on Corporate Social Responsibility in Community Development

Social Responsibility always has a significant role in controlling the perils of uncontrolled development, satisfying the needs of the present generation and at the same time ensuring the resources of future generations

that shall not be jeopardised. It is much less publicised but deeper aspect of the importance in India comes to light when one considers Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a concept that covers a range of issues under the fabric of sustainable development. Keeping this in view, a one-month International Training Programme on 'Corporate Social Responsibility in Community Development' was conducted from November 28 to December 25, 2016 at its green campus in the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad (Telangana).

This training programme aimed to enhance better understanding on the CSR tools and techniques in planning and effective management of rural and social issues via CSR and would be beneficial to CSR heads, senior and middle-level managers, academia, implementing partners and practitioners and renowned NGOs in various developing countries. A total of 22 senior level officers representing the Corporates/PSUs and Developmental Functionaries from various



developing countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe participated.

While formally inaugurating the programme, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS., Director General, NIRD&PR, has emphasised the role of corporates / financial institutions in the social sector development through various forms of responsibilities; the conjoined efforts of corporate giants and people private partnership could provide a path for inclusive development and for which NIRD&PR would be an ideal platform to cater to this set-up.

The programme director, Dr. Murugesan Ramasamy has given a detailed presentation on the picture of CSR in India - Evolution of Act, 2013, role and salient features in Rural Development and the CSR guidelines issued for CPSUs by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Government of India. Further he also explained the concept of Sustainability and CSR Reporting Procedures covering Transparency and Accountability in CSR spending and various provisions for welfare measures and punishment clauses as referred in the Act of 2013.

Dr. Nagendra Nath Sharma, Chairperson (ICPP), Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida has delivered special lecture on 'Regulatory Framework for CSR in India' covering its impacts on corporates and suitable tools for identifying CSR that uplifts the poor in our country. Shri Mangesh R. Gupte, Director & Head CSR, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad handled a session on 'Multiple Approaches and Dynamics in CSR', by specifying the role of DRL on the health sector and benefiting the downtrodden. As part of the curriculum, participants were taken to M/s. GMR Varalakshmi Foundations, Shamshabad to witness the CSR initiatives and had interactions with Shri R Durga Prasad, Head CSR and his Associate

Programme Manager, Smt. Bharathi Kode in the foundation. Dr. R. R. Prasad, Consultant (Head, CESD-NIRD&PR) has shared his experiences with the participants and listed out the 'Challenges and Effective CSR Models for Rural Development'.

The participants were taken to various innovative CSR initiatives implemented by companies like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Infosys and special initiatives of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka and Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) at Tumkuru, Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysore districts, respectively during their field visit programme. They also visited the giant facility that serves for safe drinking water to the rural masses and interacted with Shri Karunakar Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, M/s. Smaatindia Limited at Hyderabad.

Dr. Murugesan has also stressed about 'Sustained Rural Development: Role of Corporates' by referring to the active social initiatives of various PSUs and Foundations in the country. Overall, the participants expressed their happiness over the programme content, boarding facilities and accommodation at NIRD&PR and field visit arrangements. Finally, the programme director has briefed about the future plan of action to organise specialised capacity building programmes exclusively to benefit all executives of needy PSUs and Private Companies / Enterprises and to conduct baseline surveys, situation analysis, need assessments and impact studies on CSR for those who approach NIRD&PR on time, and aiming to develop a hub for all the stakeholders in this Institute. The programme concluded on December 25, 2016 with vote of thanks to all sponsors and active participation of delegates.

CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on ‘Smart Agriculture’

A Collaborative International Training Programme on ‘Smart Agriculture’, sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India was organised by the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad from December 12 to 21, 2016. Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Bangladesh has 15 member countries of which officials from 12 countries participated in the programme representing Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Agricultural Planning, AP Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Bac Giang Agriculture and Forestry University (BAFU), covering Asia-Pacific countries. The programme was organised by Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Associate Professor (CCC&DM), Dr. Siddayya, Associate Professor (CNRM), Dr. E. V. Prakash Rao, Professor and Head (CCC&DM) NIRD&PR, Hyderabad and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The programme was conceptualised with four modules such as i) Concepts and Perspectives on Smart Agriculture, ii) Land Development and Soil Health Management, iii) Farming Systems and iv) Agriculture Sustainability and Productivity. The broad content of the programme was smart agriculture in Asia and Pacific countries, facets of climate change: impact and adaptation strategies, impact of climate change on agriculture; Building capacities of institutions and individuals, resource conservation agriculture, geo-spatial technologies in sustainable land management for Smart



Agriculture. IFS, millets-based farming systems for nutritional security, virtual agricultural systems, rainwater harvesting and management practices, innovative approaches in application of biological control in IPM of major crops, INM, livestock management, community based approaches to climate smart agriculture, etc. Eminent speakers delivered their lectures in an interactive mode, classroom simulations and exercises.

During the field visit, participants visited rainwater harvesting structures adopted in Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University campus, Hyderabad and organic farming practices followed by Mr. Swami Reddy in vegetable (such as chilli, tomato, snake gourd, bottle gourd, bitter gourd and grape cultivation near Shamshabad. Participants attended an International Conference on Agriculture: Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture at Taj Vivanta, Hyderabad organised by Cenetri Publishing Group, Hyderabad. Vice-Chancellors from five Universities addressed the Academicians viz., Dr. H. Shivanna, University of Agriculture Sciences, Bengaluru, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Dr. Hari C. Sharma, Dr. Y. S. Parmar, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Dr. P.D. Juyal,

Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur, and Dr. S. Thilagar, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai. Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR interacted with the participants and shared his experiences on soil and water conservation practices, resurgence of pest in the advent of climate change and adaptive

technologies. This programme was concluded by the valedictory address and distribution of course certificate by Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General, CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He emphasised on packaging the Sustainable Development Goals to address the social aspects in coordination with their prevailing environment and livelihoods.

NIRD&PR Initiative

University of Reading, UK Collaborates with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

The limited uptake of agricultural innovations with proven productivity-enhancing potential and the translation of agriculture productivity increase into improvements in nutrition are the two major challenges in the country. Assessments of the impacts of agricultural interventions so far, have been largely confined to an examination of the productivity increase achieved in relation to the potential.

However, it has been recognised that the uptake of innovations may be significantly influenced by the human energy expenditure and time-use patterns associated with the use of innovations. Further, the impact of increased productivity on nutrition for individual members of agricultural households may be mediated by the gender-differentiated intra-household labour and consumption allocation decisions. Incorporation of the energy expenditure dimension in the analysis of the uptake and impact of agricultural innovations has been constrained by the lack of reliable and robust

empirical measurement of energy expenditure associated with agricultural activities. In this context, School of Agricultural Policy and Development, University of Reading has entered into a collaboration with NIRD&PR to conduct a study on *“Developing protocols for the use of wearable accelerometry and sensor-based devices in agricultural livelihoods research in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs)”*.

This study will be conducted in rural Telangana State with EPSRC Global Challenges Research Fund. The main output of this study will be a systematic assessment of the feasibility of developing reliable livelihood activity and energy expenditure profiles in rural agricultural settings by integrating accelerometry data with self-reported activity profile data. The study will also enable assessment of the potential and constraints for scaling up empirical measurement of energy expenditure patterns for larger studies. The study will be coordinated by Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor, Centre for Agrarian Studies.

Case Study

Circular Economy

The Idea of a Circular Economy

Three interesting facts: (i) China is one of the leading importers of recyclable wastes from all over the world. [These wastes take rebirth in the form of children's toys, household utility items, etc., and get to the markets of poorer countries in Asia, and Africa]; (ii) In the West, recycling is generally thought of as a civic, responsible, and green activity, whereas in China recycling is a market-driven economic activity; and (iii) Waste is a misplaced resource, in other words, the very expression 'waste' is a perception, that is untrue or flawed. Any product that is placed in the hands of consumers - after it becomes obsolete - must get back for recycling / reprocessing /

that 'market-based economy' and 'sustainable development' do not go together. Circular Economy is a concept that attempts a marriage between these two conflicting concepts. If we can recall J C Kumarappa, this is what he called 'Economy of Permanence'.

A Case in Point

During a field visit in Tamil Nadu, it was interesting to find one Kurudampalayam Gram Panchayat, in Coimbatore district not merely manages solid waste well; rather it recovers usable resources from waste. Therefore, this Panchayat forbids the usage: 'solid waste management', and replaces it with 'solid resource management'. It has taken off slightly a little before the launching of Swachh Bharat Mission. The Solid and Liquid Resource Management (SLRM) Unit at Kurudampalayam, as it is locally known, has a lot to offer to other Gram Panchayats desirous of drawing ideas for managing solid wastes from households, schools, institutions, restaurants, and marriage halls in rural areas, and how to convert them into resources that become reusable.

Kurudampalayam Gram Panchayat is located very close to Coimbatore city in Tamil Nadu. It has 14 wards, with a population of 33,000 that make into 11,360 households. There are marriage halls, restaurants, shops, schools and so on. The amount of daily waste generated in eight of the wards covered, as of now, is not less than 800 kgs per day. The practice that existed before the introduction of solid resource management system in Kurudampalayam was 'discarding domestic refuse in street corners, and in the open drains'.

The Panchayat President (*Sarpanch*), and one ward member have got down seriously into



reshaping into other usable items. Nothing goes as waste. Reportedly, while there are many large licensed reprocessing facilities in China, the industry is dominated by small family-run enterprises. Moving away from 'Take - Make - Use - Throw', China's responsible and sustainable environmental policy promotes the idea of circular economy, where production function is not linear, but circular. By and large, it is recognised now

finding a remedy to this malady while not many find the idea of collecting and handling garbage comfortable or enticing. After nearly three years of struggle, Kurudampalayam Gram Panchayat SLRM is now a model that receives visitors / development tourists almost daily. Currently, the monthly operational expenses come to ₹ 2.0 to ₹ 2.5 lakh. The unit is involved in every minutiae of solid waste management. There are also short-term training programmes in SWM conducted in the premises of Kurudampalayam SWM Unit. The support of the DRDA, Coimbatore is remarkable as well.

Approach to Solid Waste Management

The basic approach to solid waste management in Kurudampalayam is that there is almost nothing that can be called 'waste'. This is based on the premise *that any waste can be converted into resource that can provide utilitarian value as a useful product*. It might require changing the form through certain amount of processing, and presentation of the same, in a manner acceptable in the market. Any waste can be converted into a useful product. So, in Kurudampalayam it is not about solid waste management in the minimalist sense; rather it is about scientific management of solid waste. Besides this, tertiary (third level) segregation is something unique at Kurudampalayam which is done with the idea of recovering every recyclable item from the waste collected. The resource recovery chain is really long and tedious. The Unit is running since October 2013.

Kurudampalayam recovers from waste: vermi-cast, vermi-compost, vermi-wash, organic compost, bio-gas, scouring powder, egg shell powder used in rose gardens, *Panchacavya* used as fertiliser, *Poochiviratti* (pest repellents), etc., and the recyclables are sold to scrap dealers. They have branded their products as Eco-Venture Products. Kurudampalayam is a bank of ideas for solid

waste management. Viewing waste as a resource is, in fact, a healthy stance. One question is: Is it practically promising to put forth a brilliant resource recovery argument, sticking to the bare facts of the matter that it is financially sustainable? The answer to this question can be found from the viewpoints of the *environmental economics*, and from the standpoint of *monetary value*.

We can certainly appreciate the spirit behind the statement that 'waste' is a constructed-image or an erroneous perception that requires revising. Given the financial standing of the Gram Panchayats to manage sanitation and street cleaning services, considering waste as a resource makes an economic sense, only if we can recover at least a part of operational expenses incurred in converting waste into wealth / cash. Such an income can at least partly help sustain the operational expenses incurred in providing such services within the Panchayat – and to that extent the amount of service charge required to be collected from the users can be brought down. The gross recovery made by converting 'waste into resource' in Kurudampalayam is 20% [of the expenditure incurred on the entire operations starting from collection, segregation, etc.]. The balance comes from the households as user charges, and also through CSR support.

One great thing we need to learn from the 'waste into resource' argument of Kurudampalayam Gram Panchayat is: *the more you convert waste into usable commodities, and recyclable items, etc., the less you demand from the fresh resources of the earth*. This is precisely the idea of responsible well-being, circular economy, and sustainable development. As humans grow in civilisation, ideas such as 'responsible well-being' and 'circular economy or economy of permanence' should be the path we take.

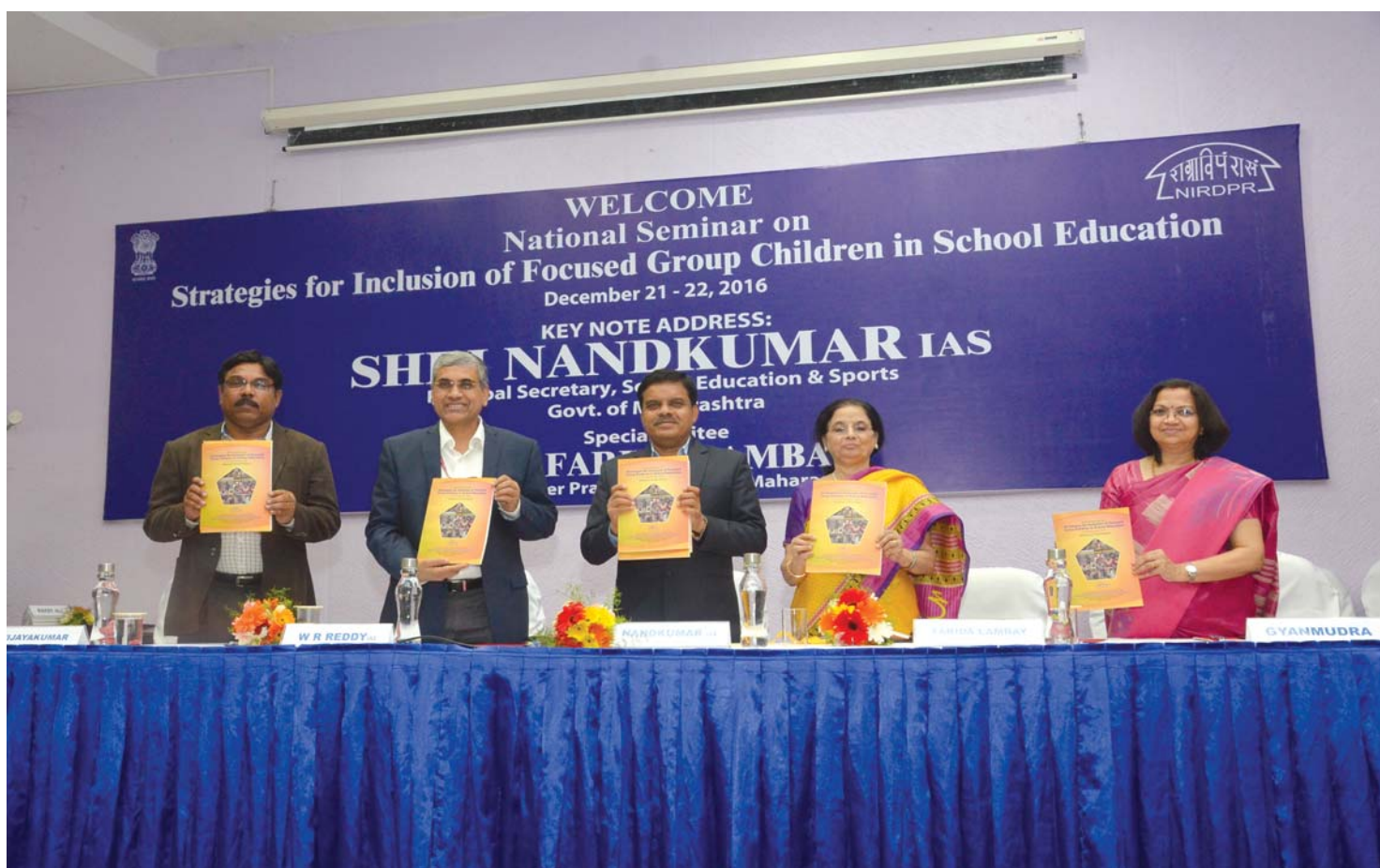
-Dr. R. Ramesh,
Assistant Professor,
Centre for Rural Infrastructure.

Seminar

National Seminar on Strategies for Inclusion of Focused Group Children in School Education

The Centre for Human Resource Development organised a two-day National Seminar on Strategies for Inclusion of Focused Group Children in School Education on December 21 and 22, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The concept of inclusion and inclusive education has become more popular in acceptance as a process to reform education systems for ensuring quality education to all the children. The issue of inclusion of all those excluded children into the school education has become a major challenge in implementation of inclusion education policies. Creating learning friendly environments for

children with disabilities, children from different ethnicity and language diversity, children who are from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and gender issues are of greater significance in school education. Education must be viewed as facilitator in everyone's human development and functionality regardless of any kind of barriers. Inclusion thus involves adopting a broad vision of education for all by addressing the spectrum of needs of all learners including those who are vulnerable to marginalisation and exclusion to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



The Seminar was inaugurated on December 21, 2016 with a welcome address by Director General Dr.W.R. Reddy, IAS. He emphasised the significance of inclusion of focused group children in education for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Seminar Director briefed the genesis of organising the National seminar with ten years of field experience in monitoring and evaluation of flagship programmes viz., SSA-RTE, RMSA and Mid-day Meal scheme of the country in education sector. Shri Nand Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary School Education and Sports, Government of Maharashtra, delivered keynote address and highlighted the need to mainstream the Out-of-School Children and explained the initiative of Government of Maharashtra, the SARAL programme.

The school management committees are expected to make efforts for Zero Migration and funds are provided to conduct a proper survey to identify the migrating children and further Shri Nand Kumar emphasised on use of IT to mainstream the focused group children in education and monitor the attendance system. The special invitee of the Seminar, Mrs. Farida Lambay, Co-Founder of PRATHAM in her speech highlighted the need to focus on child labourers and mainstream them into school education by providing child-friendly environment in schools. She further focused on voluntary organisations, need for working with Government to address the problem of dropouts in school education. The inaugural programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor.

Two panel sessions were organised as part of the seminar on “**Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusion of Diverse Need Children in School Education**” and “**Empowering Community for Inclusion**” by eminent resource persons as panellists, Dr. Ali Rafat, IAS (Retd.) Former SPD, SSA, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. G. Gopal Reddy, Additional Director, School Education, Government of Telangana, Prof. C. Madhumathi Reddy, Former Dean, Faculty of Education, Osmania University, Prof. N. Upender Reddy, Consultant, Department of Education, Government of Telangana, Mr. Isidore

Philips, Chief, Divya Disha and Mr. Sree Nagesh, Save the Children, Mrs. Sunita Burra, Pratham, Mrs. T. Praveena, CSR Specialist, Hetero Group, Dr. E. Venkatesu, Senior Faculty, University of Hyderabad and Shri Rajaiah, Lifetime Achievement awardee by NUEPA, etc., working on different issues of focused group children representing from NCERT, Universities, Government and Voluntary organisations. The panel sessions were chaired by Prof. C. G. Venkatesh Murthy, RIE, NCERT, Mysore and Prof. R. C. Patel, Dean, Faculty of Education and Psychology, M. S. University, Baroda, Gujarat. A total of 40 delegates representing various States viz., Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have presented their research papers in Four Technical Sessions on identified sub-themes such as:

- **Barriers-free environment and access in schools**
- **Ensuring participation in education**
- **Ensuring acceptance in inclusion**
- **Learning achievement in education**

In valedictory session Prof. J. B. G. Tilak, Vice-Chancellor, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi addressed the delegates of the seminar by highlighting the importance of inclusion of Focused Group Children in School Education and mentioned that education is considered as Human Development and equitable quality education should be provided both in rural and urban areas by expanding the education system to eradicate the inequality. Rate of change in development of disadvantaged community should be seen as an important indicator for educational development. Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CHRD focused on ‘special children are part of the family and need to show special concern to include them in education system’. The seminar was organised by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor of Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRD & PR.

NIRD&PR Events



MoPR Secretary, Shri J S Mathur at Conclave on Partnering Institutions on Transforming India through Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Team Demonstrating the Rescue Tools and Techniques at NIRD&PR



Senior Journalist and Political Commentator Shri Paranjay Guha Thakurta Delivering a Lecture at NIRD&PR

A Talk on Digital Payments by Smt. Nailini, AGM, State Bank of Hyderabad





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>.

OIGS

Book-Post (Contains Printed Matter)



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