



I S T M

T I M E S

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Reader

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the New Year, 2011 have commenced. I wish and pray that this New Year brings happiness, prosperity, health and peace to our Readers and well wishers. May this New Year also see peace, harmony and development in our country! We all should join in our efforts to work together to ensure that our country reaches to new heights in providing services to weaker sections and backward areas of the country.



ISTM also dedicate itself for qualitative improvement in its efforts to improve competency and effectiveness in government offices during the New Year. I am sure 2011 will see ISTM in its new *avatar*. I would like to share with you that Shri Prithviraj Chavan, the then Minister of State (PP) during his visit to ISTM on 19.7.2010 expressed his views and expectations from this institute and encouraged us to take ISTM to new heights. The commitment of MOS (PP) to ISTM was evident and it was felt that now it is our duty to translate his expectations into actions and transform ISTM into one of the best training and management institutes of the country. Thereafter we held a Brain Storming Session under the leadership of Shri B. S. Baswan, former Director of ISTM and IIPA. Now I would be very happy to receive suggestions to improve the reach and services of this institute. Taking a clue from Stephen R Covey's famous book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People", the ISTM should be "opportunity minded" rather than "problem minded". There are abundant opportunities in the form of enthusiasm, all out support, resources and desire to change. We have to keep the momentum going. Even if I am not here as the Director of the institute, I wish ISTM to grow to greater heights in 2011 and coming years. We must dream big and convert our dreams into success stories.

I must also share with you that, in a series of publications, we have recently brought out compilation of "Important Decisions of Central Information Commission". The book *Continued on page2*



provides a good insight into the development of law as interpreted by Information Commission in its different judgments under different aspects of RTI. This book has been received excellently well. We are receiving requests from different organizations for more copies for use by their CPIOs. Another recent publication is "Compendium of Frequently Asked Questions and Suggested Responses on Different Facets of Right to Information Act, 2005". I am quite sure that it will also be similarly well received by its users.

ISTM organized a National Seminar on "RTI – Key to Good Governance" on 29th October 2010. The Seminar was inaugurated by Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India and Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission. It was also addressed by Shri A N Tiwari, Chief Information Commissioner, Government of India, and many other eminent bureaucrats, social activists, vice chancellors, jurists, public authorities and academicians. The details of the event are available in subsequent pages of this newsletter. We will soon publish the proceedings of the Seminar for the benefit of those who could not attend the Seminar. Another important event of ISTM will be an RTI training programme for participants from South Asian countries on behalf of Commonwealth Secretariat. The ISTM had organized a similar program earlier on the request of the Commonwealth Secretariat. We have also conducted "Training of Trainers" programme more vigorously by conducting a large number of courses in this area. We have also been approached by Departments of Corporate Affairs, Statistics, AR&PG, Cabinet Secretariat and others to provide our expertise in the areas of TNA, Designing of Training programmes and conducting Specialized and Domain Area Capacity Building Programmes. These are new areas in which ISTM has entered in addition to its strong traditional base of 'Office Management' related programmes. We have also entered into an initial stage of dialogue with Indira Gandhi National Open University for strengthening training programmes through distance learning mode with the help of expertise and infrastructures of the University.

I am mentioning all these achievements to inform our valuable readers that ISTM has successfully ventured out to many new unconventional areas. We have shown our strength by adjusting ourselves to changing demands of the time

The winter is in full bloom and we await for Spring by the end of February, when Delhi will be full of flowers of all colours. This is generally considered as the best season of Delhi and one also sees many festivals including *Lohri*. We also celebrate our Republic Day on 26th January. I wish you all the best and convey Season's Greetings. I specifically convey my greetings for the Republic Day.

I once again wish you a Very Happy New Year.

Dr. Khwaja M Shahid

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor souls who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the grey twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt