

# CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Quality education and research always lead to betterment of oneself and the society at large. Earlier the ideas and concepts were generated sporadically by the individuals; some of them were outstanding thinkers and exceptional genius. Nowadays research has been institutionalized. Concepts for steering the society to a desired state are mostly emanating from the institutions. Individual genius does have leeward space in the field like literature, philosophy or futuristic technology.

Institutional knowledge is deployed for regulating the territory, serving the population as also building a dream world for maximum happiness to the maximum people. When India gained independence after long British rule, there were innumerable doubting Thomases. The sceptics would pronounce collapse of the nation-state under the pressure of plethora of problems. But, within a century of end of its humiliation, India is set to emerge as the second largest economy of the world and would beat the U.S. in size of GDP. India has become one of the major poles in a multipolar international order and a beacon of hope for countries in Asia and Africa. What made this possible was institutionalization of research. From the very first day, government of the day invested in institutions of higher research—from science, humanities to smart governance. Thus, we find how these institutions operate as chiasma of governance inspite of periodic change of governments based upon varying ideologies.

The current issue of the Journal of Indian Research carries several papers that directly impinge on governmentality. There are papers on study of impact of industrialization on local populace, sustainability of water bodies, cost of cultivation for different groups of farmers in different regions, India's involvement in geopolitics-cum-geo-economics of Asia. We are publishing a long essay by a governance-practitioner on effective management of Panchayats in India. Ajay S. Singh argues in the essay, "*Effective Management of Panchayat in India- An Approach Paper*" that after the recommendations made by the Fourteenth Union Finance Commission, fund devolution to Gram Panchayats(GP) has increased significantly.... There are several schemes of Government of India being implemented through Panchayats or providing benefits to villagers with direct or indirect involvement of GP. Schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), PM Antyodaya Yojana (PMAY), PM Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) of Ministry of Rural Development, National Drinking Water Mission and Swachha Bharat Mission-Grameen of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation have annual allocation of more than Rs.1.28 lakh crores. Similarly, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Human Resource Development have huge allocations for rural areas. Governments alone spend an average amount of

about Rs.2 crore in every GP every year. This huge allocation is not yielding desired results due to severe constraints of infrastructure, capacity to plan and execute village development and social sector projects, and lack of delegation of financial powers along with accountability systems. Mr. Singh details the existing software for financial management and how these may be synergised to get useful information without doing redundant and duplicate activities for financial management and monitoring of the fund released to GPs.

We hope that the academic community would enrich the forthcoming issues of the Journal of Indian Research with similar doable concepts for betterment of the country.

I am happy to extend warm wishes and greetings for the New Year 2018 to all the readers, contributors and the JIR team.



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