

Chapter 7

WHAT OTHERS OPINE

During the phase of transition in the Institute, the visitors, dignitaries and media made their own opinion-independent of the pressures or constraints. They have also either recorded it in the visitor's book or conveyed it in the shape of tour note or shared it in the print media. A facsimile of their original views are reproduced here:

Visitors Book			
No.	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	H.E. THE GOVERNOR, H.P.		<p>It was an extremely educational experience to come here and attend the inauguration of conference on Bhoti language. The HIPA is rendering a yeoman service to the society by facilitating organising such conferences.</p> <p>I wish the organizers all the best in their efforts</p> <p><i>Ajit Narayan</i></p>

Views expressed by His Excellency, Sh. V.S. Kokje, Hon'ble Governor of H.P.

Visitors Book				
No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	21-04-2005	AJIT NARAYAN, JG Police, HP Shimla.		<p>Visited the campus during in connection with a seminar on National Security. It was a very pleasant and memorable experience. The premises have been maintained very nicely. The scenic beauty from the campus is superb.</p> <p><i>Ajit Narayan</i> 21.4.2005.</p>

Views expressed by Sh. Ajit Narayan, the then Director General of Police of H.P.

Visitors Book				
S.No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	30/11/04	Prabhu Pingali, Director FAO, Rome, Italy		I had a wonderful stay in HIPA. Its a wonderful institution in a great location. The staff were very friendly and extremely helpful. I hope to have a chance to come back again.
	01/12/04	B. K. SIKKA, FAO, National Consultant, New delhi		Prabhu Pingali The service is very good. Staff is very helpful & nice. I wish them best of luck. 11/12/04
	1/12/04	EDWARD S SEIDLER Senior off (Mktg) FAO. ROME ITALY		Excellent environment and catering 1/12/04

Remarks of the Representatives of FAO, ROME, ITALY

Visitors Book			
Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
1.12.04	SATYA PRAKASH THAKUR CHAIRMAN, H.P. MARKETING BOARD KHALINI - SHIMLA	0172-2621347	Excellent environment and Excellent Arrangements - Hospitality - Signature
1.12.04	Dr. S. A. Sabur, Professor, Dept. of Coop. & Marketing BAU. Bangladesh		Beautiful place, Excellent hospitality Excellent arrangement. Signature
1.12.04	R. Rathakrishna, India Institute of Economic Research, Mumbai		I have had very pleasant experience during my three days stay in the guest house. The guest house and canteen staff members treats us well. M.
1.12.04	T. Satyanarayana Secretary Indian Society of Agri. Mktg, Nagpur-6		Serving and management of the canteen is excellent The food needs some South Indian Touch also Signature

Visitors Book				
No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	12-3-05	Kul Bhatnagar 161 on board		It is great feeling to be here. Great respect & great hospitality. It is very good to be here. Thank you Kul Bhatnagar
	21-3-2004	S.S. Poojari C.S. H.P.		Excellent infrastructure very informative, interesting session It was a pleasure to be associated with 6-day. Thanks! S.S. Poojari 21/3/04

Visitors Book				
Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks	
17 th June 2005	M. SHANKAR SECRETARY, GOVT. OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT		The SIRD here must be one of the most beautiful ones in the country. The environment is excellent for the purpose of training and for intellectual exercises. I am sure the trainees here will go back with renewed vigour to put into practice what they learn here. The staff both the academic and other is good and courteous. M Shankar 17/6/2005	

Visitors Book				
No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	19.6.'05	Latit Mathur, Director General, National Inst. of Rural Development Hyderabad		An exquisite environment, with a sense of history. Building on the best of the past, with an eye to the future - a determined effort seems to be on. I am certain that ^{HRD and} the NIRD will play a significant role in shaping the course of development in the State. The stay here has been especial, and the care and concern outstanding. Harquinn 19/6

Visitors Book				
No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	27.6.05	Justice NS Rao, C.W.D.T. Conveyance Disputes Tribunal Janpath Bahawan, New Delhi - 11.	off. 23711603 Res. 23387717.	Was thrilled to have a short but very pleasant stay. Thanks for the kind hospitality. Surroundings and lawns are very well kept. Keep it up. Wishing all the best.

Visitors Book				
No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	26/5	Jayati Chandra J.S. (DD) Ministry of Social Justice & Empow- erment. Govt of India	23383004.	Very warm hospitality. Lovely surroundings, and modern conveniences facilities. The library particularly is very good. I would love to come back. Congratulations to the manage- ment.

Visitors Book			
Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
23/6/07	Dr Subas Pami	011-23384467	The commitment & care of the Director & his team in keeping the institute in excellent state is truly commendable. I saw number of courses / meetings in progress. The institute needs a good auditorium and some recreational activities for such the large group of inmates which stay here. This can be a major asset for HR development in the RD sector. The institute deserves full support.
			<p style="text-align: right;">Santapani 23/6/07</p>

Visitors Book				
S.No.	Date	Name and Address	Phone	Remarks
	12-7-07	Tusker (R. K. Singh) (deli) 218 J A Hill Rd, Hyland, CA	267-179 267-579	I am reminded of earlier visits and I found it most enjoyable & well-maintained. It is really nice to be here.
	17 Nov, 07	Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QE, UK	00441273483038	So delighted to be here, This is in connection with a working on action learning for community-led community sanitation. Thank you so much for your hospitality in allowing us to do this here in this wonderful environment.



Manisha Nanda, IAS

D.O. No. 3-7/2005-ELN

SECRETARY (ELECTIONS) &
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
GOVERNMENT OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH,
SHIMLA-171 002.

Dated: Shimla-171009,

15th December, 2007.

Subject:- Commission's meeting with Observers, DCs, SPs etc. on
13-12-2007 - Boarding and lodging arrangements.

Respected *Sir,*

Please refer to this office letter of even number dated 10th
December, 2007 on the aforesaid subject.

Sir, your timely and prompt cooperation to Election
Department in arranging boarding and lodging arrangement for
Observers, DCs, SPs, etc. in your Institute is highly appreciated. All
the Observers and field Officers conveyed their comfort and
satisfaction during their stay in HIPA to the undersigned.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to you and your
staff members.

Thanking you for your gesture.

With Esteem regards. _____

Yours sincerely,

Mananda

(Manisha Nanda)

15.12.07

Shri Ajay Mittal,
Director,
HIPA, Fairlawns,
Shimla.
Fax-2647172

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

Himachal institute shows the way to financial independence

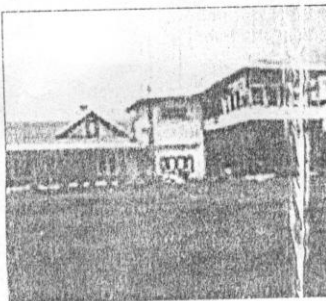
VIPIN PUBBY
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 22

HP Institute of Public Administration has turned into a money-spinner by renting out its material as well as cerebral resources

FROM being a white elephant to an organisation generating resources worth crores, Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) has come a long way in less than five years.

HIPA's journey to financial riches started in 2003 soon after the state government agreed to let it impart in-service training to state officials, and retain the funds generated by this exercise.

"That was the time when we did not even have a decent tea set and there was a flurry on the campus when the chief minis-



ter suddenly announced a visit", recalls Ajay Mittal, the director, adding how the Institute that dates back to 1974 now boasts a revenue of over Rs 10 crore which it spends it on the upkeep and extension

of the sprawling premises located at Mashobra, about 12 kilometres from here.

The turnaround began when the department set up a cooperative society called the HIPA Hospitality and Cooperative Society. The Society set in motion a proactive plan of hosting conferences, seminars, training modules and workshops. HIPA developed its premises in a way so as to make it possible for 200 delegates to attend various programmes at one go. It also spruced up about 70 rooms to accommodate delegates. A common mess was set up and revenue was generated through renting out these facilities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Himachal institute shows the way...

Besides the government departments, the institute roped in NGOs, private organizations and public sector undertakings to hold conferences, etc, on its premises. "We encouraged them to utilise the facilities which cost them much more in hotels and resorts", says Mittal, a senior IAS officer.

The Society has already invested over Rs 7 crore in maintaining and upgrading the complex and has nearly Rs 4 crore in the bank. Its total receipts last year were Rs 1.67 crore as against the government budget of Rs 1.3 crore which went into paying staff salaries. The government now earmarks only a token sum of Rs 1,000 in the budget for the maintenance of the institute.

The Society foots the salary bill of staff on contract besides paying for electricity, water and maintenance.

Now it proposes to encourage private companies and other government undertakings to use the amenities available at the institute which include a well-kept library with over 40,000 books and important journals. The entire complex, including all the 70 guest bedrooms, enjoy 24-hour access to the internet. "It provides the right

ambience for study and workshops", says a lecturer, who is on the institute's guest faculty.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

I visited the H.P. State Institute of Rural Development, Shimla on 23.6.2007. Smt. Smita Chugh, Joint Secretary (Trg.) and Sh. E.J. Jos, Deputy Secretary (Trg.) in the MoRD, accompanied me during this visit.

I am informed that the SIRD, HP is part of a composite unit which combines both the SIRD & the State Administrative Training Institute and is popularly known as HIPA. Having visited the HP Institute as also some other State Institutes of Rural Development in the country, I get the impression that having the SIRD established as a joint institute with the State Administrative Training Institute seems to be working better not only in terms of effecting economy but also to utilize the available infrastructure and resources, physical financial as well as human with optimum benefits.

It was indicated to me that HIPA is organizing approximately 250 training programme every year on various aspects of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Financial Management, Office Procedure, Public Administration, Right to Information, Disaster Management, Protection of Human Rights, Consumer Protection, NREGA, RTI, Women Empowerment, Information Technology and other subjects at its own campus at Fairlawns, Shimla and also at district levels. **More than 3000 officers / officials and elected representatives of PRIs** participated in various training programs during the last year. Both SIRD & ATI seem to be functioning smoothly under a single management team headed by the Director who is a senior officer of the State government from the IAS cadre. The arrangement seems to be working to the advantage of both the Institutions with each of them availing full benefit of infrastructural facilities, faculty and staff of each other. Training Division may like to study this model vis-à-vis the other available option of having separate SIRDs, which is already there in some other states, to explore if a uniform model can be suggested for adoption to the States. It may also be better to have this as a society with greater flexibility.

I visited the Dhauladhar Hostel of the Institute, the renovation work of which has been taken up with a grant of Rs. 43 lakhs sanctioned in Feb/March, 2007 by the MoRD. I found that the work has progressed very well and all the civil works of adding 12 number new toilets/Bath rooms to the Hostel and renovation of all the 21 old toilets/bathrooms have been completed. Director, HIPA informed that they were under pressure to put all the rooms to use during the summer months and therefore the replacement of old worn out furniture has been delayed temporarily. Since the summer season is now almost over I have no doubt that the remaining work will be completed as soon as possible. The quality of work done was excellent and is no doubt the result of constant monitoring of the work by the Institute authorities. Director, HIPA also informed me that the SIRD has already submitted the 'utilization certificate' for the amount released by the Ministry and requested for the release of balance amount of grant so that the furniture/ fixtures and other remaining work could be completed expeditiously.

I visited the Institute Library and found that the library has nearly 41000 books on a wide range of subjects. I was told that the catalogue of the library is now available on the internet thus saving a lot of time of the staff for search and retrieval of the books both to the staff and the users. The upkeep and maintenance of the library was commendable. The Director informed me that they have made a request for financial assistance to the Ministry for purchase of books and for installation of some computers and a photocopier in the library. This may be considered on priority.

The Institute has established 2 computer training labs with facilities to impart training to 60 persons at a time. High quality ICT infrastructure is available in the centre and seems to be well may retained. I was informed that during the last year HIPA provided basic computer training to nearly 3000 government officials mainly from the departments of Water Supplies, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Land Revenue and Treasury. The Institute has also set up District level training centres at Mandi, Dharamshala and Chamba mainly for imparting computer training and an extensive training programme to ensure 100% coverage of RD and Panchayati Raj officials in the districts of Chamba and Sirmaur (2 NREGA districts) has already been started. The training is likely to be completed by October 31st, 2007. HIPA proposes to cover the 2 new NREGA districts of Kangra and Mandi thereafter for intensive coverage of RD and PR staff for basic computer training. I found that the entire campus of HIPA, including the hostels and the residences of staff, has been connected to the 'campus-wide network' and internet facility is available to all including the trainees and the visitors.

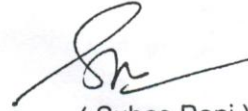
I took a round of the Institute and also visited Class Rooms, Conference Halls, Guest Houses, Hostels, Kitchen and the Dining Hall. The whole place seems to be live with activity and the standards of maintenance of everything in the Institute including the corridors, public areas and the lawns were found to be of highly standards. However it was noticed that the Institute lacks in providing sports and recreational facilities. Director, HIPA informed me that they have already identified the site for adding an Auditorium building to the Institute which will also provide space for sports, recreation and other facilities apart from some additional guest rooms for the visiting faculty and officers. The proposal involves dismantling of 2 old outhouses buildings which are presently housing 6 officials and their families. The space that becomes available after dismantling the out houses will be sufficient to construct a building housing the Auditorium and other required infrastructure. The estimated cost for the project would be approximately Rs. 5 crores for which the Director HIPA made a request that the Ministry may consider funding this project. Director, HIPA has been advised to make out a complete proposal in this regard and send it to the Ministry for consideration. This may be considered on priority.

I found that the availability of faculty is a major constraint with the SIRD. Our scheme of funding up to 5 Core Faculty members in the SIRD has provided a lot of support to the SIRDs in this regard but a lot still remains to be done. I would suggest that we may increase the number of Core Faculty support but keeping in view the performance of SIRDs. Himachal Pradesh SIRD seems to have done a lot of good work in the area of financial management of the DRDAs/Blocks. Similarly Orissa has done a lot of work in the area of IT and may other SIRDs may also have developed similar competencies. We may consider declaring these SIRDs as 'National / Regional Resource Centres' in the respective areas of excellence and provide some special support including faculty support to such SIRDs. Ministry may also consider specifically funding a post of Deputy Director (Information Systems) along with other support staff with a properly defined role for all the SIRDs.

I was happy to note that the institute is doing substantial rainwater harvesting.

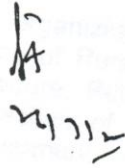
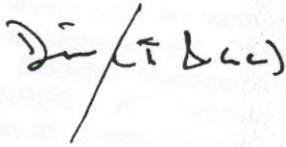
Later I also visited an Extension Training Centre at Mashobra, Shimla. This has good infrastructure and is playing a good supplemental role in Human Resource Development.

We may give a fresh look to the institution of ETCs. in the eleventh plan.



(Subas Pani)
Secretary (RD)
26th July, 2007

Joint Secretary (SC)





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No. NIT/HMR/Admn/304/2006/- 7817

Dated: 28-8-06

The Director,
HP Institute of Public Administration
Fairlawns,
Shimla-171012.

Subject: **Training to Non-Teaching employees of NIT, Hamirpur.**

Sir

This is with reference to your letter No.HIPA(Trg.)C-74/2006 dated 14/082006.

As per feedback of the participants, the Director HIPA, Course Director Sh. H.K.Sharma and other faculty members deserve **"Khudos"** for imparting a course on **"Office Procedure & Financial Administration"** in a manner which has stimulated the participants. Most of the participants felt that such a training should have been given to them in the beginning of their career. Though I have been late in sending them for training yet I hope this will go a long way to improve their effective functioning.

I, on behalf of NIT Hamirpur hereby congratulate and place on record appreciations to all the faculty and functionaries of HIPA in general and Sh. H.K.Sharma, Course Director as well as Sh. Ajay Mittal, IAS, Director of the Institute in particular for helping me in my endeavour to improve the working environment of this institute.

Yours sincerely,

DIRECTOR,
NIT, HAMIRPUR (HP).