

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

NEWSLETTER

Director's Column



The first half of 2006 has seen NIPFP making significant accomplishments in research, advocacy, and training. The completion of important state fiscal studies on Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Sikkim would help these states in implementing their fiscal restructuring plan. The Institute's faculty also contributed to studies on state finances, state level

debt sustainability, and expenditure reviews. The State Development Reports commissioned by the Planning Commission have also been completed for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim. The report on Andaman and Nicobar Islands has faced severe problems as it had to be entirely redrafted in the aftermath of the tsunami. The studies on central and state tax systems and the problems arising from wide ranging tax preferences have also attracted considerable attention. Another important study completed is on local level gender responsive budgeting sponsored by the UNIFEM. The study was carried out for five countries – Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, and South Africa, besides India.

NIPFP has embarked on a number of research studies of critical importance to policy reform. The two major studies funded by the UNDP - one on financing human development and another on rural fiscal decentralisation will make significant contribution to policy analysis and reform. Both human development and decentralisation are significant for inclusive growth emphasised in the 11th Plan. The NIPFP has also taken up a study on pricing of petroleum products, the impact of increase in prices, and the subsidy element, at the request of Ministry of Petroleum. Besides these, studies on central and state taxes, urban infrastructure and finance, and state finances have continued.

The faculty of NIPFP continue to make significant contribution to policy reform. Indira Rajaraman chaired the Public Expenditure Review committee of the Kerala government. The NIPFP has also contributed to the Expert Group Report on Decentralised Planning. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken a lead role in implementing the recommendations contained in the report and NIPFP will have to continue its role as one of the lead institutions in this advocacy. The Institute is playing an important

role in two groups of the Oversight Committee appointed to implement the 27 percent reservation in higher education without reducing the number of seats for the unreserved categories. Faculty members of the Institute have also been inducted as members of a Working Group on Financing the 11th Plan. Financing the 11th Plan will be really challenging particularly in the wake of targets specified under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act for the Centre, and Fiscal Responsibility Acts (FRA) passed by a number of States. Enhancing the savings ratio to 31 percent of GDP required for the 11th Plan from 29.1 percent in 2004-05 would require substantial increase in budgetary savings. The approach paper for the 11th Plan also envisages that in order to achieve 8.5 percent growth, gross budgetary support during the plan will have to be higher at 5.08 percent of GDP than the 4.33 percent during the 10th Plan. Thus, financing of the plan will bring out the incongruence of increasing the budget support and the need to adhere to the fiscal restructuring targets.

With the completion of "Peer group dialogue in public economics for university and college teachers from South Asia" in June, NIPFP has accomplished the task of completing refresher training for academics from South Asian countries. The programme was attended by participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan, besides those from India. This programme has helped the participants to improve their understanding of theory and practice of public finance and will go a long way in improving the teaching standards in these countries. NIPFP has also provided training in fiscal policy to the officials of Bhutan. The training programme on tax policy and reform for Sri Lankan officials is continuing.

This newsletter brings out the manifold activities of the faculty of NIPFP during the last six months. With excessive demands placed on resources for financing the 11th Plan, particularly in the era of coalition politics and with constraints placed by the fiscal responsibility acts, the tight rope walking on the fiscal front will continue and NIPFP will have enough in its hands to deal with in the coming months.

M. Govinda Rao

PROJECTS COMPLETED

- *Electricity Sector Governance, June, 2006.*

Navroz K. Dubash

This project, in collaboration with the World Resources Institute (USA) and Prayas-Pune, developed indicators of good governance for the electricity sector that span legislative, executive and regulatory processes. The indicators were tested in four Asian countries – India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. Elements of the indicators will be used in a training programme for Indian electricity regulators.

- *Fiscal Decentralisation and Local Level Gender Responsive Budgeting, May, 2006.*

M Govinda Rao, Lekha S Chakraborty, and Amaresh Bagchi

The study examines the fiscal decentralisation process through a gender lens in five selected countries; viz., Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, South Africa, and India. The project develops a conceptual framework for analysing the local level gender responsive budgeting taking into account decentralisation and gender sensitivity in budget formulation and implementation, using this framework. The study finds that if the budgetary process is to yield significant benefits for women, gender budgeting in the narrow sense of earmarking a minimum fraction of expenditure of every government department, is not helpful.

Most of the public services that concern women or address their needs are delivered at the local level. So the first requirement for gender orientation of a government budget

should be to empower local governments adequately to take care of these concerns. This implies that there should be no *unfunded mandates* and there has to be adequate *feminization of local governance* with effective *voice* in public expenditure decisions. While all the countries surveyed attempted to move in the direction of gender budgeting, progress in fiscal decentralisation and women's empowerment has been uneven across countries.

- *Costs of Urban Infrastructure: Evidence from India's Cities, May, 2006.*

Kala S. Sridhar, O.P. Mathur and A.Nandy

In this research study, funded by the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI), the costs of the provision of infrastructure in India's urban areas, are examined. We estimate the marginal cost of providing water supply. The findings are that the supply of every additional kilo litre of water imposes extra burden on India's cities ranging from Rs.2.62 to Rs.5.05, as marginal operating costs. Even based on these short-run marginal cost estimates, the study finds some Indian cities such as Jaipur and Pune, undercharging their water. As far as the other urban services are concerned, the study finds cities' per capita expenditures on basic services such as, street lights and toilets, are abysmally low, let alone adequate in any sense to meet the demands of an increasing population. So the study finds weak municipal finances might still be the core of the issue.

- *Ex-post Gender Sensitive Analysis of Union Budget 2006-07, April, 2006*

Lekha S Chakraborty

This project critically examines the approach and methodology of sensitising gender budgeting initiatives through financial allocations. The analysis revealed that visible gender allocations in India's recent budget – both specifically targeted programmes for women and pro-women allocations – constituted only 5 percent of the total budget. The sectoral analysis further revealed that higher budgetary allocations *per se* does not mean higher spending; there exists significant deviation between budget estimates and actual spending. The policy implications arising from the analysis is that transparency of gender sensitive budgetary allocations needs to be ensured for accountability; but earmarking public expenditure for women is only a *second best principle of gender budgeting*.

- *Andaman & Nicobar Islands State Development Report (SDR), March, 2006.*

Rita Pandey and Mukesh Anand

The study commissioned by the Planning Commission involved five other agencies looking into various aspects of the SDR. The NIPFP contributed chapters on Development of Scheduled Tribes and Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The NIPFP team prepared 9 out of a total of 14 chapters in the report.

- *Performance Indicators for Selected Departments in Chhattisgarh, March, 2006.*

Tapas Kumar Sen

This study suggests performance indicators that can be utilised at the introduction of performance evaluation for four departments of Government of Chhattisgarh – school education, health, public works (roads), and irrigation. The indicators are developed taking into account the present administrative structure and the current availability of information on physical indicators of progress.

- *A Study of State Finances (1990-91 to 2002-03), March, 2006.*

Subhash Garg and C. Bhujanga Rao

The study conducted for the Planning Commission for the period 1991-2003, beginning with the economic reforms period, analyses states’ finances. The study highlights the changes taking place in states’ revenue expenditure on public goods, merit goods, and non-merit goods. A trend analysis of states’ revenues concluded that states’ aggregate own revenues fluctuated with rising tax revenues, but there was secular and all pervasive decline in non-tax revenues. The analysis of fiscal balance concluded that states’ fiscal balance deteriorated sharply from mid nineties which led to states’ aggregate debt ballooning to over nine lakh crore by 2003-04 and several states’ debt exceeding 300 percent of their total revenues. The study also presents a comprehensive analysis of central transfers to states through various modes. The study makes several recommendations for bringing about improvement in states’ finances.

- *Policy Advice to Chattisgarh Government, February, 2006.*

Subhash Garg and Tapas K. Sen

This policy advisory report contains advice tendered to the Government of Chhattisgarh on six policy issues. Policy notes on FRBM rules suggested draft rules compliant with the debt consolidation and waiver guidelines of Government of India. Policy note on implications of plan loans advised the state to watch its interests when administration of Gadgil formula undergoes revision and additional open market borrowings are allowed for the gap caused. The notes on cash management framework recommended the state to build a comprehensive financial information system to manage cash and debt. The policy notes on borrowing and debt management recommended the setting up of a Debt Management Office. Policy notes on managing foreign exchange risk associated with transfer of externally aided loans advised the creation of a fund in the public account to accumulate reserves. The report also suggested how to account for and risk assess contingent liabilities.

- *Strengthening of Financial Management for Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, January, 2006.*

M. Govinda Rao and Pinaki Chakraborty

The objective of this project was to identify and arrive at policy recommendations to overcome constraints to implementation of the recently enacted *National Rural Employment Guarantee Act*. A group consisting of academicians, policy makers, and executive authorities from the central and state

governments and ground level activists participated in a workshop related to this project. C. Rangarajan delivered the inaugural lecture at this workshop. A report titled, **Implementation Issues of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act** was subsequently submitted to the Administrative Reforms Commission.

PUBLICATIONS

Books/Monographs

- Rao, Govinda M. 2006, *Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy – 2005-2006*. New Delhi: Shipra Publications.

Chapters in Edited Books, Volumes

- Chakraborty, Lekha. “Fiscal Deficit and Selected Rates of Interest Link in India: An Analysis of Period Between 1970-71 and 1999-2000,” in (eds.) Srivastava, D.K. and M. Narasimhulu, *State Level Fiscal Reforms in the Indian Economy*, New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publishers, 2006.
- Chidambaram, Siva. “Improved Access to Indian Socioeconomic Data for Understanding the Regional Economy through World Wide Web (WWW),” in (eds.) Dasgupta, Arjun and Amitabh Chatterjee, et.al., *XXV All India Conference of IASLIC*, Kolkata: Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre, 2006.
- Dubash, Navroz K. “The Local Politics of Groundwater Development and Groundwater Markets in North Gujarat,” in (ed.) Amita Baviskar, *Waterscapes: The Cultural Politics of a Natural Resource*, New Delhi: Permanent

Black, 2006.

- _____ (co-authored), "The Political Economy of Electricity Liberalization," in (eds.) Byrne John, Leigh Glover, and Noah Toly, *Transforming Power: Energy as a Social Project*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2006.
- Mathur, O.P. "Urban Finance," in (ed.) 3i Network, *India Infrastructure Report 2006: Urban Infrastructure*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- _____ (co-authored), "Central Asia: India, the Centre of an Emerging Region," in (ed.) H.S. Geyer, *Global Regionalization: Core – Periphery Trends*, Cheltenham, U.K.: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2006.
- Rajaraman, Indira. "Coins: Some Persistence Issues," in (ed.) Himanshu Ray, *Power and Communication: Coins as Political and Cultural Documents*, Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2006.
- Sridhar, Kala S. "Institutional Arrangements for Land Use in Ludhiana, Punjab," in (ed.) 3i Network, *India Infrastructure Report 2006: Urban Infrastructure*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Amarnath, H.K. (co-authored), (2006), "Economic Reforms and Finances of Andhra Pradesh," *ICFAI Journal of Public Finance*, 4 (1).
- Rajaraman, Indira. (2006), "Fiscal Perspective on Irrigation Water Pricing: A Case Study of Karnataka, India," *Water Policy*, 8 (2): 171-181.

- _____ (co-authored), (2006), "Tax Buoyancy Estimates for Indian States," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41 (16), April 22: 1570-73.
- Rao, Bhujanga C. (2006), "Irrigation Subsidies in India: Some Observations," *Indian Journal of Economics*, 342, January.
- Sridhar, Kala S. (co-authored), (2006), "Telecommunications and Growth: Causal Model, Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41 (25), June 24: 2611-2619.

WORKING PAPERS

- Bagchi, Amaresh, Kavita Rao and Bulbul Sen. "Tax Breaks for the Small Sector: An Appraisal," Tax Research Unit *NIPFP Working Paper No. 3, May, 2006*.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES • WORKSHOPS

Organised by NIPFP

- Second 4-Week Training Programme on *Promoting Peer Group Dialogue & Monitoring on Economic Management: Public Finance in South Asia (for College and University Teachers)*, New Delhi, May 29 - June 23, 2006.

Consequent upon the NIPFP

Director's negotiations with the World Bank, this 4-week training programme was held. The participants

were college or university teachers, and faculty in research institutions in South Asian Countries including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bhutan. Govinda Rao gave the welcome address, C.Rangarajan inaugurated the programme and gave the inaugural lecture, and Michael Carter, Country Director, World Bank, addressed the participants. Indrani Roy Chowdhury was the course co-ordinator.

- *Courses on Public Economy Policy for Bhutan Government Officials*, NIPFP, New Delhi, June 5-9, 2006 and May 22-26, 2006.

Simanti Bandopadhyay was the co-ordinator of the programmes.

- Workshop on *Planning at the Grassroots Level*, New Delhi, May 8-9, 2006.

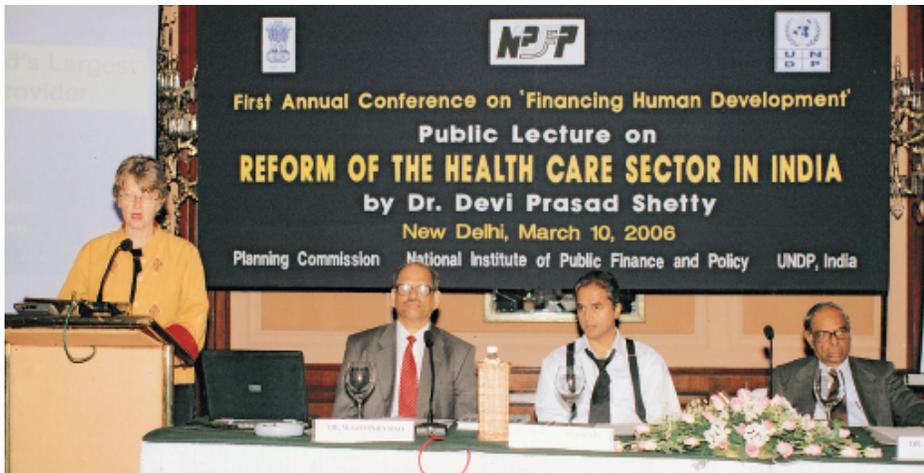
Subrata Mandal co-ordinated the workshop.

- Training Programmes on *Practical Issues in Tax Policy and Tax Administration*, for Sri Lankan Revenue Officers (ADB Programme), NIPFP, New Delhi.

This comprised of a series of training programmes on major aspects of tax policy and administration. The first two



Workshop on *Planning at the Grassroots Level*, May 8-9, 2006



Annual Conference on *Financing Human Development*, New Delhi, March 10, 2006

programmes of the series were held between March 20-23, 2006 and April 3-6, 2006.

The programme is being co-ordinated by Kavita Rao and Bulbul Sen.

- Half-a-day Workshop on *Globalization and Federalism*, NIPFP and Forum of Federations, Canada, March 27, 2006.

- First Annual Conference on *Financing Human Development*, March 9-10, 2006.

As a part of the project on “Financing Human Development”, the above conference was organised by the NIPFP. Tapas Sen was the conference co-ordinator. As part of this programme, the NIPFP’s Director organised a public lecture by renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty (Chairman, *Narayana Hrudayalaya*, Bangalore and Asia Heart Foundation, Kolkata) on ‘Reforming the Health Care Sector in India’ on March 10, 2006.

- Training Programme on *Public Finance* for Indian Audit and Accounts Service probationers,

New Delhi, January 30 - February 17, 2006.

Lekha Chakraborty co-ordinated the programme.

- National Level Stakeholders Consultations on *Gender Budgeting in India*, NIPFP and IFES, USAID, New Delhi, February 2, 2006.

Lekha Chakraborty co-ordinated the consultations.

- Workshop on *Geography and Growth of Poverty in India: Implications for the 11th Plan*, NIPFP, New Delhi, January 20, 2006.

Somik Lall co-ordinated the workshop. Lekha Chakraborty was the rapporteur.

- Training Programme on *Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy*, Officials of the Government of Assam, ADB, New Delhi, January 9-13, 2006.

The programme was part of the Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project sponsored by the ADB. Mukesh Anand was the course co-ordinator.

- Workshop on *Fiscal Management in Disadvantaged States*, World

Bank Institute and World Bank, New Delhi, January 4-6, 2006. Mukesh Anand co-ordinated the workshop.

PRESENTATIONS BY NIPFP FACULTY/STAFF AT NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- Dubash, Navroz K. **Electricity Governance Initiatives.** Forum on Electricity Governance, World Resources Institute, NIPFP, and *Prayas* Energy Group, Bangkok, Thailand, March 29-31, 2006.
- _____ . **Importing Institutions? The Mixed Blessing of Electricity Regulators in India.** Seminar on Importing Institutions, Centre for Global Development, Washington D.C., USA, March 10, 2006.
- _____ . **The Relevance of Governance to Electricity Reform.** World Bank Group’s Energy Week, 2006, The World Bank, Washington D.C., USA, March 6-8, 2006.
- Gupta, Manish. **Costs of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Case Study of India’s Power Generation Sector.** 42nd Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, January 5-8, 2006.
- Mathur, O.P. (Discussant), **Wealth of Cities**, World Urban Forum, Vancouver, Canada, June 19 - 23, 2006.
- Pandey, Rita. **Environmental Impacts of Subsidies: The Case of Agriculture.** Seminar on Statistical Accounting of Land and Forestry Resources, IIFM, Bhopal, April 28-29, 2006.
- Rajaraman, Indira. (Discussant),

Seminar on War, Peace and World Hegemony in the Twenty-first Century, New Delhi, January 14, 2006.

- _____ . **Liquor Taxation and its Impact on Rural Consumption.** World Bank, New Delhi, April 26, 2006.
- Rao, Govinda M. **India: Continued Reform and Modernisation of the Government Administration System in the Next 5-Years.** Two-day International Seminar on Government Administrative System Reform, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), People's Republic of China, World Bank, Beijing, China, May 17, 2006.
- _____ . **Fiscal Devolution in India.** International Conference on Fiscal Decentralisation, National Reconstruction Bureau, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Government of Pakistan, World Bank, Islamabad, May 3-4, 2006.
- _____ . **Economic Liberalisation, Globalisation and Challenges to Indian Fiscal Federalism.** Workshop on Federalism in a Globalising Environment, NIPFP, New Delhi, March 27, 2006.
- _____ . **VAT and Service Tax from the Macro Policy Perspective.** Meeting of the National Committee on Logistics Services, Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi, February 6, 2006.
- _____ . **Identifying Issues for Gender Budgeting.** Gender Budgeting in India – Stakeholders' Consultation, NIPFP and IFES, USAID, New Delhi, February 2, 2006.

- _____ . **Critical Issues in State Finances in India.** Seventh Annual NBER-NCAER Neemrana Conference, Neemrana Fort Palace Resort, Rajasthan, January 15-17, 2006.
- _____ . **Challenges Facing Fiscally Disadvantaged States: An Overview.** Workshop on Fiscal Management in Disadvantaged States, World Bank, and NIPFP, New Delhi, January 4, 2006.
- Rao, Govinda M. and Pinaki Chakraborty. **Multilateral Adjustment Lending to States in India: Hastening Fiscal Correction or Softening the Budget Constraint?** UNU-WIDER Conference on AID: Principles, Policies and Performance, Helsinki, Finland, June 16-17, 2006.
- Rao, Govinda M. and Pinaki Chakraborty. **Adjustment Lending to States: Hastening Fiscal Correction or Softening the Budget Constraint.** JNU Conference on Governance, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi, February 10, 2006.
- Rao, Kavita. **Corporate Taxation and Foreign Direct Investment in India.** International Symposium on FDI and Corporate Taxation, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, February 17-18, 2006.
- Sridhar, Kala S. **Location Choice of Firms: Recent Evidence from India and China.** Conference on The Rapid Development of China and India: Domestic and International Consequences, University of Antwerp, Belgium, March 31 - April 1, 2006.

SEMINARS BY GUESTS AT NIPFP

- March 28, 2006: **Robust Monetary Policies in Small Open Economies,** Abhijit Sen Gupta, Graduate Student, University of California-Santa Cruz.
- February 14, 2006: **Agriculture: Who Protects, Who Benefits and How to Liberalize it,** Arvind Panagariya, Columbia University, New York.

GUEST LECTURES BY NIPFP FACULTY

- Anand, Mukesh Kumar. "Social Security and Pension Reforms," TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, May 2, 2006.
- Chakraborty, Pinaki. "Outcome Budgeting: An Overview and Methodological Issues," Training Workshop, Government of Maharashtra and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, *Mantralaya*, June 23, 2006.
- _____ . "Issues Relating to Public Debt Sustainability – I & II," National Academy of Audit and Accounts International Training Centre, New Delhi, June 12, 2006.
- _____ . "Canadian Economy," Shastri Indo Canadian Institute's Orientation Programme for Indian Scholars, New Delhi, May 9, 2006.
- _____ . Module on Public Finance, M.Phil Course in Applied Economics, JNU-Affiliated Centre for Development Studies, New Delhi, March 22-31, 2006.
- Dubash, Navroz K. "Governance Issues in Regulation of Power Distribution," Training Programme on Regulation of

- Distribution Business, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC), New Delhi, May 15-19, 2006.
- Garg, Subhash Chandra. "States' Cash Balances – Does it Signal Fiscal Turnaround?" Thursday Seminars, Invest India, New Delhi, March 9, 2006.
- _____. "States and Human Development and Recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission," UNDP Course on Human Development, College of Agriculture Banking, Pune, January 20, 2006.
- _____. "States and Infrastructure Finance," Annual Research Conference, Institute of Financial Management and Research, Chennai, January 11, 2006.
- Nagar, A.L., "Index Numbers – A Latent Variable Approach," CDE-DSE Refresher Training Course on Recent Developments in Index Numbers, Delhi, February 15, 2006.
- _____. Lectures on Statistics and Econometrics, School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi, January – April 2006.
- Rajaraman, Indira. "The Indian Economy," Visiting Senior Officials of *Electricite de France*, Delhi, March 9, 2006.
- _____. Twentieth *Veda Thakurdas Memorial Talk*, Miranda House, Delhi University, February 15, 2006.
- _____. "Public Debt Sustainability," Thirty-fourth Refresher Course in Economics, JNU Staff College, New Delhi, January 18, 2006.
- Rangarajan, C. Convocation Address, University of Rohtak, March 25, 2006.
- _____. Fourth *Ramanbhai Patel Memorial Lecture* "Responding to Globalisation – India's Answer," Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad, February 25, 2006.
- _____. Convocation Address, Mangalore University, February 11, 2006.
- _____. Convocation Address, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, January 28, 2006.
- _____. Convocation Address, Dr. Ambedkar University, Hyderabad, January 24, 2006.
- Rao, Govinda M. "Tax Policy and Reform: Equity and Efficiency Implications," ; "Symposium on Budget," Distinguished Guest Lectures, Central University, Hyderabad, March 6-7, 2006.
- _____. "Governance and Execution of Policies and Initiatives for Inclusive Society," International HR Confluence, Indian Institute of Science and National Institute of Personnel Management, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, February 16, 2006.
- _____. "Accelerating Growth in Indian Economy: Challenges and Constraints," Extension Lecture Programme, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, February 13, 2006.
- Sen, Tapas Kumar. "Government Subsidies in India," and "Fiscal Federalism in India," M.A. Programme on Public Policy and Sustainable Development, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, April 13 and May 3, 2006.
- Sridhar, Kala S. "Urban Reforms in the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns," Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, April 7, 2006.

**APPOINTMENT ON COMMITTEES/
AWARDS/ HONOURS**

- Dubash, Navroz K., Recipient, Dr. S. R. Sen Fourth Biennial Prize, for Best Book on Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, "Tubewell Capitalism Groundwater Development and Agrarian Change in Gujarat," The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai.
- _____, Member, Project Steering Committee, "India Competition and Regulation Report (ICRR)" CUTS International, Jaipur.
- _____, Member, Working Group on Power for Formulation of 11th Five Year Plan, Planning Commission.
- _____, Member, Executive Committee of The Indian Society for Ecological Economics, Delhi.
- Mathur, O.P., Member, Prime Minister's National Review Committee on Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). First meeting with the Prime Minister, April 3, 2006.
- _____, Member, Technical Advisory Group on JNNURM.
- _____, Member, Working Group on (1) Urban Development; and (2) Urban Transport, Planning Commission.

- _____, Delegate, World Urban Forum, Vancouver, Canada, June 19-23, 2006.
- _____, Member, Delegation from India to Sweden, Government of Sweden, Stockholm, June 7-9, 2006.
- Pandey, Rita, Reviewer, Journal of Environmental Management.
- _____, Member, Panel of Experts in Economics, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.
- Rajaraman, Indira, Member, HRD Ministry Group on OBC Quotas in Technological/ Engineering Institutions, June 2006.
- _____, Member, Planning Commission Working Group on Centre's Financial Resources for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- _____, Member, India-EU Roundtable, Meeting, Vienna, June 7-8, 2006.
- _____, Member, Selection Committee, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, and External Expert, Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, Pune.
- Rao, Govinda M., Member, Expert Group to Study Planning at Grassroots Level, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi.
- _____, Member, Committee of Experts for Analysing Acceptance of Loans from the World Bank and its Conditionalitys, Power Grid Corporation, Central Electricity Authority, Government of India, New Delhi.
- _____, Member, Working Group, Democratic Decentralisation and *Panchayati Raj* Institutions for the Formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Ministry of *Panchayati Raj*, Government of India, New Delhi.
- _____, Member, High Level Committee to Examine Conceptual and Methodological Issues of Preparing the Outcome Budget, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Accounting Research Foundation, New Delhi.
- _____, Member, Board of Governors, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.
- _____, Member, Steering Committee, North Eastern Region, 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), Planning Commission, Government of India.
- _____, Member, Planning Commission Working Group on Centre's Financial Resources for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- _____, Member, Group for Central Universities, Oversight Committee, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India.
- Sen, Bulbul, Advice on Role of the Settlement Commission in India, Additional Secretary (Revenue), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- Sen, Tapas Kumar, Member, Punjab Finance Commission.
- _____, Member, Monitoring Committee for Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility, MOF, GOI.
- _____, Member, Planning Commission Working Group on Centre's Financial Resources for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- _____, External Examiner, M. Phil. Dissertation, JNU School of Social Sciences.
- _____, Expert Reviewer, Sage Publications.
- Sridhar, Kala S., Medal Finalist, Medals for Research on Development Competition, Seventh Annual Conference of the Global Development Network, for "Growth Centres, Economic Development and Governance: Evidence from India," St. Petersburg, Russia, January 2006.
- _____, Member, India Infrastructure Report, 2007 Writers' Workshop, 3i Network, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, April 12, 2006.

NEW PROJECTS INITIATED

- Rajaraman, Indira., Bhujanga Rao, Pratap Ranjan Jena, O.P. Bohra and Manish Gupta. **Rural Decentralization Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction.** UNDP India, January 2006 – June 2007.

STAFF NEWS

- Navroz Dubash, IDFC Chair Professor, left the Institute to join Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- Subhash Garg, Principal Consultant, left the Institute on March 31, 2006.

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