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# First Annual General Body Meeting\*

(April 1, 1955)

Addressing the members present, Jawaharlal Nehru started that he was very much attracted by the advice given by Paul H. Appleby in his article entitled "Thinking Big" published in the first issue of the *Indian Journal of Public Administration*—the Institute's quarterly organ. He agreed with Appleby that the great task of the execution of India's development plans called for a more progressive and realistic attitude on the part of the administration. With the advent of the atomic age, the political, economic and social policies of the country had to be refashioned entirely in new terms. The introduction of atomic weapons in the political field was threatening the very foundations of civilisation and a fundamental change in political values had become imperative. Similarly, with the use of atomic energy in other fields, the traditional methods would become out-of-date. A new kind of industrial revolution was in the making—a revolution which required the administration to keep pace with the times, to re-evaluate administrative methods and practices and to adapt them to the needs of the changed circumstances. A continuing awareness of the new problems and persistent efforts to solve them were a necessary price of survival. Methods and operations followed 50 years ago were no longer suitable. This was amply illustrated by the increasing emphasis on "physical planning" in India's development schemes. What was required was a realistic faith in India's future, a genuine belief in the value of national objectives, a determination to go ahead, and a willingness and capacity to take risks—big risks, but not, of course, foolish risks.

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\*Report of the Speech.