

Item No. 50.6 Address by the President of the IIPA.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and President of the Institute thanked the members of the General Body of the Institute for electing him as the President of the Institute for another two years. He also expressed sorrow for missing former Chairman, IIPA Shri S.B. Chavan, and remembered him for his valuable contribution to the growth and development of the Institute as its Chairman. He further said that the new Chairman of the Institute, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, has had long association of over 50 years with the Institute who has also served the Institute with distinction as its Director. The President hoped that under the guidance and direction of Shri T.N. Chaturvediji, the Institute will continue its march towards progress.

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Vice-President of India and President of the Institute in his address observed that in a democratic set-up, with rising expectations and aspirations of the people, a minimalist state cannot be the object of government policy; in fact the government should be more responsive, more efficient and more caring towards its citizenry. He observed that in the years to come, if the government is to achieve significant reduction of poverty and unemployment, it must be able to raise adequate resources and promote transparent, accountable, honest and citizen-friendly governance.

Looking back at the span of 50 years of his public life, Shri Shekhawatji mentioned that he saw with satisfaction the way democracy was taking strong roots in our country with the progress achieved in agriculture, in the success of the Green and White Revolution, the great strides in industrial and economic growth, our spectacular achievements in space, defence and atomic energy sectors, the march of India towards being a super power in information technology and software export. No doubt, these outstanding achievements have been very significant and make us all so very proud. Though one cannot deny that during the same period we have witnessed decline in standards of public governance. He said that the state of governance is certainly a matter of serious public concern. Good governance encompasses and develops all the segments for that interface with the common man, impacting on his welfare, aspirations and needs. A holistic approach for improving government in totality, with shared commitment by all sections of the society is therefore, of prime importance. The need for reforms is equally imperative in areas such as politics, judiciary, business, trade and the media. We need a comprehensive agenda for improving national governance with sharp focus on fighting and rooting out corruption.

Shri Shekhawat stated that globalisation in its present form, though triggered by far-reaching technological changes, is not a pure technological phenomenon, it has rather many dimensions including ideological. He observed that there is a need to evolve an appropriate framework to get maximum benefits out of international trade and investment. Shri Shekhawat observed that this framework should include: (a) making explicit the list of demands that India would like to make on the multilateral trade system, (b) measures that rich countries should be required to undertake to enable developing countries to gain more from international trade; (c) steps that India should take to realise the full potential from globalisation; and (d) developing safety nets and other measures to safeguard the interests of the marginalised, excluded and the vulnerable.

Shri Shekhawat hoped that IIPA has indeed a unique role to perform in helping the government in better management of development programmes and projects, particularly those meant for the welfare of the poor and the deprived ones. IIPA has to be a catalyst and promoter of improved governance in the area of public

administration. He said that he has no doubt that this Institute is destined to play this role with distinction and glory.