

Item No. 48.5 : Address of the President of the IIPA

Owing to overseas visit, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and newly elected President of IIPA could not attend the meeting and his address was read by the Director, Dr. P.L. Sanjeev Reddy.

Discussing the progress of the previous century which witnessed giant strides in knowledge and material well-being Shri Shekhawat mentioned that although the previous century brought in automobiles, aircrafts, radios, televisions and computers and put man on the moon, yet the 'giant leap for mankind' has not added to the desired level of human happiness. Shri Shekhawat observed that the twentieth century also gave us the atom bomb and the knowledge and means of mass self-destruction, but at the same time mankind lives in fear of its own technology. He remarked that technological developments in the last century have given us a world where not only ideas and innovations, finance and commodities, but even poverty, greed and terror have become globalized. He felt that although the developments in the past century have given us the means to strive for a better world, but unfortunately it has not given us the will to do so. Shri Shekhawat observed that although the world has virtually shrunk to a global village, psychological barriers to building brotherhood remain due to misunderstanding and hatred. He therefore felt that the great challenge today is to build the psychological and ethical foundations of a more humane world order.

Emphasizing on democratic decentralization in the context of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Constitution Amendments, Shri

Shekhawat called for conscious and constant efforts to devise ways to achieve effective participation of masses in the political process. Talking about effective governance, which is critical for maintenance functions of the state, Shri Shekhawat observed that the internal efficiencies of the government and the administration are important factors germane to the civil society.

Shri Shekhawat felt that it is for institutions like the IIPA to strive hard to bring about attitudinal changes in our civil servants and government functionaries at all levels. He was pleased to note from the IIPA's Annual Report that the Institute has been playing an active role in spreading awareness through training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences on subjects like 'Transparency and Accountability in Government', 'Peoples' Participation', 'Public Private Partnerships', and topics of similar nature.

While underlining the need for attitudinal changes, Shri Shekhawat observed that institutional changes are equally necessary to actualize the ideals and sentiments that our society is trying to manifest, and therefore a high degree of creativity and deep research is needed. He called upon the academic community to direct their creativity and reflection towards the design of appropriate institutions and mechanisms that help the common man to realize the best in him. He felt that IIPA faculty can take a lead in this task because of its unique position of proximity to both the government and the academia.

Shri Shekhawat observed that although the country has surged ahead in the economic sphere with an enviable growth rate over the last 25 years, but, unfortunately the rapid growth in population has neutralized all developmental achievements. He observed that unemployment and poverty reduction in a country cannot be tackled in isolation of global capital flows as we are living in an inter-dependent and fast integrating world, it is therefore important that we expand our horizons and broaden our minds to think in global terms. Having noted Institute's achievements in organizing training programmes for international participants, Shri Shekhawat wished to see the IIPA develop into a centre of excellence with an international reputation.