

Inaugural Speech of Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, Hon'ble Chairman, Union Public Service Commission at the 20th National Conference of the Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions, at Goa on 12th – 13th February, 2018

H.E. Governor of Goa, Smt. Mridula Sinha,

Hon'ble Chairman Goa Public Service Commission, Shri Jose Manuel Noronha,

Hon'ble Chairman of Telangana State Public Service Commissions & Chairman of the Standing Committee, Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani,

Hon'ble Chairpersons and Hon'ble Members of the State Public Service Commissions,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a privilege for me to be present here in the beautiful city of Goa and address this very distinguished gathering on the occasion of the 20th National Conference of Chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Goa Public Service Commission for hosting this Conference and extending warm hospitality to the delegates from the Public Service Commissions. I take this opportunity to share my views on a few important issues concerning the National Conference.

2. The National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions is meeting annually since 1999 and this has provided a common platform for evolving a system of relationship among the Commissions over the years. The National Conference has also been very useful for the Public Service Commissions for exchange and sharing of information in areas of mutual interest and concern. The National Conferences have played a catalytic role in improving the functioning of the Public Service Commissions as we gain from each other's experience. I believe in times to come, we will strengthen this relationship and work in tandem towards furtherance of our common objectives as enshrined in the Constitution.

3. The foremost challenge before us is to recruit the right kind of manpower for the government in the face of the fast changing economic and social scenario in the country while maintaining the highest standard of integrity, fair play in our actions and make the system of recruitment transparent so as to ensure that the trust earned over the years is sustained. In recent times, there is greater focus on efficient management of government resources and effective public delivery system to meet the growing expectation of the public and also aspiration of our country to take a leading role globally. For this, we have to equip ourselves to take all necessary steps to meet the expectations.

4. We need to continuously re-evaluate, re-design, innovate and develop a flexible system of selection. In this direction, the UPSC have taken steps to strengthen the single window system to bring out transparency and to compress the timeline to complete the entire recruitment process, creation of an e-document of various civil posts to serve as a database on Recruitment Rules; introduction of ICT in the examination system to connect all stakeholders; and support the processes and activities to make the functioning of the Commission more efficient, effective, transparent and candidates friendly.

5. The effort to strengthen the delivery process is a continuous one. To achieve the target, we have further curtailed the time taken in various examination processes by speeding up some procedures and re-engineering others. As a result, in comparison to the year 2015-16, the UPSC has reduced the processing time in the year 2016-17 from 226 to 203 days in Direct Recruitment cases, 91 to 81 days in Disciplinary Cases and 18 to 17 days for approval of Recruitment Rule proposals. In order to maximize the use of ICT in examination process, the UPSC has arranged 24 recruitment tests in CBRT mode (Computer Board Recruitment Tests) in 2016-17 in comparison to 16 CBRTs in 2015-16.

6. Revision of syllabus for various examinations conducted by the UPSC is a continuous process to ensure that the candidates recruited for various positions in the government are capable enough to rise upto the expectation in the changing global economic and social environment. The UPSC has revised the scheme and syllabus of Engineering Services Examination from the year 2017. This Examination has now been arranged into three stages, a preliminary examination, which shall act as a screening examination for the Main exam followed by Interview. This has been well accepted by all the stake holders. Revision of syllabus for other structured examinations being conducted by the Commission is also underway.

7. It is also very important that we attract the best talent into the government sector for better administration of the government policies and programmes. This can happen with a fair and transparent system of selection process. This year starting from the Engineering Services Examination and followed by the NDA Examination and then the Civil Services Examination, the UPSC has decided to install Jammers in Examination venues to stem out unfair practices adopted by a few unscrupulous candidates.

8. I am happy to share with you that there has been increased interest among the youths to apply for Government services which is substantiated by the fact that the overall candidature has increased from about 34 lakhs in 2015-16 to more than 42 lakh in 2016-17.

9. The UPSC is keen to strengthen its ties with State Public Service Commissions. I have attended the National Conference at Dhordo and two Standing Committee Meetings. My experience of interacting with my fellow Chairmen of the State Public Service Commissions has been encouraging. The UPSC will be happy to extend all possible cooperation to the State Public Service Commissions to strengthen their activities so that they fulfill their Constitutional mandate in a meaningful manner. The UPSC, in association with Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) arranged a workshop on 'Interview Techniques' for the Members of the State Public Service Commissions and a workshop on 'Recruitment Rules for the senior officers of State Public Service Commissions was arranged last year. We got very positive feedback from these workshops and I thank all the Public Service Commissions that have participated in these workshops. I urge all Public Service Commissions to actively participate in the various workshops to be arranged by the UPSC.

10. The UPSC has developed e-portal on its website for important Court Judgments/Rulings and posted important judgments pertaining to the functioning of the Public Service Commissions. Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have sent their important court judgments for posting on the e-portal. I request all other Public Service Commission to visit the portal and also send their important Court Judgments to the UPSC for uploading. I would also like to congratulate you for the common website that has been created which would include all important legal cases, activities, recruitment details, examination etc. pertaining to State Public Service Commissions.

11. I assure you of all the support by the UPSC for the initiatives and areas identified in this Conference. I look forward to your valuable suggestions and cooperation for fruitful deliberations in the Conference. I wish the Conference a great success.

Jai Hind.