

**SPEECH OF DR. MANOJ SONI, HON'BLE CHAIRMAN,  
UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AT THE 23<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE STATE PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSIONS,  
AT KERALA ON 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup>, APRIL, 2022**

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The Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Shri Arif Mohammad Khan

The Hon'ble Chairman, Kerala Public Service Commission,  
Advocate M.K. Sakeer

The Honble Members of the Standing Committee

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

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1.0 It is in deed a pleasure for me to be present here in the  
'*God's Own Country*' and the beautiful and historic city of  
Thiruvananthapuram. I deem it to be a privilege to address this  
august gathering to the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of the  
Chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions.

**2.0** I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chairman and the Members of the Kerala Public Service Commission for hosting this Conference, for the cordial invitation, and for graciously extending such warm hospitality.

**3.0** We are meeting for this important Conference during the days, which are both - festive and of great national importance. I pay my homage to Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, one of the most distinguished sons of India, and one of the founding fathers of the Constitution of India. Please accept my greetings on the festive occasions of the Vaisakhi, that was celebrated just a day ago, and Good Friday that we are celebrating today.

**4.0** It is in deed a wonderful coincidence that this National Conference is being organized on the days following the 132<sup>nd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. As one tries to study the debates of the Constituent Assembly, it becomes quite clear that, the Members of the Drafting Committee, and particularly its Hon'ble Chairman, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, had tried to benefit by the rich experience of other countries, while drafting the Articles on the Public Service Commissions.

**5.0** At this historic time, when our country is celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> year of her independence, it would be both – befitting and relevant to once again visit the debates of the Constituent Assembly, particularly concerning the Articles on the Public Service Commissions. The officially published volumes on the Constituent Assembly debates provide valuable insights into the thought processes of the founding fathers of our Constitution, especially, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with regard to the continuation, role, and organization of the Civil Services in the post-independent India. It is also the most relevant time to have a futuristic vision about the role of the Civil Services and the Public Service Commissions in India, with an idea of making them still more competent in the service of the nation, and discharging of their constitutional mandate, respectively.

**6.0** One of the foremost challenges of present day before us, is to organize the recruitment processes for recommending the right kind of human resources to the Government, with the highest degree of efficiency, integrity, and credibility.

**7.0** I am reminded of Mr. Finer, a Member of the Mac Donnell Commission on Civil Services and his thought about the

recruitment process through Public Service Commission. Mr. Finer had said, "A Civil Service Commission is a guardian of honest efficiency, and is constantly on the look out for new methods of testing the ability that presents itself. Its incorruptibility gives the candidate complete assurance that, if he enters the service it is due to merit and that alone, and if he fails, it is only because he does not reach the standard of the successful."

**8.0** Mr. Harold D. Smith another distinguished Member of the Mac Donnell Commission on Civil Services had succinctly captured the kernel of the recruitment process in these words: "The Public Administrator in a democracy is encouraged to exercise his skill, to use his judgement, to employ all his talents in performing the functions of the Government. It is the duty of the Civil Service Commission to choose such talents for employment in civil jobs."

**9.0** During his brilliant response to the debates in the Constituent Assembly, pertaining to the Articles concerning the Public Service Commission, Dr. Ambedkar also clearly outlined the functions of the Public Service Commissions. He said, "The

function of the Public Service Commission is to choose people who are *fit for public service.*”

**10.0** It is a matter of great pride for all of us that the Union Public Service Commission, which is poised to celebrate its centenary of impeccable glorious and progressive existence in 2025-26, has not only survived the ebbs and tides of history of the last 100 years, but, has organically evolved during these times as one of the most respected and highly trusted institutions in India, while assiduously discharging its constitutional duties and powers as envisioned by the great Architects of the Constitution of India.

**11.0** All of us have faced unprecedented challenges during the last couple of years and have tried to rise to the occasion in addressing those challenges. The Union Public Service Commission also stood up to those challenges and has steered through these difficult times exercising wisdom, courage and dexterity. As a result of this team effort, we are hopeful of regaining our original schedule sometimes around middle of this year. I am sure all the Public Service Commissions have also

been working very hard and must be on their way to regain their respective schedules.

**12.0** I am hopeful that in the course of the next one year, together with your cooperation and collective wisdom, we will be able to fruitfully organize all the programmes of capacity building for the State Public Service Commissions, which could not be organized during the last couple of years due to pandemic.

**13.0** Finally, as I perceive, between and amongst us in this very room, we share rich treasure of great institutional experience and wisdom, which we can utilize meaningfully for fulfilling our mandate as enshrined in the letter and spirit of the Constitution of India. On our part, the Union Public Service Commission is committed to extending all the best possible support for following up and realizing the decisions taken at this National Conference. I look forward to your valuable suggestions and cooperation for the deliberations in the Conference. And, I wish the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of State Public Service Commissions a great and fulfilling success.

Thank you all

**“JAI HIND”**