

STATE ADMINISTRATION – LEADERSHIP ROLE OF CHIEF SECRETARY

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Comments of DG NCGG V.Srinivas, IAS

It's a very special day for National Centre for Good Governance today, I extend a hearty welcome to two very distinguished speakers – Shri L.V.Subrahmanyam and Smt Keshni Anand Arora former Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh and Haryana to discuss the subject State Administration and Leadership Role of Chief Secretary. Let me introduce the subject, before handing it to the speakers.

In the Ramayana, Maharishi Valmiki has underscored the basic principle of good governance in simple words “Yatha Raja, Tatha Praja”. In the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic, India is witnessing Gov4.0, where States stand at the forefront of the Nation's governance model. It is important to understand the leadership and management roles played by Senior Administrators at the State Government level in Gov4.0.

The Chief Secretary's mandate in the State Government is vast, and covers a gamut of areas like policy making and strategic decisions, monitoring of implementation, appointments of key personnel, coordination and evaluation. The Chief Secretary symbolizes the best qualities of good governance in State Administration with proven leadership skills in enhancing State capacity, performance

monitoring & coordination, pursuit of transparent systems of governance, fighting corruption, building ethical organizations and playing a mentoring role for the senior civil servants in the State Administration. The Chief Secretary is also the chairperson of the State Disaster Management Authority and the COVID19 pandemic has shown the importance of the post in 2020.

Further, Chief Secretaries are the instrument of the State Administration to create new institutions, enforcement of rules to make the institutions work and sound implementation of welfare state schemes in education, health, poverty alleviation and employment. They are also responsible for building strong collective leadership in the civil service. It is the Chief Secretary's dynamism that enables the State bureaucracy to become a strong instrument in the government's development agenda.

Chief Secretary is a highly respected position that epitomizes the foundational principles of integrity, credibility and trust in the civil service by the people of India. The decisions from that chair are neutral and enable the State to achieve the objectives outlined in the Preamble of the Constitution – "Commitment to larger public good against all odds".

There is much we need to learn from the Officials who have held that post and shouldered so much responsibility. It is indeed the NCGG's great privilege to host two such officials. I greatly look forward to listening to our esteemed speakers on this subject.

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