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Book Review

TOWARDS A NEW INDIA
Governance Transformed 2014-2019

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TOWARDS A NEW INDIA: Governance Transformed 2014-2019 is the second book by the author. It deals with the welfare programmes, developmental initiatives, citizen-administration interface, pro-active civil servants and massive digital transformation in the country that is symbolic of the emergence of a New India. While discussing the plans, policies, programmes and schemes undertaken by the central as well as state governments, the book also talks about the impending challenges there too. Some of the success stories under the said programmes are related to Swachh Bharat Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala, Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. It also deals with some of the major innovative steps such as, Digital India, Skill India and Make in India. There are references to the ground realities in Indian Administration including issues and challenges of implementation of policies and programmes, anti-grafted efforts and public service delivery system.

The book has a forward written by Mr. Bibek Dev Roy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to The Prime Minister of India. Mr. Dev Roy writes that even though social inclusion and social sector intervention can be interpreted in a broad way, public goods and services are delivered by the state governments and local governments. The process of decentralization and fiscal devolution are very significant in the context of comprehensive understanding of governance in India. Participatory process distinguishes governance from mere government. It has been said that India's past and future are glorious. The present time depends upon an enabling government and it is driven by the young and entrepreneurial population. A message by Mr. Amitabh Kant, The Chief Executive Officer, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India mentions that the policies and programmes have benefited millions of Indians with improved living standards. Mr. K.V. Eapan, Secretary, Ministry of

PPG &P, DAR&PG Government of India and Dr. V.K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog have also given their views and appreciation for the book.

The book has thirteen chapters that cover almost all areas of administration, development and governance in India. These include New India, Gandhi Jayanti Swachh Bharat initiative, Cooperative Federalism: Finance commission, NITI Aayog and GST Council, Health Care for All, Education and rural Development, Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala, Digital India, Skill India, Make in India, Social Inclusion, Yoga, Culture and Sports, India's Fight against Corruption, Justice Delivery System, and 21st Century Challenges before the Civil Services in India .In the conclusion, the author has rightly emphasised on the process of transformation in the field of Education marked by smart class rooms, digital libraries, library automation system, sports infrastructure, management information systems, ATAL Tinkering Laboratories for innovation and quality assessments for the stakeholders. The author also mentions that in March,27,2019, The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind appointed Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, Former Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of India as Country's First Lok Pal or Anti-Corruption Ombudsman along with eight other members. This is a giant leap towards anti-corruption measure in the country.

The book, *TOWARDS A NEW INDIA : Governance Transformed 2014-2019* is lucid in language, style and presentation. In the preface, the author who is an Engineering Post Graduate, Badminton champion and a seasoned civil servant, writes that nothing comes easy in life . Hours and hours of honest work are required to sustain in India's meritocracy. This is equally applicable to the strength and resilience of India going towards the realisation of the strategic objectives as envisioned in New India @ 75. The book is very useful for students, researchers, faculty and civil servants who are engaged in various endeavours of development administration, good governance and participation of citizens in the nation building process.

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