

## 64<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Lecture Held at NIRDPR

### Press Note

NIRD&PR is an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. NIRD&PR assists in policy formulation and programme planning for rural development in the country. The Institute undertakes Training, Teaching, Research, Action Research and Consultancy assignments in the rural development sector. The Institute's services are available to different ministries and departments of the Central and State Governments, banking institutions, public and private sector organisations, civil society organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other national and international agencies anchored in Rural Development.

Originally established as National Institute of Community Development in 1958 at Mussoorie, the Institute was shifted to its Hyderabad Campus in 1965 and renamed as National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in 1977. Recognising the need for more focus on strengthening panchayati raj system and capacity building of functionaries of panchayati raj institutions, as per the decision of the General Council of the Institute, the name of NIRD has been changed as National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) with effect from December 4, 2013.

With the glorious heritage of 64 years magnificently accoutred in Rural Development, the Institute is organized Foundation Day lecture on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. V.Srinivas, IAS, Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Personnel, PG and Pensions addressed the faculty & staff of the institute on the topic **“75 YEARS OF GOVERNANCE REFORMS – RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT”**.

In his lecture he spoke about the 75th year of Indian Independence, the Amrit Kaal Period represents a historical year in Indian democracy, marking the Nation's deep and abiding commitment to Constitutional values and democracy. In the years 2014-22, the Government of India has introduced far reaching administrative reforms, in personnel administration and governance. The quest for a new narrative in Governance is characterised by strong institutions, higher accountability, data driven decision making, regulatory governance models and above all an ethical governance model with zero tolerance approach to corruption. The vision of Next Generation administrative reforms is outlined by Secretariat Reforms, Swachhta Campaigns, Benchmarking of Governance and Services, Redressal of Public Grievances & Improving Service Delivery, recognizing meritocracy and replication of good governance practices which form the core of India's good governance model. The talk will present the move from digitization to digitalization to digital transformation in creation of an agile, collaborative and connected government.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in implementation of the PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration is a repository of the largest collection of administrative innovations in Rural Development undertaken by District Collectors. In every village of India today, the proliferation of digital technology is being witnessed. India's villages have changed

and villagers are technologically enabled – e-mitras, digital merchants, business correspondents are visible in India's villages. "Building to Scale, Building to Last" has become a reality as was seen in the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the proliferation of the Jan Dhan Accounts and Aadhar all of which enabled significant transformation and empowerment. Technology progress in India's welfare programs coupled with an inclusive digital model of governance and benefits of technology being accepted by rural societies is witnessed.