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### **Editorial**

Indian administration has witnessed paradigmatic shifts in the nature of governance and working of democracy in the 21st century. There has been emerging trends in policy priorities and policy reform process in India since the dawn of the 21st century, that need to be marked. New policies like skilling India, Digital India, Swaksha Bharat Abhiyan and Demonetization are some striking policy interventions in last few years which need to be examined. Besides, the grassroots level governance is also an area to be considered in its changing trends and its impact on development process. Jefery Witsoe's (2013) study of a Bihar Village argues that increasing people's participation and growing democracy at micro level have gone against the development. In addition to these issues, there are some significant areas attracting reconsideration like judiciary, higher education, gender equality, cultural aspects, good governance in globalised society, and new policies etc. The editorial team considered these issues being covered in the present issue of the Journal. Though we could not get success in procuring contributions in all the above areas, yet it caters the need of stimulating minds of intelligentsia on these issues.

The adored contributor Hon'ble Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly has presented his deep concern for the stalemate situation in the process of appointment of judges in higher judiciary causing shortage of its strength. The paradigmatic shift in higher education has been discussed by Qamar Ahsan. Women in context of governance, development and their status at grassroots level has been discussed at length by three contributors namely Nupur Tiwary, Manjari Verma and Laxmi Kumari. Issue of re-appeared sad plight of dalits, in various parts of India, has been considered by Ashok Choudhary. Good governance has been re-examined by S P Shahi and Dilip Kumar. Archana Saushilya has examined the status of Swaksha Bharat Abhiyan and the impact of ICT on social change by a sociologist Henna Tabassum. Finally the aspects of Indian culture has been examined in international and national political context by Poonam Kumari and Purnima Singh respectively.

The editor has the pleasure to present this combined volume of the Journal before the readers. The editorial team expresses its gratitude to the referees for their pains taking job and thankfulness to the contributors. Serious efforts have been made to make the contents free of mistake and maintain the standard, but to err is human. However, the editor takes the sole responsibility of the mistakes, if any. Readers are requested to feel free to render suggestions for improvement of the Journal

Dr. R K Verma  
Editor

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>1. न्यायिक नियुक्तियों में गतिरोध: अवांक्षनीय</b>	<b>1-4</b>
<i>विजय कुमार चौधरी</i>	
<b>2. “How many Battles will I fight?” Women in the Panchayats: Evidence from a Randomized Survey of Bihar, India</b>	<b>5-24</b>
<i>Nupur Tiwari</i>	
<b>3. Paradigm Shift in Higher Education Administering Change in Developing States</b>	<b>25-30</b>
<i>Qamar Ahsan</i>	
<b>4. Dalits in Bihar Politics Why do They Lag Behind?</b>	<b>31-38</b>
<i>Dr. Ashok Choudhary</i>	
<b>5. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Need for a Workable and Effective Model</b>	<b>39-48</b>
<i>Dr. Archana Sawshilya</i>	
<b>6. The Indian Cultural Power Diplomatic Trends and Practices</b>	<b>49-57</b>
<i>Dr. Poonam Kumari</i>	
<b>7. Good Governance Revisited (A Study of Indicators over the Space and Time)</b>	<b>58-64</b>
<i>Professor Shashi Pratap Shahi</i>	
<b>8. Globalised Society and Good Governance Issues and Challenges</b>	<b>65-71</b>
<i>Dr. Dilip Kumar</i>	
<b>9. Digitalisation in India and Rural Society(A Study in Context of Social Change)</b>	<b>72-77</b>
<i>Dr. Henna Tabassum</i>	
<b>10. Women and Development in India A Context of Education, ICT, Human Rights and Reservation</b>	<b>78-83</b>
<i>Dr. Manjari Verma</i>	
<b>11. Status of Women in Motihari (A Study of Impact of Urbanisation)</b>	<b>84-93</b>
<i>Laxmi Kumari</i>	
<b>12. Impact of Global Governance on Indian Market Emerging Issues &amp; Challenges</b>	<b>94-99</b>
<i>Dr. Fazal Ahmad</i>	
<b>13. Nature of Political Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Women: Some Ground Realities</b>	<b>100-109</b>
<i>Dr. Rajeev Ranjan</i>	
<b>14. Our Cultural Heritage Sustains the Multiculturalism in India</b>	<b>110-113</b>
<i>Dr. Purnima Singh</i>	
<b>Glimpses of Activities of the IIPA Bihar Regional Branch</b>	<b>114-118</b>