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FROM THE DESK OF ADVISER

Role of the Institute



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"For forms of government let fools contest;
Whatever is best administer'd is best."

While making the above declaration, Alexander Pope, the 18th century English poet was obviously referring to the notorious acrimony among the rival political parties of the day. But even as the lines lampooned political leaders, the poet was subtly highlighting the critical importance of public administration. For the common public, he insisted, the political complexion of the ruler was of less

relevance than his ability to deliver good governance.

In seeking to establish systems of governance, the state inevitably faces several fundamental questions. "What constitutes good administration, and how is it to be delivered?" and, "Can public administration be considered similar to other social sciences, and subject to rigorous study, research and practical application?"

In the state of Punjab, Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration supports the state government in attaining its goals for public administration. As the apex training institute in the state, MGSIPA is responsible for upgrading the management skills of functionaries of various departments at all levels; for conducting in-depth studies on topics of direct application in many fields of activity; and for linking the institutions of the state government with best practices observed worldwide. The Institute is proud to be considered a friend, philosopher and guide in the areas of hard core administration. It aims to apply tried and tested, as well as novel, concepts of administration to real life situations. For this, the Institute assembles distinguished experts with a variety of experience, who expose officials to new thinking.

Over the years the partners and clients of MGSIPA have grown manifold, and so has the demand for its vital inputs and services. As many as twenty five separate Centres for a variety of subjects as diverse as Disaster Management, Labour Welfare, Justice, Personnel Management, Environment Studies, Manpower Services, Media, Panchayat Raj Institutions, etc. function in MGSIPA to supply regular and continuing service in the state of Punjab. The Institute has been assigned the functions of an agency for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation of all departments of the state government.

In conducting its activities, MGSIPA attempts to keep its feet firmly on the ground. It recognizes that administrative improvement is, truly speaking, the responsibility of individual agencies charged with specific functions. The Institute would like to be regarded as an essential, potent catalyst for the task of administrative improvement.

Personally, I value the opportunity to be associated with Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration.

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