

knowledge and resources at hand, and have opportunities of equal access to basic material and spiritual needs. Capability of the people of such a village includes their skills of transforming formal institutions such as Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas as well as other informal institutions of self-governance into enabling institutions of democracy at local level.

While sailing through the papers the reader comes across a commonality in various approaches to building model villages: Model villagers' collective awareness about self-responsible and accountable citizenship and their willingness to initiate—and participate in—various practices of village development. From this it follows that it is possible to build model villages through community led programmes and that heterogeneous or homogenous identity of a village can be utilised in evolving diversified ways of democratic village life.

The idea of model villages that emerges from this book successfully appears to be free from the trap of tradition-modernity dichotomy—the contributors do not find tradition and modernity inconsistent with the idea of model villages. Given, model villages can be seen as a trend of synchronising traditional and modern technology in order to deepen democratic village life. Anticipated by scholars such as Rajni Kothari such trends represent a paradigm shift in the discourse on development and democracy at grassroots level. The trend of building model villages by synchronising traditions with technology is consistent with the demands for “larger citizen involvement in new variants of old institutions like the gaon sabha which can combine older forms of informal consensus-making mechanisms with the more formal, institutionalised and legal forms decreed by legislation” in order to maximise the responsibility and accountability of formal institutions of self-governance and to minimise the politician-bureaucrat nexus (Rajni Kothari 1988:196). The book is a significant attempt in

bringing together the people who are actively engaged in improving living conditions of human beings in rural areas in order to bridge the gap between rural and urban India.

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Reference

Kothari, Rajni, (1988), *State Against Democracy: In Search of Humane Governance*, Delhi Ajanta Publications, p.196.

Rethinking Planning and Development – The Indian Context : Tribute to Tarlok Singh by Yogesh Atal, 2013 Published by Indian Association of Social Science Institutions, IIPA, Indra Prastha Estate, Delhi – 110 002 in association with MANAK Publications Pvt Ltd. B-7, Saraswati Complex, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi – 110 092, pp. 260, ₹ 1200 (Hardback).

This volume is a tribute to Shri Tarlok Singh – a distinguished Civil Servant (ICS of the British times) and the founder Chairman of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI)- who worked closely with India's first Prime Minister, in promoting planned development of the Indian Economy. IASSI has decided to institute a Series of Tarlok Singh Memorial Lectures to Commemorate and pay tributes for his contributions in social sciences. This volume comprises two parts. The first part carries a selection from the tributes paid by his friends and admirers. Second part reproduces the first six memorial lectures delivered in his honour.

First chapter signifies the contributions and achievements of Shri Tarlok Singh. Author Jaideep Singh has brought out every event of his father and his vision in building social sciences as an institution. Shri Tarlok Singh has built two institutions, the first institution was Committee on studies for Cooperation in Development in South Asia (CSCD) in 1978 and second institution that he has conceived and actualised is Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI).

Authors quote that Shri Tarlok Singh will go down in history as one of the builders of modern India.

A K Dasputa contributed second chapter with a title "Farewell to Nehruvian Era". Author has emphasised on the book "Poverty and Social Change" contributed by Shri Tarlok Singh which contained a structure of a plan document focused on eradication of poverty. Sachchidanada emphasised on the classic documentation of the draft First Five Year Plan 1951 by Shri Tarlok Singh in the third chapter on Planner, Researcher, Institution Builder. Rajeshwar Prasad states that Shri Tarlok Singh was one of the distinguished personalities who received Padma Shri (1954), Padma Bhushan (1962) and Padma Vibhushan (2000) and had innumerable academic laurels to his credit. He was humble academically, devoid of any academic aura and 'intellectual arrogance', encouraging inter-disciplinary research and teaching of social science. CT Kurien has shared his experiences with Shri Tarlok Singh in the fifth chapter of the volume – "Shri Tarlok Singh as I knew him".

S P Ahuja admired Shri Tarlok Singh as Guide, Philosopher and Friend and Bhupinder Singh praised him as the Tallest Civil Servant. While Debabar Banerji shared his association and experiences with Shri Tarlok Singh as a Rare Combination of Social Commitment and Unrelenting Determination for Action and B. G. Verghese adored him as a Firm Believer in Regional Cooperation.

The Executive Committee members of IASSA unanimously resolved that a special programme i.e., Tarlok Singh Memorial Lecture series was initiated to keep his memory alive. The six memorial lectures delivered by the eminent scholars have been included as six individual chapters as Part – two of the volume.

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission delivered the first lecture on "Role of Planning – A New Perspective". He has discussed on past, present and future challenges and perspectives of

planning and its relevance in growth and poverty alleviation. Second lecture on Changing Agrarian Structure in India : 1953 – 54 to 2003 – increasing Marginalisation with limited resources and extreme inequality has posed the institutional challenges in India. How would these farmers be able to benefit from crop diversification or export possibilities in the context of globalisation, which remained unanswered? Prof. Y.K. Alagh presented on "Energy Sector in India – performance, opportunities and promises to keep". The challenge of better performance of energy sector on a PPP mode involves international investments for which progress in India is slow but improving gradually. Decentralised options for renewable energy need greater emphasis.

The fourth lecture was delivered by G.K. Chand on Envisioning India as a Knowledge Economy, fifth lecture by Yogesh Atal on Combating Poverty and the last memorial lecture on Challenges of Transforming Indian Agriculture by V.S. Vyas was to pay homage to Tarlok Singh.

This book is recommended for students and researchers.

Dr. V. Suresh Babu

Financial Engineering for Low-Income Households, Edited by Bindu Ananth and Amit Shah, Sage Publication 2013; Pages 226, Price ₹ 595.

Finance has the power to help households manage several risks and give them the tools with which to plan their lives; maximise their growth potential; and offer them protection against large unexpected shocks as well as longer term changes in prices of their financial and physical assets. A household's financial life can be seen as a combination of exposure to time and contingent states. Financial wealth can be seen as a combination of assets that are currently owned and present value of future income discounted at an appropriate risk-adjusted rate.