

**Welcome Address by Shri D S Sachdev, DG (W) - 155<sup>th</sup> CPWD DAY**  
**(Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi : 1000 hours, 12th July'09)**

Honorable Chief Minister of Delhi, Madam Sheila Dikshit Ji;

Honorable Union Minister of State for Urban Development, Shri Saugata Roy Ji,

Dear colleague Shri R C Mishraji, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, my colleagues in CPWD.

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome our Chief Guest, Smt. Sheila Dikshitji, Chief Minister of Delhi to be with us. Madam your presence here out of your busy schedule is a great source of inspiration to the officers and staff of CPWD working all over India in general and those posted in Govt. of Delhi in particular. The infrastructure development of Delhi for Commonwealth Games has given a great fillip to CPWD as a partner in development. We in CPWD heartily welcome you on this occasion. We are extremely indebted to Shri Saugata Roy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Urban Development, who has very kindly agreed to preside over this function. Sir, we really cherish your kind presence here with us, which is a source of inspiration to all formations of CPWD family. We are extremely thankful to Shri RC Mishra, Additional Secretary (Urban Development), who has established a great rapport with CPWD in such a short time and we always find you on our side. We also welcome all our distinguished Invitees from our clients and those associated directly or indirectly with CPWD. Distinguished senior officers of CPWD, fellow officers and staff of CPWD from different parts of India, representative of construction firms, media persons, ladies and gentlemen.

Over the last 155 years my department has grown from infancy to maturity and has earned laurels for creating structures with

engineering excellence which reflected the growth pattern of the nation. I am proud to head this Organization which comprises of dedicated and committed staff and officers.

Public  
Works

Times have changed and so have changed the requirements for development. But public works are eternal. However, in the present scenario when public - private partnership is gaining momentum, it is difficult to classify infrastructure development as responsibility of the state alone. Such development continues to remain public work as they affect public life in every aspect be it economic or social and continues to use public money whether through funding or through sharing of the revenue. We in CPWD, therefore, remain committed to public works for development in any form.

We have stiff challenges before us in the form of Commonwealth Games 2010, Afghan Parliament and Chancery Building at Kabul, and Government of India projects like 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana', 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana'. Our field units are working hard to achieve the difficult targets set by our clients. However, success in no way can be a ground for complacency. We know that we have not only to perform but have to upgrade our performance at an accelerated pace. To ensure that best performance is delivered uniformly throughout the length and breadth of the country, the department has adopted **“Excellence in public works” as its Vision.**

Vision

We are striving to achieve this dream by:

Mission

- Sound planning and design, Engineered construction and impeccable house keeping & maintenance .
- Standardization of building elements including their pre-fabrication, mechanization in construction, use of new materials and technologies resulting in conservation of energy and natural resources. Updation of CPWD Specifications, Schedule of Rates

and Works Manual in an ongoing process. Today we are releasing CPWD Specifications, 2009.

Environment friendly construction is order of the day. Norms in this regard have been developed by various regulatory authorities and were being hitherto practised by CPWD in standalone format. We have been associated with Bureau of Energy Efficiency on one end and Ministry of New & Renewal Energy on the other. A Task Group under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in association with TERI have evolved a uniform GRIHA Rating system which guides each stake holder right from concept to completion to ensure that Green building norms are adhered to. We in CPWD have incorporated this in our Works Manual and have embarked upon a comprehensive awareness & training programme through CPWD Training Institute. It is irrespective of whether our clients want a suitable rating to their building, CPWD have introduced internal certification system for each building being planned, designed & constructed by us.

Green  
Buildings

I am aware that despite being the key developer of the nation, CPWD is not able to keep client ministries and departments satisfied as they find that our thrust in delivery of service is not up to their expected mark. I am thankful to them for having set such high expectations from us. These are our benchmarks too.

In order to reach the solicited level of performance in construction activities, memorandum of understandings have been drawn with client organizations and the risks have been identified and allocated. Mutual responsibilities and obligations have been laid down. The client departments are now aware as to how they can effectively contribute and participate for building their infrastructure. This has started showing positive results. However to ensure effective intervention by the stake holder at appropriate time, constant monitoring of projects is essential. We in CPWD have tried & tested

various 'Project monitoring tools' but find that our age old Manual System is the best. However to ensure its accessibility on click of mouse, we had started a pilot project in Sept.'08 last year and have successfully implemented it in Southern Region. Action is already on to extend it to all other Regions pan India for all major construction projects at the Directorate & Ministry level, we are also working at an ERP solution for all activities of CPWD pan India and the day is not far when CPWD will be able to effectively utilize the same.

Maintenance

The challenging task of maintenance and house-keeping has very often been intermingled by the users. The two being complementary to each other, it is of vital importance that these activities are carried out in an integrated manner rather than in isolation. Our thrust area for maintenance includes Repair . to maintain in present form; Upgradation . to improve scale of amenities; Retrofitting . for structural safety; Aesthetic improvement . to make it residents pride; Enhanced interaction with clients . for participative maintenance management; and last but not the least, Client satisfaction surveys without human interface . for unbiased assessment and feedback to improve and strengthen the existing systems of delivery.

Transparency  
Website

These commitments of CPWD have been reflected in its Citizen Charter. Special efforts to introduce transparency through computerization have been undertaken. CPWD website is one of the most visited sites of Government of India. It is repository of all rules and regulations pertaining to execution of public works.

Strength of any organization lies in its manpower. It is not doubted that CPWD has best brains of the nation in all spheres of its working. The VI Pay Commission recommendations have left the engineers dis-satisfied. Otherwise also, career prospects of engineers are related with vacancies and work load when other services have

them linked with individual's span of service. I feel that the Government should have a re-look into the constitution of various public works organizations and engineering organizations so that engineers of these organizations have parity of growth with other services of the Government. But at the same time I admit that internal wrangles amongst various Cadres are affecting the growth of the Organization and I would appeal all Associations to come forward in the spirit of give & take so that we can press our claim for improved cadre with the Govt.

Last but not the least I would like to exhort my people of CPWD to follow their Rajdharma and devote themselves to serve the society with commitment and pride. I am aware that there are material challenges which are reflected by way of inadequate status in the society due to poor career prospects within the organization. But at the same time I would like to both advise and counsel the staff and officers of CPWD that their performance should speak of responsibility, accountability and deliverance like a true Karmayogi.

I am confident that CPWD shall emerge as a major infrastructure developer with benchmarked operations and organized human resource offering best of services to the stakeholders in near future.

I once again welcome one & all on the Dias and in front of me.

Thanking you