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**Book Reviews**

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Related to the doctrine of the superior’s order plea is the concept of command responsibility, that is, the responsibility of the superiors for the act of the subordinates. This refers to the responsibility of the superior in case his subordinates commit an act, which is a crime, and if the superior culpably fails to take necessary measures to prevent or suppress such crimes. Viplav Kumar Choudhry cites examples from several legal cases to establish that in addition to the criminal responsibility of the actual perpetrator, the responsibility of the superior officer arises as well in such cases.

All development must be concerted to enhance human rights of all, both individually and collectively. A human rights-based approach to development is well served by the concept of the right to development, provided that right is seen as a true human right. The article by B.M. Sharma and Abhishek Sharma reiterates that question, therefore, is not how to identify points of actual or potential intersection, nor to link the two by way of conditionality but to look at development as a right.

In the context of India’s rapid strides towards becoming an urban majority country, urban centric policy and governance become critical. Good urban governance is a pre-condition for efficient financial management and effective service delivery. The inability of the ULBs to draw their full share of the Finance Commission grants, not all states fulfilling conditions so far to access the performance grant and poor implementation of infrastructure projects and agreed reform agenda under JNNURM are pointers to the governance deficit at local level and the need to strengthen it. D. Ravindra Prasad and V. Srinivas Chary argue that the 14th Finance Commission should take the opportunity and measures to enable the local bodies to improve their finances, strengthen governance, and deepen the democratic decentralization for the sake of future urban development.

The concept of universal service in telecom sector evolved from the regulation of monopoly fixed line service providers and imposition of an obligation on them to provide below cost access to local telephone services, especially to underserved regions and populations. This often comes through cross-subsidies by way of the higher charges for urban/long distance services/premium rate services. Archana G. Gulati’s copious
analysis illustrates how the present set of universal service obligation regulations are unsatisfactory in terms of positively influencing outcomes of universal service interventions especially vis-à-vis guaranteeing competitive neutrality.

The investments through foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bring huge liquidity to the capital market. But frequent changes in their portfolio also lead to volatility in the stock market. This leads to the vexed question of the casualty effect of such investments on the relationship of foreign institutional investments with stock return. In her article, Nishi Sharma attempts to explore the cause and effect relationship between net inflow of FIIs and stock return. The study examines monthly data of around 20 years through Augmented Dickey Fuller Test, Johansen co-integration test and Granger casualty test to establish the positive effect of FII over returns and found no significant impact of good stock returns to allure FII in India.

In view of the widespread perception that NGOs in India are under-regulated, political, and recipients of large government and international donor funds, NGOs often take up responsibilities outside their skill ambit. Governments have no access to the number of projects or amount of funding received by these NGOs. There is a pressing need to regulate these groups while not curtailing their unique role as a supplement to government services. Ch. Bala Ramulu and A.Venkat Ram Narsimha Reddy conclude that the success of the NGOs depends on their confining to the basic philosophy of voluntary organisation, non-profit motives, democratic leadership, practice of values and principles, capacity building and enhancement professionalism, transparency and accountability in their day-to-day functioning.

The Kedarnath disaster of 2013 has officially been termed a natural calamity caused by cloudbursts and unprecedented heavy monsoon. However, the true cause of this tragedy is unabated growth of tourism, unchecked rapid increase of roads, hotels, shops, multi-storey buildings, and other environmental degradation in an ecologically fragile area. According to Austine Eapen it is high time to learn from mistakes by showing greater concern for the environmental issues and to heighten the disaster preparedness at the grassroots level in the vulnerable areas. He exhorts that a disaster of such a severe magnitude may be a wakeup call for all of us.

e-Governance has now been widely recognized as an important means for transformational improvement in quality, efficiency and effectiveness of governance the world over. There is now a noticeable progress in the delivery of e-governance services in both developed
and developing countries at the international level. R.K. Sapru and Yudhishthira Sapru emphasise upon the need to look at present e-governance initiatives from management perspective of ‘good governance’ wherein a citizen needs to have a channel of citizen-centric service.

The interest groups have the function of protecting the interest of their own members though there is a widespread belief that their interest is also the interest of the nation. The interests groups have made a tremendous impact on the American political process by means of ‘lobbying’ behind-the scenes bargaining, propaganda and information, electoral support and persuasion, etc. by their involvement in the different stages in the making of policy. Pressure groups in the European countries, particularly those in UK are broadly divided into interest groups and promotional groups. S.A. Palekar makes a comparative study of the presence and functioning of interests groups in various countries. He observes that the pressure groups in India are constituted mainly along occupational and economic interests.

E-Governance goes far beyond mere computerisation of public works. It is an enabling mechanism to foster good governance by upholding the critical values like, transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public service delivery. The agenda for e-Governance is to provide citizen services in a cost-effective and seamless environment on 24x7 basis availability. Purva Mishra’s article offers details of the initiatives undertaken by the Punjab state in implementing National e-Governance Plan and particularly the Mission Mode Projects for taking the services to the citizen’s doorsteps.

The positive influence of personality traits can help managers overcome many a conflict without hampering their personal or professional growth. Management development training is found to be an effective intervention in occupational health psychology, especially to enhance performance. The study by Rabindra Acharya, Balaram Pradhan and H.R. Nagendra finds that self-management of excessive tension (SMET) can help in reducing stress among managers. It transforms the personality traits by reducing anxiety, depression and somatization as well as by improving their psychological well-being. This not only augments their productivity, but also leads to a significant growth of the organization.

India is structurally an import intensive country. Slowing down of Indian economy during the last four years has added to pressure on the overall domestic inflation and a persistent current account deficit month after month. Rising domestic costs on account of rupee depreciation
and Exchange rate risk also drives away foreign investors, which in turn depreciates the local currency. Indian Rupee is currently caught in this vicious cycle; it will have to find a stable level to regain investors’ confidence. Himani Dahiya and Monica Dahiya recommend that in such a scenario the reforms agenda needs to be pushed at any cost and the most binding constraints for the economy need to be relieved. They suggest a slew of measures to tide over the present crisis.

The issue contains the regular Book Review section.

—EDITOR