

Speech at the Valedictory Session of 19th National Conference of the Chairpersons of Public Service Commissions of the States of India.

Date : 19th February, 2017

Venue : Tent City,
Ta.:- Bhuj,
Kutch district.

Time : 11.00 a.m.

- It is my great pleasure to be with all of you at the Valedictory Session of the two days Conference of the Chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions. It is, indeed, a privilege for me to address this august gathering today. At the beginning, I would like to extend my warm welcome to the Hon. Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, Hon. Chairpersons of all the State Public Service Commissions and the delegates participating in this Conference. I am glad that all of you could come to Dhordo which is in the

bordering district of Kachchh. This is a place where State Government of Gujarat, under the aegis of the Gujarat Tourism Corporation Limited, holds the Kachchh Carnival every year in winter.

- During your two days stay here, you must have experienced the celebration of life, festivities and culture of the people of Kachchh who have been living in the border area nearing Pakistan. Here, the visitors get the rare opportunity to experience the diverse traditions and the hospitality of the Kachchh people. You must also

have come across the creative ingenuity of the local artisans whose craftsmanship has become world famous. I hope that you would cherish the memory of Kachchh visit for a long time.

- Public Service Commissions in India have a great responsibility. Their mandate is to ensure fair, transparent and merit-based recruitment to different public services. Our Indian Constitution has, in very clear terms, given an independent role to the Public Service Commissions. People of the country expect the Public Service Commissions to discharge their constitutional responsibilities with integrity, objectivity, transparency and a high sense of accountability.
- In the changed scenario and scope of governance, the role of the Public Service Commissions

has become very vital. Public Service Commission is not merely a recruitment agency; it is an important institution of the Government which is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting administrators and professionals who are efficient, responsive, honest and committed to the welfare of the society. We need able and responsive administrators in order to ensure socio-economic upliftment of our citizen.

- It is both in the interest of the Government of India and the respective State Governments that the Public Service Commissions recruit the best talent available in the field. In the modern times, where there is so much competitiveness in the private sector, it is equally necessary for the Government sector also to have the best talent available so that the delivery of

public services could be ensured. Even long time back, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that our Commissions must select the most efficient and the best candidates in public service. In the Government set up, both at the macro level from where the policies are framed, and at the micro level where the policies are executed; we need efficient people who have the finest quality of head and heart. We need public servants who are proactive, welfare-oriented and who have the capacity to deliver the benefits of the welfare schemes of the Government to the target group at the grass root level within the shortest possible time frame. For all these, we require a pool of competent persons at the field level. It is the duty and responsibility of the Public Service Commissions to give us

such competent persons through effective selection mechanism.

- Today, we are living in the 21st Century. Our time is very exciting, as information and communication technology has widely affected our day-to-day activities. In the days of computers and internet, we expect our Public Service Commissions to make better use of modern technology and expedite the process of selection. They should make better use of the expertise available in the IT sector. Even if our Public Service Commissions could reduce the processing time by adopting modern technology, it would be a great service to the people of the country.
- In modern times, the society as a whole, expects high professionalism, speed,

efficiency and transparency from the Public Service Commissions. As such, our Commissions also have to change their old set-up and mentality to meet new levels of transparency, values and speed to meet the expectations of the people. It is in this context that our methods of examinations, syllabus as well as recruitment rules also need to be redefined. Appropriate use of modern technology also should be made to ensure this.

- In Gujarat, I am told that the Gujarat Public Service Commission has recently introduced several procedural changes to redefine the recruitment process. I would like to briefly mention a few of them:

(1) The Gujarat Public Service Commission now prepares a time-bound Annual Calendar of

Recruitment Process and publishes it on its website and newspapers in the month of January. The Annual Calendar indicates the date of Advertisement, date of examination, the month of interview and the likely date of announcement of result. This helps the candidates to plan their preparations and start their studies in advance.

(2) Considering the vacant posts, the Gujarat Public Service Commission now conducts almost 10 to 20 examinations in a month to expedite the recruitment process.

(3) As a part of proactive transparency, GPSC uploads on its website scanned copy of every OMR Sheets for MCQ Test on the same day or the next day of examination. This may also inspire the other Public Service Commissions to

introduce such measures of transparency.

(4) For easy access of information and other recruitment process related updates, the GPSC, in addition to its website, has also developed an Android based mobile application. GPSC is also having its tweeter account. The information and instructions on these digital platforms are updated on regular basis.

(5) GPSC has introduced a method of draw system for interview board to ensure transparency in conducting interviews.

(6) The Gujarat Public Service Commission ensures that the identity of a candidate is not revealed in an examination.

- I hope that the two days Conference at Dhordo in the

bordering district of Kachchh would have provided you ample opportunities to share and exchange your views with each other. I also hope that these deliberations would be helpful to you in the long run. This is the time to rededicate yourselves to the higher cause of service and with these words, I conclude my speech at the Valedictory Session of the Conference.

- I thank Shri Dinesh Dasa, Hon. Chairman of the Gujarat Public Service Commission for giving me an opportunity to meet all of you and share my views with you at the 19th National Conference of the Chairpersons of the State Public Service Commissions. I hope that all of you must have been completely satisfied with the excellent arrangements of lodging and boarding and travel, etc. made

by the Gujarat Public Service
Commission in collaboration
with the district administration.

Thank you
Jai Hind
Jay Jay Garvi Gujarat