

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy

NEWSLETTER

Director's Column



India has continued to show robust economic performance for the third year in succession. The first half of the fiscal 2005-06 has witnessed a growth rate of over 8 percent. The acceleration in growth has been witnessed in virtually every sector of the economy. By all accounts, the buoyant performance is expected to continue

despite the persistence of high fiscal deficits, poor infrastructure performance, escalating oil prices and political difficulty in reforming critical areas in a coalition government. The prospects of the economy can be surmised as one of cautious optimism.

The buoyant economic performance for the third successive year has led many to believe that the economy has reached a higher growth trajectory and setting a 8-9 percent growth target for the Eleventh Plan seems no longer unrealistic. Even in the past, there have been periods of growth peaks followed by significant troughs. Furthermore, stagnancy in agriculture and slow growth of manufacturing in recent years does not signal the economy reaching a higher growth trajectory. The agricultural sector has registered a growth of just 1.5 percent during the three years of the Tenth Plan as against the target of 4 percent. Despite impressive performance of the manufacturing sector this year, there are serious infrastructure bottlenecks. Electricity blackouts and outages have become outrageous. Other sectors posing constraints include airports, ports, railways, and urban infrastructure. Then, there is drag from persisting fiscal imbalances. Unless agricultural growth increases to 4 percent, fiscal consolidation is achieved, infrastructure bottlenecks are eased, and institutions are reformed to restore incentives and accountability, the objective of accelerating growth will remain on paper.

The competitive populism of coalition politics and continued adoption of large unfunded programmes raise serious concerns. There are serious doubts about the capacity of the some state governments to implement many of the programmes. The important example of such a scheme is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). While the issue of its desirability is no longer relevant, since the Act has been passed already, the question is how to make the implementation effective, institute a system of checks and balances and minimise corruption. Indeed, even if we are able to effectively implement

it in two thirds of the districts with a reasonable degree of success, we would have turned the economies of the lagging regions around. Can we achieve this?

Despite many apprehensions, there are rays of hope. The forthcoming budget will be a real test of the Centre's ability to withstand pressures in achieving fiscal correction. It will also set the reform direction on the eve of the Eleventh Plan.

On the fiscal front, thanks to strengthening of the information system in direct taxes, revenues have continued to be buoyant. The stagnancy in excise duty revenues is still a matter of concern and this needs to be examined. A study at NIPFP showed that over 40 percent of the excise duty revenue is contributed by petroleum products alone and this raises concerns about the distortions from taxing intermediate goods despite switching over to the CENVAT regime. Further, another recent NIPFP study estimated the loss of revenue due to tax preferences to small scale industries, area-based exemptions, export processing and special economic zones and exports from central taxes, at Rs. 54,500 crore, or, more than one percent of GDP. It is necessary to do away with these tax preferences to raise additional resources, avoid distortions, and prevent special interest group politics. Indeed, efficiency in spending is as important as raising revenues and much remains to be done in this area.

The NIPFP will continue its role in providing research, training, and advocacy in furthering fiscal reforms and strengthening the capacity of the governments. A recent workshop on the implementation aspects of NREGA, at the request of the Administrative Reform Commission will help the Commission to recommend systems and institutions for effective implementation of the Act. The workshop on Fiscal Management in Disadvantaged States brought together senior policy makers in fiscally stressed states to discuss and devise ways and means to improve their finances while safeguarding allocation to developmental spending. The two training programmes on VAT for the officials of the state governments funded by the British High Commission and the course for the probationers of Indian Economic Service were intended to build capacity. The coming months will see the NIPFP undertaking many more challenging tasks in making contribution to research, training, and advocacy.

M. Govinda Rao

PROJECTS COMPLETED

- *Capacity Building for Fiscal Reforms in Sikkim, Asian Development Bank, December, 2005.*

A. Premchand, M. Govinda Rao and P. R. Jena (co-authored)

The project relates to capacity building in Sikkim to enable the state to undertake fiscal reforms. The various components of the project are:

- enhancing the budgeting system;
- expenditure management and control;
- restructuring of departments to enhance efficiency;
- reforms in the tax system;
- assistance to introduce value added tax (VAT);
- public enterprises restructuring programme; and
- help in building a statistical system for measurement of the state's income and poverty.

- *Toolkit for Setting a Timeline for Implementing the Urban Reform Agenda, December, 2005.*

Om Prakash Mathur

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) requires cities applying for assistance, to lay down a time schedule for implementing the proposed reform agenda. The reform agenda consists of reforms that (i) are to be undertaken by urban local bodies (ULBs); and (ii) those to be undertaken by the state governments.

This toolkit is designed to seek information from the applicant cities that will enable the Ministry of Urban Development to set (i) the benchmarks on each of the constituents of reform agenda; and (ii) a time-schedule for implementing the reform agenda. The toolkits have been published as GoI documents and were released, alongwith toolkits prepared by IL&FS, by the Prime Minister on December 3, 2005.

- *Toolkit on the Formulation of a City Development Plan, December, 2005.*

Om Prakash Mathur

This toolkit is designed to assist city governments and other participating organisations in the National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) such as the state-level and city-level water supply and sewerage boards and development authorities in the formulation of City Development Plans (CDPs). The toolkit outlines the scope of CDPs, as it emerges out of the NURM. It indicates the requirements of data. Further, it suggests a methodology for analysis, together with steps for their use, to assess the problems, resources, and comparative advantage of cities realistically, and to determine a medium to long term vision for their future development. The toolkit provides an approach to identifying the key issues that need to be addressed and the options that are available with city governments to bridge the gap between where the city is now and where it wishes to go.

- *Uttar Pradesh: Medium Term Expenditure Policy, Resource and Expenditure Commission, Uttar Pradesh, November, 2005.*

D. K. Srivastava, C. Bhujanga Rao and Manish Gupta

This study examined the appropriate structure of expenditure in terms of size and composition and accordingly formulated a medium term expenditure policy for Uttar Pradesh. The study outlined the dimensions required for restructuring of expenditure in Uttar Pradesh. It covered the following areas: basic considerations in formulation of medium term expenditure policy; trends and structure of expenditure in Uttar Pradesh; expenditure policy; link between expenditure and its financing; and measures to improve efficiency of government expenditure.

The study found that the fiscal situation of the state calls for multi-dimensional reforms, augmenting tax revenues that

are distortion-minimising, reducing interest payments, curbing growth of government employment, introducing a new strategy for handling pension liabilities, revamping state level public enterprises, curbing contingent liabilities and bringing debt within sustainable limits. To achieve greater control and more effective intervention, the *Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act* [FRBMA] provides for reducing revenue deficit to zero by 2008-09 among other targets. This would help the state derive benefits of debt consolidation and relief facility based on the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. Given the FRBMA, a seven-point strategy of expenditure reforms is suggested.

- *Uttar Pradesh: Reforming the Budgetary System, Resource and Expenditure Commission, Uttar Pradesh, November, 2005.*

D. K. Srivastava, C. Bhujanga Rao and Manish Gupta

This study examined the existing budgetary processes and suggested reforms with a view to establishing an efficient budgetary system in Uttar Pradesh broadly covering the following areas:

- outlining the budget cycle: initiation and consolidation of demands of various departments and revenue proposals;
- framework for consistency with macro and state level fiscal policy and targets;
- monitoring the quality of budget estimates;
- improving the process of appropriations and actual expenditures; and
- reforming the processes of ex-post verification and evaluation.

The study concluded that a coherent approach to budget reforms will involve binding fiscal targets; incentives for improving allocation and utilisation of resources; increased autonomy of

departments and decentralisation of responsibilities; and outcome budgeting.

- *Study for Preparation of an FRBM Bill and Restructuring of State-Local Finances for Rajasthan, October, 2005.*

Indira Rajaraman, O.P. Mathur, and Debdatta Majumdar

The first part of this study involved the design of a fiscal responsibility and budget management bill (FRBM) for Rajasthan, with accompanying rules. The Rajasthan FRBM Act was finalised and enacted in May, 2005, and is fully compatible with the minimum requirements stipulated by the Twelfth Finance Commission for its conditional concessionality. The study examines ways by which to contain infructuous expenditure, and improve own revenue collections both at state and local levels, a critical underpinning of the fiscal discipline effort. The study also looks at the larger problem of funding road development, and examines a new joint venture set up by the Government of Rajasthan with the Infrastructure and Leasing Finance Corporation (IL&FS). The draft final report was presented to all departments of the Government of Rajasthan at a workshop in Jaipur during 15-16, September. The final report was completed as scheduled by 15 October, 2005.

- *Gender Budgeting: Assessment of Impacts, Ministry of Finance and Department of Women and Child Development, August, 2005.*

Lekha Chakraborty and Kala S. Sridhar

As the Finance Minister announced in his budget speech in 2005, the NIPFP assisted the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) to come up with a methodological framework to assess the impact of gender budgeting on nine departments. As part of this effort, the NIPFP faculty were expert resource persons in two workshops organized by the DWCD for these nine departments and for several other departments that

have set up gender budgeting cells. The objectives of these workshops were to enable the ministries prepare a profile of their public expenditure and specify gender-disaggregated beneficiaries, conduct beneficiary incidence analysis and impact assessment, in terms of their outcomes on gender.

NEW PROJECTS INITIATED

- Lall, Somik V. and M. Govinda Rao. **The Impact of Local Public Goods on City Growth in India.** Joint NIPFP-World Bank research project, August 2005-September 2006.
- Mathur, O.P. **Preparation of a National Report on State of India's Urbanisation.** Ministry of Urban Development, September 2005 - December 2006.
- Pandey, Rita. **Feasibility of Embodying Incentive-based Environmental Regulatory Instruments in State and Central Taxation Regimes.** NIPFP and MSE, Chennai, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
- Sridhar, Kala S. and O. P. Mathur, **Costs of Urban Infrastructure: Evidence from Indian Cities.** South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes, July 2005-2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Books / Volumes

- Dubash, Navroz K. (co-edited), 2005, *What does Global Experience with Electricity Restructuring Mean for India?* Special issue, *Economic and Political Weekly*, (December 10).
- Rajaraman, Indira. (co-authored), 2005, *A Study of Debt Sustainability at State Level in India*, Mumbai: RBI.
- Sridhar, Kala S., 2005, *Incentives for Regional Development: Competition among Sub-National Governments*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Rao, Govinda M., (co-edited), 2005, *A Sustainable Fiscal Policy for India: An International Perspective*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Chapters in Edited Books / Volumes

- Chakraborty, Lekha. 2005. "Public Policy Stance and Human Development: A Panel Analysis," in (eds.) Bhattacharya, B. B. and A. Mitra, *Macroeconomics and Welfare*, New Delhi: Academic Foundation.
- Chidambaram, Siva. 2005. *Disseminating Knowledge Resources Through WEBLOGS*, in (eds.) Kaul, H.K. and Gayatri Sen, Proceedings of the National Convention on Library and Information Networking (NACLIN), P.E.S. Institute of Technology, Bangalore: DELNET.
- Dubash, Navroz K. (co-authored), 2005. "Pathways to Rural Electrification in India: Are National Goals also an International Opportunity?" in (eds.) Bradley, Rob and Kevin A. Baumert, *Growing in the Greenhouse: Protecting the Climate by Putting Development First*, Washington DC: World Resources Institute.
- _____, (co-authored), 2005. "Environmental Security as a Criterion for Decision-Making," in (eds.) Picciotto, Robert and Rachel Weaving, *Security and Development: Investing in Peace and Prosperity*, London: Routledge.
- _____, (co-authored), 2005. "Will Investment Rules Shrink Policy Space for Sustainable Development? Evidence from the Electricity Sector." in (eds.) Kevin Gallagher, *Putting Development First: The Importance of Policy Space in the WTO and IFIs*, London: Zed Books.
- Rajaraman, Indira. 2005. "Fiscal Developments and Outlook in India," in (eds.) Heller, Peter and M.G. Rao, *A Sustainable Fiscal Policy for India: An International Perspective*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Rao, Govinda M., Mita Choudhury and Mukesh Anand. 2005. "Resource Devolution from Centre to States: Enhancing Revenue Capacity of States for Implementation of Essential

Health Interventions,” in *Financing and Delivery of Health Care Services in India: Background Papers*, New Delhi: National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (NCMH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

- Rao, Govinda M. 2005. “India’s Federal Institutions and Economic Reform,” in (eds.) Kapur, Devesh and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, *Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Journal Articles

- Chakraborty, Pinaki. (2005), “Debt Swap in a Low Interest Rate Regime: Unequal Gains and Future Worries,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (40), October; 4357-4362.
- Chelliah, Raja J. (2005), “The Malady of Continuing Fiscal Imbalance,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (31), July – Aug; 2005.
- Dubash Navroz K. (co-authored) (2005), “Rural Electrification: Light the Way,” *The Hindu Survey of the Environment*, 73-79.
- _____, (co-authored) (2005), “Alternating Currents: Introduction to an International Review of Electricity Restructuring,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (50), December; 5242-5248.
- _____, (co-authored) (2005), “Of Rocks and Hard Places: A Critical Overview of Recent Global Experience with Electricity Restructuring,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (50), December; 5249-5259.
- Pandey, Rita (2005), “Unregulated Lead Extraction from Used Lead Acid Batteries Cannot be Ignored,” *Down to Earth*, (August).
- Rajaraman, Indira and Debdatta Majumdar (2005), “Equity and Consistency Properties of the Twelfth Finance Commission Recommendations,” *Economic and Political Weekly* 40 (31), July; 3413-20.

- Rao, Govinda M. (2005), “Tax System Reform in India: Achievements and Challenges Ahead,” *Journal of Asian Economics*, 16 (6), December; 993-1011.
- Rao, Govinda M. and P.R. Jena. (2005), “Twelfth Finance Commission – Balancing Stability, Equity and Efficiency,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (31), July; 3405-12.
- Sridhar, Kala S. (co-authored), (2005), “Educational Outcomes: DPEP or Catching up?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40 (35), August; 3863-73.

Working Papers

- Bagchi, Amaresh, Kavita Rao and Bulbul Sen. Raising the Tax Ratio by Reining in the “Tax-Breaks” An Agenda for Action, *NIPFP Working Paper No. 2, December 2005*.
- Lall, Somik V. (co-authored), Regional Subsidies and Industrial Prospects of Lagging Regions. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, December 2005*.
- _____, (co-authored), Determinants of City Growth in Brazil. *NBER Working Paper 11585, August, 2005*.
- Rajaraman, Indira. (co-authored), (2005), Can Export Taxation Counter Monopsony Power? Research Seminar in International Economics Discussion Paper 541 (June), University of Michigan School of Public Policy/Department of Economics, June 2005.
- Rao, Govinda M. Transition to Market and Normative Framework of Fiscal Federalism, *NIPFP Working Paper No. 36, September 2005*.
- Rao, Govinda M. and R. Kavita Rao, Trends and Issues in Tax Policy and Reform in India, *NIPFP Working Paper No. 1, October 2005*.
- Rao, Govinda M. and Pinaki Chakraborty, State Level Adjustment Lending and Fiscal Consolidation: A Study of sub-National Governments in India, ADB.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES • WORKSHOPS

Organised by NIPFP

- Workshop on *Strengthening Financial Management for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme*, New Delhi, December 19-20, 2005. The objective of this workshop was to arrive at the policy recommendations for effective implementation of the recently enacted *Rural Employment Guarantee Act*. Pinaki Chakraborty co-ordinated the workshop.
- Workshop on *Financing Local Service Delivery for the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities*, in collaboration with UNDP Regional Office (Bangkok), New Delhi, December 7-9, 2005. Lekha Chakraborty co-ordinated the workshop and Mukesh Anand was the rapporteur.
- Training Programme on *Value Added Tax*, New Delhi, Nov 28-Dec 2, 2005. Kavita Rao was the co-ordinator of the programme.
- Training Programme on *Fiscal Policy*, for Indian Economic Service Probationers (IES), New Delhi, November 28-Dec 2, 2005. A week-long training programme on fiscal policy was conducted by the NIPFP for the probationers of IES, sponsored by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Kala S Sridhar was the course co-ordinator.
- Workshop on *Policy Retreat and Dissemination* of nine completed research papers under the thematic cluster “*State Government Budget Constraints and Delivery of Social Services*,” Bhubaneswar, November 21-22, 2005. This was the final component of the project on *Policy Research Networking to Strengthen Policy Reform* of the Asian Development Bank. Pinaki Chakraborty co-ordinated the workshop.

- Meeting of the *Advisory Board of UN-HABITAT (Nairobi)*, New Delhi, September 7-9, 2005.
Professor Om Prakash Mathur, as member of the Advisory Board which has representation from 19 developed and developing countries, co-ordinated this meeting.
- One-day seminar on the *Draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands State Development Report*, New Delhi, September 1, 2005. Mukesh Kumar Anand co-ordinated the seminar.
- Country roundtable on *Fiscal Federalism*, with the Forum of Federations, Canada, August 22, 2005.
- One-week programme on *Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy for Middle Level officials of Government of Assam*, New Delhi, August 8-12, 2005.
The programme was part of the Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project sponsored by the ADB. Mukesh Kumar Anand was the co-ordinator.

PRESENTATIONS BY NIPFP FACULTY/ STAFF AT NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- Bandhopadhyay, Simanti. **Estimation of Marginal Abatement Costs of Major Pollutants in India: A Distance Function Analysis for Highly Polluting Industries.** Fifth Annual Conference, Models and Methods in Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, December 28-30, 2005.
- Chakraborty, Lekha. **Public Investment and Unpaid Work in India: Selective Evidence from Time Use Data.** UNDP/BDP-Levy Conference on Unpaid Work and the Economy, The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York, October 1-3, 2005.
- Choudhury, Mita. **Public Expenditure for Human Development in Tripura.** State-level Workshop on Tripura Human Development Report, UNDP and Government of Tripura, Agartala, September 6, 2005.
- Dubash, Navroz K. **Regulation as an Arena for Social Policy: Examples from Electricity in Asia.** Conference on New Frontiers of Social Policy: Development in a Globalizing World, World Bank, DFID, Sida, and the Governments of Finland and Norway, Arusha, Tanzania, December 12-15, 2005.
- _____ . **A Governance Diagnosis of Power Sector Reforms.** Symposium on Water & Energy Law: Issues in Management and Adjudication, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, December 8-10, 2005.
- _____ . **A Normative Space for Global Governance? Reflections on the World Commission on Dams.** International Conference on Globalisation: Social and Political Dimensions, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, November 17-18, 2005.
- _____ . **Independent or Embedded? Emergent Regulatory Politics in India.** Workshop on The Politics of Necessity, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Birkbeck College, University of Oxford, London, September 9-10, 2005.
- Mathur, O.P. **India's Urban Sector.** Expert Group Meeting, Asian Development Bank, Manila, July 28-29, 2005.
- Nagar, A. L. **Comparison of Quality of Life in India and China** (co-authored), Annual LINK Meeting, Geneva, October 31 - November 2, 2005.
- Pandey, Rita. **Children's Environmental Health Issues: Concerns and Challenges.** Eighth Sustainable Development Conference, Islamabad, December 7-9, 2005.
- _____ . **(Resource Person),** Conference on Capacity Building for CDM, AIT and URC (Denmark), Bangkok, October 19-21, 2005.
- _____ . **State Development Report for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.** Seminar, New Delhi, September 1, 2005.
- _____ . **Role of Economic Instruments in Urban Environmental Management.** Green Cities Conference, New Delhi, July 4, 2005.
- Rajaraman, Indira. **Panchayati Raj and Poverty Alleviation,** International Conference, Ministry of *Panchayati Raj*, New Delhi, December 17, 2005.
- _____ . **(Chairperson),** Session at UNDP Regional Workshop on Financing Local Service Delivery for the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities, New Delhi, December 8, 2005.
- _____ . **Is the Indian Fiscal Federation Under Threat?** World Bank South Asia Decentralization Seminar Series, Washington D.C., November 17, 2005.
- _____ . **(Chairperson),** Session on Risk Management, National Banking Symposium, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, August 30, 2005.
- _____ . **(Programme in-charge),** Brainstorming Session for UNDP Project, Fiscal Impact of Trade Liberalisation, August 9-10, 2005.
- _____ . **(Discussant),** India Policy Forum 2005, Excessive Budget Deficits, a Government-abused Financial System and Fiscal Rules, by Willem Buiters and Urjit R. Patel, NCAER, New Delhi, July 26, 2005.
- Rao, C. Bhujanga. **Uttar Pradesh: Study of State Finances.** Workshop, Planning Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh and National Council of Applied Economic Research, Lucknow, September 2, 2005.
- Rao, Govinda M. **Economic Liberalisation and Challenges of**

Indian Federalism. International Roundtable, Global Dialogue on Federalism, Forum of Federations, Salvador, Brazil, December 12-13, 2005.

- _____.**Engendering Fiscal Policy: Issues and Options.** Fifth South Asia Regional Workshop, Gender Responsive Budgeting, TERI, Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore, October 19, 2005.
- _____.**Fiscal Information System for Panchayats.** Expert Group to study the Grass Roots Planning, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, September 19-20, 2005.
- _____.**Fiscal Federalism in India: Emerging Challenges.** Indian Country Roundtable, Fiscal Federalism: Global Dialogue on Federalism, Forum of Federations (Canada), New Delhi, August 22, 2005.
- _____.**Tax System Reform in India: Achievements and Challenges Ahead.** International Symposium on Tax Policy and Reform in Asia, Graduate School of Economics and COE/ Research on Economic Systems, Hitotsubashi University and Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan, Tokyo, July 1-2, 2005.
- Rao, Govinda M. and Kavita Rao, **Trends and Issues in Tax Policy and Reform in India.** India Policy Forum 2005, NCAER, New Delhi, July 25, 2005.
- Sen, Bulbul. **Advance Pricing Mechanisms in Transfer Pricing: World Experience & Lessons for India.** Seminar on Transfer Pricing and TDS, ASSOCHAM and PriceWaterhouse Coopers, New Delhi, September 9, 2005.
- Sridhar, Kala S., **Costs of Urban Infrastructure: Evidence from Indian Cities.** Seventh Annual Conference of South Asia Network of Economic

Research Institutes, Islamabad, December 22-23, 2005.

SEMINARS BY GUESTS AT NIPFP

- November 7, 2005: *Getting A's on the three F's: The Educational and Fiscal Opportunities in Decentralization,* Lant Pritchett, Lead Socio-Economist, Social Development Unit, South Asia Region, World Bank.
- October 18, 2005: *Guarantee or Gamble? Transfers and Risk Sharing in Federations,* Jessica Seddon Wallack, University of California, San Diego.
- August 12, 2005: *Non-Parametric Estimation of Seemingly Unrelated Regression Equation (SURE),* Monica Das, University of California, Riverside.

GUEST LECTURES BY NIPFP FACULTY

- Anand, Mukesh Kumar. "Issues in Reform of the Pension System," Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
- _____."Pension Expenditures: Issues in Pension Reforms," Training Programme on Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy for middle-level officials of the Government of Assam, NIPFP, New Delhi, August 8-12, 2005.
- Chakraborty, Pinaki. "Value Added Tax in India," Training Programme for Indian Economic Service probationers, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, October 19, 2005; Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Delhi University, Delhi, December 23, 2005.
- _____."An Introduction to State Value Added Tax," Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
- _____."Public Debt Management," Institute of Government

Accounts and Finance, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation and Special Commonwealth Africa Assistance Programme 2005-06, November 30, 2005; Institute of Government Accounts and Finance, October 27, 2005.

- Dubash, Navroz K. "Major Issues in Power Sector Reform," Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
- Majumdar, Debdatta. "Public Debt Sustainability Issues," Training Programme for Indian Economic Service probationers, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, September 8, 2005.
- Mathur, O.P. "Municipal Finances in India,"; and "Pricing of Urban Water," Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, 2005.
- _____."Fiscal Decentralization to Urban Local Governments," Training Programme on Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy for middle-level officials of the Government of Assam, NIPFP, New Delhi, August 8-12, 2005; Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
- _____.(*Keynote Address*), Workshop on Solid Waste Management and Urban Governance, CIDA and School of Planning, Bhopal, September 27, 2005.
- _____.(*Keynote Address*), Conference on Urban Governance, European Commission and the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, August 16, 2005.
- Nagar, A.L., Lectures to M.A. Economics (international) students, (Mondays and Tuesdays), School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi, August - November 2005.
- Rajaraman, Indira. "Implementation of EGA: Findings from the NSS

- Employment Survey,” Workshop on Strengthening Financial Management for Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, NIPFP, New Delhi, December 19, 2005.
- _____ . “Fiscal Rules: State Level Fiscal Responsibility Acts”; and “Fiscal Decentralization to Rural Local Governments,” Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
 - _____ . “Public Debt Sustainability,” Training Programme for Indian Economic Service probationers, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, September 6, 2005.
 - _____ . “Fiscal Rules – State Fiscal Responsibility Legislation,” Training Programme on Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy for middle-level officials of State Government of Assam, NIPFP, New Delhi, August 11, 2005.
 - Rangarajan, C. *Inaugural Address*, Workshop on Strengthening Financial Management for Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, NIPFP, New Delhi, December 19, 2005.
 - _____ . *Inaugural Address*, Workshop on Financing Local Service Delivery for the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities, NIPFP, New Delhi, December 7, 2005.
 - _____ . “Accelerating Growth – Some Areas of Concern,” Convocation Address, NIILM, Delhi.
 - _____ . “Economic Growth and Social Development,” Prakash Bhandari Memorial Lecture, Jaipur, October 1, 2005.
 - _____ . “Indian Banking: Emerging Challenges,” IOB Bank Officers’ Association Meeting, Chennai, September 23, 2005.
 - _____ . *Inaugural Address*, Designing the Global Financial Strategy, IIFT, New Delhi, August 30, 2005.
 - _____ . *Convocation Address*, IILM, New Delhi, August 2, 2005.
 - Rao, Govinda M. (*Session Chair*), “Why the Agenda is Important?” Regional Workshop on Financing Local Service Delivery for the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities, NIPFP, New Delhi, December 7, 2005.
 - _____ . “Financing Local Service Delivery: The Broad Policy Context,” Regional Workshop on Financing Local Service Delivery for the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities, NIPFP, New Delhi, December 7, 2005.
 - _____ . “Fiscal Federalism in India: Emerging Challenges,” Silver Jubilee Lecture, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, December 2, 2005.
 - _____ . “Conceptual and Macroeconomic Issues in Fiscal Policy”; and “Fiscal Federalism in India,” Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.
 - _____ . “Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy for 2005,” Invited annual Lecture, India International Centre, Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust, New Delhi, November 5, 2005.
 - _____ . “Emerging Issues in Indian Economy,” Manipal Institute of Management, Manipal, Karnataka, October 6, 2005.
 - _____ . “Indian Economy: Medium Term Developmental Challenges,” Justice K.S. Hegde Institute of Management, Nitte, Karnataka, October 6, 2005.
 - _____ . (*Session Chair*), “Greater Transparency in Government Accounting,” International Workshop, Implementation Aspects of Accrual Accounting and Classification Systems, Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and the World Bank, New Delhi, September 16, 2005.
 - _____ . “Conceptual and Macroeconomic Issues in Fiscal Policy,”; and “Fiscal Federalism in India,” and “Fiscal Decentralisation to Rural Local Governments,” Training Programme on Practical Issues in Fiscal Policy for the middle level officials of the Government of Assam,” NIPFP, New Delhi.
 - _____ . (*Keynote Address*), National Level Conference on Value Added Tax (VAT), Ministry of Finance, New Delhi-Theivanai Ammal College for Women,” Villupuram, Tamil Nadu, August 19, 2005.
 - Sridhar, Kala S. “Fiscal Policy: Growth and Poverty Reduction,” Training Programme on Fiscal Policy for Indian Economic Service probationers, NIPFP, New Delhi, November 28 – December 2, 2005.

VISITING APPOINTMENTS / APPOINTMENT ON COMMITTEES/ HONOURS

- Anand, Mukesh. Invited Consultant, Ministry of Finance on the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, December 9, 2005.
- Chakraborty, Pinaki. Indo-Shastri Fellow and Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa, July 12 - August 17, 2005.
- Chelliah, Raja J. Member, IFA International Tax Academy.
- Dubash, Navroz K. Member, Expert Group to Review the Issue of Ground Water Ownership in the Country, Planning Commission (Water Resources Division).
- _____ . Reviewer and Member, Editorial Board, Utility Policy.
- _____ . Reviewer, Journal of Environment and Development; Energy-International Journal.
- _____ . Thesis Reviewer, Indira

- Gandhi Institute of Development Research.
- Gupta, Manish. Invited Member, Expert Review Meeting, Natural Resource Accounting for the Minerals Sector in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, TERI, New Delhi, September 16, 2005.
 - _____. Invited Member, Meeting of the National Forest Commission Consultative Group, New Delhi, October 27, 2005.
 - Mathur, O.P. Invited Participant, 47th Research Council Meeting of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, New Delhi, November 13, 2005.
 - _____. Expert Group Meeting on Decentralization and its Impact on Poverty Reduction, Bangkok, November 22-23, 2005.
 - _____. Invited Participant, Workshop on India Infrastructure Report (IIR-2006), IDFC/IIT/IIM, Kanpur, September 3, 2005.
 - Nagar, A.L. Invited Participant, Launch of Trade and Development Index, UNCTAD, Geneva, November 2, 2005.
 - Pandey, Rita. Reviewer, Environment and Development Economics.
 - _____. Reviewer, South Asia Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE).
 - _____. Reviewer, Oxford University Press.
 - Rajaraman, Indira. Chairperson, Public Expenditure Review Committee of Kerala, and Member, Public Expenditure Review Committee of Rajasthan.
 - _____. Invited Participant, European Economic and Social Committee Seminar on the Contribution of Civil Society Organizations to the Work of the WTO: In Search of Better Governance, Brussels, November 10-11, 2005.
 - _____. Testified on the Banking Companies and Financial Institution Laws Bill, 2005, before Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, November 7, 2005.
 - _____. Meeting-IMF Article IV Mission, New Delhi, October 15, 2005.
 - _____. India-EU Roundtable, Meeting, Hyderabad, September 18-20, 2005.
 - _____. Advisory Group on Short-Term Liquidity Forecasting to Assess the Report of the Internal Working Group, The Forecasting Model, RBI, Mumbai, August 29, 2005.
 - _____. Member, Economic Policy and Reforms Council of Rajasthan, Meeting on August 6-7, 2005.
 - _____. External Examiner, M. Phil dissertations (Delhi School of Economics and Jawaharlal Nehru University), and Ph.D thesis (Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University).
 - _____. Referee, *American Economic Review* and *Water Policy*.
 - _____. Member, Consultative Group, Inter-State Council Secretariat on Inter-Governmental Relations and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Federal Democratic Countries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
 - Rangarajan, C. Chairman, Oil Price Committee constituted by the Prime Minister.
 - Rao, Govinda M. Member, Expert Group to Develop Concrete Proposals for Restructuring Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Planning Commission, Government of India.
 - _____. Member, Consultative Group, Inter-State Council Secretariat on Inter-Governmental Relations and Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Federal Democratic Countries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
 - _____. Member, Reconstituted Planning Board of the Government of NCT of Delhi with Chief Minister as Chairperson, NCT Government of Delhi, Delhi.
 - _____. Member, UNDP Advisory Panel on Democratic Governance, UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok.
 - Sridhar, Kala S. Invited Member, Delhi Finance Commission, to discuss implications of suburbanisation for Delhi, for Report to the Government of NCT of Delhi, October 2005.

STAFF NEWS

- D. K. Srivastava left NIPFP on July 6, 2005 to join as Director of Madras School of Economics.
- Somik V. Lall of the World Bank joined NIPFP as Visiting Fellow, w.e.f. September 26, 2005.

Forthcoming Events

- January 20, 2006: Seminar on the Geography of Growth and Poverty in India.
- January 23, 2006: NIPFP-IFES National level Workshop on Fiscal Decentralisation and Gender Budgeting.
- January 30 – February 10, 2006: Training programme for Indian Audit and Accounts Service Probationers.
- May – June, 2006: Refresher Training for University Teachers in South Asian Countries.
- May 2006: Refresher Training for University Teachers on Research Methodology.