KAR-DHWANI

SWACHH NACEN

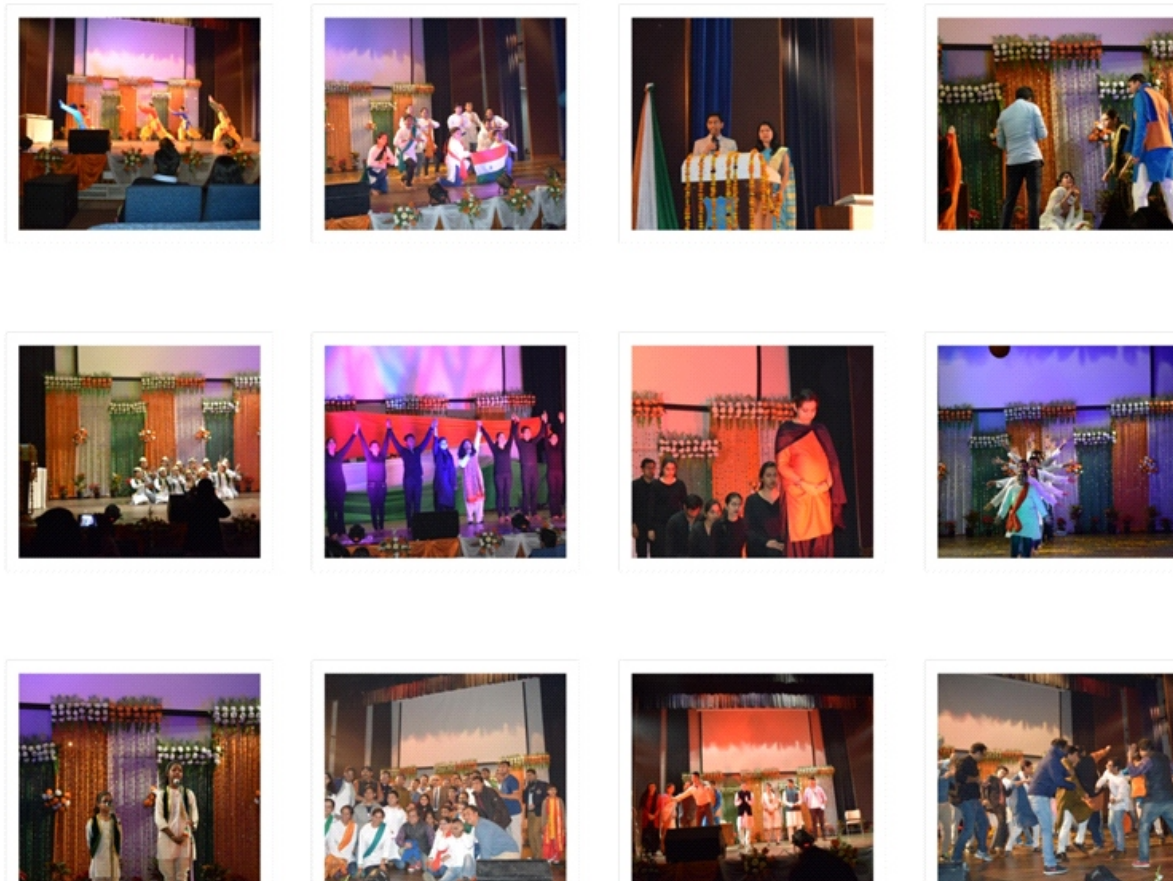## The Dawn of the New Year 2017

After two weeks of Orientation Programme in NACEN, Faridabad starting from 19.12.2016, the 68th Batch of IRS (C&CE) Officer Trainees were divided into two groups for professional training . One group was placed in NACEN, Faridabad and the other group in NACEN RTI, Hyderabad located at MCR HRD Institute Campus, Jubilee Hills. At the dawn of the new year , the Officer Trainees belonging to Hyderabad Batch arrived at their place of training. On 02.1.2017, the Hyderabad Batch was formally inaugurated in the auditorium of the MCR HRD Institute by Shri Vasa Seshagiri Rao IRS, Additional Director General, NACEN RTI Hyderabad, Shri Bankey Behari Agrawal IRS, Principal Additional Director General, NACEN Centre of Excellence, New Delhi and Shri D P Nagendra Kumar IRS, Principal Additional Director General, NACEN RTI Bengaluru. Shri Vinod K. Agrawal IAS, Director General & Special Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. MCR HRD Institute was the Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony. Shri Shafat Usmani IRS, Course Director and Shri Gopi Donthireddy IRS , Associate Course Director organised and graced the occasion. All the Officer Trainees were present in their formal dress for the inaugural function. The dignitaries on the dais addressed the Officer Trainees about the training modules and blessed them for a successful career ahead.

Republic Day Celebrations 2017 in NACEN Faridabad

NACEN

The 68th Republic Day was celebrated in all its solemnity and grandeur at NACEN Faridabad on 26th January 2017. The day was marked by a parade and all the Officer Trainees of the 68th Batch IRS Professional training were dressed up in their service uniform. The Officer Trainees saluted the National Flag and remembered the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold the honour ,integrity, sovereignty, diversity and uniqueness that is " India".

The Chief Guest Shri PK DASH,DG NACEN addressed the Officer Trainees and urged them to do their best and feel proud to be Indians. The Officer Trainees dispersed after snacks with the image of the fluttering tricolor in their minds. This was followed by a beautiful cultural evening in the NACEN auditorium. The melodious music, dazzling drama and graceful movements of the dancers were awesome indeed.

KAR-DHWANI

Swachh NACEN 2017

KAR-DHWANI

An enthusiastic cleanliness drive with voluntary Shramdan by Officer Trainees was organized on January 13 Fore Noon in the NACEN campus. The Swachh NACEN event was marked by participation from all the Officer Trainees and Faculty members of NACEN Faridabad . By this initiative, the Swachh NACEN Committee Faridabad helped the administration in keeping the NACEN campus clean and green.

Glimpses of a True Indian Food Fete

NACEN Hyderabad Cultural Committee organised a Food Fete in the joyful evening of January 19, 2017 to mark Sankranthi/Pongal/Lori/Bihu. The Officer Trainees had brought food specific to their regions and displayed it in stalls for everyone to admire and gorge on. All of us wore traditional dresses. Great cuisines from various parts of India was made available in adequate quantity so that every one can have a little taste of all the regions. Expenses incurred was shared among the Officer Trainees themselves. The evening is made memorable by the singers, gamers and dancers, eating competition, tug of war and lemon spoon events, best food stall award. What a show! Even fossils rocked on that night. Cheers to cultural committee.. Awesome, seriously!

KAR-DHWANI

Chashm-e-num, jaan-e-shooreeda kafi nahi....

Abhijit Thorat, IRS

Raman and Aamir stopped by a roadside thela (a type of open kiosk) to eat omelette after a heated argument on hypocrisy and Communism and how being a communist was as good as a hypocrite.

While they were savouring, a car stopped by and a man in mid-thirties with his son ('round 8 years) came to eat up the last omelette. After eating the omelette, a man was explaining to his son addition of numbers, who was too dim to get it.

"See Neelu...one omelette is for 23 rupees. We had two omelettes.....so we should pay 23+23=46 rupees."

The Son gave an unsure nod. Raman and Aamir were watching the didactics carefully.

Father handed a 100 rupee note to Ramu, a school drop-out who aids his old master in running kiosk. Ramu quickly removed 54 rupees from his old, ragged money-bag and returned it to his customer.

It didn't surprise the father. Obvious.

Aamir called Ramu and asked him pointing towards the sky, "Upar kya dikhta hain" (What do you see above)??

He replied without any hesitation, "Bhaiya, Badal dikh rahe hain. Teen rang ke-saafed , neele aur kale. Neele aapki tarah jinhe suraj pareshan karta hain. Kaale meri tarah jo hamesha rote hain. Aur saafed...jinke bare me jaante sab hain lekin bolta koi nahi. Ghar jaldi jana bhaiya, yeh kale badal barasne lag gaye na fir aafat aa jayegi. Saare aasman me cha jayenge aur fir neele aur safeed badal dikhenge hi nahi"

(Brother, I can see clouds. Clouds of three colours- white, blue and black. Blue ones are just like you, always troubled by the sun. Black ones; just like me which keep crying and white ones...everyone knows who they are but no one speaks about them. Go home early, brother. If these black clouds start pouring in, it'll create troubles. They will cover the whole sky and then blue and white clouds will disappear).

That day won't be far away then....when you'll see all similar faces, all alike and just one colour: Red

His answer dumbfounded Aamir plus Raman.

Both had their own stringent and inflexible views on Communism as well as hypocrisy. They thought from two similar pairs of eyes, yet very much differently.

After Ramu's answer, they felt their opinions were nothing but very much alike.

"You think he knew everything??" asked Raman.

Aamir kept looking at a cycler pedalling a housewife with her mundane luggage.

"I'm going to Kolkatta Raman. Arnabjit bhai needs me more there."

Faiz Ahmad Faiz's words hemmed in Aamir's heart.

Chashm-e-num, jaan-e-shooreeda kafi nahi
Tohmat-e-ishq poosheeda kafi nahi
Aaj bazaar main paa-bajolaan chaloo
Rakht-e-dil bandh lo, dil-figaroon chaloo
Phir hum he qatal ho aain, yaroon chaloo

(A wet eye, a shaken life is not enough,
The accusation of a hidden love is not enough,
With feet in chains, Let us go in public today.
Pack up your belongings O Injured heart ones!
Let us go friends and get killed once again.)

THE BEAUTY IN COLOURS

Shruti Vijaykumar, IRS

Shruti Vijayakumar is an avid painter, especially noted for her wall paintings in the urban milieu. House Journal Society takes pride in introducing some of her creative art works to one and all.

ACRYLIC PAINT

A fast-drying paint made of pigment suspended in acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints are water-soluble, but become water-resistant when dry. Acrylics have the ability to bond to many different surfaces, and media can be used to modify their binding characteristics. Acrylics can be used on paper, canvas and a range of other materials.

RAJASTHANI PAINT

They evolved and flourished in the royal courts of Rajputana. Rajput paintings depict a number of themes, especially the events of epics. Miniatures in manuscripts or single sheets to be kept in albums were the preferred medium of Rajput painting

KAR-DHWANI

NACEN

OIL PAINT

Compared to Acrylics, oil paints have more pigment in them, allowing richer, more vivid colours. Acrylics darken slightly as they dry, while oil paints do not. Acrylic paint will dry faster than oil paint.
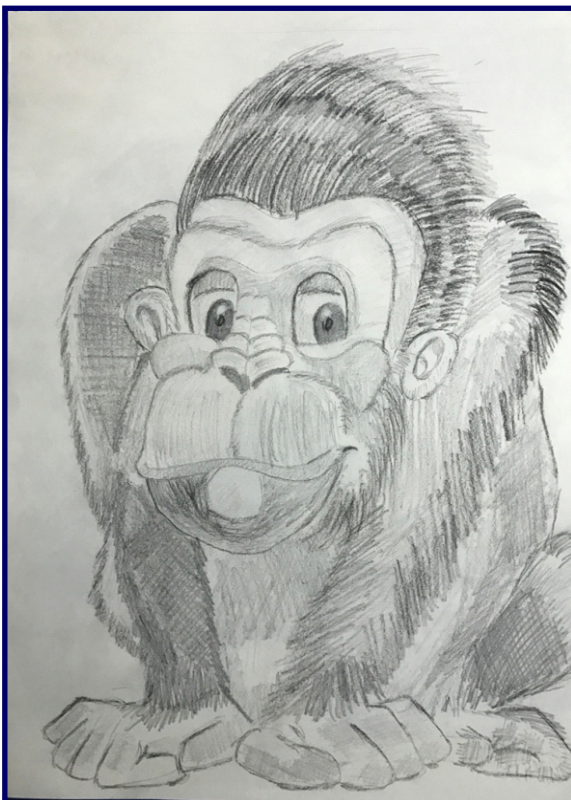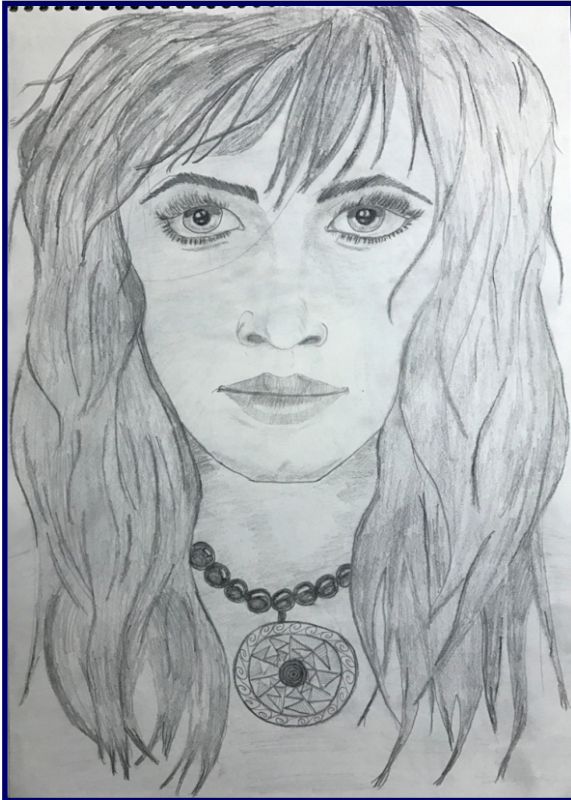
WALL PAINTINGS

As a volunteer for weekend painting activity to beautify the walls. Painted several beautiful art works adorning public walls in Chennai city along with the members of her group. Notable among them were the walls painted with social messages

PENCIL SKETCH

An output of freehand drawing. A sketch may serve a number of purposes: it might record something that the artist sees, it might record or develop an idea for later use or it might be used as a quick way of graphically demonstrating an image, idea or principle.

Some thoughts on carving-out a Digital future for India

Dhananjay Singh, IRS

Increasing digitalisation in both public & private life: The way the Indian State is delivering various public goods is getting impacted by both innovations like SMAC (social, mobile, analytics and cloud), artificial intelligence and twenty-first century institutional structures like the GST Council, Monetary Policy Committee, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) et al. Certain tax administrations abroad have already started leveraging robotics and AI to take on some low-level, form-driven work. In our country, we are embarking on a paradigm shift in the use of technology by instituting National Information Technology Utilities like the GSTN (Goods & Services Network) which is intended not only for a pleasant & hassle-free 'taxpayer experience' but also for a robust integrated IT database (alongwith the PAN database maintained by NSDL) which the tax administration can leverage (through big data analytics) to home onto the (alleged) tax-evaders, money- launderers, terrorist-financiers, & perpetrators of various other economic crimes with the best possible precision and the least collateral damage.

In our personal lives too, can we imagine a day without accessing social media or commenting on "facebook", "whatsapp" using our smart phones? But many in India have to forgo the benefits of democratisation of knowledge which has happened through the medium of internet because they lack access to internet.

The digital ecosystem in India: India is a land of sub continental diversity of various kinds (geographical, cultural, religious, linguistic etc.). People at various development stages (primitive, feudal, industrial, past-modern) live in our country. There are particularly vulnerable tribes like Jarawas, Onges in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to the Baiga tribes in central India on one hand and the socially upward mobile people on the other hand. According to the recent state of broadband report 2015 by an international organization, 'Broadband Commission' set up by ITU and UNESCO, only 18 % of India's population has access to internet. Broadband is the technological medium through which internet is delivered. So India is a country of considerable digital divide-digital haves and digital have- nots. What can be done to bridge this digital divide? It needs a multi- pronged approach. The Government of India has already renewed its efforts at furthering the telecom revolution ushered in 1980s by launching digital India mission in 2014. Digital India is an ambitious programme resting on nine pillars that focuses on a wide variety of services to be delivered through the internet. The services that directly impact the lives of the marginalized people related to e governance, e- education, tele- medicine.

There are different types of resources required to make digital India a success ranging from trained human resources, technology (both hardware like optical fibres, etc.) and software like user-friendly web interfaces in various Indian languages, finances and a strategic vision and plan to effectively implement the programme. In addition, internet emerges to be the most critical link in the successful roll-out of digital India programme. Internet has moved from being a small network for communication and electronic file transfer developed in a military research laboratory of U.S.A, to its present state of omnipresence in our daily lives. This, some experts say, has been facilitated by the free and untrammelled nature of internet. Therefore, I argue (in the remaining part of this article) that net neutrality is a must for the success of digital India programme in India.

The engineering & management facet of net neutrality: The question now is what net neutrality is and why it is needed or not needed? Net neutrality implies that the telecom service provider cannot distinguish between the internet traffic going through its medium and all data has to be transmitted at equal speed. So, net neutrality has three components:

- ✎ **No throttling**
- ✎ **No blocking**
- ✎ **No paid preference/ prioritization**

The technology part of the internet ecosystem comprises three main actors:

- ✎ **Telecom service provider(TSP),** (providing the hard infrastructure like optical fibres through which the internet is delivered)
- ✎ **Content providers(like youtube.com)** that provide the user content like YouTube provides videos)
- ✎ **Consumer (user like me)**

So, we need to look at the pros and cons of net neutrality from the perspective of each of the above three actors. TSP feel that they have invested a lot of money in setting up the physical infrastructure and they are not getting duly rewarded (in terms of greater share of consumer revenues) since TSPs feel that content providers (with a lesser capital investment) are making money at their expense. So, TSPs want to give preference to websites that pay them to account for their loss. The argument of the content provides is that TSPs won't be making any money through data download etc., if the content providers had not provided the content. It is the content providers who bring the user on to the internet. So, TSPs need to consider this and not go for differential speed for internet traffic based on which content provider pays TSP and which content provider doesn't.

Role of the Indian State: The government endeavours to enlarge the public interest. The aim of the government, therefore, is to democratise the access to public services and also leverage this internet through digital India mission to further the overall welfare of its people & make available the internet to the last mile.

With India embracing neoliberal economic policies since 1991, market regulators (like Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, TRAI) have come to play a pivotal role in providing a level- playing field to the various market participants. TRAI, in is draft guidelines on net neutrality, brought out early this year, sought to strike a balance on net-neutrality. TRAI had proposed to regulate foreign over- the- top (OTT) services (foreign OTT players are those who provides service being located outside the geographical limits of India). But critics say, implementing this guideline will be a technological hurdle because yet available technology cannot differentiate conclusively between domestic and foreign OTT players. The government has access and equity considerations in mind so that internet divide is bridged. By adopting the principle of net neutrality, market forces can work to reach equilibrium in prices as well as in technology to be adopted and inefficient firms will pull out.

At the implementation level of digital India, net neutrality will benefit because not following net neutrality will make many new internet start-ups to never see the light of the day in the face of competition from established players. The role of independent market regulator, TRAI, is to regulate the market keeping in mind the social goals of equity and access. For this, a mechanism can be created on the lines of universal service obligation fund (USOF) which had been created for telecom services, to enable the democratization of internet services throughout the country. On the other hand, the argument of certain companies is that net neutrality will hinder the process of taking internet to the hitherto unreached. They argue that the digital have-nots must be provided free

KAR-DHWANI

access to internet services. But critics say that this prioritisation may come at the expense of paying customers, who may be required to pay extra after the implementation of this free service.

The way forward: It is pertinent to encourage greater private participation by easing foreign direct investment (FDI) norms, by providing stable tax laws, consistent policy framework and by making it more remunerative for the participating firm. The time required for getting clearances, right of way permission, land acquisition need to be speed-up . This will stimulate faster laying of optical fibre cables under 'Bharat Net'(earlier called 'National Optical Fibre Network').

Also, technologies appropriate to different geographies, for example, very small aperture terminals (VSAT) can help provide internet services in remote areas which may not require the laying of cable,needs to be explored. Newer options like collaboration with Google under 'project loon' which aims to provide internet services through balloons put up in stratosphere using near-space technologies may be considered.

So, by upholding the principle of net neutrality and at the same time redoubling our efforts to lay the physical infrastructure and the supporting ecosystem, the goal of "internet for all" would definitely become a reality in foreseeable future & bridge the digital divide in India.

A Man of Limitless Perseverance

PK Saravanan, IRS

Not a very shrewd student, Gustave Eiffel, failed to make it an Engineering school. His tutors pronounced him unfit even for a Polytechnic school. After years of toil he secured a job in Compagnie des Chemins de Fer de l'Ouest, for whom Eiffel designed his first construction - a bridge. He gained the attention; at times the awe of people in the construction industry with his sheer talent. He rose through ranks meddling with metals & mortar and produced several structures that stood testimony for his acumen in structural engineering.

In 1884, when designers Maurice Koechlin and Emile Nouguier came up with a design for a center piece for the 1889 Exposition Universelle(World Expo), Eiffel bought the rights to patent the idea with a few enhancements. The idea of 'Eiffel tower' evoked several criticism ranging from comments on its look of a 'black smokestack' to doubts on the feasiblility of the project on the whole. Eiffel defended the tower saying that "It would stand as a token of gratitude for the martyrs of French revolution and a symbol of the 20th century". With a labour force of a little over 300 men, half a million bolts and 18 tonnes of steel sheets the tower took shape in less than 3 years. It was a miraculous engineering feat with high safety standards for the time accounting for only one loss of life during the whole process.

Earlier in 1881, French government contemplated an idea of gifting a statue to the people of America to commemorate the centenary year of American Revolution. Gustave Eiffel took up the job of designing the symbol of liberty with John Pulitzer making every effort to raise funds for the same. The statue was designed and construced in France and later shipped to America in parts.

The fact that a kid who was touted as a failure by his teachers and considered unfit for an Engineerig school, making a mark in the history by being the brain behind the construction of two of the most structurally robust and culturally unparalleled works of modern times, is an intriguing oxymoron.

An inspiration for the evolution of Back benchers as Bench markers!

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, EXCISE & NARCOTICS

NACEN COMPLEX, SECTOR 29, FARIDABAD-121008
Phone : +91-129-2504636 Fax : (129) 2504632 Email : dgnacen@yahoo.co.in

The House Journal Society
@Faridabad & Hyderabad

We welcome write-ups, articles and suggestions from all our readers and subscribers to enable us to enrich our endeavours towards excellence.

All the correspondence can be addressed to editor at hjsnacen@gmail.com

Disclaimer:- Views expressed by the contributors are their personal views and does not necessarily represent the views of NACEN or KAR-DHWANI.