

**Union Finance Minister's Address  
to  
Probationers of 65<sup>th</sup> Batch of IRS (Income Tax)  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Let me extend my hearty congratulations to all of you for successfully clearing the Civil Services Examination and choosing to join the Indian Revenue Service. Your success is the result of your hard work.

2. Most of you are transiting from a student life to become a professional and public servant. This phase of your lives could be both fulfilling and exciting and at the same time even challenging. What you make of this phase in your life depends on how you approach it. A positive outlook and good work ethics will make you happy and professionally successful. There is no dearth of opportunities in professional life; you will have your fair share too. It would make a difference to the nation-building process if you see in the opportunities before you, a means to contribute to public well-being as well.

3. You would shortly be posted across India. I expect new energy and initiatives from you in the field formations. I would like to see you as the

change agents in all walks of your public life. You have to fulfill the demands of the job assigned and work with honesty, accountability, transparency, commitment and set new benchmarks of good governance. In the process you should contribute to making your organization a centre of excellence for others to look up to.

4. When Chanakya talks of “Koso Moolo Dandah” in the Arthasastra”, he makes the important point that the treasury and its inflows are the source of a nation’s might. The role of direct taxes in maximizing the revenue flows is well documented.. Direct Taxes are preferred because they can be related to the ability to pay, be progressive in nature and promote equity.

5. Historically, the focus of the Direct Taxes Administration has been on maximal enforcement of the Statute so as to maximize tax revenue. Over the years, there is a paradigm shift in the approach to revenue collection. Department has harnessed the technology to encourage voluntary compliance. I am very happy to see this change in the Department. I hope that all of you, who have been given exposure to the best global practices in the course of your training will make the most of

your exposure and knowledge in further building on the performance of the department.

6. Direct Tax collections are likely to cross `5,00,000 crore by the end of this Financial Year, which amounts to about 60per cent of national tax revenues. As the economy grows the quantum and proportion of direct taxes will rise further. The complexity of globalization with increased cross border transactions will offer challenging opportunity to innovate in your area of work.

7. When I look at your profile I am happy to see a growing proportion of post graduates and officers with prior work experience joining the service. I am also happy to see a growing share of women officers amongst you.

8. As you settle down in your new jobs, I expect you to be alert and receptive to the needs for people and businesses that you deal with. You will have to learn to provide appropriate solutions for the challenges that confront you. I am sure the extensive training you underwent would come handy in this context. I would urge you all to keep an open mind for continuous learning, skill up-gradation and acquiring experience in handling diverse work situations.

9. Let me conclude by congratulating you once again and wish you all a very bright, happy and successful career in the department. I also compliment the faculty Members at NADT, who have been the guiding force for these young officers during their stay at Academy.

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