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GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS  
2013

## EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD

*Dr. Amarjit Singh* IAS

For successfully implementing the Safe Motherhood and  
Child Survival Programme through an efficient public-private  
partnership in the public health sector

A 1982-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, Dr Amarjit Singh was the first person to create an efficient public-private partnership in the public health sector. What moved him was the sight of a pregnant woman being carried on a pole by two villagers. It didn't seem she would survive the arduous trek to the nearest primary health centre. Holding a PhD in the cost-effectiveness of India's blindness control programme from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Dr Singh discovered that more than 60 per cent of India's newborns die within the first 28 days. India accounts for a fourth of maternal deaths worldwide annually because 50 per cent of the 27 million deliveries every year are handled by unskilled attendants.

In Gujarat, where he was posted between 2001 and 2009, there were only seven obstetricians in the rural Community Health Centers while the requirement was for 273. As Commissioner, Health and Medical Services, Government of Gujarat, he initiated the Chiranjeevi Yojana scheme in April 2005 by co-opting private obstetricians by ensuring them a flat fee for every 100 deliveries, a part of which was paid in advance. The scheme thus allows families living below the poverty line to use either public or private health facilities, free of cost. Its success can be gauged by the fact that between January 2007 and January 2010, 4,35,047 safe deliveries were carried out by 768 obstetricians.

Dr Singh, a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, is presently posted as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.



THE  
JURY

**Prabhat Kumar**  
Former Cabinet  
Secretary of India

**Anil Razdan**  
Former Secretary,  
Power

**Vishnu Bhagwan**  
Former Chief  
Secretary, Haryana

**M B Kaushal**  
Former Secretary,  
Internal Security

**R M Malla**  
Former CMD of  
IDBI Bank