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INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNANCE
AWARDS
2013

EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Sh. Atul N. Patney IAS

For successfully conducting parliamentary, assembly and panchayat elections and also ensuring speedy and inclusive growth of Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district amidst Naxalite threats and violence

A 1999-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, Sh. Atul N. Patney is a recipient of the Prime Minister's award for effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. He is credited with having used IT for social development, improving health infrastructure and imparting quality education through the E-Vidya project in the remotest areas. His efforts to connect all IT institutes in the district through video conferencing contributed greatly to imparting technical training. He was conferred the E-Governance Award 2010 for launching the E-Disaster Management Service. Known for the best implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in the country, in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, especially in the backdrop of Naxalite threats to (FRA) teams and burning of their vehicles to stop their work, Sh. Patney effectively used GPS in the district which otherwise had poor Internet connectivity and little infrastructure support. He was nominated for the Prime Minister's award by the state government in 2011.

His most notable work, carried out under threat from Naxalites, intended for development of the district to bridge the gap between remotely-based tribals and deviant youth attracted towards Naxalism and the mainstream, was to conduct parliamentary, assembly and panchayat elections successfully by taking innovative measures such as launching a voters' awareness campaign and holding Samajik Suraksha Melas. Sh. Patney not only got the President's award for innovative practices in elections that were adopted as a role model by the Election Commission of India but was also nominated by the state government for the Prime Minister's award in 2010. He was also instrumental in preparing a district vision plan and forming a District Development Authority for speedy and inclusive development of the district that has recently been sanctioned by the state government.

He is presently posted as PS to the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.



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