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INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT

**GOVERNANCE
AWARDS**

2014

13-12-2014

EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Balvinder Kumar, IAS

For steering the NOIDA Authority through the land acquisition crisis that was at its peak due to agitations and legal cases lodged by farmers, plunging many development and housing projects into uncertainty.

A 1981-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Balvinder Kumar has worked in various positions of responsibility, including Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fertilisers, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, NOIDA Authority, Vice-Chairman, Lucknow Development Authority, Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation, Principal Secretary in the Departments of Social Welfare, Women & Child Development, Taxation, Food & Civil Supplies, Revenue, and so on in the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Balvinder Kumar, who served two stints as chairman-cum-CEO of the NOIDA Authority, was sent to NOIDA in July 2011 by the Mayawati-led BSP regime when the land acquisition crisis was at its peak, and agitations and legal cases lodged by farmers had plunged many development and housing projects into uncertainty. His primary assignment was to placate the farmers and negotiate a solution. An astute administrator with tact and an understanding of ground realities, he managed both. He has also been credited with having considerably improved the public interface of DDA by introducing computerisation and bringing transparency in the system that provided relief to the public and also reduced the time taken for various processes.

Suspended or transferred several times for not toeing the politicians' line, he channelled time and energy into painting and writing. An avid painter and a transcendental meditation expert, he has done over 100 abstract artworks which found their way to the Lalit Kala Akademi in Delhi and Lucknow. His book, *Man's Spiritual Journey*, touches upon aspects such as the human mind's in-built tendency towards negativity, the relevance of God in new-age spiritualism and the conflict of self with the inner self.

Balvinder Kumar is at present posted as Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority.



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