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**GOVERNANCE  
AWARDS**

**2014**

13-12-2014

## EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD

*K.N. Kumar, IAS*

For successfully implementing his vision to move the state of Meghalaya 'from dependence to self-sufficiency' in production of fresh fish, leading to a major impact on livelihoods and the State GDP.

A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, K.N. Kumar is known for his exceptional work in the field of fisheries in Meghalaya besides significantly contributing to agriculture, rural development and skill development. 'The Thousand Ponds Scheme' to construct a thousand fish ponds in seven districts of Meghalaya, launched by him in 2005, added 500 hectares of water area for inland fisheries. As Deputy Commissioner, his drive to construct fish ponds in Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya through the Employment Assurance Scheme between 1995 and 1997, and the ambitious Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission to create one lakh fish ponds of 1,000 square metres size, encapsulated the vision to move the state 'from dependence to self-sufficiency'. Now, the State imports 25,000 tonnes of fresh fish from Andhra Pradesh. So far 5,681 fish ponds have been constructed and entered the production cycle, leading to a major impact on livelihoods and the State GDP.

His other notable work includes launching of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Clean & Green Scheme in Meghalaya to promote clean and green villages. His initiative for training the entire Rural Development and Fisheries Department officials and staff on ethics led to tangible improvement in governance. He is also credited with having turned Meghalaya into one of the leading producers of strawberry, anthuriums and roses in the Northeast. His Placement-Linked Skill Development Scheme in Meghalaya became a precursor for a massive grant-cum-loan assistance of \$120 million by the Asian Development Bank, Manila for 'Supporting Human Development in Meghalaya'.

K.N. Kumar is at present Principal Secretary, Fisheries & Rural Development, and Chief Executive Officer, Meghalaya State Skills Development Society.



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