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From the VC & Director General's Desk

It gives me great pleasure to present the second issue of *Samriddhi* for the year 2025. This journal reflects the Institute's ongoing commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue and exchange of knowledge on matters of governance, development, public policy, and institutional innovation.

The present volume features a diverse and engaging collection of articles on good governance, ethical leadership, cooperative movements, and legal frameworks. These contributions drawn from both research and practice, offer valuable insights that are relevant to policymakers, scholars, and civil society.

This issue also highlights the importance of grounding public discourse in local contexts while engaging with broader national and historical perspectives. The featured articles on India's civilizational trade legacy and citizen-led safety measures such as Bystander Intervention serve as timely reminders of the interplay between tradition, innovation, and responsibility in shaping public life.

I congratulate all the contributors for their thoughtful and well-researched submissions. I also commend the editorial team for curating a volume that speaks to both the challenges and possibilities of our times. I encourage readers to reflect, engage, and contribute to future editions of *Samriddhi*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Santhi'.

Smt. A. Santhi Kumari, IAS(Retd.)