
7. Political Science : Public Administration in India

Course Objective

The paper seeks to provide an introduction to the different dimensions of public administration in India. It seeks to acquaint the student with an analytical and critical understanding of the institution of Indian bureaucracy, with issues of decentralization, financial management, public accountability, e-governance and some specific dimensions of citizens and social welfare policies.

Course Learning Outcomes

With this course, we expect that students will be able to:

- Have a clear picture of the complex institutional structure of Indian administration at present
- Understand the building blocks of local governance, in rural and urban areas
- Explain the processes by which different budgeting systems work for this structure
- Analyse the processes of implementation of different social welfare policies by the administrative institutions.

Unit 1. Indian Administration

- a. Structure of the Civil Services: Evolution
 - i. Colonial Legacy
 - ii. Civil Service in the Constitutional Framework; appointment training, promotion
 - iii. PMO, Cabinet Secretariat
 - iv. Major Initiatives in Administrative Reforms

Unit 2. Decentralization and Local Self Governance

- a. Meaning and Types: Rural and Urban
- b. PRIs and implementation of public policies

Unit 3. Budget

- a. Concept of Budget and Budget Cycle in India
- b. Types of Budget: Line Budget, Performance Planning Budget, Zero Based Budget
- c. Budget making: role of the Finance Ministry

Unit 4. Technology and Public Administration in India

- a. E-Governance: The Journey of E-Governance in India
- b. Models of E-Governance: Case-Study of Digital India Mission

Unit 5. Social Welfare Policies

- a. Education: Right to Education
- b. Health: National Health Mission
- c. Food: Right to Food Security
- d. Employment: MGNREGA

Unit 6. Issues and Debates in Indian Administration

- a. Ethics in Administration: Integrity vs. Corruption
- b. Accountability: RTI, Lokpal, Citizens' Charter
- c. Relationship between Political Executive and Permanent Executive
- d. Generalists and Specialists
- e. Gender sensitivity and gender participation

Unit wise reading list

Unit 1. Indian Administration

Basic Readings

K.S. Chalam, 'Constitutional Status Of Civil Service In India' in K.S. Chalam [ed.], Governance in South Asia: State of The Civil Services, Sage Publishers, 2014.

Devesh Kapur and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Public Institutions in India: Performance and Design, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Second ARC Report, Report X, Personnel Administration and Scaling New Heights, 2005 [https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/personnel_administration10.pdf]

Swarup, Anil, Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant, Unique Publishers, 2021

Second ARC Report, 2005, Report IV, Ethics in Governance, [<https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/ethics4.pdf>]

Bhure Lal, 'Civil Service Values and Neutrality' in K.S. Chalam [ed.], Governance in South Asia: State of The Civil Services, Sage Publishers, 2014

Additional Readings

Mathur, K. Recasting Public Administration in India: Reform, Rhetoric and Neo- liberalism New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2019.

Chakrabarty, Bidyut and Mohit Bhattacharya, The Governance Discourse- A Reader, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008

Gupta, Deepak, The Steel Frame: A History of the IAS, Roli Books, 2019.

Caiden, Gerald E., 2009, Administrative Reforms, Aldine Transaction, Chicago, 2009.