

EMERGING TRENDS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



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Theme Paper
on
Emerging Trends in Public Policy and Public
Administration

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Emerging Trends in Public Policy and Public Administration

Abstract

A need for development is the defining order of the day where in the monograph brings to the fore the various and myriad facets of Public Administration in India and how with the changing tides, the discipline of Public Policy has undergone a transformation. The monograph zeroes in upon the emerging trends in Public Administration ranging from Digitalisation and cyber warfare to New Public Management, Criminal Justice reform and Orange Economy in the larger context of a nation on the move. The monograph argues that the ever present and fast augmenting challenges of poverty, and population rise, have vastly transformed the discipline of Public Policy inviting redressal on the part of the Government of the day.

Introduction

Public Administration is a fathomless and limitless discipline which constitutes the fundamental human need to reorganize and analyse Governance, as, it grows and spawns through the process of Public Policy in order to live better and have a high happiness quotient. Public Administration serves as an ideal conduit and a receptacle academic discipline, dabbling with the work and functioning of the Government / Regime of the day along with the instrumentality for the myriad ministries and Government agencies in consonance with the spheres of their expertise and erudition. Let's delve inside how the twin tenets of Public Administration and Public Policy are interrelated.

Theoretical Aspects and the History of the Discipline

Since the times of the age of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro and the vast historical stretches of anthropological evidence, Governing people and their Institutes at their head-set has been the primary concern of the academics and the mandarins in the sphere of Public Administration. Also, in the Greek and the Roman context, the myriad governing

apparatuses can be cited as bearing the origins and the spawning of the tenet of Governance and administration. In the Greek city and the Italian city states, too the human habitation bore the granaries and the treasury in the centre of the Polis, while the guards and the army camped in a circle surrounding the city state to defend the *hoi polloi* inside the city state's habitation quarters.

History of Public Administration

Public administration has ancient origins. In antiquity the Egyptians and Greeks organized public affairs by office, and the principal officeholders were regarded as being principally responsible for administering justice, maintaining law and order, and providing plenty. The Romans developed a more sophisticated system under their empire, creating distinct administrative hierarchies for justice, military affairs, finance and taxation, foreign affairs, and internal affairs, each with its own principal officers of state.¹ An elaborate administrative structure, later imitated by the Roman Catholic Church, covered the entire empire, with a hierarchy of officers reporting back through their superiors to the emperor. This sophisticated structure disappeared after the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, but many of its practices continued in the Byzantine Empire in the east, where civil service rule was reflected in the pejorative use of the word *Byzantinism*.

Early European administrative structures developed from the royal households of the medieval period. Until the end of the 12th century official duties within the royal households were ill-defined, frequently with multiple holders of the same post. Exceptions were the better-defined positions of butler (responsible for the provision of wine), steward (responsible for feasting arrangements), chamberlain (often charged with receiving and paying out money kept in the royal sleeping chamber), and chancellor (usually a priest with responsibilities for writing and applying the seal in the monarch's² name). With the 13th century a separation began between the purely domestic functions of the royal household and the functions connected with governing the state. The older household posts tended to disappear, become sinecures, or decline in importance. The office of chancellor, which had always been concerned with matters of state, survived to become the most important link between the old court offices and modern ministries, and

the development of the modern treasury or finance ministry can be traced back to the chamberlain's office in the royal household.³

It can be securely contended upon the theme of Public Administration, which refers to the act of governing, ruling, regulating and managing a mélange of balance between the legislature, executive and Judiciary in perfect sync with each other.⁴ The idiom is that the standard and stereotypical Political System model, as, propounded by the political scientist, David Easton,⁵ talks about a larger and contextualized Governance loop, where-in, the theme of inputs and the policy making schemes and initiatives of the Regime of the day, are, placed inside a black box. They resonate with the shortcomings of administration, where-in, after the interaction with the audience, the outcomes and policy consequences along with the public opinion, emerge out as outcomes. These outcomes are once again transported to the black box through the Inputs/ policy making functionality.⁶

Going by an academic and stereotypical definition of the theme, Public policy refers to the decisions and actions taken by the government that directly or indirectly impact the public. In India, public policy is heavily influenced by international law, democratic principles, and social justice. Policies are designed to address societal issues, providing solutions to improve current and future conditions, either for small populations or on a larger scale.⁷ Thus, apart from the simpleton and directly cohesive practice of governance, the myriad changes in the political, societal, technological, economic and cultural realms, take a telling toll on the efficiency of the Government of the day, its policy planners and policy execution.

The nomenclature of Public Policy and Public Administration are intertwined with each other but there still lies a subtle difference. Public policy is the framework of laws, regulations, and actions governments implement to achieve social and economic goals. It's a statement of the government's intent and commitment to address a particular issue or problem.⁸ Public policy shapes the decisions of government officials and agencies, and it affects society, the economy, and politics.

The discipline and the field of study encompasses several intertwined themes of the order of economic, social welfare, education, healthcare,

and environmental policies. Political ideologies, societal values, and economic conditions influence public policy, vital in shaping a country's future. Public policy aims to usher in societies and addressing societal economic challenges. In the context of political studies, it is an avowed essentiality to comprehend public policy's meaning, public policy definition evolution, and significance.⁹

As referred to in the tome, *The Study of Administration*, as a founding father of the discipline, Woodrow Wilson, the father of modern administrative science, points out, Before entering on that study, however, it is needful: To take some account of what others have done in the same line; that is to say, of the history of the study .¹⁰ Leonard White once noted, Scholars on Public Administration must focus on the history of the study. Only having a good knowledge of historical background can they truly evaluate current environment and problems.¹¹ Daniel Wren also put forward similar ideas, Managers can draw many lessons from history, one important thing of which is to proceed from studying the history to further research on management . These three academic gurus are all emphasizing the significance of studying the history of Public Administration, the basis and starting point for the study of Public Administration. In this regard, we can only accurately understand the basic concepts, propositions, and significances of Public Administration and clarify its development course through an understanding of its history, thus opening up new directions of study.¹²

Apart from the comprehension about classical and traditional Public Administration, Public Policy is an planning exercise with forecasting and gaming for the nation's future and is the what component of nationhood's deliverance through an authoritative allocation of goods. While Public Administration is all about the How question of the Governance's narrative, where-in, the execution and the implementation of the policies, programmes and attendant schemes are the considered components. It's here in the vortex of this subtle difference that the entire narrative of development, progression and the nation's growth story have to charted out. As the nation marches ahead with the call of New India, the all pervasive ambit of Public Administration occupies a drivers seat with the uncomfortable truths of the Emerging trends in the discipline of Public Administration and

Public Policy. Its these slew of transformations and sea changes which will mark the future of the discipline in the larger nation.

More About the Theoretical aspects of Public Administration

The term 'Administration' has been derived from the Latin word 'ad' and 'ministare' which means 'to serve'. In simple words it means 'care for' or 'to look after' people, 'to manage affairs'. Administration may be defined as a group activity aka collectivity which involves cooperation and coordination for the purpose of achieving desired goals or objectives. Any cooperative human effort towards achieving some common goals is also known as administration. Thus every group activity involves some kind of administration whether it is in a family, factory, hospital, company, university or in a government department. Thus, Administration permeates all organised human activities. Definitions of Administration Pfiffner and Presthus define administration as, organization and direction of human and material resources to achieve desired ends.

According to L D White, Administration is the direction, coordination and control of many persons to achieve some purpose or objective.¹³ Herbert a Simon said in its broadest sense, administration can be defined as the activities of groups cooperating to accomplish common goals.¹⁴ E.N.Gladden defined Administration is a long and slightly pompous word, but it has a humble meaning, for it means to care for or look after people, to manage affairs is determined action taken in pursuit of conscious purpose. According to Brooks Adams Administration is the capacity of coordinating many, and often conflicting, social energies in a single organism, so adroitly that they shall operate as a unity. Felix A Nigro defined Administration is the organisation and use of men and materials to accomplish a purpose.¹⁵

All in all, Public Administration refers to the theme that comparisons between the myriad facets of its processes and methods makes one delve inside the constructs which are prevalent in India, US, Latin America, Europe and South East Asia. Comparative public administration is the study of administrative institutions, processes and behaviours across organisations, national and cultural boundaries. It is the study of public administration on a comparative basis and it is specially concerned with

making rigorous cross-cultural comparisons of the structures and processes involved in the activity of administering public affairs.

Myriad Schools of Thought in Public Administration

The legendary American President, Woodrow Wilson, is regarded as the trailblazing icon of the discipline of Public Administration. The art of Government as propounded by the iconic work of President Woodrow Wilson still remains as the lifeblood of the hallowed discipline with ramifications and impact over the rest of the Social Sciences too. In a campaign event at Madison Square Garden in 1912, future President Woodrow Wilson said something that could be considered a mission statement for his life's work: There is no cause half so sacred as the cause of a people. There is no idea so uplifting as the idea of the service of humanity.¹⁶ He is also fondly remembered as the quintessential father of Public Administration in more ways than one specially when we delve inside the details of the discipline of Public Administration with its cornucopia of myriad theoretical schools of Public Administration.

These schools offer different perspectives on how to manage organizations and achieve public goals, focusing on efficiency, human factors, decision-making, and organizational dynamics.

Here's a breakdown of the major schools:

1. Classical School:

- This school, also known as the Scientific Management school, emphasizes efficiency and productivity through scientific methods and standardization.
- Key figures include Frederick Taylor and Henri Fayol.
- Focuses on optimizing workflows, division of labor, and hierarchical structures.
- Classical theory is often associated with bureaucracy, as exemplified by Max Weber's model.¹⁷

2. Human Relations School:

- This school emerged as a critique of the Classical school,

highlighting the importance of human factors in organizations.

- Key figures include Elton Mayo and Mary Parker Follett.
- Focuses on informal relationships, employee motivation, and the social environment within organizations.
- Emphasizes the need for leadership that considers the psychological and social needs of individuals.¹⁸

3. Behavioral School:

- This school builds on the Human Relations school, delving deeper into individual and group behavior within organizations.
- Focuses on understanding motivation, decision-making processes, and organizational culture.¹⁹
- Key figures include Herbert Simon, Rensis Likert, Chris Argyris, and Douglas McGregor.
- Explores topics like participative management, organizational learning, and the impact of leadership styles.

4. Systems School:

- This school views organizations as open systems that interact with their external environment.
- Focuses on understanding the complex relationships between different parts of an organization and its environment.
- Emphasizes the importance of feedback, adaptation, and the interconnectedness of various elements within the system.
- Views organizations as dynamic entities constantly interacting with their surroundings.

Other Important Perspectives:

New Public Management:

This perspective emphasizes business-like practices, performance measurement, and market-oriented approaches in public administration.

Postmodern Theory:

This perspective challenges traditional approaches, focusing on the role of language, power, and discourse in shaping public administration.²⁰

Contingency Theory:

This theory suggests that there is no single best way to manage, and the most effective approach depends on the specific situation and context.

Decision Theory:

This school focuses on the process of decision-making within organizations, exploring how choices are made and how to improve decision-making effectiveness.

Mathematical School:

This school uses mathematical and statistical models to analyse and solve management problems.

In summary, these schools of thought offer a range of perspectives on how to manage public organizations effectively. By understanding these different approaches, public administrators can develop a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities they face.

Comparative Public Administration

Basically, there are three levels of analysis in comparative public administration and these are:

- a. Macro Level Studies: macro level analysis focuses on the comparisons of the whole administrative systems in their proper ecological contexts. For instance, a macro study would involve a comparison of the administrative system of India and Great Britain or Nigeria and Senegal. It will comprise a detailed analysis of all important aspects and parts of the administrative system of the two nations. Though, the studies of macro level analysis are rare, they are not impossible to be taken up. Generally, the relationship between an administrative system and its external environment is highlighted in the macro level studies or analysis.

b. The Middle-Range Level of Studies: a middle-range level of analysis is on certain important parts of an administrative system that are sufficiently large in size and scope of functioning. For instance, a comparison of the structure of higher bureaucracy of two or more nations, comparison of agricultural administration in two or more countries or a comparison of local governments in different countries are examples of middle range level studies or analysis. Also, the Nigerian local government system can compare to that of Britain, under a middle range level of studies.

c. Micro Level of Studies: the micro level of analysis relates to comparisons of an individual organisation with its counterparts in other settings. A micro level study might relate to an analysis of a small part of an administrative system, such as the recruitment or training system in two or more administrative organisation. Micro level studies are more feasible to be undertaken and a large number of such micro level studies have been conducted by scholars of Public administration, and in contemporary comparative public administration.

The following factors contributed to the development of comparative public administration:

(i) The emergence of free nations after the world wars and efforts by these nations to achieve rapid socio-economic development, created new problems before public administration which led to scientific investigation and empirical studies in the field of public administration.

Harking back to the modicum of comparative Public Administration, Comparative public administration (CPA) is directed at the study of administrative phenomena focusing on organization (bureaucracy), personnel (public employees, administrative elites), and the relations between administrative actors/processes and political decision makers (making).²¹ The comparative approach encompasses cross-sectional (e.g., cross-country and cross-policy) as well as cross-time (longitudinal) analyses. In its historical development CPA research unfolded in the United States after 1945 in focusing on developing countries. Since the 1970s CPA research has largely turned on developed industrial countries in increasingly dealing with European (particularly EU member) as well as other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. With regard to

subject matter, the study of organization and personnel, as well as the relations between administrative actors and political decision makers, have loomed large.²² As occurred in the wake of the marketization and privatization of public functions prompted by New Public Management, the distinction between public and private has blurred the radar of CPA researchers and has accordingly widened. The growth of CPA research has been reflected in and promoted by the proliferation of CPA-related national and international professional and academic associations, networks, journals, publications (handbooks, textbooks, etc), and databases. While the appropriate (purposive) selection of countries and cases is of key importance in the conduct of valid comparative research, it often proves impossible to apply methodologically rigorous (quasi-experimental) comparative logic, so that most research has settled for methodologically softer selection strategies. While in the past qualitative (case-study based) research has prevailed, recently quantitative-statistical analyses have advanced. In sum, the state of art in CPA research offers a mixed balance.

On the one hand, there seems so far to be no generally accepted single theory or methodological approach in the pursuit of CPA research. On the other hand, the large (and still growing) body of CPA research findings (and the steady accumulation of research experience and sophistication in the research community) hold the promise of further advances, including theory-building.²³

How Public Policy and Public Administration are in Unison

Public policy refers to the process of making organizational decisions and political, management, financial, and administrative policies to meet established goals. Public administration is the study and use of government policy including both government and non-governmental management.²⁴ These two different fields of study are inextricably linked and have converged over time. Graduate students usually will choose among a variety of degree concentrations in the field of public policy and administration such as criminal justice, community development, economic development, education, environmental policy, finance, information technology, non-profit management, public health and health care, transportation, or urban management.²⁵

As the threesome facets of Globalization, convergence and transnationalism become the ordering principle of the day, the challenges being posed to the discipline of Public administration apparatus in India and the steel framework of the bureaucracy in the nation, are, immense and wide ranging in their nature and expanse. With the new challenges of the order of poverty, rising unmanaged population, economic imbalances due to factors such as oil trade and strategic factors and military conflicts impacting trade and investments, there is an awful lot of concern on the platter of the Indian mandarins with the need to adapt and mitigate a perennial Damocles sword over their tired and amply tested necks and white collars.

Emerging Trends in Public Administration:

Different trends continent-wise (USA, Europe, East Asia, Oceania). The American Percept

Modernisation, Globalization, convergence are the by words and form the academic bylines when it comes to delving inside the Global and continent specific emerging trends all across the Global governance firmament. As far as the American context is concerned, President Woodrow Wilson spawned the dictum of NPM, that is, New Product Management which laid stress on the modern tenets of transparency, accountability and efficient redressal and deft administrative functioning in a manner unknown to the West during that time furlough.

John Riggs contends that, Developing nations and their leaders claim that if they followed the Pax Americana in the realm of Public Administration practices, example, they could create a successful democracy. The striking success of the United States as a wealthy industrialized nation and as an exemplar for democratic government easily accounts for the uncritical admiration of foreign observers. Moreover, the ambitious leaders of revolutionary or reform movements in new states are also attracted to the American model because it legitimizes their personal aspirations, especially if they think they can be elected to the presidency. American advisers often contribute to this illusion by promoting the export of familiar practices they view as widely applicable. Impressionable leaders in client states tend to accept

the advice offered by American advisers, especially when it is accompanied by a variety of attractive fringe benefits.²⁶ Thus, a realisation by the observers and the academics alike is that there happens to be an internalisation of the Public Administration and trends in the name of modernisation and enhancement of the practice of governance. As an attendant fact, one may contend that taking recourse to the theme of development the manner in which the epochal male protagonist, Howard Roark in the novel, *The Fountainhead* rises up the construction lift of a modernist building site with the silhouette of the a fading sun being the foci of the climactic text of the *Fountainhead*.

It is further advanced that Moreover, American advisers are pleased when people in other countries seek their advice and, since they typically lack the historical and comparative perspective needed to understand the essential uniqueness and irrelevance of public administration in America to the problems faced by other countries, it is understandable that they often promote the transfer of familiar bureaucratic structures based on the American experience.²⁷ The bureaucracy in US is not top heavy but is often riled by the political leadership and political class of the day. Political polarisation rules the root in the US homeland where in it leads to an all pervasive larger voter turnout. Also as an attendant fact, the manner in which the American pattern of Public Administration thought has been assiduously replicated in other contexts all across the global polity is an aspect which renders the entire blueprint of Public Administration largely infused with the Ameriocan star spangled spirit.

John Riggs further argued that, In all democracies, political control over the bureaucracy centers on an elected assembly and a responsible head of government. However, the fusion of powers in a parliamentarist regime enables it to manage a more powerful bureaucracy than any presidentialist (separation-of- powers) system. This is simply because the unity of authority principle, inherent in any Cabinet (parliamentarist) system of government, permits more effective control over a bureaucracy than does the separation-of- powers (presidentialist) principle. From the bureaucratic perspective, disunity at the top often confuses and frustrates officials, undermining their morale and ability to coordinate their work. This is scarcely a new idea. Nevertheless, the deeper implications of this structure were not appreciated.²⁸ Thus, the

Pax Americana syndrome works for the American nation and its populace where the stress in the sphere of Public Administration happens to be on the cogently and historically calibrated and practiced Federating structure of US.

Public Administration in Europe

Being the receptacle and the more than symbolic icon of modernization and tangible enhancement, it is an inveterate fact that Europe has always been looked up to as a initiator and precursor element in the larger tedium of Public Administration theories and practice. It can be argued that, Public administrations at central, regional, and local level play a key role in fulfilling EU objectives, helping to translate them into relevant domestic policies. They implement directly one third of the EU budget and are the interface between the EU and its citizens. As context for good governance in the EU-27, the European Commission has identified five key challenges: the unprecedented speed of technological change affecting every function of public administrations' work; the impact of demographic changes, with some Member States seeing up to 30 % of the workforce retire in the next 10-15 years;²⁹ the increasing complexity of policy issues and prevalence of super-wicked problems (i.e. complex and multi-dimensional); the importance of the green transition and the new skills required for Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent; and increasing competition for limited public funds. In line with these challenges, the Commission's Technical Support Instrument (TSI) supports Member States with the design and implementation of their reform agendas on public administration and other policy areas. Government effectiveness is found to be strongly correlated with integrity and control of corruption and positively correlated with citizens' quality of life. Trends show that government effectiveness has declined slightly on average across the EU-27 in recent years.

An EU report contends that, At the same time, 48% of Europeans find public administration to be still complex and burdensome. Public trust in government at different levels and in public administration have also weakened at the aggregate level. More specifically, the tendency to trust national government fell in 19 Member States over the period 2020-21, and in 17 Member States over the subsequent period 2021-22

(it increased in 10 Member States over the latter period also). ³⁰ Thus, one can tentatively argue that in the European context the facet of a want of faith in the Regime of the day crops up poignantly.

The Report further contends that, The tendency to trust regional and local authorities has been consistently higher on average than trust in national government historically. This points to the importance of subsidiarity: citizens having access to institutions that are close to them and with which they interact directly. ³¹ Though the European context of Public Administration has been advanced and well modernised still the regional and the communitarian and localized millieu is still what the Doctor ordered. Here in, the idiom of grassroots management and functionality is what even the Urbanised and metropole oriented European nations also adhere to.

Public Administration in Oceania

Haq notes that, In Southeast Asia, it is possible to discern three distinct models of public administration at various stages of its evolution, including the colonial-bureaucratic, the postcolonial-developmental, and the current new public management models. These models originated mostly in western nations, and were subsequently borrowed by (or imposed on) various countries in the region. ³² Thus, it can be observed that model making in Public Administration has been a Oceanic concern which is very much originated from the western loop of Public Administration but has been deftly utilised by the thinkers and practitioners alike. It can be further argued keeping model making in the context that Effective decision-making is crucial in public administration, as it directly impacts the quality and effectiveness of governance. Various decision-making models have been developed to guide administrators in making informed, rational, and timely decisions. This article explores different decision-making models, their applications, and the factors influencing their choice in public administration. ³³

The Public Policy scholar further contends that, However, there were considerable gaps between these ideal-type administrative models and the actual administrative practices in Southeast Asia. There also emerged major variations among countries in the region in terms of the

extent to which they conform to the original models due to their differences in colonial backgrounds and national contexts. These issues and concerns are critically examined in this article. It concludes by making some critical assessment of the major trends of public administration in the region.³⁴

These shifts have generated new arrangements involving state and non-state actors, including alternative contracting models, co-production systems, and governance networks. While such arrangements have sometimes weakened the role of the state, in other contexts they have fostered deeper local embeddedness and more flexible, relational approaches to service delivery. Focusing on street-level dynamics, this issue explores how new forms of accountability, organisational structures, and actor relationships are redefining frontline implementation.³⁵

The author further suggests that, Drawing on eight case studies from Australia, Brazil, Israel, the Philippines, Switzerland, and Mexico, the contributions analyse diverse governance arrangements and their impact on policy delivery in varied institutional and administrative settings. The issue highlights five key relational dynamics: (1) between state and non-state actors; (2) between street-level organisations and communities; (3) between frontline actors and higher-level agencies; (4) between bureaucrats and political actors; and across sectors, through partnerships. Together, the articles show how contemporary implementation is shaped by local context, organisational form, and social relations, offering new insights into how street-level actors navigate complex governance environments in the delivery of public services.³⁶ Thus, the novae paradigm in the region and largely Australia happens to be that of public service delivery. Themes of the order of interface between the Politicians and Bureaucrats along with the stress on a participative and communitarian approach emerges as the new approach in the context of Oceania in the larger perspective and Australia in the specificity of the concern.

How do we arrive at the rationale behind the Emerging trends in the discipline coming to the fore and leaving a lasting and transformative impact upon the larger theme, nature and rationale of Public Administration? The transformational impact of the Emerging trends

cannot be denied which have brought in change in the Classical and traditional understanding of Public Administration the world over. As the times change, and the denouement of the times comes nearer, the Regime of the day in different nations have to change and transform with the aid of *techne* and model replication of the good practices in other locations and scenarios akin to the city state models of the order of Singapore. Thus, the new and largely untried Immersive technologies along with the rising feedback based orientations of the receptacle and receiving citizens become the order of the day.

As India makes strides towards our quintessential objective of *Viksit Bharat*, i.e., a developed and self-reliant nation by 2047 and digitalization stands as a key foundation to it.³⁷ The true promise of *Viksit Bharat*, as, well as *Digital India*, lies not only in the digitalization and technological expansion, rather it rests on its transformative potential to empower our citizens and strengthen our country's economy, in, order to be able to compete in the world's political and strategic ecosystem of today. Gone are the staid classroom concerns of the yore, as, in the practicality and the outcome oriented field experience, becomes the change agent both for the theoretical sustenance of Public Administration, as, well as the methodological and field finesse, which begets the larger concern of betterment and enhancement .

We are not directly jumping on to the notion and the practice of *DPI*. The advent of all around and all pervasive convergence and the networking of people, nations and Institutions makes it a pertinent necessity to go ahead with a digital unison of the larger ecosystem of nations and citizens. In the context of the imagined communities, the entire hoi polloi of the country vibrates with the swansong of a *techne*-unison which necessitates a gainful deliberation and rumination over the omniscient undercurrent of the *techne* in development and Bharat's progression as a great power. The emergence of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (*DPI*)³⁸ has initiated an era of e-governance, with the citizens gaining online access to a wide range of government services. *DPI* might have become too trite a concern and a au currant narrative but its bound to subsist as an able facilitator to the Indian and Public Policy's growth story in the national and global firmament.

DPI aims to empower citizens to participate in the digital economy, regardless of location or socioeconomic background. These initiatives have been instrumental in boosting productivity, improving efficiency and generating employment opportunities for all. India's digital infrastructure has proven to be significantly valuable in fostering global connectivity, financial inclusion, and innovation, having a transformative power to revolutionize various sectors of the Indian economy like education, healthcare, agriculture, etc. Strivings towards human resource development such as e-learning can pave the way for a more equitable and accessible future.

However, this dream of a promising future is not free from hurdles and obfuscations. There are numerous flies in the ointment that India needs to address before we can call ourselves fully developed. Digital technology does not exist in vacuum and cannot be measured merely through bland and techne dehumanised datapoints, but brings to the fore, a requirement to grapple with the structural inequity which is inextricably interwoven within our society. Its only then that one can realise our country's actual potential and our capacity. Difficulties of the order of the digital divide still rile us, so ensuring equitable access to technology and internet connectivity is a key to seamless governance and a healthy upkeep of Public Administration practices.

Thus, to realize the full potential of India as a pathway to Viksit Bharat, our approach must be people-centric, inclusive and needs to be effectively and critically reflective. Apart from the AI challenges and machine learning pitfalls, the new conceptualising over the tenet of Creative Economy too emerges as a rising instrument of change in the realm of Public Policy and public administration's Weberian notions of the years gone past.

Emerging Trend Novae One: Orange Economy Et Al.....

The transformative impact of the larger theme of neophyte and emerging trends in Public Administration has led to the broad basing and an ushering in of changes in the nature, content of the discipline. Themes premised upon, techne along with a stress on indigenous Knowledge systems along with a harking back to grassroots and localised contexts has made a study and mention of entities of the order

of AI, criminal Justice and PPP as iconic change instruments.

It can be safely and assuredly argued that the manner in which the new and critical technologies are the *techne* of future Governance, new Orange aka Creative Economy is the order of the day as far as the rookie imaginings of the discipline of Public Administration go and persist. The manner in which the M and E (Media and Entertainment) complex has crossed the mark of 42 billion in a few years as the quantum of the output, is an appreciable benchmark of how the Media apparatus, (including the Print and Electronic Media and Cinema) is an all pervasive and omniscient presence in the lives of millions in the nation and the larger international system, is a matter to be reckoned with.³⁹ How it can come into its own bears testimony to the larger reality which is much more than the initial *simulacra*⁴⁰ impact and influence on the growth and progression matrices of the nation.

It was South Korea which heralded the idiom of Creative economy where balanced labour and technical processes were initiated in Seoul, in, order to give a fillip to the crassly capitalist strain of economy in South Korea.⁴¹

The United Nations portal informs us about the heady rise and progression of Creative Economy the world over. The manner in which the UN places it forth in the much hackneyed good governance's narrative can be delved inside with some detail and academic insight. The UN portal contends that, The creative economy, also known as the orange economy, is an evolving concept based on the contribution and potential of creative assets to contribute to economic growth and development. It embraces economic, cultural and social aspects interacting with technology, intellectual property and tourism objectives: it is a set of knowledge-based, and thus more localized, economic activities with a development dimension and cross-cutting linkages at macro and micro levels to the overall economy.⁴² The UN portal further informs us that, There is not a single definition of creative economy, and the different definitions usually overlap. A common characteristic is that the creative economy has a multitude of dimensions, making contributions to economic, social, cultural development and has a potential for contributing to achieving the sustainable development goals.⁴³ Its one again part of the theme

of a Global regime of development and sustainability where in the myriad nations, nonstate actors, INGO's and International Institutions play a key role as far as the Playing for Keeps for the world and more pinpointedly and singularly as far as the grandiose but practicable theme of Viksit Bharat is concerned.

More About the Orange Economy

In terms of industries, there remains no limit to what the orange economy would include in the same manner as the potential of intellectual property itself cannot be limited. Put another way, arts and culture added 877 billion USD to the US GDP in 2020.⁴⁴

Walt Disney, with a turn over of 88 billion USD for the fiscal year, 2023, Walt Disney⁴⁵ is the true blue representative of the global orange economy and the keenest example of ably utilising intellectual property and related themes. Monetising creative content is the clarion call of the day where in the corporate inclination takes over but not without capturing the imagination of millions of the receptacle audience, the world over.⁴⁶

Iconic characters. Super heroes not exist in the present context but in some distant realm of a parallel universe or lets day multiverse, the superheroes might be populating the earth and its political societal and economic existence. The Disney Princesses, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Marvel, Star Wars, and Pixar all have one thing in common across their very separate fictional worlds—Disney. Such instances, require no references and substantiation, as they highlight the power of character portrayal and storytelling with a purpose, and what it means to usher in next door symbols of purity, virtue and probity with moral and extraordinary courage.⁴⁷

Unforgettable films. The Lion King, Aladdin, Cinderella, Frozen, Moana, and Toy Story. All highly successful, all catering to the same target audience of young adults with effective writing and development. Toy Story 4, for example, earned over 1 billion USD worldwide.⁴⁸

Global creative corporates such as Disneyland and Walt Disney World in an immersive manner attract all the national and international actors in a virtual reality world. Themes parks cash in on an important

component of the orange economy—merchandising.

Through a plethora of merchandise paraphernalia of the order of attractive toys, trendy and avant garde clothing, amicable accessories, aware and yearning dreamers amongst the customers can conveniently relate with the characters they have learned to love and live with.⁴⁹ Still, the theme of State surveillance becomes the order of the day where the questions of the Government which Governs the least is the best Regime can be pondered upon here apart from the parallel and emerging trends in Public Administration. A critique might refer to the theme of the Panopticon where in the construct of State control and monitoring forms the core corpuscle of the entirety of the research exercise in Public Administration.

The Saga of State Surveillance

George Orwell in his literary construct, 1984 ⁵⁰envises a world, where-in, every move, the indoor domesticity, lifestyles and live moments of the denizens are being monitored under the rubric of societal goods. In the modern world today, identity and identifications have gained prominence more than ever and is central to our social, legal and digital lives. The quintessential Identity plays a significant role and is a necessity for access, security as well as verification in the everyday lives of millions of citizens of the land and the nation at large. Modernization in the Government processes has shifted the modes and methods of identification, from being something you know (like a password) or something you have (like an identification card) to something you are, i.e., your biometric identity.

Moreover, these methodologies of biometric identification, are cannily and conveniently considered to be the physical attributes of an individual such as a harmless fingerprint, a rote face structure, iris pattern or the complete DNA construct of the individual. This bodes for both noble and vile fallouts for both the individual and the state.

It is a more efficient and effective way of identification and while the earlier methods are prone to loss, misuse or forgery, biometric identification can bypass these as it depends on intrinsic human characteristics which are immutable and unique. Hence, identity becomes something inseparable from the individual, offering a method

of identification that is inherently more trustworthy and better aligns with 21st-century demands. It benefits both individuals as well as the state. So much the so for George Orwell's classic, 1984 which has more than a mere mentionable reference in the turbulence of the present times!

At an individual level, it eliminates the risks of frauds and scam, saving people from losing money or other important valuables. At the same time, it is also a more efficient and easier way of proving oneself as it saves people from the hassle of presenting an identity proof like ID cards or passwords.⁵¹ For the states, biometric identification paves more effective and efficient ways of law and order maintenance and so that a larger bonhomie and patternisation creeps into the country's day to day sustenance as a routinised ritual.

In the sphere of citizenship's concerns, one can mention the functionality of the Biometrics and the Aadhar card. In the realm of citizenship, today national identity cards make use of biometric identification systems, like the Aadhar card that promote biological citizenship. The need of national identification adds a worth to the citizen's persona and existence and also facilitates a monitoring which is non hostile for the sake of the security of the country at large. This ushers in efficiency but also initiates more than an iota of automation to be introduced into security checks that are critical especially in cases of border management as well as for crime processes in the light of the terror actors and the insurgents with their insidious infiltration into nations and their lifeblood.⁵²

However, the increasing use of biometric identification also has negative consequences for citizens as well as states.⁵³ Nations, today, often claim that the increasing levels of digitalization has made the national demarcations to disappear and made administration and monitoring a hard routine exercise for them. Seemingly ill informed and part of the Panopticon, Citizens can't be congenially overrun by the Regimes now. Boundaries might have been compromised, however, in the new regime of biological citizenship has given rise to what we call the biometric or mobile borders. Who can still undermine the manner in which President Donald Trump still values immigration and the especially the scenario on the Mexican borders to be a key

administrative and policing exercise in the contemporary times.

The "cultures of surveillance"⁵⁴ that are being ushered in and are augmenting in intensity, are facilitating the state and corporate interests by converging the human body as the ultimate identifier, where bodies are being rematerialized and are again attain relevance in the context of digital administration.

The Hollywood flick, Matrix, too, reflects the iconic dilution of humanity and individuality where in the male protagonist is himself unaware of the fact that he is a humanoid and not a normal human being and the machines are waging a relentless war against the humans. The confusions in physical space and identity realisations and subsequent transformations become the bane of a peaceful, three dimensional urban existence which leads to an evaporation of the human being in a seething struggle of existence against the morphed world of the machines.

Several scholars argue that the body uniqueness is being compromised where bodies are being penetrated more deeply than in the past world of simplicity and human memories. Our biometric information travels with us, wherever we go and the border becomes internal, transforming every checkpoint into potential sites of validation or exclusion. Biometrics is the modern form of branding. This biological citizenship,⁵⁵ becomes a point of convergence, where digital identities and physical personages merge and humans become digital-biological hybrids, that finally determines the hoi polloi's proximity to human rights and political correctness in the comity of humans. Such surveillance mechanisms are often justified in the name of national security or any other attendant concern but it's a catch 22 situation of the *New India's Administration*, where-in, the narrowing down of an individual citizen to a number and digital profile becomes an essentiality in the light of the national security and threats to the sovereignty and integrity of the nation at large. Its where the narrative demands a revisit of the idioms of freedom expression and dissent which bears a negative connotation.

Emerging Trend II:

Geopolitics and Public Administration:

The vortex of Global developments are deeply intertwined with the domestic ecosystem and this deserves our attention to comprehend the cavalcade of civil services oriented knowledge germination and spread. Thus, the interconnect betwixt the domestic context and the Global context is the order of the day for the civil service aspirants. The events of Global importance range from the President Joe Biden's inaugural, the Global rampage of the Pandemic along with the vagaries of conflicts such as the Ukraine war. Let's rummage through the issues of Global development as they present themselves before us.

The Insurrection at Capital Hill

The violent insurrection at the US Capitol is intensifying scrutiny over security at an inauguration ceremony for President-elect Joe Biden already reshaped by a pandemic and the prospect that his predecessor may not attend.

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will take the oath of office from the Capitol's West Front, one of the very locations where a violent mob overpowered police and stormed the building. They also scaled and occupied the scaffolding and bleachers in place for the ceremonies. Inauguration plans were already scaled back because of the coronavirus. But the brazen attack raises new questions about preparedness for the event that welcome the new administration after a bitter election. The congressional leaders responsible for coordinating the inauguration insisted Thursday night that events will move forward.

Public Policy is inseparably and fixatedly a part and parcel of the larger dictum of International Relations and World Politics. International Relations has always been associated with Political Studies as a last chapter of any treatise. This step brotherly treatment may emanate from unfamiliarity with the fundamentals and the larger ambit of the discipline of International relations, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy if the three words are utilised interchangeably. The running of International Institutions of the order of United Nations with their bureaucracies become the bane of world peace and obstruct an act of efficiency in sustenance of peace and stolidity in the World system or the comity of States.

International Administration is primarily echoed by UN and other

regional groupings of the order of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, SAARC, BRICS and the Quad where the formalization of the peace processes and conflict resolution suffers due to great power innovations and interventions. In the domestic polity, too, what all is derived and attained as the fruits of governance find an unstoppably echo in the resultant Foreign Policy and Diplomatic practice of the nation with New Delhi and PM Narendra Modi chaperoning a rising and planned and innovation nation which leads to the shimmer and the dominance of New Delhi on the global high table.

Innovate India

Innovation is the need of the hour as has been practised in the Occident and the Indian localised contexts such as the Rahat in the Bharatiya Farmlands, the canal systems since the ancient and medieval times along with community radio in the modern age in states of the order of Kerala. All in all, the empowerment of the localised melee has been realised by the Regime of the day. With blots of the order of NREGA marring the turf of good governance, the New Government launched a slew of planning in the hinterland and the localised contexts. These developments amount as a combined kitty to the realization of the enhancement of the Village Republics adhering to the traditional strain of thought in Indian planning which was further revolutionised by the Nehruvian conceptualisation of the Industry aka the, “Temples of Modern India.”

ULB's and localised Development

Numerous instances abound where stellar but ordinary innovations in the Urban and Local bodies can be delved inside with some superficial and cursory detail. The system resists innovation and anything which is novae and untested but the Regimes of the day do not have any option and way out to seek redemption for the besieged populations. Thus, all this ushers in the age of New Reforms and Palliatives as far as the notion of Urban Governance is concerned. The World Economic Report in one of its reports contends elaborately that, Unleashing spare capacity: Many innovations cleverly make use of existing yet underutilized resources. Airbnb, for example, enables the renting out of unused private homes; co-locating schools and recreational facilities

enables public-private sharing of space; and the circular economy provides opportunities to reuse, recycle and upcycle.⁵⁶

Other attendant facts follow: Cutting out the peaks: From electricity and water to roads and public transport, upwards of 20% of capacity sits idle for much of the time ready to cope with demand peaks; cutting out these peaks with technology enabled demand management or innovative pricing structures can significantly limit the burden on financial and natural resources. Cities will always need large-infrastructure projects, but sometimes small scale infrastructure from cycle lanes and bike sharing to the planting of trees for climate change adaptation can also have a big impact on an urban area.⁵⁷ The west and South East Asia might not be the best instances of conducive Urban planning but an iota of copy cats has added to the health and stealth of our larger Urbania that is the conceptualisation of futuristic Smart Cities. The imagination of the world, Smart has added to the shimmer, shine and the fungibility of Urban development but mere symbolic sightings of bikers driving cycles, attire and all, on the cycle lanes do leave an indelible impact and usher in a much need awareness amongst the commoners about Their City .

The Official portal of the Government of the day informs us that, Cities accommodate nearly 31% of India's current population and contribute 63% of GDP (Census 2011). Urban areas are expected to house 40% of India's population and contribute 75% of India's GDP by 2030. This requires comprehensive development of physical, institutional, social and economic infrastructure. All are important in improving the quality of life and attracting people and investment, setting in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development. Development of Smart Cities is a step in that direction.⁵⁸ The traditional mindset of the national planners suffered from a past which eulogised the Rural and Indigenous and despite the presence of routine schemata available for the Urban bodies, a separate and sequestered and pinpointed enunciation of future Urbania did not take up the imagination of the mandarins. Still, it has to be admitted that Bharat might boast about the themes of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, but the mainstreaming of the notion and understanding of Smart Urbania took a lot of time and neglect.

It can be contended amicably that, Smart Cities focus on their most pressing needs and on the greatest opportunities to improve lives. They tap a range of approaches - digital and information technologies, urban planning best practices, public-private partnerships, and policy change - to make a difference. They always put people first.⁵⁹ Everything in the format of development has always shied away from an enshrined celebration of the Urban. The phenomenon of the Cinematic variant where in flying discs serve as public transport in a post dystopian environment, which is Urban order, is not merely a piece of literary and Cinematic interpretation. Its much more than far fangled imagination where in the flying public transport and EV's become the norm of the day and who knows the pace at which the techne is progressing these days, the next decade might be witness to the sci-fi changes that an unsuspecting denizen might find in the near future which will indeed will be a hallowed and much celebrated success story.

Its further argued that, In the approach to the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a light house to other aspiring cities. The Smart Cities Mission is meant to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and parts of the country.⁶⁰ The larger concern of Sustainability and inclusive growth still happen to be the running credo of the Government of the day. Politically too, the Government in 2004 adopted a mainstream narrative of Shinning India which failed them electorally and politically thus adding to the later day nonchalance about the Urban smart stories.

The Automaton

Automation in cities brings us to the initiation of the future through the modicum of India AI Mission in the context of the novae Urban sprawl. Machines are here to reside as our co-partners raising fears of the D-Day of the Machines where a meagre and minimalistic short circuiting might endanger the health and the conditionality of the citizens of the

day.

The Indian AI mission is an affront to the orthodoxy and conservativeness in planning for the larger nation and its patriotic denizens. The advent must be accompanied by a sincere striving at arriving at a regulatory mechanism for idioms and functions, cyber and AI. The manner in which cloud payments, and cloud communications are about to become the order of the day sings paeans for the efforts of the current day Government of honourable Modiji. The Government's Status Paper informs us that, India has taken a unique approach to its national AI strategy by focusing on how India can leverage AI not only for economic growth, but also for social inclusion. NITI Aayog, the government think tank that conceptualised and articulated the strategy, calls this approach #AIforAll. The strategy, as a result, aims to i) Enhance and empower Indians with the skills to find quality jobs; ii) Invest in research and sectors that can maximize economic growth and social impact and⁶¹

It is further stressed in the Status Paper that, Scale Indian-made AI solutions to the rest of the developing world. NITI Aayog published India's strategy document on Artificial Intelligence on June 4, 2018. For formulation of ibid strategy, NITI Aayog has devised processes such as 9 <https://niti.gov.in/national-strategy-artificial-intelligence> Page 9 of 19 collaborating with experts and stakeholders, AI projects in various fields with fully explanatory proofs and designing a strategy for developing a vibrant AI ecosystem in India.⁶²

The advent of the Niti Ayog itself emerged as a zone of battle when the nomenclature of Planning Commission was relegated to the shelves of neolithic times and the rickety racks of history. Still, Futurization and the Education of the masses needs to be cannily balanced with the need to keep intact a primeval and traditional past taking us into the dilemma of originality and authenticity of content where in the intellectual property rights Regime related to the Entertainment and art industry might have its own reservations at the rote and rotund production and guzzling of mediocre but highly utilitarian content The Status Paper further informs us that, quoting from it, NITI Aayog has identified AI as a truly transforming technology and it has coined a brand name #AIforAll for proliferation of AI in India. This brand is

introduced in India to satisfy its needs and aspirations of attaining a leadership role in AI development. The strategy is derived to use AI mainly for inclusive socio-economic growth of India and it aims to place India at forefront of AI technology development arena. The strategy strives to leverage AI for economic growth, social development and inclusive growth, and finally as a Garage for emerging and developing economies. NITI AYOG mainly focused on five marhalling areas: Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Smart Cities and Infrastructure and Smart Mobility and Transportation.⁶³ Thus, it's the urgency of the changing times and the contraptions of time that AI mission holds a great iota of relevance for the nation and its developmental odyssey. The machination of digitalization will soon become the order of the day where the self actualization which the people used to attain through another Governmental innovation of, Yoga can be achieved by the instrumentality of CHAT GPT. The innovators too need to keep it in their minds and psyches that too much of techne might lead to reservations among the already suspecting denizens but definitely the larger and long term objectives and digital and AI actualisations will leave the world enchanted and mesmerised as a Government instrumentality. When it comes to ethics and awareness, then the Governments have to tread with care. But, care worn frameworks and Plans of action might not work as awareness events along with coordinating with the stakeholders remains the key factor into experimenting with the techne avatar and the neophyte version of governance. But apart from technological innovations, one can stress upon the tradition and the historicity of the Indic notion of Governance rooted in Bharatiya values and practices.

Emerging Trend II: The Indic notion of Governance

In the Indic period, too, harking back to the sphere and realm of the Indian knowledge systems, too, the larger understanding and comprehension of the tenet of being kind, welfarist while espousing the cause of the hoi polloi's entrepreneurship under the leadership of a Regime head, can lead to the larger realization of the objective of common god and the governance oriented gains of the masses/ hoi polloi. It's here in this context, that the conceptualisation of the Divine Right of Kinship⁶⁴ too claws its way in where the welfare and the larger

philosophical phalanx of philanthropy⁶⁵ can become the order of the day for guiding and driving deity of the land, territory and the larger nation which is at the receptacle end of policy making and implementation domains. Thus an entire, loopish amalgamation is spawned which brings to the fore, the advent of reciprocity of the larger political system. This tenet validates the larger idiom of a 360 degree loop of Governance and its also contended and believed by the scholars of the day.

Also, Antyodaya happens to be the Gandhian solution to the administrative inequity and lopsided development and growth patterns. Strengthening the weakest link in the growth and the allocation chain is what the Indic perception of administration and development entails. The Rawl's "Idea of Justice," also, refers to the same process of strengthening and empowering the poorest and the disenfranchised lot in the country and in the domestic supply chain. This amelioration process harnessing the hidden reins of Indian self-reliance and the self-contained village republics, still, happens to be the key developmental character and cornerstone of the manner in which the nation grows with empowering people through planned development and public Administration in India. When one talks about development and the rural hinterland, how can the theme of digitalization be left behind!

The onerous and tidying up research task based upon digitalization, is, premised upon the quintessential role played by digital banking in rural India.⁶⁶ India is on the progressive path of development and its rural population is an integral part of this growth trajectory. As India gears up for an era of increased digitalization, the issue of holistic and inclusive economic growth remains a pivotal concern. While India is one of the world's fastest-developing economy, equitable growth remains a critical imperative.⁶⁷ The rural population today constitutes above 45 percent of the national income. In 2050, despite urbanisation, over half of India's population will still be rural.⁶⁸ Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has prioritised radical digitalisation to induce economic inclusiveness through a host of initiatives. Digital India, Make in India and Skill India provide for impetus and opportunity to rural citizens, to ensure they are equal participants in India's growth story.

In a country which was predominantly a cash-based economy, doing,

cashless transactions was a farfetched dream. But, a rather canny move of Demonetization, changed the facet of the game for the whole banking system and a new era of Digital Banking beckoned.⁶⁹ Digitalization of rural banking required a widespread and comprehensive usage of smart phones, while, women and elderly don't prefer to use smart phones. Therefore, awareness regarding the benefits of the usage of various app platforms, for digital banking service is also required to be done. Provision of adequate training to the staff who are handling the digital transactions and proper awareness among rural consumers about the digital schemes/platforms and their usage is the ardent and avid need of the hour.

The theme of Ram-Rajya cannot become the practical order of the day but still in a manner one can argue that popular welfare with Governmental schemata can be what the Doctor ordered, where in, the laurels of thinking through the instrument of Think tanks congealing with the disparate ministries of the Government of the day, can, become a key way out of spreading the goodies of good governance and Sushashan⁷⁰ through the length and breadth of the entire land all leading to the Modi's dream objective to make Bharat reach the station of a Developed nation or Viksit Bharat. It has to be realised in the fitness of things that these grandiose yet attainable objectives, can, be attained and achieved through the larger concern of Sustainability and Development through the prism of congealing the local with the global.⁷¹ Still, efficiency and functionality need to be the ideal rules of the Administrative ecosystem where in a century old but modernist, New Public Management need a discursive look.

Emerging Trend : III New Public Management

The term [NPM] now enjoys international recognition to signify a pattern of reform of public management per se, as well as the associated growth of the plural state. (Pollitt & Bouckaert 2000) Running a public works programme of a government is no mean task. Yet, there are always deliberate flaws in the system. Public Management refers to the how policymakers guide, manage, and oversee public bureaucracies in a government administration. An ideal public management exercise should be good and effective aiming to strengthen democracy and human rights, promoting economic prosperity and social cohesion,

reducing poverty, enhancing environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources, and deepening confidence in government and public administration machinery.⁷²

New Public Management (NPM) is an approach in public administration that applies knowledge and experience gained in the world of management and other disciplines to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public service performance in modern bureaucracies. New public management focuses on public sector management that is performance-oriented, not policy-oriented.⁷³

There were three policies or strategies in the New Public Management (NPM) as an effort in governance, which were the reorganization of public administration, decentralization of partnerships and networks, and innovation. The purpose of making this literature review was to add insight into the New Public Management (NPM) as an effort in governance.⁷⁴

Parth J Shah contends in the Centre for Civil Society that, A smart guy asked the question: why are there two distinct disciplines Public Administration and Business Management? Both are largely doing very similar work. What happens when the two are combined? Do we attain better insight on how we run businesses or the public sector? That is how a new area of study, New Public Management (NPM)' came about.

⁷⁵

It has been further contended that, NPM is an amalgamation of Public Administration and Business Management and is based on the principle that the government provides a large number of services to the public which are similar to those provided by the private sector. More often, the principles of Business Management are applied to the work of Public Administration. In terms of transparency and accountability, the principles applied to government are also applied to business. ⁷⁶ Thus, efficiency needs to be the order of the day and the idiom of efficiency needs to be amalgamated with a welfarist role play by the Government of the day imbued with the zeal of popular entrepreneurship.

NPM or the New Public Management⁷⁷ too can be cited as a new genre of Public Policy where in alacrity, proactivity and the efficiency idioms, are, the catch phrase as far as the denouement of Public Policy is

concerned.⁷⁸ K Konig writes that, Yet a distinction must be made as regards this renewal movement between those of its components that are compatible with the bureaucratic administration, even where it has a classical continental European character and those components which extend beyond the modernist, detail differentiations of state and administration.⁷⁹ The idea of decentral responsibility for resources, for instance, is perfectly familiar to an organizational scenery featuring federalism, local self-government, departmental responsibility, formal organizations under private law, shifts of functions to external bodies and so on.⁸⁰ Thus, new challenges and posers to the staid understanding of Public Administration seem to abound in nature, scope and impact. As an attendant fact, going global with intertwining with the local reality has been offered by some scholars and practitioners, as, a panacea for the ills of Public Administration in India both as an academic discipline and a sphere of Governmental activity.

It can be safely surmised that, The traditional model of public administration places its major emphasis on accomplishing the mission and accountability for resources. A hallmark of the traditional model is its rhetorical stress on efficiency. But efficiency is very difficult to measure, and perhaps the rhetorical value of efficiency is so high because it is so hard to measure objectively.⁸¹

At a microlevel, of course, efficiency can be judged over time (e.g. more output from the same resources than last year) or compared with a similar unit producing comparable goods. But, at higher levels of generality, e.g. at the program level, there are no broadly accepted measures of efficiency. Thus, one of the most common measures of government production is that of resources used, that is, inputs.⁸² In the name of change and with the impact of the Deep State, calling the resounding shots in the narrative, President Donald Trump in his new Regime initiated the entity called as, DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency)⁸³ which entailed a stress on how most of the Big state amounts to being a plane jane deep state which is beyond the control and decision making prowess of even the White House and the Capitol Hill. Thus, this necessity of establishing DOGE despite its uncomfortably revolutionary nature and scope, caught the attention of the academics and the bureaucrats on a world wide scale.

Some of the Emerging trends, apart from the theme of Orange Economy need to be underlined over here. The second trend after The Orange Economy happens to be of the order of:

Emerging Trend III:

- Digital Governance and Data Utilization:**

We have already mentioned the larger idiom of DPI and Artificial Intelligence, but the present section attempts a novae delving inside the theme and the concerned context. The increasing adoption of digital technologies for government services and operations is a significant trend, augmented by the growing importance of data management and analytics for informed policy decisions. This includes utilizing big data and advanced statistical techniques to support policy formulation.⁸⁴

- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy:**

With increased digitization, comprehensive cybersecurity measures are crucial to protect government systems and citizen data, alongside a focus on data protection and privacy concerns.⁸⁵

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration:**

AI is emerging as a transformative tool in public policy, used for predicting policy impacts, enhancing public service efficiency, and even assisting in regulatory frameworks.⁸⁶

- Anticipatory and Proactive Services:**

Governments are moving towards more tailored, seamless, and proactive public services, anticipating citizen needs rather than just reacting to them.

- Community Empowerment and Inclusive Practices:**

There's a rising emphasis on enabling greater public participation in decisions affecting their communities and ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion are prioritized within policy and governance.⁸⁷

- Agile and Flexible Workplaces:**

Public sector organizations are adapting to new work models, with a

greater emphasis on flexibility and agility in administrative practices to respond rapidly to challenges.

- **Health Policy Reform and Technology:**

Advancements in health technology, like telemedicine, are shaping public health policies, particularly in managing non-communicable diseases and an aging population.⁸⁸

- **Environmental and Sustainable Policies:**

Policies related to wastemanagement, water conservation, sustainable urban development, and energy resilience are gaining traction globally and locally.⁸⁹

- **Criminal Justice Reform:**

This movement continues to be a prominent area of policy discussion and reform across various jurisdictions.⁹⁰

These **pinpointed** pointers and dandily delineated ensconced with skeletal details amount to a bland renumeration of the Emerging trends and policy inclinations in the sphere of Public Administration. Lets hark back to the theme of technological innovation as the new change agent in the context of Public Administration.

The present-day society may appear to be egalitarian at least in terms of technology, however, this is far from true. The automated systems that are gaining prominence today are not neutral tools. Rather than creating more fairness or efficiency, these data-driven technologies often reproduce and reinforce structural inequalities,⁹¹ perpetuating age-old hierarchies, particularly targeting poor and working-class communities.

As the tools of governance become more hidden and automated, operating through databases and algorithms, they perform the function of surveillance, sort and discipline the poor and marginalized. The rigid standards imposed by such systems, strip people of any autonomy without any due process or human oversight, making them more vulnerable than empowered. The sham of neutrality, objectivity and impartial decision-makers in digital technologies is deeply flawed. Instead, these systems are designed by human beings who carry their

own conscious and unconscious biases as well as the institutions deploying these technologies are themselves shaped by a long history of systemic discrimination against the marginalized and so the automated systems often magnify existing inequalities.⁹²

Further, there exists a deeply entrenched technology trap in the contemporary world. While technological progress⁹³ has the capacity to enhance productivity and improve living standards for people. However, it often triggers severe short-term dislocations for people employed in labour practices. This brings us to critique the unchecked authority of these systems and focus on the reinvigoration of legal and ethical oversight in the digital era.⁹⁴ These concealed operations of the digital technologies are operating and increasingly governing the modern life through opaque data practices and algorithmic decision-making.⁹⁵

This gives the impression of black box systems, where the inner workings of these technologies are hidden from the public view. We have historically seen that technological revolutions, such as the industrial revolution, have not been universally beneficial, particularly in their initial phases.⁹⁶ Similarly, today, the rapid pace and the evolving nature of digital technology can bring about a sudden burst and unregulated upheaval. So, in the hope of a better future, we often ignore the harsh conditions and challenges that technology poses for such people.⁹⁷

This not only has short-term consequences but also impacts societal attitudes and acceptability of technology on overall terms. If disruptions do not get properly addressed and eventually mitigated, it may result in widening the existing inequality and lead to further social unrest, regressive backlash and hostility from people in accepting new digital technologies. Thus, we need to wary of the lack of transparency and accountability, in order to reclaim justice in the face of algorithmic domination which brings into focus the cybernetics of progress and development.

Emerging Trend IV:

The rising challenge of Cyber Security

With people, nations, Governments and non governmental actors getting connected and networked profusely, we tend to arrive at a risk of cyber security which seems to challenge the connectivity of the day in a world where Regimes need to be more utilitarian by the day and night. Cybersecurity is becoming increasingly critical in today's digital world, where people, businesses, governments, and critical infrastructure depend on IT and networks.⁹⁸

A myriad quantum of people are the avid and regular users of the internet, related devices, and many tasks can be seamlessly achieved on the net over a last decade or two. This gravitation toward connection and data-driven decisions, has, led to the spawning of the latest technologies but has also made cybercrime a collateral enemy of systems, Governments and corporates, the world over.⁹⁹ Clandestine players and the hackers operating in the dark web, who are very apt at circumventing security and thieving vital information for financial or political gain, persistently are on a rampage through constantly upgrading their shadow skills.¹⁰⁰

As digital technologies spread to all fields, ensuring enough cyber defence has become essential for keeping the modern world safe, resilient, and trustworthy. Even though cyber security is becoming more significant an exercise, no clearly delineated and unambiguous definition has come up globally because the theme of cybernetics and cyber security transforms at a breakneck pace thus posing a grave security challenges to both the Governments and the privately owned private sector mandarins.¹⁰¹

In a broad sense, it refers to utilising technical and organizational measures to keep computers, information, and networks safe from hackers and people who aren't supposed to be there. In real life, cyber security includes many tools, methods, and structures that ensure that only authorized people can access data, that data stays private,¹⁰² that the entire apparatus is secure, and that essentials are up and running.

Apart from guiding the entire IT apparatus, this constitutes a plethora of data, programs, or systems which are connected to the entire

paraphernalia of the connectivity matrix. The key objective is to assist and defend digital assets from an eclectic array of threats that pose a pertinent threat to the people, businesses, and society on a wide spectrum of themes and government services.¹⁰³

Thus, in a manner the nom de plume is that cyber hackers based in China and other rogue states have a say over Governance upkeep in nations such as India and United States. Its in US that such threats are being felt on a routinised level where in national security concerns play a key role into determining the fate of the smooth and glitch less functioning of the Regime of the day. When one refers to the specificity of the theme then the developments apart from Cyber-governance such as Climate change and Energy security enter the frame of Good Governance and largely modern day Public Administration.

Climate Change and Energy Security

Public Administration in New India also assimilates the governance and overseeing of novae developments of the order of Climate Change and Energy security. In the context of the new administrative concerns such as Green economy, Green Energy and other attendant conditionalities, the post-industrial age has come to stay which germinates the theme of Global Commons, Heritage especially in the theme of Good Governance as a result of the Global awareness about issues such as Greening the Planet and leaving behind a healthy and fulsome legacy for the future generations.

Climate Change has a larger connotation for the larger ecosystem where in unbridled industrialisation and corporatisation in the name of efficiency is denuding our green cover, the artic, Antarctica and our oceans at large.

The Press Information Bureau informs us pithily that, The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched in 2019 covers 130 cities in 24 States and UTs with an objective to achieve substantial improvement in air quality, up to 40% reduction in particulate matter by 2025-26 from 2017-18. A PRANA' portal has been launched to update the air quality data in real time. ¹⁰⁴ It can be argued that the Regime of the day has taken over the theme of Green India Mission where in apart from the singular hob-knobbing of MOEF, other Ministries too have been

earmarked with a national and non regional mandate to fulfil. Themes such as incrementing the Green solutions in the Governmental Departments spreading the self same messaging to the commoners is being ably implemented and has become a part of the larger Public and national narrative of the others unlike the previous regimes through India had a National Climate Change policy before May, 2014.

The PIB further contends that, A regulatory framework for Circular Economy in various waste streams has been notified. The producers have been mandated to get the end of life wastes recycled under extended producer responsibility regime. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules have been notified for plastic waste, tyre waste, battery waste, used oil waste and e-waste with the objective to enhance the circularity in economy and also help manage the wastes in environmentally sound manner.¹⁰⁵ Circularity in the climate economy happens to be the order of the day where a dissection of the Climate threats such as Glacial melting, augmentation in the CO₂ levels along with the menacing submergence of the low lying regions on the coastline becomes a matter of concern as far as the Green dare of the larger world and Bharat is concerned.

Another initiative which can be earmarked through the PIB is that, The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)¹⁰⁶ was launched on 5th June, 2024 to restore and promote mangroves as a unique, natural eco-system and for preserving and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal habitats. The objective of the MISHTI is to 'restore mangrove forests' by undertaking mangrove reforestation/afforestation measures along the coast of India.¹⁰⁶ The inundation of national habitats and the natural pelf has become the paramount concern for the New Delhi denomination where in the upkeep of the natural resources has been amply institutionalised by the New Delhi denomination.

Energy Security in India

Energy security too is an inseparable part and parcel of the discipline of Pubic Policy. Energy as a wholesome entity has witnessed a change from the non renewable sources of energy such as Diesel, Petrol (Oil), Coal and Stell to the novae definition of Renewable sources of Energy.

The wars, political violence and conflict germinating the world over are always impacted and impinged upon by the distribution melee over Oil and energy in the larger sense of the term.

India too now relies on Wind, solar and Nuclear Energy for its power needs but we have taken a leaf out of the French book of ushering in and standardizing the French example in the realm of overall Governance. Oil wars initiated by recalcitrant nation state actors of the order of Iran, Israel and United States of America have harmed the general stability, peace and stability of the West Asian quagmires as the region jolts from one conflict to the other.

The theme of Energy Security has received ample of scrutiny and awareness thrusts both in the Government's personalised sphere and amidst the hoi polloi of the larger nation. The International Energy Agency informs the Global audience that, Energy demand in India is growing rapidly with major implications for the global energy market. The Government of India has made remarkable progress in providing access to electricity and clean cooking while implementing a range of energy market reforms and integrating a high share of renewable energy sources into the grid. India, with a population of 1.36 billion and a fast- growing economy, has seen its energy demand increasing rapidly as the country continues to urbanize and the manufacturing sector develops.¹⁰⁷ India has become and grown to the tune of being the Fourth largest economy of the world along with a positive consequence in the context of the egalitarian and equity index. As the energy demand in the largesse of the nation is augmenting with the tenets of growth and developments, energy smartness is the need of the hour.

This growing demand is met through various energy sources, with coal set to remain the largest source of energy supply. India also continues to develop the institutional framework needed to attract the investment required to satisfy this growing energy need.¹⁰⁸ Coming and harking back to Immersive technology, one may stress on, Criticality .

Emerging Trend IV:

Immersive Technologies in the Public Policy paradigm

Criticality, not in the theoretical sense or as a mere counter dialectic or

a narrative, but criticality as a recent Global stress on Critical minerals and rare earths management and “seeking,” has become the dainty clarion call of the day. The manner in which the Chinese, the Americans and now the Bharatiyas are hankering after the attainment of critical minerals supply chains, sheds ample light upon how the emergent products of the order of superconductors, computers, cell phones and other aspect of the “ New Techne” hold the all significant and important key for the future of Governance.

Amongst the emerging trends and Policy inclinations, the role of “ Immersive Technologies” is undeniably significant and critical to the larger overarch of the Bhartiya development story in consonance with how bilateral tryst with the super hegemons of the order of United States of America. But, there is an inbuilt decrease in the resistance towards anything American and the New Delhi dispensation under the prescient leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a deft balance between the development immersion and balancing the techno-blitzkrieg with the traditional tedium of the idiom of Atma Nirbharta and the dictum of self sufficiency, which partakes of all sectors of growth, sage development and sanguine delving inside , “inclusivity”.

Immersive Technologies and the External Dimension

When we refer to the immersive technologies than we are not referring to a beaker where in a cathode and an anode is dipped inside a laboratory moderated environment to make good the experiment. Immersive reality is a process and a higher end method through which the barriers of actual and virtual realities can be crossed and novae virtual reality becomes the order of the day which is similar to the thematic and visual pyrotechnics of Bollywood Cinematic constructs of the order of the, Matrix.

The concept of immersive technology appeared 50 years ago, when the first immersive human-computer interaction prototype, Man-Machine Graphical Communication System, was built.¹⁰⁹ In recent decades, scholars have had different views regarding the definition of immersive technology.¹¹⁰ For example, immersive technology are technology that provides users with a high quality or volume of sensory information.¹¹¹

These researchers focused on the quality and quantity of sensory information received by the users. On the other hand, H.-G. Lee, Chung, and Lee perceive immersive technology as a technology that makes the line between the actual world and the virtual world blur, creating a sense of immersion. These scholars emphasize the immersive character of the technology.

How magical it is that a citizen in India sitting in Sikar District can get his payments as being part of a Governmental welfare scheme by a singly swipe across his cell phone's screen and can check his balance in the bank at the click of a mouse. Also, a farmer can utilise an app. To check the weather and rain forecast for the coming week while surfing on the internet with his or her data. There are multitudes of such instances which have revolutionised the manner in which the government functions and has an amicable and gainful interface with its citizens since the last decade or so.

Immersive technology is a term that describes VR, AR, and MR technology as a whole.¹¹² The rationale of this definition comes from a concept called the reality-virtuality continuum. Milgram and Kishino define four levels of immersive experience based on the blending degrees of various display technologies. The reality-virtuality continuum considers the physical and virtual worlds to be two different ends: the real environment and the virtual environment.¹¹³ The real environment on the far left is completely made up of real things. AR is used in conjunction with the real environment. It alludes to the concept of the display incorporating digital data into a real-world scene. The virtual environment, on the other hand, is a world made up entirely of virtual objects on the other side of the spectrum. VR is often viewed as an example of this end. Augmented virtuality (AV), which is between the virtual environment and AR.¹¹⁴

Covid Challenges in Public Administration and Governance

The Covid pandemic had a deleterious impact on the well being of the larger international system with the closures impacting the instruments of Governance. The pandemic took its toll all round the world polity especially it exposed the inadequate preparedness, numbers and the expanse of the health infrastructure. India as a big

surprise emerged as the vaccine and health Vishwaguru despite of being a developing nation while in the face of the raging pandemic most of the European and American health instruments were found to be lethargic and inadequate for their populations. India emerged as the saviour and aid giving philanthropist through the modicum of Vaccine Diplomacy.

It can be contended that “The low-and-middle-income country (LMIC) context is volatile, uncertain and resource-constrained. India, an LMIC, has put up a complex response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using an analytic approach, we have described India’s response to combat the pandemic during the initial months (from 17 January to 20 April 2020). India issued travel advisories and implemented graded international border controls between January and March 2020.¹¹⁵ Nations like US and President Trump attempted to stem the crisis mode by referring to the pandemic as a mere fever or flue which further aggravated the situation in United States, as an instance. In Europe, too nations such as Italy and Germany were overflowing with patients and the playing grounds and the meadow like roadsides were converted overnight into Hospital extensions. The once capitalist warlords and Industrial hubs among the larger comity of nations did pass the fundamental muster when it came to saving and treating their infected populations.

Its further argued that, By early March, cases started to surge. States scaled up movement restrictions. On 25 March, India went into a nationwide lockdown to ramp up preparedness. The lockdown uncovered contextual vulnerabilities and stimulated countermeasures. India leveraged existing legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and administrative provisions to respond to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the cross-sectoral impact of the initial combat was intense and is potentially long-lasting. The country could have further benefited from evidence-based policy and planning attuned to local needs and vulnerabilities. Experience from India offers insights to nations, especially LMICs, on the need to have contextualised pandemic response plans.¹¹⁶ New Delhi leveraged the agencies and the instruments of Governance along with a multiple roled governance process where in innovations in space management and restrictions on people’s movements saved the day for the Indian populace.

The Idiom of Viksit Bharat as the New strain of Public Policy

and an Emerging Trend in Bharat

Adhering to the Gandhian idea of the Village Republics,¹¹⁷ the current ruling dispensation too has strived to implement the idiom of transforming the nation into a Super power both through its internal domesticity and its external manifestations through the norms and impacts of Diplomacy, foreign policy and Sushashan¹¹⁸ aka Good governance. The narrative comprises of threesome core components: the development of secure and stable digital infrastructure, delivering government services digitally¹¹⁹ and universal digital literacy. But what is important to note here is that Digital India is not merely a technology- driven initiative, rather it is based upon a larger goal of Viksit Bharat. Viksit Bharat@2047 represents the government of India's ambitious vision to transform the nation into a developed entity by the centenary of its independence in 2047. The entirety of the narrative is constituted by disparate tenets of development such as economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability Bureau, effective governance. It rests at realizing and believing in India's destiny and a profound recognition of the vast potential talent and capabilities of its people, particularly the youth. And at the heart of this vision lies the belief that digital technologies can play a transformative role in India's path towards development and self-reliance. It would lay the basis for India's future development and pave its way towards becoming a global leader, truly realizing the transformative dream of Viksit Bharat.¹²⁰

Human security happens to be the clarion call of the Government of the day where in the sustainability of the population and its balance through climate change study becomes the defining moment of the era. Etched in the Indian historical and traditional narrative, even the nations such as Canada, Switzerland and Japan initiated the talk on human and comprehensive security. These nations have a non military visage as a fallout of the history since World War II, so they were aptly positioned to herald a modern ad west oriented understanding of development which has always been a concern of the conceptualisation of Ram Rajya and the benevolent King in the Bharatvarsha.

In order to actualize this, the approach of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has been adopted. It refers to the foundational digital systems

and platforms, an approach to solving socio-economic problems, by combining minimalist technology interventions, public-private governance and vibrant market innovation. These include the Internet, mobile networks, GPS, verifiable identity systems, interoperable payments networks, consented data sharing, open loop discovery and fulfilment networks, digital signatures and beyond. This aligns with the idea of the electronic silk road³, where the digital technologies today have created a new

Silk Road implying to the trade of cross-border services that enables the trade of intellectual, creative and technical labor. The DPI Architecture Principles make digitisation inclusive & scalable. The key features include, Interoperability driven by open specifications; Minimalist, Reusable building blocks rather than end-to-end solutions; Diverse, inclusive innovation by the ecosystem via open & multi-modal access; Federated & Decentralized with a preference for letting data stay where it's been collected; and Security & Privacy by design.

India's phenomenal odyssey towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat rests heavily on its potential to harness the modern, advanced digital technologies and integrate it to all its sectors. So, in order to achieve its goal, India has been digitalizing at a remarkable pace over the last decade, with the transformation being the most apparent in the economic sector. India's digital economy has emerged as a powerful source for the country's growth and productivity and plays a key role in garnering a wide array of vocational opportunities for the youthful segment in Bharat.

Emerging Trend of Criminal Justice System:

It can be contended that Justice delayed is Justice denied but do the denizens of the nation have the resources to attain justice and equanimity on rules application and execution even after we have celebrated the quintessential and hallowed, Azadi Ka Mahotsav? It's a pertinent poser which the New Delhi denomination has strived to answer.

The manner in which the themes of how to elect the Collegium of Judges along with the unassailable probity of the Judiciary remain as the key deliberative themes in the domestic socio-political-juridical

narrative of the nation at large. We need not be Fali Narimans and Soly Sorabjees to comprehend and see through the facilitation of the tiniest but individually important entity of PIL's all the way to the legal services in India to fully comprehend and ruminate over how our Criminal Justice System is undergoing a spate of challenges.

It can be contended that, Judicial reforms are the structure or wider picture of any country from a political or legal perspective. Judicial reforms were introduced by Lord Cornwallis (governor-general from 1786- 1793). The changes he made in 1787, 1790, 1793 were known as Judicial Plan. Access to Justice is a concept that means treating people equally and unaware ones getting enough legal aid to have knowledge about their basic human rights. ¹²¹ The awareness about the rights approach prevalent in the Occident happens to be a core concern in the larger legalia globally and internationally. Bharat too has been keen to the task which is an uphill one where in the recruitment of our Judicial Ombudsman and the legal services provided to the commoners bind us to the new perspectives in Public Administration as Public Administration also subsumes the legalia of the larger nation and its Justice narrative.

Governor General Cornwallis and Warren Hastings are known for their own Magna Carta like reforms in the Justice rendering system in Bharat. Though General Cornwallis was defeated in the hey days of the American war of independence in the battle of Yorktown in North America, he did initiate some pathbreaking litany of Judicial reforms in the Indian nation and dealt a blow to the all pervasive powers of the British East India Company. It can be excerpted that, Cornwallis received critical assistance from others in his effort to introduce legal reforms. William Jones, an expert on languages, translated existing Hindu and Muslim penal codes into English so that they could be evaluated and applied by English-speaking judges. ¹²² Thus, though Unindian in origins and nature, what Cornwallis and Warren Hastings accomplished was a pathbreaking reformative exercise in the Bhartiya Administrative set up and establishment. The process was set rolling as to changing the iron clad rules based order which was gifted to Bharat rather colonially.

It can be further added and argued that, Cornwallis began in 1787 by

giving limited criminal judicial powers to the company's revenue collectors, who already also served as civil magistrates. He also required them to report regularly on detention times and sentences given. In 1790 the company took over the administration of justice from the nawab, and Cornwallis introduced a system of circuit courts with a superior court that met in Calcutta and had the power of review over circuit court decisions. Judges were drawn from the company's European employees.¹²³

The method of appointing judges has undergone a sea change from pre-independence era to the present decade. It is well recognized that whatever be the system, the administration of the law and the quality of justice would depend a great deal on individual judges as much as in the institution of the judiciary as a whole. The integrity, qualification, training and experience of a person is of utmost importance in the selection of the judges and the modality of selection, with a view to achieve that objective is therefore of vital concern.¹²⁴ The judiciary is a unique institution in a democracy which curtails transgressions of constitutionally assigned powers of the executive and the legislature while simultaneously administering the laws made by it. Its role necessitates independence in very real terms.

The significance of every single appointment to the Supreme Court or a High Court was emphasized in the majority opinion in the case of *K. Veeraswami v. Union of India*. It goes on to inform us:

A single dishonest judge not only dishonours himself and disgraces his office but jeopardizes the integrity of the entire judicial system...a judge must keep himself absolutely above suspicion; to preserve the impartiality and independence of the judiciary and to have the public confidence thereof.¹²⁵ Thus, it can be contended that leading all the way from the reforms in the Criminal Justice system brought in by Warren Hastings to Cornwallis, the blaze has spread to the theme of how the Judges are to be recruited in the nation. In the context of United States of America, President Donald Trump both during his term of Trump

1.0 and Trump 2.0 has gone ahead with his partisan appointments in the US Supreme Court's Collegium of Judges which may present some light to how Bharat can too go about this crucial theme of rendering and strengthening the weakest link in the larger iron grid chain of

Administrative reforms in the nation.

More of It: Emerging Schematic trends in the realm of Public Administration....

As India advances towards accomplishing the dream of a Viksit Bharat, the transformation in the field of education stands as a foundational pillar of just, inclusive and equitable development¹²⁶. Recognizing the importance of creating a knowledge-based economy, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Digital India¹²⁷ program to transform India into a digitally empowered society by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide.

It can be contended that strengthening the weakest linkage in the developmental and progression chain has been admittedly the Gandhian and the larger strain of welfare thought in Bharat since the times Bharat was militating against the nom de plume of the British Colonial Raj. One can also draw comparison with the Gandhian Trusteeship ideals which give a protectionist and allocative role to the Regime of the day. The political studies treatise, Rawls Theory of Justice, too, pinpoints and elaborates in the same direction, where in, empowering the least resourced becomes the magna carta of the Government of the day as strengthening the lowest also cultivates prosperity, pelf and amounts to good, Playing for keeps in Bharat.

The domain of planning being the most significant was focused upon, particularly in the rural, tribal and remote areas, the government initiated various programs under the banner of PM e-Vidya. Thus, it's the quaint amalgamation of the welfarist and the entrepreneurial role play by the mandarins of the day which pave the way for the Schematization of development and attainment of some semblance of human security goals in the larger rubric of the nation. It's the Denizen centric, espousal of Government initiatives which reflect the tenet of Antyodaya in the Bhartiya realm of development.

Some of the major Governmental initiatives in the sphere of planned development comprise of:

- 1.) **DIKSHA:** DIKSHA stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge

Sharing, and is envisioned as the "One Nation, One Digital Platform" for school level education in India. It is a part of the country's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education. DIKSHA provides QR-coded energized textbooks, interactive e-content for all grades as well as resources for teachers and learners across 21+ languages.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan is the demonstration of a strong convergence of digital technology, pedagogy and inclusivity and addresses broader societal concerns on the question of access, control and privilege.¹²⁸ Even within the broader framework of Digital India and the wider and ultimate aim of attaining the status of Viksit Bharat,¹²⁹ education is a powerful enabler for growth and development. Through digital education, India is not just investing in the digital scheme but is paving its path for accomplishing excellence by producing aware and learned citizens that will further contribute greatly in the fulfilment of the dream of Vikas and strong nation building for India.

As India progresses towards achieving the ideal of Viksit Bharat, the transformation in the healthcare sector through digitalization plays a significant role in this developmental model. Its exponentially growing population calls for major changes and is somewhat at the apex of its ever increasing demand for adequate and advanced healthcare systems. The government, therefore, aims to address this challenge by initiating policies and programs that are technologically driven in order to provide efficient healthcare, especially in the rural areas. The persistent urban-rural divide makes it absolutely necessary for these initiatives to specifically target the rural areas by making use of advanced telemedicine, electronic health records (EHRs) and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven diagnostics.

This can be seen in the government's vision of an Atma Nirbhar Bharat¹³⁰ (self-reliant India). Some of the digital healthcare infrastructure initiatives comprise of the underwritten tenets:

1. **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**- At the heart of India's digital infrastructure lies the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), with the goal of creating a nationwide digital health ecosystem.¹³¹ The government aims to issue unique health IDs to all to

integrate the healthcare service providers with the patients. To actually bridge the urban- rural gaps¹³² in health infrastructure through surveillance and health research and make communities Atma Nirbhar in managing pandemic and health crisis. This healthcare ecosystem will be backed by various digital building blocks.

These centres reflect a shift toward preventive and community-based care¹³³ that are critical for reducing future healthcare burdens and achieve the vision of a Viksit Bharat. Further through the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS), the government incentivizes hospitals and startups to integrate India's digital healthcare infrastructure, making it paperless, tech-driven, ultimately aligning with the broader vision of Digital India.

Telemedicine and e-Sanjeevani- The e-Sanjeevani platform that was particularly prominent during the Covid-19 pandemic, highlights the role of telemedicine services in bridging the geographical gaps in the country. Launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the platform includes two modules, the e-Sanjeevani OPD that facilitate remote doctor-to-patient consultations and the e-Sanjeevani AB-HWC which connects the rural Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) with urban medical specialist to promote accessibility.¹³⁴

The Telemedicine¹³⁵ and e-Sanjeevani effort complements the ABDM to further strengthen the rural healthcare infrastructure which reinforces the ideal of a digitally unified but decentralized and locally empowered healthcare model in India.¹³⁶

U-Win Portal- The U-WIN Portal, launched in October 2024, represents a significant effort to achieve the complete digitization of vaccination services under the Universal Immunization Program. Its efforts to maintain proper digital vaccination records, especially for pregnant women and children up to the age of 17 years, is to ensure seamless, ¹³⁷traceable and life-long access to health data. Some of its noteworthy features include, 'Anytime Access' and 'Anywhere' vaccination services, self-registration by citizens via web or mobile portals like the U-WIN and the U-WIN citizen respectively, automated SMS alerts, universal QR-based e-Vaccination Certificate and creation of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID for both adults and

children. With a tall figure of 7.43 crore beneficiaries already registered, 1.26 crore vaccination sessions and 27.77 crore administered vaccine doses, U- WIN stands as the mass-inclusive revolutionary platform.¹³⁸

To build and spawn an all-inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture, the government has implemented the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey 6 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (2025, January 20). From data to diagnosis: Transforming healthcare through digitalization. Press Information Bureau, Government of India. The scheme rests on the two foundational pillars, i.e., the Agri Stack and the Krishi Decision

Support System

This lays the foundation for the future of predictive and anticipatory governance that will contribute to the development and revolutionization of the agricultural sector in India by improving crop yielding, reducing capital costs and overall improvement in the quality of harvests. 3. Soil Profile Mapping: Under the mission of digitalizing agriculture, the scientific endeavour of detailed soil profile mapping is undertaken avidly.

One of the major hurdles in India's progress towards fully achieving digitalization is the Digital Literacy Lag or Digital Literacy.¹³⁹ Digital literacy refers to the ability to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate and create information using a range of digital technologies. It encompasses various skills, such as the use of digital tools, understanding of digital environments and the ability to communicate and collaborate online.¹⁴⁰

Still, as an attendant fact, an overdependence on digital platforms created a domino effect, disrupting critical services across sectors. And the lack of robust fail-safe mechanisms further exacerbated the situation, highlighting the urgent need for a more resilient digital ecosystem. So as technology advances, so are the tactics of cybercriminals and the risks of cybersecurity. Statistics demonstrate that India businesses face over 3,000 cyberattacks per week, like the recent ransomware attack on AIIMS Delhi in 2023 exposed vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure. Thus, it is essential to make the

people of India digitally literate. Further, in the information age, the concept of Information Literacy, that is the ability to access, evaluate, organize and communicate information effectively also becomes very important. As access to information becomes vast, with digital platforms mediating much of the information flow, it is crucial to adopt a critical lens. With the rise of information, there also is a rise in the spread of misinformation and evaluating information for trustworthiness and bias is crucial. Since, being the citizens of one of the largest democracies in the world comes with great responsibility, we must ensure that we understand the evolving nature of information and literacy in the 21st-century digital environment and do not fall into the technology trap. The government of India has launched various programs to improve the levels of digital literacy in the country.

Yet, it continues to be a significant challenge for India's larger dream of development¹⁴¹ and progression, excluding millions from essential services like education, healthcare and other welfare policies. While the government has undertaken various initiatives to eliminate these challenges to the aim of Digitalization and Digital India.¹⁴² They have also addressed the systemic inequalities that prevent certain groups from benefiting equally from technology. Marginalized groups, including children from low income families, women, the elderly, rural populations, Children from low-income families are considerably disadvantaged since they lack access to digital devices and reliable internet connections, that, are essential to access government initiated learning platforms like e- Pathshala.¹⁴³

Conclusion

How the emerging trends have impacted the discipline and its functional aspects is an interesting study. With the advent of AI centred governance and the rise of immersive technology, the Governments internationally have had to modify and adapt and initiate new and near to revolutionary schemes and planning. As the comparative aspects of Public Policy rule the roost universally in an age of collectively and global commons , nations in the Global South akin to India have had to plan anew and execute through the, techne in a bid to live up to the aspirations of the citizens and the attendant international scrutiny. Schemes in India ranging from Ayushman

Bharat to Agni-veer are strivings and assiduous attempts to polish, modernise and keep up with the challenges posed by popular aspirations, needs and the advent of the larger role of the non state actors.

In the domestic context, India makes emboldened strides towards our quintessentially hallowed objective of Viksit Bharat, i.e., a developed and self-reliant nation by 2047 A.D, Orange Economy concerns, Cyber Security management, New Public Administration, the Viksit Bharat vision, the Indic perspective of Governance and digitalization, posit themselves as a paramount and primal foundation to the “rejuvenation and the inclusion of Innovation and novelty in the realm of the discipline.

The true promissory visage and vitals of Viksit Bharat, as well as Digital India lies not only in the digitalization and technological expansion, rather it rests on its transformative potential to empower our citizens and strengthen our country’s economy in order to be able to compete in the world’s developmental and sustainable ecosystem today but with a human spirit and sentient sentiment.¹⁴⁴ The emergence of India’s Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has initiated an era of e-governance, with the citizens gaining online access to a wide range of essentiality of the government services.

These initiatives have been instrumental in boosting productivity, improving efficiency and generating employment opportunities for all. India’s digital infrastructure has proven to be significantly valuable in fostering global connectivity, financial inclusion and innovation, having a transformative power to revolutionize various sectors of the Indian economy like education, healthcare, agriculture, etc. Efforts towards human resource development like e-learning can pave the way for a more equitable and accessible future.

But in the larger context of development and progression too,, the secret algorithms commandeer and domineer over capital and info bytes both at the self-same period. However, this dream of a promising future is not free from hurdles and developmental bottlenecks. There are numerous road-blocks that India needs to address before we can call ourselves fully developed, enhanced and enriched. The refinement and further development of **techne** does not exist in vacuum and cannot be

measured merely through datapoints, rather it needs to address the structural inequalities that are embedded within our society.

Subsequently, it's then and then only that individually and institutionally, one can actualize our country's true potential and live up to our capabilities and attendant potential. Since challenges like the digital divide still persists, so ensuring equitable access to technology and internet connectivity remains a priority. The issue of inadequate digital infrastructure and lack of digital literacy prove to be a structural weakness that could hamper the adoption of innovative digital solutions. Further, concerns regarding accountability and data protection also require careful consideration. Thus, to realize the full potential of *Bharat*, as a pathway to *Viksit Bharat*, our approach must be people centric, inclusive and critically reflective.

All in all, *Bharat*'s untrammelled and unbridled move towards grandiose and executable transformation has been remarkable. From becoming a global leader in UPI based payments to expanding novae and workable education, healthcare and governance, India has demonstrated dramatic transformation and growth. The nation has immense potential to lead the global conversation in the realm and domain of Development and can serve as a role model for developing nations, promoting multilateral dialogue to establish universal standards and fostering sustainable financing models for global development with the *Bhartiya* idiom of *Viksit Bharat* objective ushering in a tenor of indigeneity in the study and praxis of Public Administration in the realm of the day. All these discourses lead us on to a

New India approach and an uncanny perspective" for unfurling an ingenious narrative of growth, progression, development and novelty in the larger context and comprehension of *Ram Rajya* in the larger nation.

All these emerging trends and the transformation spawning idioms, will, dutifully and inexorably propel a gainfully engaged *Bharat* to its 2047 ideal of *Viksit Bharat* which can forsake mediocrity, non merit structures and arcane normalcy and a new era of functionalism can be ushered in the larger rubric of the governance of the day.

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