

**PUBADPEDIA  
CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE  
AUGUST 2022**

**An Initiative By Rahul Shakya**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Welfarism</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE THINKERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traditional Authority vs Legal Rational Authority</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>ACCOUNTABILITY &amp; CONTROL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Samaaj, Sarkaar, Bazaar : A Citizen-First Approach</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chalta hai Regulation</li> <li>▪ Twitter's Transparency Report</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amritkaal, led by Women</li> <li>▪ Women in Workforce - Case Study</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>PUBLIC POLICY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thomas Dye's Public Policy</li> <li>▪ Policy Implementation- Bharuch Model</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ USA President's Power of De-Classification</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIL SERVICES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance Appraisal in Railways</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Challenges of sub-national fiscal correction</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>PHILOSOPHICAL FRAMEWORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evolution of Federalism</li> <li>▪ Full Court Meeting</li> <li>▪ Quotable Quote</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>LAW &amp; ORDER ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Police-Politician Nexus</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<b>UNION GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disruption Mukht Parliament</li> <li>▪ Parliamentary Privilege</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	<b>STATE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ram Katha at Raj Bhavan @ Rajasthan</li> <li>▪ Centre-State Tussle over IAS Postings</li> <li>▪ Governors as Chancellors</li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Post-Pandemic Rural Recovery</li> </ul>
<b>15</b>	<b>DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Case Study</li> </ul>

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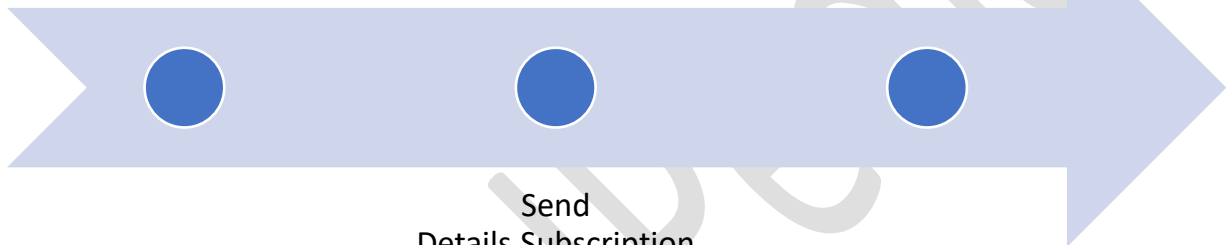
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- Shakespearean Tragedy and IAS

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# WORDS OF APPRECIATION



Being a student of Masters of public administration from Jamia Milia Islamia and having a deep interest in subject, initially current affairs Identification and Interlinking was not a challenge for me.

But later on, it became difficult for me to actively Identify and Interlink topics in limited TIME.

Coincidentally, when time management for optional current affairs become a bit difficult, You launched the **PubAdPedia Magazine** Initiative. I was already aware of your credibility in field of Public Administration because of Daily Answer Writing Initiative that I had joined in 2019. So it was an easy decision for me to try the PubAdpedia Magazines.

As I have already told you in my earlier feedbacks, the Flowcharts ( "फूल पत्ते" diagrams, that i used to call them) where you interlink current affairs with static theory/thinkers was really helpful. This Rahul-Factor is the USP of your magazine, but I believe it is going to be the TSP for Aspirants (Time Saving PubAdpedia).

My best wishes to you and your initiatives for the aspirant community!

**Mehak Jain**

**Rank 17, CSE 2021**

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# WORDS OF APPRECIATION



Recent trends of UPSC Public Administration optional paper clearly indicates that giving recent current linkages and examples can significantly boost one's marks in the optional.

But unfortunately there is lack of such regular Public Administration specific current affairs collection and quality presentation or linkages. Due to time and other constraints aspirants can't do a comprehensive study and brainstorming for this aspect.

But fortunately I have seen Your PubAdpedia magazines as a good effort in that direction. Your efforts can really aid serious aspirants' preparation in a positive manner and save much of the valuable time.

Your basics and understanding of the subject is quite profound and enriching. The flow chart based easy explanation and linking things with static syllabus like thinkers etc is a good approach of your magazine. This can be of good help for freshers as well as seniors alike.

Also I liked your noble intentions of providing the magazine access to poor deserving aspirants free of cost. This shows goodness of your heart and is in sync with my core belief of #Sharing is Caring !

I wish all my best wishes to you and the PubAdPedia magazine. I hope the magazine and your efforts get a rightful top place soon.

God Bless You!

**Vijay Wardhan Sarswat**

**I.P.S. (CSE 2018)**

**I.A.S. (CSE 2020)**

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# WORDS OF APPRECIATION



Dear Rahul,

This is to extend my congratulations on the wonderful unique initiative, PubAdPedia Magazines. You are one of the most well known & reliable faces in the online world of CSE guidance. This is a feat in itself, given how cut throat the field is. Only genuinely good content and honest advices can attract aspirants today. You've proved your mettle there with your GS & Public Administration videos.

What stands out about PubAdPedia Magazines is that it fills the crucial gap of linking syllabus topics with current affairs. This not only gives one easy marks but also improves understand of topics for those not so 'straight' Pub Ad questions. Everyone who has prepared for this optional knows the importance of linkages & examples. This was a dire need left unfulfilled till now. When one prepares current topics from a GS point of view, it needs a lot of extra effort to segregate & link them with Public administration topics. Because of redundancy of effort and paucity of time (always a case with upsc aspirants), they end of skipping it. PubAdPedia does that for you.

Your magazine is the answer to the question why public administration seems easy but doesn't fetch marks!

I'm sure PubAdPedia will make the UPSC path easy for all aspirants with Public Administration optional.

Keep coming up with great content that helps aspirants across sections.

My best wishes.

An ardent follower of your content.

## Prashasti

**Rank 413, CSE 2017**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

 **New Welfarism**  
**#TheIE**

Context	Revidi Culture Issue
<b>New Welfarism Approach</b>	<p>The <b>New Welfarism approach is more similar to the Basic Needs approach</b> to development but a very distinctive approach to redistribution and inclusion.</p> <p>It does not prioritise the supply of <b>Intangible public services</b> such as basic health, primary education and safety security net.</p> <p>Instead, it focuses on <b>tangible essential goods and services</b>, normally provided by the private sector, such as bank accounts, cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing, water and cash.</p> <p>The findings of NFHS-5 show, how the government policy has consciously adopted the New Welfarism approach providing Tangibles services, instead of providing Intangibles social benefits i.e., improving nutrition level.</p>
<b>Why the New Welfarism approach focuses on tangible goods more than Intangible goods?</b>	<p><b>Ideological dimension:</b> The government believes that Providing tangible goods and services such as bank accounts, cooking gas, toilets, electricity, housing will make a critical difference to the lives of the poor.</p> <p><b>Strategic dimension:</b> Providing tangible goods and services that are relatively easy to deliver, measure and monitor has high electoral opportunity in it. Whereas, providing intangible services such as primary education is difficult to define and less measure and hence difficult to convert into a political advantage.</p>

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# MY SUBSIDY, YOUR REVDI

PM has opened an important conversation over wasteful spending between people and their representatives

**T**HERE IS NO denying that parties, across the political-ideological divide, often resort to promises of free or heavily subsidised goods and services in an attempt to persuade the electorate. With no less than the prime minister recently calling for an end to the free “revdi” culture, this long-running and entrenched culture of political populism is coming under scrutiny. Whatever they may be called – subsidies, freebies or revdi – the debate is being framed by juxtaposing the Narendra Modi government’s model of “new welfarism”, which involves public provision of private goods, against the provision of services such as free power by state governments such as those led by the Aam Aadmi Party. Beyond the locking of political horns, however, the prime minister’s warning against fiscally profligate policies which tend to be driven more by electoral concerns, echoes widespread concerns over “wasteful” spending. It couldn’t have come at a more opportune moment – the fiscal situation at the central and state level has become increasingly challenging.

The debate, however, calls for the disentangling of several issues. What is a freebie? Is it different from a subsidy? Are there good and bad subsidies? Who decides? The fact is, different sections of society require different kinds of support. Moreover, states are poised at varying levels of economic development. What may be deemed as necessary state support for the population in one state may not be seen in the same way in another. A wider conversation on these issues is much needed. The economic situation that forms the setting for such a debate is worsening. Consider, for instance, the power subsidies extended by state governments. As per a recent RBI report, given the huge losses incurred by power distribution companies, a bailout in 18 large states, structured along the lines of UDAY, would cost these governments around Rs 4.3 lakh crore or 2.3 per cent of their combined GSDP. To put this number in perspective – it is more than what the Union government spends on education, health or rural development. For states like Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the situation is particularly worrisome. A bailout of this magnitude will only further restrict their fiscal space. Ultimately, someone has to pay. Because no freebie is really free.

Understandably, political parties tend to be guided by more short-term motives. Yet, the free provision of goods and services, guided by political imperatives, also involves a fiscal choice. It comes at the expense of spending more on other areas such as roads, railways, schools or hospitals. In the end, however, these decisions are best left to elected representatives and the electorate. The Election Commission or members of the judiciary, for the matter, must resist rushing into the discursive space created by the prime minister by his intervention on this critical issue.

Image Source – TheIE

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## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE THINKERS

### ✚ Traditional Authority vs Legal Rational Authority

#TheIE

Note- Recall TADK [Telephone Attendant cum Dak Khalasi] of Indian Railways!

# Madras HC warns of action over use of orderlies in TN police dept

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, AUGUST 13

THE MADRAS High Court on Friday chastised higher-level police officials in Tamil Nadu for deploying their colleagues as “orderlies” at their homes to conduct menial tasks, calling it a continuation of the “colonial slavery system”.

Justice S M Subramaniam warned that the court would be forced to act if strict actions aren't taken to put an end to this practice. Reminding that “no public servant can imagine or live in a world of Mughal emperors and

all such authorities under the Constitution are “public servants” and they are bound to serve the public in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitution and as per the statutes and rules enacted by Parliament and State Legislature”, the court order said: “It is needless to state that indisciplined higher police officials lose their morale in enforcing discipline in uniformed forces, more so, against their subordinate officials.”

Earlier, the state government made a submission that they issued orders to police officials to follow the government orders as well

as interim orders passed by the HC against the usage of police personnel for household works and later informed that 19 police personnel were withdrawn (from menial jobs at seniors' houses) and put on regular departmental duties.

Stating that the court is “aware of the fact that large number of uniformed police personnel are still performing household and menial works in the residences of the higher police officials”, the judge said the instructions issued by the government in June 2022 to stop orderly system “has not been followed scrupulously by the Police Department”.

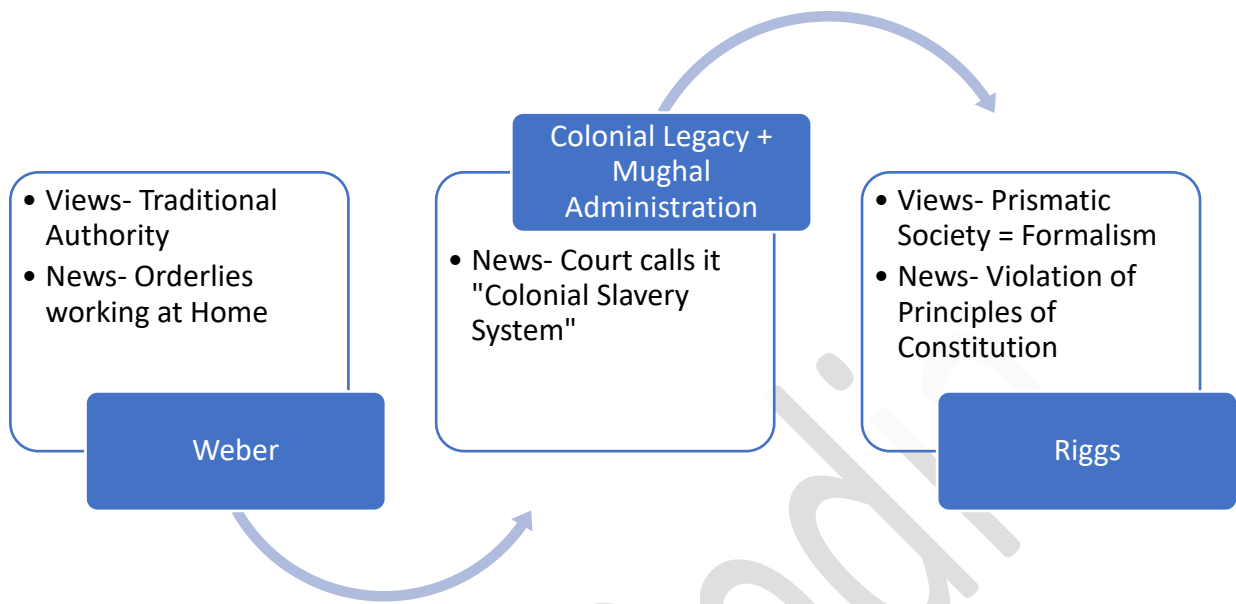
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**Fig. News and Thinkers <R Factor>**

### 3. ACCOUNTABILITY & CONTROL

✚ Samaaj, Sarkaar, Bazaar : A Citizen-First Approach  
#TheHindu



<p>Context/ Excerpts from an interview -</p>	<p>Rohini Nilekani, philanthropist and founder of Arghyam Foundation, believes that the state ( sarkaar), the market ( bazaar), and society ( samaaj) should strive for a balance with none of them having too much power. Her new book, Samaaj, Sarkaar, Bazaar: A Citizen-First Approach, is a collection of essays on what citizens can do to build a strong civil society.</p>
<p><b>‘Actionists’ rather than ‘Agitationists’</b></p>	<p>There are organisations that are working with citizens as well as the government to create more access to services, to get citizens to band together to solve hyperlocal issues, to create new pathways to reach government. There is so much space for creativity. We have seen it, especially among young leaders. They see themselves as ‘actionists’ rather than ‘agitationists’.</p>
<p>voters expect too much from representatives’ or ‘politician’s job is</p>	<p>There might be some politicians who don’t do their work, but the ones I</p>

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<p>thankless</p>	<p>have seen are on call 24/7. Yes, they might be promising more than what they can provide. But my focus is on what samaaj can do.</p> <p>Voters are confused about what to expect, which is either the politician's fault or the fault of political parties, which are not able to talk to the samaaj about what politicians are supposed to do when they are elected.</p> <p>We can focus on asking lawmakers what laws they are making for us, because</p> <p>I believe good laws make a good society. Samaaj needs to be activated to uphold the rule of law.</p>
<p><b>Duty = Enlightened self-interest</b></p>	<p>What should samaaj do more of, and better to hold the state and markets accountable?</p> <p>We cannot sit back and become consumers of the governance we need. We can't say, "we pay our taxes, we obey the law, we are nice to our neighbours, so what else do we have to do?"</p> <p>Citizens need to get involved in governance, or we need to point out that the state needs to get involved. But we cannot absolve ourselves of the responsibilities of citizenship.</p>

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## 4. ORGANIZATION

 Chalta Hai Regulation  
#TheIE

<b>Chalta Hai</b>	<p>The phrase <i>Chalta Hai</i> reflects traits of complacency, taking shortcuts, accommodating, giving up, resigning or apathy.</p> <p>It makes one wonder if <i>Chalta Hai</i> is one of the main villains responsible for India not growing to true potential and remaining a developing nation for decades.</p> <p><b><i>Chalta Hai India: When 'It's ok' is not OK</i></b> by author Alpesh Patel is an attempt to look into people's mind often blamed for the <i>Chalta Hai</i> attitude for the country's sluggish progress.</p>
<b>PM Modi on 70th Independence-Day</b>	<p>The errors—sloppiness—reflect what the Prime Minister called the “<b>Chalta hai</b>” (everything goes) <b>attitude</b> among us. He called for “<b>Badal Sakta Hai</b>”. Yes, it is possible to change. But what and whom? It has to start with personal change. That is where leadership by example comes into play. All of us and the government, above all, can set examples in our own ways. That is the durable way to effect change, not exhortation</p>

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	once a year.
<b>Chalta Hai Regulation</b>	<b>Complacency</b> shown by “Regulators”

### Twitter’s Transparency report

<b>Context</b>	According to microblogging platform Twitter, India accounts for highest number of legal demands worldwide, to remove content posted by journalists and news outlets on the platform, in July-December 2021. It made 114 such requests. This data was presented in Twitter Transparency Report
<b>Important Findings wrt India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India is only behind United States in asking for Twitter account information.</li> <li>• India accounts for 19% of total information requests worldwide.</li> <li>• India is among top five countries to give content-blocking orders to Twitter, for all kinds of users, in July-December 2021.</li> <li>• After India, other countries accounting for high legal demands include- Turkey, Russia, and Pakistan.</li> <li>• Turkey made 78 such demands, Russia made 55, and Pakistan made 48 demands.</li> <li>• Government information requests comprises of</li> </ul>

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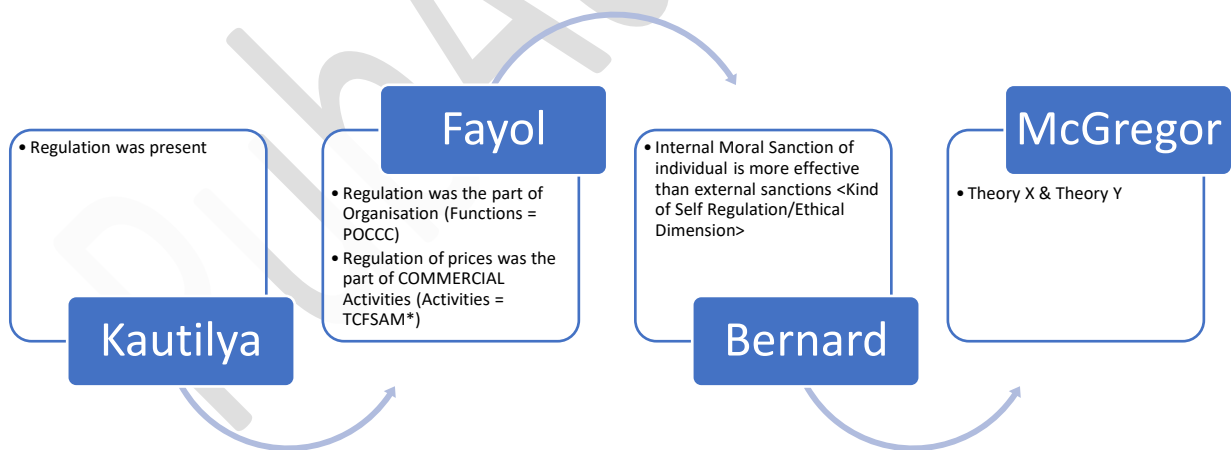
	<p>emergency as well as routine legal demands for account information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In India, during January-June 2021, 17 tweets from verified journalists and news outlets were withheld, without giving details.</li> </ul> <p>Routine requests are also known as non-emergency requests. These are legal demands, which are issued by government or law enforcement authorities. Such requests include court orders, subpoenas, and search warrants. Such requests compel Twitter to turn over account information. Twitter can disclose account information to law enforcement agencies against a valid emergency request, if enforcement agencies provide enough information to support to belief that, there is danger to death of serious physical injury to person.</p>
<p>Need for social media regulation</p>	<p>Checking disruption in the society: For example, hate crimes against Northeastern citizens in Delhi.</p> <p>Curtailing fake news: For instance, false claims about widespread child trafficking and harvesting of organs circulated widely through WhatsApp resulted in mob violence and more than three dozen deadly lynchings in 2017 and 2018.<sup>14</sup></p>

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	<p>Minimizing case of cyberstalking: The cyber stalkers depend on the anonymity offered by social media which allows them to keep a track of their victim's activities.</p> <p>Preserving democracy: The world witnessed the worst example of the impact digital platforms can have on society with the debacle at the U.S. Capitol in 2021.</p>
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**Fig. – Regulation and Thinkers (R-Factor)**

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## 5. DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



### Amritkaal, led by Women #TheIE

<b>Context</b>	<p>PM Modi Independence Day speech was transformative. It did not just trace a historical journey but outlined how the unsung warriors of pre-independence Bharat contributed to the nation. He also underlined the role of women — veeranganas — in our freedom movement. The initiative highlighting the brave women of our freedom struggle, under the broader celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, will mark a turning point in Indian feminist history writing from an Indic perspective.</p> <p>The construction of the “new India” PM Modi has envisaged since taking office is a synthesis of two major elements — <b>the principles, ideas and values of our national ethos and freedom movement; and new ideas and policies to face new and emerging challenges</b></p>
The Veeranganas	<p>The PM paid tribute not only to celebrated women but also to unsung veeranganas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Rani Lakshmi Bai, the first woman warrior of</li></ul>

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the revolt of 1857, is known to every young woman in India.

- Begum Hazrat Mahal took to the battlefields along with Lakshmi Bai in 1857 and till her last breath in 1879, fought the British.
- Remembered as the “**Agni of India**”, Durgawati Devi was an armed revolutionary and active member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association and a close associate of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.
- There is also Jhalkari Bai, whose tales of bravery have travelled far and wide. Her story presents a social reality where even a Dalit woman had acquired social and cultural significance.
- Like Jhalkari Bai, Uda Devi also belonged to the Dalit community from Awadh, a significant centre during the revolt of 1857. She is said to have formed a women’s battalion, comprising mostly Dalit women, popularly known as “veerangana” or “warrior women”.
- The story of Asha Devi

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	<p>Gurjari follows a similar trajectory — a Dalit, she led women in a bid to restore the political self-respect of the motherland.</p> <p>These stories of the valour of veeranganas were not limited to any time or area. Rather, they are of a piece with the national consciousness of the times.</p>
<p>The Nari Shakti</p>	<p>PM emphasised “nari shakti”, which can be seen in various fields such as law, governance, science, technology, bureaucracy, academics, and politics. He restated the manifold contribution of women in both public and private spaces.</p> <p>But he also highlighted that there is much to be done to “provide opportunities and facilities to our daughters” in order to take the nation to new heights.</p> <p>He further pointed out that “if the considerable efforts of our nari shakti are added to fulfil the dreams in the Amrit Kaal, then it will take less hard work and our time limit will also be reduced. Our dreams will be more intense, vivacious and resplendent.”</p>

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	<p>But before making the attempts the PM outlined, it is important to assert a feeling of oneness or unity, the foundation for which must be laid in the homes of the common people. Every household must treat its sons and daughters equally. Such a household, particularly in the joint family system, is — as the PM said — our cultural heritage. It is this culture that is “cultivated by the daughter and sisters” and holds within it “Nar” and “Narayani”. He underlined the rich cultural values of our civilisation, which assert equality through the lens of “divinity” in both male and female forms.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>At the age of 75, India envisions gender equality and empowerment. This year’s Independence Day speech marked the creation of a gender-inclusive nation, based on the liberal ethos found in our cultural-civilisational values and new ideas for a post-modern world. Such a society will achieve the dreams of all its members, the entire nation, by channelling to a greater degree the potential of women.</p>

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## Women in Workforce- Case Study #TheIE

**MGNREGA SCHEME**

# Participation of women in rural jobs on the rise: Govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 28

THE PARTICIPATION of women in projects carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Uttar Pradesh has been steadily increasing in the last few years and constituted 37.60 per cent of the total persondays in the current financial year, according to the state government.

According to the government, the women's participation in the rural job scheme rose from 34.28 per cent of persondays in 2019-20 to 37.60 per cent in 2022-23.

UP, which was among the worst-performing states with respect to women's participation in the MGNREGA scheme before 2017, has been successful in raising the number of women beneficiaries in the last five and a half years, the government said.

"Several measures taken by the state government enhanced the participation of women in the rural job scheme," GS Priyadarshi, Commissioner, Rural Development Department, said.

"In 2022-23, a total of 1738.41 lakh persondays were created under the scheme, of which 653.64 lakh were women persondays, constituting 37.60% of the women participation... In 2021-22, 3258.42 lakh persondays were generated, including 1212.13 lakh (37.20 per cent) women persondays, whereas in 2020-21, a total of 3945.41 lakh persondays were created, of which 1325.26 lakh were women persondays, accounting

for 33.59%," he added.

According to the government, Mahila mates are being appointed in the villages to increase the participation of women. Mahila mates are women assistants for management and supervision of MGNREGS jobs and job sites.

"Women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Livelihood Mission have been selected, and a target has been set to provide employment to more than 35,000 Mahila mates in the state.. Against the target, the work has been provided to 16,660 Mahila mates," the officer added.

The MGNREGA legally enshrines the "right to work" and ensures livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

According to MGNREGA guidelines, at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the programme.

The state government has set a target under the MGNREGA for the year 2022-23. The annual target of 2,600 lakh mandays for employment generation has been approved by the Ministry of Rural Development in UP, out of which, 1697.77 lakh mandays have been created till August 23, an official said. The official said that Aadhar seeding of workers is being done to ensure transparency in the process. So far, the Aadhar seeding of 1.35 crore active workers has been completed against the total of 1.71 crore workers.

Image Source – TheIE

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## 6. PUBLIC POLICY

### ✚ Thomas Dye's Definition of Public Policy #TheIE

# Union Minister Puri announces housing for Rohingya, Home steps in to say no such move

Hardeep Puri flagged it as Delhi's welcome to refugees; after snub, calls them 'illegal foreigners,' says Home correct

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

HOURS AFTER he announced Wednesday that Rohingya "refugees" would be provided housing and police protection in Delhi, Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, was left red-faced after the Home Minister's Office denied any such move, and said "illegal foreigners" will be kept in a detention centre until their deportation.

Puri backed down, saying "Home Ministry's press release with respect to the issue of Rohingya illegal foreigners gives out the correct position".

On Wednesday morning, Puri announced that Rohingya refugees would be shifted to EWS flats in the Bakkarwala area of West Delhi.

In a Twitter post at 7.32 am, in which he tagged the Prime Minister's Office, Puri said, "India has always welcomed those who have sought refuge in the country. In a landmark decision all #Rohingya #Refugees will be shifted to EWS flats in Bakkarwala area of Delhi. They will be provided basic amenities, UNHCR IDs & round-the-clock @DelhiPolice protection."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At a Rohingya camp in New Delhi, Wednesday. Gajendra Yadav

## After blaze last year, a rehab plan in the works

MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

STEPPING IN to deny any move to rehabilitate the Rohingya, hours after an announcement by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, the Ministry of Home Affairs said Wednesday that Rohingya refugees in Delhi's Madanpur Khadar will stay put until they are deported.

Yet a plan to shift the refugees from the camp at Madanpur

Khadar to the EWS flats in Bakkarwala in West Delhi has been in the works for more than a year now.

The idea was to turn the housing complex into a detention centre since the other two detention centres in the city did not have the capacity to house them.

On June 23, 2021, the Delhi Home Department wrote to the New Delhi Municipal Council, saying that the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, which comes under the MHA,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Illegals and a threat': Why Minister's tweets made the BJP squirm

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17



WHEN HARDEEP Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced Wednesday that the Rohingya "refugees" living in Delhi would be provided housing and police security, it came as a surprise to many since the government and the ruling party have had a very different, and hard stance on the Rohingya issue.

Sources said there was shock and annoyance within the BJP and the larger Sangh Parivar over the announcement and this was communicated to the top leadership.

After the Home Minister's Office denied that any such decision on the "Rohingya illegal foreigners" had been taken by the government, Puri backed down.

The BJP said "illegal migrants" are a "threat to national

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Image Source – TheIE

About

Thomas Dye's definition states, "Public policy is whatever governments choose to do or not to do".

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	<p>MoHUA = Doing something for Refugees = Policy</p> <p>MHA = Not doing something for Refugees = Policy</p>
--	---

 **Policy Implementation - Bharuch Model**  
**#TheIE**

Context	<p><b>Prime Minister recently praised the Bharuch district administration and the Gujarat Government for covering 100 percent beneficiaries in the district under four national schemes.</b></p> <p>The schemes are for widows and senior citizens and the district's drive to enrol all beneficiaries was named "<b>Utkarsh Pahel</b>".</p>
More on News	<p>Enrolled 13,431 beneficiaries (see table) under four schemes — Indra Gandhi Rashtriya Vrudhhavasta Pension Yojana (IGRVPY), Niradhar Vrudh Sahay Yojana (NVSY), Ganga Swaroop Arthik Sahay Yojana (GSASY) and Rashtriya Kutumb Sahay Yojana (RKSJ).</p> <p>The campaign saw the <u>coming together of local leaders and their team, the district administration and Ankleshwar Industries Association (AIA), a body of industries manufacturing chemicals, drugs, petroleum products, etc.</u></p>

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Bharuch District collector Tushar Sumera said: “We started the drive by the name of ‘Utkarsh Pahal’ with WhatsApp helpline numbers to identify beneficiaries. We also shared information about the schemes at Samaj Suraksha office at taluka and district levels. Hoardings were put up at different locations and advertisements issued in the newspapers and local news channels. The response started coming in and we sent our teams to different villages in the talukas, to get the forms of beneficiaries filled.”

## THE 'UTKARSH PAHEL' CAMPAIGN


BENEFICIARIES		Total: 13,431	BENEFIT
● 281 RKSJ	● 558 NVSJ	● 1,987 IGRVPY	
		● 10,605 GSASJ	
			
<p>Ankleshwar Nagar Palika president Vinay Vasava informs local residents about the welfare schemes. <i>Express</i></p>		<p><i>Source: Bharuch District Administration</i></p>	

Image Source – TheIE

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## 7. COMPARATIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



### USA President's Power of De-Classification #TheIndianExpress

# US President's power to declassify info

AUGUST 28

PRESIDENT JOE Biden on Friday mocked his predecessor Donald Trump's claim that he had declassified all the documents that the FBI seized in its search of Trump's home in Florida on August 8, telling a reporter in jest, "I just want you to know I've declassified everything in the world. I'm President, I can do it", before adding, "C'mon!"

Trump has claimed that before he left the White House in January 2021, he had declassified all the documents that the FBI found in Mar-a-Lago. His office said on August 12 that as President, he had issued a "standing order" that materials "removed from the Oval Office and taken to the residence were deemed to be declassified the moment he removed them".

What can a US President do and not do with regard to removing protections for government secrets?

#### What is the classification system?

It is the administrative process by which the federal government controls how executive branch officials handle information whose potential public exposure is deemed likely to damage national security.

Officials with the authority to classify or declassify matters can deem information as falling into three categories: 'confidential', 'secret' or 'top secret'. Exceptionally sensitive information can be designated 'SCT', for "sensitive compartmented information".

Only officials with proper security clearances and a "need to know" are permitted to see documents containing classified information or be told of their contents. There are also rules on how they can be stored, physically transported, or electronically transmitted.

The legal basis for the classification system comes from the President's constitutional authority as commander-in-chief. Presidents have established and developed it through a series of executive orders dating to the era of World War II and the early Cold War. The current directive, Executive Order 13526, was issued by President Barack Obama in 2009.

#### Is the classification system enforced by criminal law?

For the most part, the classification system is about bureaucratic controls. The main punishment for disobedience is administrative: officials can be admonished, lose their security clearances, and be fired.

As such, the classification system exists in

parallel to separate criminal penalties Congress has imposed to protect security secrets.

For example, the Espionage Act of 1917 — one of the laws cited in the Florida search warrant — protects secrets that it defines as defence-related information that could harm the US or aid a foreign adversary.

#### Who has the power to classify and declassify information?

Officials who have been designated as "original classification authorities" in federal departments and agencies can normally do so. They are considered to be exercising the US President's power over such matters, which has been delegated to them.

#### Are there formal procedures for declassifying information?

Yes. The 2009 Executive Order directs the head of the department or agency that originally deemed information classified to oversee declassification reviews, and it sets some standards for them.

The executive branch has regulations laying out the process that should be followed — such as, a requirement to make sure that other agencies and departments with an interest in the secret are consulted. There are

also procedures for the removal of classification markings on documents.

#### Can American Presidents declassify matters directly?

Yes, because it is ultimately their constitutional authority. Normally, Presidents who want something declassified direct subordinates overseeing the department or agency with primary responsibility for the information to review the matter with an eye to making more of it public. But on rare occasions, Presidents declassify something directly.

#### Do Presidents have to obey the usual procedures?

There is no Supreme Court precedent definitively answering that question.

Even if it is true that Trump had declassified the documents while he was in office, he clearly did not follow the regular procedures.

In the unlikely event that the Justice Department were to charge him under the law that makes the unauthorised retention or removal of classified material a crime a novel legal question would arise if Trump were then to repeat the claim as a defence.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Image Source – TheIE

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## 8. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION



### Performance Appraisal in Railways #TheNewIE

<b>Context</b>	Taking a cue from the Centre's 360-degree evaluation system for senior IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers, the railways has now introduced a procedure that also allows peers and juniors to evaluate their reporting officers.
<b>More on News</b>	<p>In a letter dated August 18, the <b>Railway Board</b> said it has decided to create a "<b>multi-source</b>" <b>feedback</b> of officers while generating their <b>Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR)</b>.</p> <p>For creating a database, a link has been enabled online in the <b>SPARROW system and will be effective from APAR 2022-2023</b>.</p> <p>"For each official, every year a link shall be sent to the reporting authority of the official and all the subordinates for whom the official is the reporting authority. The <b>feedback submitted will be anonymously recorded</b> in the database of official. There shall be no way to trace back the feedback to the superior or subordinate who has submitted it."</p> <p>"All are requested to give fair remarks/gradings without any prejudice. The whole exercise will be strictly confidential," the order stated.</p>

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<p><b>Significance</b></p>	<p>Around 20,000 officials will come under the scanner for this APAR, an official said.</p> <p>A section of officials say the APAR system will not only make a difference in the work culture in the Indian Railways but will also lead to Voluntary Retirement (VRS) of some officers.</p> <p>Sources indicate that this system could be further extended to receive feedback from non-railway persons like contractors and vendors who work with the rail officials.</p> <p>The sources say that after the feedback are recorded, a three- or four-member committee will decide whether the officer should be promoted or not.</p>
<p><b>Issues</b></p>	<p>Many officials have also questioned the change, the latest in a slew of major deviations from its 114-year-old administrative structure at a time when the national transporter was undergoing a major makeover.</p> <p>Recently, the railways created an eight-cadre Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) under which the rules for becoming a member or chairman of the General Manager Railway Board have been changed.</p> <p>The officials also pointed out that while the system is in place for officers, it is not clear who will</p>

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	evaluate the committee members.
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**Extra Information**

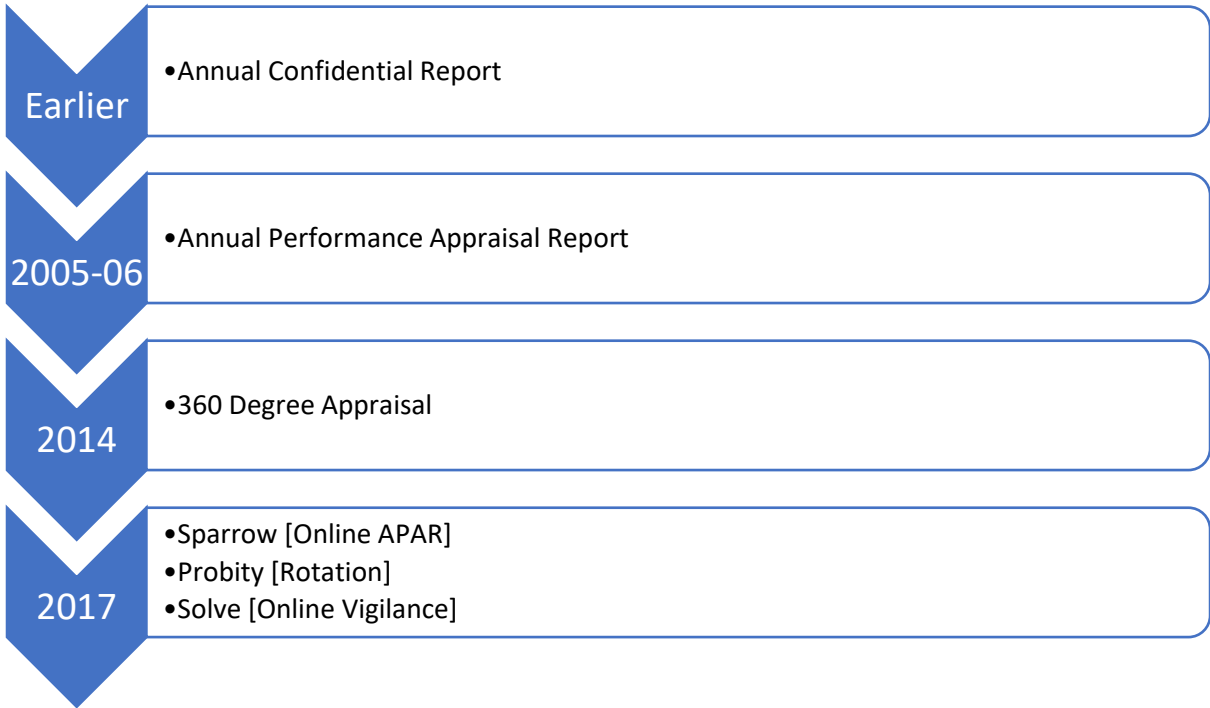
It was in 2015 that the Narendra Modi government introduced a 360-degree appraisal system meant to supplement the existing system of ACRs.

The Annual Confidential Report (ACR) is based on the submissions of an expert panel which would review officers' full-service records and all previous annual reports along with reports from the vigilance department.

Under the process, a panel of experts would collect views from the candidate's colleagues, both senior and junior, as well as from people outside the government.

The panel would collect the views of these people described as "stakeholders" on a prescribed form.

Both their feedback and the people themselves would remain anonymous.



**Fig. Evolution of PA**

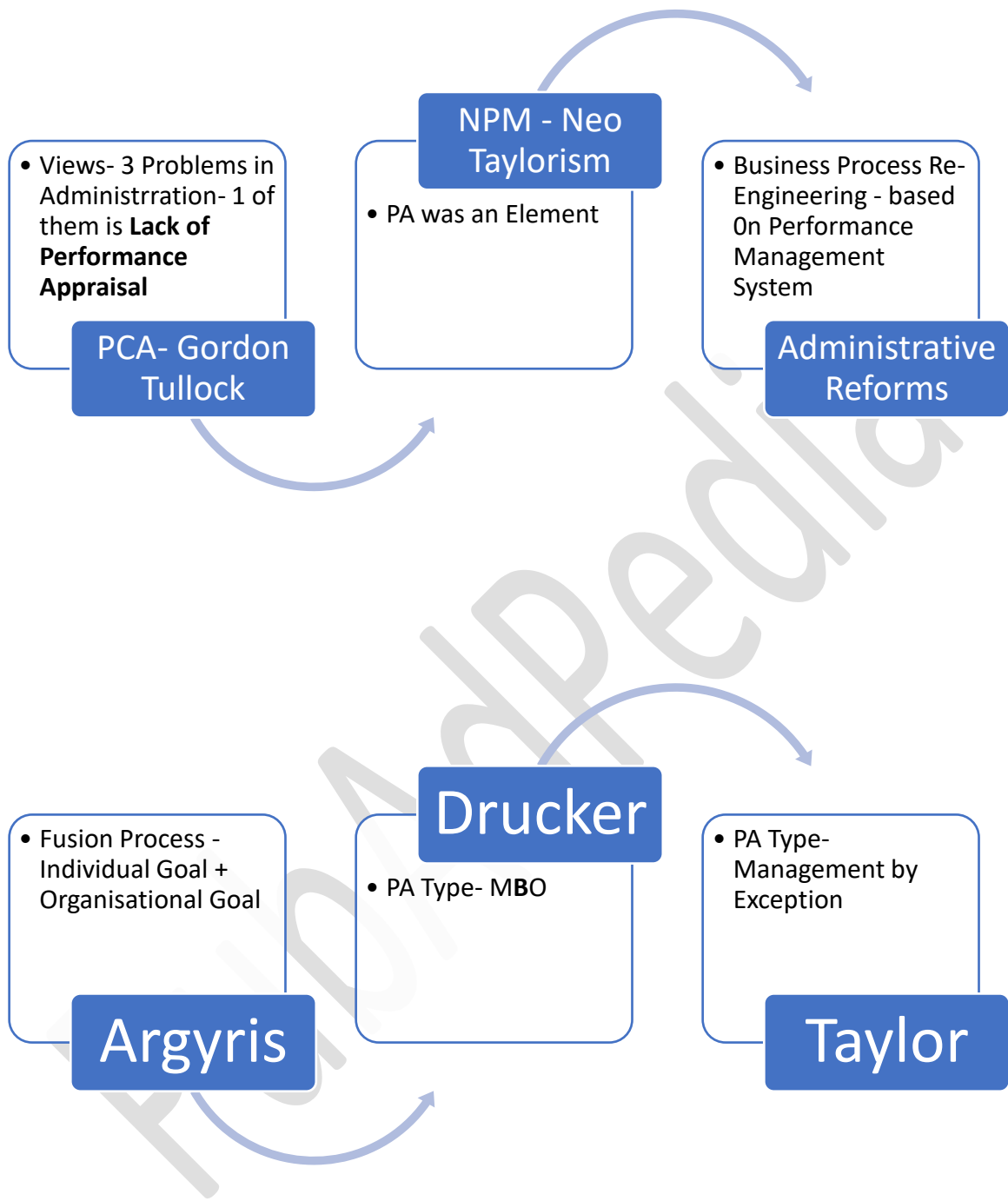


Fig. PA and Thinkers

## 9. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

### ✚ Challenges of sub-national fiscal correction #TheHindu

<b>Context</b>	<p>The RBI in its recently published paper has reported an upward trend in <b>States' outstanding debt</b>. An <b>increase in the Debt-GSDP ratio</b> between 2013 and 2022 has been reported in the paper.</p> <p>There has been an increase in the <b>Debt-GSDP ratio</b> (gross state domestic product) between 2013 and 2022.</p> <p>They could be partly due to increased public expenditure due to the implementation of the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), farm loan waivers, other freebies, etc. Further, the revenue mobilization efforts have failed.</p> <p>The concerns over excessive <b>doling out of freebies by States</b> are often interpreted as intrusion into the federal powers of the States.</p>
<b>Issues in India's fiscal federalism</b>	<p>In recent times, three <b>issues have emerged as major discussion points in India's fiscal federalism</b>, leading to back-and-forth exchanges between the Centre and States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues related to <b>Goods and Services Tax (GST)</b> such as the rate structure, inclusion and exclusion of commodities, revenue sharing from GST and associated compensation.</li><li>• <b>State-level expenditure</b></li></ul>

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	<p><b>patterns</b> especially related to the <b>welfare schemes of States.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation of central schemes.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Discretionary expenditure of States</b></p>	<p>It is important to distinguish between <b>two kinds of public expenditure.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mandatory spending</b> is expenditure that is <b>governed by formulae</b> or criteria set forth, rather than by <b>periodic appropriations</b> and as such, unless explicitly changed, the previous year's spending bill applies to the current year for these items of expenditure.</li> <li>• <b>Discretionary spending</b> is expenditure that is <b>governed by annual</b> or other periodic appropriations.</li> <li>• <b>While States demand more fiscal space for increasing discretionary spending,</b> the Centre is pushing for <b>more fiscal discipline by reducing the scope for discretionary spending</b> and limiting States to focus on mandatory expenditures.</li> <li>• <b>Discretionary expenditure</b> is, at the same time, <b>more volatile than mandatory expenditure.</b> <b>Cross country empirical evidence</b> also shows that <b>discretionary expenditure is not contemporaneously correlated with output growth</b> and the correlation is</li> </ul>

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	low for the next immediate time period.
<p><b>Issues associated with discretionary spending</b></p> <p>Many States indulge in higher levels of expenditures towards maintaining what they call their '<b>models of welfare provisioning</b>'</p>	<p><b>Vicious Cycle</b>- Once started, some of the discretionary expenditure, used to increase demand in the economy, continues for longer periods leading to <b>fiscal stress</b>. This is because it is hard to <b>decrease government spending</b>, especially due to the resistance from the public.</p> <p><b>Spill Over Effect</b> - In a federal system, States' fiscal stress gets spilled over to the Centre, leading to a situation of overall <b>magnified fiscal slippages</b>.</p> <p><b>Law of Situation (Post COVID Recovery Time)</b> - As the economy is recovering from the crisis, there exists a need to adhere to the path of fiscal correction both by the Centre and by the States.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Expansion</b> - Sustained increase in welfare expenditure by the States leads to <b>fiscal expansion</b>, which necessitates <b>additional resource mobilization</b>. However, limited success in additional resource mobilization forced the state governments to <b>resort to borrowing</b>. Fiscal expansion financed through debt and the resultant debt accumulation have important impacts on the economy.</p>
WF	The <b>funds raised</b> through borrowings must be used for <b>capital formation</b> . This would contribute to the real income of future generations

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and add to the repayment capacity of the government as well.

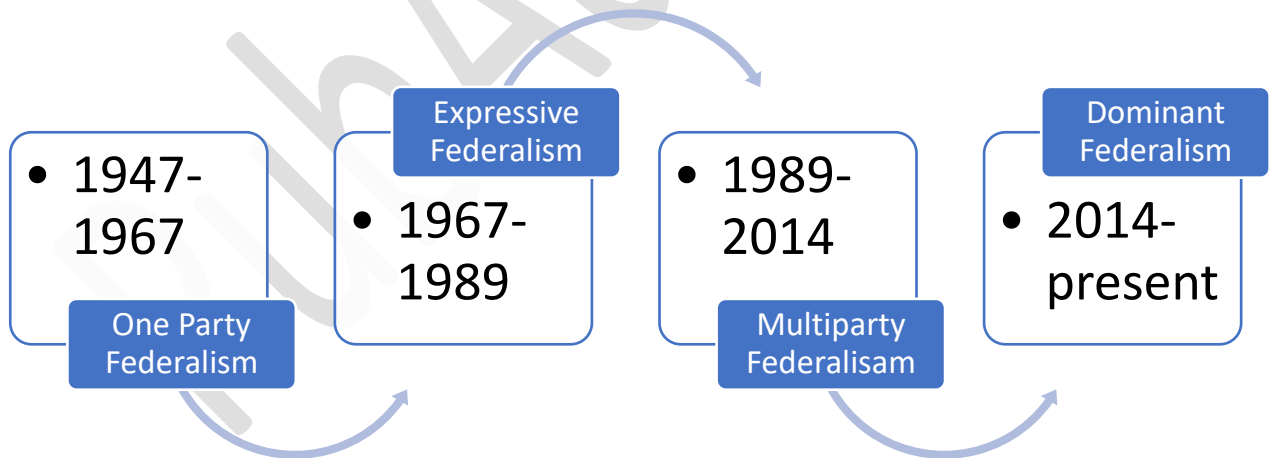
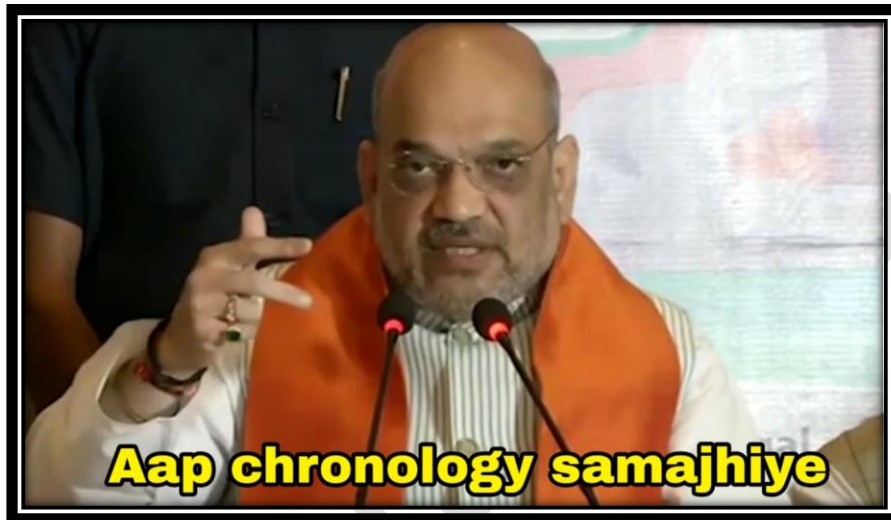
There is a need for **fiscal correction** or fiscal consolidation at the State level. This can be done by **raising additional resources** at the sub-national levels, and simultaneously, ensuring **expenditure prioritization**.

The Central government must demonstrate its commitment to fiscal discipline in order to ensure a **cooperative federal structure**.

## 10. PHILOSOPHICAL & CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT

### ✚ Evolution of Indian Federalism

#Observer\_Research\_Foundation #Value Addition



First Phase (1947-1967)	Second Phase (1968-1989)	Third Phase (1990-2014)	Fourth Phase (2014 Onwards)
The inner-party federalism in the	The political challenge to the	Weakening of Congress party at	The rise of BJP as the dominant

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<p>Congress party</p> <p>The demand for creation of states based on language.</p> <p>The resentment against one language for official state communication.</p>	<p>Congress party.</p> <p>The rise of strong regional forces.</p> <p>Excessive use of Article 356 in opposition-ruled states.</p> <p>Rise of regional demands</p> <p>Efforts of reconciliation</p>	<p>the national level.</p> <p>The creation of coalition governments with regional parties at the centre.</p> <p>The economic reforms and financial autonomy to states</p> <p>The judicial check to Centre's use of Art 356</p> <p>The Strengthening of local self-government</p>	<p>party at the national level</p> <p>The creation of Niti Aayog and GST Council in the spirit of cooperative federalism.</p> <p>The rise of 'national' federalism</p> <p>The political assertion of regional parties and regional leaders in the state level elections.</p> <p>States' crucial role during pandemic</p>
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**Table: The major factors that have shaped the political dimensions of Indian federalism <Source-ORF>**

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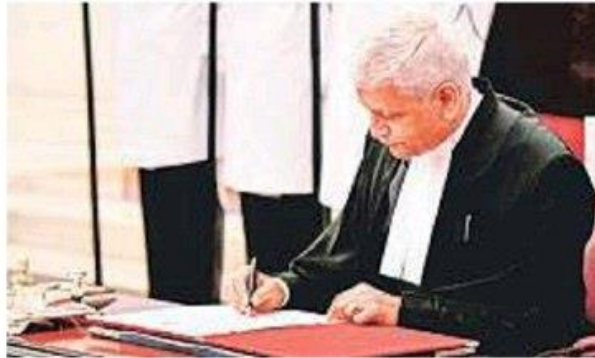
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## Full Court Meeting #TheIE

### FULL COURT MEETING

Convened at the discretion of the Chief Justice of India, these meetings discuss issues of importance for the judiciary and also look at administrative amends



Chief Justice of India U U Lalit at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Saturday.  
PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

SOON AFTER taking charge, the new Chief Justice of India, Justice U U Lalit, called a meeting of the full court on Saturday where the judges discussed how to deal with issues relating to listing and backlog of cases.

#### The meeting, attendees

A full court meeting literally means a meeting that is attended by all the judges of the court.

There are no written rules about when these meetings are held. As per convention, full court meetings are called by the CJI to discuss issues of importance for the judiciary. Senior designations of advocates in the Supreme Court and High Courts are also decided in full court meetings.

#### Significance

The basic idea is to take everyone along. Full court meetings are an ideal occasion to arrive at solutions to deal with larger problems that beset the country's legal system and to make changes, if necessary, in the administrative practices of the court.

#### Past meetings, decisions

Full court meetings are convened at the discretion of the Chief Justice of India, and do not follow any particular calendar.

Full court meetings have been held many times in the past. In March 2020, it was convened to discuss demands by associations of lawyers to close the court till further notice following the Covid-19 outbreak and its subsequent spread among court staff.

Also, a full court meeting held on May 7, 1997 decided that "every judge should make a declaration of all his/ her assets in the form of real estate or investment" held in own name or in the name of spouse or any person dependent within a reasonable time and thereafter make a disclosure "whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made".

The meeting resolved that an in-house procedure should be devised by the CJI to take suitable remedial action against judges who by their acts of omission or commission do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life, including those indicated in the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" that lays down judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by SC and HC judges.

[Image Credit-The Indian Express]

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## Significance

- The basic idea is to take everyone along. Full court meetings are an ideal occasion to arrive at common solutions to deal with problems that beset the country's legal system and to make any amends, if necessary, in the administrative practices of the court.

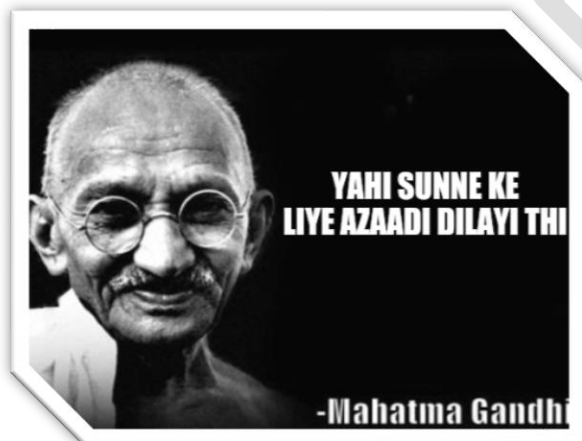


### Quotable Quote

#TheIE

Liberty may be endangered by the abuse of liberty, but also by the abuse of power.

—JAMES MADISON



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## 11. LAW AND ORDER ADMINISTRATION

### Police-Politician Nexus #TheIE

# Who will save the police?



MEERAN CHADHA BORWANKAR

The slow tortuous execution of the police as an institution continues unhindered

SINCE I WORKED in state police for many more years than in central agencies, I have a sure recipe for "killing" police as an organisation, a task our politicians have taken up in real earnestness. I have observed that they prefer slow death to police as an institution, rather than the fast painless one. And that they are building up the muscle of central investigating agencies so that state police organisations become irrelevant and defunct.

Some of them, in any case, have lost their sheen to recent scandals. In the federal structure, states must be shown their proper place, especially those led by the Opposition. And no better strategy than "picking up" those voicing dissent while making meaningless noises about healthy relations between Union and state.

Having risen from the ranks, the political "masters" know that the best way to "strike" at police is through police stations. It is in these precincts that most of them have cooled their heels at the start of their careers and later lorded over with seamless ease. Police stations and outposts are the forums where maximum citizen-police interactions take place.

If the officer in-charge is impartial, efficient and compassionate, then who will approach the local member of legislature (MLA) or parliament (MP) for "divine" intervention? The strategy commonly used with considerable finesse is to have a police station "manned" by an officer of choice who, in turn, pays daily obeisance to the mighty politician along with a bag that the officer does not bother to conceal. Neither does the self-serving narcissist politician.

The officer in-charge would naturally allocate "beats" to constables who give more time to local "dadas" belonging to the ruling party instead of investigating crime or maintaining order. One need not worry if there is mid-term change in the ruling party as the same modus operandi will be adopted by the new wearer of the crown. The collection is redistributed without any eyebrows being raised as the system has been well oiled and understood by all. If you think that the Crown and Zamindari system ended with the British, I can only pity you for your naivete.

After ensuring an "efficient" beat system

and police station in the district, one has the onerous task of getting men and women of choice as chiefs of district police and their deputies. Instead of spending energy on a number of selections, one chooses the district police chief who is then advised to get cronies of his choice — the team that comes after making due payments to the politicians, reimbursing their "personal expenditure" and simultaneously collecting from street hawkers, traders, merchants, restaurant and bar owners. Maximum funds are raised through the power of arrest and settling of disparate disputes. Victims of crime and the accused both have to shell it out. Money is needed by the officers to secure "good" postings, by politicians for their life-style desires and their parties for election purposes.

While conducting all these "operations", due care is taken to remain visible during local public meetings, "poojas", family functions of party workers, amid hyperbole about citizens' welfare. Though unashamedly false, they nevertheless elicit some applause from the gullible and the innocent.

The next step of posting of zonal Inspectors General of police is not a big deal. There are not many senior officers and many of them would be knocking at the door for "right" postings. A word to the top bureaucratic echelons ensures that the chosen one is posted at the earliest and that the wheels move smoothly.

Talking of the top, maybe I should have started with the topmost police leaders. They are much fewer in number and selection is not difficult at all. The one who either joins the "operation collection" or is ready to turn a Nelson's eye to it, is selected. Preference is, of course, given to the former but the latter can be considered provided the officer can bully the dissenting voices with phone tapping, criminal action or through measures which are discussed only in private.

And if nothing else works, air drop the top leader from Timbuktu. Get him favourable media coverage and install him with such great fanfare that the ranks think that they have the best leader and citizens applaud the "bold action". Media, in any case, is either bought over or scared and who cares about

the non-existent independent media? It can always be dubbed as anti-national. Local police leadership, demoralised and unhappy about the air-dropping, cannot speak out as the service conduct rules do not permit them. Besides, they have notoriously lost one vertebra each in every year of their service.

Now the naive are bound to ask "but how does police as an institution still work"? To them, I say look out for Sisyphus-like characters in the police. They will find many from beat constable, to sub-Inspector, inspector, Dy SP, SP and senior police leaders, foolishly working honestly and tirelessly. All this, while the politicians of all hues are busy collecting crores and dividing the country on caste and communal lines. These characters, though few in number, are equally adamant at salvaging the criminal justice system.

They are tragically oblivious to their own irrelevance and to the fact that political executives won hands-down long back. The judiciary encumbered under the weight of its mounting pendency, notices their fruitless efforts, makes an occasional sharp, acidic comment and resumes its slumber. Besides, many of its members are busy looking for post-retirement avenues for which they are totally dependent on the all-powerful executive. Throwing crumbs, beguiling citizens — the slow tortuous execution of the police as an institution thus continues unhindered.

The Indian Penal Code defines conspiracy as an illegal act and holds each conspirator to be equally responsible, but it does not define "killing of an institution" as an offence. It has emboldened the executive to strike at not only the police but at the criminal justice system as a whole. While politicians deconstruct and destroy institutions, we the citizens are mute spectators. I desist from labelling us as reluctant conspirators or active participants in destroying the institution of police because many of us have put our hopes on those toiling on the tough path with their honest commitment to serve. Can we strengthen those hands and save the institution, I wonder?

The writer is former Commissioner of Police, Pune

Context

The article highlighting the Police-Politician Nexus was published with

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	<p>title <b>“The slow execution of the police as an institution continues. Who will save it?”</b></p>
<p><b>Nexus at Different Levels</b></p>	<p><b>At station level:</b> The strategy commonly used is to have a <b>police station “manned” by an officer of choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If the officer in charge of the police station is impartial, efficient and compassionate, then no one will approach the local member of the legislature (MLA) or parliament (MP). So, the political leaders try to create a nexus.</li> <li>✓ The officer in charge pays daily obeisance to the politician along with that the officer does not bother to conceal.</li> <li>✓ The officer would naturally <b>allocate “beats” to constables who give more time to local “dadas”</b> instead of investigating crime or maintaining order.</li> </ul> <p><b>District police level:</b> Politicians influence the district police chief to appoint cronies of his choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This hand-picked team will collect from street hawkers, traders, merchants, restaurants and bar owners. The <b>collection is redistributed between everyone</b> in the station as the system is understood by all.</li> <li>✓ Money is needed by the officers to secure “good” postings, by</li> </ul>

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	<p>politicians for their lifestyle desires and their parties for election purposes.</p> <p><b>Posting of zonal Inspectors General of police:</b> There are not many senior officers and many of them would look for “right” postings. The officer will also be provided with favourable media coverage and installed with great fanfare.</p> <p><b>Influence on Judiciary:</b> The judiciary is burdened with the weight of its mounting pendency. Further, for judges, post-retirement avenues are totally dependent on the executive.</p>
<p><b>Way Forward</b></p>	<p>The Indian Penal Code defines conspiracy as an illegal act and holds each conspirator to be equally responsible. But politicians deconstruct and destroy institutions without any punishments.</p>



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## 12. UNION GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION



Disruption Mukht Parliament  
#TheIE



File Image - Parliament Disruption

Context	In a <b>deliberative democracy</b> , Parliament works as a special purpose vehicle for the legislative scrutiny of bills, grievance redressal and debate on policies and related governance issues. The inability of Parliament to transact any business and the lack of serious deliberation must be a matter of grave concern for all.
Challenges faced by parliamentarians	<b>Unable to Speak</b> - For any parliamentarian, it is <b>extremely disappointing to be unable to speak</b> in the House. When this happens too often, their enthusiasm to speak

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	<p>reduces significantly.</p> <p><b>Impact on quality of debate</b> - In such a situation, members are often tempted to <b>make a popular intervention than a substantive one</b>. This certainly impacts the quality of debates negatively.</p> <p><b>Feigned (insincere) efforts</b> - Many opposition members argue vehemently to send the bill to relevant standing committee for better scrutiny. However the percentage of members attending the meetings of these committees- their duration, quality of deliberations and the outcomes do not seem to be a sincere effort</p> <p><b>Media Coverage</b> - Systems work effectively when wrongdoers are punished and rule-abiding people are rewarded. What happens currently is exactly the opposite, especially in the context of coverage of parliamentary proceedings in mainstream media. Those who make a reasonably good speech — well argued and supported by statistics, examples or case studies — rarely get adequate attention. Only the politics of pandemonium (Chaos) grabs headlines in the news.</p>
<p>Role of Presiding Officer in making Parliament “Disruption Mukt”</p>	<p>Perhaps presiding officers can emulate the courts of law.</p> <p>Use of in-camera proceedings: Like in courts, the presiding officers need to consider conducting <b>in-camera</b></p>

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	<p><b>proceedings in their chambers</b> to insulate at least the Zero Hour and Question Hour from getting washed out.</p> <p>While the House remains force-adjourned, presiding officers can order <b>in-camera hearing of questions of MPs and replies of ministers</b>. Zero Hour submissions could also be dealt with similarly.</p> <p>Some tweaking of existing rules and regulations may facilitate this.</p>
Way Forward	<p><b><u>Fixed Schedule:</u></b> The parliamentary schedule is can be also be revised as follows: A calendar of sittings could be announced at the beginning of each year for limited flexibility. The rules should be amended to ensure that the House is summoned if a significant minority (say 25% or 33%) of members gives a written notice.</p> <p><b><u>Incorporate best practices (UK Model):</u></b> The British Parliament allocates <b>20 days a year when the agenda is decided by the opposition</b>. The PM is bound by a constitutional convention to respond to questions directly posed to him by MPs.</p> <p><b><u>Drafting new Index: Parliamentary disruption index</u></b> should be created as a measure to monitor disruptions in legislatures and check indiscipline. It would also lead to availability of more time for debate and discussion on</p>

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	issues before the House.
Conclusion	As the Parliament of independent India enters the eighth decade of its history and prepares to enter a new, more well-equipped and modern Parliament House, it is the right time to think about how we can add value to our deliberative democracy.

News	Thinker/Theory	Views
<b>Extremely disappointing to be unable to speak</b>	Maslow	Need of Self Actualization would not fulfilled
	Herzberg	Motivating Factors- Recognition, Work etc negatively impacted
<b>Feigned (insincere) efforts</b>	Likert	Shows that conflicts are Affective (based on ideological opposition, party politics) rather than Substantive Conflict (based on proviso of bill)
<b>Media Coverage</b>	Taylor	Principle of Exception

Fig. News and Thinkers <R-Factor>

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## Parliamentary Privilege

#TheIE

Note the Case, Constitutional/CrPC Provisions

# No immunity from arrest in criminal cases for MPs during session: Venkaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said in the Upper House on Friday that MPs did not have immunity from being arrested in criminal cases — when the House is in session or otherwise. He said MPs could not avoid summons from law enforcement agencies.

On Friday morning, Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for almost half an hour, until 11.30 am, as Congress members created an uproar alleging misuse of investigating agencies by the government.

"...Going by what has happened in the last few days, I want to clarify one thing that there is a wrong notion among members that they have privilege from action by agencies while the session is on. I have given it serious thought. I examined all the precedents and I remember my own ruling given earlier," Naidu said when the House reassembled after the adjournment.

He emphasised that under Article 105 of the Constitution, MPs enjoy "certain privileges so that they can perform their parliamentary duties without let or hindrance". "One of the privileges is that a Member of Parliament cannot be arrested in a civil case 40 days before the commencement of the session or committee meeting, and 40 days thereafter. This privilege is already incorporated under Section 135A of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908," Naidu said.

However, in connection with criminal matters, he said MPs "are not on a different footing than a common citizen".

"It means that a Member of Parliament does not enjoy any immunity from being arrested in a criminal case during the session or otherwise. There have been a number of rulings by Presiding Officers," Naidu said.

He specifically referred to one ruling given in 1966 by Dr Zakir Hussain, who was then Rajya Sabha Chairman. "It was said:



Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha on Friday. PTI

'Members of Parliament do enjoy certain privileges so that they can perform their duties. One such privilege is freedom from arrest when the Parliament is in session. This privilege of freedom from arrest is limited only to civil cases and has not been allowed to interfere in the administration of criminal proceedings,' Naidu said.

Naidu also cited an observation that he previously made. "...In the observation, I said no member should avoid appearing before any investigating agency, when she or he is called upon to do so, by citing the reason of House duty. As lawmakers, it is our bounden duty to respect the law and legal procedures. It applies to all, in all cases, because you can only inform that the House is in session, seeking a further date, but you cannot avoid the enforcement agencies or the law enforcing agencies' summons or notices. This has to be taken note of by all," Naidu said.

Naidu also cited a Supreme Court observation regarding the matter. "In a landmark case, K Anandan Nambiar and Another, the Supreme Court of India held that the true constitutional position is that so far as a valid order of detention is concerned, a Member of Parliament can claim no special status higher than that of an ordinary citizen and is as much liable to be arrested, detained or questioned even during the session," he said.

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## 13. STATE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

✚ Ram Katha at Raj Bhavan @ Rajasthan  
#TheIE

### In Rajasthan, 'Ram Katha' at Raj Bhavan raises eyebrows

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 28

RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR Kalraj Mishra's decision to organise a "Ram Katha" programme at the Raj Bhavan presided over by a former RSS pracharak has raised eyebrows.

This is the first time a Ram Katha event is being organised at the Raj Bhavan. Though the Congress-led state government has not yet commented on the matter, a civil liberties outfit alleged that the Congress-led state government's Directorate of Information and Broadcasting was promoting the event. The BJP too has not commented on the matter but its leaders were in attendance on the first day of the five-day event that began on Saturday.

Every day of the programme, a *katha vachak* (narrator of holy text) named Vijay Kaushal will read the Ram Katha daily from 4 pm to 7 pm. Sources said Kaushal was from Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh and was an RSS pracharak earlier. The event,

which is being telecast live on Kaushal's YouTube channel, is open to the public. People can enter the Raj Bhavan after furnishing their identity cards.

Before the start of the event on Saturday, Mishra conducted a puja of Hindu deity Ram and the Ramcharitmanas. The governor also inaugurated an exhibition in which devotional artwork is being displayed. Among the attendees on the first day were the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Chanshyam Tiwari and BJP MP from Jaipur Ramcharan Bohra.

In a statement, the Raj Bhavan quoted Mishra as saying that Ram Katha enriches life with values and that it was a matter of good fortune that a *katha vachak* such as Vijay Kaushal had accepted the request to narrate "Ram Katha".

PUCL Rajasthan chief Kavita Srivastava said in a statement that it goes "against the dignity of his (Mishra's) constitutional post to organise a religious ceremony in the Raj Bhavan", added that it was against "secular values enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution".

Image Source – TheIE

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 **Centre-State Tussle over IAS Postings**  
**#TheHindu**

<b>Context</b>	<p>Centre has <b>proposed to amend Rule 6 of IAS (Cadre) Rules</b> to address the crunch IAS officers by different state governments.</p> <p>The majority of AIS officers working in the States were not coming forward to opt for tenure with the Centre.</p> <p>At present, many officers willing to go to Delhi on deputation are those assigned to the Northeastern States.</p>
<b>Tussle</b>	<p>There are many instances of the tussle between the State and the Centre regarding deputing an officer. Recently, in West Bengal senior officers were greatly embarrassed due to the tussle between the state and the Centre.</p> <p>Situations like these arise due to ignorance of prudent and mature governance. This poses a threat to the foundation of All India Services.</p>
<b>Way Forward</b>	<p>There are simpler, more effective, and less contentious solutions to the shortage of officers for central deputation than <b>amending the IAS (Cadre) rules</b></p> <p>India needs a <b>stable system of civil services to bolster democratic and responsive public administration</b> in the country.</p>

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## [BACKGROUND]

### Proposed Amendment in Rules 6 of IAS (Cadre) Rules 1954

<b>Why in News</b>	<p>Recently, the <b>Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)</b> wrote to the States that the Union government <b>proposes to amend Rule 6 (deputation of cadre officers) of the Indian Administrative Service (Cadre) Rules 1954.</b></p> <p>Under this, the Union government will acquire for itself <b>overriding powers to transfer IAS and IPS officers through Central deputation</b>, doing away with the requirement of taking the approval of the State governments.</p>
<b>Deputation of AIS Officer and Present Rules</b>	<p>AIS officers are <b>recruited by the Union Government</b> (by UPSC) and their services are <b>allotted under various State Cadres.</b></p> <p>The State government has to prescribe a number of officers available for deputation as prescribed under <b>Central Deputation Reserve.</b></p> <p>Every State cadre of the service provides for a <b>Central deputation quota</b> which in turn requires additional recruitment to be made to the service to provide for trained and experienced members to serve on posts in the Central Government.</p> <p>In normal practice, the <b>Centre asks every year for an “offer list”</b> of</p>

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	<p>officers of the All India Services willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list.</p> <p>Officers have to get a <b>no-objection clearance</b> from the State government for Central deputation.</p> <p>States have to depute the All India Services (AIS) officers, to the Central government offices and at any point, it cannot be more than <b>40% of the total cadre strength</b>.</p>
<p><b>Proposed Changes</b></p>	<p>If the State government <b>delays posting a State cadre officer to the Centre and does not give effect to the Central government's decision within the specified time</b>, the officer shall stand relieved from cadre from the date as may be specified by the Central government.</p> <p>The <b>Centre will decide the actual number of officers</b> to be deputed to the Central government in consultation with the State and the latter should make eligible the names of such officers.</p> <p>In case of any <b>disagreement between the Centre and the State</b>, the matter shall be decided by the Central government and the State shall give effect to the decision of the Centre.</p> <p>In specific situations where</p>

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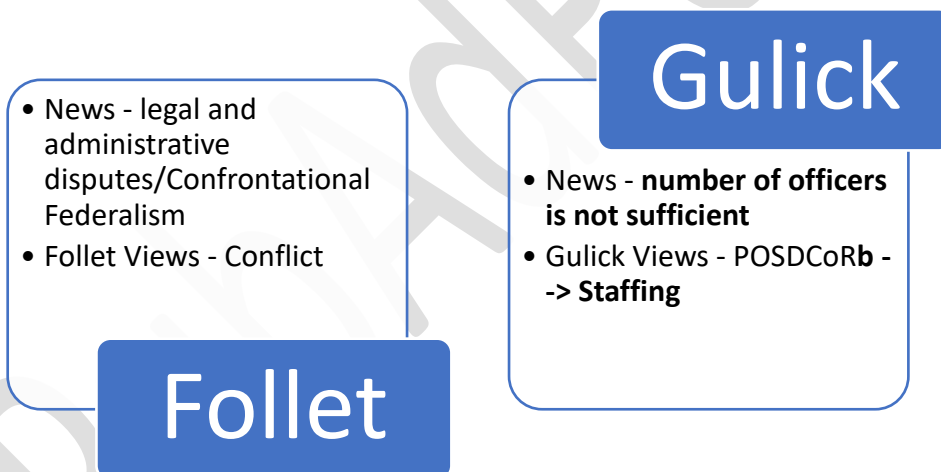
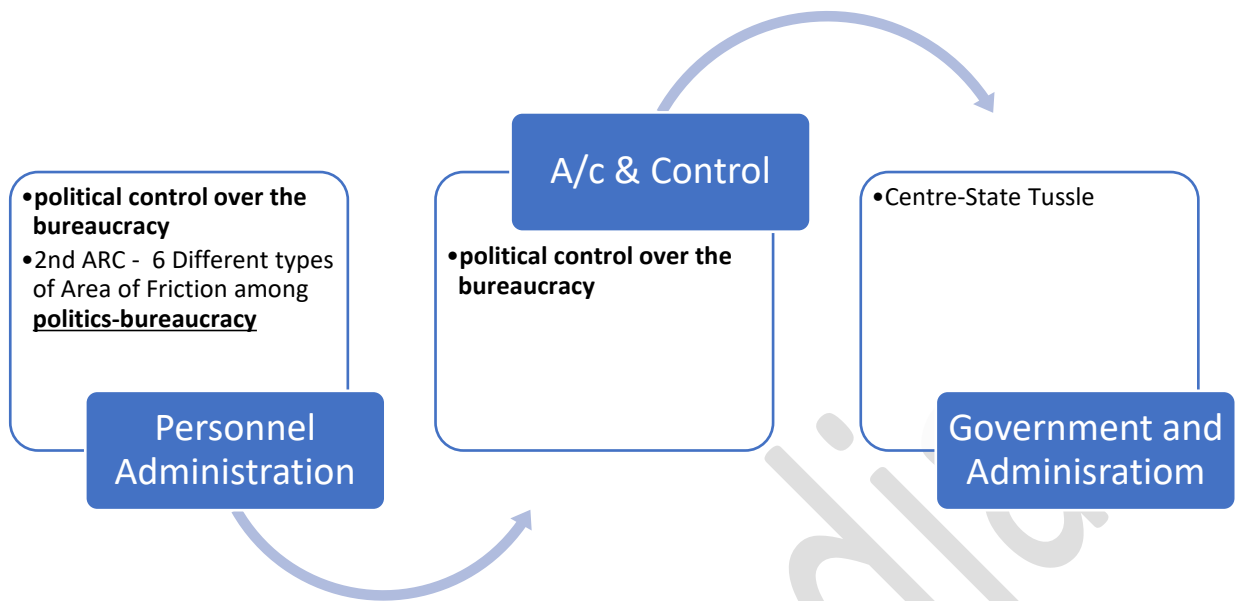
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	<p>services of cadre officers are required by the Central government in “<b>public interest,</b>” the State shall give effect to its decisions within a specified time.</p>
<p><b>Arguments in favour/DoPT Views</b></p>	<p>The DoPT said that it is taking this decision in the wake of a <b>shortage of All India Services (AIS) officers in Union Ministries.</b></p> <p>According to the DoPT, states are not sponsoring an adequate number of officers for Central deputation, and the <b>number of officers is not sufficient</b> to meet the requirement at the Centre.</p>
<p><b>Arguments against /Opposition States’ Views</b></p>	<p>It is against the spirit of cooperative federalism.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would weaken the State’s <b>political control over the bureaucracy.</b></p> <p>It would hobble effective governance and create avoidable <b>legal and administrative disputes.</b></p> <p>The Centre could weaponise the bureaucracy against an elected State government.</p>

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2004  
250W 20M

- The administrator needs autonomy and discretion in much the same way as the politician needs control and intervention. Discuss.

✚ Governors as Chancellors  
#TheIE



Image Source – TheIE

Context	Recently, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has locked horns with the CPM-led state government regarding “nepotism” in employment in state universities.
Genesis of Governors becoming Chancellor of Universities {Colonial Legacy}	<p><b>Before 1845</b>, there were multiple colleges where students received higher education in British-administered areas. These colleges were independent of each other, and their curriculum differed.</p> <p><b>In 1845, the Bengal Council of Education</b> championed the setting up of a university that had the power to grant degrees in arts, science, law, medicine and civil engineering. The council suggested that the government model the university along the lines of the University of London, an examination and degree-awarding institution.</p>

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	<p><b>In 1854</b>, the government in India accepted this proposal with some modifications.</p> <p><b>Despatch of 1854 on General Education in India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It suggested the creation of universities in India.</li> <li>➤ It recommended that the universities consist of a <b>chancellor, vice-chancellor and fellows</b>, who would constitute a senate.</li> <li>➤ It stated further that the <b>'offices of chancellor and vice-chancellor will naturally be filled by persons of high station, who have shown an interest in the cause of education...'</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Acting on this suggestion, the <b>Governor General decided that he would be the chancellor of the university at Calcutta</b>, and the governors for Bombay and Madras would be the chancellors for the universities in the two presidency towns.</p> <p>The three universities were set up in 1857 by separate laws passed by the Legislative Council of India.</p>
Post-independence Scenario	<p>After Independence, a <b>committee headed by Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan</b> observed that the practice of the governor being a chancellor had worked well in states</p>

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	<p>with only one university.</p> <p>The commission <b>left it to the states to decide</b> whether they wanted the governor to be the chancellor, especially if the state had multiple universities.</p> <p>States <b>opted to stick to the status quo</b>, and while enacting legislation for universities in their states, they <b>made the governor their chancellor</b>.</p>
<p>The Point of Conflict</p>	<p><b>1. Congress Era</b> - In the initial years of our Republic, there were hardly any conflicts between governors as chancellors and state governments. The Congress was in power at the national and state level. The President, bound by the Prime Minister's advice, appointed individuals closely linked to the party as governors. As a result, the Congress could <b>internally resolve any disagreements between governors and their governments</b></p> <p><b>2. Post 1967 Era</b> - After the fourth general election in 1967, the Congress lost power multiple states.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The state governments believed that the governor had a constitutional duty to act on the advice of the council of ministers.</li> <li>➤ The governors, on the other hand, thought that since their appointment as chancellor of a university was through</li> </ul>

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	<p>legislative enactment, they had the right to intervene in the university's functioning and their position as chancellor was distinct from their role as a governor.</p> <p><b>3. Present Era</b> - The conflict between governors in their role as chancellors has now reached a stage where <b>state governments have started bringing laws curbing the gubernatorial powers regarding state universities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For example, earlier this year, the <b>West Bengal Legislature passed a law making the Chief Minister the chancellor of 31 state universities.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have also passed laws limiting the governor's role</b> in university affairs, and the Kerala Legislature is also mulling such a measure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Views of the Centre-state commissions</b></p>	<p>Two commissions on Centre-state relations appointed by the Government of India have suggested that <b>state legislatures should not appoint governors as chancellors.</b></p> <p>In 2010, the Punchi commission stated that when governors act as chancellors, it <b>opens their office to controversies and public criticism.</b></p>

## 14. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

 **Post-Pandemic Rural Recovery**  
**#TheIE**

<b>Context</b>	<p>After contracting in 2020-21, the Indian economy rebounded sharply in 2021-22, ending the year 1.5 per cent above its pre-pandemic level. This year the Reserve Bank of India expects it to grow at 7.2 per cent, making India one of the fastest growing economies in the world during this period. But the recovery from the pandemic lows has been anything but even. Beyond the headline numbers, there are indicators of the unabated pain stemming from the pandemic and the continuing distress in parts of the economy.</p>
<b>MGNREGA</b>	<p>One possible indication of the scale of the distress comes from data on households/individuals who have worked under MGNREGA. In 2019-20, the year prior to the pandemic, 7.88 crore individuals worked under the scheme. In 2020-21, the first year of the pandemic, this number rose to 11.19 crore. While in the subsequent year it dipped to 10.62 crore, the number of individuals working under the scheme remained considerably higher than in the pre-pandemic period. In fact, so far this year, 6.29 crore individuals have already worked under the scheme as compared to</p>

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	6.21 crore in the entire year of 2014-15. <b>This growing reliance on MGNREGA likely indicates that other more remunerative employment opportunities remain limited.</b>
<b>NCRB</b>	Another pointer to the economic distress at the lower end of the income distribution scale comes from the National Crime Records Bureau report — there has been a <b>rise in suicides by daily wage earners</b> and in 2021, daily wage earners accounted for a fourth of suicides in the country.
<b>Insurance</b>	In 2021-22 over <b>2.3 crore life insurance policies were surrendered way ahead of their maturity by policy holders</b> — this was more than thrice the number of policies surrendered the previous year.
Purchasing Power	Other indicators point to subdued household purchasing power. As per data from SIAM, in 2021-22, sales of two-wheelers were lower than their 2019-20 levels by almost a quarter. Similarly, as per CRISIL, sales of cars priced below Rs 10 lakh grew by a mere 7 per cent in 2021-22, while those priced above Rs 10 lakh (the premium segment) grew by 38 per cent.

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## 15. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Case Study  
#TheIE

# Brick by brick, Tiruvallur's rescued bonded labourers build a new life

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
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TAMIL NADU'S Tiruvallur district, located to the north of the capital city of Chennai, has long been notorious for the prevalence of bonded labour. Now, around a hundred emancipated labourers and their families are shaping their own future — by co-owning and operating a brick kiln, launched three months ago by the district administration.

The workers are primarily members of the Irula community that falls under the Scheduled Tribe category.

District Collector Dr Alby John Varghese first proposed the idea in February. An official opening ceremony for the brick kiln took place in April. June marked the start of the kiln's first fire. By the end of July, they had manufactured 82,000 bricks, valued at around Rs 7 lakh. Approximately half of the total production — 41,000 bricks —



Officials inspect the brick kiln in Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu. *Express*

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was sold to the projects under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. According to Dr Varghese, the revenue department regularly purchases bricks from this kiln for the PMAY scheme. As such, since there is assured demand for the kiln's

bricks, there is a certainty that the kiln's produce will find a market.

"Since the market is tied up, returns to the workers are also assured. They are now working on diversifying into hollow bricks as well. It is evolving as a successful project — a self-sustained community enterprise — as workers manage it on their own along with the support and guidance from various government agencies," he said.

The project was started as a

pilot project with just 20 such families. The district administration provided Rs 5 lakh for the project's initial phases: Rs 4 lakh for infrastructure, raw materials, and wages, and Rs 1 lakh to source the wood for fuel.

Due to its proximity to Chennai and several highly productive, industrial suburban pockets, agrarian Tiruvallur attracts workers from the most rural and socially-deprived areas and communities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

But this labour force is also highly vulnerable due to the nature of these industries, the lack of regulations, and the lack of informed and streamlined industrial networks.

According to Helen Barnabas of the International Justice Mission (IJM), an organisation that plays a key role in the rescue of bonded labourers in the state, the choice of site for the brick kiln was significant because it is near where many rescued bonded labourers are living.

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## 16. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IN ADMINISTRATION

✚ Shakespearean Tragedy and IAS  
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<b>News</b>	<p>Harish Chandra Gupta is a very rare IAS officer — one who retired as a secretary in the Union government, and has since been <b>convicted in 11 high-profile corruption cases and faces the prospect of jail 14 years after retirement.</b></p> <p>Gupta, who was coal secretary between December 2005 and November 2008, has been accused in 12 cases of alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks during the UPA's tenure. So far, the prosecution has secured convictions in 11 of the 12 cases.</p> <p>In 2019, the retired IAS officer was acquitted in one case, while in some of the other convictions, his appeal is pending before the Delhi High Court.</p> <p>This Monday, a special CBI court in Delhi awarded Gupta a 3 year jail term in a coal scam case involving irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Maharashtra. His then colleague in the coal ministry, former joint secretary K.S. Kropha, was also sentenced to a two-year</p>
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	jail term in the case.
<b>Point of contention</b>	<p>A major point of contention is that one of the provisions that Gupta was convicted under was <b>Section 13(1)(d)(iii) of the Prevention of Corruption Act</b>, which deals with criminal misconduct by a public servant.</p> <p>The section made any civil servant criminally liable if he or she, “while holding office as a public servant, obtains for any person any valuable thing or pecuniary advantage without any public interest”.</p> <p>Because of the loose wording, the lack of a proper definition for “public interest”, and the fact that it does not require evidence of criminal intent, this section came under criticism.</p> <p>This provision was amended in 2018 following criticism that the mere fact of a wrongdoing was enough to implicate an officer, whether or not there was evidence of criminal intent.</p> <p>The amendment included the provision that a public servant could be said to commit criminal misconduct if “he intentionally enriches himself illicitly during the period of his office” or if “if he dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for his own use any property entrusted to him or any property</p>

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under his control as a public servant or allows any other person so to do”.

While the chargesheet was framed before this section was amended, some IAS officers have questioned why Gupta is being punished under the old “draconian” law.

Swarup, however, called it a “**Shakespearean tragedy**” that, despite the amendment “Gupta continues to be punished under the old law”.