Administrative System and Reforms in India

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Welcome to the session on
Administrative System and Reforms in India

This session on Indian Administrative System and Reforms would primarily talk about the

- Evolution of the Indian administrative system

- Constitutional framework.

- Union Government/State Government/District administration and Local administration

- Five decades of administrative reforms in India

- The second Administrative Reforms Commission

Evolution of the Indian Administrative System

- The public administrative system in India has a long history. Kingdoms existed in India several hundred years B.C.

- In the earlier era the civil servants performed the role of servants of the king. (Kautilya's Arthshastra describes the civil service of those days and lays down various norms 300 B.C. to 1000 A.D)

- During the medieval period they became State servants. The land revenue system was established during the Moghul period.

- The East Indian Company had a civil service to carry out their commercial functions.

Conti……

- During the British rule they started as servants to the Crown, but gradually they started becoming 'Public Servants'. The British government set up the Indian civil service, primarily with the objective of strengthening the British administration in the UK.

- In this period the role of the civil services was to further the British interest, and the role was totally regulatory. Later on they assumed development roles also.

- After the coming into force of the Constitution, the public services as we see today came into being.

The existing Administrative System in India

- The civil service system is the backbone of the administrative machinery of the country.

- The civil service system in post-independent India was re-organised.

- At the central level, the civil services include the All-India services, namely the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Forest Service, and the Indian Police Service.

- There are various central services like the Indian Income Tax Service, Indian Railway Services etc.

- There are three tiers of administration-Union Government, State Governments and the Local governments.

- The State Governments have their own set of services.

The Hallmarks of Civil Services in India

- Constitutional protection.

- Political neutrality.

- Permanency.

- Annonymity

- Recruitment based on merit.

- Done by a Constitutional Authorities-the Public Service Commissions.

Problems with the Administrative System

- British legacy
- Regulatory administration
- Development priorities not defined
- A bureaucratic model
- Lack of people's participation
- Not inclusive
- Ineffective and inefficient

Major developments impacting Administration

- Globalization.

- Increasing disparities.

- Transformation of the world into a global village.

- Deregulation and privatization trends.

- Increasing awareness about human rights.

- State formerly interventionist, producer, regulator and seller now called upon to be a facilitator, promoter, and partner.

- Emergence of powerful technological solutions-computers and IT.

- Increasing expectations from the Governments to 'perform'.8

Why is Administrative Reform Necessary in Countries Like India?

- Administrative Reform is a generic process permeating all phases of administration to create institutional capacity in the governmental system to undertake its tasks efficiently.
- Administrative reform:
  - Is a process;
  - For creating enabling environment;
  - Should be tuned to meet challenges of development and globalization;
  - Should adjust to changes in development strategy;
  - Need to adapt to changing technology.

Administrative Reforms in India

- Administrative reforms have been necessitated because of:
  - **Change in the role of the Government.**
  - **Changing environment.**
  - **Rising aspirations of the people.**
  - **Improving efficiency and effectiveness**.

Administrative Reforms in India after Independence

- Several Commissions and Committees have gone into the subject, and suggested various measures. Major reforms have been brought about based on the recommendations of these. Some of the important studies/reports are as follows:

  - Report on Reorganisation of the Machinery of Government (1949) by Mr. Goplaswami Ayyangar.

  - It recommended that the Central Ministries be bunched into Bureaus.

Administrative Reforms in India after independence ……(contd)

- The Gorwala Committee appointed by the Planning Commission.

  - It gave a general report on Public Administartion

- Paul H. Appleby submitted two reports on Indian Administration

  - The O & M organisation and the Indian Institute of Public Administration were set up as a result of the recdommendations.

- The Committee on Prevention of Corruption was ser up under chairmanship of Mr. K .Santhanam (MP).

  - The Central Vigilance Commission was set up.

Administrative Reforms in India after independence ……(contd)

- The First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was set up in 1966.

- The ARC set up 20 study teams, 13 working groups and 1 Task Force.

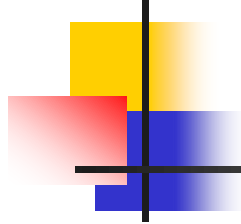- It gave 20 Reports making a total of 581 recommendations in a period spread over 1966-70

The First Administrative Reforms Commission

- **It gave Reports on the following subjects:**

    - Machinery of Government of India and its procedures.

    - Personnel Administration.

    - Redress of Citizen's Grievances.

    - Centre-State Relations.

    - State Administration.

    - Administration of Union Territories.

    - Machinery for Planning and Economic Administration.

    - Finance, Accounts and Audit.

    - Delegation of Financial and Administrative Powers.

    - Railways, Post and Telegraph, etc.

Studies/Reports after the First Administrative Reforms Commission

- Committee on Recruitment Policy and Selection Methods (D.S.Kothari)-1976

- The Commission on Centre-State Relations (Sarkaria)-1983.

- The Fourth Central Pay Commission Report-1986

- The Committee to Review the Scheme of the Civil Services Examination (Satish Chandra, 1989)

- The Economic Administration Reforms Commission.

- The Fifth Pay Commission (1993)

- Surendra Nath's Committee Report (2003)

- Committee on Civil Services Reforms.

Reforms Agenda

- Making Administration Accountable and Citizen friendly: (Simplification of procedures)

- Ensuring Transparency and Access to Information :   (Right to Information Act)

- Decentralised Governance and Power to the People :(73 & 74 Constitution Amendment Acts)

- Effective and Efficient delivery of Services :(e- governance)

- Taking Measures to Cleanse and Motivate Civil services: (Civil service Act)

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission

- Constituted on 31st August 2005

- Objective: To prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system

- Terms of Reference: The Commission inter-alia considered the following

- 1. Organisational structure of the Govt. of India.

- 2. Ethics in Governance.

- 3. Refurbishing of Personnel Administration.

- 4. Strengthening of Financial Management Systems.

- 5. Steps to ensure effective administration at the State level.

Conti…..

6. Steps to ensure effective District Administration.

7. Local Self-Government/Panchayati Raj Institutions.

8. Social Capital, Trust and participative service delivery.

9. Citizen Centric Administration.

10. Promoting e-governance.

11. Issues of Federal Polity.

12. Crisis Management.

13. Public Order.

The major areas are......

1. Effective implementation of Right to Information Act.

2. Crisis management

3. Public Order

4. Implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

5. E-governance

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Service Delivery Reforms

- Legal and administrative reform for empowering citizens

- Involvement of private players basically to enhance operational efficiency

- Improving government citizen interface by use of IT

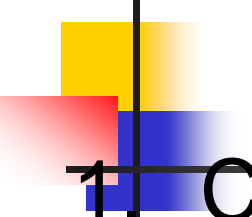- Enabling service providers to do better

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Success Stories in India

- Bhoomi – online registration and delivery of land records in Karnataka

- Computer aided administration of registration department (CARD) and e- seva in Andhra Pradesh

- District planning project in Uttar Pradesh

- Gyandoot project in Madhya Pradesh

- Planning a land development project in Orissa

- Smart card driving License project in Gujarat

- Used in data base management
- E- Banking sector
- E- Health
- E-Courts
- Education
- Agriculture
- Urban transport management
- Local government service delivery
- Disaster management
- Railways

The Five Pillars of Good Governance

1. Comprehensive electoral reforms

2. Empowerment of local governments

3. Instruments of accountability

4. Speedy and efficient justice

5. Best practices identification and implementation

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Concluding Remarks

- Strength of the system: The administration has tried to adjust to the requirement of times with some success; Yet, there are several problems and unless these are addressed, it will adversely impact on growth.
- Forward looking reforms needed in the bureaucracy including police and judiciary to meet the challenges of internationally mobile capital and labour.
- Criminalisation of politics needs to be dealt with;
- Regional disparities is a major source of discontent; this has to be dealt with.
- Restructuring political, bureaucratic and judicial systems;
- More effective decentralized planning for inclusive growth.
- Focus on human development essential;
- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has been appointed to go into the entire gamut of issues.

Quiz

1. On whose recommendations the O & M Organization and the Indian Institute of Public Administration were set up?

(a) Sarkaria Commission
(b) Surendra Nath's Committee
(c) Paul H Appleby
(d) Gorwala Committee

2. When was the First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) set up ?

(a) 1993
(b) 1966
(c) 2007
(d) 2005

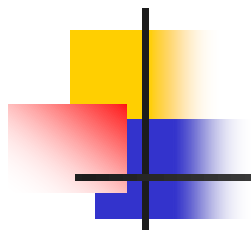3. How many tiers of government are there in India?

a) One
b) Three
c) Two
d) Four

4. When was the Second Administrative Reforms Commission set up?

a) 1966
b) 2005
c) 2017
d) 2003

References

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THANK YOU