

ForumIAS

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HISTORY
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FORUMIAS

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Discuss the implications of the 'Net Borrowing Ceiling' (NBC) imposed by the central government on states. How does it affect fiscal federalism in India? (250 Words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight the implications of NBC on states and how it affects federalism in India.

Conclusion: Way forward

The *Net Borrowing Ceiling* (NBC) imposed by the central government in Kerala in 2023 illustrates the complex dynamics of fiscal federalism in India. Kerala's case before the Supreme Court highlights critical issues concerning state fiscal autonomy, central oversight, and the scope of states' borrowing powers under Article 293 of the Indian Constitution.

Implications of the Net Borrowing Ceiling (NBC) in Kerala and Other States

- **Restriction of Fiscal Autonomy:** Extending NBC to encompass borrowings by state-owned enterprises adds further constraints, impacting the state's capacity to invest in developmental and welfare activities, crucial for Kerala's fiscal health.
- **Legal and Constitutional Implications:** Kerala argues that NBC infringes on its executive power to borrow on the security of its Consolidated Fund under Article 293. The Supreme Court's interpretation of Article 293, currently under review by a Constitutional Bench, may redefine the extent of states' fiscal powers within India's federal structure.
- **Challenges to Cooperative Federalism:** The NBC has stirred political and legal controversies, particularly regarding cooperative federalism. The rigid borrowing limit without state-specific financial considerations hampers Kerala's ability to address local economic and social challenges.

Revisiting Article 293 for Strengthened Fiscal Federalism

- **Establishing an Independent Commission:** An independent commission, similar to the Finance Commission, could assess state borrowing needs vis-à-vis the Centre's fiscal policies. This approach would ensure that borrowing limits are set transparently and equitably, considering both states' fiscal conditions and the national interest.
- **Guidelines for Fair Borrowing Conditions:** The Centre's powers under Article 293(4) should be exercised with transparency, ensuring equitable treatment of all states. Guidelines could require the Centre to consult states before imposing borrowing conditions, fostering a more cooperative approach that respects states' financial autonomy.
- **Promoting Transparency and Accountability:** Transparency in decision-making would allow public insight into the criteria for approving or denying borrowing requests, fostering a balanced fiscal environment that avoids arbitrary decision-making.

Conclusion

The NBC imposed on Kerala highlights critical tensions in India's federal framework between maintaining fiscal discipline and respecting state autonomy. Strengthening Article 293 is essential to ensure that states retain sufficient fiscal autonomy to address their unique challenges while upholding national fiscal responsibility, paving the way for a more resilient and equitable fiscal federalism in India.

"The contribution of the care economy is indispensable but largely unrecognized in India's GDP." Critically analyze this statement, highlighting the importance of unpaid care labor in the Indian economy. (250 Words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight importance of unpaid care labour in Indian economy

Conclusion: Way forward

The statement, "The contribution of the care economy is indispensable but largely unrecognized in India's GDP," underscores the significant but often overlooked role of unpaid care labor, primarily performed by women, in supporting the economy and society.

Importance of Unpaid Care Labor in the Indian Economy

- **Foundation of the Labor Force and Economy:** Unpaid care labor supports the labor force by ensuring family well-being, preparing children for future productive roles, and caring for elders and dependents. This labor, mainly undertaken by women, enables paid workers to participate in the economy, indirectly contributing to GDP.
- **Economic Value of Unpaid Care Work:** Studies estimate that unpaid care work would amount to a significant percentage of GDP if monetized. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), unpaid care work could account for nearly 20% of GDP in countries like India if it were formally recognized and compensated. This figure highlights the enormous but unaccounted contribution to economic productivity.
- **Relieving the State's Welfare Burden:** Unpaid care work also alleviates the government's burden by substituting for public services like childcare and eldercare. This informal support system reduces the state's spending on welfare but comes at a high personal cost to the caregivers themselves, often limiting their opportunities for paid employment.

Issues Surrounding the Lack of Recognition of Unpaid Care Labor

- **Gender Inequality and Economic Exclusion:** In India, around 90% of unpaid care work is performed by women, leading to gender inequality in economic participation. The unrecognized and uncompensated nature of this work often results in economic exclusion for women, limiting their access to income and reinforcing the gender gap in employment and earnings.
- **Impact on Women's Labor Force Participation:** The substantial demand of unpaid care labor reduces women's ability to join the paid workforce. This is reflected in India's low female labor force participation rate, which stands at around 20% and is among the lowest globally. This exclusion perpetuates a cycle where women remain dependent and their potential economic contributions are unrealized.
- **Psychological and Health Burden on Caregivers:** Unpaid care work is physically and emotionally demanding, often leading to stress, health issues, and lack of personal time. The lack of formal recognition of this labor leaves caregivers without adequate support, and the resulting burnout further impacts their health and economic security.

Conclusion

Unpaid care labor is essential for India's economic stability and social resilience, yet it remains unrecognized in GDP metrics and undervalued in policy formulation. Recognizing and supporting this labor through appropriate policies would not only enhance gender equality but also increase India's economic productivity.

Critically analyze the effectiveness of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India. Discuss the challenges of leakages and suggest ways to enhance its transparency and efficiency. (250 Words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight the effectiveness of PDS and ways to reform and leakages associated with PDS.

Conclusion: Way forward

The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is a key component of the country's food security strategy, aimed at providing affordable staple grains to vulnerable sections of society.

Effectiveness of PDS in India

- **Food Security and Poverty Reduction:** PDS has historically contributed to food security by ensuring affordable access to rice and wheat, benefiting millions of low-income households.
- **Economic Support During Crisis:** The PDS played a critical role in cushioning vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic challenges by offering free or subsidized food grains.

- **Technological Interventions:** The integration of Point-of-Sale (PoS) machines in Fair Price Shops (FPS), along with Aadhaar-linked distribution, has helped reduce leakages from an estimated 46% in 2011-12 to around 28% by 2023. This demonstrates progress, though challenges persist.

Challenges of Leakages in PDS

- **High Leakages and Diversions:** According to recent analyses, 28% of rice and wheat intended for PDS beneficiaries fails to reach them, this leakage is attributed to corruption, diversion to the open market, and inefficiencies in supply chain management.
- **Over-Coverage and Inclusion Errors:** Many beneficiaries are above the extreme poverty line and could potentially contribute by paying part of the minimum support price (MSP) instead of receiving free food, helping contain subsidy costs.
- **Limited Nutritional Impact:** High malnutrition rates, including 35.5% of children under five being stunted, indicate a need for diversified nutritional support rather than exclusive reliance on cereals.
- **Infrastructure and Operational Inefficiencies:** Poor infrastructure in storage and transportation often leads to spoilage and further inefficiencies.

Suggestions for Enhancing Transparency and Efficiency in PDS

- **Restrict Free Distribution:** Limiting free food benefits to the most impoverished 15% of the population (those below the extreme poverty line) could help rationalize subsidies.
- **Cash Transfers in Place of Grains:** Replacing physical distribution with direct cash transfers to beneficiaries' accounts would reduce intermediaries, decrease leakages, and give recipients the flexibility to purchase food and other essentials according to their specific needs.
- **Diversified Offerings:** Converting selected Fair Price Shops into nutrition hubs that provide access to pulses, millets, eggs, fruits, and vegetables can help address the issue of nutritional security.

Conclusion

While PDS remains essential to India's food security framework, addressing the challenges of leakages and inefficiencies is crucial for its success.

Analyze the implications of technological upgrades in wind energy infrastructure on energy production and land use patterns in India. Use Tamil Nadu as a case study.

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight implications of technological upgrades on energy & land use patterns in Tamil Nadu.

Conclusion: Way forward

India's renewable energy goals underscore the importance of modernizing its wind energy infrastructure. With India's wind power potential reaching 1,163.86 GW at 150 meters above ground level, Tamil Nadu stands as a crucial contributor with a significant share of the nation's installed wind energy capacity.

Implications of Technological Upgrades on Energy Production

- **Increased Output through Repowering:** Repowering, which involves replacing old turbines with high-capacity turbines, can dramatically increase energy output. In Tamil Nadu, 10,000 turbines with capacities under 1 MW represent an opportunity for substantial power output gains.
- **Advanced Grid Support:** Updated wind turbines coupled with efficient grid infrastructure can stabilize energy supply, ensuring continuity in power generation. However, Tamil Nadu's existing evacuation and transmission infrastructure needs strengthening to handle increased energy output from repowered turbines.
- **Increased Costs:** Higher-capacity turbines require substantial initial investment in new equipment, technology, and land acquisition.
- **Employment and Skill Development:** Repowering and upgrading technology necessitates a skilled workforce for installation and maintenance, which can create jobs and boost local economies in Tamil Nadu.

Implications on Land Use Patterns in Tamil Nadu

- **Reduced Footprint:** By replacing small, less efficient turbines with larger, high-capacity models, Tamil Nadu can generate more energy with fewer turbines on the same land area. This allows for more energy production without significantly increasing land demands, mitigating land use conflicts.
- **Dual-Use Models:** Modern turbine designs that enable agricultural activities below can mitigate the impact on farmland. Implementing dual-use land models allows for wind energy generation while preserving agricultural livelihoods, particularly relevant in Tamil Nadu's agrarian regions.
- **Protecting Ecosystems:** Upgraded turbines on ecologically sensitive sites require careful planning to avoid disrupting wildlife habitats. Precise siting based on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping could mitigate environmental concerns while ensuring optimal land utilization.
- **Community Engagement:** As land use changes affect local communities, particularly in regions where habitation has expanded around old wind farms, engagement with residents is essential. Policy adjustments that account for community needs can foster acceptance and reduce resistance to repowering projects.

Conclusion

Technological upgrades in wind energy infrastructure hold immense potential for Tamil Nadu, promising to boost energy output, optimize land use, and position the state as a renewable energy leader.

Analyze the implications of India-China disengagement efforts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) for regional stability. How might this affect India's geopolitical strategy with its neighboring countries? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight implications for regional stability and its impact on neighboring countries

Conclusion: Way forward

India-China disengagement efforts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have significant implications for regional stability and India's broader geopolitical strategy. After several border standoffs, especially the Galwan Valley clash in 2020, the de-escalation between India and China indicates cautious progress toward reducing immediate tensions.

Implications for Regional Stability

- **Focus on Internal Security in Neighboring Regions:** As tensions reduce, both India and China can potentially divert military and diplomatic resources to other pressing regional concerns. India may focus more on internal security challenges in areas like Jammu and Kashmir, while China can concentrate on domestic stability in Tibet and Xinjiang.
- **Reduction in Border Tensions:** The disengagement process, involving troop withdrawal and the establishment of buffer zones, has the potential to lower the risk of sudden escalations along the contested LAC. This helps prevent further confrontations and promotes a more predictable border environment, enhancing regional stability in the short term.
- **Confidence-Building Measures:** If India and China can sustain disengagement, it could lead to renewed confidence-building measures, such as military hotlines, patrol regulations, and protocols for border management. These mechanisms could serve as precedents for managing disputes along other contentious borders in South Asia, fostering a culture of restraint and negotiation.

Geopolitical Strategy and Engagement with Neighbors

- **Pakistan:** India's approach toward détente with China may influence its policy with Pakistan, especially considering Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's recent visit to Islamabad for the SCO summit. By engaging diplomatically, India signals openness to dialogue and may prompt reciprocal steps, potentially easing tensions over Kashmir.

- **Bhutan and Nepal:** The Doklam standoff in 2017 highlighted India's protective role over Bhutanese territory. A stabilized LAC could strengthen India's strategic influence in Bhutan and Nepal, encouraging these countries to maintain balanced relations with both India and China while relying on India's support for security and infrastructure.
- **Regional Diplomacy and South Asia Strategy:** India's reconciliatory stance with China can help reinforce its position as a stabilizing power in South Asia, fostering relationships that are less influenced by the security threat from China. This may encourage smaller neighbors to view India as a partner in regional stability rather than a counterbalance to China.

Conclusion

India-China disengagement efforts along the LAC mark a pivotal shift that could stabilize regional dynamics and create space for economic cooperation and broader geopolitical maneuvers. However, India must balance diplomatic engagement with strategic caution, addressing unresolved border ambiguities, and fortifying regional ties.

Examine the role of mule accounts in cybercrime operations in India. Discuss the steps taken by the government to counter this challenge, and suggest measures to further strengthen the cybercrime prevention framework. (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight the role of mule accounts and measures to strengthen the framework

Conclusion: Way forward

The increasing misuse of "mule accounts" for laundering proceeds from cybercrimes has become a critical concern in India. Mule accounts are typically created using fraudulent or misappropriated KYC documents and allow cyber criminals to obfuscate the money trail.

Role of Mule Accounts in Cybercrime Operations in India

- **Money Laundering:** Cybercriminals often use mule accounts to transfer stolen funds, making it difficult to trace the source. Funds are routed through multiple accounts to obfuscate the money trail.
- **Online Fraud:** Mule accounts facilitate various forms of online fraud, including phishing, fake investment schemes, and online shopping scams. These accounts receive stolen money from victims, which is then quickly moved or withdrawn to avoid detection.
- **Recruitment through Social-Media:** Cybercriminals exploit the financially vulnerable, students, or unemployed individuals, often recruiting them via social media and messaging platforms, making them unwitting participants in cybercrime by promising easy money.

Government Measures to Counter the Challenge of Mule Accounts

- **Freezing Mule Accounts:** In coordination with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Centre has frozen around 4.5 lakh mule accounts. I4C monitors cybercrime and coordinates with financial institutions and law enforcement.
- **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:** Citizens can report cyber frauds through this portal, which facilitates rapid action by relevant authorities. Over 1 lakh complaints have been filed since January 2023.
- **AI/ML-Based Screening by Banks:** Airtel Payments Bank, for instance, has implemented real-time API integration with I4C's suspect registry and utilizes AI/ML models to detect mule accounts and prevent takeovers. Innovations such as "Face Match" technology verify customers' identities through KYC records, reducing fraud risks.

Suggested Measures to Strengthen the Cybercrime Prevention Framework

- **Enhanced KYC Norms and Verification:** Banks should implement stricter KYC verification methods and advanced digital identity checks (e.g., biometrics and facial recognition) to detect and deter fraudulent account creation.

- **Cross-Platform Collaboration:** Enhanced cooperation between banks, telecom providers, and financial service providers is essential for sharing data and insights on mule activity.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** To prevent the recruitment of vulnerable individuals as mules, public awareness campaigns should emphasize the risks and consequences of sharing or renting out bank accounts.

Conclusion

With these measures, India can better protect its citizens from cyber fraud and reinforce the integrity of its financial system.

“Achieving healthy longevity requires a holistic approach encompassing healthcare accessibility, behavior change, and preventive health measures.” In the context of India’s demographic challenges, critically evaluate the feasibility of implementing the World Bank’s Healthy Longevity Initiative. (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight challenges of implementing the World Bank Project and measures to implement.

Conclusion: Way forward

The World Bank’s report, *“Unlocking the Power of Healthy Longevity: Demographic Change, Non-communicable Diseases, and Human Capital.”* highlights the need for a Healthy Longevity Initiative (HLI) to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and promote well-being across all age groups, particularly as the population ages.

Key Challenges to Feasibility in India

- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** India’s healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas, is often under-resourced, with limited access to primary healthcare. Preventive and regular screenings for NCDs are sparse, making early detection challenging.
- **High Out-of-Pocket Expenditure:** Healthcare financing in India is skewed towards out-of-pocket expenses, leading to impoverishment for many households, especially the elderly. Despite health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat, challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, and restrictive eligibility requirements limit their effectiveness.
- **Low Awareness of Preventive Health:** Many Indians lack awareness of the benefits of preventive healthcare. High rates of tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and poor dietary habits contribute to the NCD burden.
- **Cost of Unhealthy Diets:** Diets high in refined grains, saturated fats, and red meat are linked to higher risks of diabetes and heart disease. Additionally, increased prices for healthier foods limit access to nutritious options, especially among lower-income groups.

Strategic Adjustments for Realistic Implementation

- **Implementing Price Controls in Private Healthcare:** Robust regulatory mechanisms to cap healthcare costs and enforce transparency in pricing would help reduce financial stress for patients and promote fair access to treatment.
- **Strengthening Primary Healthcare:** Expanding primary healthcare infrastructure with a focus on preventive care, such as regular screenings for diabetes and hypertension, would enable early diagnosis and reduce the long-term healthcare costs associated with advanced NCDs.
- **Behavioral Change Campaigns:** Nationwide health awareness campaigns targeting risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity could help reduce NCD prevalence. Utilizing local health workers and community-based programs can help reach underserved populations effectively.

Conclusion

By adapting the initiative to India's unique demographic and socio-economic landscape, significant strides can be made toward reducing the NCD burden and achieving sustainable health outcomes, aligning with India's commitment to SDG 3.

Analyze the potential economic and strategic benefits of the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) for India. What are the challenges posed by current geopolitical tensions in West Asia on the IMEC's progress? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: What are the economic and strategic benefits of IMEC and the challenges faced by IMEC's progress?

Conclusion: Way forward

The India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) is a transcontinental infrastructure project announced in September 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi. The corridor aims to drastically reduce transit time and costs by 40% and 30%, respectively, compared to the traditional route through the Suez Canal.

Economic Benefits for India

- **Boost in Trade and Connectivity:** The IMEC is poised to enhance India's access to both the Middle Eastern and European markets. The direct route between India, the UAE, and Europe would drastically reduce logistics costs and delivery time.
- **Logistical Efficiency and Cost Reduction:** The creation of initiatives like the Virtual Trade Corridor between India and the UAE will simplify customs processes and reduce administrative burdens, directly supporting the smooth flow of goods across the IMEC.
- **Energy Security:** The corridor's promise of energy pipelines and grids linking India, the UAE, and Europe could also contribute to energy diversification, supporting India's transition toward cleaner energy sources.

Strategic Benefits for India

- **Strengthening Geopolitical Ties:** The IMEC presents India with an opportunity to reinforce its ties with critical countries in the Middle East and Europe. By playing a central role in this corridor, India can solidify its strategic partnerships with key Gulf countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.
- **Regional Stability and Security:** India's leadership in the IMEC could foster greater regional cooperation in West Asia, which would help mitigate security risks.
- **Positioning India as a Global Supply Chain Hub:** By integrating itself into the IMEC, India aims to position itself as an alternative to China's dominance in global supply chains. India can enhance its manufacturing competitiveness by upgrading infrastructure and adopting more efficient logistics systems, thus attracting greater foreign investment.

Challenges Posed by Geopolitical Tensions

- **Israel-Palestine Conflict:** The escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict in October 2023 has significantly delayed progress on the IMEC.
- **Internal Rivalries within the GCC:** Rivalries within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, such as between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, or tensions between Iran and the UAE, could also pose challenges.
- **Iran's Role and Regional Instability:** Iran's geopolitical position, particularly its rivalry with Israel and its tensions with the US and some GCC states, complicates the IMEC project.
- **Limited Focus on Non-Connectivity Aspects:** While connectivity is gaining momentum, other elements of the IMEC, such as clean energy export, energy grid linkages, and undersea fiber-optic cables, are still in the planning phase and cannot proceed until the security situation in the region stabilizes.

Conclusion

The IMEC holds tremendous promise for India in terms of boosting trade, energy security, and geopolitical standing. The establishment of an IMEC secretariat and a focus on regional stability and security will also be essential for the project's long-term success.

Discuss the constitutional and political implications of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in India. How can its implementation in conflict-prone regions be balanced with democratic values? (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight constitutional and political implications of AFSPA and measures to align it with democratic values.

Conclusion: Way forward

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been a contentious law in India due to its significant implications for constitutional principles and democratic values.

Constitutional Implications & Political Implications

- **Conflict with Fundamental Rights:** AFSPA grants extensive powers to the armed forces, including immunity from prosecution, which risks violating Article 21 & Article 14. Internet bans and restrictions imposed alongside AFSPA infringe upon Article 19 eroding democratic freedoms.
- **Judicial Oversight and Accountability:** Recommendations by the Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005) and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission to repeal AFSPA highlight the need for accountability mechanisms. However, these suggestions remain unimplemented, raising questions about the state's commitment to balancing security with justice.
- **Ethnic Tensions and Governance Failures:** The Meitei-Kuki conflict, stemming from competing claims over Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and landownership, has exposed the limitations of a law-and-order-centric approach.
- **Regional Security Challenges:** The ongoing turmoil in neighboring Myanmar and Bangladesh adds external dimensions to the conflict. Mismanagement in Manipur risks destabilizing the broader Northeast region, critical to India's Act East Policy.

Balancing AFSPA's Implementation with Democratic Values

- **Political Dialogue:** Both the Centre and state government must engage Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities in structured dialogue. Mediators and civil society groups should be involved to foster trust and promote inclusive solutions.
- **Administrative Reforms:** Rebuilding trust in governance requires strengthening local institutions and addressing socioeconomic disparities that fuel ethnic tensions. Efforts should focus on restoring livelihoods, improving infrastructure, and ensuring equitable development.
- **Gradual Rollback of AFSPA:** Following the model of its rollback in Tripura and Meghalaya, AFSPA should be gradually lifted as security conditions improve. A clear roadmap, tied to benchmarks like the recovery of looted weapons, is essential.
- **Strengthening Local Policing:** Develop and equip state police forces to reduce dependence on the armed forces. Community policing initiatives can play a key role in de-escalating tensions.

Conclusion

A collaborative approach, combining dialogue, governance reform, and security sector accountability, is imperative to align AFSPA's implementation with India's democratic values and constitutional principles.

Analyze the reasons behind India's inability to produce a world-class public policy school despite being the largest democracy. Suggest measures to bridge this gap. (250 words)

Introduction: Contextual Introduction

Body: Highlight reasons behind India's inability to produce world-class public schools and suggest measures

Conclusion: Way forward

India, despite being the world's largest democracy, has yet to establish a globally recognized public policy school.

Reasons

- **Centralization of Power in the Executive:** In India, policymaking is dominated by the executive, with limited entry points for academics, think tanks, and civil society to influence decision-making. The legislature's weak oversight role over the executive further constrains the development of a deliberative policy ecosystem.
- **Lack of a Stable Policy Ecosystem:** Influence in India's policy sphere often depends on alignment with the ruling regime, leading to instability when governments change. This contrasts with more institutionalized democracies, where think tanks and policy institutions maintain influence regardless of political transitions.
- **Overemphasis on Western Models:** Indian policy schools often attempt to replicate Western models, which assume straightforward paths to influence through formal institutions. This approach overlooks India's complex, informal power dynamics, where caste hierarchies, regional elites, and grassroots movements shape governance.
- **Low Empathy for Ground Realities:** Many policy initiatives in India suffer from a lack of understanding of the lived realities of the population, leading to top-down approaches that fail to address local needs effectively. Public policy education in India has not prioritized cultivating empathy and practical adaptability among its students.

Measures to Bridge the Gap

- **Designing Institutions Suited to India's Realities:** Public policy schools must integrate India's unique governance structure into their curricula, teaching students to navigate informal networks, regional power structures, and grassroots dynamics.
- **Strengthening Empathy and Grassroots Engagement:** Public policy programs should select candidates with a demonstrated commitment to public service and cultivate empathy for India's diverse population. Incorporate experiential learning through fieldwork, case studies, and community interactions to bridge the gap between theory and practice.
- **Promoting Independent Policy Research:** Establish policy incubators and think tanks within institutions to generate evidence-based research that addresses pressing governance challenges. Focus on applied research in areas critical to India's development, such as urban planning, public health, and education.
- **Fostering Partnerships and Collaborations:** Build partnerships with global institutions while tailoring programs to local realities. Engage with policymakers, think tanks and development professionals to create a practice-oriented curriculum.

Conclusion

A public policy school grounded in these principles could not only transform governance in India but also serve as a model for other developing democracies.