

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CURRENT AFFAIRS

This initiative will help students in interlinking current affairs with Paper 1 and Paper 2 in mains examination 2026.

Public Administration

By

Ajeet Yadav.

Faculty, ForumIAS



Outlook

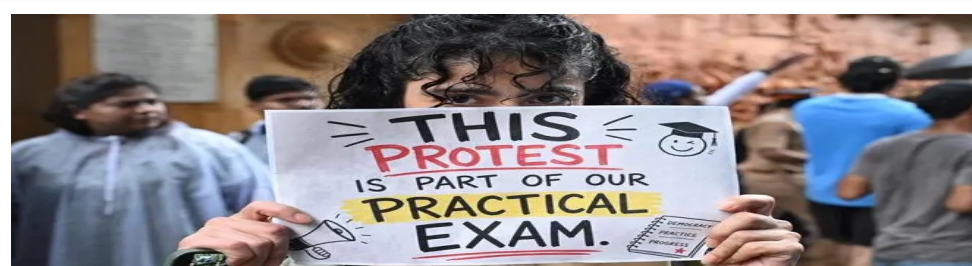


Context - Stress training to Haryana

officers - The Haryana government has asked all administrative secretaries to nominate officers for a five-day training on stress management to be held in Gangtok by the National Productivity Council, an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. senior IAS officer counter-argued that such initiatives serve little structural purpose beyond acting as an upscale "outing". They emphasized that civil servants are already trained to handle intense workload pressures. Instead, they argued true stress stems from political pressure to bypass rules, meaning the government should focus on building a legally secure, stress-free work environment rather than sending personnel to luxury destinations. The IAS officer's critique directly mirrors **Herzberg**. The officer argues that luxury junkets do not fix the structural "hygiene" flaws of the workplace specifically, the intense stress caused by political pressure to bypass rules. From a **Waldonian** perspective, a "stress-free" environment is built when officers have the structural protection to uphold constitutional values and resist improper political directive.

Context - Protest by Gen Z - Several RAF personnel were seen without name tags or badge numbers visible on their uniforms, a requirement the Supreme Court laid down in **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal** with its 1996 ruling on safeguards against custodial abuse. The Delhi Police faced intense criticism for employing excessive force, including lathi charges and tear gas, against Gen Z-led "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP) protestors during the "Chalo Sansad" march. **Post-modern thinkers** in Public Administration view protest not as a disruption of order, but as a legitimate, necessary tool for democratic discourse. They reframe protest through several key lenses such as

- **Deconstruction of Power** - Post-modernists see protest as a way to challenge dominant bureaucratic narratives and expose systemic biases.
- **Discursive Democracy** - Thinkers like **David John Farmer** argue that public administration should be an open dialogue. Protest functions as a legitimate voice for marginalized groups who are excluded from traditional policy-making channels.
- **Anti-Administration** - This perspective views protest as a healthy rejection of rigid, technocratic control, promoting a more fluid, citizen-centric approach to governance.



Context - 49th Monthly Report on Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) - The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) monthly report for May, 2026, which provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal. This is the 49th report on Central Ministries/Departments published by DARPG. The Department of Posts, Department of Financial Services (Insurance Division), and Department of Telecommunications topped in Group A of the Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index (GRAI). The Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Textiles, and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs led in Group B. The AI-Enabled Voice Chatbot, Samadhan Didi, was launched on May 30, 2026, for grievance redressal. **Christopher Hood** argued for a shift from rigid procedural compliance to quantifiable performance. The report's tracking of 1,78,423 resolved grievances and the precise 13-day average disposal time perfectly illustrate Hood's focus on measurable outputs and performance indicators. **Barbara Romzek & Melvin Dubnick** identified a quadrant of accountability mechanisms. CPGRAMS shifts the bureaucracy away from blind hierarchical obedience toward a strong administrative/legal accountability system. By using clear metrics and automated tech, it creates internal systems of scrutiny based on explicit performance standards.

Context - Study on City Governance by Niti Aayog - India's urban governance architecture is failing its cities with "symbolic" mayors, fragmented authority, weak finances and capacity gaps which undermine the ability of urban local bodies (ULBs) to deliver basic services, report has warned. At the heart of the problem lies the office of the mayor. Mayors generally do not play a significant role in city administration in the absence of having adequate executive powers," said the report, 'Moving Towards Effective City Government- A framework for million-plus cities'. It added that in most cities, the position is reduced to a "largely symbolic stature". Real authority, it says, rests with municipal commissioners or state-controlled agencies, creating a structural disconnect between elected representatives and governance. The problem is made worse by uneven electoral systems and short mayoral tenures. In many cities, mayors are not directly elected and serve terms as short as one year, leaving little room for continuity or accountability.

Robert Dahl Dahl highlighted the tension between "system effectiveness" and "citizen participation." State governments often centralize power under a municipal commissioner in the name of technical efficiency and speed, but they do so at the direct expense of local democratic governance. Similarly, **Brian C. Smith in Devolution vs. Deconcentration** argued that true decentralization requires devolution i.e. transferring both political authority and executive power to locally elected bodies. The report reveals that India instead practices deconcentration, where the state government retains real authority through unelected Municipal Commissioners, reducing the mayor to a symbolic figure.

Current Affairs Quote - "Law dies twice, once when its officers turn criminal, and again when judges choose silence over judicial courage."



Context - NTA sacks 47 officials - Data presented by the Ministry of Education in the Rajya Sabha revealed that the National Testing Agency (NTA) which manages high-stakes exams like NEET-UG and JEE Main for over 6.6 crore candidates operates with just 24 permanent officials. Even these 24 are not direct hires they are on temporary deputation from other departments. Instead, the core of the NTA's massive operation relies on an external workforce of 197 non-permanent hands 73 Contractual Employees: This includes 44 consultants, senior advisors, and young professionals. 124 Outsourced Personnel. These staff handle day-to-day operations. This hollowed-out staffing model collapsed under the weight of the 2024-2026 paper leak scandals. Because contractual staff lack institutional security, structural accountability, or long-term loyalty to the civil service, the agency was easily infiltrated by localized paper-leak mafias. This ultimately forced the Ministry of Education to abruptly sack 47 contractual officials in an attempt to defuse public anger. **NPM** advocates for "agencification" breaking large government ministries into small, autonomous, business-like agencies. The NTA was created to be a "lean" agency, eschewing a heavy, permanent bureaucratic footprint in favor of a hyper-flexible corporate structure. In *Government by the Market*, **Peter Self** argued that market criteria like cost-cutting and flexible hiring are fundamentally incompatible with essential public services that demand equity, trust, and absolute security.

Context - Study on Gram Sabha - The report, 'National Study on Low Participation in Gram Sabha', prepared by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, surveyed nearly 7,790 respondents across 400 Gram Panchayats in 26 states and Union Territories, to understand why attendance remains low in Gram Sabhas. According to the survey, 55.5 percent of respondents cited livelihood and time constraints as a barrier to attending Gram Sabha. This is followed by 16.2 percent citing awareness and communication issues and 9.9 percent citing lack of interest for not attending Gram Sabha meetings. Among respondents who reported discomfort in speaking, 35.8 percent cited a lack of confidence, 17.4 percent feared authority figures and 17.2 percent said influential individuals dominated discussions. Gender discrimination and caste discrimination were also cited as barriers by 9.05 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively apart from low attendance, the study highlights a decline in people's perception of Gram Sabha meetings as capable of addressing local issues. Survey results show that 45.5 percent of respondents expressed concerns over a lack of transparency, 41.9 percent said meetings lacked visible outcomes, while 33.4 percent said discussions were becoming repetitive and a mere formality. The findings suggest that participation is not determined solely by awareness and attendance but is also shaped by the extent to which citizens perceive Gram Sabha meetings as meaningful, responsive and capable of addressing local concerns," the report stated.

Michel Foucault: Governmentality and the Illusion of Choice Foucault's concept of governmentality (governmental rationality) explains how modern states control populations not through overt force, but by shaping habits, desires, and behaviors. **Robert Chambers** (*Putting the Last First*): Chambers argued for rural development that prioritizes the knowledge and priorities of the poorest. If Gram Sabhas are hijacked by local elites or rigid administrative agendas, marginalized citizens realize the forum is not "meaningful" to their lives and drop out.