IIAS
International Institute of Administrative Sciences

प्रशासनिक सुधार और लोक शिकायत विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
& PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
सत्यमेव जयते

IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025

10-14th February

"Next Generation Administrative Reforms: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile"



www.iias-darpg-indiaconference2025.org

Next Generation Administrative Reforms: Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drechsler, TalTech RND
Prof. Dr. Suresh Mishra, Indian Institute of Public Administration
Dr. Steve Troupin, International Institute of Administrative Sciences
info@iias-darpg-indiaconference2025.org

"Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future!"
Niels Bohr

The IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 is built on the premise that future administrative reforms should emphasize greater civil society participation and prioritize public service delivery as a core state function. In many ways, this future is already taking shape.

Conference Themes

Next Generation Administrative Reforms can be understood through the following key phenomena, which require careful consideration for effective management:

- **Digitization**: The rise of AI underscores the transformative potential of new technologies, already evident in industries such as communication, education, finance, transport, and trade. This dynamic captures unparalleled public and professional attention.
- **Transformation**: Often referred to as Digital Transformation, there is no consensus on how profoundly technology is expected to disrupt organizations. We need clear definitions and empirical evidence to understand the extent of this transformation beyond mere digitization of workflows.
- **Capacity**: Organizational capacity, whether to embrace or resist Digital Transformation, is crucial within the public sector. We must explore what constitutes capacity, how to build it, and its impact on policy outcomes. Are high-capacity, high-performance systems the driving force behind technological change in and out of government?
- **Contexts**: While global systems converge, policy performance diverges across countries, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and social groups. In the wake

of decolonization, empowerment, and specificity, how do national and regional path dependencies affect policy outcomes?

- **Redirections**: New discourses and practices based on regional and national experiences are emerging, particularly among youth advocating for well-being over growth. How do these shifts affect policy priorities and their implementation across different contexts?

Debate on Citizen Empowerment

The potential for greater citizen empowerment through these changes is a subject for debate:

- **Emancipatory Potential**: Technologies reduce the cost of access to educational and self-development resources on an unprecedented scale. They disrupt institutions, expanding the scope of possible futures. Social networks foster a sense of community at transnational and subnational levels, encouraging citizen participation to shape desired futures.
- **Dystopian Potential**: Conversely, access to educational resources is often utilized by those who already benefit most. Technology can enable particular interests to bypass institutional filters, transforming legitimate grievances into political actions that challenge national elites and institutions, potentially leading to societal self-destruction.

Call

The IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 invites public administration scholars, lecturers, and practitioners from around the world to:

- Examine ongoing trends to identify defining features of future administrative and governance models and their theoretical and empirical foundations.
- Critically assess these emerging models in light of their potential to empower citizens.

Submission Guidelines

Therefore, we accept three kinds of submissions for review by the rapporteurs:

- **Abstracts:** For development into a full paper, and presentation in the main parallel track, "Next Generation Administrative Reforms."
    - Deadline for submission: November 1st, 2024
    - Acceptance notification: November 30th, 2024
    - Deadline for full paper submission: January 18th, 2025
- **Panel Proposals**: Including a title, an abstract, and a list of identified speakers who will discuss the proposed topic in a specific parallel session.
    - Deadline for submission: November 30th, 2024
    - Acceptance notification: December 14th, 2024
    - Deadline for finalization: January 18th, 2025
- **Call-for-Paper Proposals**: Where Track Chairpersons develop a topic into research questions, commit to disseminating the call, reviewing received abstracts, and chairing parallel sessions during the conference.
    - Deadline for submission: September 14th, 2024
    - Acceptance notification: September 21st, 2024
    - Online publication**:** September 28th, 2024

Practical information

- Submissions should be made through: https://www.conftool.net/iias-darpg-indiaconference2025/
- All information related to the conference is available through: https://www.iias-darpg-indiaconference2025.org/
- All requests can be made through: info@iias-darpg-conference2025.org