

From the Director's pen:

DR VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

Public Policy is much talked of but little understood. The dictionary meaning of Public Policy is "Fundamental Policy on which laws rest, especially policy not yet enunciated in specific rules." (The Dictionary of Politics and Governance takes a slightly different view, defining Public Policy as "Political Plans affecting the general good of the people".)

However, the popular perception of public policy is very diverse, thanks mainly to the lack of clarity, commitment and resultant abysmal reflection of it in implementation. Lack of seriousness is the single most important factor. This unseriousness is often seen as the product of a variety of factors such as lack of understanding of issues, lack of analytical skills and the lure of keeping it perennially flexible for the sake of convenience.

All this has contributed to a huge amount of confusion on policy issues. There are innumerable issues in the public sphere on which, there is no well laid out policy framework. Unfortunately, both officials and executive leadership have more often than not remained engaged in an unsavory blame game leading the policy vacuum in several areas



continue to be as it has been.

In order to change this status quo, multi-pronged and structured efforts are required from all stakeholders. Happily, we now have a Prime Minister who has always advocated the need for policy-based governance. Greatly motivated by the recognition to the paramount importance of policy issues, we at Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC) are trying to contribute our bit in making policy discourse in our country more effective. This quarterly newsletter-cum-journal is one of the baby steps that we plan to take towards the same.

We hope readers will welcome this initiative.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- How MP's can make use of research assistance on legislative issues.
- How politics of performance yields Good governance.
- How recent amendments to Land acquisition Act makes it more rational and feasible.
- Know how civic issues in Delhi are perceived by citizens and councilors, and find way forward.

EVENTS AT PPRC

March 15, 2015:

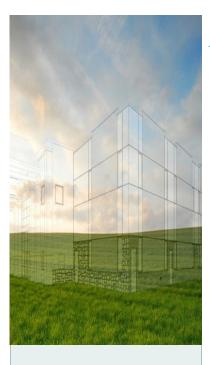
Lecture on 'Indo-US relations: way forward' by Mr Dnyaneshwar Mulay (US Consulate General)

June 9, 2015:

Lecture on 'Growth Diagnostic Framework approach applied to India' by Prof Mukul Asher (Professional Fellow at Lee Kuan Yew Public Policy School, Singapore)

June 30, 2015:

Discussion with Mr Harish Meena (MP-Rajasthan) on 'Skill development: learnings from Germany'.



MAKING GOVERNANCE MORE SCIENTIFIC

PPRC is glad to extend the services, viz., Parliamentary Business Insight (PBI) and Parliamentary Committee Insight (PCI) to Parliamentarians. Insight program has been launched on the first anniversary of the NDA-II government - 26th May 2015.

The idea for developing such a program was given by Shri Narendra Sawaikar (MP-South Goa) who has even agreed to be the convener of the program. The Steering Committee consists Nalin Kohli as a prime member.

We are extending the PBI service in general to MPs, while the PCI service is extended on demand. Interested MPs simply need to register with us through email. All communication is paperless.

Land acquisition : The Act, The Ordinance & The Bill

While there was huge hue and cry on the Land acquisition legislation when the government announced to simplify the process by making certain amendments in the Act and extending the benefits under the Act to all other central laws, at PPRC we decided to understand why there is need to expedite land acquisition process and analyze the proposed amendments.

We prepared an monograph based on our study, exploring several recent reports about retarded infrastructural development due to delayed land acquisition process. Thereafter, exploring issues in the Act of 2013 that have complicated the process and creates unnecessary delay in the process. However, PPRC also evaluated the ordinance 2014 and discovered certain shortcomings in it. Thereafter, we submitted few suggestions to the expert panel set up by BJP to improve the amendments to the Act mentioned in the ordinance. Some of them were considered and now are the part of the Amendment Bill 2015.

We have compiled a brief highlights of changes brought in the Act of 2013 through the ordinance of 2014 and then the Bill of 2015, along with rationale and implications of each amendment, in a comprehensive manner for general understanding.

http://tinyurl.com/ozdog6s

INSIGHT: RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

BJP currently has 329 Members of Parliament (MPs) in both the houses. Each MP represents close to 2 million citizens in daily proceedings in Parliament. Unlike ministers, who have the bureaucracy to assist them, the MPs lack access to high quality information and analysis, and are hence particularly disadvantaged at making impactful interventions in the Parliament. They lack the institutional and official support required for them. This research and data-analysis asymmetry leads to gaps in the information available to MPs.

PPRC's Insight program aims to correct this asymmetry by providing high quality research support to MPs armed with the necessary data and analysis, enabling them to engage more meaningfully and be more impactful in the processes of the Parliament. In this regards, the Insight program offers following services : "Insight program aims to provide quality research support to MPs armed with the necessary data and analytics"

Parliamentary Business Insight (**PBI**): Research support provided in general for major items of legislative business of the House.

Parliamentary Committee Insight (PCI): Research support for MPs in their Committee related work, on demand.

The Insight program provides independent, evidence-based and non-partisan research support to the Parliamentarians.



Politics of Performance

Electoral Politics has changed to Politics of performance. Development, accountability, efficiency and delivery have become keywords in political discussions.

India is a multi-party democracy and every party is guided by its ideology. Every party aims to maximize the welfare of the people but have different approaches in achieving them. It becomes necessary then to distinguish political parties on the basis of scientific and logical analysis with regards to quality of their governance and particularly their credibility on the count of good governance. India has experienced 4major types of governance models, that of Congress, BJP, Left Front and Regional Parties.

At PPRC, we attempted to compare the performances of these four governance models on the basis of various governance indicators and the resultant socioeconomic outcomes.

In this study, the quality of governance at the state and national level under the rule of different parties is compared and analyzed. Data were collected from a variety of sources, for the years from 1991-2013, and for all states and Delhi (or as available) and on the national level.. The data for each year were then analyzed against the party that was in power in the corresponding State and in the Centre for that year. With this methodology the difference in quality of governance between BJP-rule, Congress rule, Regional Party (RP) rule and Left Front rule in the states and centre was compared and analyzed.

We measured governance at the National level between the two parties that have held office and between the four types of parties' rule that have held office at the State level. We then measured the social and economic outcomes of this governance at the State level.

From the analysis of the data on governance, social and economic indicators, across states and at the national level it is clear that BJP's model of governance provides for effective, efficient, accountable, sustained growth and development. Compared to Congress, left front or Regional parties' model of governance the BJP model has proved to be more responsive, equitable and inclusive. The challenge for BJP here is to sustain with this model over time.

The report achieved appreciation from various stakeholders of the democracy.

http://tinyurl.com/ogdancv

MEDIA REVIEWS:

1. ECONOMIC TIMES

(Dated 29th December 2014):

"Released on the evening before Good Governance Day by PM Narendra Modi at the BJP's Parliamentary Board meet, the report titled 'Politics of Performance– A comparative study of delivery of Good Governance by different political parties in India.."

2. THE SUNDAY STANDARD

(Dated 4th January 2015) :

"Ruling party's own thinktank PPRC, has come out with a study saying BJP ruled states have performed much better on various parameters of governance than those ruled either by the Congress, Left front or Regional party ruled states."

Politics of Performance

A Comparative Study of Delivery of Good Governance by different Political Parties in India

December 2014



Draft Report on Delhi Tangible Transformation Project (DTTP)

THE DTTP PROJECT

Best practices from across the nation are quoted wrt these identified civic services. For eg., Automated Parking system of Bangalore, SWM model in Rajkot, IT enabled governance in Kalyan, etc. The study mentions concrete City-centric roadmap also with a Performance Improvement Plan.

The findings of the survey was that services related to Parking and Solid Waste Management are most grieving areas in Delhi, followed by IT enabled services. Parking is unanimously accepted to be a problem of highest degree, then for IT enabled services the system and citizens both were seen to be unaware.

DELHI TANGIBLE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

When the world looks upon India, Delhi its capital city happens to be the gateway. Delhi is the heart of India. This expression fits well for the capital city that is so ancient and rich in culture, at the same being modern too. Indians all across the country look upon Delhi to meet their aspirations, while with this Delhi also aspires to be the best city. In this journey there are lot of hurdles and issues that need to be resolved.

At PPRC, we attempted to understand these wrt civic services in the city. Solid Waste Management, Vehicle parking, Management of public parks and play grounds, improving state of municipal markets, management of street lights, improvement of crematoria and greater IT interventions for enhancing effectiveness of various civic services were the identified services for the study, covering 3-MCDs, viz. South, East and North.

A field survey was commissioned to take qualitative and quantitative feedback about efficacy and efficiency of civic services from various segments like Municipal corporations, citizens and other private stakeholders like the contractors, etc. Thereafter, explore best practices from the country wrt the aspects of each civic services and come up with possible roadmap for Delhi to resolve the issues pertaining to these civic services.

It was learnt that wrt SWM, garbage collection at source is the most challenging task for Delhi, though it is highly viable and economic for the city. For Parking it is learnt that due to faulty implementation of policies on ground there is rise of parking mafia in the capital. There is need of developing new mega-technology in this respect. For ensuring e-governance, more use of technology and awareness is required. Public sensitization is essential. Encroachment of public parks is rampant and public cooperation is needed to maintain them. Street lights services need more monitoring to control corruption. http://tinyurl.com/o2cpldw

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ABOUT PPRC

Public Policy Research Centre is a research organization established under Bharatiya Lok Kalyan Nyas in 2011, when Shri Nitin Gadkari was party-president. Thereafter, Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri Amit Shah also has extended support. PPRC produces research-based analysis of contemporary policy issues of significance. The organization aims to constructively impact policy formulation and analysis, with an emphasis on good governance practices, efficient implementation mechanisms and evidencepolicymaking within Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) in the larger interest of the nation.

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