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MAGAZINE NOTES

Innovation in Governance — India's Governance 2.0

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POLITY

SCIENCE & TECH

GS2

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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Innovation in Governance — India's Governance 2.0

■ Yojana Chapter 4 · 2 min read ·

21st-century governance is shaped by technological disruption, socio-economic complexity, climate risks, and rising citizen expectations. India's governance innovation spans cooperative federalism, digital public infrastructure, and citizen participation platforms.

From Centralisation to Cooperative Federalism

NITI Aayog (created 2015): Shift from centralised Planning Commission to cooperative and competitive federalism model.

PROGRAMME	DETAILS
Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)	112 underdeveloped districts; 49 KPIs across health, nutrition, education, agriculture, infrastructure; real-time dashboards; rankings-based incentives
Aspirational Blocks Programme (2023)	500 blocks across 329 districts ; last-mile governance focus
Smart Cities Mission (2015-2025)	ICCCs as real-time “nervous systems” integrating traffic, safety, water, waste, emergency services

Structural Economic Reforms

- **Four Labour Codes (effective 21 November 2025):** Consolidated 29 laws; expanded social security; simplified compliance
- **GST, Startup India, PLI 2.0:** Improved ease of doing business
- **DPIIT-recognised startups:** From ~500 (2016) to ~1.6 lakh (January 2025)

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) — Global Model

PLATFORM	SCALE
Aadhaar	~ 140 crore IDs
UPI	20+ billion monthly transactions
DigiLocker	54 crore users
DIKSHA-SWAYAM	National educational content platform
Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission	79.9 crore ABHA IDs

G20 recognition: G20 declarations reference India’s DPI framework; shaping global digital governance norms.

Citizen Participation and Feedback Loops

PLATFORM	FUNCTION
MyGov (2014)	Citizen co-creation of policy; consultations and feedback
UMANG	2,300+ government services on single app
CPGRAMS	Grievance redressal timeline reduced to 21 days (2024)
NeSDA	National e-Services Delivery Assessment — performance benchmarking

Capacity Building

- **PM’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration:** Promotes experimentation and outcome-oriented solutions
- **Mission Karmayogi:** Shifts civil services from **rule-based to role-based competencies**; technology, creativity, citizen-centric focus

Governance 2.0 Roadmap

- **AI-enabled performance benchmarking** — 30% reduction in disease forecasting error demonstrated
- Default digital services with time-bound delivery and auto-escalation
- Design thinking with behavioural nudges
- Strengthened collaborative federalism
- Risk-informed district planning
- Institutionalised citizen feedback loops

UPSC Angle

- **GS2:** E-governance, cooperative federalism, digital public infrastructure, citizen participation, Mission Karmayogi
- **Interview:** “India’s DPI stack (Aadhaar-UPI-DigiLocker) is being adopted globally. What governance lessons can other developing countries draw from India’s experience?”

Sources: [NextIAS Yojana January 2026](#) , [EduRev Yojana January 2026 Part 2](#)



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