

Indian Journal of Public Administration (IJPA) invites manuscripts for the theme based special issue 2026.

Edition: July-Sept 2026 (72.3)

Deadline: January 10, 2026

THEME: Process reforms for promoting i. Ease of Living and / or ii. Ease of Doing Business for Entrepreneurs

Aspirational India must grow in a manner that citizens can live a decent existence and can access the opportunities for livelihood in seamless manner, especially the entrepreneurs. The Government of India has taken many initiatives which are supplemented by the various state governments as well, to deliver the services that citizens and entrepreneurs need.

However, the level of satisfaction among both is still low as the service delivery in various sectors is yet to match the minimum standards of performance. India has undertaken a slew of structural reforms. However, it now needs to supplement them with process reforms, often called nut and bolt fixes. Sanjeev Sanyal terms them simplification and streamlining the operational processes, leading to enhancement in the efficiency of a particular activity. The idea is to make processes work in a manner that build trust among the stakeholders while implementing the rules in a friendly manner.

The issue has been recognized at the highest level, and measures have been taken besides nudging the governments at all levels by introducing competition among cities and states through indices like Ease of Living (EoL) Index and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index.

EoL index has 49 indicators under 13 categories like education, health, housing etc. Some government programme is being implemented for each of these categories. The Index is an assessment tool that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development. It provides a comprehensive understanding of participating cities across India based on quality of life, economic-ability of a city, and its sustainability and resilience.

Similarly, EoDB Index, developed by the World Bank, though now discontinued, focuses on three key areas like registering property, construction permits, getting credit, getting electricity, etc. to find out as to how easy it is to start and run a business. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India is implementing the Business Reform Action Plan to transform the business ecosystem.

Process reforms may entail administrative streamlining of existing processes; changes in regulations under the existing law; amendments to the legislation; adding capacity at some level of the government; removing of a state mandated activity; and merging, closing or restructuring government entities. The idea is that a citizen /entrepreneur may focus more on the productive aspect of his existence rather than struggling with ways to deal with the government entities for their works. The state has to play a facilitator role. Learnings gathered from these indices can help the government identify gaps, tap into potential opportunities, and increase efficiency in state / local governance to improve lives of citizens and fulfil broader development outcomes.

The authors may attempt papers on any of the related aspects. Theoretical constructs on government communication, bureaucratic behaviour or pattern of interaction among the stakeholders to overcome the obstructions / bottlenecks may be useful. The authors may also attempt policy analysis or programme evaluation relating to EoL or EoDB. They may also explore international experiences. Problem solving approaches in the papers may be useful for policymakers and research scholars. Empirical studies would be preferred.

FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

1. The submission deadline is January 10, 2025; you are requested to most kindly note.
2. Manuscripts received after the deadline will not be accepted.
3. Your research article should not exceed in length beyond 6000 words (*inclusive all*).
4. Notes/Documents are expected to be less than 2500 words.
5. Kindly ensure that your article is in line with the IJPA submission-guidelines. Articles not in line with the submission guidelines will not be accepted nor processed for evaluation.
6. Please refer to the submission-guidelines on pages 4-7 or visit the link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/IPA>
7. Adherence to APA format for reference is a must.
8. You may kindly submit your paper on submittoiipa@gmail.com with a subject line – **Manuscript for IJPA Special Issue 2026**

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The *Indian Journal of Public Administration* adheres to a rigorous double-blind reviewing policy in which the identity of both the reviewer and author are always concealed from both parties. All manuscripts are reviewed initially by the editor(s) and only those papers that meet the editorial standards of the journal, and fit within the aims and scope of the journal, will be sent for outside review. Only in case of a strong difference of opinion about the quality of submission between the referee and the editor, the item would be referred for a second review to the reviewer. The reviewer will first be sounded among the editorial board members and only in case of necessity will a reference be made to an expert outside this circle.

Full-fledged papers may be of 3,000 to 6,000 words. Word count exceeding 6000 limit will not be further processed. Brief write-ups of 1,000 to 2,500 words (research reports, commentaries, theoretical notes, and data-based profiles) may also be sent; these will be considered for inclusion in sections titled research papers, research notes, book reviews, and occasionally documents and interviews/ dialogues.

Manuscripts should be submitted in soft copy in MS Word as an attachment to submittoipa@gmail.com. Manuscripts will be considered for publication only if written in accordance with the **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association** (6th edition, 2009).

The authors will be provided with a copyright form once the contribution is accepted for publication. The submission will be considered as final only after the filled-in and signed copyright form is received.

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The manuscript should be structured as follows:

- Cover page, showing the title of the paper, name of the author, author's affiliation, and institutional address with pin code, email id, and a 100–150-word abstract. Authors' names and references should not be used in the text to keep authors' anonymity (e.g., 'as the author has written elsewhere' should be avoided). . In case there are two or more authors, then the corresponding author's name and address details must be specified on the first page itself.
- The contributors should also provide 4–5 keywords for online searchability.
- The text should start on a new page, and must not contain the names of authors.
- Paginate. Add proper page numbers at the bottom of every page.
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- Tables and figures should be provided in an editable format and should be referred to in the text by number separately (e.g., Table 1) not by placement (e.g., see Table below). They should each be submitted on a separate page following the article, numbered and arranged as per their references in the text. They will be inserted in the final text as indicated by the author. Source citations with tables and figures are required irrespective of whether or not they require permissions.
- Figures, including maps, graphs, and drawings, should not be larger than the page size. They should be numbered and arranged as per their references in the text. All photographs and scanned images should have a resolution of a minimum of 300 dpi and 1500 pixels and their format should be TIFF or JPEG. Reprint permissions should be obtained for copyright protected photographs/images. Even for photographs/images available in the public domain, it should be ascertained whether or not their reproduction requires permission for purposes of publishing (The Publisher is a profit-making endeavour). All photographs/scanned images should be provided separately in a folder along with the main article.
- Mathematical formulae, methodological details, etc. should be given separately as an appendix unless their mention in the main body of the text becomes essential.

2. Language

- The language and spellings used should be British (U.K.), with 's' variant, e.g., globalisation instead of globalization, labour instead of labor. For non-English and uncommon words and phrases, use italics only for the first time. Meaning of non-English words should be given in parenthesis just after the word when it is used for the first time.
- Articles should use non-sexist and non-racist language.
- Spell out numbers from one to ninety-nine, 100 and above to remain in figures. However, for exact measurement (e.g., *China's GDP growth rate of 9.8 percent*) use numbers. Very large round numbers, especially sums of money, maybe expressed by a mixture of numerals and spelled-out numbers (*India's population 1.2 billion*).
- Single quotes should be used throughout. Double quote marks are to be used within single quotes. Spellings of words in quotations should not be changed. Quotations of 45 words or more should be separated from the text.
- Notes should be numbered serially and presented at the end of the article. Notes must contain more than a mere reference.
- *Ibid.* should be used.
- Use 'percent' instead of % in the text. In tables, graphs, etc., % can be used. Use the '20th century', '1990s'.
- Number ranges should not be truncated.
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- The journal does not encourage frequent use of capital letters. They should be used selectively and consistently. Proper names such as names of ethnic, religious, and national groups are capitalised (*the Muslims, the Gurkhas, the Germans*). The terms *dalits* and *adivasis*, as exceptions, must be set in lowercase. All caste, tribe, and community names (*the Santhals, the Jatavs*) are to be capitalised but generic terms (*the kayasths*) should be set in lower case. Civil, military, religious, and professional titles (*the President*), institutions (*the Parliament, the United Nations*), and names of organisations (*the Labour Party and the Students Federation of India*) are to be capitalised. The names of political tendencies (*the marxists, the socialists*) should remain in lowercase.
- Abbreviations are spelled out at first occurrence. Very common ones (*US, GDP, BBC*) need not be spelled out. Other commonly used abbreviations (*am, pm, cm, kg, ha*) can be used in lower case, without spaces.

3. Citations and References

Guidelines specified in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition, 2009) must be followed.

- **References:** A consolidated listing of all books, articles, essays, theses, and documents referred to (including any referred to in the tables, graphs, and maps) should be provided at the end of the article.
- **Arrangement of references:** Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last name of the first author of each work. In each reference, authors' names are inverted (last name first) for all authors (first, second or subsequent ones); give the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work unless the work has more than six authors. If the work has more than six authors, list the first six authors and then use et al. after the sixth author's name.
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- **Sentence case:** In references, sentence case (only the first word and any proper noun are capitalized – e.g., 'The software industry in India') is to be followed for the titles of papers, books, articles, etc.
- **Title case:** In references, Journal titles are put in title case (the first letter of all words except articles and conjunctions are capitalized – e.g., Journal of Business Ethics).
- **Italicize:** Book and Journal titles are to be italicized.
- Citations and References should adhere to the guidelines below (based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition). Some examples are given below:

In-text citations:

- One work by one author: (Kessler, 2003, p. 50) or 'Kessler (2003) found that among the epidemiological samples..'
- One work by two authors: (Joreskog & Sorborn, 2007, pp. 50–66) or Joreskog and Sorborn (2007) found that..
- One work by three or more authors: (Basu, Banerji & Chatterjee, 2007) [first instance]; Basu et al. (2007) [Second instance onwards].
- Groups or organizations or universities: (University of Pittsburgh, 2007) or University of Pittsburgh (2007).
- Authors with the same surname: Include the initials in all the in-text citations even if the year of publication differs, e.g., (I. Light, 2006; M.A. Light, 2008).
- Works with no identified author or anonymous author: Cite the first few words of the reference entry (title) and then the year, e.g., ('Study finds', 2007); (Anonymous, 1998).
If abbreviations are provided, then the style to be followed is: (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2003) in the first citation and (NIMH, 2003) in subsequent citations.
- Two or more works by the same author: (Gogel, 1990, 2006, in press)
- Two or more works with different authors: (Gogel, 1996; Miller, 1999)
- Secondary sources: Allport's diary (as cited in Nicholson, 2003).
- Films: (Name of the Director, Year of release)

References:

- **Books:**
Patnaik, U. (2007). *The republic of hunger*. New Delhi: Three Essays Collective.

- **Edited Books:**
Amanor, K. S., & Moyo, S. (Eds.). (2008). *Land and sustainable development in Africa*. London and New York, NY: Zed Books.
- **Translated books:**
Amin, S. (1976). *Unequal development* (trans. B. Pearce). New York, NY: Monthly Review Press.
- **Book chapters:**
Chachra, S. (2011). The national question in India. In S. Moyo and P. Yeros (Eds.), *Reclaiming the nation* (pp. 67–78). London: Pluto Press.
- **Journal articles:**
Foster, J. B. (2010). The financialization of accumulation. *Monthly Review*, 62(5), 1–17.
- **Newsletter article, no author:**
Six sites meet for a comprehensive anti-gang initiative conference. (2006, November/December). *OOJDP News @ a Glance*. Retrieved from <http://www.ncrjs.gov/html>
[Please do not place a period at the end of an online reference.]
- **Newspaper article:**
Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.
[In case of online newspapers, page number may be replaced with the URL of the article being referred to.]
- **In-press article:**
Briscoe, R. (in press). Egocentric spatial representation in action and perception. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Retrieved from <http://cogprints.org/5780/1/ECSRAP.F07.pdf>
- **Non-English reference book, title translated into English:**
Real Academia Espanola. (2001). *Diccionario de la lengua espanola* [Dictionary of the Spanish Language] (22nd ed.). Madrid, Spain: Author.
- **Special issue or section in a journal:**
Haney, C., & Wiener, R. L. (Eds.). (2004). Capital punishment in the United States [Special Issue]. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 10(4), 1–17.