

Whither Public Administration optional subject in APSC ??

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Congratulations to the four students from Assam who cracked the UPSC examination this year. The Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) should take the smooth and fair conduction of the Union Public Service Commission examination as an example to improve the way it works. There should be newer and modern subjects in APSC.

In 1949-1950, Nagpur University became the first one in India to have a separate full-fledged department of public administration and local self-government. With this, public administration was invested in India, for the first time, with full academic legitimacy. This department was headed by the late Dr. M.P. Sharma who had the distinction of being the first professor of public administration in India. Earlier professors of political science used to check the answer-scripts of public administration.

In 1987, public administration was introduced as a fully-independent subject in the Civil Services examination conducted by the UPSC. This gave a powerful impetus to the subject. Today, nearly 50 universities, hundreds of colleges and a number of training institutes are engaged in the teaching and research in public administration in India.

The Assam Public Service Commission is far behind when it comes to the subject of public administration. Of the 28 optional subjects, till today there is no provision for the subject of Public Administration !! This is very strange especially because, the APSC examinations are held to select persons for administrative positions in the state. The Assam Public Service Commission should gear up to introduce this new optional subject as soon as possible.

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