Newsletter | ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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Note from the Chief Editor

Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)
Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka
Former Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2
Chairperson, Indian Institute of Public Administration
Karnataka Regional Branch

I am happy to place before our readers the **February 2025** issue of our **Newsletter**. This is our **55th issue,** since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is by **Dr. M.A. Saleem**, IPS, Director-General of Police, CID, Karnataka, on "*Handling Cybercrime through Public-Private partnership Model".* It is an abridged version of his article which appeared in *The Hindu* recently. This article is timely given the fact that Karnataka has witnessed a significant surge in cybercrime cases, with a staggering 32,286 cases reported in the last three years alone. It is reported that the State has lost a whopping Rs 221.17 crore to cybercrime during this period, with only 21% (Rs 47.04 crore) of the money recovered. In 2024, Karnataka reported a four-to-five-fold increase in financial losses due to cybercrimes, with a total loss of Rs 2,900 crore. Despite this alarming trend, the conversion rate of cybercrime complaints to FIRs has been declining, from 47% in 2021 to 14% in 2024.

In our feature on *Audit Matters*, **Mr. T. Sethumadhavan**, IA&AS (Retd.) writes on the *Functioning of Primary Educational Institutions in Karnataka*, based on a recently submitted report of the CAGI.

In our Feature on *Communication Pulse*, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** provides useful tips on *Communicating with Members of a Gram Panchayat*.

In our column on *Reports of Branch Activities,* we report on the following events:

1. Felicitation to **Mr. S. Ramanathan**, IAS (Retd.) on his 97th birthday;

2. A Special Lecture by **Dr. Rahul Sagar**;

3. A collaborative **National Conference**; and

4. Publication of an edited volume by our Editor, **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**.

In our column on *Branch Members' Writings in the Media*, we provide the link to articles penned by **Dr. Gurucharan Gollerkeri** and **Dr. V. Anil Kumar** which appeared in *Deccan Herald* recently.

We end this issue with our column on *Food for Thought*, which carries some reflections on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue of the Virtual Newsletter are their personal views and *do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch*. Do write in, with your responses, views and ideas for improvement of the Newsletter.

Lead Article

Handling Cybercrimes through Public-Private Partnership Model

(Abridged version of article that appeared in The Hindu dt. 29 January 2025)

Dr. M. A. Saleem,
IPS
Director General of Police
Criminal Investigation Department
Karnataka State

In recent years, cybercrimes have skyrocketed, becoming one of the most pressing challenges for governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide. According to a report by **Cybersecurity Ventures**, cybercrime is projected to cost the global economy a staggering **$10.5 trillion annually** by the end of 2025, up from $3 trillion in 2015. This exponential rise is fuelled by the increasing sophistication of cyberattacks, ranging from ransomware and data breaches to phishing and identity theft.

The rise of cybercrime has affected law enforcement agencies globally and India is no exception. Police forces are facing significant challenges as they grapple with the evolving nature of cyber threats and the increasing complexity of investigating and preventing cybercrimes. The sheer volume of cybercrimes in India, as recorded in the recent NCRB's **Crime in India**, is overwhelming. Fraud, hacking, identity theft, online harassment, digital arrest, investment app frauds and child exploitation are just a few of the types of cybercrimes that law enforcement agencies must contend with. Each crime presents its unique challenges and requires specialized knowledge and tools. The complex nature of cybercrimes adds layers of intricacy to investigations, often involving multiple jurisdictions, encryption, anonymization, and sophisticated attack vectors.

Government and Police cannot alone contain the growing menace of cybercrime, and the IT industry also cannot handle it alone. Hence the solution is to ensure the collaboration of Government with the private sector and academia to conform with the rapidly changing technological world. A collaborative strategy like the

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is essential to address the growing complexities of cybercrime. The National Cyber Security Policy of India also affirms in developing effective PPP models.

The PPP model allows for the pooling of resources, expertise, and technologies, enabling faster detection, response, and prevention of cyberattacks. By working together, stakeholders can share real-time threat intelligence, enhance cybersecurity infrastructure, and foster a unified approach to creating a resilient digital environment.

Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR)

-       ***A Successful PPP Model***

To put in place an institutionalized structure for an effective capacity building of cybercrime investigations, the **CID Karnataka**, in collaboration with **Infosys Foundation** and **Data Security Council of India** (DSCI), has set up the **CCITR** at the **Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters, Bengaluru** in 2019. CCITR is a one of its kind Public-Private Partnership aimed at improving the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime cases. As part of this collaboration, DSCI plays the role of knowledge partner and Infosys Foundation as the funding partner.

Objectives of CCITR

1. To support the Police, Prosecution, and Judiciary in handling technology investigations.
2. To develop capabilities and cooperate efficiently within the public and private sectors.
3. To develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in Cyber Crime Investigations.
4. To conduct research in Digital Forensics and Cybercrime investigation.
5. To foster entrepreneurship for the development of essential Cyber Forensics products and solutions.
6. To collaborate with national and international organizations working in the Digital Forensics domain.

Key Benefits to Public & Government

- **Enhancing Public Online Safety**: Through regular capacity-building programs on cybercrime investigation techniques and digital forensics at CCITR, police are equipping themselves on the latest modus operandi adopted by cyber criminals. CCITR has initiated '**Cybercrime Awareness'** campaign through social media channels (Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram) with the motive of educating the public.

- **Increased confidence in the Judicial system**: When the justice system operates effectively, it can increase public trust and confidence in the system, which can lead to greater cooperation between law enforcement and communities. The CCITR contribute through regular capacity-building programs conducted for judicial officers & prosecutors on Cyberlaw & Cybercrimes. This sensitizes the judiciary in appreciation of digital evidence, speeding up the trial, and deciding the cases.

- **Development of career-building opportunities for students in the field of digital forensics**: Through the **Cyber Law and Policy Hackathon** and **internship program**, the CCITR is educating students from engineering and law backgrounds on the various challenges faced by Law Enforcement. They are encouraged to do research to provide meaningful solutions.

- **Knowledge sharing among Law Enforcement communities on Cybercrime, Cyber Law & Digital Forensics**: Publications and research papers released by CCITR, and the creation of a Telegram group consisting of trained Law Enforcement officers are acting as a platform to address the queries raised during the investigation and digital forensic analysis. This is contributing towards speeding up of investigation and increasing the possibility of providing justice to the victim at a faster pace.

CCITR – Key Achievements & Accomplishments

The Centre has also developed cybercrime investigation-related resource materials like **Cybercrime Investigation Manual, Handbook on Digital Evidence**, and research papers on the Dark web and anti-forensics, Drone forensics and RAID forensics. As of December 2024, CCITR has trained over 46,400 personnel from police, prosecution, judiciary and others in long and short courses. CCITR adopted virtual training and other activities during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021. The **Workshops on "Cyberlaw & Cybercrimes**" for 1067 Judicial Officers of the rank of District & Sessions Judge, Senior Civil Judge, and Civil Judge were carried out with the support of Karnataka Judicial Academy Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Conclusion

Establishment of CCITR as an institutionalised mechanism for effectively building the capacity and infrastructure for handling Cybercrime investigations under PPP model is a landmark initiative. It helps the stakeholders of criminal justice system like Police, Prosecution and Judiciary in digital investigation, in appreciation of digital evidence, in developing new strategies for collaboration and in using technological advancements to provide justice to the victims of cybercrimes. Such PPP initiatives will go a long way in preventing / containing cybercrime and building safer societies.

Audit Matters
Functioning of Primary Educational Institutions in Karnataka

Performance Audit (PA) of the Comptroller & Auditor-General of India (CAG)

Shri Thayyil Sethumadhavan
IA&AS (Retd.)
Formerly Principal Accountant General
Madhya Pradesh

The CAG's Performance Audit Report on the Functioning of the Primary Educational Institutions in Karnataka covers the period from 2017 to 2022 and evaluates the outcome of the educational policy initiatives, status of infrastructural facilities, progress in implementing the National Educational Policy, 2020 and status of implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4). CAG's review covered 8 selected District Educational Offices (DEO), 16 Block Educational Offices (BEO), and 128 schools under the Department of Education & Literacy (DOEL)

Quality of Interventions and Outcome

- In the Performance Grading Index (PGI) of the Ministry of Education, **Karnataka's rank improved from 780 in 2017 to 862 in 2022, reflecting overall improvement**.
- According to the PGI, the State did well in learning outcomes but was wanting in infrastructure facilities.
- The State slipped to 7th Rank in the SDG4 Index in 2022 (score: 64) from the 4th position in 2018 (score of 76).
- The Annual State of Education Report (ASER: March 2021) indicated that the learning levels in 2021 had dropped (reading and numeracy levels) in primary classes as compared to 2018.
- Learning assessments carried out during the PA in collaboration with Karnataka Stat Quality Assessment and Analysis Cell (KSQAAC) indicated insufficient level of achievements with 70% of students in 128 test-checked schools scoring less than 50% in achievement.

Planning

- Perspective Plan was not prepared for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22.

- Action Plans for development of socially disadvantaged communities were not available.
- Absence of Procurement Plans impacted timely supply of Uniforms, Textbooks, ICT facilities etc.

Allocation of Funds and Utilization

- 'Education 2030 Framework for Action' advocated allocation of 4% - 6% of GSDP and 15% -20% of total public expenditure for Education. State spent about 12% of public expenditure for Education (less than 2% of GSDP).
- Government of India released Rs. 2,783 crores for *Samagra Siksha Abhyan* (SSK) during the period 2017-18 to 2021-22; but SSK program could not utilise the entire amount.

Implementation of NEP,2020 (NEP)

- Restructuring of the school education and the curricula envisaged in NEP were yet to be implemented.
- A survey by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Development (RDPRD) in 2021 estimated that 5.3 lakh children between 4 to 6 years of age were not enrolled in any Pre-Primary Centre.

Access and Equity Interventions

- Access to schools without gender discrimination (for primary education) has been ensured; but the quality of infrastructure facilities, across the State, including for children with special needs, was sub-optimal.
- Net -enrolment rate increased from 89.17% in 2017 to 94.89% in 2022.
- Dropout rate decreased from 1.95% in 2017 to 0.17% in 2022.

Out of School Children (OOSC)

- Out of 58,657 OOSC identified during 2017 to 2022, 44,439 were mainstreamed.
- DOEL formed a 'Policy & Action Plan for Migrant Children' in 2019 which awaits implementation.

Transport Allowance for entitled Children

- Inadequate data on habitations made the identification of children eligible for Transportation Allowances challenging.

Infrastructure of Schools

- An amount of Rs. 759 crores was sanctioned for 8 selected districts for improvements of school infrastructure (addition of classrooms) during the period 2017 - 2022.; but the work of 316 classrooms started in 2018 to 2020 remained incomplete. The quality of construction was below standard.
- A joint inspection of 128 classrooms disclosed that many of them were running in unsuitable buildings. Lack of proper maintenance was common.

Delays in Providing Textbooks, Uniforms etc.

- Persistent delays in supply of textbooks and uniforms were noticed.
- Due to delays in releasing funds, only Rs.173 crores out of Rs.438 crores released during 2017 to 2022 could be spent.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio and Teachers' Vacancies

- The Pupil-Teachers Ratio (PTR) in Government schools was within the prescribed norms.
- However, Aided and Private schools did not follow the norms.
- Government schools in rural areas had higher PTR compared to those in urban areas.
- Teacher vacancies ranged from 16,000 in 2017 to 48,182 in 2022 (26%) against the sanctioned strength of 1,88,415.
- Against 16,446 posts of Head Teachers, 4,854 (30%) were vacant.
- Language teachers were mostly available on the rolls; but there were vacancies of up to 65% in Maths and Science streams. Overall vacancy of subject teachers came to 55%.

Defective Procedure of Recruitment of Primary Teachers

- During 2017 to 2023, vacancies of 35,565 Graduate Teachers' posts were notified; but only 5,383 posts were filled in.
- Appointments were made against lists of successful candidates uploaded by the Centralised Administration Cell (CAC) without individual authentication though the uploaded lists *were vulnerable to unauthorised modifications*.
- There was no tracking system in position to match the finally appointed candidates against the selection list issued by the CAC.

Regulatory Issues

- Several Private Schools were under provisional recognition, renewed annually without verification of conditionalities.
- Virtual schools existing in the State remained outside regulatory mechanism, raising concerns about their standards, quality and accountability.
- An excess of Rs. 346 crores was collected by private schools during 2020-21 in disregard of judicial directions restricting fees to 85% during the year.

Inspection of Schools

- In the 6 districts verified, only 26% of the schools were inspected against the prescribed standards.
- Social audit of schools was yet to commence.

(Source: Functioning of Primary Educational Institutions in Karnataka; Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India: No.06 of the Year 2024; Presented to the Legislature on 17th December, 2024).

Communication Pulse

Communicating with Members of a Gram Panchayat

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander
Professor of Practice
Department of Public Policy
Manipal Academy of Higher Education
(MAHE)-Bangalore & Freelance Consultant

Introduction

In any given scenario effective communication is an important factor that allows people, groups to understand each other, complete tasks, reach targets and achieve set goals. This becomes even more crucial when communication with members from Gram Panchayat. This is important because it helps foster participation, collaborations, understanding common goals respecting thoughts and ideas in the overall betterment of government initiatives. What one needs to keep in mind is that the chosen communication method needs to be fashioned based on the background, cultural nuances, local context, literacy levels to ensure effectiveness.

Context

So how can one address this and ensure that the communication ideated/required for Gram Panchayat members works well for all stakeholders? Here are a few ideas:

Oral Communication

Why? Helps in direct interaction

How?
- Use vernacular languages while communicating-speeches, providing explanations and while interacting
- Conducting meetings and in brainstorming and Q & A sessions

Written Communication

Why? Important for record keeping, documentation and formalising communication

How?
- Display updates, progress in Panchayat offices and for announcements
- Share Minutes of Meetings, project plans, strategies
- Sharing policies and programmes through brochures and pamphlets

Participatory Communication

Why? Increases interactions and mutual understanding of aspects

How?
- Organise Gram Sabhas to discuss challenges and successes
- Expedite group discussions to encourage all members to speak/share opinions
- Use community mapping for inclusive engagement

Visual Communication

Why? Heps in overcoming language barriers and limited literacy

How?
- Use charts, posters to explain concepts
- Share videos in local languages to better understand policies and programmes
- Present infographics on progress reports or schemes.

Folk and Traditional Communication

Why? Engages members effectively since they are familiar forms culturally

How?
- Use local festivals as spaces to conduct outreach activities
- Organise street plays, folk songs, puppet shows to share information on policies and programmes

Open Communication

Why? Demonstrate ideas that are relatable, practically

How?
- Include role-plays as stimulants during training programmes on governance
- Organise field visits to model villages or successful projects
- Share through demonstrations new technologies, farming methods, or sanitation practices.

Digital Communication

Why? Helps in technology-based communication

How?
- Use messaging Apps, for example WhatsApp groups to share updates, schedule meeting
- Organise virtual meetings through video conferencing platforms for when required
- Use video clips or voice messages in the local language for ease of understanding.

Feedback Mechanisms

Why? Ensures two-way communication and builds trust.

How?
- Request community feedback sessions during Gram Sabha meeting
- Conduct survey using appropriate methodology
- Install suggestion boxes in the Panchayat office
- Encourage members to voice their opinions through structured forms or digital platforms.

Build Trust

Why? Beneficial for mutual consensus and build rapport

How?
- Appreciate and acknowledge achievements of Panchayat members
- Interact informally with members by regular visits to build relationships
- Be patient, empathetic and respect decisions and discussions on sensitive issues.

Tips

- Avoid jargons, ensure simple and clear messages
- Ensure inclusivity to include all members, marginilised groups, women, senior citizens
- Customise communication keeping in mind cultural background, relativity, tradition and language
- Appreciate feedback and take immediate decisions to build trust

Conclusion

Studies reveal that to ensure a successful communication with Gram Panchayat members, one must keep in mind cultural sensitivity, inclusiveness and a participatory approach, apart from respecting ideas and options shared. Use a combination of oral, written, graphic and demonstrative methods to communicate effectively and ensure that there is a strong two-way communication established to achieve goals.

Reports of Branch Activities

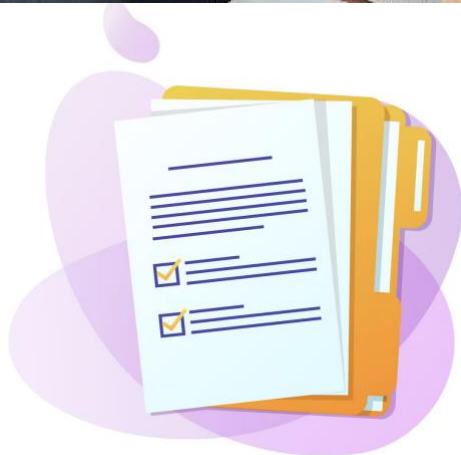## 1. Felicitation of Shri S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.) on his 97th Birthday

Shri S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), **Chairman-Emeritus** of the **Karnataka Regional Branch of IIPA** was felicitated at the EGM of the Branch on 16th January 2025, on his 97th birthday. To his left is **Shri S.V. Ranganath**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka. To his right is **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Branch.

2. Report of Special Lecture by Dr. Rahul Sagar

The **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the IIPA organized a **Special Lecture** by **Dr. Rahul Sagar,** Global Network Professor of Political Science at New York University, Abu Dhabi on the theme, "*What can Administrators Learn from our Maharajas? Lessons from Raja Sir Tanjore Madhava Rao".* The event was held at the IAS Officers' Association Building on 11th January 2025.

Prof. Rahul Sagar's lecture was based on his recent book, *The Progressive Maharaja: Hints on the Art and Science of Government* (Harper Collins India, 2022). It consists of lectures that **Sir T. Madhava Rao** delivered in 1881 to **Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III**, the young Maharaja of Baroda. Sir Madhava Rao had served as *Dewan* in the Princely Indian States of Travancore, Indore and Baroda which came to be seen as 'model states'. Prof. Sagar summarised Sir Madhava Rao's fundamental principles of Good Governance for rulers: Recruitment of experts and specialists; minimal State intervention in the economy; respect for the dignity and human rights of subjects; no favouritism or nepotism in governance; encouragement of dissent/disagreement; practise of austerity and self-discipline and so on.

Mr. K. Jairaj, IAS (Retd.), former Additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, as **Discussant,** drew a comparison between the Princely States of Baroda and Mysore. Progressive-minded Dewans in Mysore, with the backing of their rulers, ensured both prosperity and progress, based on an enlightened understanding of the *Public Good*.

Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Chairperson of the Branch, presided over the event. He emphasized the role of land reforms and the transformation of Zamindari to ryotwari systems in the Princely States of Baroda and Mysore, which went a long way in laying the foundations for a strong economy. **Shri S. Ramanathan**, Chairman-Emeritus of the Branch made Introductory Remarks. Present in the audience were former Chief Secretaries of Karnataka, **Dr. A. Ravindra** and **Shri S.V. Ranganath**, retired civil servants, members of civil society organizations and faculty and students of Public Policy and Governance from leading academic institutions in the city. **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary of the Branch introduced the speaker and guests.

Below: A section of the audience at Dr. Rahul Sagar's lecture.

3. Report of Collaborative National Conference

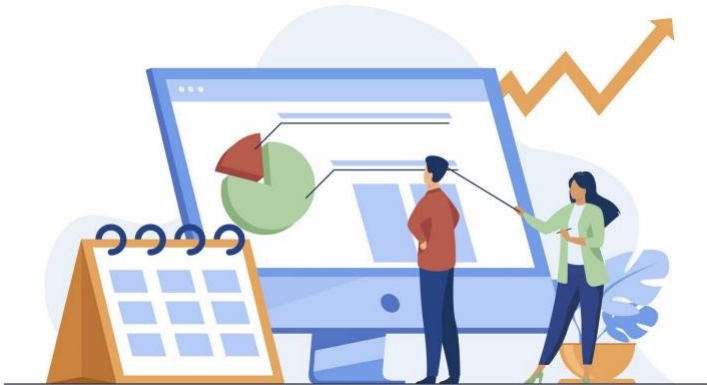*Technology, Public Policy and Marginalized Communities in India*

The **Department of Political Science of Bangalore University**, in collaboration with the **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration**, Bangalore organized a two-day **National Conference** on the theme, "*Technology, Public Policy and Marginalized Communities in India*" on 6-7 February 2025 at Bangalore University. The National Conference was funded under the PM-USHA Scheme and by the Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA.

The **Keynote Address** at the inauguration of the seminar was delivered by **Shri Rajeev Chawla**, IAS (Retd.), Chief Knowledge Officer & Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. He spoke about the five critical Public Policy challenges in Governance, namely, Drudgery of Manual Processes, Shortage of Human Resource, Information Deficit, Indifference of Government Staff, and Mala Fide Intent in Administration, and how Technology is playing a major role in addressing them. Chief Guests at the inaugural were **Prof. Ashok Hanjagi**, Director, PMEB, Bangalore University and **Prof. C. Srinivas**, Registrar Evaluation, Bangalore University. **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Branch of IIPA presided over the programme.

The National Conference had six **Technical Sessions** dealing with the following themes:

1. Technology and Governance
2. Technology and Welfare Schemes
3. Education and Technology
4. LGBTQ+, Women and Dalits
5. E-Governance and Civil Society; and
6. Gendering Technology.

As many as 16 papers were presented by scholars from all over the country.

The **Valedictory Address** was delivered by **Major P. Manivannan**, IAS, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka. He pointed out that there is no structured Public Policy for overcoming digital illiteracy among the marginalized communities; there is also no clearcut Public Policy to deal with Social Media. He called for close collaboration between NGOs in Civil Society and Government to deal with the above challenges. He also identified the initiatives being taken by the Department of Social Welfare of the Government of Karnataka to assist the marginalized communities.

In his Presidential Address, **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.) spoke of the need for inclusive technology and the promotion of digital literacy to help marginalized communities overcome the Digital Divide. The *Digital Saksharata Andolan* undertaken in Kerala, is a model worth replicating, he stated.

Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary of IIPA-KRB welcomed the dignitaries and guests at the Valediction. **Prof. S.Y. Surendra Kumar**, Chairman of the Department of Political Science, Bangalore University, proposed a Vote of Thanks. The sessions were ably managed by **Dr. Chaitra Prasad**, Guest Faculty in the Political Science Department of Bangalore University.

Below

Shri Rajeev Chawla is seen delivering the Keynote Address.

Below

A group photo taken after the Valediction of the conference shows the dignitaries with some of the Resource Persons and Faculty of Political Science of Bangalore University. Major P. Manivannan, IAS is seated in the middle. To his right is Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.).
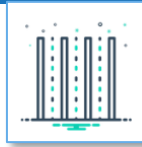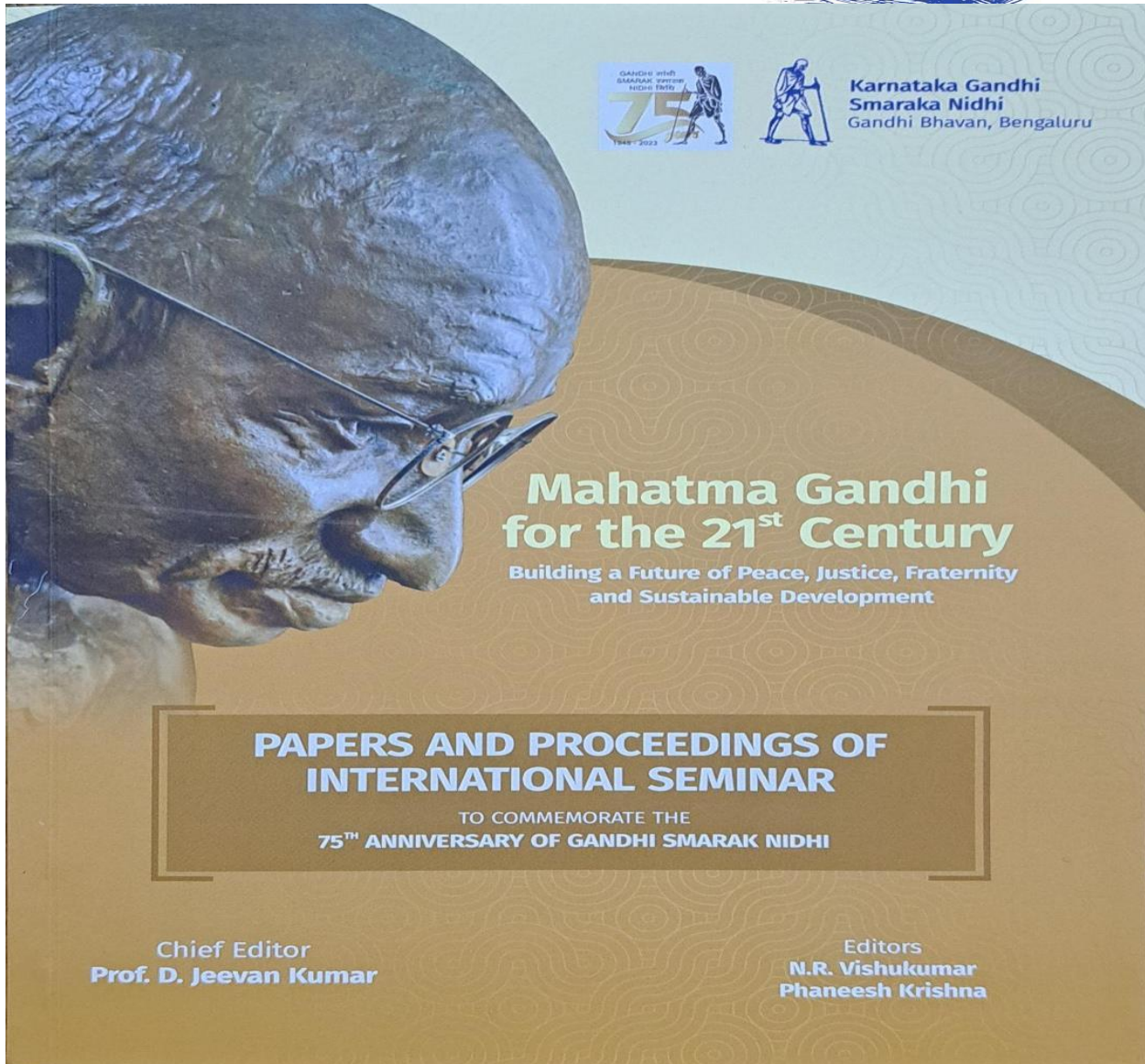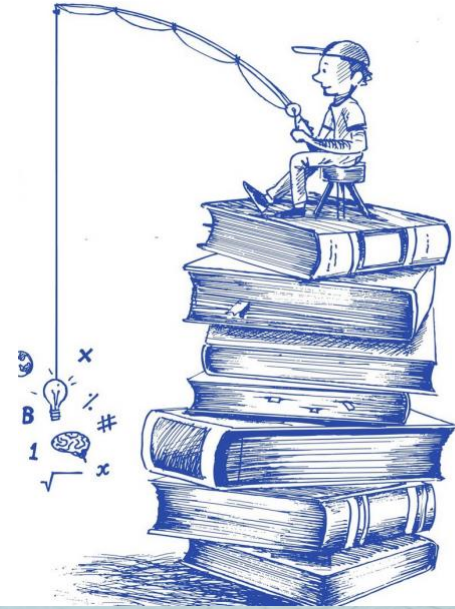
Below

A Section of the Audience

Books By Members

The Papers and Proceedings of the International Seminar on "***Mahatma Gandhi for the 21st Century"*** held at Gandhi Bhavan, Bangalore (to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Central Gandhi Smarak Nidhi) was released on 30th January 2025 at the Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru by **Shri H.K. Patil**, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Government of Karnataka. The book contains articles by eminent Gandhians which include Mr. Tushar Gandhi, Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni, Dr. Siby Joseph, Dr. John Chelladurai, Shri Kumar Prashant, Mr. Prasanna Heggodu and others. The **Chief Editor** of the book is **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**.

Branch Members' Writings
In Popular Media

Deploying Data for Better Governance

Data-driven decision-making can transform public service delivery, addressing key questions on equity and transparency.

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 22 January 2025

https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/deploying-data-for-better-governance-3366613

Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.)
Director, School of Social Sciences
MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

Harvesting Uncertainty: Climate Change and India's Agriculture

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 2 February 2025

https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/harvesting-uncertainty-climate-change-and-india-s-agriculture-3385117

Reinventing Caste: Can Surveys Help?

Modernisation theory initially prognosticated that social structures like caste would disappear with the progress of the economy and secularisation.

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 07 February 2025

https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/reinventing-caste-can-surveys-help-3393909

Dr. V. Anil Kumar
Head, Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development
Institute for Social and Economic Change Bengaluru

Food For Thought

Some Reflections on the Indian Republic

Republic Day is a time to reflect on the progress we have made as a nation and to celebrate the values that define our democracy. It is not just a celebration of India's Constitution but also of the collective spirit that has shaped our country.

The adoption of the Constitution on **January 26, 1950**, was a landmark moment in India's journey to become a Republic— a nation where the power lies with the people, where rights and freedoms are enshrined in law. It is a reminder of the struggles and sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought for the nation's independence and shaped its future.

Republic Day is not just about parades, speeches, and festivities. It is a moment to reflect on the principles of **Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity**, which guide us as a nation. In a country as diverse as India, these values are a powerful unifying force. They remind us that every citizen, regardless of background, deserves a voice, an opportunity, and a chance to contribute to the growth and progress of the nation.

On this occasion, let us also take a moment to think about how we, as individuals, can uphold the **values of our Constitution** in our daily lives. Whether in our actions, our words, or our commitments to building a better society, every small effort contributes to the larger vision of a just, inclusive, and secular India.

Let us renew our pledge to stand united in the face of challenges, to respect the rights of others, and to work together to build an India that truly lives up to the ideals set forth by the Founding Mothers and Fathers of our Constitution.

Editorial Board

Feedback/Contributions/Ideas/Book Reviews/Report Summaries may kindly be mailed to

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Designed by annaravi.consultant@gmail.com