



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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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 **January 2025** issue of our **Monthly Newsletter**. This is our **54<sup>th</sup> issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is on a recent study conducted by the **University of Birmingham**. A project team from there had asked this question in 2014: **What does it mean to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant?** And ten years later returned to it again. According to the **2024 Study Report**, the themes identified in its [first report](#) still resonate in public life.

In our column on **Audit Matters**, **Shri T. Sethumadhavan** highlights the findings of a recent report of the **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India** pertaining to **Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services in Karnataka**.

We are pleased to inform our readers of our Branch publication, **'Management of Covid-19 in Karnataka - Lessons for the Future'**. It is based on the Round Table Meeting held jointly by the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka and our Branch on 13 January 2023. The book has been elegantly published by **Writers Choice Publishers**, New Delhi. Interested readers may order the book from **Amazon**.

In our **Reports of Karnataka Branch events**, we carry reports of the: (1) 4<sup>th</sup> Training Programme for officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service and the (2) Trainers' Training Programme on Consumer Protection.

We are very distressed to carry the **Obituary** of a distinguished Political Scientist from Karnataka and a Life

Member of the IIPA, **Prof. Muzaffar Assadi**, who passed away early this month. Prof. Assadi had played a stellar role in the **Mysore Local Branch** of the IIPA. His untimely demise is a big loss to the intellectual landscape of Karnataka and the country, as well as to the IIPA.

Our **Essay Competition-2024** on the theme, **'Karnataka's Approach to Sustainable Development'** had received a very good response. Due to space constraints, we are unable to carry the prize-winning essays. Instead, we carry the links to the essays for interested readers to peruse.

In our column on **Branch Members in the News**, we report on **Dr. A. Ravindra's** latest book in Kannada titled, **'Saddharma Geetha'**.

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

We end this issue with our column on **Food for Thought** where we reproduce some thought-provoking quotes on the New Year.

**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 Feature

### The 21st Century Public Servant – Revisited

*The original 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant research was published in 2014 and is still relevant today.*

What does it mean to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant? A project team from the University of Birmingham asked this question in 2014 and ten years later returned to it again.

According to the **2024 Study Report**, the themes identified in its [first report](#) still resonate in public life: citizen expectations of public servants continue to evolve; technology brings new opportunities and risks; public service skills, roles and careers are more fluid than a generation ago.

#### New Challenges

The new research has also identified distinctive challenges from the past decade:

- **Perma-austerity** has deepened with sustained underfunding of public services
- **Communities are in distress**, moving from the pandemic straight into the cost of living crisis

- **Incivility in public life has grown** with rising issues of abuse and harassment for those working in public services
- The rising profile of equality, diversity and inclusion has drawn attention to how **public services systematically fail some employees and citizens**
- **Remote working** can enhance individual flexibility and productivity but **comes with risks** of isolation and team underperformance.

#### 10 new characteristics for the 21st Century Public Servant

The study has identified ten characteristics which have been themed into three areas:

##### I. Working with Complexity

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant is:

1. Operating at the thick end of the complexity wedge (the easy work has already been done)
2. Thinking whole system (taking a long-term and strategic view, despite daily pressures)
3. A sense-exchanger (going beyond sense-making to help others to understand and influence)





## II. Developing and Valuing new ways of Working

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant is:

4. A relationship curator (connecting with residents, senior leaders, councillors, partners with empathy and compassion)
5. Ambidextrous (combining expertise in a professional domain with the ability to lead across services)
6. Multi-lingual (able to communicate in different ways, depending on the audience)
7. A frugal innovator (weaving together resources from threadbare public services)

## III. Thriving in the new Environment

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Servant is:

8. Data curious and digitally comfortable (making the most of big data and embracing AI)
9. A hybrid operator (connecting in person, on-line, from their kitchen table, in the community)
10. A hardy perennial (keeping going in harsh conditions)

The four-page summary of *Revisiting the 21st Century Public Servant* can be seen here:

[Download](#)

The full report can be seen here:

[Download](#)

### About the Project

- The research was organised and funded by the **University of Birmingham**.
- The project team included Catherine Mangan, Catherine Needham, Jason Lowther all at the University of Birmingham, and Dr. Dave Mckenna, an independent consultant.
- There were two stages to the work. A literature review and evidence gathering. This included interviews with public service workers across different organisations and a survey of people who have been on the graduate development scheme.





## Audit Matters

### Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services

#### Report of the Comptroller & Auditor-General of India for 2024-25 (Karnataka)

##### **Shri Thayyil Sethumadhavan**

IA&AS (Retd.)

Formerly Principal Accountant General  
Madhya Pradesh



The CAG submitted six reports including five Performance Audit Reports in the Karnataka Assembly in December 2024. A summary of the Report on **Public Health Infrastructure and Management of the Health Services** is given below.

The Performance Audit covered the period from 2016 to 2022. Five districts were covered in the field study on random sampling method, and three District Hospitals, 10 Taluk Hospitals, two Super Specialty Hospitals and three Medical College Hospitals were covered in the review.

**The main inference from the Performance Audit is that the overall performance of Karnataka in providing quality healthcare services is generally satisfactory, albeit the several deficiencies brought out in the Report.**

- The focus of the *Karnataka Integrated Public Health Policy (KIPHP)* is equity in healthcare and providing quality healthcare.
- Policy interventions were in line with WHO Health System Framework aimed at universal healthcare, health and well-being, and health emergencies as envisaged under WHO's 3-pronged structure.
- The State Government did not adopt the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), nor had developed its own standards of services and resources, which made review and upgrading tenuous.

#### **Adequacy of Budget and Expenditure for Health - Related Services**

- As compared to the National Health Policy Recommendations, the allocation of funds fell short by

5 to 8% during the period of review; besides, even the allocated funds were not fully utilized.

- Delays in release of funds were reported. The total savings in expenditure during the period 2016 to 2022 came to Rs. 4,578 crores (7.2%).
- The overall spending for health services had more than doubled from Rs. 6953 crores in 2016 to Rs. 14,877 crores in 2022.
- A major laggard was the Karnataka State Medical Supply Corporation Ltd. (KSMSC) which could utilize only Rs. 2,185 crores against a receipt of Rs. 3,345 crores during the above period.

#### **Inadequacy of Human Resources across the Line**

- Audit findings indicate severe shortages of human resources in various health facilities impacting their effectiveness.
- There was an overall shortage of 45 percent in the cadre of specialists / doctors and 53 percent in the case of nurses in Taluk Hospitals, as compared to IPHS.
- The shortages were asymmetric. Only 58,037 persons were working in the Health Departments against the sanctioned strength of 1,05,907 posts, with 47,870 vacancies ((vacancy of doctors came to 29%, Staff Nurses:35%; and Paramedics: 41%; Other categories: 53%).
- In the Medical Education Department, sanctioned posts were 27,533 (6,255 of doctors), but the working strength was only 16,473 (3,908 doctors) and the overall vacancy amounted to 40% (38% of doctors).
- In the Drug Controller's Department, the vacancy came to 88% in the Drug Inspectors' cadre, 56% in Laboratory Supervisors' cadre while 75% of Lab Technician's posts were vacant.

#### **Policy Framework for Health Services**

- The State Government has not adopted the standards prescribed by the Government of India for patient services, nor has established its own norms.
- Absence of a clear- cut procurement policy for drugs and equipment is an area of concern.
- Shortage of Registration Counters was another hurdle. As compared to IPHS Guidelines, the number of ICU beds was inadequate.
- The audit review also points to shortages of Operation Theatres in Taluk / Community Health Centres (CHC) as also significant shortages of critical care services.

## Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness

- Drugs worth about Rs.18 crores and equipment costing Rs.95 crores, intended for Covid-19 related prevention and treatment measures, and ordered in relaxation of KTTP Act, were yet to be supplied.
- Lack of necessary human resources, drugs, pathological investigation facilities etc. pose major risks in maternity and childcare.

## Support Services

- Audit review concludes that the provisioning of diagnostic services was sub-optimal in the absence of adequate prescribed equipment.
- Dietary requirements of different categories of patients were often unmet; for instance, in 10 test-checked hospitals, the dietary services for patients and pregnant mothers were found to be deficient. Supply of essential drugs and medicines to hospitals, which fell short of indents and requirements.
- There was also inaccuracy in assessing the requirements of drugs which necessitated redistribution of drugs and equipment, as also instances of expiry of the drugs before they could be issued to patients.

## Healthcare Infrastructure

- While the total number of PHCs (2,531 and 9,160 Sub-Centres) were more than adequate, there were shortages of CHCs (207). There were regional imbalances in the provisioning of health-related services.
- Even after completion of buildings costing Rs. 228 crores, they were not put to use.
- Outpatient services existed in all test-checked DHs; but were not available in the Health Institutions under ULBs, except in two.
- Non-compliance with Disaster Management Guidelines and Fire Safety Requirements could have severe adverse impacts on patient safety.

## Regulatory Mechanism

- There were omissions in regulatory norms, attributable to staff shortages. For instance, while the State Medical Council had vacancies in key positions, the Drug Control Department functioned with only 47 percent of the sanctioned strength.
- Management of biomedical waste was a major challenge.

*Source: Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services (CAG's Report No: 08 for 2024-25): Presented on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.*







## Publication of Branch

We are pleased to inform our readers of the publication of our book, '**Management of Covid-19 in Karnataka - Lessons for the Future**', edited by **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson of IIPA-KRB based on the Round Table Meeting held jointly by the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka and our Branch on 13 January 2023. Copies of the book were handed over by Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar to **Shri Harsh Gupta**, Principal Secretary, **Shri Sivakumar**, Commissioner, HFW Department and **Shri Naveen Bhat**, Mission Director, NHM on 3 January 2025 at Arogya Soudha, Bengaluru. (See photos on next page)

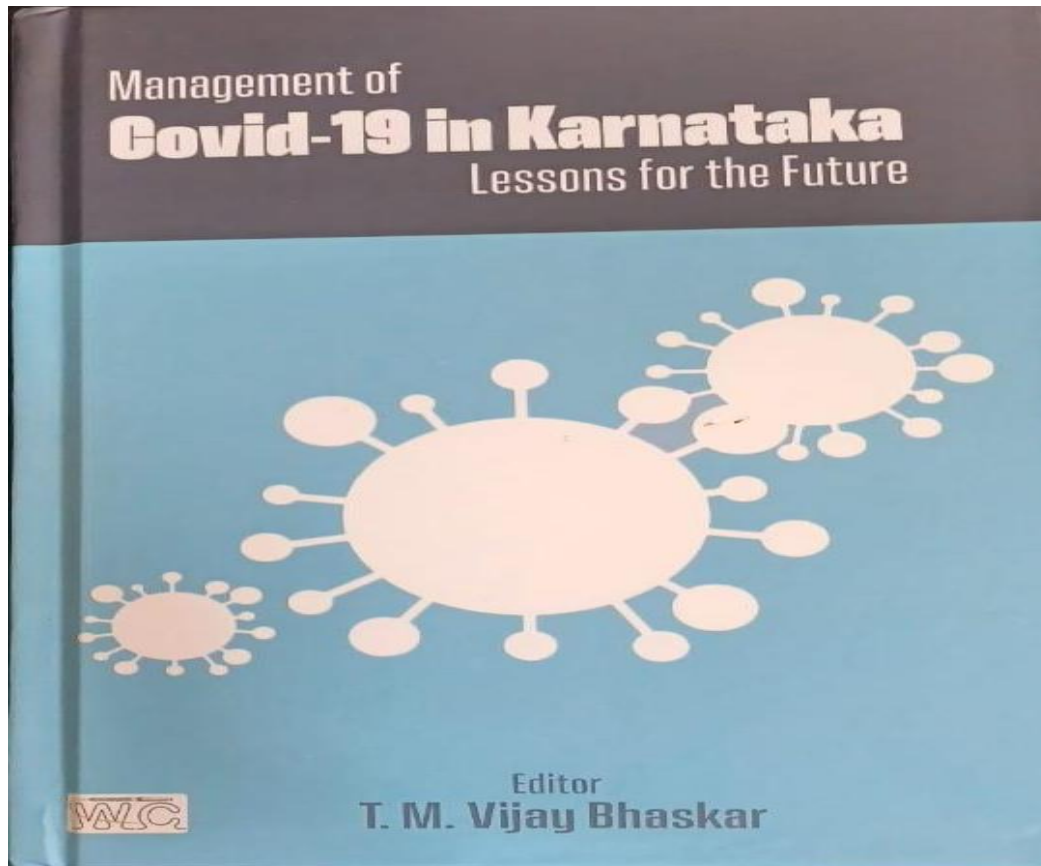
The book has been elegantly published by **Writers Choice Publishers**, New Delhi, and is available on **Amazon**. It is in Hardcover, numbering 144 pages with ISBN numbers. It is priced at **Rs. 560** only.

## About the Book

*Karnataka did exceedingly well in managing the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a whole of government, all of society approach. It was the first state to invoke the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 for dealing with the tumultuous situations thrown up by the pandemic. Karnataka set up a state-level decision-making body chaired by the Chief Minister, with other ministers, senior officials and experts that met regularly. There was a Technical Advisory Committee consisting of public health, epidemiology, virology and clinical experts. Evidence-based, decentralized decision-making, with steady monitoring and use of technology played a significant role. Communication was a big pillar. Health infrastructure was ramped up tremendously. Civil society, private sector, rural and urban local bodies, slum communities and the IT community of Bengaluru measured up to the occasion. An important part of the strategy was to integrate psycho-social counselling.*

*The state-of-the-art Control Room set up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike became a model for other districts and states. Karnataka's transparency in reporting was ranked high by Stanford University researchers.*

*This book is a must-read for at least two reasons. One, it presents a first-hand picture of the management of the pandemic by those Covid Warriors within the government, who left no stone unturned in selfless and heroic ways, to measure up to the occasion. The book also contains valuable lessons for dealing with future pandemics.*







## Report of Branch



### 1. Report on the 4th Training Programme for Officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service on 'Major E-Governance Applications'

The Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA, in collaboration with the Karnataka Administrative Service Officers Association and E-Governance Department, Govt. of Karnataka organized the fourth day-long Training Programme for officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) on 'Major E-Governance Applications' on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at the IAS Officers Association Building, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001.

Details of the subjects dealt with, and the Resource Persons are given below:

Sl. No.	Subject	Resource Person
01.	e-Office	Smt. K. P. Seema, Project Director, e-Office, RTI Online, UID and KRDH, Centre for e-Governance, DPAR (e-Governance), GoK

02.	e-Procurement	Smt. S. Suma, Project Director, e-Procurement, Centre for e-Governance, DPAR (e-Governance), GoK
03.	Artificial Intelligence	Dr. H.M. Shreevyas, Project Director, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Cell, DPAR (e-Governance), GoK
04.	Khajane II	Ms. R. Rekha, Deputy Director, Commissionerate of Treasuries, GoK
05.	HRMS II	Smt. B. Nirmala, Project Officer, HRMS 2, FD, GoK

The objectives of these Training Programmes include updating senior officers with the latest developments and Best Practices in the major areas of E-Governance; enhancing their knowledge and skills; and building their capacity to lead and manage change, innovation and reform. 29 senior officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service participated and benefited from the Training Programme.



## 2. Trainers' Training Programme on 'Consumer Protection and Related Issues'



**Y.G. Muralidharan**  
Managing Trustee, CREAT

### Background

The Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration [IIPA-KRB] has taken the initiative of sensitizing the public about their rights and responsibilities as consumers. Consumer Protection is one of the focus areas of IIPA-KRB for the past few years. To reach a wider audience, the IIPA-KRB decided to organize a **Trainers' Training Program on Consumer Protection** in Bengaluru, to be followed by Outreach Programmes in selected Districts of Karnataka. The Trainers' Training Programme for those organizations/individuals actively engaged in consumer protection and related issues was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the IAS Officers Association building, Infantry Road, Bengaluru. A brief report of the proceedings of the programme is given below.

### Proceedings

The **Trainers' Training Programme on 'Consumer Protection and Related Issues'** commenced with a welcome address by **Shri. Y.G. Muralidharan**, coordinator of the Training Programme.

The programme was inaugurated by **Dr. Krishna**, Chairman, Karnataka State Food Security Commission. In his inaugural address, he focused on the need for strengthening consumer protection in the State. He highlighted the six Consumer Rights and corresponding responsibilities of consumers. He highlighted the need for a strong consumer movement in the State to ensure that consumers get their food entitlements.

**Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson of IIPA-KRB in his Presidential Address stated that the Branch wished to reach out to districts through the participants and raise awareness about consumer protection. He requested for active participation.

**Smt. Sujata Hosamani** from the Commissionerate of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs spoke on the steps being taken by the Government of Karnataka for consumer protection.

The programme consisted of two Technical Sessions and one 'Open House Discussion'.

The **First Session** started with a presentation on '**Role of Standards in Consumer Protection**' by **Ms. Nagavalli**, Standards Promotion Officer, Bureau of Indian Standards, Bengaluru Regional Branch. She explained how standards are made and its necessity for protecting consumers. The second presentation was by **Shri. Manjunath Bommanakatti**, President of the Uttara Kannada District Consumer Grievance Redressal Commission. He spoke on '**Framework of Consumer Protection Act, 2019**' explaining its various provisions, supported by the decisions of the Consumer Commissions.

**Dr. Gayathri Bai**, Professor at the BMS College of Law, Bengaluru spoke about the Rules relating to Misleading Advertisements, E-Commerce and the functioning of Central Consumer Protection Authority [CCPA]. She cautioned consumers about the Rules framed under the CPA-2019 for E-Commerce and urged consumers to be careful while purchasing online. She emphasized the need for educating consumers about misleading advertisements.

**Shri. Chetan**, Food Analyst, State Public Health Institute, Bengaluru spoke on '**Ensuring Safe Food to Consumers**' and explained the various provisions relating to Safe Food in the Food Safety and Standards Act [FSSAI], and the consumer grievance redressal system. He said that Designated Officers are available in each district and consumers can approach them for any complaint about unsafe foods.

In the **Second Technical Session**, **Mr. H.S. Raju**, Assistant Controller, Legal Metrology Department, explained the

various provisions relating to Packaged Commodities. In the last session, **Shri. Bhaskar Rao**, Assistant Drugs Controller, Bengaluru, explained the provisions relating to Drugs and Cosmetics and the action that it takes, if medicines are sold over the price fixed by it.

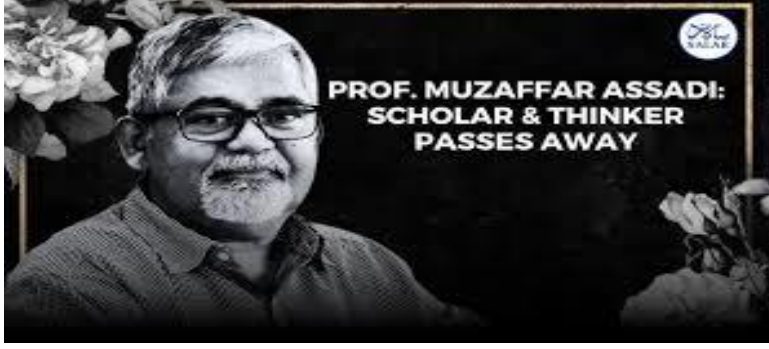
In the **Concluding Session**, participants gave good feedback about the presentations and also discussed the ways in which the lessons learnt could be taken to the general public in their respective regions. The

discussion was moderated by **Shri. Vijay Bhaskar**, assisted by **Shri. Y. G. Muralidharan**. It was decided that about ten **District-Level Awareness Building/Outreach Programmes** may be organized. The participants came forward to hold the programmes in their districts. A **Plan of Action** was drawn up. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by **Shri. Y.G. Muralidharan** and **Shri. Rajkumar Rayee**, representing the Mangaluru District Consumer Information Centre.





## Obituary



Well-known Political Scientist and academician **Professor Muzaffar Assadi** passed away on 3 January 2025. Prof. Assadi, 63, who served as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Faculty of Arts at University of Mysore, leaves behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

An alumnus of Mangalore University and JNU, New Delhi, Prof. Assadi was known among pan-Indian academic circles for his political scholarship and analysis. He was one of the active academicians in Karnataka, with a concern for the poor marking his work.

Spanning an academic career close to four decades, Prof. Assadi earned a name for his quick political analysis during elections. His articles have been published in almost all well-known Indian academic journals and newspapers.

Prof. Assadi taught Political Science in Mangalore, Goa and Mysore Universities. He was on the boards and committees of many universities, and was an editorial member of several academic journals. He served as the Special Officer for setting up the Raichur University.

He was a recipient of the Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the University of Chicago. He served as the President of Mysore University Teachers' Association during 2012-17. He successfully guided the doctoral thesis of 20 students.

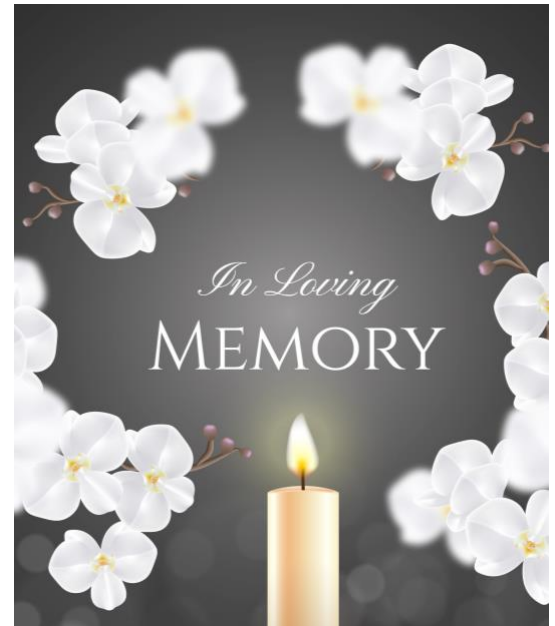
Prof. Assadi authored about a dozen books in Kannada and English. His expertise in agrarian studies, civil society, reservation and Muslim identity are well recognised. He was regular at TV news studios on the day of counting of votes either related to Karnataka Assembly or Lok Sabha elections. He was a recipient of the Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award.

Prof. Assadi contributed to Political Science studies by introducing new concepts, such as 'LIBRA' (Lingayats and Brahmins), 'MOVD' (Muslims, OBCs, Vokkaligas and Dalits), while analysing Karnataka politics. He also coined a word '3Bs' to describe Bunt, Billava and Brahmin politics in the coastal region.

Prof. Assadi expressed his deep concern towards the poor in a report given to the High Court of Karnataka on the rehabilitation of tribals of Nagarahole. The Professor headed a three-member High Court-appointed committee. The panel's 130-page report exposed the plight of a majority of the displaced tribal families in the Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park area in three taluks of Mysuru and Kodagu districts.

As a voracious reader, Prof. Assadi demonstrated his real concern for books and libraries. When a common man's library at Rajiv Nagar in Mysuru, started by daily wageer Syed Ishaq, was destroyed in an accidental fire in 2021, Prof. Assadi launched an online campaign and collected close to 7,000 books for the library. They were handed over to Mr. Ishaq at a felicitation function organised in the Department of Studies in Political Science and Public Administration in Manasagangothri, University of Mysore, under the leadership of the Professor.

**Prof. Assadi played an active role in the Mysore Local Branch of the IIPA. His untimely demise is a big loss to the IIPA fraternity in Karnataka.**



## Links to Prize Winning Essays



JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University and IIPA-Karnataka  
Regional Branch

2<sup>ND</sup> ESSAY COMPETITION-2024 on

Karnataka's Approach to Sustainable Development:  
Policies and Challenges

### *Prize-Winners and Links to their Essays*

#### **First Prize (English)**

**Mr. Sosthene Dushimimana** B.Tech-Aerospace  
Engineering

JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sXYM0RxDLxMH  
PQwm99J1VrF6uWI67sAO](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sXYM0RxDLxMH PQwm99J1VrF6uWI67sAO)

#### **First Prize (Kannada)**

**Ms. Thejaswini**

BA, Maharani's College of Arts for Women  
University of Mysore, Mysuru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UJTZTGtlmwb1  
WkmSyWCPzyV4bP8Ksety](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UJTZTGtlmwb1 WkmSyWCPzyV4bP8Ksety)

#### **Second Prize (English)**

**Ms. Arshiya Malviya**

BA Communication, Media and Psychology  
Christ (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=12nO6PBh9oYtv5  
cY3 LjHLj8ot7qni7r4](https://drive.google.com/open?id=12nO6PBh9oYtv5 cY3 LjHLj8ot7qni7r4)

#### **Second Prize (English)**

**Ms. Divya Lakshmi A R**

BBA, Centre for Management Studies  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=154YitnwyetFzsQsVU7-PEp\\_wyRk7o\\_S](https://drive.google.com/open?id=154YitnwyetFzsQsVU7-PEp_wyRk7o_S)

#### **Third Prize (English)**

**Ms. Shreeya U**

BA.LLB (Law)

Soundarya College of Law, Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vCde8QxqjDzb0  
Yr8\\_l6PU6E3UvGVvZl7](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vCde8QxqjDzb0 Yr8_l6PU6E3UvGVvZl7)

#### **Special Mention (English)**

**Mr. Muhammad Talhah**

B.Com (Entrepreneurship and Management  
JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jx5\\_7Pwf7BUNjb  
P5htF6Isxxpa0s5t9I](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jx5_7Pwf7BUNjb P5htF6Isxxpa0s5t9I)

#### **Special Mention (English)**

**Ms. Rillette**

B.Sc Nursing

Rajiv Gandhi University, Bengaluru

**Essay Link**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=17m08xRFhKep0  
D1SbEQSxNU7MChBFXUiW](https://drive.google.com/open?id=17m08xRFhKep0 D1SbEQSxNU7MChBFXUiW)





## Branch Members In News

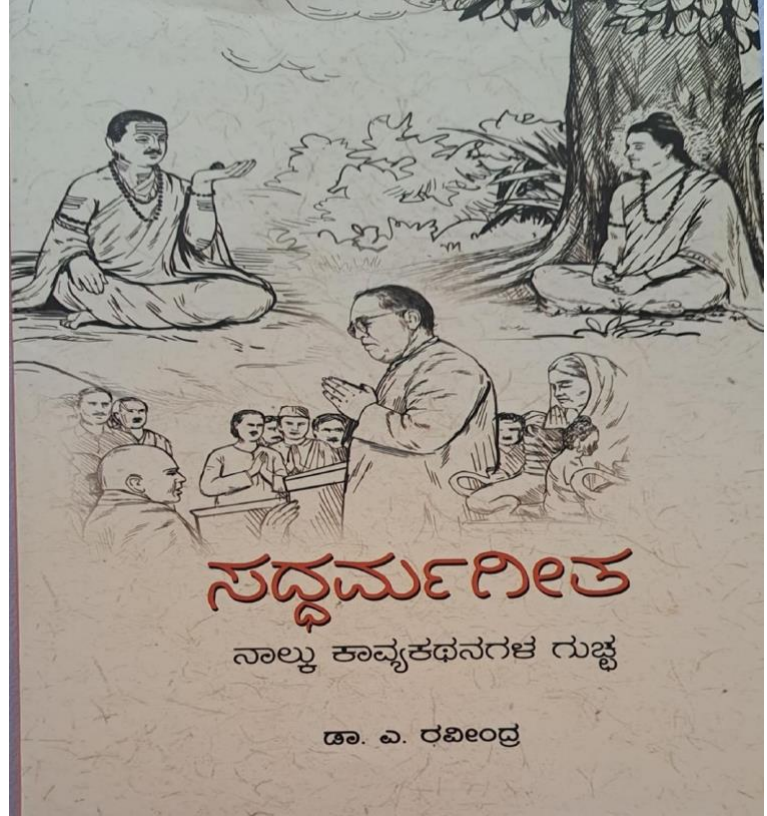


A book in Kannada by **Dr. A. Ravindra**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, titled, '**Saddharma Geetha**' was released on 3 January 2025.

'**Saddharma Geetha**' (*The Song of Dharma/Virtue*) is a literary work written in a poetic or more appropriately prose-poetry form. It has four parts. The first three portray, very briefly, the life and work of three great savants of India - the **Buddha** of ancient times, **Basaveshwara** of Middle Ages and **Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar** of modern times. The fourth part titled '*Then and Now*' is a commentary on the contemporary state of our society in comparison with earlier times.

A common theme that runs across the three great personalities is their struggle for equality and justice in a society divided by caste and class. They leave behind a legacy in the form of **Buddha's teachings** embodied in **Dhammapada**, **Basava's vachana** literature and **Ambedkar's Constitution**. They all have a large following with several institutions today.

In a world riven by conflicts, hate speech and aggression, is it not possible to imbibe the values propounded by these masters and apply them, at least to some extent, in our daily lives? Can we not strive to build a society and world order to promote peace and friendship? And can India play the role of not so much a **Vishwaguru** but a **Vishwamitra** – a friend of the world? The book ends with this hope.



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04 Jan 2025



ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ. ಎ.ರವೀಂದ್ರವರ 'ಸದ್ಧರ್ಮಗೀತೆ' ನಾಲ್ಕು ಕಾವ್ಯ ಕಥನಗಳ ಗುಚ್ಛ ಕೃತಿ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ



ಹಿರಿಯ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ. ಎ.ರವೀಂದ್ರವರ ನೂತನ ಕೃತಿ 'ಸದ್ಧರ್ಮಗೀತೆ' ನಾಲ್ಕು ಕಾವ್ಯಕಥನಗಳ ಗುಚ್ಛ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭವನ್ನು ನಗರದ ಇನ್ನೆಂಟಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸಸ್ಟೈನಬಲ್ ಡೆವಲಪ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಘ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಈ ಸಮಾರಂಭದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಜಸ್ಟಿಸ್ ಶಿವರಾಜ ವಿ ಪಾಟೀಲ ವಹಿಸಿ ಕೃತಿ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತ ಕಾವ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಚುಂಬಕ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಉಂಟು. ಅದು ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ತನ್ನತ್ತ ಸೆಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಭಾವಯುಕ್ತ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆವುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೂಡ ಕಾವ್ಯ ರಚನೆಗೆ ಕೈ ಹಾಕಿದವರುಂಟು. ಅಂತಹವರು ಕಾರಯುಕ್ತಿಯ ಕೈಯನ್ನು ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಡಾ.ಎ ರವೀಂದ್ರವರು ಈ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದವರು. ಲೌಕಿಕ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಭಾಷೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್, ಮಾತೃಭಾಷೆ ತೆಲುಗು, ಹೃದಯದ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾವ್ಯ ಸಂವೇದನೆ ಇರುವ ವೈಚಾರಿಕ ಕಾವ್ಯ 'ಸದ್ಧರ್ಮ ಗೀತೆ' ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ. ಮಲ್ಲೇಪುರಂ ಜಿ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ವರವರು ಕೃತಿ ಕುರಿತು ಇದು ಭಗವದ್ಗೀತೆಯಲ್ಲ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಜೀವನದ ಆಕೃತಿಯ ಧರ್ಮ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬುದ್ಧ ಧರ್ಮ, ಬಸವ ಧರ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಧರ್ಮ ಒಂದಲ್ಲೊಂದು ತಳಕು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಸರಳವೂ ಅರ್ಥ ಗುಂಪನವು ಆದ ಗಪದ್ಯವೆಂಬ ಕಥನದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾವ್ಯ ರಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಣೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ಶರಣ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಡಾ. ಸಿ. ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ ಪ್ರಾಸ್ತಾವಿಕ ನುಡಿಗಳನ್ನಾಡಿದರು ಎಂದು ಆಯೋಜಕರಾದ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸಸ್ಟೈನಬಲ್ ಡೆವಲಪ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಆರ್ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಘದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಗಣೇಶ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.





## Branch Members' Writings In Popular Media



### *Working with a Gentleman Politician*

The passing of **S M Krishna** marks the end of a long and successful career of a versatile personality and a rare gentleman-politician. Much has been written about the various positions he held and his admirable qualities. I would like to share some aspects of my association with him when he was Chief Minister, and I served as Chief Secretary of Karnataka.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/working-with-a-gentleman-politician-3318749>

**Dr. A Ravindra, IAS (Retd.)**  
Former Chief Secretary, Government of  
Karnataka



### *The Crisis of the Post-Colonial State*

The relative autonomy of the State is increasingly eroded by its capitulation to big national and international businesses; its State organisation is being hollowed out owing to New Public Management governance reforms; and its moral stature is being hollowed out owing to its increasing capitulation to religious fundamentalism.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-crisis-of-the-post-colonial-state-3328826>

**Dr. Anil Kumar Vaddiraju**  
Head, Centre for Political  
Institutions, Governance and  
Development, ISEC, Bengaluru



### *High on Hope amid Emerging Challenges*

As we begin the year 2025, India stands poised on the cusp of possibilities, with opportunities to harness its strengths and confront its challenges, provided the government, the market, and the citizens are willing to embrace bold and sagacious initiatives to shape the year ahead and towards a future defined by innovation, inclusiveness, and resilience.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/high-on-hope-amid-emerging-challenges-3341858>

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



### *South Asia braces for Trump 2.0*

The re-election of **Donald Trump** as the President of the United States will pose both challenges and opportunities in US - South Asia relations. The future scenario will depend on how the US, under Trump 2.0, conceptualises its political, economic, trade and strategic priorities, collectively and individually, with the countries in South Asia.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/south-asia-braces-for-trump-2-0-3352155>

**Dr. M.J. Vinod**  
Professor, Department of  
International Studies, Political  
Science and History  
Christ (Deemed to be) University,  
Bengaluru





## Reflection and Renewal

1. ***"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."***  
- Eleanor Roosevelt
2. ***"The best way to predict your future is to create it."***  
- Abraham Lincoln
3. ***"As the year comes to a close, and a new one begins, remember that life is a journey, not a destination."***  
- Unknown

## Hope and Optimism

1. ***"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'."***  
- Alfred Lord Tennyson
2. ***"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."***  
- Melody Beattie
3. ***"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."***  
- Helen Keller

## Personal Growth and Self-Improvement

1. ***"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."***  
- C.S. Lewis
2. ***"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."***  
- Nelson Mandela
3. ***"Be the change you wish to see in the world."***  
- Mahatma Gandhi

## Gratitude and Mindfulness

1. ***"The new year is a time for reflection, resolution, and renewal. Take time to appreciate the little things."***  
- Unknown
2. ***"The present moment is the only moment available to us, and it is the door to all moments."***  
- Thich Nhat Hanh

# Editorial Board

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