



**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru**

**ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು**

**Monthly Newsletter
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Views expressed by the contributors are personal and do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch.

- Chief Editor



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A 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 **December 2024** issue of our **Monthly Newsletter**. This is our **53rd issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is on the **Bangalore Tech Summit 2024** held in November 2024 which reaffirmed Bengaluru's position as a global hub for technology and innovation. With the theme '**Unbound**,' the summit brought together participants from **51 countries**, including top executives, policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and technology enthusiasts.

The **Karnataka Space Technology Policy 2024-29** was unveiled at the above summit. We present the highlights of this policy.

Our **Lead Article** is on **Cooperative Federalism and Issues of Local Governance** by **Dr. N. Sivanna** and **Dr. Nayakara Veerasha**.

We carry the concluding section of a larger article on **Lateral Entry in Civil Service** by **Dr. K. Giresan** and **Dr. Jos Chathukulam**, which appeared in the **IIPA Digest** of April-June 2024. The full article may be accessed by clicking on the link given therein.

In our regular column on **Communication Pulse**, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** asks and answers the question, **What Lessons does the Government of Karnataka learn from Economic Policy?**

In our **Reports of Karnataka Branch events**, we carry reports of the following: (1) Our **3rd Training Programme** for officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service and (2) The **2nd Annual Essay Competition** Prize Distribution ceremony and **Panel Discussion on "Karnataka's Approach to Sustainable Development: Policies and Challenges"**

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

An important book on **Sir M. Visvesvaraya** by **Aparajith Ramnath** was released recently at the Bangalore International Centre. Titled, **Engineering a Nation: The Life and Career of M. Visvesvaraya**, the author delves into a wide range of sources to paint a balanced picture of a man who has come to be regarded as a national icon. It is worth reading.

We bring out the significance of **Audit Diwas**.

In our **Opinion** column, we carry the views of **Shri L.K. Atheeq**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Karnataka who delivered the **Shri Ramakrishna Hegde Memorial Lecture-2024** at **ISEC** recently on "**Decentralization in Karnataka: Past, Present and Future**".

We end this issue with our column on **Food for Thought** where we remember the significance of **Kanakadasa Jayanthi**.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue of the Virtual Newsletter are personal 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: BANGALORE TECH SUMMIT 2024



The three-day **Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2024**, held at the Bangalore Palace from **19-21 November 2024** reaffirmed Bengaluru's position as a global hub for technology and innovation. With the theme '**Unbound**,' the summit brought together participants from **51 countries**, including top executives, policymakers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and technology enthusiasts.

BTS 2024 featured:

- 84 engaging sessions featuring insights from **521 speakers**.
- A grand exhibition with **686 exhibitors**, including **403 startups**, showcasing cutting-edge innovations across sectors.
- Over **4,775 business meetings**, including **570 scheduled meetings** in the exclusive B2B Lounge.
- **36,837 attendees** and an impressive **50,000+ expo footfalls** over three days.

Prominent industry leaders, global innovators, and research organizations such as **DRDO, CSIR, IISc Bangalore, C-DAC, and ARTPark** joined forces with companies like **Infosys, Intel, Biocon, Lam Research, and Uber** to unveil transformative technologies. Academic institutions, including **IITs, VTU, Manipal, and Christ University**, further enriched the event with their contributions.

With over **183 speakers** participating on the **Global Innovation Alliances (GIA) World Stage, BTS 2024** spotlighted emerging technologies, innovative solutions, and forward-thinking policies shaping the future. The summit fostered cross-border collaborations, facilitating transformative conversations among ambassadors, policymakers, and industry representatives from countries including **Finland, South Korea, Australia, and the UK**. As a global platform, **BTS 2024** not only showcased the latest innovations but also forged pathways for a smarter, greener, and more connected future.



Karnataka Space Technology Policy 2024-29



*Shri Priyank Kharge, Hon'ble Minister for IT & BT, GoK (third from right) unveiled the **Draft Space Policy**. Also seen in the pic above are, among others, **Dr. Ekroop Caur**, Principal Secretary, Department of E, IT, Bt, and S&T, GoK and **Dr. S. Somanath**, Chairman of ISRO, at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024.*

The **Karnataka Space Technology Policy 2024-2029** was unveiled at the **Bengaluru Tech Summit** on November 20, 2024.

Karnataka Space Technology Policy aims to establish the state as a global destination for the space sector. Here are the key highlights:

- **Market Share Ambition**
The policy targets 50% of the national market share in the space sector and 5% of the global market share.
- **Ecosystem Development**
Karnataka aims to create a robust space ecosystem by supporting startups, MSMEs, and research institutions.
- **Investment and Job Creation**
The policy aims to attract \$3 billion in investments and create high-skill jobs in the space sector.
- **Space Manufacturing Cluster**
The state plans to set up a space manufacturing cluster to enable the agglomeration of industrial units and achieve economies of scale.
- **Support for Startups and MSMEs**
The government will directly support around 500 startups and MSMEs in the sector through grants, equity funding, and subsidies.
- **Focus on Downstream Applications**
The policy emphasizes the importance of downstream applications, such as satellite-based services, earth observation, and navigation.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships**
The state aims to foster collaboration between industry, academia, and research institutions to drive

innovation and growth in the space sector.

Karnataka Space Technology Policy aims to operationalise the vision through five focused missions:

1. **Skill Development:** Train and up-skill 5000 students and young professionals including 1500 women students and young professionals to be employable by domestic and global Space sector
2. **Investments:** Incentives, focused reach-out and campaigns to attract USD 3 billion in investments into the state's Space ecosystem
3. **Infrastructure:** Set-up Space manufacturing cluster in the state to enable agglomeration of industrial units and achieve economies of scale and create testing centres/facilities through PPP mode; also create common access channels to all testing facilities available across the state with private and public sector.
4. **Innovation and Facilitation:** Government of Karnataka will directly support ~500 Start-Ups and MSMEs of the Space sector through grants, equity funding, and specific subsidies

for IP registration, testing, standards and quality certification, marketing etc. to ultimately enable 50+ satellites with substantial indigenisation are launched by Karnataka based Space sector enterprises.

5. **Adoption and Awareness:** DPI/DPG approach to improve adoption of Space technologies and sensitise possibilities through Space technologies for non- Space sectors including Government of Karnataka; Revenue based incentives for downstream applications which has resulted in positive socio-economic benefits in specific sectors viz., agriculture, forest management, fisheries, mining, urban development and rural development will be provided to the Start-Ups/MSMEs.

Karnataka Space Technology Policy is the brainchild of the **Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology** of the **Government of Karnataka**.





Cooperative Federalism and Issues of Local Governance: *A Critique*



Dr. N. Sivanna

Hon. Professor, Karnataka State Rural
Development & Panchayat Raj
University, Gadag



Dr. Nayakara Veerasha

Independent Researcher and Writer on
issues of Governance and Development.

Introduction

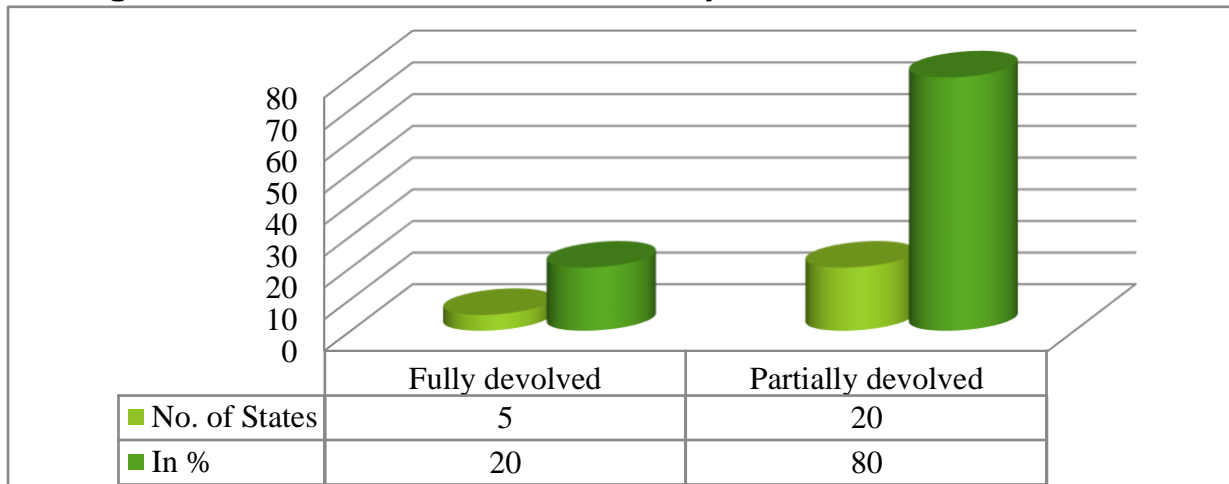
Cooperative Federalism in India refers to the sharing of governance responsibilities among the multiple layers of government specifically between the Union, States and Local Governments. With the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, Local Self-Governance has been practised in rural and urban areas to deepen democracy and cooperative federalism at the grassroots level. Globally, the role of Local Government Institutions (LGIs) gained prominence during the Covid-19

pandemic. LGIs played a key role in containing the spread of a pandemic through effective interventions in various forms. In developing countries, LGIs actively delivered food items and health facilities, such as masks and sanitizers. In India, the LGIs could respond to this crisis despite the various limitations in terms of fewer functionaries and heavy reliance on State and Union governments for funds.

1. Delineation of Functions

In a Decentralised Governance system, the functions and responsibilities are demarcated among different tiers of government in the Constitution. It may be noted that every federal State has a written Constitution in which this delineation of functions is visible. The Indian Constitution is one example of this wherein it provides Union, State and Concurrent Lists containing the items of legislation that fall under their respective jurisdiction. When an item in the list involves overlapping jurisdiction of the Union and State governments, there are clear principles to avoid/overcome contradictory legislation. The XI Schedule lists 29 subjects that may be entrusted to the Panchayats by the State Legislature and the XII Schedule lists 18 subjects for Urban Local Governments. However, their exercise of powers even concerning these subjects is dependent on the State Legislature, as they have no independent powers to pursue the matter. The reality is that Local Governments have only a nominal role in governance; real power is being exercised by the States.

Figure 1: Status of Functional Devolution by States to Rural Local Bodies



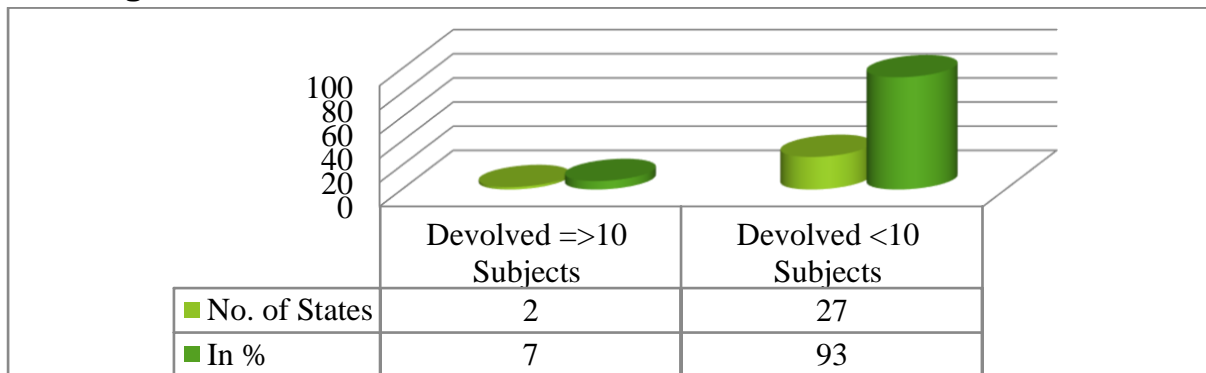
Source: Government of India (2016), Ministry of Panchayati Raj

From Figure 1, it can be inferred that only five States (20 per cent) have devolved all 29 subjects to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The remaining twenty states (80 per cent) are yet to devolve the subjects to their PRIs to the full extent. Only half or just above half of the subjects are devolved in these States. This means that functional devolution is highly unsatisfactory in a majority of the States. Functional devolution to PRIs is the first and foremost aspect of decentralised reform as it sets the tone for the other aspects to follow, namely finance and functionaries to be devolved by the State Governments. The greater

the number of subjects, the better the bargaining capacity of the PRIs to exert necessary pressure on the State Governments to devolve the finances and personnel to deliver services under the particular subjects, as per Article 243G.

It needs to be recognized that there is no omnibus approach to the devolution of powers to Local Governments and that the details need to be evolved keeping in view the local circumstances and balancing of decentralisation with the basic principle of subsidiarity.

Figure 2: Status of Functional Devolution to Urban Local Governments



Source: Praja's Urban Governance Index 2020.

The information in Figures 1 and 2 indicates the inadequate devolution of functions to the local governments across the country. It can be noted that only two states (7 per cent) have devolved ten or more than ten subjects to the city government. The remaining twenty-seven states (93 per cent) are yet to devolve the subjects to the urban governments to a fuller extent.

2: Fiscal Devolution to the local governments must meet two standards: the local government must be able to effectively fulfil its obligation; there must be sufficient room for flexibility through untied resources, to establish priorities, devise new schemes and allocate funds. The information in Table 1 gives an overview of the constitution of the last/most recent State Finance Commission by the respective state governments.

Table 1: Status of State Finance Commissions

Sl. No.	State/s	Last SFC Constituted
1	Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan	VI
2	Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh	V
3	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal	IV
4	Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Manipur	III
5	Arunachal Pradesh	II
6	Erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana	I

Source: Government of India (2022). Annual Report 2021-22, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Table 2: Union Finance Commission Funds allocation to PRIs

Period	2006-07 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2021-22
Release	Rs.57,929 crore	Rs. 2,97,509 crore
Per capita per annum allocation	Rs. 54 in 12 th FC and Rs. 176 in 13 th FC	Rs.488 in 14 th FC and Rs. 674 in 15 th FC

Source: Government of India (2022). Annual Report 2021-22, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

The data in Table 2 indicates the extent of devolution of funds to the local governments by the Finance Commission as part of the Constitutional mandate under

Article 280. The per capita per annum allocation to the Panchayati Raj Institutions has increased from Rs.54 during the Twelfth Finance Commission

to Rs.674 in the Fifteenth Finance Commission period. Despite this increased allocation, the Panchayati Raj Institutions rely heavily on Union and State government funds to meet the development and non-development expenditures. Most of the allocations of the Union Finance Commission and State Finance Commission go to the salary component of the Panchayat officials and other staff. This leaves the PRIs with a very small amount to take care of the developmental needs of the local people.

The Expert Committee on Own Source Revenue (OSR) in its report (2023) published by the MoPR has brought out that the GPs have a lot of potential to explore the collection of house tax which is one of the main sources of own revenue have been failing to exploit the same. For instance, for FY 2019-20, the actual OSR collection of house tax was Rs.671.36 crore but the potential house tax was Rs.2232 crore. Thus, the actual collection was about 30 percent of the potential (Sivanna and Veerasha, 2024, "Financial Devolution and Local Development under Fourteenth Finance Commission: A Case of Karnataka", *Arthika Charche*, Vol.9 No. 1, January-June).

- **The study finds that there is a mismatch between the potential of house tax and the actual collection, inferring a gap between the institutional capacity and delivery of services**
- **There is an enormous potential in terms of augmenting the non-tax revenue which is only 7 per cent of revenue receipts of GPs.**

Concluding Remarks

The general situation in India is that there is devolution but not enough support systems. In some states, even elections to PRIs are not regularly held, and appointments of State Finance Commissions are postponed, for a variety of reasons. This limits the extent and impact of decentralisation. The reluctance of the higher political leaders to part with power and resources under their control may sometimes be due to doubts about the capacity of the PRIs to absorb and effectively use all the devolved resources. The effect in both cases, however, is the same. **The experience of decentralization reforms in India indicates that the State Government, being constitutionally responsible for Rural Development, is unwilling to devolve the required powers and authority to Local Governments.** This is constraining the Local Governments in the delivery of effective services to the people and planning for local economic development and social justice.

It is observed that ***“both technical and managerial capacity of the PRIs is currently weak and is a challenge in the efficient planning and delivery of the various development programmes”*** (Government of India, 2016, *‘Strengthening Capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions’*). **State Governments needs to focus on building the competencies and capacities of the elected representatives and officials to hasten the local development process.**



Lateral Entry in Civil Services

Balancing the Demands for 'Specialists' and the Imperatives of 'Social Justice'



Dr. K. Gireesan

Director, MIT School of Government,
MIT World Peace University, Pune

(Excerpted below is the concluding section of a larger article on the subject, which appeared in the IIPA Digest of April-June 2024. The full article may be accessed on the link below:

<https://dl-mail.gmail.com/ws/download/mailboxes/@.id==VjN-luGrje->

University of Birmingham, as part of the research study on the **21st Century Public Servant**, analysed how the public service workforce is changing and what further changes are needed to develop the effectiveness of public servants. It was reported that '**the 21st Century Public Servant**' is expected to balance the roles as storyteller, resource weaver, system architect, navigator, networker, etc.' (Needham et. al., 2014; Mussagulova, 2020). It was also highlighted that in addition to the focus on technical skills, more varied and softer skills are needed to perform the role of a 21st Century Public Servant.

But the authors could not find any specific study that analysed the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the Lateral Entry into the state apparatus so far. The importance of examining the tangible and



Dr. Jos Chathukulam

Director, Centre for Rural Management
(CRM), Kottayam, Kerala

intangible outcomes of such an important administrative reform cannot be ignored before moving forward to its dispensation or continuity by incorporating changes in the process.

Rather than looking at the Lateral Entry into Civil Services as a remedy to address the systemic issues and deficiencies, it shall be viewed as an opportunity to address the gaps of specialisation and professional expertise. In this context, **balancing the demands of Specialists and the imperatives of Social Justice become very significant**. Only then, equal opportunities along with equality of opportunities, as enshrined in the Constitution of India, could be ensured in Civil Services.

In addition, the suggestions made by the **Second ARC** for carrying out a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of civil servants at specific milestones of service, and liberalising the provisions for interested civil servants to work outside the Government for a short period also shall be put to action. **Such measures are essential for rejuvenation and empowerment of a civil servant to transform into 'The 21st Century Indian Civil Servant'**.



What Lessons does the Government of Karnataka Learn from the Economic Policy?

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander



Professor of Practice
Department of Public Policy
Manipal Academy of Higher Education-
Bangalore
& Freelance Consultant

Introduction

A general understanding of Economic Policy includes strategies, values and programmes adopted by a government. It helps in standardising the economy of a State/country to include growth, stability, equity and sustainability. It also involves outcomes on production, distribution and consumption of goods and services which affects individuals, businesses, and society as a whole. In short, an Economic Policy includes fiscal, monetary, trade and development policies which provides critical lessons for a government. The different types of economic policies include structural policies, contradictory policies and expansionary policies.

Aims of Economic Policy

- Growth in economy - increase wealth and standard of living by encouraging innovation and production
- Ensure economic consistency by controlling inflation and avoiding deflation

- Promote social welfare by reducing disparities in income

Pointers for Government of Karnataka



Pointer 1: Managing fiscal aspects



Effects

- Increase efficiency in government spendings
- Maintain public investments to avoid borrowing



Pointer 2: Target equitable development



Effects

- Reduce disparities between urban centres and less developed regions



Pointer 3: Focus on robust physical and digital infrastructure



Effects

- Invest in urban planning and smart cities
- Improve scenarios in drought-prone districts to include water management and power supply systems



Pointer 4: Plan to balance growth with environmental sustainability



Effects

- Invest in renewable energy projects
- Reinforce policies on urban waste management and pollution control

 **Pointer 5: Develop and invest in skilled labour force**



Effects

- Focus on education and healthcare aspects of citizens
- Introduce skill development and capacity building programmes

 **Pointer 6: Focus on effective governance**



Effects

- Develop Public Private Partnership (PPP) to increase service delivery
- Use technology to develop transparency



Pointer 7: Use data to drive policies for evidence-based approach



Effects:

- Urge research collaborations between academics, institutes and corporates
- Monitor policy outcomes using big data and analytics

Conclusion

The Government of Karnataka should use its Economic Policy as a dynamic tool to ensure impact on individuals, businesses and economy. It should also address evolving challenges and opportunities in both the domestic and global economic space.

Initiatives by Government of Karnataka

- ✓ In 2003 Karnataka was the first State to initiate Strategic Export Promotion. It implemented its own export promotion policy which increased its share of national exports from 7% to 15% by 2007. This proactive approach underscored the importance of state-level initiatives in boosting global trade competitiveness. ([Karnataka's Export Story: How Policies and Business Traits Shape Global Success – Jaya Prakash Pradhan](#))
- ✓ The Invest in Karnataka initiative by the Government of Karnataka is an industrial policy focussing on sustainable and inclusive industrial development. The main purpose is to appeal to investors from various sectors. It proves as a clear policy framework to encourage business initiatives to generate better opportunities in employment and other factors. ([Booklet final](#))
- ✓ Unified Market Platform (UMP) revolutionised agricultural marketing and introduced transparency to help farmers with better cost understanding. Typically, it depicted the use of digital platforms to enhance and understand agricultural marketing. (<https://thebetterindia.com/49314/ktaka-farmers-ump-trade-online/#:~:text=The%20farmers%20in%20Karnataka%20have%20taken%20their%20business,%28ReMS%29%2C%20it%20facilitates%20interaction%20between%20traders%20and%20farmers.>)



Reports Of Branch Activities

Report of 3rd 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 third day-long Training Programme for officers of the Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) on 'Major E-Governance Applications' on 25th November 2024 at the Training Hall, E Governance Department, M S Building, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.

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 & KSDC, 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, KODI, NAD, Digilocker, Mahithi Kanaja, Centre for e-Governance, DPAR (e-Governance), GoK
04.	Khajane II	Shri N. Hemanth Kumar FDA, PMU, DPAR (E-Governance), GoK
05.	HRMS II	Shri B. H. Purushottam Singh Project Manager & Additional Director, HRMS 2, FD, GoK
06.	Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (iPGRS)	Smt. G. Rashmi, KAS Project Director, IPGRS, SSP, Centre for e-Governance, DPAR (E-Governance), GoK
07	SAKALA	Dr. Raghavendra Padiya Sakala, DPAR (E-Governance), 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. About 21 senior officers of the

Karnataka Administrative Service participated and benefited from the Training Programme.

Photo below shows Smt. G. Rashmi, KAS welcoming the Chairperson of IIPA-KRB, Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.). Secretary, Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar is seen at right.



Report of 2nd Annual Essay Competition Prize Distribution Ceremony and Panel Discussion on “Karnataka’s Approach to Sustainable Development: Policies and Challenges”

On the occasion of **Constitution Day**, November 26, 2024, **Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University**, in collaboration with **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration**, hosted the **2nd Annual Essay Competition Prize Distribution ceremony**, alongside a thought-provoking **Panel Discussion on Karnataka’s Approach to Sustainable Development: Policies and Challenges**.

The event was graced by **Shri. S. Ramanathan**, IAS (Retd.), Chairman Emeritus of IIPA-KRB, **Shri. T.M Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.) Chairperson, IIPA-KRB, and **Prof. (Dr.) Raj Singh**, Vice-Chancellor JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary, **Prof. Madhwaraj**, Treasurer and **Dr. Thayyil Sethumadhavan**, EC member of IIPA-KRB, were among those present on the occasion.

The **Panel Discussion** emerged as a most engaging and thought-provoking segment of the day, bringing together distinguished experts to share their insights on Karnataka’s unique approach to Sustainable Development. The Panelists - **Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, IIPA-KRB, **Dr. Uma Mahadevan**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

(online), **Dr. Vishal R.**, IAS, Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Fiscal Reforms (online) and **Dr. Mukund Raj**, Advisor, NABARD Consultancy Services - addressed a range of interconnected issues the State faces in achieving a balance between development and sustainability. Topics such as environmental conservation, urbanization, equitable growth, and climate change challenges were explored, with specific emphasis on workforce participation of women, mobility schemes, and youth support initiatives. The experts highlighted the importance of integrating sustainability into policy frameworks and shared innovative ideas to enhance Karnataka's development trajectory.

The **Prize Winners** of the **2nd Annual Essay Competition-2024** on the theme, **Karnataka's Approach to Sustainable Development: Policies and Challenges** are as follows:

1. First Prize (English):

Mr. Sosthene Dushimimana
B.Tech., Aerospace Engineering,
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),
Bengaluru

2. First Prize (Kannada):

Ms. Thejaswini
B.A., Maharani College of Arts for
Women
University of Mysore, Mysore

3. Second Prize (English):

Ms. Arshiya Malviya
BA Communication, Media
and Psychology
CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University),
Bengaluru

4. Second Prize (English):

Ms. Divya Lakshmi A R
BBA, Centre for Management Studies,
JAIN (Deemed-to-be University),
Bengaluru

5. Third Prize (English):

Ms. Shreeya U
BA.LLB (Law),
Soundarya College of Law,
Bengaluru.



The **First Prize Winner** in English **Mr. Sosthene Dushmimana (R)** and the **First Prize winner** in Kannada, **Ms. Thejaswini (L)** are seen receiving their awards from **Prof. Raj Singh, Vice-Chancellor, JAIN (dtb) University**. **Shri S. Ramanathan** is also seen.



Branch Members' Writings in The Media



The British Geneticist who embraced India

Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.)

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 8 December 2024

The life of an academic, typically, makes dull reading. Academics do not lead lives that are exciting in a worldly sense. Yet, J B S Haldane's life is fascinating from start to finish.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-british-geneticist-who-embraced-india-3308346>



Does Presidential Pardon obviate Guilt?

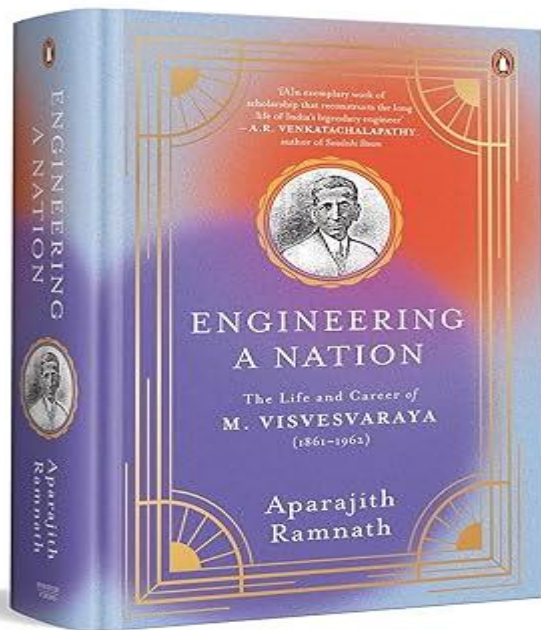
M.J. Vinod

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 5 December 2024

US President Joe Biden's decision to pardon his son Hunter Biden, accused of criminal charges related to gun ownership and tax evasion, has set off intense debates in the US judicial landscape, its policy-making communities, and civil society at large. The use of Presidential powers to pardon is in line with a long-running political tradition in the US.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/does-presidential-pardon-obviate-guilt-3304064>





***Engineering a Nation:
The Life and Career of
M. Visvesvaraya***

by [Aparajith Ramnath](#)

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Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962) was arguably the most famous Indian engineer of the twentieth century. And yet he was also much more. To this day, much in India bears the imprint of Visvesvaraya’s work—not only as Civil Engineer, but also as Public Administrator, Constitutional Analyst and Development Thinker. Sugarcane farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka, picknickers in the Brindavan Gardens alongside the Krishnarajasagar dam near Mysore, and city dwellers across the country who enjoy a piped water supply are all partaking of Visvesvaraya’s legacy as a renowned Engineer. So are students in Mumbai’s Institute of Chemical Technology, consumers who swear by Mysore Sandal Soap and anyone who has lived through Independent India’s Five-Year Plans.

Visvesvaraya was an early proponent of economic planning and rapid, large-scale industrialization, which

he believed were essential for national development. Most of all, he was an ardent technocrat: a believer in the power of science and technology to solve society’s most pressing problems. In his time, his ideas were both lauded and criticised. Technocratic visions are once more at the centre of public discourse today: as in Visvesvaraya’s day, they hold much promise, but also have important limitations.

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya held the position of **Dewan of Mysore** from 1912 to 1918. **Engineer's Day**, celebrated on September 15th each year, commemorates his birth anniversary. Born in 1860 in the humble village of Muddenahalli, near present-day Bengaluru, Visvesvaraya is affectionately referred to as the "**Engineer of Modern India.**"

Sir MV's contributions to the public good were so significant that he was

knighted in 1955 by King George V as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire (KCIE), earning him the "Sir" prefix to his name. Interestingly, Engineer's Day is not just observed in India but also in Sri Lanka and Tanzania in his honour, underscoring his global recognition. He is celebrated as one of India's foremost engineers.

Sir MV was renowned not only for his punctuality, ingenious ideas, and unwavering dedication but also for his advocacy of the Kannada language.

This engineering prodigy breathed his last on April 14, 1962, just five months shy of his 102nd birthday.

In *Engineering a Nation*, Aparajith Ramnath delves into a wide range of sources to paint a balanced picture of a man who has come to be regarded as a national icon. Throughout, he explores the professional and intellectual relationships that shaped Visvesvaraya and highlights the historical context in which he worked. *To explore Visvesvaraya's life, the book states, is to understand the emergence of the Indian nation itself.*





Audit Diwas



CAG

Comptroller and Auditor General

Audit Diwas is celebrated in India on **November 16th** every year. This day marks the establishment of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD) in 1860.

Significance

1. **Commemorating the Legacy:** *Audit Diwas* honours the contributions of the IA&AD in ensuring transparency,

accountability, and good governance in India's public finances.

2. **Promoting Accountability:** The day highlights the importance of audit in promoting accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in government spending.
3. **Recognizing the role of Auditors:** *Audit Diwas* acknowledges the critical role played by auditors in safeguarding public funds and upholding the integrity of financial systems.
4. **Reiterating the Commitment to Good Governance:** The celebration reinforces India's commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance in public finances.





'State's decentralisation system is fairly all right, but not ideal' *Hindu 6/12/24*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though Karnataka has done well regarding decentralisation of power, there is a long way to go to reach the ideal stage, observed Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister L.K. Atheeq.

Delivering the Ramakrishna Hegde Memorial Lecture-2024 on "Decentralisation in Karnataka: The past, present and future of an experiment," at the Institute for Social and Economic Change here on Thursday, Mr. Atheeq, who headed the RDPR Department for a long time, said: "Karnataka's decentralisation system is fairly ok, but not ideal."

He expressed concern that there was a consistent tendency to "re-centralise" powers by legislators and bureaucrats because of a lack of strong institutional design and structural mechanism that would prevent reducing the autonomy of panchayat raj institutions.

Mr. Atheeq argued that it was essential to grant more financial autonomy to panchayats to uphold the spirit of decentralisation. Presently, governments were trying to patronise them by dictating what should be



L.K. Atheeq

done as the panchayats were depending on the government for funds, he observed.

Though the Central Finance Commission allocates grants to panchayats, it had issued conditions such as spending 60% of grants on water and sanitation, he pointed out. Similarly, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme too had various conditions imposed by the Centre, he said.

He expressed concern that there was no public resistance though elections to taluk and zilla panchayats had not been held in Karnataka for the last four years. In fact, the State was losing on Finance Commission grants as some of these allocations were tied up with panchayat raj institutions, he pointed out.

Hailing Karnataka's initial legislation of 1985 that had two-tier panchayat raj institutions as against the present three-tier ones, and larger village panchayats (then mandal panchayats) then compared to smaller ones now, Mr. Atheeq described the journey to the current situation as "two steps forward and one step backward."

He expressed a view that bigger village panchayats would be more viable in terms of self governance. Similarly, he favoured the two-tier panchayat raj institution mechanism.

Stating that Kerala's panchayat raj system was better than Karnataka's, he pointed out that one-third of the State Budget was being given to panchayats there and the village panchayats were functioning like large municipalities.

Though he observed that States had gained more autonomy in India over the decades, he maintained that India was not as federal as the U.S. where States had "phenomenal" autonomy.

ISEC director S. Rajashekhar, Ramakrishna Hegde chair professor of decentralisation and development Chandan Gowda were present during the talk.



Significance of *Kanakadasa Jayanthi*



Kanakadasa Jayanthi, celebrated on November 18th in Karnataka every year, honours the birth anniversary of poet and social reformer **Shri Kanakadasa**. A significant figure in Carnatic music, he promoted social equality and spirituality through his devotional works in Kannada. His contributions to Carnatic music and his influence on the tradition are widely recognized, and he is remembered for his efforts to promote social equality and spirituality through his writings and compositions.

Kanakadasa's music and poetry focused on themes of devotion to Lord Krishna, promoting love and equality among all people, irrespective of caste or social status. His works were also a strong critique of the rigid caste system and other social injustices of the time, challenging the social hierarchy by focusing on devotion and inner purity.

Kanakadasa's legacy continues to influence both the spiritual and cultural life of Karnataka, particularly through

his music and poetry. He is celebrated as one of the key figures in the Bhakti movement and the Haridasa tradition, which helped shape the devotional culture of the region.

Some Wise Sayings of Kanakadasa

1. "ಕುಲವೆಂದು ಭೂಷಣ ನಾಮವೆಂದು ಸಿರಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನದಲಿ ಹರಿ ನೆಲಸುವುದೇ ಧನ್ಯವಾದ ಪುಣ್ಯ."

"Caste is mere ornamentation, fame is mere wealth, but having God reside in your heart is the greatest fortune."

2. "ನಿನ್ನ ಮನದಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಮನವು ನಿನ್ನ ಹೃದಯದಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯವು."

"May my heart be in your heart, and may your heart be in mine."

3. "ಉಳಿದವರಿಗೆ ಉಪಕಾರಿ ಆಗು."

"Be useful to those who are alive."



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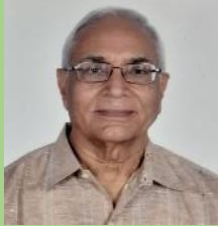
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