



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

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

**Monthly Newsletter
ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ**

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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 **November 2024** issue of our **Monthly Newsletter**. This is our **52nd issue**, since we began this initiative. November being the month when Karnataka celebrates its founding, we carry a brief note on **Karnataka Rajyotsava** and its significance for the State.

Our **Lead Feature** is on the recently unveiled **Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024-29**. An Executive Summary of the policy, along with a few breathtaking pictures of the major tourist destinations in Karnataka are provided here.

In our regular column on **Communication Pulse**, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** asks and answers the question, **What does Environment Policy teach the State Government in Karnataka?**

We are happy to carry the highlights of the **Annual General Meeting** and **Annual Conference** of the IIPA at New Delhi, where three publications of our Branch were released, and where I was invited to present a profile of our Branch at the Meeting of Chairpersons of Regional and Local Branches.

In our **Reports of Karnataka Branch events**, we carry reports of the following:

1. Our second **Training Programme for KAS officers**; and
2. The Special Lecture delivered by me on **“Recommendations of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2”** (which I had the privilege of heading), at the University of Mysore organized jointly by the **Dept of Political Science, Dept of Public Administration, University of Mysore** and the **Mysore Local Branch** of the IIPA.

Our **Branch Members** have been in the news for a variety of very laudable reasons. We are delighted to carry reports of the following:

1. The **Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 2024** for **Shri S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.)**;
2. **Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Award** for **Prof. Muzaffar Assadi**;
3. **Lifetime Achievement Award** for **Prof. Gulshetty**; and
4. **Dr. Priyanca Mathur’s** Guest Lecture at **NIAS, Bengaluru**.

In our section on **Branch Members’ Writings in the Popular Media**, we carry the links to thought-provoking articles penned by our **Life Members, Dr. A. Ravindra, IAS (Retd.), Mr. Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.), Dr. M.J. Vinod** and **Dr. Muzaffar Assadi**.

We end the issue with our column on **Food for Thought**.

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.





Karnataka Rajyotsava 2024

Karnataka celebrates **Karnataka Rajyotsava**, (Karnataka Formation Day), marking the unification of the State and its official establishment on **November 1** every year.



Karnataka Rajyotsava dates to 1956, when the **States Reorganisation Act** was implemented across India. This Act was crucial in reorganizing the boundaries of Indian States based on linguistic and cultural similarities. Prior to this, Kannada-speaking regions were scattered across the neighbouring five administrative units of the Bombay and Madras provinces, Kodagu, and the princely states of Mysore and Hyderabad. The movement for linguistic unification of these five regions gained momentum,

leading to the formation of the unified State of Mysore on November 1, 1956.

Mysore state was later renamed **Karnataka** in 1973, a name that resonates with its deep-rooted history

and cultural legacy. **Karnataka Rajyotsava** is celebrated to honour the efforts of all those who worked toward the unification of the Kannada-speaking regions, as well as to celebrate the vibrant identity of the state.

Rajyotsava celebrations are grand and colourful, with the Karnataka flag, featuring red and yellow, flying high across the state. Schools, colleges, and government offices also participate in the celebrations, with cultural events, parades, and folk performances that reflect Karnataka's diverse heritage.





Lead Feature - KARNATAKA TOURISM POLICY 2024-2029

**Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar and
Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**

Introduction

The **Karnataka Tourism Policy 2024-2029** is aimed to revive and expand Karnataka's Tourism sector by developing diverse attractions and ensuring sustainable Tourism. The key areas include **eco-tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, temple tourism, adventure tourism**, and newer sectors like **educational and agro-tourism**. The policy is designed to attract a range of visitors and enthusiasts by enhancing the State's infrastructure, including **rural tourism** routes, heritage sites and recreational facilities, to create a more inclusive experience for both domestic and international travellers.

In addition to this the State Government has prioritised eco-friendly practices, recognising the need to balance environmental preservation with economic benefits. It is hoped that this approach will encourage job creation and bolster the Tourism sector as a core economic driver, aligning with the State's objective to double Tourism's contribution to GDP over the next decade. Through collaborations with local businesses, trade bodies, and experts, Karnataka is aiming to make Tourism accessible while respecting cultural and environmental sensitivities.

Context

Karnataka's new Tourism Policy that will be in place till 2029 has received the

approval of the State Cabinet. It seeks to in

crease the domestic tourist visits from about 28 crores to about 48 crore a year and foreign tourist visits from 4 lakh to 20 lakh.

The data provided in the Tourism policy states that **Tourism is set to play an important role in Karnataka becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2032**. The State attracts nearly 10% of the overall tourist visits in India, placing it fourth among the Indian States. The domestic tourist visits increased from 36.7 million in 2006 to 283.5 million in 2023. Foreign tourist arrival in 2024 was over 4.01 lakh.

The Tourism Policy looks at 25 niche Tourism themes to attract tourist into the State. While 50 **adventure tourism** places for land, air and water-based adventure activities will be developed across the State, motor vehicle tax exemption would be offered to the first 200 caravans to be registered to promote **caravan tourism**.

New Initiatives

The Policy also plans to focus on promoting **other Tourism themes** such as golf, gastronomy, culture, heritage, coastal, films, agriculture, education, medical, inland water, maritime, mining, spiritual, and sports Tourism.

A **Tourism Analytics Division** would be established in the Tourism Department to focus on statistics and market research.

The Policy is expected to attract private

"Currently, Karnataka does not even feature in the top five among foreign tourist arrivals, which we intend to break into over the next five years. The policy seeks to make Karnataka among the top three tourism States for domestic tourism in the country".

Shri H. K. Patil
Tourism Minister
Government of Karnataka

investments and it will be facilitated by the **Tourism Investment Facilitation Cell**, which will be the nodal agency for enabling investment, its facilitation, and monitoring.

A **Global Tourism Investors Meet** is being planned to showcase the investment potential of Karnataka Tourism. A slew of incentives and concessions have been offered for

investment in the Tourism sector and subsidies have been offered. Additional subsidy has been offered for hotel projects coming up in **Kalyan Karnataka** and **Kittur Karnataka**.

Motor vehicle tax reimbursements have been announced and domestic tariffs have been extended to water and electricity to homestays.

Executive Summary of Karnataka's Tourism Policy 2024-29

Vision

1. Establish Karnataka as a leading tourist destination globally
2. Increase tourist footfalls to 10 million by 2029
3. Generate revenue of ₹50,000 crores by 2029

Mission

1. Develop and promote sustainable tourism infrastructure
2. Enhance tourist experiences through innovative products and services
3. Create employment opportunities for local communities

Objectives

1. Develop 10 new tourist destinations
2. Upgrade existing infrastructure and amenities
3. Promote cultural heritage, eco-tourism, and adventure tourism
4. Enhance digital connectivity and marketing initiatives
5. Ensure sustainable and responsible tourism practices

Strategies

Infrastructure Development

- Upgrade existing infrastructure (roads, airports, hotels, etc.)
- Develop new infrastructure (tourist amenities, transportation, etc.)
- Encourage private sector participation

Product Diversification

- Develop new tourist products (eco-tourism, adventure tourism, etc.)
- Enhance existing products (cultural heritage, etc.)
- Promote experiential tourism

Marketing and Promotion

- Digital marketing and social media campaigns
- International marketing and trade promotions
- Collaboration with travel trade and industry stakeholders

Capacity Building and Skill Development

- Train tourism stakeholders (hotel staff, guides, etc.)
- Enhance skills in hospitality, customer service, etc.
- Encourage entrepreneurship in tourism

Sustainable Tourism Practices

- Promote eco-friendly and responsible tourism
- Encourage sustainable practices in tourism industry
- Develop Green Tourism infrastructure

Key Initiatives

Karnataka Tourism Board

- ✓ Establish a dedicated Tourism Board
- ✓ Coordinate Tourism development and promotion

Tourism Development Projects

- ✓ Identify and develop new tourist destinations
- ✓ Upgrade existing destinations

Tourism Policy Incentives

- ✓ Offer incentives for tourism investments
- ✓ Provide subsidies for Sustainable Tourism practices

Skill Development Programs

- ✓ Conduct training programs for Tourism stakeholders
- ✓ Enhance skills in hospitality, customer service, etc.

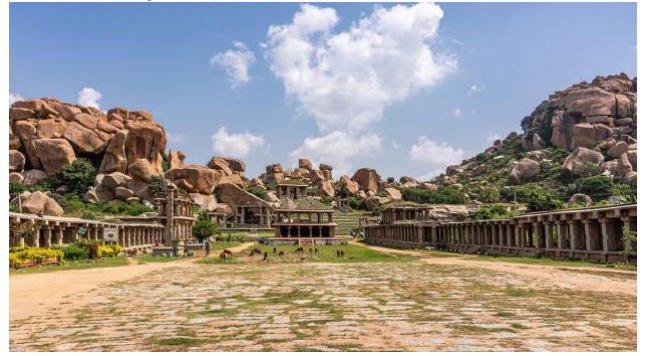
These strategies and initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism development, enhance tourist experiences, and establish Karnataka as a leading tourist destination.

Pictures of some Popular Tourist Destinations in Karnataka

(Source: *Karnataka Tourism*)



A view from Raja Seat in Madikeri



World Heritage destination, Hampi



Bhuthanatha Temples on the Eastern end of the Agastya Tirtha Lake at Badami



Jog Falls in Shivamogga



Pattadakal Temples - A 6th Century AD UNESCO site in Karnataka



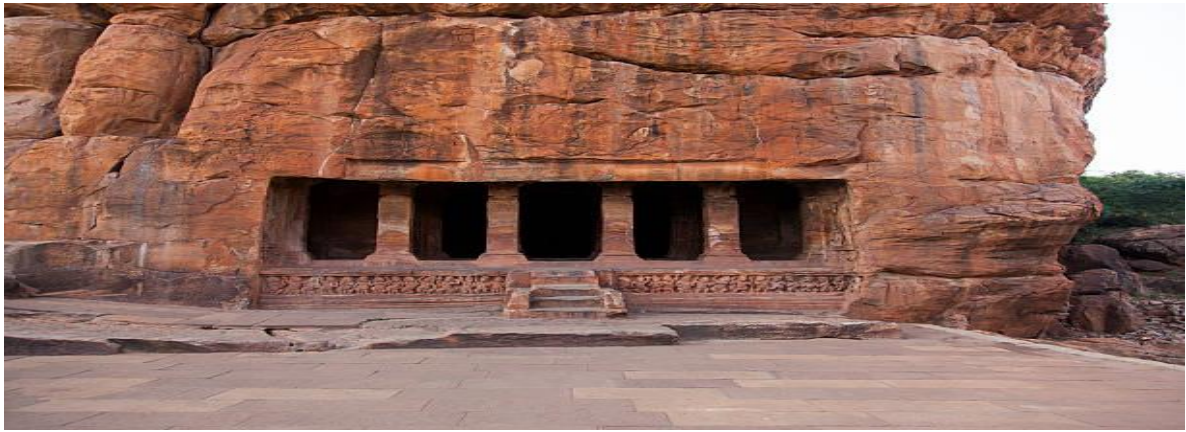
White Water Rafting on the Kali River



Agumbe Mountains



Mountain Slopes in Chikkamagalur



Cave Temples at Badami



Belur Temple



Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur

See Editorial in *Deccan Herald* on Karnataka's Tourism Policy, *Rising Footfall, Familiar Policy Gap*

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/editorial/rising-footfall-familiar-policy-gap-3259233>



What does Environment Policy Teach the State Government in Karnataka?

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

Introduction

Typically, an **Environmental policy** is the commitment of government to the laws, regulations and other policy mechanisms concerning issues/challenges related to environment.

The Government of Karnataka has brought out a comprehensive policy which provides some interesting lessons with reference to sustainable development, biodiversity preservation and climate resilience. This helps the State to adapt an approach to balancing economic growth with ecological protection. Some of the factors these policies inform and teach State Governance include:

Conserving Biodiversity



Policy Focus

- Protect forests and wildlife regions
- Promote afforestation
- Conserve endangered species



How?

Prioritise programmes like:

- Mitigate human-wildlife conflict
- Encourage community involvement
- Save habitat

Encourage Climate Resilience and Adaptation



Policy Focus

- Enhance climate resilience in vulnerable areas
- Assess risks related to floods, droughts, and erratic rainfall, which impact the State.



How?

Prioritise programmes on:

- Infrastructure and practices that mitigate climate risks
- Encourage soil restoration in agriculture abundant areas
- Accelerate rain water harvesting

Sustainable Development Goals



Policy Focus

- Committed to reducing carbon emissions through Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)
- Promote renewable energy
- Encourage sustainable agricultural practices



How?

Align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to focus on:

- Climate action
- Clean energy
- Life on land.

Public Health and Environmental Quality



Policy Focus

- Emphasis on importance of air and water quality
- Regulate industrial pollution
- Intensify urban green spaces aim to improve air quality



How?

- Link between environmental quality and public health
- Encourage investment in pollution control, waste management and green infrastructure.

Engaging with Community and Stakeholders



Policy Focus

- Involve communities in conserving forests
- Promote ecotourism
- Leverage traditional/local knowledge



How?

- Collaborate with local communities
- Enhance policy acceptance and sustainability

Importance of Environmental Policy in Karnataka

Karnataka has diverse ecosystems, rapid urbanisation, agricultural reliance and climate vulnerabilities and hence an Environmental policy becomes critical. Key reasons include:

1. **Risks in Managing Climate** - Karnataka faces multiple climate-related challenges to include droughts, erratic monsoon patterns and water scarcity. These challenges

are attempted to overcome by promoting climate resilience measures such as water resource management, reforestation and sustainable agricultural practices.

2. **Protect Biodiversity** - Protect Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site with high biodiversity and some of the ecosystems. Mitigate habitat destruction from activities such as mining, deforestation, and industrial expansion to encourage bio-diversity is preserved for future generations and for ecological balance.
3. **Conserve Water** - Encourage efficient water use and conservation to avoid water shortages.
4. **Control Pollution and Manage Urbanisation Efficiently** - Pollution has increased due to rapid urbanisation. This in turn has affected strains in water and waste generation. Guidelines and Environmental policies play a crucial role in managing pollution control
5. **Support Sustainable Economic Development** - Policies should promote sustainable practices in these sectors to help balance economic growth with environmental protection.
6. **Encourage Community and Cultural Values** - Encourage community involvement and respect local traditions to ensure that conservation efforts are aligned with local values. Garner local support for environmental initiatives and preserve cultural heritage associated with natural resources.
7. **Focus on Public Health and Quality of Life** - Address environmental degradation, to help reduce healthcare costs and improve residents' well-being.

Conclusion

The Government of Karnataka has addressed several of these challenges effectively and has plans to focus on long-term sustainability and resilience, fostering an environment-friendly state economy.

In a nutshell, environmental policies in Karnataka are fundamental for balancing ecological conservation with the needs of a growing population and economy, addressing climate adaptation, and promoting sustainable development across sectors.



Karnataka Regional Branch at the IIPA Annual General Body Meeting & Annual Conference at New Delhi

The Annual General Meeting of the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Annual Conference on the theme, “One Nation One Election” were held at the IIPA headquarters in New Delhi on the 4th and 5th of November 2024. Highlights of these events were the following:

1. Address by the **Hon’ble Vice-President of India and President of IIPA, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar;**
2. Conferring of **Paul H. Appleby Award 2024** for Distinguished

Services to IIPA and the field of Public

Administration on **Shri Jalil Ahmad Khan, IAS (Retd.);**

3. Conferring of **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award for Academic Excellence 2024** on **Prof. Mahendra Prasad Singh**, former Professor of University of Delhi;
4. Award to IIPA Regional and Local Branches for **Best Performance: The Maharashtra Regional Branch** was awarded the **First Prize for 2024;**

5. Release of Publications of Regional and Local Branches;
6. Meeting of Chairpersons of Regional and Local Branches;
7. Presentation of Theme Paper of the 2024 Conference on **“One Nation One Election”** by **Dr. Sapna Chadah**.

The **Karnataka Regional Branch** was represented by its **Chairperson, Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)** and **Secretary, Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar** at the above events. Three publications of the Branch were released on the occasion by the **Director-General of IIPA, Shri S.N. Tripathi, IAS (Retd.)**:

1. **District Governance in Chikkamagalur**;
2. **Management of Covid-19 in Karnataka: Lessons for the Future**; and
3. **Compendium-4** of Virtual Newsletters of the Branch (from October 2023 to September 2024)

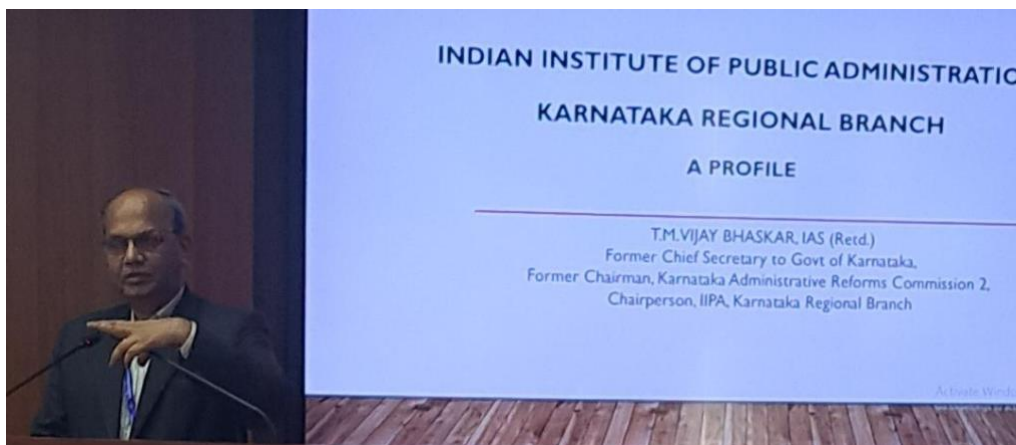
Photo Below

Chairpersons of respective Regional/Local Branches are seen holding copies of their publications on **District Governance**. **Director-General of IIPA, Shri S.N. Tripathi** is seen in the middle. Third from left is Chairperson of Karnataka Regional Branch, **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**.



Below

Chairperson of Karnataka Regional Branch, **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar** was invited to present a Profile of the Branch at the Meeting of Chairpersons of Regional and Local Branches.





Branch Events

Second Training Programme for Karnataka Administrative Service Officers

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 second day-long **Training Programme** for officers of the **Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS)** on '**Major E-Governance Applications**' on 23rd October, 2024 at the Training Hall, E Governance Department, MS Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru. The programme was inaugurated by **Shri. Ujwal Kumar Ghosh**, IAS, Secretary, DPAR (E-Governance), Govt. of Karnataka (*standing in the photo*), in the presence of **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson of the Branch and **Dr Dileesh Sasi**, CEO, Centre for E-Governance, Govt of Karnataka.



Resource Persons delivered interactive presentations on **E-Office; E-Procurement; Khajane II; Human Resource Management System; Janaspandana and SAKALA**. Twenty KAS officers participated in the Training Programme. (*Photo below*)



Mysore Local Branch Event

The Mysore Local Branch of the IIPA in collaboration with the Departments of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Mysore organized a Special Lecture by Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Branch on “Recommendations of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2” on 14 November 2024. Prof. Krishna Hombal, Chairman of the Departments of Political Science & Public Administration of the University of Mysore presided over the lecture. Present on the occasion were Shri B.S. Ravikumar, Chairman of Mysore Local Branch and Prof. J. Somashekar, Secretary of the Branch.

Talk on ‘Recommendations of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2’

Mysuru, Nov. 14 (RK&BS)- T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, former Chief Secretary and former Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, Government of Karnataka, delivered a special lecture on ‘Recommendations of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2’ at Humanities auditorium in Manasagangothri this morning.

The Department of Studies in Political Science and Department of Studies in Public Administration, University of Mysore, had jointly organised the lecture in association with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Mysore Local Branch.

Vijay Bhaskar inaugurated the lecture session by watering a plant, in the presence of Krishna Hombal, Chairman of Department of Studies in Political Science, B.S. Ravikumar, Chartered Accountant and President of IIPA, Mysore Branch and Dr. J.S. Somashekar, Senior Professor and Secretary, IIPA, Mysore.

In his address Vijay Bhaskar said, starting from July 2021 to Feb. 2024, the Commission had submitted seven reports related to reforms in administration and some of them have been implemented by the Government.

Prior to the submission of the report, 25,522 telephonic surveys were conducted among the public to look into the practicality of the recommendations. Some of the reports would have been implemented with ease, but now, as the Chairman of the Commission MLA R.V. Deshpande is conducting monthly review meeting of Revenue and other Departments and discussing about implementation of the report, things are gradually falling in place, said Vijay Bhaskar.

Quoting the report, he said, “We have demanded decentral-



T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, former Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, delivering a lecture in city this morning.

isation of administrative power, as we believe that the reforms is possible only with decentralisation of power. For example, works that can easily happen at taluk-level should not be dragged till district-level. It must be addressed at Gram Panchayat level and other local bodies.

The newly weds wait for two to three hours at the Sub-Registrar’s Office to facilitate the process of registration of their marriage, as per the Hindu Marriage Act. Following this, the Commission had voiced for providing the service at local body level. Due to the prevailing impediments, hardly 30 percent of the couples have registered as per the Act, observed Vijay Bhaskar.

Provision of services through online, cashless and contactless modes are the other recommendations to bring in administrative reforms, utilising the benefits of technology. Earlier a farmer had to submit 31 types of documents to avail farm loans. We have incorporated a system where the local agriculture officer shall verify the documents.

We had also recommended for e-Swathu that was implemented from Aug. 1. The bills of contractors that was earlier manually processed is also

brought under electronic bill payment system. At Secretariat, files were being disposed in seven stages and returning in same stages, but has been recommended to be reduced to four stages, to clear them at the earliest, he said.

Any license including Trade Licence should be renewed once in five years with benefits of auto renewal system, along with the verification of documents, which is also under consideration.

To improve the number of self-employment opportunities, many jobs can be created. To encourage new ventures, the process should be simplified, which is also being implemented, said Vijay Bhaskar.

Bhamy V. Shenoy, Founder-President of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) and its members were present.

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Branch Members in the News

Rajyotsava Award for Mr. S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.)

We are delighted to inform our readers that **Shri S.V. Ranganath**, IAS (Retd.), former **Chief Secretary of Karnataka** and former **Chairman of IIPA, KRB** was awarded the prestigious **Karnataka Rajyotsava Award 2024** for distinguished services rendered to the State in the field of **Administration**.

Shri S. V. Ranganath is an ex-IAS officer from the 1975 batch of Karnataka cadre. He holds a Master's degree (M.Sc.) from Delhi University. He has worked as a Civil Servant in various capacities, both in Government of India and Government of Karnataka. He was the Chairman of Indian Coffee Board, Resident Director in Indian Investment Centre, Abu Dhabi, Principal Secretary to various Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Department of Space, Member (Finance), Space Commission, Atomic Energy Commission and Earth Commission. He retired in October 2013 as Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. Subsequently, he worked as Non-Executive Chairman of IFCI and Vice-Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, Bengaluru.

He continues to guide and advise the Branch as a member of the Executive Committee.

Presently he is Chairman/Independent Director/Board Member of Bosch Ltd., Coffee Enterprises Ltd., Coffee Day Global Ltd., Jana Capital, QS Era, Indian Institute of Human Settlement and NABFINS, a subsidiary of NABARD.

Photo shows **Shri S.V. Ranganath** holding the **Rajyotsava Award**. He was felicitated by **Shri S. Ramanathan**, Chairman Emeritus of the Karnataka Regional Branch (*second from left*) and **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson of the Branch (*second from right*) on 6th November 2024. Also seen in the photo are **Prof. R. Madhwaraj**, Treasurer of the Branch (*extreme right*) and **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary (*extreme left*).

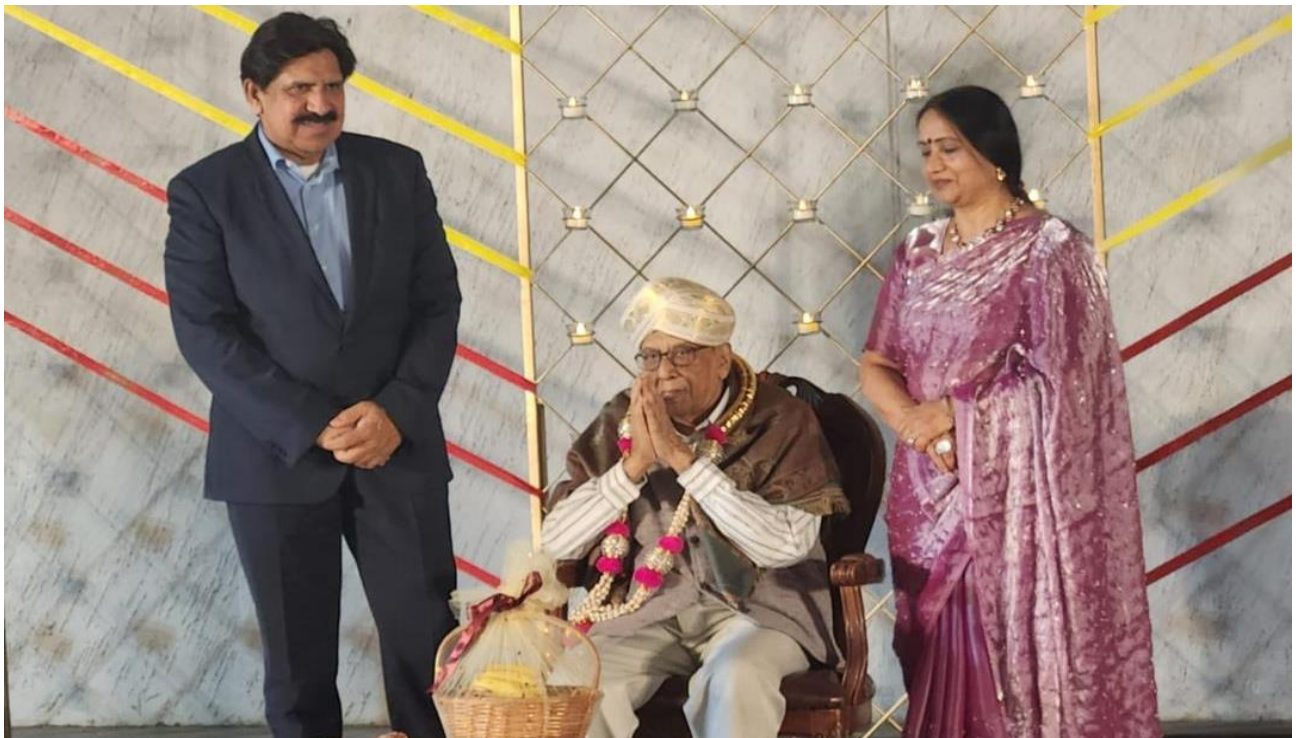


Shri S.V. Ranganath was also felicitated by the **Karnataka IAS Officers Association**. Photo shows the **Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS** (*at right*) and **Shri L.K. Atheeq, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Karnataka** doing him the honours.



Felicitations of Shri S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.)

Another distinguished recipient of the **Rajyotsava** award who was felicitated by the **IAS Officers Association** on the occasion was **Shri S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd)**, Chairman Emeritus of IIPA, KRB who received the **Karnataka Rajyotsava Award** in 1998.



Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award for Prof. Muzaffar Assadi

We are pleased to inform our readers that **Prof. Muzaffar Assadi** was conferred the **Karnataka Sahitya Award** for his book, *Alpasankhyataru Mattu Jaati Vyavasthe: Asmite, Vasahatushahi mattu Misalati* (In Kannada; *Minorities and Caste System: Identity, Coloniality and Reservations*) Bahurupi, 2021; pp 264, Rs. 300). A review of the book by **Dr. M.N. Panini** titled, *The Census and the Minoritization of Muslims* can be read by clicking on the link below:

[Economic and Political Weekly, 20 August 2022](#)

<https://www.epw.in/journal/book-reviews/census-a...>



Lifetime Achievement Award for Prof. Gulshetty, Secretary of Gulbarga Local Branch

We are pleased to inform our readers that **Prof. Gulshetty**, Secretary of the Gulbarga Local Branch was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award in Sociology** by the Registrar of **Karnataka State Akkamahadevi University, Bijapur** on 5th November 2024.



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**Dr. Priyanca Mathur at the National Institute for Advanced Studies,
Bengaluru**

Special Lecture on “*Women and Decentralized Governance in India*”



On 23 October 2024, **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**, Head, Centre for Research in Social Sciences and education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University) was invited to deliver a lecture on ‘*Women and Decentralised Governance in India*’ at **National Institute for Advanced Studies**, Bengaluru as a part of their **NIAS Democracy Forum Series** in collaboration with the Hans Seidel Foundation.

Dr. Mathur’s lecture essentially focused on how **federal governance structures across the world needs to be engendered. Gender equality should ideally operate at all levels of decentralised decision-making.** India is working on the principles of mixing competition and cooperation in federalism and bringing in gender equality too. She sought to illustrate and show how around the world and in India, this relationship is encouraged through innovation and policy transfer, ‘forum-shopping’, sub-national constitutions, and political representation and participation of women in federalism. Electoral quotas in various forms, like reserved seats for women, legislated candidate quotas and voluntary party quota is also another way of bringing in more gender equality within Federalism. **She highlighted how gender and federalism in India operate at the Local Government level and through Fiscal Federalism.**

Over the last two centuries, in a series of historical waves, federations have been formed. The post-colonial federations emerged after the post-war-break-up of the European empires. Among them, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Nigeria endured (Anderson, 2008:9). Gender and Federalism operate within framework of a nation-state. It is the state that makes laws and have control over revenue and resources and how they are distributed – all of which are critical to gender equality reform. It is the state that decides what services are to be offered to whom; it is the state that both constructs and challenges gender norms, practices, customs, and structural inequalities. **Thus, any state, be it decentralized, unitary, or federal, should look at why women, who make up more than fifty percent of the human beings on this planet, lack power and are absent from decision-making and why their interests are ignored.** Women across the world do not find adequate representation as elected officials and political leaders, which

enforces the argument that their participation in governance and politics has to be augmented largely to deepen democracy.

According to Christine Foster, law “makes” gender through policies, laws, practices, spending patterns, and judicial decisions, and can challenge structural inequalities, gender norms, traditional harmful practices, and customs. When women lack power and are absent from decision-making, their interests are often ignored, and thus, the choice of a governance system that protects their rights is critical. The inequalities that women experience are heightened by the role played by the state in “moulding the socio-economic realities of women”. **Contemporary theories of federal institutions have not been able to empirically analyze “federalism as an amalgam of gendered power relations”.** It must be pointed out here that Cooperative Federalism can negatively impact gender politics when women’s organisations may be denied access to closed-door inter-governmental decision-making. There have also been historical examples of women being kept out of governmental discussions.

In India, the governance structure has not adequately explored the gendered impact of federal arrangements of women’s politics. Through forum shopping, experimentation, and policy innovation, opportunities for women increase multi-fold within federalism. Besides, the way the women’s movement engages with the state structure also gets impacted by the asymmetrical relations and intergovernmental relations within federalism. How all this has affected women’s politics has not been much looked at.

The Indian state is a federal one, with multiple levels, and it has been said that as the lowest levels of governance are more entrenched in a social-cultural setting that is traditional, any reformist ideas stand a better chance of getting accepted at the federal level than at the regional or local. The same principle also extends to women’s movements, which are more active and thicker at the national than local level. Yet, **reservations for women had first come in at the local level in 1992 and finally at the state and national level only as late as 2023.**

Economic liberalization as decentralization worked hard to change the **paternalistic development paradigm** and bring in, instead, women’s empowerment at the lower levels of governance. Studies have shown that from the last decade, there have been power shifts at the lower level that have brought in gender misunderstanding. Besides, feminist scholars like Saxena have noted that when power gets devolved to minority/peripheral communities, there is a greater chance of an increase in women’s electoral representation.

Federal structures of governance allow women’s organizations the opportunity to do ‘forum-shopping’ – the practise of choosing the court or jurisdiction that has the most favourable rules or laws for the position being advocated. The scope of experimentation and innovation in the field of policy-making gets increased within the federal framework.

When representatives of Switzerland were questioned by the Committee on CEDAW, they highlighted the example of India as to how **gendering federalism in India has encouraged the creation of new ideas at the local level.** Federalism allows for policies to be tested first at the provincial and local level safely as risks are smaller there – from there, if successful, they can be duplicated and promoted at the national level. For example, **a unique policy innovation of courts for women called *Nari Adalats*, which was developed in the state of Gujarat, was then replicated in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh.**



Branch Members' Writings in Popular Media



Why Gender should be an Election Issue — not just in US, but in India too

By Dr. A. Ravindra, IAS (Retd.)
In *Deccan Herald* dt. 1 Nov. 2024

The Trump-Harris debate to elect the upcoming United States presidential election on November 5 is centred around key issues: the economy, immigration, abortion, race, and gender. While the candidates have distinct views and policy agendas on the first three, interestingly, race and gender—closely tied to their personas—have also emerged as major issues, with gender taking on particular prominence.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/why-gender-should-be-an-election-issue-not-just-in-us-but-in-india-too-3257979>



A Colonial Context to the Wars of our Time: *Empire of the Mind*

By Dr. G. Gurucharan, IAS (Retd.)
In *Deccan Herald* dt. 10 November 2024

First published in 1899, Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness is a classic narrative on colonialism and the amoral exploitation it subjected the indigenous populations to. The reader can interpret it as she wants to: as a stinging indictment of the horrors of subjugation in colonialism or as an apologetic defence of the imperial project of 'civilising the native.'

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/a-colonial-context-to-the-wars-of-our-time-3269869>

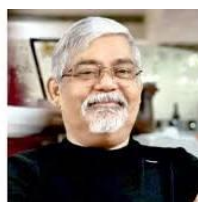


The Complex Morality in Armed Intervention

By Dr. M.J. Vinod
In *Deccan Herald* dt. 14 November 2024

The international consensus on when to get involved in the internal affairs of another state is fast dissipating. The fact is that world history has largely been a history of armed intervention.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-complex-morality-in-armed-intervention-3275458>



Nehru's Complex Legacy on Caste

By Dr. Muzaffar Assadi
In *Deccan Herald* dt. 1 November 2024

During the colonial period, Nehru not only encountered caste issues but also challenged common stereotypes about its origins.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/nehru-s-complex-legacy-on-caste-3257977>



Preservation of the Unity, Integrity and Security of India



National Unity Day is celebrated in India on 31 October. It was introduced by the Government of India in 2014. The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** who played a major role in the political integration of India.

Objective and Pledge

The official statement by the Home Ministry of India cites that the **National Unity Day** "will provide an opportunity to re-affirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the actual and potential threats to the unity, integrity, and security of our country."

On this day, a pledge is read out in government offices. It reads as follows:

"I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserving the unity, integrity, and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen. I take this pledge in the spirit of the unification of my country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I also solemnly resolve to make my own contribution to ensure the internal security of my country."





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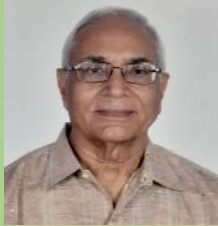
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