



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

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
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Chief Editor



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A Note from the Chief Editor



Shri S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.)

Chairman

Indian Institute of Public Administration
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

I am happy to place before our readers the **August 2021** issue of our *Virtual Newsletter*. This is our **13th issue**, since we began this initiative. The discerning reader of this issue may notice an icon on the front page, just beneath the picture of the **Vidhana Soudha** in Bengaluru which is the seat of the Government of Karnataka. A double click on this icon will open a video revealing some facts about this iconic building, courtesy *Metro Saga*.

The *Lead Article*, this time, is by an eminent, internationally renowned scholar of Political Science and Public Administration, **Prof. Krishna K. Tummala**, Professor Emeritus at Kansas State University. We carry excerpts of his much-acclaimed book on '*Corruption in the Public Sector*'. The very next article is by **Mr. V. Balasubramanian**, IAS (Retd.) on '*Corruption in Karnataka*'. We then bring you a report of the **Virtual Book Discussion on Corruption**, which was jointly organized by us, in collaboration with the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education of **JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University**. For those of you who missed the event, a link to the video recording of the proceedings is given below the report. We also bring you a **Book Review** of Prof. Tummala's book, which has been ably reviewed by **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**.

The **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** submitted its **First Report** last month. We bring you a brief report of the event.

In our section on *Environment Matters*, we carry a very disturbing report of *Greenpeace India* which states that eight Indian cities, including Bengaluru, recorded a dramatic spike in NO₂ emissions over a one-year period, from 2020 to 2021. The report identifies the reasons responsible for it, and also suggests how to meet this challenge.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue 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.

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Lead Article

Corruption in the Public Sector

(Excerpted from Krishna K. Tummala, ed.,
Corruption in the Public Sector: An International Perspective,
Emerald Publishing, UK, 2021)



Prof. Krishna K. Tummala
Professor Emeritus
Kansas State University, USA

The very definition of “corruption” is fraught with difficulty. It defies a simple, universally acceptable, definition. Indeed, the oft-cited World Bank’s elementary definition of corruption as “using public power for private gain” misses a lot. For that matter, any simple definition tends to be simplistic. For corruption is ubiquitous. It is also complex and endemic as each nation with its own unique culture not only has its own brand of corruption, but also a variety of ways of combating it. Transparency International’s ominous conclusion in its 2018 Report is that “Corruption chips away at democracy to produce a vicious cycle, where corruption undermines democratic institutions and, in turn, weak institutions are less able to control corruption.” All this might lead one to despair, reminding one of Mark Twain’s famous expression about weather that everyone talks about, but not much can be done to change it. There, however, are some success stories in that all small countries such as Norway, New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, and Hong Kong seem to have found ways to deal with it. And certainly, there are lessons to learn. Current situation of Hong Kong is suspect since China’s influence grew.

There are, of course, only two reasons for corruption: need and greed. As to need, although it is not difficult to define what shall be the minimum pay, none can posit what exactly is the ceiling beyond which one ought not to be paid. It is recognized that at the minimum one should be paid a subsistence wage. For the temptation to take a bribe is greater for a lowly paid public servant. Thus, indeed better pay would work as an inhibitor, as is argued in the case of Singapore. An Indian police constable, who is paid a subsistence wage, or even less, is easily susceptible to a bribe. In fact, the propensity to demand a bribe is greater than otherwise. But higher pay does not guarantee probity and integrity. Moreover, generous pay scales are a function of several variables such as the state of the economy, competition between the private and public sectors for able and professional personnel, size of the population and the tax base, inequalities both social and economic among the populace, and

so on. Moreover, better pay might meet the “need” part of corruption, but does not address the other part of equation – “greed.”

To check greed, laws and institutions to fight corruption are essential. But just having them on the books is not enough as in the cases of India, Bangladesh, or South Africa. They need to be implemented impartially. All these three States demonstrate the failure to do so. As is often argued, corruption should be made a “low reward, and high price” affair. It is not simply the force of law, nor the guarantee of swift and commensurate punishment, administered impartially, that are enough. Social stigma matters most. A society that would not tolerate, either giving or taking a bribe, would do well in curbing corruption.

Moreover, it is important to note that the fight against corruption would not be successful if it is uni-dimensional. The effort must be multi-dimensional. It should involve several political and social institutions – all political parties, civil societies, media and so on. In the current day, when globalization has become the “new norm” (despite the new claims on “nationalism”), attempts to curb corruption locally or nationally alone would not do.

More importantly, institutions fighting corruption should not be burdened with fighting all sorts of crimes, but focused entirely on curbing corruption. Singapore and Hong Kong are shown to be prime examples. And such institutions ought not to be used for political purposes, such as to neutralize opposition, or to advance ideological, political and personal or partisan gain. Pope, writing for Transparency International, provided a 6-point template to sustain a well-resourced, independent corruption fighting institution. The foremost variable is the political will to deal with corruption. Top leadership is fundamental to successfully fight corruption. But even there, some limitations are noted. For one, a Prime Minister or a President of a nation might be of great personal integrity and probity, but could be surrounded by a coterie of corrupt colleagues. Or one might even become a captive of the system. Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi in India are good examples of leaders with integrity. And both are known to shout against corruption. Yet, corruption is ubiquitous in India. Frequent regime changes, or a single-party dominated regime, may also be hurdles in curbing corruption, as has been shown in case of Bangladesh and India. Not only strong and committed leadership, but political stability also is needed.

It would also be useful to realize that what succeeded in one country may not work in all others. A lot depends upon culture – socially and administratively – and the state of development. In some cultures, gift-giving is considered to be very important. But the distance between a gift and a bribe is not far off. Moreover, and more importantly, is corruption active in that it is demanded, or passive which is simply offered?

Indeed, the size of a nation also appears to be a determinant of the capacity of a nation to fight corruption. In small countries, such as the Nordic nations, where face-to-face relationships are the norm, or a Singapore, or Hong Kong, the stigma can easily be projected. In a large and very diverse country such as India, the very reach of law into the remote corners of the nation is suspect. Indeed, the development of transportation facilities and the ease of communication, with new technologies, ease this burden to an extent. But issues of privacy and the evils of social media where rumours run rampant, are the emerging issues attracting attention. More importantly, how to protect citizen privacy?

Corruption is no more restricted to bureaucracies; nor is it simply money changing hands. Now, multifarious participants such as politicians, private contractors, even non-government entities are involved. And corruption runs into sand and land, with construction becoming an important consideration in the development of a nation.

Procurement, that is, outsourcing (“contracting out”), is a great source of corruption. It is argued that e-governance and the right to information helped ease this trauma as transparency and accountability are maintained. But both come with their own problems. E-governance, with the attendant invasion of individual privacy, and governments’ use of emerging technologies to snoop over individuals demand a different kind of focus in curbing corruption.

The above are not excuses for the inability to fight corruption, or worse, the futility of efforts to curb it. The intent is to show that dealing with corruption is not an easy matter. Nor is it a one-time affair, or localized. The fight is unending. And indeed, as despair might take hold, one can take heart that there are success stories. They seem to confine largely to smaller nations with stable polities, though.

In the ultimate analysis, not all rhetoric would cut corruption. It is action, sustained and meaningful, to find the reasons for corruption and then curb it, that makes the difference. Fighting only symptoms of corruption, without understanding the very fundamental reasons for corruption could only be palliative in the short run.

All this should not be understood as an apologia for corruption, but only a reflection of the difficulties involved in the study and the efforts to curb it. Should the fight against corruption be considered a waste of effort? No. Not in the least. The search for a better understanding of the causes and consequences of corruption, and more effective ways of combating it, must, and will go on.

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Corruption in Karnataka



V. Balasubramanian, IAS (Retd.)

Former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Corruption is a ubiquitous phenomenon in India irrespective of the State, Federal Governments and Ruling Parties. Karnataka has seen three phases of corruption after independence. The first was by political leaders and officials from the proverbial PWD and Irrigation Department contractors till the 1970's. Investment in Irrigation and Power increased significantly during the 5-Year Plans which facilitated overestimates, cost and time over-runs.

The second phase was special to Karnataka namely, the liquor barons funding the political parties. Mysore State did not have any history of prohibition unlike the other states in India under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1935, almost all states had Congress governments and most of them introduced restrictions on alcohol. But Mysore was a Part B State with a British Commissioner. Arrack, toddy and Indian Made 'Foreign' Liquor (IMFL) such as whiskey, rum and beer were licensed from 1889. Since then, liquor trade became an important source of government income and also government corruption. But, in the 1980's there was an innovation in the form of "seconds". To increase Karnataka's sales by exporting IMFL to other states, the duty and taxes on export was reduced to Rs.2 per litre compared to the higher duty within the state. So the liquor barons devised the simplest system of labelling the bottles "For Export" but selling it inside the state with Export Label. Such sale was called "seconds", the first being tax-paid for sale within state. This corrupt practice was rampant in the 1980s and it was estimated by the Taxation Task Force constituted by Karnataka that in 1999-2000 alone, while 28 million litres of IMFL was officially sold in the state, almost two and a half times that amount, i.e., 68 million litres was additionally sold by way of "seconds". The liquor barons shared part of the loot with the political leaders with some "tips" going to government officers.

The Veerendra Patil government stopped this in 1989 by nationalizing the wholesale trade of liquor through the public sector Mysore Sales International (MSIL) controlling the movement of liquor from distilleries. But he was dismissed in one year and the succeeding government resumed the practice by appointing a former Excise Commissioner as the Chief Secretary, superseding three senior officers and also made him the Finance Commissioner, Chairman of MSIL, BDA and the State Finance Corporation! The same CM-CS duo placed orders for supply of 100 Apple Macintosh computers, incompatible with the IBM-Microsoft system of the government, on a non-existent firm which never supplied the computers and the advance given to a middleman was lost as the CBI investigation showed that the amount was handed

over at the official residence of the CM! But the case was dismissed by the High Court as it found that the deal was approved by the state cabinet while the accused were the CM and CS who alone could not be held responsible for a collective decision! Under India's Anglo-Saxon Adversarial Judicial system, it is evaluation of evidence, the burden of proof being solely on the prosecution and proof beyond reasonable doubt are cardinal and not 'Arriving at Truth' as under the Napoleonic Inquisitorial system in the rest of the world,

The third phase of government-inspired corruption in Karnataka started in late 1980's when the Janata Government legally permitted over 300 House Building Cooperative Societies to get large pieces of land within the Bangalore Urban district through government acquisition for distribution of sites to the site-less members of the HBCSs. Instead of giving sites to only their own members, the politically-headed HBCSs distributed large number of sites to builders, contractors and political leaders ostensibly for "development" of the sites with internal roads, layouts, drains, etc. Government acquisition of lands for the HBCSs was discontinued after strictures by the High Court.

But, with the Information Technology boom exploding in the new millennium, the population of Bangalore doubled to 12 million and with 10 lakh IT families with an average income of Rs.11 lakhs annually and banks giving loans liberally, the boom in real estate by private sector also skyrocketed. Land cost in 2017 increased by 520 times compared to 1970. This has led to rampant land-grabbing by real estate mafia with officials' help. The government land under encroachment in the composite Bangalore district is 102,600 acres with the average Mode (Most Occurring Value) of Rs.5 crores per acre. According to the 2017 Koliwad Committee Report on Lake Encroachments in Bangalore Urban and Rural districts, out of 4,818 lakes, 3,333 have been encroached upon to the extent of 12,042 acres. The reason why in spite of the Reports of Legislature Committee on land grabbing headed by AT Ramaswamy, MLA (2007), Task Force Report by a former Additional Chief Secretary (2011) and Koliwad Committee Report (2017), no action has been taken is, because political leaders, bureaucrats and realtors have a joint venture in this. Even in Covid Era, the major real estate projects as identified by the Koliwad committee in 2017 are continuing as follows: Prestige Group (139 projects), Sobha (148 projects), Godrej Properties (125 projects), Mahindra Lifespace (104 projects), Brigade Group (64), Purvankara (64 projects), Rohan Builders (12 projects). All had their beginnings in 1980s. The most dangerous development is, the real estate mafia is no longer outside the government.

Mrs. Gandhi self-servingly described that *Corruption is a Global Phenomenon*. India, with its Electoral Bonds, is a major player!

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CORRUPTION, DATA AND THE SDGS

A Transparency International Online Course.



IIPA-Karnataka Regional Branch Activities

Report of Virtual Book Discussion on Corruption

The **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the **Indian Institute of Public Administration**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education** of **JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University**, Bengaluru, organized a Virtual Book Discussion on 31st July 2021. The book under discussion was '*Corruption in the Public Sector: An International Perspective*' edited by **Prof. Krishna K. Tummala** (Emerald Publishers, UK, 2021).

In his Introductory Remarks, **Mr. S.V. Ranganath**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, referred to the four Mega/Big Ticket areas of corruption that warrant close analysis: (1) Distribution of Natural Resources, where the procedure of auction may not be suitable in all cases; (2) Procurement of goods and services (where e-procurement, as adopted by states like Karnataka, has made a big difference in reducing corruption); (3) Construction activities in the public sector; and (4) Urban Land Issues – where big money is involved and which are also areas of large-scale corruption. Posing the question, "*Why do we tolerate corruption?*" Mr. Ranganath referred to the argument that people vote corrupt politicians to power because they provide them access to basic services, which would otherwise be beyond their reach. He concluded by stating that corruption is a complex phenomenon that needs to be looked at from a three-fold perspective: historical, political and social.

The Lead Speaker, **Prof. Krishna K. Tummala**, Professor-Emeritus at **Kansas State University**, USA, began by delving into the travails of studying corruption, a phenomenon which is ubiquitous, endemic, eludes definition, lends itself to a variety of cultural innovations, and which simply refuses to go away, despite serious efforts. Corruption is no more restricted to bureaucracies; nor is it simply money changing hands. Now, multifarious participants such as politicians, private contractors, even non-government entities are involved. The fight against corruption must be multi-dimensional and should involve all political parties, civil societies, media and the like. Institutions fighting corruption ought not to be used for political purposes, such as to neutralize opposition, or to advance ideological, political or partisan gain. In order to sustain a well-resourced, independent corruption-fighting institution, the foremost variable is political will. Not only strong and committed leadership, but political stability is needed. In the ultimate analysis, it is *action*, sustained and meaningful, to find the reasons for corruption and then curb it, that makes the difference. Fighting only symptoms of corruption, without understanding the fundamental reasons for corruption could only be palliative in the short run, concluded Prof. Tummala.

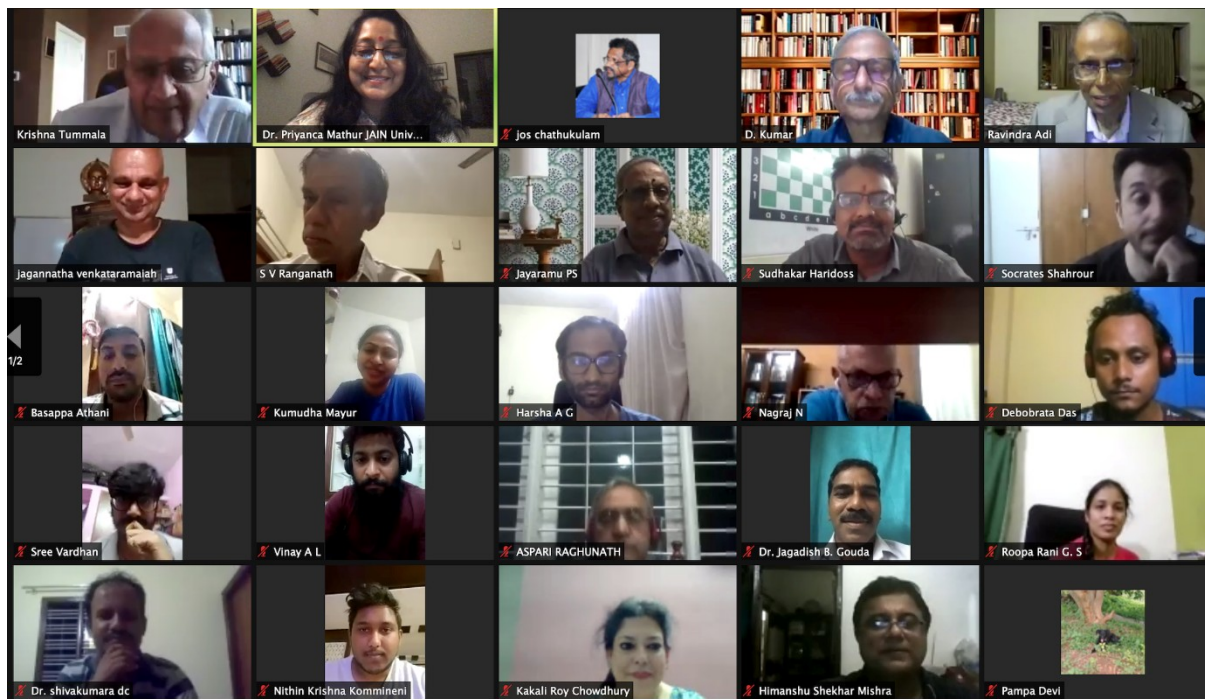
Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor at JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, as the Discussant, pointed out the major arguments made by the editor and contributors to the book, and raised some critical issues for discussion. A lively Q & A session followed, which saw the participation of retired civil servants, academics and others.

In his concluding remarks, **Dr. A. Ravindra**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, highlighted the role of the State in curbing corruption. In his view, electoral corruption is the root of all evil, with elected representatives looking for ways and means of recovering their “investment”. He referred to one of the reports of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission on ‘*Ethics in Governance*’ which makes several suggestions to deal with the problem of corruption. He concluded by expressing the opinion that societal norms, an active civil society and leaders with integrity at all levels would go a long way in curbing corruption.

Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary of the Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA proposed a vote of thanks.

Below:

**A Screenshot of the Lead Speaker, Chair, Introductory Speaker, Discussant and
Some Participants at the Book Discussion**



Video Recording

https://zoom.us/rec/share/Dt96xCGgM0kxOJJOcCHY05z_s pHaG0Te5omutIJEOCzql7aNXjO562LLh_Ix9T-X.nQEqP17cd40bNNhl

Access Passcode: 1SbnUv=3

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**Report on the Book Discussion uploaded on
JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University Website**

<https://explore.jainuniversity.ac.in/conferences/international/a-virtual-book-discussion-with-dignitaries-on-corruption-in-the-public-sector-an-international-perspective>

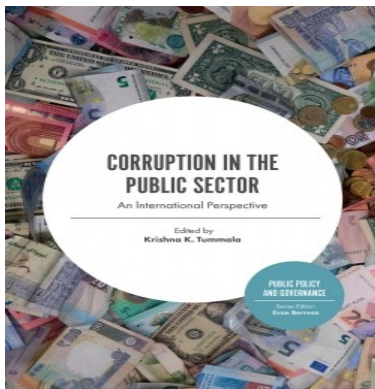
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Book Review

The Many Challenges in Dealing with Corruption



Dr. Priyanca Mathur



***Corruption in the Public Sector:
An International Perspective***

Krishna K. Tummala, ed.
Kansas State University, USA
Emerald Publishing Limited, UK
Pp. 168, List price: \$95.00
2021

Professor Tummala begins his book by tracing the roots of corruption to Kautilya's 44 types of embezzlement and the acceptance that a lot has been already written on this subject. However, as he rightly says, we are yet to find the silver bullet to slay this monstrous scourge and so a lot more must be written. It must be acknowledged that the book accepts the fact that there is no universally accepted definition of the term corruption, and pertinently that the World Bank's elementary definition of corruption as using public power for private gain actually misses a lot.

The chapters in this book clearly lay out that each nation has its own unique brand of corruption and a variety of ways to combat it. While there may be success stories from small countries like Hong Kong, Singapore, Norway, Denmark and New Zealand, one country's lessons may not necessarily apply to another country. So Prof. Tummala quotes Mark Twain

in despair that while everyone talks about the weather not much can be done to change it. The book begins with the disclaimer that it neither attempts to give any comprehensive definition of the term corruption nor an expansive overview of international coverage of countries. But it does very importantly throw the spotlight on subjects that have not normally been studied, like corruption in procurement, and the new subject of the use of information electronically which infringes upon individual privacy. A topic which many nations, including ours, are heatedly debating today!

While Quah's chapter illustrates the success stories of Singapore and Hong Kong, Tummala speaks of how the 2014-2019 Modi regime in India, had mixed outcomes, with the unsurpassed rhetoric falling short of the promise perhaps. Jhansi Rani has shown how the RTI Act of 2005 had unintended consequences like putting the lives of journalists who aggressively chased corruption stories in jeopardy. In fact, a 2019 book on corruption titled '*Catch and Kill – Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators*', was written by the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Ronan Farrow, and became an instant best-selling account of espionage and violence, about a Hollywood Producer.

Zafarullah and Haque's Bangladesh chapter analyses the underlying historical, administrative, social, cultural and political reasons for corruption in the public sector and why and how successive governments have failed to deal with it. They claim that corruption has increased to the extent of becoming ubiquitous, running through the entire social and political fabric. Zirker's chapter on the other hand compares the contrasting causal factors behind corruption in both Brazil and Chile. South Africa's failure in tackling this menace is rooted largely to 'state capture' for personal gain in Ferreira's chapter. It is known to all that corruption sources have increased ever since outsourcing governmental functions began. This experience in the South-East nations is the central concern of Jones' chapter. Manoharan and Carizzales, in their chapter, focus on local governments' increasing reliance on use of internet and social media and its emerging challenges, particularly that of privacy.

Finally in the Epilogue, Prof. Tummala seeks to summarise the lessons learnt in tackling corruption. He aptly summarises that no country today can really claim that it is corruption-free, as the agencies meant to tackle corruption are themselves corrupt and even the holy place Vatican is no exception as the Pope himself admitted. "*Corruption could be pervasive, it could be spotty, it could be large or petty*", he says. The important takeaway is repeated assertion that the problems of measurement remain. How do we measure corruption? And the problems of definition remain. How do we define corruption? And so he humbly accepts that this work is no great addition to the existing literature, with which I disagree.

Yes, today we need to take a holistic view towards the 'need' and 'greed' of corruption, which represent the diabolical paradigm of 'cause' and 'effect'. I totally second him in his analysis that while better or higher pay may counter the 'need' part of corruption, it may not address the greed factor. Human nature has its varied ways – '*yeh dil will always mange more*'. The onus thus effectively falls on laws and institutions. I would insist, that even above that, what we need are checks to ensure implementability and accountability. I wholeheartedly echo his suggestion that the fight against corruption must be multi-dimensional, bringing in everyone - parties, civil society and media – and if I may also add, the family and community – as yes, social stigma, at the end of the day matters. While

committed top leadership is a must-have, we hardly have clean leaders to look up to these days. Yet the ideal remains for one to aspire for surely.

We need to address the issue holistically, through the ecology of culture, as in many places there is a very thin dividing line between gift taking and receiving bribes. Mere rhetoric is never enough. We need genuine, true-hearted action with well-defined punitive measures in place. Only true accountability and the fear of punishment can provide any relief. This book most suitably addresses all these concerns.

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Administrative Reforms

Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Recommends offering 800 Services Online

The Hindu

Bengaluru, July 03, 2021



In view of technological developments, **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** (KARC-2), headed by former Chief Secretary **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.) has recommended transformation of *Atalji Jana Snehi Kendras* (AJSKs) as the single-window agency for citizens for nearly 800 online services of all departments, abolition of all four offices of Regional Commissioner, and option for citizens to go to any RTO in Bengaluru for availing services, as in the case of registration of documents in sub-registrar offices.

The Commission has made a wide range of recommendations in three key departments – Revenue; Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; and Transport, which accounted for nearly 80 per cent of all applications for citizen centric services.

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 submitted its first report on July 3, 2021, and recommended making available around 800 services through Bangalore One, Karnataka One, Gram Panchayat Bapuji Seva Kendras and Common Service Centres. It said Karnataka Mobile One app should be redeveloped using the latest technology for providing

all e-services of government of Karnataka through mobile phones; and tatkal service provision should be made for all services for faster delivery for a higher fee.

In the urban areas concerned, it said City Corporations, City Municipal Councils, Town Municipalities and Town Panchayats can be authorised to issue certain revenue services, like Family Tree and Residence Certificate, that do not relate to land, income or caste. About 15 popular certificates can be auto generated by AJSK and sent to the digi-locker of the person concerned, without any application.

The KARC-2 was constituted on January 7, 2021. The Commission decided to focus on improving ease of living for citizens by examining citizen centric services so as to identify how ease of delivery, work processes and e-delivery of these services could be improved.

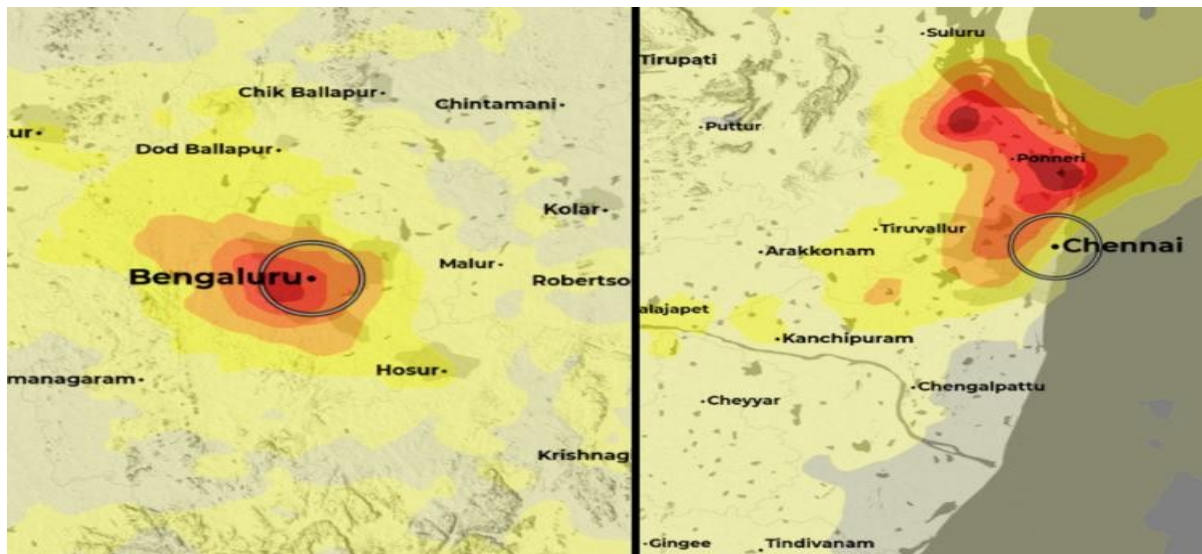
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Environment Matters

Eight Indian Cities Record Dramatic Spike in NO2 Emissions

Courtesy: *Greenpeace India*

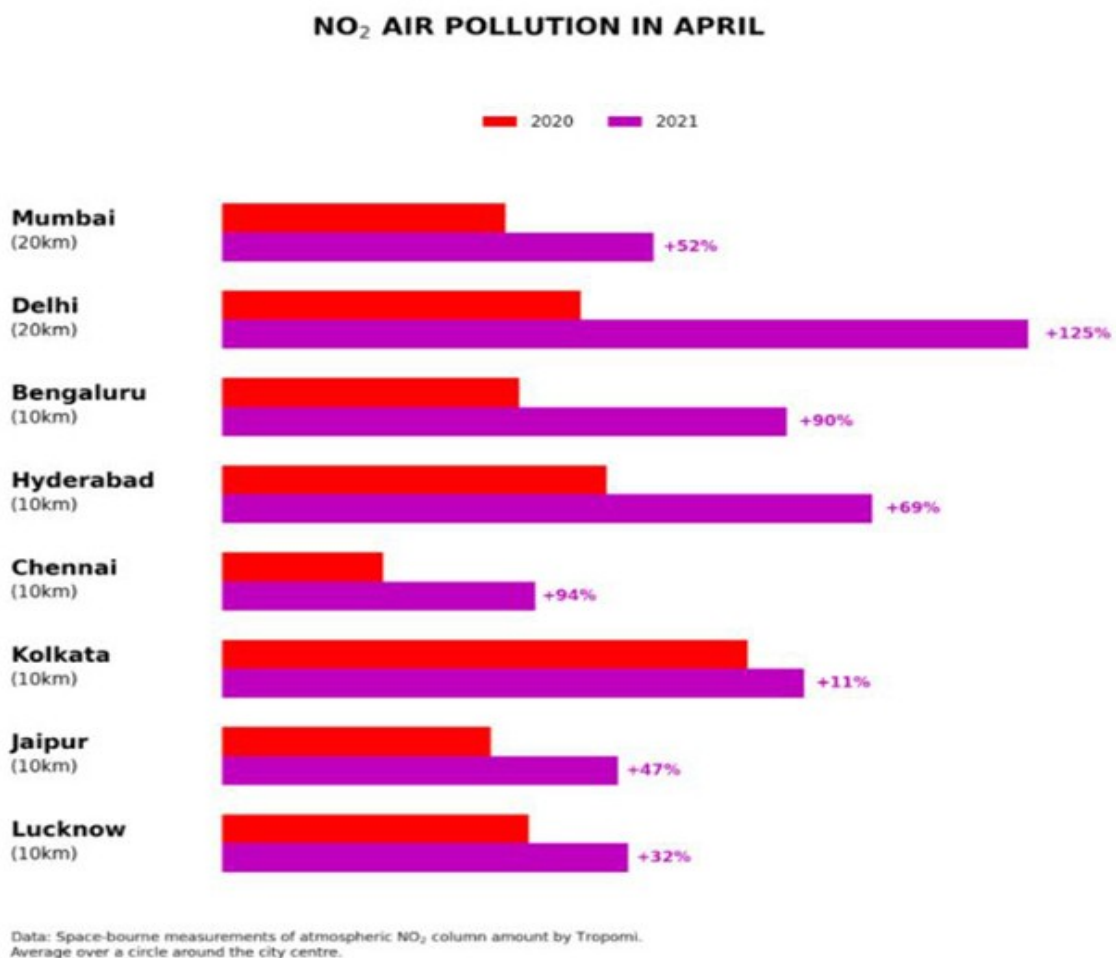
A report by *Greenpeace India*, through satellite observations, reveals that NO2 emissions have increased in all eight state capitals that were observed.



Greenpeace India's latest report has recorded a dramatic increase in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) emission in all eight Indian cities that were studied. The list includes Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur and Lucknow in north India and Hyderabad, **Bengaluru** and Chennai among the southern states. According to the report, it was inferred from satellite observations that Delhi saw the maximum spike of 125% in NO2 emissions, Chennai recorded a 94% increase, **Bengaluru recorded a 90% spike** and Hyderabad recorded a 69% increase in April 2021 than in the same month of the previous year. NO2 is a dangerous air pollutant that is released when fuel is burned. Motor vehicles, power generation and industrial processes contribute to the spike in NO2 emissions. Exposure to NO2 can severely impact people's health at all ages,

including the respiratory and circulatory systems and the brain, leading to increase in hospital admissions and mortality.

According to *Greenpeace India*, there is growing evidence that polluted cities suffer disproportionately more coronavirus cases, amid the ongoing pandemic. The health impact of fossil-fuel related air pollution is severe and has been reflected time and again in several reports. The satellite observations of NO₂, analysed in *Greenpeace India*'s study are monthly averages of measurements. Air pollution is highly sensitive to weather conditions. Therefore, the data is averaged to monthly means and compared to equivalent periods in different calendar years.



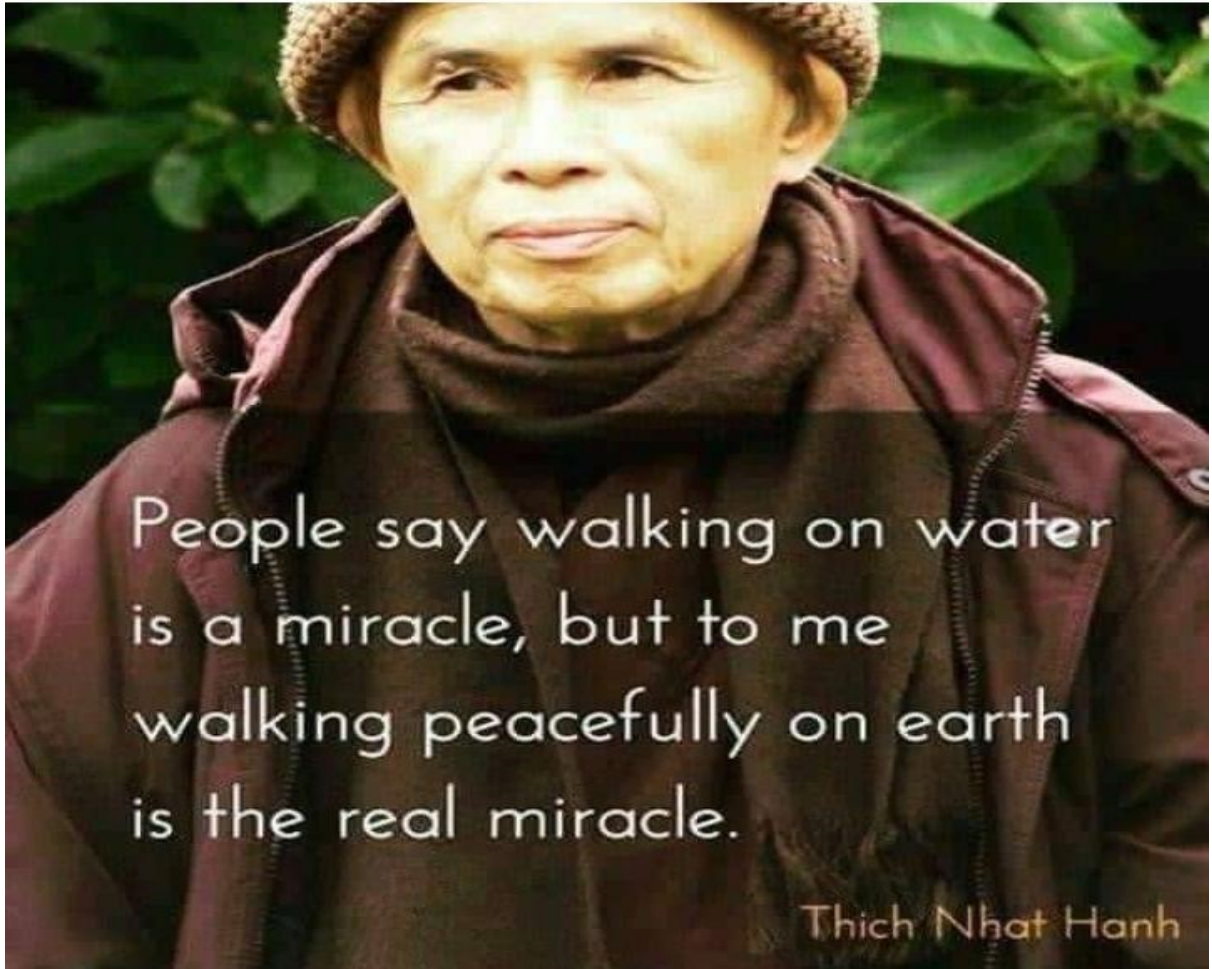
Courtesy: *Greenpeace India*

“The air quality levels in these cities are alarming. The cities and the people are already paying a huge price for our reliance on burning fossil fuels. This business as usual cannot continue. People saw clean skies and breathed fresh air during the nationwide lockdown, though it was an unintended consequence of the pandemic. The disruption caused by the pandemic is a case to transition to cleaner, equitable and sustainable decentralised energy sources such as rooftop solar and clean and sustainable mobility must be central to recovery efforts across cities. The recovery from the pandemic must not come at the expense of a

return to previous levels of air pollution,” said **Avinash Chanchal**, senior climate campaigner, **Greenpeace India**.

Suggesting a solution to the increasing levels of pollution, Chanchal added, “*Motor vehicles and industries based on fossil fuel consumption are the major drivers of NO2 pollution in Indian cities. The governments, local administration and city planners must initiate the transition from privately owned vehicles to an efficient, clean and safe public transport system that is run on clean energy that, of course, must provide COVID-19 related safety measures.*”

Miscellany



Zen Master **Thich Nhat Hanh** is a global spiritual leader, poet and peace activist, revered around the world for his pioneering teachings on mindfulness, global ethics and peace.

IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

ವಾಸ್ತವ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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