



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ

Virtual Newsletter

ವಿಧುನ್ಯಾನ್ 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



S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.)

Chairman

Indian Institute of Public Administration
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

I am happy to place before our readers the **March 2022** issue of our *Virtual Newsletter*. This is our **20th Issue**, since we began this initiative.

We have a *Lead Feature*, this time, on the 2nd and 3rd Reports of the **Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission**, headed by a distinguished civil servant, **Sri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**. The General, as well as Key Recommendations, in the two reports are highlighted here for the benefit of readers.

In our *Reports* section, we present a Layman's Guide to India's first *Multidimensional Poverty Index-2021*, put together by **NITI-Ayog**. The article offers a comprehensive overview of MPI, its origins and significance, as well as some key findings from the report.

In our *Reminiscences* section, we reproduce **Dr. Ajai Kumar Singh's** recent article in Kannada in *Prajavani*, "**What is Fire doing in the Garden of Peace?**" where he recalls his tenure as Superintendent of Police, and some of the efforts made him to ensure that the districts where he was posted, remained free from communal and other violence.

In our *Books* section, we feature a recent publication of **Ms. Achala Moulik, IAS (Retd.)**, titled, *Rogues among the Ruins*. In our *Opinions* section, we reproduce an article from a recent issue of *Business Standard*, written by **Mr. Shyam Saran, IFS (Retd.)** titled, *Amrit Mahotsav without Gandhi*.

We carry brief reports of the activities of our Branch in February 2022. And we sign off with two of our regular features, *Food for Thought* and *Feedback*.

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 Feature

Administrative Reforms in Karnataka

Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 submits Second and Third Reports



The **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** headed by retired Chief Secretary **T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.) submitted its **Second** and **Third Report** to **Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai** on 18th February 2022. **Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar**, IAS and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The **Karnataka Administrative Reform Commission-2** was constituted by Government Order dt. 07-01-2021. The Commission commenced its functioning from 11-02-2021.

The Commission visited Raichur, Bellary, Vijayanagar, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Davangere, Udupi and Bangalore Urban districts. Focus group discussions were held with the staff and officials working at *hobli*, taluk, district and state levels. Draft recommendations were shared with Additional Chief Secretaries / Secretaries / Heads of relevant departments and their suggestions were obtained. Meetings were held with retired Chief Secretaries of Karnataka to obtain their suggestions.

The Commission has also received feedback from the users of popular services through telephone calls from a call centre. The Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) and KPMG examined each service portal to evaluate whether it complied with the guidelines for citizen-friendly websites devised by Govt of India.

The Commission consulted reputed organizations like IIM Bengaluru, ISEC, NLSIU, CODR, Azim Premji University, PAC Bangalore, Janaagraha and E-Gov Foundation.

A sub-committee was constituted for suggesting improvements to the Performance Appraisal Report forms of Group-A, B officers and Group-C staff and its report was received.

The **First Report** of the Commission was submitted to Government in July 2021, with a total of **856 recommendations** for 3 departments - Revenue, Food and Civil Supplies and Transport.

This time, eight departments namely Urban Development, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Energy, Social Welfare, Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare and Minority Welfare Departments were studied.

A total of 1165 recommendations related to different departments have been made in the 2nd and 3rd Report.

The key recommendations, in brief, are given below. The details are in the reports.

General Recommendations

1. Constitution of Cut Waste Task Force to cut wasteful expenses incurred by various departments of the State Government, Boards, Corporations etc.
2. The Government of India has decided that no file in any of its Ministries shall move more than four levels. Similarly, the State Government may decide that no file in the Secretariat shall move more than three or four stages. At present, files are moving in 5-10 stages.
3. Act and Rules may be framed for transfer of Group-C and D Employees through Computerized Counselling in all Departments.
4. The State Government may utilize Post Offices in the state for delivery of State Government citizen services, since they are already delivering Govt of India services.
5. Common Service Centres (CSCs) set up by village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) may be utilised for door-to-door service delivery as '*Janasevakas*'.
6. Higher delegation of powers to the Deputy Commissioners to allot up to 4 hectares of Government land to other State Government departments, free of cost, with limit of land valued up to Rs 5 crore and to give exemption from conversion charges.
7. Merging Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in Finance Department.
8. Payment of compensation for land acquisition must be made in time. If the payment is not made in time, additional compensation will have to be paid for the delayed period. Therefore, this service should be notified as *Sakala Service* by the Revenue department and other departments doing land acquisition. Land acquisition compensation should be paid through Aadhaar based system to prevent frauds.
9. Format for review of Performance Appraisal Report for officers and staff as revised may be adopted.
10. SADHANE (System for Assessment of Delivery of Services and Achievements): Implement departmental performance management and evaluation system for evaluating performance of departments.
11. Constitute committees to analyse, improve and monitor multi-sectoral and sectoral indices to improve the state's performance at the National level. Prepare and publish district and taluk wise ranking as per these indices.
12. In case of high value tenders, draft bid document may be published and objections invited through the e-Procurement website before inviting bids. The bid document can be finalised after disposing of the objections.
13. All departments are deploying staff on an outsourced basis without ensuring due representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The government may issue government order that outsourcing agencies should provide suitable representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among the outsourced personnel provided by them to Government departments.
14. Redeployment of Group C posts in Tahsildar offices, village accountants, police constables etc. from offices with less workload to those with more workload.

Key Recommendations for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

1. Panchayat Raj Engineering Department (PRED) and Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency may be merged.
2. Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board may be transferred to Energy Department and thereafter merged with Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd., under the administrative control of the Energy Department
3. Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 and Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Budget and Accounts) Rules 2006 may be amended to impose double property tax on illegal sites and buildings in rural areas as in urban areas.
4. PDOs of the Gram Panchayats and officers of ULBs may be notified as competent authority under the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act for registration of marriages. Gram Panchayats and ULBs may be authorized to receive and recommend applications for Social Security Pensions.
5. Organizations such as BDA, Urban Development Authorities, KHB and KIADB are issuing *khata*s for the sites allotted by them in the limits of Gram Panchayats, depriving the Gram Panchayats of property tax. Gram Panchayats may collect property tax and maintain *khata*s for the sites allotted by the above said organisations in GP limits.
6. Recommendations related to payment of electricity bills and dues of Gram Panchayats. There are outstanding dues of Rs. 3993 crore for ESCOMs by the Gram Panchayats. This may increase to Rs 8500 cr. by 2025. Recommendations have been made for resolving this issue.

Key Recommendations for Urban Development Department

1. By issuing suitable rules under Section 76F of the KTCP Act for compounding offences, *B-Khata* sites can be converted into *A-Khata*s by paying land conversion fees and fines and compounding fees to the concerned Planning Authority.
2. BDA and BMRDA may be merged by amending BDA and BMRDA Acts, BMRDA office may be shifted to the BDA office.
3. Building plans up to 2400 sq. ft. may be given online approval immediately on the basis of self-declaration and certification and payment of fees through online applications.
4. Coordination committees may be constituted under the chairmanship of Zonal Commissioners in BBMP and City Commissioners in other Corporations.
5. The KMC Act and the KM Act may be amended to open *B-Khata*s in ULBs on the lines of *B-Khata* in BBMP and *11-B Khata*s of Gram Panchayats.
6. The various taxes and penalties prescribed under the provisions of KMC Act 1976 and the KM Act 1964 may be revised in line with the increase in inflation index. Ex: Some rates are charged from Rs. 5.
7. Metropolitan Planning Committees may be constituted as per the provisions of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in all the cities having a current population of more than 10 lakhs in their metropolitan areas like Hubli-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi etc.
8. To reduce the work pressure on the Chief Commissioner, some of the powers of the Chief Commissioners of the BBMP, such as the approval of budgetary works up to Rs. 2 crores, transfer of Group-C employees within the zone etc., may be delegated to the Zonal Commissioners.
9. Similarly, the powers of BDA Commissioner such as certain powers with respect to land acquisition may be delegated to the Deputy Commissioner, certain sites related powers to the Secretary, leave encashment and medical bill reimbursement, payment of utility bills etc.

Key Recommendations for Energy Department

1. Under the Ganga Kalyana Scheme, the actual cost of energisation to the borewells is estimated to be around Rs 1.50 lakh to Rs.3.50 lakh. It is reported that only Rs 50,000 is paid by the Social Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare. Action may be initiated to reimburse the actual cost of energisation or the amount may be increased.
2. About 75% to 80% of new connections are for loads less than 5 KW. The power to sanction such connections may be delegated to the concerned Section Officers by Escoms.
3. A large number of installations are covered by CEI. In addition to providing 18 Sakala services, it must regularly inspect electrical installations. It may not be possible for the department with its present staff or even with additional staff to handle the inspection functions effectively. Hence Chartered Electrical Safety Engineers may be authorised as per the guidelines of Central Electricity Authority.

Key Recommendations for Social Welfare, Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare and Minority Welfare Departments

1. As per the provisions of Forest Rights Act, 2006 usage rights have been confirmed on eligible persons belonging to ST, SC, OBC and others. *Hakkupatras* (Rights Certificate) are also issued to them. These rights should be entered in Other Rights column of the RTC. Moreover, these farmers have not been declared as eligible for incentives like crop compensation, seeds & manure subsidy, bank loan etc. A Government order may be issued jointly by Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture Departments directing implementing officers to consider them eligible for all such incentives given by the State Government to farmers.
2. There are about 103 hostels having admission strength less than 50% of the sanctioned strength. These hostels may be merged and inmates may be shifted to 93 nearest hostels. The closed 103 hostels may be shifted to needy locations.
3. In view of shortage of staff, Taluk Social Welfare office and Taluk Tribal Welfare office may work together in a single office. Similarly, Taluk level Backward Classes and Minority Welfare offices may be ordered to work together in a single office.

Key Recommendations for Home Department

1. It is a common observation that citizens feel shy to come to police stations. The department provides more than 32 citizen-centric services. Citizen services Help Desks may be established in all police stations. A provision may be made in the Police Manual to institutionalise it.
2. The percentage of female representation in non-gazetted police staff in Karnataka is 8.3% (in 2020). The state has mandated 25% reservation for women in the recruitment of constables etc. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India on 12.05.2015, has advised State Governments to reserve 33% vacancies for women to increase the representation of women in the police forces. The State Government may approve 33% horizontal reservation for women in recruitment of constables and non-gazetted staff.

- **Soft Copies of all three reports of KARC-2 can be accessed from the website of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2: <https://karc2.karnataka.gov.in>**
- **Comments and suggestions for administrative reforms in Karnataka may be emailed to the following address: ch.karc2@karnataka.gov.in**

Reports

Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index - India 2021

Everything you Need to Know

Source: India Development Review

Author: Elisha Vermani

Towards the end of 2021, NITI Aayog released India's first ever **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, which seeks to complement the existing monetary measures of poverty. This article offers a comprehensive overview of MPI, its origins and significance, as well as some key findings from NITI Aayog's report.

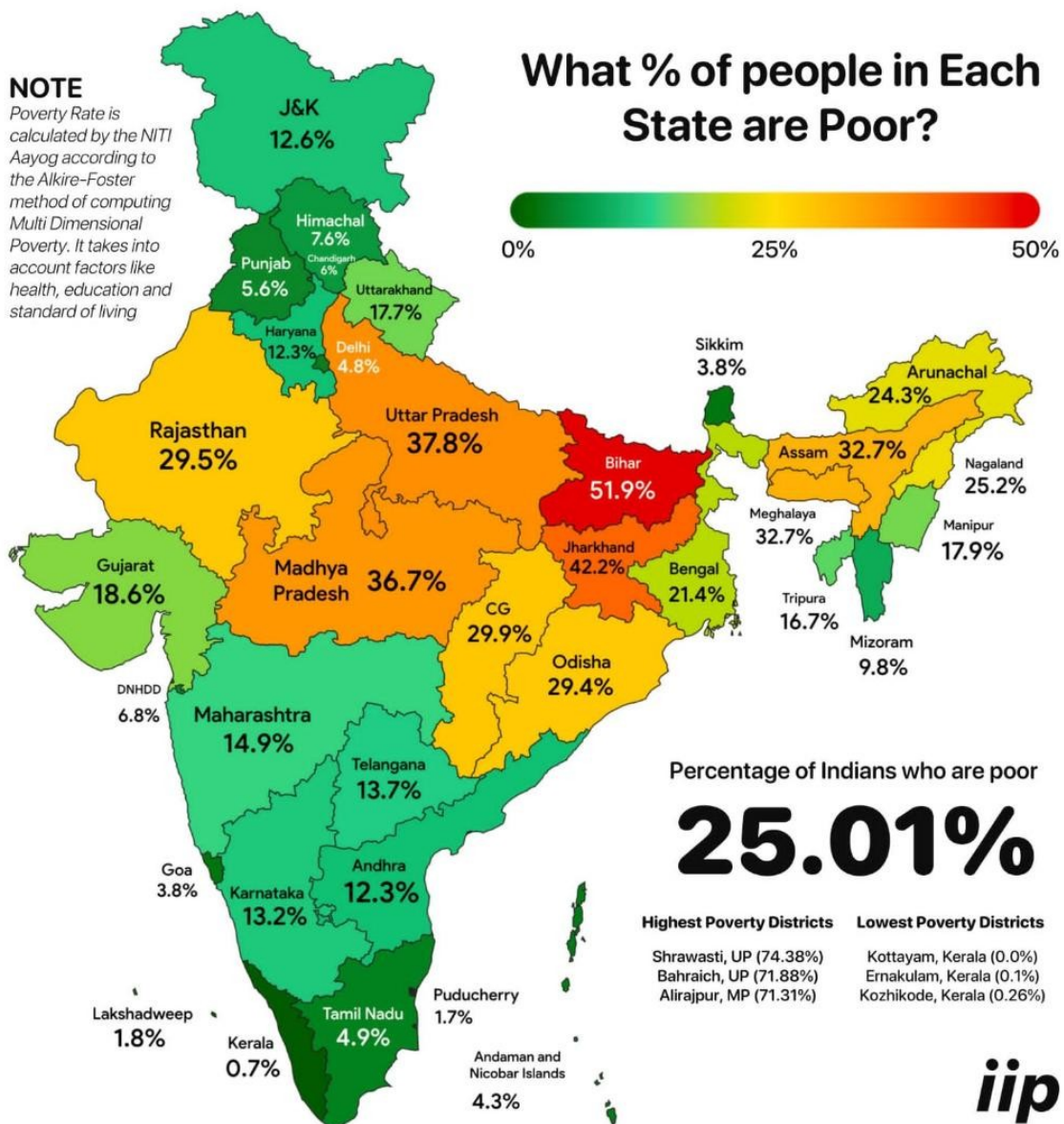
What is MPI and what does it say about poverty in India?

1. In 2010, the first global MPI was released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the aim to measure poverty by considering various kinds of deprivation experienced by people in their daily lives. MPI helps monitor progress towards achieving Target 1.2 of the United Nations' sustainable development goals, which seeks to reduce poverty in all its forms 'by at least half' by the year 2030. According to global MPI 2021, India ranks 66 out of the 109 countries that were surveyed for multidimensional poverty.
2. For decades economists have argued that income alone cannot be a measure of poverty. A person above the 'economic' poverty line can suffer from multiple other disadvantages simultaneously—for example, they may have poor health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work, or limited access to education.
4. National MPI is an extension of the global method. It provides a more localised picture of multidimensional poverty in a country. National MPI is developed and calculated locally by each country, and can be tailored to that particular country's needs. National governments have complete ownership over these measures that are embedded into governance systems, ensuring sustainability over time.
5. India's national MPI is based on the findings of the National Family Health Survey 4, which was conducted between 2015 and 2016, and developed by NITI Aayog in consultation with 12 ministries and in partnership with state governments and the index publishing agencies, namely OPHI and UNDP.

6. It is the first such report since the Bharatiya Janata Party came into power, and replaces the previous poverty line method. India's national MPI also includes the indicators of access to antenatal care and financial inclusion as measured by bank accounts.

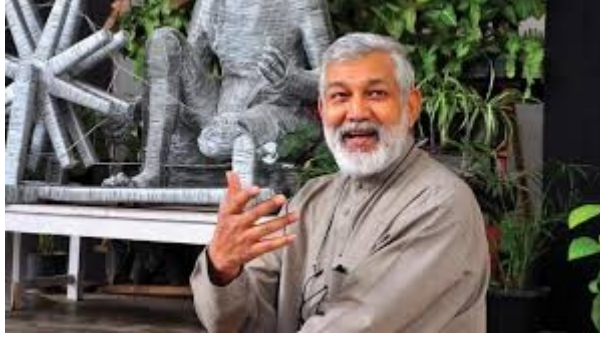
7. According to India's MPI, Bihar has the highest population of multidimensionally poor people and Kerala the lowest. Uttar Pradesh ranked the worst in the child and adolescent mortality category, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, while Jharkhand performed the worst when it comes to the percentage of population deprived of sanitation, followed by Bihar and Odisha.

Source: National Multidimensional Poverty Index Baseline Report 2021 | niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-11/National_MPI_India-11242021.pdf



Reminiscences

What is Fire doing in the Garden of Peace?



Dr. Ajai Kumar Singh, IPS (Retd.)

Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, in his article in Kannada in *Prajavani* dt. 27th February 2022, “*What is Fire doing in the Garden of Peace?*” (reproduced below), reminiscences about his tenure at Shivamoga District as Superintendent of Police, and the methodology used by him to ensure that the District Police remained connected with the people. One effective strategy was to ensure that Beat Constables kept in touch with local people of all communities in their jurisdiction and established a rapport with them. By keeping their ears to the ground, they were able to anticipate, and even prevent, incidents of social disharmony and communal violence. Quoting poet Kuvempu who described Karnataka as a garden of peace of all castes, creeds and religions, Dr. Singh states, “*I have been living in this peaceful State since 1976. It should remain as that peaceful state it always was. If we all work trusting each other and if government machinery works in that direction, it is not a difficult task at all.*”

ಮೂಲಭೂತವಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಸ್ತೃತ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಭಾಗಗಳಾಗಿ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವುದು...

ಅಜಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸಿಂಗ್

ಬಹುಳ ಅದು, 1981ರ ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಪರಾಧ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಡಿಪಿಐ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗದ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಆಗಿ ನಿಯುಕ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ನಿರ್ಗಂಧ ಮಡಲಲ್ಲಿ ಪವಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅದೊಂದು ಬಹಳ ಸುಂದರವಾದ ಒಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ತೀರ್ಥಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವು ಇತ್ತು. ಆಗುಂಬೆಯ ಬಿಟ್ಟು, ಸಾಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಅದ್ಭುತವಾದ ಜೋಗ ಜಲಪಾತ... ಹೀಗೆ ಆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸೊಬಗು ಕಣ್ಣಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೂ ನೆನಪಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಲೆನಾಡಿಗೆ ಮುತ್ತಿನ ಸರದಾಟಿಯವ ಪತ್ನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಟ್ಟುಗಳೊಡನೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಕೆಲ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯೇ ಸ್ವರ್ಗ. ನನ್ನ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಸೂರ್ಯಾಸ್ತವನ್ನು ಹಿಂದೆಂದೂ ನೋಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದೂ ಆಗುಂಬೆ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿಯಿಂದ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು ಸೂರ್ಯಾಸ್ತವನ್ನು

ಕಣ್ಣಿಂದ ಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇ ಆನಂದ. ಮುಂಗಾರು ಕಳೆದ ಮೇಲೂಂಟೂ ಇಡೀ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಮಂಜಿನ ಶೋರಣ. ಸೌಂದರ್ಯದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬಹಳ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ. ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ತವರೂರು ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನನಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಇತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ನಾನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕೆಲವು ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದೇ. ಆಂಗ್ಲ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುವಾದಗೊಂಡ ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಅಡಿಗ ಅವರ ಕವನವೊಂದನ್ನು ನಾನು ಮೊದಲ ದಾರಿ ಓದಿದ್ದು ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗದಲ್ಲೇ. ಇದು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದತ್ತ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಸೆಳೆಯಿತು. ಹೀಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿದ ಜಾಗ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ. ಇಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೆ.ವಿ. ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ ಅವರ ಪರಿಚಯ ಆಗಲೇಬೇಕಲ್ಲವೇ?

ಶಾಂತಿಯ ತೋಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಕಿಗೇನು ಕೆಲಸ?

ಅವರ ಭೇಟಿ ನನ್ನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ತಿರುವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿ ಗೆಲಿಗೆ. ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ ಅವರಿಂದ, ಯು.ಆರ್. ಅನಂತಮೂರ್ತಿ, ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಶರ್ಮಾ, ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ ಕಂಬಾರ, ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ, ಡಿ.ಆರ್.ನಾಗರಾಜ್, ಎಚ್.ಎಸ್. ಶಿವಪ್ರಕಾಶ್, ಕಿ.ರಂ. ನಾಗರಾಜ್, ಸುಮತಿಚಂದ್ರ ನಾಡಿಗ, ಕೂದ್ರ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್... ಹೀಗೆ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಪರಿಚಯದ ಸರಣಿಯೇ ಆರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ಇಂಥ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಸುಮಾರು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ 11 ತಿಂಗಳು ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ತಂಜಾವ ಪರಿಷರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಾ ಶಾಂತಿ ನೆಲೆಸಲಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಬಯಕೆ ನನ್ನದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಾನು ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಆಗಿ ರಾತ್ನೋಲ್ಲಾಸಿ ನಿಯುಕ್ತಿಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದೂ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಗಲಭೆವೇಲೆಂದು ನಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲೇ. ನನಗೆ ಆ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಷ್ಟು ಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂಥ ಭೂಮಿ ಮಧ್ಯೆಯೇ ನಾನು

ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದು ಸವಾಲಿನಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹೋದ್ಯೋಗಿಗಳು ಕಳಕಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಕುವರ್ಷಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಜನರಿಂದ ಅದ್ಭುತವಾಗಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಮಾತುಕತೆಯ ದಾರಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಬಳಿಯೂ ಇತ್ತು. ಆಗಿನ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನೆನಪು ವ್ಯಥೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಲೇ ಹಿಂದೂ ಮಹಾಸಭಾ, ಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್, ವಿಶ್ವ ಹಿಂದೂ ಪರಿಷತ್, ತದ್ಗೀರ್ಣಿ ಜಮಾತ್ ಹೀಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ಧರ್ಮದ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳು ನೆಲೆಯೊರಿದ್ದವು. ಆದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಜೊತೆಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಸಂವಾದ ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪರಸ್ಪರ ನಂದಿಕೆ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿತ್ತು. ಇವರ ಬಳಿ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾತನಾಡಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಭಾವನೆ ಪರಸ್ಪರರದ್ದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಲಿ ಎಂದೂ ಪ್ರಸಂಗವೇ ಬಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಬಹಳ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಿದ್ದವು. ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 12ನೇ ಪುಟಕ್ಕೆ...

ಶ್ರೀ 17ನೇ 27.02.22

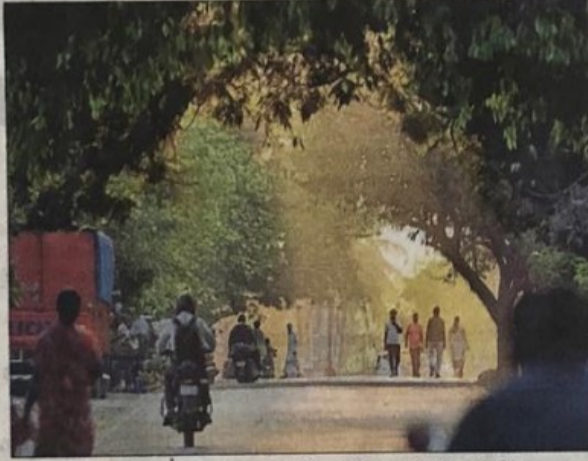
Bengaluru

10ನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಆದರೆ, ಅತಿರೇಕಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ (ಈಗಿನಂತಹ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಎಂದಿಗೂ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ದಿಡಿ). ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯ ದಾರಿ ನಮಗಿತ್ತು. ಬಂದು ರೀತಿ ಸೇಪ್ಟಿ ವಾಲ್ಸ್ ನಮ್ಮ ನಡುವೆ ಇತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಅದು 'ಇಲ್'ವಾಯಿತೇ ಎಂಬ ನೋವು ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಯಾವ ಧರ್ಮದವರಾದರೂ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಂತೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ನನಗೆ ಅಪ್ಪಾಸ ನೀಡಿದರೆ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಧರ್ಮದ ನಾಯಕರೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಅಪ್ಪಾಸ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಅದು. ಇದನ್ನು ಅವರು ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಜೊತೆಯಾಗಬೇಕು, ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಂವಾದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದೇ ಇದರ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಬಾವಿಯೊಳಗಿನ ಕವ್ಯೆಯಾಗದೆ ವಿಶಾಲವಾಗಿ ಅಲೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನನ್ನ ಸಲಹೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಕೋಪವೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ವೈಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ, ತಪ್ಪು ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಜಾಗವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನನ್ನ ಪುಟಿಕವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಪರಲಯೇ ಕೋಮು ಸಾಮರಸ್ಯದ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಪಾಠಗಳಿವೆ. ಹೇಳಿಕೇಳಿ, ಅದು ಸಮಾಜವಾದಿಗಳ ತಾಣ. ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಅದು ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ 'ಸರ್ವಜನಾಂಗದ ಶಾಂತಿಯ ತೋಟ'ವೇ. ಆ ತೋಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಶಾಂತಿಯನ್ನು ಕದಡುವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಯಾರೂ ಮಾಡಬಾರದು.

ಹೀಗೆ ಬರೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಘಟನೆಯೊಂದು ನನಸಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನಾನು ಡಿ.ಜಿ. ಆಗಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಭಟ್ಟ ಕಮೀಷನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮನೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದೂ ಯುವತಿಯ ಕವ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರ್ತಿಯ ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಯಾರೂ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಘಟನೆಯಿಂದ ಕೋಮುಗಲಭೆ ಆಗುವುದು ಖಚಿತವಾಗಿತ್ತು, ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ರಮಣ್ ಗುಪ್ತ ಅವರು ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. 'ಹೇಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತೀರಿ' ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಕೇಳಿದೆ. 'ನಮ್ಮ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಜನರು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಗಲಾಟೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ,



ಶಾಂತಿಯ ತೋಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿರಬಹುದಾದ ಕಮಾನು ಕಟ್ಟಿದೆ... ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 144 ತೆರವುಗೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ ಪಿಟಿಐ ಚಿತ್ರ; ಕೈಲಾಂಧ ಭೋಜ್

ಆದರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಗಲಭೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ನಮಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರ ಮಾತಿನಂತೆಯೇ ಯಾವುದೇ ಗಲಭೆ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣವಿಷ್ಟು: ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಾನ್ಸ್ಟಿಬಲ್, ಇನ್ಸ್‌ಪೆಕ್ಟರ್ ಸ್ಟೇಷಿಯರ್ ಜೊತೆ ನಿರಂತರ, ನಿಕಟವಾದ ಸಂಪರ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದೀಪ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಪಾವು ತಂದಿದ್ದವು. ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಅಂದು ಮಾತುಕತೆಯ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಇದನ್ನು ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಿ, ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಮಯ ಕೇಳಿ ಶಾಂತಿ ಕಾಪಾಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿದ್ದರು. ಎಲ್ಲ ಮುಖಂಡರೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿದ್ದರು. ವಾರದೊಳಗೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಭೇದಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಇದು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಮಾದರಿ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರ ನಡೆಯೂ ಅನುಕರಣೀಯ. ಕರಾವಳಿ, ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಎನ್ನದೆ ಇಡೀ ಕರುನಾಡು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, 'ಹಿಂದೂ ಕ್ರೈಸ್ತ ಮುಸಲ್ಮಾನ ಪರಾಕಟೆ ಚೈನರುದ್ಧಾನ್' ಎಂದು ಹಾಡಿದೆ. 'ಮೊದಲು

ಮಾನವಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ' ಎಂದು ಕರೆಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರ ಜನ್ಮಸ್ಥಳ. ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ ಮಾತು ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಇಡೀ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂಥದು. ಅವರ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆಯಬಾರದು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ನೆನಪಿಸಿ, ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡರೆ ಸಾಲದು. ಅದರಂತೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು. ಇದು ಬಹಳ ಕಷ್ಟದ ಕೆಲಸವೇನಲ್ಲ. ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕರುಣೆ, ಶ್ರೀತಿ ಭಾವ ಬಂದರೆ ಬೇರೆಯೇ ಮನೋಭಾವ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾರೂ ಪ್ರಚೋದನೆಗೆ ಬಲಿಯಾಗಬಾರದು. 'ನಮ್ಮಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿದೆ ಕ್ಷಮಿಸಿ' ಎಂದು ಮಾತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಸಾಲದು. ಮುಂದೆ ನಡೆಯಲೂ ತೋರಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು.

ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಕೈಮೀರಿ ಅನಾಹುತ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದನ್ನೂ ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾತುಕತೆಯ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಲು ನೋಡಬೇಕು.

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಯುವನನ ಕೊಲೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ತ್ವರಿತಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಷ್ಪಕ್ಷವಾತ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಅಂತ್ಯಸಂಸ್ಕಾರದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ 144 ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾಗ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಗೌರವ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಿತ್ತು, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರು ಸೇರಿದರೆ ಪ್ರಚೋದನೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಸಣ್ಣ ಘಟನೆಯೂ ವಿಕೋಪಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ನೋವು ಖಚಿತ. ನಿಜೇಧಾಚ್ಛ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿ ಅಂತಹ ಹಿಂಸಾಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹಿಂಸಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಲವು ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಟ್ಟು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ವಾಹನ, ಅಂಗಡಿ ಮುಂಗಟ್ಟುಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ತಪ್ಪೇನಿದೆ? ಈ ರೀತಿ ಆಗಬಾರದಿತ್ತು. ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರ ಮನವೊಲಿಸಿ, ಅಹಿತಕರ ಘಟನೆ ತಡೆಯುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ನಾಯಕರು, ಧರ್ಮಗುರುಗಳ ಮೇಲಿದೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲಿನ ಹೊಣೆಯನ್ನು ಅವರು ಮರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಾನು ಕರುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು 1976ರಲ್ಲಿ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲೂ ಹೋಗದೆ 'ಸರ್ವಜನಾಂಗದ ಶಾಂತಿಯ ತೋಟ'ವಾಗಿಯೇ ಇರುವ ಈ ನೆಲವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ನಾವು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ನಡೆಯೋಣ. ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಬೆಳೆಯೋಣ ಎನ್ನುವುದೇ ನನ್ನ ಆಶಯ. ಅರ್ಥಿವವಾಗಿ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಬೆಳೆಯಲಿ ಎನ್ನುವುದೇ ನನ್ನ ಆಸೆ.

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದ ಬಳಿಕ ನೋಡಲ ಬಾರಿ ಜೋಗ ಜಲಪಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದಾಗ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಜಲಪಾತ ಅಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಅದರ ಭೋಗೀರ್ತರ ಕಿವಿಗಟ್ಟುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆಗ ನನಗಿರಬೇಕಾದ ಕವಿತೆಯೊಂದು ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಇದು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಎನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

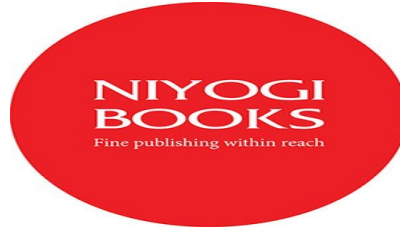
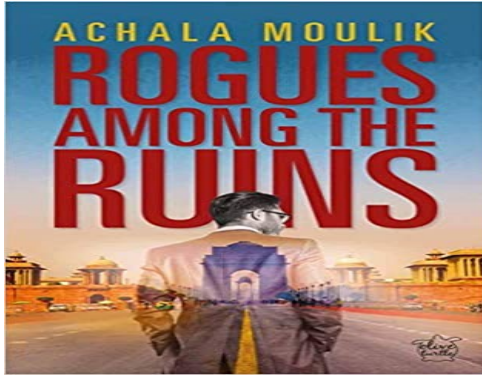
Falling, falling, falling
Reaching the rock bottom
The river regained its old glory.
ಬದುಕೂ ಅಷ್ಟೆ.

ಈಗೇ ನಿಟ್ಟುಸಿರಿಸಿ ಮಹಾನಿರೀತನ ನಿರೂಪಣೆ: ಅಧೀರಾಜ್ ದಿ ಎನ್.



Dr. Ajai Kumar Singh may have spent his life being a tough cop, but there is more to the former **Director-General of Police**. Born in the remote village of Nagla Kothi in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Singh cracked the civil services exam in the first attempt and joined the IPS in 1974. Following a training of two years, he arrived in Bengaluru in January 1976. He took the effort to learn Kannada seriously and became so fluent in it that he translated one of the works of the famous Kannada poet, **Gopalakrishna Adiga** from the language to Hindi. Despite police work taking up nearly all his time, his interest in literature and poetry did not diminish. In 1997, he did his Ph.D. on a comparison between 12th century mystic saint, Allama Prabhu and the 15th century mystic poet and saint, Kabir. He shouldered enormous responsibility as an officer of the law too. The second SAARC summit in 1986 in the city provided him one of the most memorable moments of his career. *“We had the largest number of high security dignitaries like the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and then Sri Lanka Prime Minister, J.J. Jayawardene who was under threat from the LTTE, visiting the city for the summit. As the DCP in-charge of security fell sick, I was asked to take over,”* he recalls. But the event did not pass off without hiccups as Dr Singh mistakenly stopped Rajiv Gandhi’s convoy. But luckily for him it did no harm and he received a beautifully drafted letter from then Foreign Secretary, **Muchkund Dubey**, praising him.

Books



Rogues Among the Ruins

by **Achala Moulik**, IAS (Retd.)

Rogues among the Ruins portray the conflict of civil servants caught between ideals and thirst for success. The novel adopts the style of great masters like Gogol and Cervantes who, in their search for truth, evoke laughter through tears.

The first part of the novel is a gripping fictionalized account of the workings of the Archaeological Survey of India and the painful predicaments of a dedicated but naïve scholar faced with temptations. The scholar's son, a morally indifferent bureaucrat, chronicles a later era in the second part. Through tawdry dramas, administrative acrobatics of sycophants and hypocrites, he encounters the sordid reality of powerful men and women who think they rule the country. With sardonic humour, sympathy and reluctant respect the narrator takes the reader on a journey through Glory Road where principles are discarded by the ambitious, where the proud encounter humiliations, where idealists are scorned, and sometimes those with stubborn strength overcome ordeals.

About the Author

Achala Moulik went to schools in Washington, New York and London where her diplomat father was posted. Her mother taught her and her sister Bengali literature. She graduated from London University with the B.Sc. (Econ) degree. In the Indian Administrative Service, she served in numerous capacities: Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and Education Secretary, Government of India, when the education programme '*Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*' was approved. Achala's civil servant husband encouraged her literary endeavours. She has published books on political & cultural history, novels, and a play Pushkin's Last Poem which was performed in Moscow and St. Petersburg. She was invited to Moscow to receive the prestigious Pushkin Medal from the Russian President in 2011. She received the Sergei Yesenin Prize in 2013 from the Russian Ministry of Culture.

Link to YouTube video of Book Discussion at Bangalore International Centre

<https://youtu.be/NBW5T0AIJcI>

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA



Amrit Mahotsav without Gandhi

As India celebrates its 75th anniversary, the most precious of its legacies are at risk of falling prey to the politics of the moment

We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of India's independence as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Looking at the different themes that will be covered through various activities planned through the year, I scrolled through the commemorating activities under the theme, Freedom Struggle. It had no mention of the role played by Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom movement nor of Jawaharlal Nehru and some other important leaders. It seeks to "bring alive stories of unsung heroes whose sacrifices have made freedom a reality for us." This is unexceptionable, but the only "unsung heroes" mentioned are Birsa Munda, the tribal leader, and Subhas Chandra Bose. Is it really possible to ignore the role played by Mahatma Gandhi even if Nehru has now become an object of derision?

If the objective is "commemorating milestones" in the history of our country's freedom struggle, is this possible if the towering figure of Mahatma Gandhi, the power of his ideas of "satyagraha and ahimsa" and the vision of a free India that he bequeathed to the country, are diminished in our memories? It is true that in the years following independence, Gandhi's precepts were rarely followed. The ideals he set before the nation were overlaid by more cynical pursuits of power and privilege. But he continued to serve as a lodestar, as a constant reminder of our failings as a society and as a polity. The invocation

of his name continues to have the power to move India's millions because those millions have through these 75 years come to identify him as one of their own, a figure of humility, of compassion and above all sincerity. He was a leader because he articulated ideas that gripped the imagination of his people. Most leaders share this quality. The difference lies in whether they appeal to what is most noble in our



SHYAM SARAN

hearts or, contrariwise, to what is most narrow and prejudiced embedded within us.

Gandhi was more than aware of the demons that lurked under the surface among India's incredibly diverse multitudes; of fires that could be ignited through the easy sale of hate. That markers of distinctiveness could become the instruments of division. Which is why he was so passionate about Hindu-Muslim unity, the emancipation of the lowest, most oppressed castes and communities of India and the embrace of a more inclusive and egalitarian pattern of economic development. He was a devout Hindu but was convinced that an overarching Hindu unity could not be constructed on the basis of a Hindu-Muslim binary. The relentless othering of the Muslim, which we witness in our country today, would have been a moral anathema for him. It would also have represented a politics that could only bring harm and misfortune to his beloved country. He had been opposed to India's partition, which he saw as a

"vivisection" of India, as a mortal wound that would fester for years to come. And so it has.

The Sarvodaya Foundation, which is an initiative of Ambassador Alan Nazareth, has been a most important instrument for disseminating the ideas of Gandhi both in India and abroad. Recently, Ambassador Nazareth organised an interaction on the subject of the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in this 75th year of India's independence. Several distinguished scholars and public figures spoke on the importance of revisiting the many seminal ideas that Gandhi had put forward during his long years of service to the people of India. These ideas were deeply rooted in the culture and traditions of the people of India, but looked to a future that would be ecologically sustainable and inclusive. The touchstone in terms of policy choices before a democratically elected government would be the following quote from Gandhi: "Think of the poorest person you have ever seen, and ask if your next act will be of any use to him."

To me one of the neglected elements of Gandhi's philosophy relates to ecological sustainability. During the time Gandhi lived, Climate Change was not a matter of concern but it is now clear that Climate Change is really a symptom of the much larger ecological emergency that our world is confronting today. And Gandhi foresaw with a prescience that is truly astonishing, the ecological crisis that is upon us.

On India's development choices he said, "It took Britain half the resources of the planet to achieve prosperity. How many planets will a country like India require?"

And again, "God forbid that India should ever take to industrialisation after the manner of the West. The economic imperialism of a single kingdom is today keeping the world in chains. If an entire nation of 300 million (note: which was India's population then) took to similar exploitation, it would strip the world like locusts."

Indian culture has always looked upon nature as a Mother, a source of nurture, and you must not take from her more than what allows her to regenerate and renew herself. This is what Gandhi tried to put across to the people of India who were already bedazzled by the affluence of the West: "We may utilize the gifts of Nature as we choose but in her books, the debits are always equal to the credits".

Gandhi's message is both relevant and compelling today. While celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Gandhi's ideas have a deep contemporary significance and can guide the country as it embarks on the next part of its journey as an independent, vibrant and a plural democracy. The key messages are the acceptance of plurality among our people, the accommodation of differing viewpoints, the pursuit of an egalitarian and inclusive democracy and adoption of an economic strategy that ensures ecological sustainability. One hopes that in refashioning the history of India's freedom struggle, this most precious of its legacies does not fall prey to the politics of the moment.

The writer is a former foreign secretary and a senior fellow, CPR

IIPA-KRB Branch Activities

In connection with the 35-hour **Certificate Course in Public Policy** conducted by the **Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), Jain (Deemed-to-be University)**, in collaboration with the **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA-KRB)**, presentations of *Public Policy Briefs* on the areas chosen by them, were made by the students who had enrolled themselves for the course, on the 18th and 19th of February 2022. The students were mentored by the following Faculty of Jain (Deemed-to-be University), **Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Dr. K.C. Smitha and Dr. Debangana Chatterjee**; and by **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Hon. Professor, Karnataka State Rural Dev & Panchayat Raj University, Gadag.

The *Public Policy Briefs* presented by the students included the following areas: *Solid Waste Management in Bengaluru; Welfare of Informal Workers; Slum Housing; Creating Non-Binary Inclusive Spaces; Education and Inclusion; Food Security for Mid-May Meal Programme; Atrocities on Dalits; Real Estate and Environmental Sustainability; Education and Mental Health; Menstrual Hygiene Management in Schools; and Marital Rape.*

The Public Policy Briefs have been evaluated, and prizes will be awarded to the exemplary ones, at an event to be held during March 2022.

Memoranda of Understanding

The **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration** has entered into **Memoranda of Understanding** with two more institutions, the **Public Affairs Centre**, Bengaluru and the **University Law College** of Bangalore University. The other institutions with whom such MOUs have been signed are **Ramaiah Public Policy Centre**, the **Institute for Social and Economic Change** and **Jain (Deemed-to-be) University**.

The Objectives and Modes of Collaboration are as follows:

1. Holding collaborative programmes in the form of lectures, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, symposia, webinars, training programmes and the like in Public Policy, Governance, Administration and related areas.
2. Extending cooperation to each other in the areas of teaching, research, publication and other activities associated with Public Policy, Governance, Administration and related areas;
3. Preparation of Background Papers, Compendiums, White Papers, Dossiers, Policy Documents and the like on topical issues related to Public Policy, Governance, Administration and related areas, to be submitted to the Government of Karnataka, which could be of assistance to it, in policy formulation in those areas.
4. Publication of Proceedings of jointly-organized Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Webinars, etc., as well as Background Papers, Compendiums, White Papers, Dossiers, Policy Documents and the like, on topical issues related to Public Policy, Governance, Administration and related areas.
5. Mutual sharing of infrastructure, resources and expertise in the organization of programmes and activities described above.

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IIPA-KRB Branch: Collaborative Activities

Announcement and Call for Papers

Institute for Social and Economic Change



Two-day seminar on

Governance and Development in Karnataka

on 26th and 27th of April, 2022. at ISEC Bengaluru

To be conducted by CPIGD, ISEC in collaboration with IIPA-KRB



The **Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development, ISEC**, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the **IIPA**, is holding a two-day seminar on the theme and dates given above.

The two-day seminar will cover the following areas:

- 1. Regional Inequalities and Governance in Karnataka**
 - The HDI status of North Karnataka and Kalyan Karnataka
- 2. Sectoral Inequalities and Governance in Karnataka**
 - The sectoral gap between agriculture and industry, and tertiary sector in Karnataka
- 3. Social Inequalities and Governance in Karnataka**
 - Status of Dalits and other marginalised communities in Karnataka
 - Status of Minority development in Karnataka
 - Governance of welfare and welfare schemes
- 4. Ecological Governance in Karnataka**
 - Forests, Western Ghats, mining and wildlife parks
- 5. Digital Governance in Karnataka**
 - Recent policies towards e-governance and digital governance in Karnataka

The following guidelines may kindly be noted

- The seminar will be held in online/ hybrid mode.

- Written full papers are to be presented in the seminar which we subsequently intend to publish.
- Dates of the seminar: **26th and 27th of April, 2022.**
- Last date for submission of Abstracts: Abstracts of not less than 250-300 words to be submitted on or before **15 March, 2022.**
- Full papers: Full papers of not less than 7000-8000 words in Ms Word format to be received by 20th of April, 2022.
- Only full papers received by this date will be presented in the seminar.
- Abstracts and full papers may be sent to the following email addresses: anilkumar@isec.ac.in; anilv.isec@gmail.com

The Concept Note and other details may be found in the following link:

<http://www.isec.ac.in/Governance%20and%20Development%20in%20Karnataka.htm>

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Feedback

Dear Sir,

My hearty congratulations to you on the IIPA (Karnataka) newsletters. Each of them is brimful of topical and informative articles / book reviews. I found the '*Women of Influence*' Book Review in the Feb. 2022 issue of particular interest, as **Ms. C.B. Muthamma**, the IFS officer mentioned therein, was my predecessor as High Commissioner of India to Ghana. We had thereafter kept in regular touch but actually met only after we retired / settled in Bangalore!

I had also met **Ms. Anna Malhotra**, **Ms. Otima Bordia** and **Ms. Anita Kaul** during my tenures in MEA, Ministry of Commerce and as DG (ICCR) in the 1975/76 & 1982 /85 periods.

A senior woman IAS officer I had interacted closely with / knew quite well, first as Secretary, Culture and then as Secretary to PM, was **Ms. Sarala Grewal**. She definitely was a '*Woman of Influence*' in the 1980s. I was therefore disappointed by her non-inclusion in this book authored by **Rajni Sikri Sibal**.

Warm regards,

P.A. Nazareth

Former Ambassador of India

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Food for Thought



IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

ವಿಧ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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Feedback/Contributions/Ideas/Book Reviews/Report Summaries may kindly be mailed to:
iipakrb.bangalore@gmail.com with a copy to jeeves0607@yahoo.com
