



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು



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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.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.)

Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration – Karnataka Regional Branch

I am happy to place before our readers the **September 2022** issue of our *Virtual Newsletter*. This is our **26th Issue**, since we began this initiative.

The *Lead Article* in this issue is by **Prof. Jonathan Schwartz** of the State University of New York, who is currently in India as a **Fulbright-Nehru Scholar**. Writing on “*Pandemic Preparedness and Response*” based on his research in China and Taiwan, he pleads for Collaborative Governance. In his view, “*successful pandemic preparedness and response requires countries to move beyond relying solely on state driven interventions*”.

In our Feature on *Breaking News*, we carry the story of **Shreyas Hosur**, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer, who became the first civil servant from Karnataka to complete the gruelling Ironman triathlon held at Hamburg in Germany recently. It is an incredible story of grit and determination.

In our section on *Karnataka: Policy Matters*, we report on the following: (1) Karnataka Government to set up SITK on lines of NITI Aayog; (2) Karnataka Youth Policy 2022; and (3) Karnataka Government notifies new minimum wages.

In our new section, *IIPA-KRB Diary of EC Members and Networked Organizations*, we carry reports of the publications and activities of our EC Members, and events organized by organizations like **Jain University** and **Public Affairs Centre** with whom we have signed MOUs.

In our **Books** section, we carry a review by **Uma Mahadevan** of a recent publication on Kasturba Gandhi titled, ‘*Long Walk to Freedom*’.

We end the issue, with our *Feedback* and *Food for Thought* columns.

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.

Lead Article

Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Why do Some Countries do it Better



Jonathan Schwartz, Ph.D.

Professor

Department of Political Science & International Relations
State University of New York, New Paltz, USA
2022-2023 Fulbright-Nehru Scholar – India

What enables some countries to respond more effectively to pandemics? Today this question is front and centre due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and its many variants. And, though after two years of grappling with COVID-19, many people would like to stop thinking about pandemics, the arrival of Monkey Pox as a new Global Health Emergency (WHO) forces us to remain attentive.

Despite the harm caused, we have for decades largely gotten away with ignoring pandemics. Consider just one measure of harm – fatalities. The Black Death (1340s) resulted in between 25-200 million deaths (up to 40% of the human population). The Spanish Flu (1918) caused between 40-50 million deaths while the Hong Kong Flu (1968) resulted in 1 million deaths. Other major and more recent pandemics include HIV/AIDS (1980s to the present), SARS (2003) and MERS (2012), Ebola (2014), and now COVID-19.

COVID-19's cost in lives lost has been significant. According to the highly regarded Johns Hopkins COVID-19 dashboard, COVID-19 has thus far caused 555.5 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million confirmed fatalities (July, 2022). And yet these numbers are likely to be severe underestimates. A widely adopted alternative methodology for estimating COVID-19 fatalities is the measure of “excess deaths” – deaths beyond the number of deaths occurring on average each year. Based on this methodology, the world has suffered over 26 million fatalities (May, 2022), four times the official estimates. This same methodology applied to India finds that the official fatality estimate of around 530,000 underestimates actual fatalities by almost tenfold! These numbers fail to capture the mental health impacts caused by COVID-19, lost opportunities, lost education, isolation and more, that will impact us all for years to come.

In terms of the economy, a 2021 study by *the Economist* estimated that COVID-19 cost the global economy \$10.3 trillion USD in foregone output in 2020-2021, while noting that the estimate fails to capture the full, long term economic costs that we have yet to understand. In short, and as was presciently asserted in a 2014 World Bank

report, “it is hard to imagine a more severe threat to ending absolute poverty or boosting shared prosperity in developing countries.” (pg. ii).

And as Monkey Pox has made clear, pandemics keep coming. According to a study by Jones et.al. (*Nature*), we average 5.2 new, emerging infectious diseases each year. Inevitably, among these will appear a future pandemic.

How best to respond? Many assume that the solution is medical – effective pharmaceutical interventions. However, as we have seen with COVID-19, pharmaceutical interventions – specifically vaccines – take a long time to develop. And while vaccines for COVID-19 have been developed and rolled out in record time, much of the world continues to wait for a first dose. As Oxfam’s Health Policy Manager explains, “*unless something changes dramatically, billions of people around the world will not receive a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 for years to come,*” (BMJ 2020).

What is required is an approach that fills the gap between when a pandemic erupts and when a vaccine is discovered, produced in adequate quantities, and effectively distributed globally. One explanation for relative success in pre-vaccine pandemic response is that authoritarian regimes have an advantage – an ability to ignore short-term popular demands, coerce the public and ignore criticism while rallying the country. Think China. And yet, we see that in the longer term, China’s claims of success are being questioned and China’s public is increasingly dissatisfied. China’s example also ignores the fact that other authoritarian regimes have failed.

Other scholars point to geographic isolation. Countries like Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan are islands that can cut themselves off from the world, suffering only low initial rates of COVID-19. Other scholars point to cultural values, demographics and past experience with pandemics as alternative explanatory variables. And while we may find these explanations credible, they cannot but leave us dissatisfied. After all, countries cannot simply change these traits. What is needed is a broadly generalizable option.

The Public Health literature identifies cooperation between state and non-state actors, or **Collaborative Governance**, as at least theoretically available to all societies, irrespective of other characteristics.

According to Collaborative Governance, successful pandemic preparedness and response requires countries to move beyond relying solely on state driven interventions. After all, during a pandemic, health institutions and government resources will inevitably be overwhelmed. Instead, governments should collaborate with non-state actors (NGOs, community groups, the private sector), building and institutionalizing relationships well before a pandemic arrives.

When a pandemic arrives, non-state actors then collaborate with the state by fulfilling roles such as masks, food and PPE distribution; obtaining and disseminating information; educating and mobilizing the public; and representing community interests to the state while promoting equitable access to care.

Such collaboration helps government officials understand local conditions and vulnerabilities, facilitating efficient resource allocation. This in turn contributes to building trust between government and the public – a key to state legitimacy, mutual understanding and ultimately, effective response.

Preliminary data suggest that this approach worked well in the early pandemic stages in **Taiwan**, a country where I have done extensive research. Taiwan adopted many aspects of Collaborative Governance following its difficult SARS (2003) experience. And while it is still early to draw final conclusions, a recent study found that voluntary population-based intervention in Taiwan reduced COVID-19 reproduction numbers by over 60% - making it a critical even “indispensable” aspect of containment.

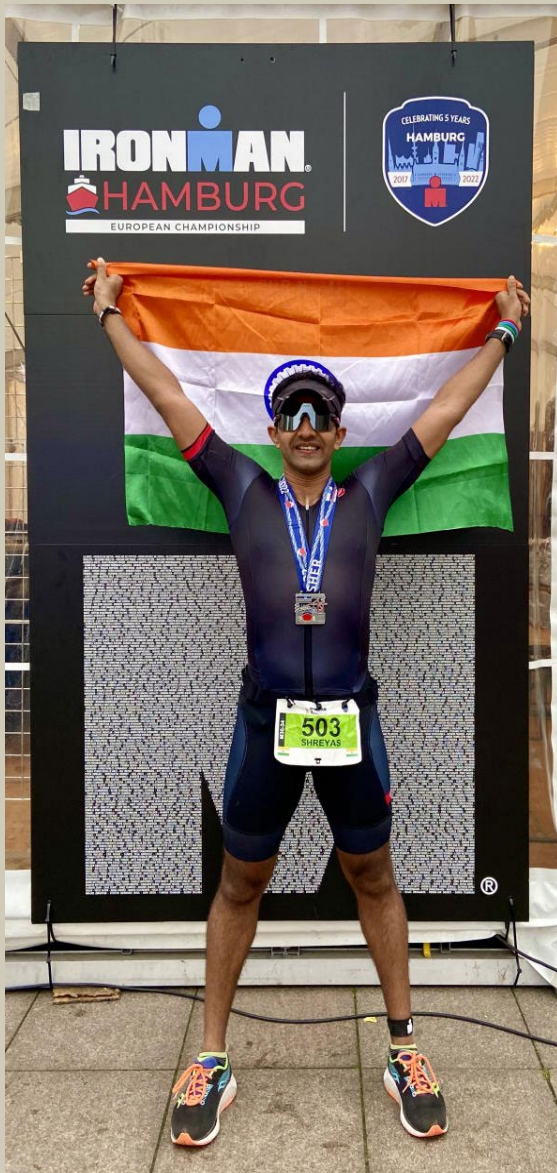
Ongoing studies suggest that Collaborative Governance can be helpful both as a stopgap until vaccines are widely available, and afterwards as well. Past studies demonstrate that Taiwan’s experience exemplifies the effectiveness of ongoing collaborative governance. But does Collaborative Governance offer a useful option elsewhere in the world?

What of India? India has a vibrant civil society that often works with the state. Can tools that have worked

so effectively in rich, democratic, relatively small and well-organized Taiwan work under the conditions in India? Given the likelihood of future pandemics and the tremendous importance of non-pharmaceutical interventions, it seems wise to further study the potential of Collaborative Governance in order to find out.

Breaking News

Shreyas Hosur from Bengaluru, Karnataka becomes first Railways Officer to Complete ‘Ironman Triathlon’



Scripting history, **Shreyas Hosur**, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer, became the first civil servant from Karnataka to complete the gruelling Ironman triathlon held at Hamburg in Germany on Sunday 5th June 2022.

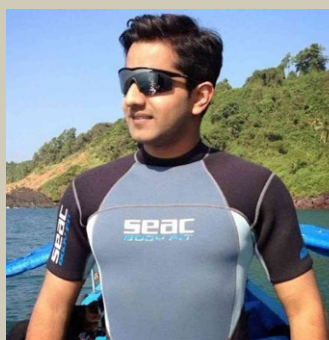
Shreyas Hosur, Deputy Financial Advisor with the **South Western Railways**, Bengaluru, swam, cycled and ran for 226 km in 13 hours and 23 minutes in Germany.

The event is considered the toughest single-day event in the world, demanding a great level of mental and physical strength from athletes to finish the race.

The **Ironman** event comprises 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running — all in a day. While there is a time limit of 16 to 17 hours to complete the race, Shreyas achieved it in 13.23 hours beating all odds.

“There is nobody to assist you once you start. Even if you encounter a problem with your bike, you will have to fix it and resume the race. Hence one should plan for everything from the beginning and I am thankful to my trainer Somya Raut for all the planning and training,” stated Shreyas from Germany.

However, it was no cakewalk for Shreyas. He had to overcome issues ranging from cold weather to sudden changes in body conditions. *“The water at Hamburg Lake was so cold at 15 to 16 degrees Centigrade and I had to swim with a wetsuit. Similarly, when I was pedalling, I developed cramps in my leg and had to make a brief stopover and attend to it before resuming the race,”* Shreyas recalled.



Overcoming all challenges, he crossed the finish line to cheers from his family, including wife **Divya Hosur** and mother **Premalatha**.

“My wife was almost in tears. Being a General Manager with Bangalore Metro (BMRCL), she has also endured many difficulties as part of my training, like waking up early for practice sessions, planning for nutrition and other things. She was with me in every step and in fact she could be called ‘Ironmate’ for all the sacrifices she has made during this journey,” Shreyas said.

Belonging to the 2012 batch, IRAS officer Shreyas dedicated his achievement to the country’s **75th Independence year**. Posted in Bengaluru as Deputy Financial Advisor with South Western Railway, he has always been a fitness enthusiast and constantly takes part in national and international marathons and cycling events.

Son of former IPS officer **Gopal B. Hosur**, Shreyas underwent continuous training for the event for one year, despite a demanding career. *“I had to plan my practice sessions around my work commitments. Luckily, there was constant motivation and support at the workplace and I am thankful to all my seniors and colleagues.”*

Sharing his joy, **Gopal Hosur** said, *“Ironman is an extreme event requiring both mental and physical strength and years of hard work to sustain motivation and not give up. It is more so for amateurs, who otherwise have a full-time profession. Shreyas put in his heart and soul to achieve it. We are happy for him.”*

The Ironman Triathlon

The Ironman Triathlon is considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world. It comprises three loops:

- Swimming: 3.8 km
- Cycling: 180 km
- Running: 42.2 km.

The finishers are called ‘***Ironmen***’ due to the race’s gruelling mental and physical demands.

Ironman Hamburg in Germany was originally added to the Ironman event schedule in 2017. This year was the race’s fifth edition in Hamburg.



Shreyas Hosur is from the 2012 batch of the Civil Services

Karnataka: Policy Matters

Karnataka Government issues order to set up SITK on lines of NITI Aayog

Source: *The Federal* dt. 7th August 2022

The Karnataka Government has issued an order announcing the formation of the **State Institute for Transformation of Karnataka (SITK)**, in place of Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission and along the lines of NITI Aayog at the Centre.

The order stated that the new institution has been created to realise the mission of building a “*New Karnataka for a New India*”. It said the Chief Minister will be the chairman of SITK while the Vice-Chairperson for SITK, an expert in government planning and other issues, would be appointed soon.

The state government would provide ₹150 crore annually to enable SITK to function effectively and achieve its goals, an official statement said. It would have eight domain experts representing the fields of Planning, Economics, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Skill Development, Employment and Clean Energy as advisers, it said.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Planning, Programme Implementation and Statistics would function as the Chief Executive Officer and Adviser for SITK.

The State Government will nominate 14 renowned government and non-government organizations including IISc, IIMB, NLSIU as stakeholders, it added.

Karnataka Youth Policy 2022

Draft outlines 10 Focus Areas for Youth Empowerment

Source: *The Hindu*, dt. 5th August 2022



In alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Karnataka Youth Policy 2022 will be operational for a period of eight years until 2030.

The **Karnataka Youth Policy** envisages for all-round development of youth to empower them to bring about constructive societal change. **Mr. R. Balasubramaniam**, Chairman of the State Committee on Youth Policy submitted a draft of the **Karnataka Youth Policy (KYP) 2022**, to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on 4th August 2022.

The focus areas of the policy include education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, sports and fitness, arts and culture, value-based leadership development, restructuring the department, *yuva* budget, youth advisory group, and three C's approach — fostering coordination, cooperation, and collaboration — to ensure convergence; and establishing a state-level Convergence Committee for Youth Empowerment. It also focuses on building human and social capital in a sustainable manner. “*Sustainable development is the guiding principle of the KYP 2022*,” the draft policy said.

This will make the policy implicitly inclusive and ensure that social, economic and environmental realities guide its implementation.

In alignment with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the **KYP 2022** will be operational for a period of eight years until 2030.

The policy focuses on new challenges such as technological progress and humanitarian crises like COVID and the need to rethink the state's approach to youth development.

Karnataka Government notifies new Minimum Wages

Source: *Deccan Herald* dt. 5th August 2022

The Labour department has notified revised Minimum Wages for workers performing various roles in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs). This includes the BBMP. For example, chemists and sanitary supervisors in the BBMP and other ULBs will get a minimum wage of Rs 17,955.52. Clerks, computer/data entry operators, lab technicians and assistant librarians will get Rs 16,564.02. Drivers-cum-operators will receive Rs.15,777.52; drivers Rs 15,112.02; cleaners Rs 13,974.62; mechanics, plumbers, watermen, valvemmen Rs. 14,657.72; attenders, gardeners, watchmen Rs 13,974.62; street sweepers, waste workers Rs 17,306.52. The new wages have come into effect from July 28 when they were notified.

IIPA-KRB: Diary of EC Members and Networked Organizations

Much has been Achieved, much needs to be Done,
according to **Gurucharan Gollerkeri**, IAS (Retd.) in an article in *Deccan Herald*
dt. 11th August 2022

History does not pause to take a breath. Yet, as we complete 75 years of freedom, we must pause to look back, breathe in some joy, and exhale some optimism as we look ahead, confidently and resolutely.

Read more at:

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/comment/much-has-been-achieved-much-needs-to-be-done-1134988.html>



Independence Day Celebrations at Poorna Prajna Education Centre, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru

Mr. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), Chairman-Emeritus of IIPA-KRB was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebrations at **Poorna Prajna Education Centre**, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru on 15th August 2022. He is seen below hoisting the National Flag and addressing the audience.



Independence Day Celebrations at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics, (BASE) University, Bengaluru

Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 was the Chief Guest at the **Independence Day** celebrations at **BASE University** on 15th August 2022. He is seen below with the Vice-Chancellor, **Dr. N. R. Bhanumurthy** and Registrar, **Smt. B. Shobha**, KAS.



Gender in India's Electoral Dynamics

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) of Jain University organized a Panel Discussion on *Gender in India's Electoral Dynamics* on 12th August 2022. The Chairperson, Panelists and some of the Faculty at Jain University are seen below:



Above (From L to R): Dr. Debangana Chatterjee, Dr. M.H. Uma, Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Dr. Sindhuja Iyengar, Mrs. Melanie Kumar, Ms. Ruth Manorama, Mr. Anant Shreyas, Dr. Priyanca Mathur and Dr. Rubina Pradhan.

Panel Discussion organized by Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru on *Revisiting the Social Contract - Imperatives for the Future*

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander

Head-Policy Engagement and Communication
Public Affairs Centre
annapoorna@pacindia.org

The **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)** organised a **Panel Discussion** to commemorate the 75th year of Indian Independence on the theme, “*Revisiting the Social Contract - Imperatives for the Future*”. The event was held on August 12, 2022. The Panel discussion included eminent people from Bengaluru.

The session began with a brief introduction of the Panelists by **Ms. Archana Muthappa**, Board Member, PAC. She stated that on the approach of our 75th Independence Day, it is essential to look back at our Constitutional goals and discuss how as a country we have navigated them. Simultaneously, it is necessary to revisit the Social Contract theory which is an imperative part in maintaining the integrity of the country.



Dr. A. Ravindra, Chairman, PAC and Chairperson and Facilitator for the event, spoke on “governance” and social contract”. He said, “*Before the Constitution, the word ‘governance’ appeared in the Objective Resolution Document. It is mentioned in the Directive Principles of State Policy as a guideline for better and more efficient governance.*”

Shri. V. Sudhish Pai, Senior Advocate, said, “There was a study about 11 years ago on the lifespan of the Constitution; the average lifespan is said to be 19 years and very few Constitutions survive beyond 50 years. I think all of us can be really proud that we have survived, not just survived, we have worked.” He added, “*The Constitution of India is one of the finest creations of human ingenuity. It draws out the best from the past, provides for the needs of the present and is resilient to cope with the future.*” Answering a question from the audience on why Civil Servants do not take part in Parliamentary debates instead of politicians, Shri. Pai mentioned, “*In the Indian Parliamentary system, laws are never initiated by Parliamentarians - laws are always formulated by the Executive. Prime Minister*



IK Gujral addressed it. Citizens come to know about Parliamentary proceedings only when Parliament is disrupted. Prime Minister Gujral said when there's a good debate, the media is absent. Parliamentarians or politicians should not be condemned. Civil servants cannot discuss law in Parliament. It must be a responsibility of our (political) representatives."



Shri M.R. Sreenivasa Murthy, IAS (Retd.), Chief Executive, M.S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Centre, drew attention to important subjects like 'independence of Judiciary', 'income inequality' and 'religious divide'. He said, *"How independent is the Supreme Court today? Is it working? That is sad. Equality is one of the noble ideas. We have done better in terms of social equality. However, what about economic equality? The average per capita income in agriculture is less than one-tenth of non-agriculture."* Further, he

said, *"Today most people are educated. If the present state of inequalities of income continues, there will be unrest in the future. Most of the workers are in the unorganised sector. Widening inequalities is a threat and a concern. It is disturbing to note about reopening of old issues. This is a concern. We cannot be bogged down by issues such as love-jihad. It is sad that issues such as hijab take precedence over other important topics."*

Ms. Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change said, "The Constitution is for us, no doubt. But we, too, are for the Constitution." Gurumurthy emphasised on Ambedkarism, and stated, *"Ambedkar was a feminist. He believed that an individual is a means and not an end in itself. He believed in a sophisticated theory of economic governance."*



Shri Pranay Kotasthane, Deputy Director, The Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru, spoke about 'societism'. He said, *"Society itself can be a change maker through civil society initiatives, philanthropy, etc. Society needs to solve its own problems instead of waiting for the State to change it since most of the failures come from societal failures so relying on the State for a solution is not feasible."* He added, *"The paradox of the Indian state is it is too big, yet too small. The State is doing so many things with so little. We only need to hold the state accountable for things like Law and Order, Health and Education."*



The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by **Dr. Meena Nair**, Head, Research, PAC who thanked everyone for being a part of the event.

Books

Long Walk to Freedom: An Insider View into Kasturba's Life



Source: *The Hindu*, dt. August 07, 2022

Link to Review is given below:

Inside Kasturba Gandhi's diary pages - *The Hindu*
<https://www.thehindu.com> > *Books* > *Reviews*

Holding together (clockwise from right) A studio photograph of Mohandas and Kasturba Gandhi taken in South Africa, most likely in 1914, during the satyagraha campaign; this photograph taken in 1903 at a studio in Bombay shows Kasturba with nephew Gokuldas, sons Manilal, Devadas and Ramdas, and with Sarojini Naidu. © GANDHI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, JALGAON

Literary Review 05

PROFILE

Long walk to freedom

Making unimaginable personal sacrifices, Kasturba never faltered in her unwavering commitment to Gandhi and the struggle for independence, as pages from her diary reveal

Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta

These are pages from the life of a remarkable figure from history – Kasturba, wife of Mohandas Gandhi. The narrative speaks to us from a hand-written diary that had almost fallen apart by the time it was discovered. *The Lost Diary of Kastur, My Ba* was found in an old trunk a few years ago, according to her great grandson and translator Tushar Gandhi, by the staff at the Gandhi Research Foundation while going through old materials at the Kasturba Ashram, Indore.

Reading these pages gives a special thrill. The diary spans only nine months, but such momentous months! Contained in the simple entries from January to September 1933, of not more than three or four lines each, we discover a story of prison sentences casually borne; an unwavering commitment to freedom and justice; and unimaginable personal sacrifice. Shining out of the simple sentences is a narrative of deep personal faith and determination to do what is right.

A good listener

The first strand in this homespun narrative of the freedom struggle is the sheer amount of hard work on the ground. The first entry in Kasturba's diary, dated 22 January 1933: "I left the ashram and travelled through Borsad taluka at 8.30 in the evening. We slept at Bhadran that night." The next day they leave Bhadran by bullock cart. The next day is at Bochasan; then Dharmaj; then Vadala; and so on, from village to village in rural Gujarat, interacting with girls and women, encouraging them to join the movement for freedom and for social reform.

Another element that stands out is the work of listening to people and learning from them. "Left to go to Limbasi, there met brothers and sisters and listened to their tales of happiness and woes, then returned." There is a great lesson in this. For Kasturba, this form of listening, this attentiveness to the everyday struggles of ordinary people, is a form of love.

Within days of the first entry in the diary comes a cursory note about being arrested by the British government – along with other women – and taken into custody. "On 8.2.33, our case was conducted at Borsad. On 9 February we were sentenced and on 10 February we left in the morning and reached here in the evening." The 'here' in this case was Sabarmati jail.

In the jail, she finds that Meera Ben had also reached that same day. "So I was very happy. Both of us stayed together."

The days go by in a regular routine of prayers, rituals, and letters to Gandhi, who was in another prison at the time, or letters from him. Reading the *Gita*, and then reading the newspapers. The newspapers are often Kasturba's main source of information about the outside world and about the Independence struggle.

There is also the regular work at the charkha, spinning 350 to 450 strands every day. Kasturba was a dedicated and skilled spinner. When the daughter of a family from Kochrab Ashram comes to the prison to seek Kasturba's blessings for her marriage, Kasturba says she will gift her two sarees. "Sitting here I could not think of anything else to give her."

That Kasturba and Gandhi spent much of their married life in different prisons was just one of their many extraordinary personal sacrifices for the freedom movement. In her matter-of-fact way, Kasturba records one such instance, on the night of 31 July: "At 1.30, three cars arrived full of police. Me, Bal and Mahadev Bhai were put in one car and Bapuji was put in another and we were taken to the prison. Other sisters from the ashram had also been arrested and brought..."

And this moving detail, while in prison: "In the evening, made soup of parval for Bapuji and sent it."

Later, in the same paragraph: "This evening at 8 o'clock, they took Bapu. We got to know about it the next day from the newspaper that Bapuji along with Mahadev Bhai has been taken to Yerwada."

Days later, the collector gives the women a notice to leave the jail but warns them not to cross the river. Promptly, Kasturba and the other women defy the collector's order. They are again taken before a magistrate and sent back to the prison.

Poignant entry

Perhaps the most poignant entry in the diary is that of 18 August 1933, when Kasturba is worried about Gandhi's new fast. She reads the updates about the fast in the newspaper. "Paper arrived, learned from it that Bapuji's fast continues... Then I sent a telegram to Bapuji on Friday morning saying, 'I came to know from the newspaper that today is your third day of fasting. So let me know how your health is...'"

In the next day's entry: "Received no reply."

Each day's entry contains a lifetime of feeling and faith.

This is the story, in her own words, of an extraordinary woman – a wife, a mother, a friend, a dedicated khadi spinner, a mentor, and a powerful and inspiring figure in the struggle for Indian independence.

It is a story of steely determination, compassion, wisdom, and humanity. This is a voice coming to us from the pages of history. It is a soft and gentle voice, one of few and simple words, but with a powerful message of hope, faith, and love.

The Lost Diary of Kastur, My Ba
Tushar Gandhi
HarperCollins
₹599

The reviewer is in the IAS

Feedback

Sir,

August 2022 issue of IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter made very interesting and thought-provoking reading.

Excerpts from Mr. Vijay Bhaskar's lecture on ARC left me feeling that he has not covered the greatest malaise in our administration i.e., Corruption across all limbs of our country's governance. My experience tells me that we are not bold enough to touch upon this subject to tackle it effectively at bureaucratic level. On one occasion, a member of the Planning Commission claimed that the issue of corruption was a Frankenstein created by the media, while on another occasion, a past RBI Governor pronounced that money stashed in Swiss banks was not an issue to feel concerned.

Review of Mr. Balu's book '*Fall from Grace*' is breath of fresh air amongst the ostriches who bury their heads in sand to wish away corruption. We need more such men who can hold a mirror to the administration to show its moles and warts. Hats off to him.

Articles under *Miscellany* make the Newsletter more spicy.

Wg. Cdr. A. Raghunath (Retd.)

Sir,

The Newsletter has come out well. But my suggestion is to carry some more critical writings about the GOK. Neeti Ayog Index etc. are about the intent of the Government, not its actual performance.

Prof. P.S. Jayaramu
Professor of Political Science (Retd.), Bangalore University, and
Senior ICSSR Fellow.

Dear Friend,

Great to read the latest issue. Several inspiring pieces. Indeed, corruption is one of the eternal diseases in our country. But what about Parliament? Why do we need a sleeping Parliament? Shall we organize a serious discussion at IIPA-KRB on this matter?

Last week, I returned after an exciting month in the US. Very sad to see increasing violence everywhere. Even on July 4th, their Independence Day! These days, it has become a fashion to carry a cellphone in one pocket and a gun in another. I am planning to place an important challenge to the UN for next year. Would like to discuss this issue with the IIPA-KRB.

E. P. Menon
Bengaluru

Important Announcement from IIPA, New Delhi



भारतीय लोक प्रशासन संस्थान

इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, रिंग रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002

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Admn./M/4(1)/2022

July 26, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Executive Council in its meeting held on 5th July, 2022 has approved the following Topics/Theme as under:

(a) Annual Essay Prize Competition, 2022

- (i) Socio-economic Changes in Post Pandemic period
- (ii) Fourth Industrial Revolution and Governance
- (iii) Evolving Role of Women in Leadership and Society

(b) Theme of the Members' Annual Conference 2022

India Emerging as a Global Leader

It is requested to kindly note the above for information and further necessary action by the Branches.

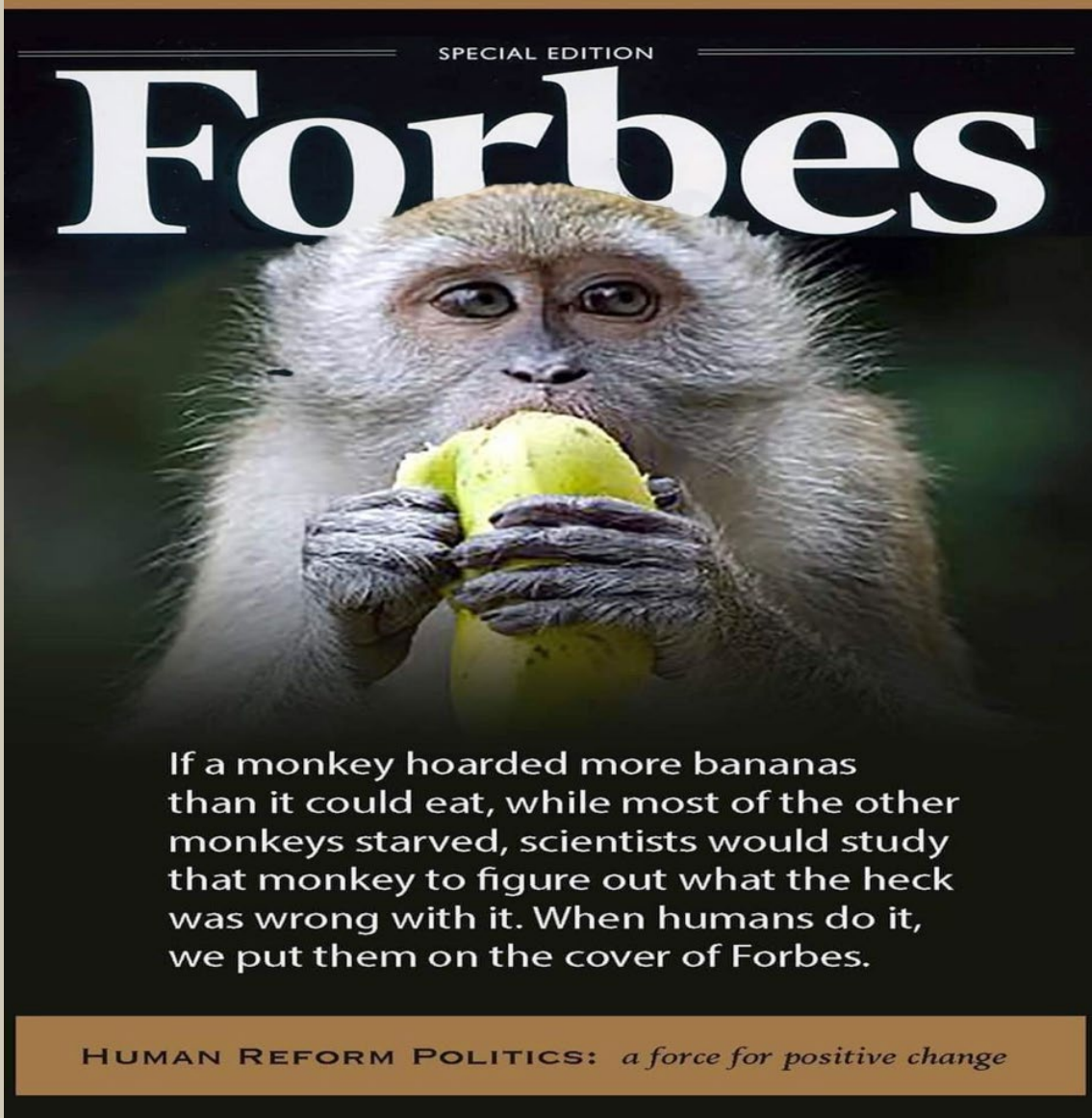
With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Amitabh Ranjan)
Registrar

Chairmen and Hony. Secretaries of the Regional and Local Branches

Food for Thought



IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

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