



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

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**Virtual Newsletter**

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**- Chief Editor**

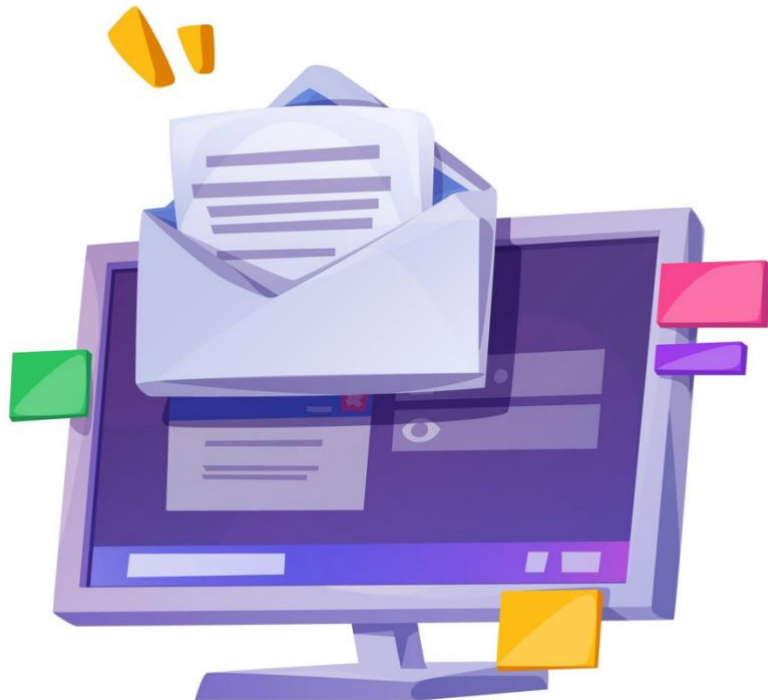
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## A Note from the Chief Editor



**T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**

Former Chief Secretary,  
Government of Karnataka  
Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms  
Commission-II  
Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration -  
Karnataka Regional Branch

I am happy to place before our readers the **December 2023** issue of our **Virtual Newsletter**. This is our **41<sup>st</sup> issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Article** is titled, **New Paradigms of Governance**. It is based on the **Inaugural Address** delivered by me at the **IIPA-KRB Prelude Conference 2023** on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru.

Our **Special Feature** this time is on the **6<sup>th</sup> Report** of the **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** which I have the privilege of chairing. We carry a **Summary of Recommendations** of this report.

In our regular section titled, **Communication Pulse**, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, Executive Director at **Public Affairs Foundation** writes on **SDG-5** this time which deals with **Gender Equality**.

In our report of **Branch Events**, we carry a report of the **Panel Discussion** and **Prize Distribution** event of our **Annual Essay Competition-2023**, jointly organized with the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education of **Jain**

**(Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru**. The theme of the Essay Competition was "**Citizen-Centric Governance in Karnataka - A Reform Agenda**".

In our regular section on **Branch Members Writings in the Popular Media**, we provide the links to two thought-provoking articles penned by **Dr. A. Ravindra** and **Mr. G. Gurucharan** which appeared in the local daily, **Deccan Herald** last month.

In our section on **Karnataka in the News**, we carry a brief report of **Bangalore Tech Summit-2023**. We end the issue with our column on **Food for Thought**.

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



**Shri Rajneesh Goel assumes charge as Chief Secretary of Karnataka**

**Shri Rajneesh Goel**, a 1986-batch IAS officer took charge as the 40<sup>th</sup> Chief Secretary of Karnataka on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Executive Committee of the Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration congratulates him and offers him their greetings and good wishes.



## Lead Article

### **New Paradigms of Governance** (Inaugural Address delivered at IIPA-KRB Prelude Conference 2023 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru)



**T M Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**  
Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka  
Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2  
Chairman, IIPA-Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

Citizens' expectations of government and of administration have risen tremendously with the increase in literacy rates, increase in per capita incomes, change in demographic composition, smartphones, internet and social media giving immediate exposure to local, national and international events and such developments. In this background I would like to point out some of the new paradigms of governance that are becoming more pronounced.

First is the use of **technology**. This includes digital public infrastructure that have facilitated direct benefit transfer, online payments, online delivery of citizen services towards a contactless, paperless and cashless method. For instance, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme of giving Rs. 2000 monthly cash benefit was rolled out in a very short time to more than a crore of women, thanks to the use of the Kutumba database of the government. Use of eOffice, Human Resource Management System, Khajane 2 (a digital treasury management system) and other digital systems have greatly transformed the way government works and the speed with which it can deliver services if it wishes to. Integration of technology by the Income Tax

department has resulted in generation of the Annual Income Statement available to all tax payers. This reduces the scope for avoidance of tax.

Second is **transparency** and **accountability**. The use of Right to Information Act and the mandatory disclosures under it have brought in greater transparency. Use of eProcurement online system and GEMS portal for all procurements in the state makes procurement more transparent, though this may not translate into reduction of corruption or harassment in other ways. The setting up of Lokayukta and Lokpal institutions provide a mechanism for bringing in accountability, given the right persons at the helm. The mandating of eAuctions for disposal of natural resources like mining rights, sale of timber, sites and land has led to reducing scope for corruption and increased government revenues.

The third aspect is increasing **participation**. The empowering of local bodies by the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments have led to participation of hitherto marginalized sections and thrown up large number of elected representatives, many of whom are making their mark in their positions. Ward Committees and Area Sabhas are further deepening democracy at these levels, though they are rendered mostly ineffective because untied funding is not provided to them. Stakeholder committees that may or may not be part of the local bodies like School Development and Monitoring Committees, Arogya Raksha Samitis, Bala Vikas Samitis and Village Forest Committees are increasingly being given greater responsibilities and funding.

The fourth aspect is **delegation** and empowerment of lower levels of administration. Whether it is the highest administrative functionary like a Cabinet Secretary or Chief Secretary or the First Division Assistant, both of them need the







## Special Feature on Administrative Reforms in Karnataka

### Sixth Report of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 Summary of Recommendations

(For full report, please see the Commission's website <https://karc2.karnataka.gov.in>)



*Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.) Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, submitted the 6<sup>th</sup> Report on Administrative Reforms to Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru.*

**Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** was constituted vide Government Order dated 07.01.2021. The Commission started its functioning from 11.02.2021. The Commission has already submitted 5 reports to the government. A total of 3,630 recommendations have been made in respect of 23 departments. The 6<sup>th</sup> Report was submitted to the Government on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

#### **Methodology Adopted**

The Commission visited 30 districts, 74 taluks, 171 cities/towns and 53 Gram Panchayats. Between 11.01.2021 to 31.10.2023, 298 offices/institutions were visited and 4,564 officials, elected representatives and citizens were met. 511 meetings were held in which the

number of participants was about 7647. Responses were received from 25,522 users who availed the state government citizen services.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Report**

In its 6<sup>th</sup> Report, the Commission studied 7 Departments and submitted its recommendations. Besides, general recommendations related to other departments have also been made in the report. The Commission also received study reports from IIM, Bangalore, National Law School of Indian University (NLSIU), Vidhi Center for Legal Policy, Azim Premji University, Public Affairs Centre and Public Affairs Foundation on some specific areas and recommendations have been made based on these reports.

## Summary of Recommendations made in 6<sup>th</sup> Report

Sl. No.	Name of Department/Organization	Total No. of Recommendations
1.	Housing Department	109
2.	Forest, Ecology and Environment Department	150
3.	Water Resources Department	83
4.	Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Department	58
5.	Public Works Department	85
6.	Commerce & Industries Department	223
7.	Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department	48
8.	General Recommendations	55
9.	Study Reports of IIMB, NLSIU, Vidhi Center for Legal Policy, Azim Premji University, Public Affairs Centre, PAF	71
	<b>Total Recommendations</b>	<b>882</b>

Reports	Date of Submission	Departments in the Report	No. of Recommendations
<b>First Report</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021	3	856
<b>Second and Third Reports</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	8	1165
<b>Fourth and Fifth Reports</b>	January 2023	12	1609
<b>Sixth Report</b>	November 2023	7	882
<b>Total Recommendations made in 6 Reports</b>			<b>4512</b>

### Users Feedback

- The Call Centre called a total of 74,108 users of 138 citizen services of 23 Departments. Of the 74,108 users who were called, 25522 (34%) users provided feedback. The main demands expressed by the called users are:
  - Timely provision of service
  - Convenience for users
  - Provide Information to applicants
  - Ensure good Quality of interaction in offices
  - User friendly website and technology
  - No brokers in offices

### General Recommendations

- eOffice is not being used in many offices, starting from Head office, district and taluk offices. The head offices, district and taluk level offices already have a minimum number of computers, scanner, printer and UPS with which they can start using eOffice for correspondence and sending files to higher offices. Government may issue orders that departments should insist that subordinate offices only send files and proposals through eOffice. Government may also issue orders fixing timelines for implementing e-

Performance Appraisal Report and eService Register.

Therefore, it is recommended that Government issue instructions to the departments and heads of departments and through them district and taluk level offices not to ask for hard copies of reports through post or by *muddam*. The department may mandate the use of *Avalokana* software alone, and no other duplication, for taluk office and higher offices to send online monthly monitoring reports.

3. Various Acts and Rules were enacted in the 1960's and thereafter. Many fee, fine and penalty provisions in these Acts and Rules have not been revised at all since then or have not been revised for many years. In most of these cases, the cost of litigation may be many times higher than the penalty amount prescribed. Hence there is a need to revise the penalty provisions to make them an effective deterrent and worthwhile to pursue legally. (e.g. Penalty for Transit of forest produce is Rs 500 - fixed in 1964) Suggestions have made for revision of fees, fines and penalties for each department are based on increase in the cost inflation index since they were last prescribed or revised.
4. Many posts of First Division Assistants and Second Division Assistants and other clerical posts are vacant in all departments. Clerical work would reduce considerably with the introduction and adoption of HRMS, Khajane2 E Office, E Par and E Service Register. There may be no need for continuing with more FDA and SDA posts. Government may consider reviewing the number of FDA and SDA posts in each department and rationalising them or converting them to technical posts e.g., Forest Guards in Forest department.
5. Group C and D staff have to wait for many months or even years to get sanction of routine benefits like childcare leave, time bound promotion, stagnation increment and medical re-imburement because

powers for sanctioning them are centralised in the head offices of departments. Powers to sanction such benefits for Group-C and D employees may be delegated to the District-level officers instead of to the head office. Sanction of childcare leave to Group B employees also may be delegated to the district level officers.

### **Housing Department**

6. The E-Governance department has developed the Multi Dimension Deprivation Index (MDDI) based on income, education, employment, housing, household resources etc of families in the State. This index may be incorporated into the selection parameters and be considered for selection of beneficiaries for State sector housing and site schemes.
7. Formation of a layout takes many years in the Karnataka Housing Board. One reason is the delay caused in obtaining approval for layout plans from the Town and Country Planning department. There is a post of Additional Director, Town Planning in the KHB who vets the layouts prepared by KHB. In order to speed up the process of layout formation, Housing department may propose to Urban Development Department to amend Sec 81 to add an Explanation that for the purposes of Sec 81 of the KTCP Act, 1961, the Karnataka Housing Board shall be deemed to be a local authority. Alternatively, the words "or to the Commissioner, Karnataka Housing Board" may be proposed to be added after the words "or any officer of the local authority" in Sec 81. As a further alternative, Housing department may propose an amendment to Sec 32A of the Karnataka Housing Board Act 1963. Sec 32A empowers the Board and the Housing Commissioner to exercise powers and functions under the Karnataka Acts 22 of 1964, 14 of 1977 and 2[14 of 1993]. Housing department may propose to amend this section to empower the Board and



the Commissioner to give approval for layouts that are in conformity with the approved Master Plans and have been cleared by the Additional Director, Town Planning of KHB.

8. Allotment of sites to Economically Weaker Section beneficiaries should be done by obtaining Aadhaar numbers of applicants and verifying from the Kutumba database, RGHCL allottee list and linking with eKhata, eSwathu, BDA and BBMP databases. This will help to identify and weed out ineligible applicants who already possess site or a house and multiple applicants from a single family.
9. The fee of Rs 1000 for approval of a building plan was fixed by KHB in 2013. The fees should be fixed as a percentage of the estimated cost of the building. It may be noted that the Building and Other Construction Workers Board collects Labour Cess at 1% of the estimated cost of the building. In many cases, the Labour cess collected is more than the building approval and other fees charged by KHB. Therefore, it is recommended that the KHB building plan approval fee be fixed as a percentage of the cost of the building.
10. In many KHB layouts even after provision of all basic infrastructure and lapse of many years, a large number of sites are vacant. This defeats the purpose of forming layouts and deprives other needy applicants who would have built houses. Such owners should be penalised for keeping sites vacant for long year. KHB may fix the penalty for registering outright sale deed of vacant sites at 25% of the present guidance value of the site. Secondly, the maintenance charges levied on vacant sites may be double the charges levied on built houses as a vacant land charge.

#### **Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB)**

11. There are 2.16 lakh slum dwelling households that remain to be given *hakku patras*. Housing department

may give annual and monthly targets for *hakku patra* distribution to KSDB.

12. A Slum Improvement Cess is being collected by urban local bodies since 1994. The rates have not been revised since then. The rates are absolute figures and are miniscule when compared to the fund requirement for slum development. It is therefore recommended that the Housing department propose an amendment to the Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act 1973 to introduce a provision similar to Sec 30 of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965 for collection of Slum Improvement Cess as a percentage of the property tax and other taxes levied by urban local bodies in the State.
13. Housing department may consider and issue instructions that vacant lands owned by the KSD Board should only be disposed of by auction through eAuction platform for improvement of revenue of the Board.

#### **Forest, Environment and Ecology Department**

14. Department has to respond quickly in giving compensation to victims of man-animal conflict. In the interest of quicker payment of ex-gratia and maintaining better relations with the public, it is recommended that the annual limit for sanction of ex-gratia be raised to Rs 5 lakh per year to Assistant Conservator of Forests. It is recommended that Range Forest Officers (RFO) also be delegated powers to sanction ex-gratia upto Rs 15,000 in each case subject to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh in a year. RFOs can be given the authority to issue Official Memorandum sanctioning the ex-gratia.
15. Village Forest Committees (VFC) have funds lying unused for many years. One reason for non-utilisation could be the cumbersome procedure for getting approval for utilising the funds. In order to

simplify the process, it is recommended that approval of 10 years management plan of VFCs may be done by Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) instead of by Chief CF/CF. Once the 10-year plan is approved by the DCF, the approval of Annual Plan of Operations may be done by the ACF and the approval of estimates, calling and approval of tenders, issue of work orders and payment of bills may be done by the RFO.

16. Nearly a lakh cases of forest violations are pending. This delay defeats the purpose of prescribing penalties and allows repeat violators to run free. In order to act as a deterrent, the power of compounding offences may be used more extensively by delegating the power and increasing the compounding amount. It is recommended that in the interest of quicker disposal of offences, the Forest department may propose an amendment to Sec 79 of Karnataka Forest Act to empower the Deputy RFO to compound offences. A limit of fifty thousand rupees for compounding offences was fixed in 1981. Therefore, it is recommended that the compounding limit be increased to Rs 10 lakhs. Compounding of second and third time offences may be at higher rates.
17. Government in recent years have liberalised the rules for felling, transporting and selling of sandalwood and teak wood grown in private lands with a view to encourage farmers to grow these trees. However, the rules in respect of rosewood have not been liberalised so far. There may be no need to have special rules for felling and transporting of rosewood. The rules relating to rosewood trees may be relaxed and the same rules regarding felling and transporting applicable to teak trees may be made

applicable to rosewood trees planted in private lands also.

18. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) - III regulations require applicants constructing houses between 200 metres and 500 metres of the coastline to take permission from the District Coastal Management Committee chaired by the district Deputy Commissioner. The district DC has a tremendous workload of different types of work. It may not be possible for the DC to hold meetings of the DCMC regularly. It is suggested that FEE department consider delegating the power to dispose applications for house building permissions in CRZ-III to the concerned DCFs without going to the DCMC.
19. Thousands of forest offence cases are pending since many decades. The timber seized in such cases is stored in timber depots awaiting court orders. Due to such long delays the quality of timber deteriorates and may become worthless. It is said that such timber can retain value for about 3-4 years; thereafter it deteriorates in quality and value. In such cases both the parties suffer loss. Therefore, it is recommended that Forest department propose for an amendment of Sec.62B-Report by Investigation Officer of KFA, so that immediately after filing the chargesheet report in court, the concerned RFO is authorised to e-auction the seized items and deposit the proceeds of auction in the same court till final disposal of the case.
20. It is recommended that Forest department propose for extending a death-cum-disability insurance cover at Government cost to its outsourced staff working in RRTs, APCs, anti-depredation camps, forest protection camps, elephant task force and in other such life threatening work.
21. It is therefore recommended that in districts with low forest cover where the Territorial division does not have much work and in the Malnad districts where the Social Forestry (SF) division may have

much work, the Territorial and SF divisions be merged.

22. In the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the power to issue consent, authorisation and registration under the two Acts and the four Rules administered by the Board, in respect of all green category industries, small-scale orange and micro red categories of industries may be delegated to Regional Officers (RO). The industry should be able to get consent/authorization /registration under all 6 Acts/Rules in a single order by the RO.

### **Water Resources Department**

23. Revised water rates for industrial use that were issued in 2019 were struck down by the Hon High Court because the relevant rules had not been amended. The revised water rates for industrial use taking cost inflation index would be Rs 1.20 lakh per mcft for use of river water and Rs 2.40 lakh for use of canal water. The Rules may be notified with these rates. While revising the rates, WRD may also insert a provision in the Rules to increase the rate at the rate of 5% every year, to take into account inflation and the higher water rates for industrial use in neighbouring States.
24. The WRD Subdivisions are responsible for managing emergency works, such as temporarily repairing breaches in the canal bunds, removal of fallen trees, plugging of rat holes etc. However, there is currently no provision to address such works without obtaining prior approval from the corporation head office. It is suggested that a revolving fund be provided to the Executive Engineers with an amount of say Rs 5 lakh for taking up specified emergency works under Sec 4a of KTPP Act without seeking prior approval.
25. The Commissioner, Rehabilitation & Resettlement post is usually held by officers as a concurrent charge. They may not have much time to visit and clear files in Bagalkot and therefore there is avoidable delay in approving land acquisition files. This further

delays project implementation. It is therefore recommended that powers to approve land acquisition cases be entrusted to the relevant district Deputy Commissioners in districts other than Bagalkot.

26. It is therefore recommended that the WRD consider merging CADAs with the respective Nigams and entrust the entire responsibility for FIC creation, maintenance, WUCS and closing the gap between irrigation potential created and utilisation to the respective Nigams. Cadass can work like WALMI branches to train and handhold the WUCS. The responsibility of dealing with WUCS, constituting and rejuvenating WUCS may be entrusted to the maintenance sub-divisions of the Nigams. An annual target may be given to the Nigams for constitution of WUCS and for rejuvenation of WUCS. Only by involving the Nigams can the WUCS become active.
27. It is recommended that an annual grant of Rs. 2 lakh each be given to all active WUCS. The funds may be routed through the Nigams rather than through CADAs because of the larger budget allocation available with Nigams.
28. Data on these parameters was obtained from three Nigams-KBJNL, CNNL and VJNL. Following the above methodology, below is a zonal summary of the number of sanctioned posts to be reduced and working staff to be rebalanced in these three Nigams. As may be seen, by assessing the workload based on the above parameters it is suggested that 156 (20% of the total sanctioned posts) sanctioned posts of AEs and 101 (18% of the total sanctioned posts) sanctioned posts of JEs may be reduced in these three Nigams by shifting them to other departments. As regards working staff, 114 (24%) of the working AEs are surplus in the three Nigams based on workload assessment and may be re-deployed to other subdivisions within the same zone or Nigam or other Nigams. For JEs, this number is 74 (38%) as currently there are many SDs

which operate without even one JE. Across the 3 Nigams there is a shortage of about 30 JE's. In order to meet this shortage, WRD may consider moving JE's from the nearby CADA Divisions.

#### **Minor Irrigation Department**

29. *Kere Sanjeevini* programme is implemented through contractors by MI department, whereas KTCD implements it through the Kere Balakedarara Sanghas. In the interest of better quality of work and local participation, MI department may also implement the *Kere Sanjeevini* programme through the relevant Kere Balakedarara Sanghas.
30. The department should get energy audits done of all old pumps and motors to gauge their efficiency. It should give guidelines to all subdivisions on the energy saving measures that should be implemented. Calibration of electricity meters should be done regularly to ensure accurate metering. If necessary, projects to replace the inefficient pumps and motors may be taken up by calling for tenders as was done by Smart City corporations for replacing inefficient bulbs and tubes with LED streetlighting.

#### **Public Works Department**

31. To prevent wastage of funds, it is recommended that Finance department issue orders to all PWD offices and Accounts officers in these offices that every bill payment for road works should be done only if the relevant RIS extract has been obtained, examined and the online road history updated. RIS may be made a module in KRAMS to avoid duplication.
32. A Building Information System (BIS) has also been developed by the department but is not being used. Using regularly updated BIS would prevent cases of taking up the same buildings for improvements while neglecting more needy buildings. On the same lines as for RIS, unless payment of work bills is linked to examination of BIS, it is not likely to be used. Therefore, it is

recommended that Finance department issue orders to all PWD offices and Accounts officers in these offices to pass bills for building works only if the relevant BIS extract has been obtained, examined and the online building history updated.

33. Powers to issue work orders and for payment of bills for works costing less than Rs 10 lakh may be delegated to AEEs. AEEs may be entrusted with 100% check measurement instead of 90% at present in respect of works costing less than Rs 10 lakh. Finance department may issue instructions while releasing funds under heads of account 2059 for building maintenance and 3054 for emergency road works, that AEEs may also be allocated funds under these two heads for making such payments. Such powers may be made applicable to AEEs of all engineering departments including Water Resources, Minor Irrigation, Panchayat Raj Engineering, Rural Water Supply etc. Suitable changes may be proposed and made in the Departmental Code and orders of delegation of powers.
34. Exemption under Sec 4(g) or Sec 4(a) of KTPP Act can be granted based on emergency needs. These works could include preparation of VVIP helipads, barricading, press conferences, restoration of drinking water supply, resumption of electricity supply, closing potholes posing danger to riders and other similar emergency works where work has to be carried out immediately in the interest of security and safety. Suitable administrative, financial and technical powers may be delegated to the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) and Executive Engineer (EE) for the execution of such works on piece rate basis and for making payments. Funds may be allocated for Emergency works and the Assistant Executive Engineer may be authorized to use up to a certain financial limit, say Rs 2 lakh per month, for such emergency works.

## Commerce & Industries Department

35. A new State Level Survey of Artisans to prepare a database of artisans (like Fruits database for farmers) with their details like ration card number may be proposed. It may be conducted in rural and urban areas. A mobile app may be prepared for collecting the data. A suitable ID like UDID may be issued to them. Data of artisans registered under Kaushalkar for skill development may be incorporated in the database.
36. It is therefore recommended that DCs be given annual targets for industrial and service enterprises development in terms of (1) number of new enterprises for which MOUs are signed, (2) Affidavit Based Clearances (ABC) acknowledgements issued, (3) approvals given and commissioned; (4) investment made and (5) employment generated. Their targets may be exclusive of Karnataka Udyoga Mitra (KUM) cleared projects. In the case of KUM projects and large and medium scale industries, their targets can be in terms of (6) number of large and medium scale industries and services commissioned. Deputy Commissioners may be designated as ex-officio Deputy Commissioners for Industrial and Services Promotion.
37. It has been further modified to allow private estates to be set up in 10 acres or more. In view of rising prices of land in Karnataka, purchasing 75 acres of land may require high investment and may not be within the reach of private entrepreneurs in districts and taluks. To promote private industrial parks, it is recommended that the KIP 2020-25 be modified to reduce the minimum acreage for multi/sector specific private industrial parks from 75 acres to 10 acres within Local Planning Area boundaries and 15 acres in TMC, TP and taluk level.
38. The district level Single Window Agencies (SWA) should be instructed to take up a drive to identify industrial plots where industries are not set up after completion of the permitted period. After taking a final decision in the SWA, such vacant plots should be resumed or recommended for cancellation as per rules. They may be reallocated to other eligible applicants. Detailed recommendations in this regard are made in the KIADB and KSSIDC sections. C&I department may issue suitable instructions in this regard to district SWAs and Land Audit Committees.
39. In order to better utilise the DD, KVI team, C&I department may consider transferring the responsibility for implementation and monitoring of State sector schemes for rural industries, artisans and housing from JD, DIC to DD, KVI (RI). Alternately, these schemes may be transferred from State Sector to the ZP sector. This way the services of the DD, KVI may be better utilised.
40. In Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Government may consider and issue directions to delegate the power under Sec 34B to resume possession of land measuring less than 2 acres to the district SWA after following the procedure laid down in Sec 4B. There should be no need to send the proposal for resumption to CEO. If found necessary, a suitable amendment may be proposed to Sec 34B to delegate the power under Sec 34B to the district Single Window Agency or any agency or officer authorised by the Board.
41. Chamarajendra Technical Institute (CTI) of professional training is one of the oldest professional training institutes in the State. It was established by the Maharaja of Mysore in 1913 to upgrade professional and technical skills of artisans. Now only two Trainers are working in the institute. This institute has stopped conducting training programs, since the last 3-4 years. Hence it is recommended that the CTI be transferred on use basis to the



Department of Industrial Training and Employment under the Skill Development department for running it as Chamarajendra Industrial Training Institute (CITI). The C&I department may retain ownership of the land.

42. It was reported that about 500 of these work-sheds have been allotted and the rest are pending for allotment. The unused work-sheds are in danger of collapsing due to lack of use and maintenance. C&I department may consider and issue an order handing over the remaining unallotted Vishwa work-sheds to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities for using the work-sheds for public purposes only, without transferring the property rights.
43. C&I department may propose that Zonal regulations of Town Planning department be amended to permit setting up of micro-scale garment and embroidery units with capital investment up to Rs. 1 crore and handloom units up to Rs. 50 lakh in residential areas of urban and rural areas.
44. Out of the 74 running sugar factories, only 14 are cooperatives while the remaining 60 are private factories. Therefore, there may be no need for cooperative officers in the directorate; the Cooperative department posts in the directorate like ARCS etc. may be abolished.

### **Mines and Geology**

45. Responsibility may be fixed on the leaseholders to furnish quarry levels, cut volume, royalty payable and paid. The department officers shall accept the faithful data submitted by the leaseholder. However, the department can inspect and verify the cut volume reported. The above stipulations may be incorporated in all the lease agreements. Therefore, Integrated lease management system (ILMS) application format under Rule 42 may be revised so that it includes a self- declaration by the licensee-applicant about (a) the levels of

mining as on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April of the year (b) cumulative quantity mined and (c) MDPs taken for the mined quantity. If this information is not entered on the ILMS, MDP generation should be blocked by the system.

46. PWD, Rural Water Supply department, Water Resources and other government departments use excavated minerals. Though Rule 42 of KMMCR mandates transportation of minerals only with MDP, an interim provision was made to collect royalty by deducting from the work bills. The MDP system has stabilised and is being widely used. It is therefore appropriate for Government to consider withdrawing the circular issued in 2011, allowing deduction of royalty from work bills. The contractors should strictly be asked to follow Rule 42 and use only minerals with MDP. If MDP is not submitted, penalty of 5 times royalty, plus DMF contribution and Average Additional Periodic (AAP) payment should be deducted.
47. For capturing part of the profits accruing from increasing market price, it is recommended that royalty of minor minerals be based on market price, i.e. on ad valorem basis. For determining the market price, a State Bureau of Mines (SBM) Wing may be formed in the DMG. It may follow the procedure adopted by the IBM, including study of market prices and royalty in neighbouring States, to determine the market price and publish the market prices of minor minerals. The Government may by notification revise the relevant market price and royalty on an annual basis on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March every year.
48. It was reported that out of 314 Ordinary Building Stone (OBS) blocks in the State identified for auction only 15-20 blocks have been auctioned. The rest are pending for want of Revenue and Forest NOCs. The district DCs may be instructed by Government to hold

monthly meetings to review the pending NOCs for identified blocks and expedite the NOCs. C&I department may propose to Government to set up a Standing Cabinet Sub-Committee consisting of Ministers of Revenue, Forest and Mines departments to regularly review and expedite the issue of NOCs and clearances.

49. Therefore, Enforcement Squads may be set up attached to each MPF. A Senior Geologist may head the Squad consisting of two geologists and others by redeploying them from districts with less mineral production. At the divisional level, Enforcement Squads may be constituted with Karnataka Industrial Security Force constables to work under the JD for tackling illegal mining. This will strengthen the department to control illegal mining in the mineral rich areas where it is rampant.
50. Therefore, there may be no need to continue with the posts of Civil engineers in the DMG. The working civil engineers could continue till their retirement or could be deputed to other engineering departments. The posts falling vacant may be converted to posts of Geologists and Mining Engineers.

### **Finance Department**

51. To serve as an alert to senior officers, it is recommended that DDOs, Heads of department and Secretaries of departments may be sent monthly SMSs by the HRMS Cell about the number of their staff, both regular and outsourced, who have not been paid salary for the previous month. This would alert the senior officers to review and take suitable steps to ensure that issues relating to delayed salary, unauthorised absence etc are attended to promptly.
  52. Though the Contract Management System was part of eProc 1.0, it was not utilized. The Contract Management System in eProc 2.0 should be operationalised and mandatorily used.
- Suitable Government order may be issued by Finance department for this purpose.
53. The eProcurement 1.0 version comprises modules for recording e-MB, E billing, and Contract Management module, which are currently underutilized. Unless payment is linked to use of the Contract management module, it may not be used to the full potential. Therefore, it is recommended that linking of Khajane 2 and eProcurement 2.0 be completed at the earliest so that all work bill payments be done only by direct linking of contract management module on eProcurement to Khajane 2. It is recommended that Finance department may issue orders that all works bills to be paid only through linking of eProcurement contract management system with Khajane 2.
  54. Whatever is placed in the public domain in MGNREGA works can also be put in public domain for eProcurement works. Therefore, it is recommended to upload all such documents available on the eProcurement portal to the public domain so that RTI applicants can pay the necessary fees and download the required documents. A new module may be developed with permitted fields and data available in the public domain. Finance department may issue suitable guidelines to EGovernance department about the documents, fields and data that may be placed in the public domain. This will considerably reduce the workload on the staff.
  55. It is therefore recommended that UDD issue orders to all ULBs to fix building approval fees, development fees, road cutting charges and material storage charges as a percentage of the estimated cost of the building or guidance value of the site instead of fixing absolute amounts. When the order is implemented by ULBs, it will considerably increase their revenues.

### Law Department

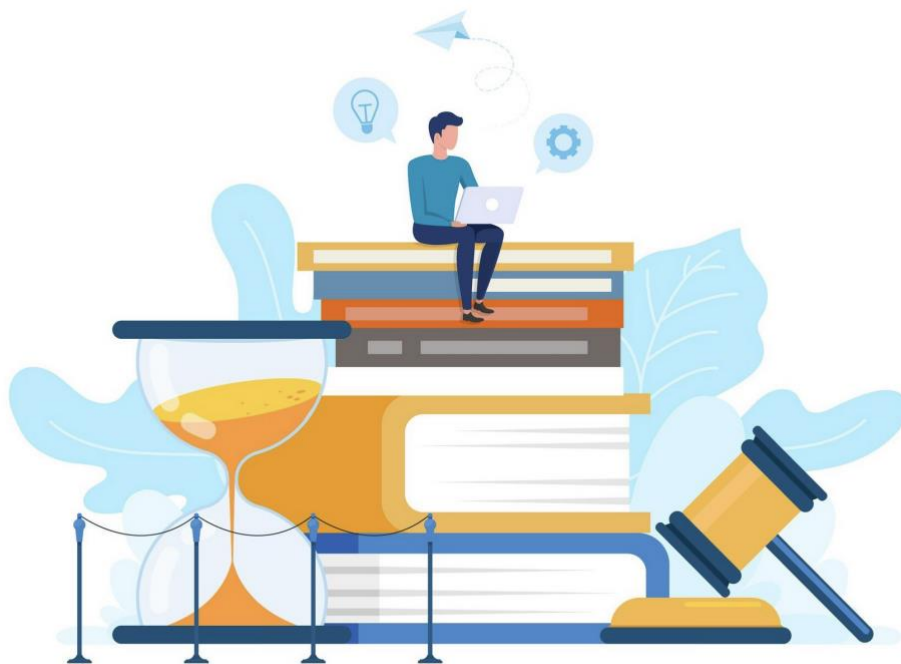
56. A unified portal should be developed by E Governance department for each department through which the government advocates/panel lawyers can submit all their professional fee bills/requests at the same time directly, with a login provided to the Law department and Legal cell. The professional fee invoices need to be cleared on a monthly basis and payments disbursed to the lawyer directly into their designated bank account (and not through cheques). This portal could also be made available online, where lawyers can raise their professional bills online and the

government department / board / authority releases their payments expeditiously.

### Action Taken by the Departments on the 5 Reports of the Commission

1. The Commission has already submitted 5 Reports to the government.
2. A total of 3,630 recommendations have been made in respect of 23 departments. The details of action taken and reported so far on the online monitoring system by the concerned departments on them are summarized below. Reports on action taken on the remaining recommendations are being obtained.

Total Recommendations made by the KARC-2	Number of Recommendations implemented or under implementation
3630	350





**Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**  
Executive Director  
Public Affairs Foundation

### **SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls**

#### ***Challenges and Possible Solutions for the Government of Karnataka***

##### **Introduction**

Broadly, SDG 5 advocates to end discrimination against women and girls citing it as a basic human right which needs to be addressed for a sustainable future. According to the [Global Gender Gap Report 2023](#), India has made some progress by closing 64.3% of its gender gap. However, it still ranks 127<sup>th</sup> out of indexed countries, highlighting the challenges in achieving gender equality.

Karnataka ranks seventh in India for gender equality, but has a low representation of women in public services. The report shows only 29% women in the IAS, 28.46% in High Court judges, 13% in IFS, 7% of female police officers, and 3.57% in the state Legislative Assembly. The wage gap affects women, with an estimated 70% of men's wages going to women.

The concerned departments for this SD Goal in the State are Department of Women and Child Development (WCD), Home Department, Labour, Commissionerate of Health & Family Welfare Service (HFW), Karnataka State Election Commission, Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Department of Agriculture (KSDA), Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Electronics Information Technology

Biotechnology and Science Technology (IT & BT), Technical Education, Higher Education, and Medical Education.

**Context:** This article focusses on the communication challenges that the Karnataka Government faces with reference to SDG 5. Listed below are some of the key challenges with probable solution/s:



**Challenge 1:** There is limited awareness and sensitivity to gender issues.



##### **Possible Solutions**

1. Conduct periodic training programmes and workshops to raise awareness.
2. Focus on showcasing the importance of the issue, how government officers can address the same.
3. Use Case Studies should and Best Practices to make it relevant.



**Challenge 2:** No roadmap in communication and no channels to disseminate information to all sections of society, particularly in rural areas.



##### **Possible Solutions**

1. Develop communication strategies to include multiple channels such as radio, community meetings and local newspapers.
2. Ensure information reaches diverse populations.
3. Collaborate with local leaders and influencers to amplify the message.




**Challenge 3:** Diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations



##### **Possible Solutions**


1. Use multilingual communication materials.

2. Employ local cultural nuances in messaging.
3. Collaborate with local language experts to ensure accuracy and cultural sensitivity in communication.

 **Challenge 4:** Resistance or lack of involvement from men and boys in gender equality initiatives


#### Possible Solutions

1. Develop targeted campaigns with emphasis that gender equality benefits everyone.
2. Highlight positive role models who support and promote gender equality.
3. Engage men and boys in conversations about breaking gender stereotypes and fostering a more inclusive society.

 **Challenge 5:** Data Collection and Reporting: Insufficient gender-disaggregated data for effective planning and monitoring of SDG 5 initiatives

#### Possible Solutions


1. Implement systems for collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data.
2. Train government officers in data collection methods that are gender-sensitive.
3. Regularly review and update data collection processes to ensure accuracy.

 **Challenge 6:** Policy Implementation - Translating gender equality policies into effective action

#### Possible Solutions


1. Establish clear guidelines and frameworks for the implementation of gender-responsive policies.
2. Foster collaboration between different government departments to ensure a holistic approach.

3. Regularly review and assess the impact of policies to make necessary adjustments.

 **Challenge 7:** Limited collaboration and coordination with non-governmental organisations, grassroots organisations, and the private sector


#### Possible Solutions

1. Actively involve various stakeholders in the planning and execution of gender equality initiatives.
2. Facilitate regular forums for sharing information, experiences, and challenges.
3. Encourage partnerships for a more comprehensive and sustained impact.

 **Challenge 8:** Inadequate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of gender equality programmes

#### Possible Solutions

1. Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system with clear indicators for measuring progress.
2. Include feedback mechanisms from beneficiaries.
3. Use the results to adapt and improve strategies over time.

 **Challenge 9:** Lack of sustained political will and leadership commitment to gender equality

#### Possible Solutions

1. Advocate for the importance of gender equality at all levels of government.
2. Encourage the creation of gender focal points in government departments.
3. Recognise and celebrate achievements in gender equality to inspire continued commitment.



## Conclusion

Apart from addressing the challenges mentioned above, it may be useful for the Government to make efforts to include opening schools for girls, along with skill development programmes and scholarships, but a safe and inclusive environment is

crucial. This will help to increase labour force participation of women. Addressing the communication challenges will contribute to the successful implementation of SDG 5 in Karnataka and promote gender equality in all aspects of society.



## Report of Branch Event

### IIPA-KRB and Jain University Annual Essay Competition 2023

on

#### *Citizen Centric Governance in Karnataka - A Reform Agenda*

Team CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru

A **Panel Discussion and Prize Distribution Ceremony** of the **Annual Essay Competition 2023** on "*Citizen Centric Governance in Karnataka - A Reform Agenda*", jointly organized by **CeRSSE, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)** and the **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA-KRB)** was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at the JP Nagar campus of JAIN (Deemed to-be-University), Bengaluru.

**Mr. T. M Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and Chairman of IIPA-KRB inaugurated and chaired the Panel Discussion. He emphasized that the citizen is at the centre of governance in a democratic republic. Citizen-centric governance, however, gets affected when there is illiteracy, social inequality, gender inequality and economic inequality. He lauded initiatives taken by the Government of Karnataka like Sakala, Grama-One, Bengaluru-One, Karnataka-One, Bapuji Seva Kendra and others, that have made transactions and services time bound, paperless, contactless and cashless.

**Dr. Raj Singh**, Vice-Chancellor, Jain University lauded the proposal of IIPA-KRB for collaborating with them in organizing an Essay Competition for students on a very relevant theme, so as to elicit their views on improving governance. He stated such

events provide a platform for students to learn from serving and retired practitioners of governance and administration.

Participants in the **Panel Discussion** included **Dr. Shalini Rajneesh**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka; **Dr. Dileesh Sasi**, IAS, Director, Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services, GoK and **Mr. Thayil Sethumadhavan**, IA&AS (Retd.), EC Member, IIPA-KRB.

**Dr. Shalini Rajneesh** underscored Karnataka's prominent position in the realm of Good Governance. She highlighted the integral role played by Information Technology as the backbone facilitating the connection between the government and its citizens. She pointed out the significant impact of platforms such as Bengaluru One, Sakala, Grama One, and Bapuji Seva Kendras, which collectively have processed millions of transactions. She also elaborated on Karnataka government's guarantee schemes, including Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyothi, and Gruha Lakshmi, emphasizing their instrumental role in providing security and support to the women of Karnataka. These schemes are strategically designed to ensure the fulfilment of citizens' basic needs, encompassing shelter, food, biological necessities, and social requirements, she stated.

**Dr. Dileesh Sasi** spoke on how Karnataka is leading in citizen-centric governance and how Karnataka has the potential to deliver such services. Citizens are seen not just as beneficiaries but as customers. This perspective has helped to provide services on time, to record grievances and to improve systems, He stressed the importance of

visualizing schemes through the perspectives of citizens.

**Mr. Thayil Sethumadhavan** stated that people expect timely delivery of services, accessibility of officials, convenience, broker-less transactions and transparency. Rigidity, hierarchy, too many intermediates, micro-management and extreme centralisation of services are the current problems. Civil servants should be trained down to the cutting-edge level. Training servants at all levels to bring about ethical behaviour in them is very important, he stated.

The **Prize Winners** in the **Essay Competition-2023** are as follows:

1. **First Prize: Mr. Muhammad Talhah.** Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurship and Management, JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru;
2. **Second Prize: Mr. Joshua Verghese,** Bachelor of Commerce in International Accounts and Finance JAIN (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru; and
3. **Third Prize: Ms. Anupriya Kembavimath,** Bachelors in Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, Karnataka.

### The Three Prize-Winners



**Special Mention** was made of the essays submitted by the following students:

1. **Ms. Archisimta Mukherjee**, Bachelor in Arts, Presidency College, Bengaluru; and
2. **Ms. Ananya Shridhar Upadhye** of Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College, Bengaluru.

**Dr. Jitendra Kumar Mishra**, the Registrar of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) shared his insights on the occasion. **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**, Head, CeRSSE, Jain University proposed a vote of thanks.



*Pic below*

**Mr. Muhammad Talhah**, First Prize winner in the Essay Competition is seen receiving his prize from **Mr. Vijay Bhaskar**. Others in the picture are *(from L to R)* **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**, **Mr. T. Sethumadhavan**, **Dr. Raj Singh**, **Dr. Dileesh Sasi**, **Dr. J.K. Mishra** and **Dr. Rubina Pradhan**.



*(Below)* **Group Photo of Dignitaries, Prize Winners, Faculty and Students**





## Branch Members' Writings in the Popular Media



### Development at what Cost?

**Dr. A Ravindra, IAS (Retd.)**

Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka  
in *Deccan Herald* dt. 20 November 2023

The Karnataka Minister for Forest and Environment, speaking at the Sustainability Leadership Summit recently, raised a pertinent question: "Development at whose cost, for whose sake?" It is unusual for a minister or politician these days to contemplate these issues. Nevertheless, it underscores a serious flaw in the development model we are pursuing, resulting in an 'air emergency' in Delhi and the surrounding areas.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/development-at-what-cost-2777225>



### The Die is Cast(e) for the Battle of the Ignorant

**Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Rtd.)**

Director, School of Social Sciences  
MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (MSRUAS), Bangalore.  
in *Deccan Herald* dt. 25 November 2023

On the back of the state elections under way, the terms of the public discourse for the 2024 general elections appear set – 'Sanatana Dharma' vs 'Jati' -- to capture the voters' allegiance. Neither term lends itself to a literal translation in English without diminishing its meaning. Loosely translated, they can be taken to mean 'eternal righteousness' and 'responsibilities devolved by tradition', respectively.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-die-is-cast-e-for-the-battle-of-the-ignorant-2784424>





## Karnataka in the News

### Bengaluru Tech Summit 2023



The **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2023**, hosted by the Department of IT and BT of the Government of Karnataka, and Software Technology Parks of India, Bengaluru, witnessed a convergence of tech luminaries, startups, investors, and research labs. 45 countries actively participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> BTS. With a roster boasting 401 speakers, the event attracted over 18,597 business visitors, fostering an environment ripe for collaboration.

Noteworthy achievements include the launch of 37 new projects, 427 successful B2B meetings, and 1,981 impactful B2B virtual meetings. The summit also spotlighted the innovation ecosystem, witnessing the initiation of 300 startups. Academic institutions, particularly engineering colleges, played a pivotal role in this endeavour.

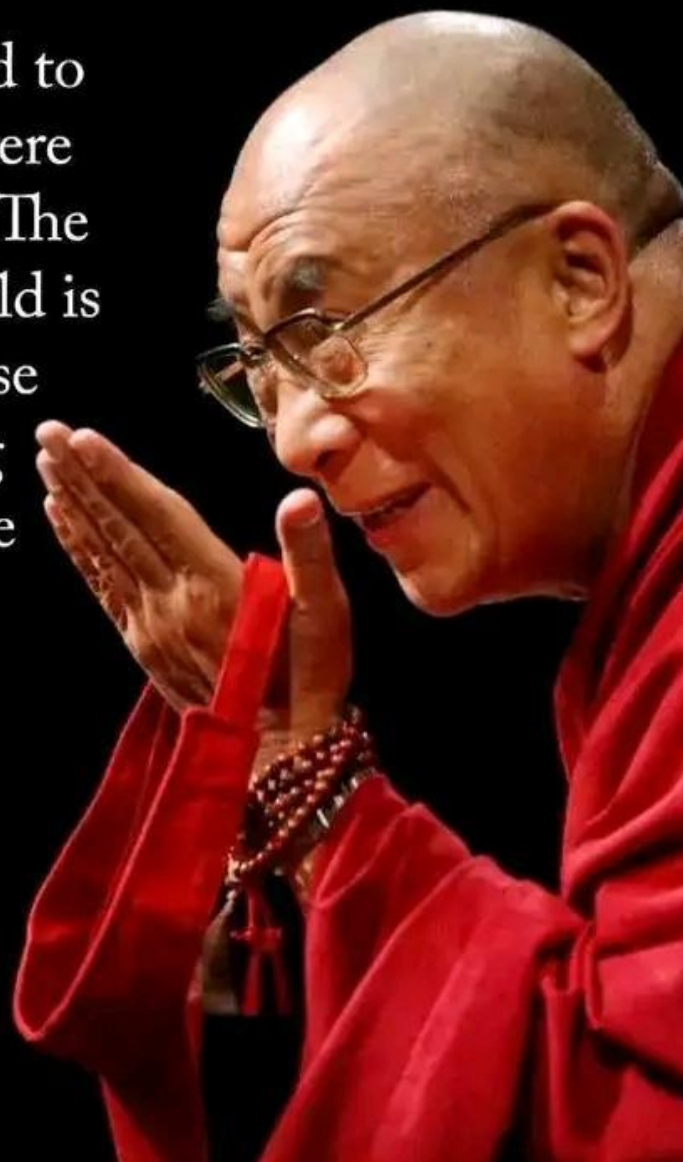
The products launched encompass a wide range of sectors, including IT, agri-tech, med-tech, healthcare, clean-tech, artificial intelligence, deep-tech, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, environment-tech, animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC) and electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM). These products touch an array of problems, including the integration of AI of IoT with electronic devices, advancements in automotive manufacturing, including electric vehicles, air treatment solutions, technology advancements in avionics and defence, cybercrime and fraudulent transactions, and deep tech-based platforms for quality assessment.







People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used.





## **IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter**

ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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