



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

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Virtual Newsletter
ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

Vol. 4, No. 30, January 2023
(For Private Circulation Only)



Note: 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**



PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION
Partnership for Better Governance

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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 **January 2023** issue of our *Virtual Newsletter*. The Editorial Board wishes all its readers a healthy, happy and peaceful 2023.

Our **Lead Article**, this time, is by the distinguished **Professor-Emeritus** of **Kansas State University, USA, Krishna Tummala**, titled, “*Studying Corruption: Lessons I Learnt and Missed*”, which is based on a talk delivered by him at **BMS College of Law, Bengaluru** recently.

Our **Lead Feature** is on the **Indian Administrative Fellowship** in Karnataka, 2021-22. a first-of-its-kind initiative organized by **The/Nudge Foundation**. 10 Fellows completed their 18-month term with the **Government of Karnataka** last month.

In our section on *Audit Matters*, **Shri T. Sethumadhvan, IA&AS (Retd.)** writes on

Direct Benefit Transfer in Karnataka, based on a recent report of Performance Audit by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India**.

We carry two thought-provoking articles in this issue: The first one is by **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** of Public Affairs Foundation who provides tips to government officers on using social media and media platforms for effective governance. The second article is by **Nayakara Veerasha** who has visualized an Action Plan to promote constitutional consciousness and literacy.

In our section on *Karnataka News*, we carry stories of the following reports: (1) Karnataka’s Brain Health Initiative to be replicated nationally; and (2) Karnataka leads in Open Access Solar Projects.

In the section on *IIPA-KRB EC Members in the Media*, we provide the link to a Lead Article penned by **Dr. Gurucharan Gollerkeri** in the popular media. The article is about the renowned poet of syncretic India, **Mirza Ghalib**.

We end the issue, with columns on *Books, Feedback* and *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.



STUDYING CORRUPTION Lessons I Learnt and Missed



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It is my intent to demonstrate how difficult is the study of corruption—a subject that is on everyone’s mind. This short piece also mirrors some of the lessons learnt, and the admonitions and prescriptions by some important writers.

Both the often-used IMF elementary definition of “*corruption*” as using public resources for private benefit, and the annual ‘*Corruption Perception Index*’ (CPI) by Transparency International (TI) have individual pitfalls. Considering the former, Dilma Rouseff of Brazil, did not take a penny out of the exchequer; she only fudged the budget numbers, but was driven out of office for corruption. Yingluck Shinavratana of Thailand, fulfilling a campaign promise, paid subsidies to farmers. She too was driven out of office charged of corruption.

As to the latter, the metric is only of “perceptions” not “facts.” Moreover, their sample, by their own admission, is skewed

in that the actual sufferers, the citizens who had to pay bribes to get services normally expected as a right, are not included.

Samuel Huntington argued that a little money offered to grease the wheels are put in motion that would not otherwise move. Files start moving with “*bakshish*”, and “speed money”.

And then there are cultural imperatives such as in the Oriental context, one would not go to visit an elder with empty hands. They must carry something tangible.

Two other factors need to be considered. What actually is the unit of measurement? When we say a nation is corrupt, are we talking of all the people, leaders, or only some scoundrels? Similarly, what is the metric, or criterion, used to decide on corruption? For example, Nicolas Shaxson, using black money parked in real estate and such, UK and US stand on top as corrupt in 2010. But TI placed them at 16 and 24 respectively, among 183 countries in its CPI Index for the same year. Into US alone, \$419 Billion (2% of GDP) of illicit money was moved.

A distinction also ought to be made between corruption as “extortion” (i.e., the public servant as provider demanding from the client, and “benevolent payment”—the client offering a bribe on his own to speed up things. That raises the intriguing issue of what is the cause and what is the effect.

Also, most corruption studies concentrate on Less Developed Countries (LDCs), not the vanguard countries, certainly not the not-for-profit groups which use public funds (by way of grants etc.) providing some public functions that in the past were the domain of the public sector.

William Riordin in *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, draws a distinction between “honest” and “dishonest” graft, and insists that “*there*

is a world of difference between the two". The former for him refers to extortion, blackmail and such while the latter is bribe offered in good faith. He also propounds: "*I have seen my opportunities, and I took them*"; "*What is a Constitution among friends?*" Presidential Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton while debating her opposing Republican candidate Donald Trump pointed out that he used all sorts of tax breaks to enrich himself. Trump hit back claiming that he was only smart to use the loopholes. And he went to the White House, and turned out to be the '*Thief-in-Chief*', now facing numerous criminal cases. Yet, he announced that he would run for the presidency in 2024.

All this is not an apology, or worse an advocacy, for bribes/corruption. It is but a recognition of facts, not always appreciated.

Setting aside all the nuances and niceties of debate, there are only two reasons for corruption:

Need and Greed. Some writers suggest that the former can be tackled by providing a sustainable pay. (That argument has its own pitfalls such as what the minimum wage should be, what is the state of the economy, how much the state can pay in comparison with the private sector, and so on.) The latter, greed, however, is more challenging to deal with. Sound laws, equally applied to all (Rule of Law), making corruption "high price, low yield" enterprise is a commonly suggested remedy.

Jeremy Pope, writing for TI, set out a six-point criteria to tackle corruption: 1. Committed political backing; 2. Adequate resources for institutions to fight corruption; 3. They be endowed with operational independence, free from political interference; 4. Adequacy of accessing documents; 5. User friendly laws;

and 6. Leadership with high integrity. Perhaps, more importantly, he recognized that corruption is a societal problem. Hence the attack against it shall be all-pronged. It is not enough that the government fights corruption, but societal norms shall be developed to combat corruption.

Christine Lagarde, former Managing Director of International Monetary Fund, at the Anti-Corruption Summit in London in 2016 made this profound statement laying down a litmus test. "*Although active and sustained political leadership is critical to the success of any anti-corruption campaign, it is important that reforms in this area are not hijacked to implement a political agenda. One way of assessing whether anti-corruption efforts are credible is to note whether enforcement is limited to the prosecution of political rivals, or instead also extends to the government's political support.*" Most nations fail this test; more so those which are trending towards autocracy, led by self-centered leaders controlling dominant political parties treating all opposition as an evil to be vanquished, not tolerated as a legitimate institution in a working democracy worth its name.

Thus, while a satisfactory definition of corruption is still illusory, at least for this researcher, methods to combat it are equally controversial. However, there are some important lessons learned over time. *One*, there is no silver-bullet to slay the dragon of corruption. *Two*, the methods to combat corruption cannot be universally applied. *Three*, much is conditioned culturally, and contextualized. *Four*, size matters. Small countries can better manage the fight against corruption. Larger countries with diverse population dispersed over a large territory would have a harder time. *Five*, numerous and elaborate laws by themselves do not help; they need to be implemented

without fear or favor. Six, extant governmental organizations to fight corruption ought not to be burdened with all sorts of crime-fighting activities. Seven, worse, those institutions ought not to be turned into instruments to suppress political opposition and public dissent.

While the above discussion might sound very pessimistic, there is hope. In June 18, 2021 TI announced some findings as a result of a survey of 40,000 people in 27 European Union nations. Sixty-two percent thought corruption is a big problem, and 30% admitted paying a bribe, or having used personal connections to access public service. *But the most important finding which is reason to be optimistic is that 64% thought people make a difference in fighting corruption. That generates optimism for a better future.*

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**This is a summary of a lecture organized by the Karnataka Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration and BMS Law College, Bangalore, on November 30, 2022.*

Lead Feature

The/Nudge Foundation's Indian Administrative Fellowships – Karnataka

Ten 'C' suite executives from the private sector, who worked alongside high-ranking civil servants of Karnataka through the **Indian Administrative Fellowship**, a first-of-its-kind initiative organized by **The/Nudge Foundation**, completed their 18-month term with the **Government of Karnataka**. Upon the completion of their Fellowship, they were felicitated by the Governor of Karnataka, **Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot** at the Raj Bhavan. Present on the occasion were Chief Secretary of Karnataka, **Smt. Vandita Sharma**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Planning), **Smt. Shalini Rajneesh**, IAS, and former Chief Secretary and current Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.).

About the Fellowship

The Fellowship targets to provide a platform for senior professionals to partner with the administration for extensively strategizing and implementing current and envisaged programmes for attaining sustained progress across state-level development indicators.

What the Fellowship Offers

- **Platform to Impact Millions of Lives**
Bringing talented senior professionals and visionary civil servants to collaborate on high-impact government projects.
- **Extensive Leadership Development**
Access to training and mentorship by India's leading public policy institutes and a host of subject

matter experts, industry leaders and administrators.

- **Transition to Development Sector**
Opportunity to move to the development sector by gaining context and experience.

Journey of the Fellow

Phase I: Immersion

Fellow's onboarding | Context setting on administrative conduct, Program design and execution framework | Department specific orientation | Project planning

Phase II: Implementation and Review

Project execution with quarterly reviews with steering committee | On-ground visits for a multifaceted understanding of the problem and implementable solutions | Phase-based development workshops & mentor sessions

Phase III: Transition

Consolidating project outcomes and learnings | Strongly integrating the program into the department | Impact showcase across channels | Transition

The 10 **Karnataka Fellows** (2021-22) and their assignments were as follows:

1. Entrepreneur **Aruna Sampige** (Skill Development);
2. Consumer Neuro-Scientist **Dr. Gayathri Swahar** (Horticulture);
3. Environment Economist **Shobha Ananda Reddy** (Panchayat Raj).
4. Quizmaster **Giri Balasubramaniam** (Education)
5. Fidelity Investments CFO **R. Balasubramanya** (Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-II);
6. Entrepreneur **Ramachandran Narayanaswamy** (Woman and Child Development);
7. Venture Capitalist **Ravi Trivedi** (Agriculture);
8. Former Jubilant Motorworks CEO **Rohit Malhotra** (Rural Development);

9. IT Evangelist **Sreenivasa Madenhally** (State Planning Commission); and
10. Bosch Finance Head **Sunil Kumar Vaya** (Infrastructure Development).



First 10 admin fellows graduate

► BENGALURU, DHNS: The inaugural batch of the government's Indian Administrative Fellowship (IAF) graduated on Monday after their 18-month stint in policy making. In July last year, 10 corporate executives were picked to work with top bureaucrats under the IAF, which was anchored by Bengaluru-headquartered nonprofit The/Nudge Foundation. Upon their graduation, the fellows were felicitated by Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot. The 10 graduating fellows are: Aruna Sampige, Balasubramanya R, Gayathri Swahar, Giri Balasubramaniam, Ramachandran Narayanaswamy, Ravi Trivedi, Rohit Malhotra, Shobha Ananda Reddy, Sunil Kumar Vaya and Sreenivasa Madenhally. Their work contributed towards creation of technology frameworks in Women & Child Development, go-to-market strategies and brand creation for FPO produce, agritech innovations for farmers among others, according to a release. Chief secretary Vandita Sharma and additional chief secretary (planning) Shalini Rajneesh were present.

Audit Matters

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER IN KARNATAKA Performance Audit by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India

(Report No:2 of 2022; presented to the Legislature on 14th September, 2022)



T. Sethumadhavan, IA&AS (Rtd.)
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Madhya Pradesh

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of subsidies and concessions is a citizen-centric reform leveraging Information Technology as the platform to provide quick, efficient and timely payments of their entitlements to beneficiaries through Aadhar-linked bank accounts without manual intervention. It is intended to re-engineer the process of delivery of services direct to beneficiaries using ICT. Karnataka Government granted in-principle approval in 2016 to introduce DBT across all Departments and established a DBT Cell. Aadhar card identification was to be mandatory for all subsidies and benefits. Detailed procedure was established in 2017. Government also appointed an Advisory Council and a Steering Committee with senior officials as members for implementing and monitoring the project. A centralized Core DBT Portal would avoid duplication of payments, identify and validate the financial addresses of the beneficiaries by integrating direct system-to-system exchange of DBT data without manual intervention. The project involved several stakeholders including

concerned Departments, UIDAI (Aadhar), NPCI (Financial address Validation and payment transfer), Khajana2 (Finance Department), Sponsored Banks (Beneficiary Accounts) and National Informatic Centre (NIC).

The audit of CAG was a technical audit and covered aspects including the progress of planning and implementation, accuracy and timeliness in processing beneficiary entitlements and payments, integrity and reliability of the system and security of data. Audit covered the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20. Audit scope included the analysis of Core DBT Portal and selected schemes such as Milk Incentive Scheme, National Food Security Mission, *Raithasiri* and Prime Minister's *Kisan Samman Nidhi* Scheme (disbursements of benefits by the State Government).

Major Findings of Audit

The good news is that 83% of the transactions routed through the DBT Portal were successful; but the bad news is that only 83 out of the 239 identified schemes (35%) were onboarded as of April, 2021, with as much as Rs.2829 crores worth benefits being disbursed outside the DBT Portal (by 22 Departments). However, notably, the progress of onboarding during 2020-21 had improved to 83 schemes, giving hope that all identified schemes would be covered without further delay. The best performing scheme was 'Milk Incentives' with 97% DBT while the 'Prime Minister's *Kisan Samman Nidhi*' Scheme (PMKSN) figured at 57% only. As brought out in the Audit Report, there was omission to fix timelines and targets for onboarding of the services and for the delivery of services through the system (transactions) which was a factor responsible for the substantial delays occurring in the delivery of services to beneficiaries. The average time taken to complete transactions was 45 days, with delays occurring mostly at the stage of final approval and DDO sanctions.

1. Deficiencies and Shortfalls Noticed in Audit

Other shortcomings observed during the audit were: (i) Instances where credits were afforded to the accounts of persons other than the actual beneficiaries (ii) Inability of the system to ascertain whether the Aadhar was actually seeded to the Bank Account as indicated by the Department, (iii) Failed transactions (more than 91,000) which were not attended to for rectification / re-initiation of the payments (by Departments) in time (iv) Not capturing the dates of transactions in the Portal to help timely follow up (v) Not incorporating an effective mechanism to monitor and follow up rejected transactions (vi) Significant delays in initiating the transactions by Departments resulting in 6.6 lakh beneficiaries not receiving their entitlements worth Rs.153 crore during the period 2018-2020 (vii) Delays in movement of response files and shortcomings in the processing of payment files between Action Centers etc.

2. Security Concerns

Departments were found storing Aadhar details in local databases in contravention of Aadhar Act and Guidelines which entailed the risk of compromising security. Payment annexure files were sent for data verification without Server Certificates / Digital Signatures. The security audit undertaken by the project authorities were insufficient and did not include verification of vulnerability assessment and penetration testing.

Deficiencies in digitalization and lack of uniformity among stand-alone applications led to inadequate validation checks under the Milk Incentive Scheme; and led to overpayments in a few cases, as also delay in payments to beneficiaries; so much so 8,500 milk farmers were waiting to receive their dues of Rs. 56 lakhs from the year 2020 onwards.

Validation checks were not available at the DBT Portal and the Bank level to ensure that payment is made to the correct account. The “Name Match Score” check exercised after payment was not entirely foolproof as a sample analysis of 50,000 cases by auditors revealed 523 errors involving almost Rs.1 crore.

3. Delays in Processing

Under the PMKSN, farmers were waiting from 2019 onwards to receive their dues of Rs. 92 crores. Auditors also observed instances where ineligible farmers were paid subsidies due to inadequate validation and control. Further, payments could not be made to 1,28,000 beneficiaries for a total amount of Rs. 236 crores due to reasons such as invalid bank identification, inactive Aadhar seeding, blocked accounts, non-mapping of Aadhar numbers etc., mostly attributable to deficiencies of the system leading to denial of benefits to deserving beneficiaries.

4. Absence of Centralized Public Grievance System

A major concern relates to the absence of a *Centralized Public Grievance Mechanism* which denies the beneficiaries of a mechanism to bring their grievances to notice for rectification. In its absence, beneficiaries are required to take up their grievances with the concerned Department, sometimes more than one Department, to get redressal.

5. Omission to Establish Impact Assessment

Evaluation and impact assessment of the Core DBT Portal is yet to be carried out for evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems and applications. Unfortunately, the Audit Report does not also include the result of any sample beneficiary survey, usually included in such audits, to highlight the level of overall satisfaction, which would have added value to the Performance Audit.

6. Integration with Bharat Portal

Integration of State Portal with Bharat Portal for seamless exchange of data, as required, did not progress satisfactorily. Based on the level of integration and data exchange, States are ranked. Unfortunately, Karnataka stood at 25th in rank among 28 States and this needs to be speeded up.

Communicating using Social Media and Media Platforms for Effective Governance



Annapoorna Ravichander
Executive Director, Public Affairs
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Context

Media or the Fourth Estate is an extremely important pillar in democracy. It is a medium where the common man comes to know what is happening in the Government at the Local, District, State, National and International levels. It is also a medium where the Government communicates with the common man.

Given the importance of the Fourth Estate, it is necessary to know the broad principles that govern, to engage with media.

The first principle is to disseminate correct, accurate and legitimate information. This is important because in today’s world, the mass of information that is generated is so

much that people find it difficult to know what is correct, accurate and legitimate.

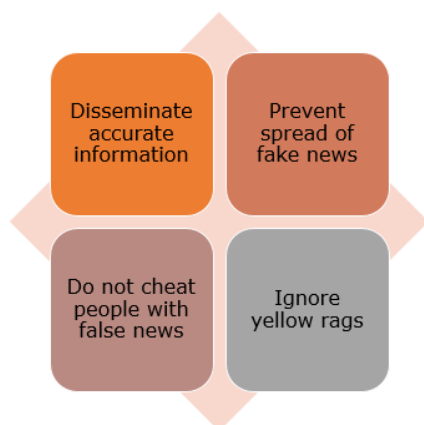
Coming from the Government it should be authentic and most importantly, legitimate. It cannot be done at the whim and fancy of a person or a group of people. Hence dissemination is the first principle.

The second principle of media management from an Officer's perspective is prevent the spread of fake news or incorrect news, because that can result in misuse of information or result in conflict and rumour-mongering. So preventing the spread of wrong information is the second principle.

The third principle is that nobody from outside the government should use news or information as impostors and try to confuse or cheat people.

Hence it is important when a young Officer goes to a sub-division or training division that the Fourth Estate is your friend and not an enemy. There will be occasions when media may be critical of you or critical of the government, but this should not be taken personally.

Finally, there will be yellow rags in the form of tabloids or small newspapers which tend to be aggressive, negative, single out individuals by names and write scurrilous news. All this should be ignored.



Engaging through Social Media Platforms

In recent times, various social media platforms have become powerful platforms to share, disseminate information and also to be proactive with audience/readers.

Several people have stopped reading newspapers since they get information by reading it on Twitter or Instagram. Both have negative and positive powers. One can use it positively by disseminating information instantly. For example, if one is inaugurating a new facility or hospital, one can instantly disseminate the information quickly and widely; that is the positive side. But one also needs to understand and acknowledge that fake news has become very prevalent and hence cyber security systems have been put in place.

In India, social media has been widely accepted. The Government of India and State Governments have made great initiatives in ensuring that key social media platforms serve them as “loud speakers” to reach out to the masses. Be it for making official announcements, appreciating a person, or responding to issues raised by a movement, several Chief Ministers are engaging with social media platforms. Some examples are Shri Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shri P. Mannivannan, I.A.S, Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka, who use social media platforms effectively.

Tips for a Young Government Officer

- Do not be defensive if media asks questions.
- Use social media to communicate policy, explain new legislation and government schemes and programmes.
- Encourage engagement for public participation and collaboration.
- Understand that social media platform makes informed citizens and strengthens public relations.

Conclusion

If used correctly, both social media platforms and electronic and print media, can be persuasive and alter opinions. In fact, they can be used to encourage inclusiveness by governments to recruit workers and garner volunteers, promote activities and most importantly, communicate with the general public directly.

An Action Plan for Constitutional Consciousness & Literacy



NAYAKARA VEERESHA

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26th November is commemorated as
Constitution Day/Samvidhaan

Divas/National Law Day since 2015 signifying the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26th November, 1949. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this announcement on the eve of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The basic objective of this commemoration is “to promote constitutional values among citizens” of the country. India as a Sovereign, Secular, Socialist Democratic Republic strives to secure values such as Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity among its citizens. These values in the Preamble of the Constitution are a cultural expression of both Bhakti tradition of India and modernity, especially the historical moments such as Renaissance and Enlightenment of the Western nations.

Dr. Ambedkar with his team has done great work in bringing this amalgamation so as to give proper shape and direction to the nation’s progress, beginning with the Preamble itself. In addition to this, courts of law have expanded the value base of the Preamble of the Constitution. The concern is how to ensure not just promotion but nurturing of the constitutional values among the citizens, so as to enable the robust functioning of our democracy. Values, in general, and constitutional values, in particular, need continuous nurturing on similar lines of a plant requiring water, CO₂ and other ingredients to become a tree. The promotion and cultivation of constitutional values among citizens can only be achieved when the constitutional authorities lead by example themselves.

The nurturing of constitutional values is a consequence or outcome on the basis of the input/ingredient known as constitutional morality. In simple words, the commitment and functioning of constitutional authorities and the perception and practice of the governing class towards constitutional values enunciated in the Preamble determine the shape and direction of democracy and governance. This does not exclude the responsibilities of citizens in

exerting necessary pressure on the governing class to act in accordance with constitutional values. An individual citizen's practice in her/his day-to-day life, in line with constitutional principles, is a prerequisite to fulfil the mandate of constitutional morality.

The piling up of cases in all the courts of law, the rift between the Governor and elected governments, differences between the Union and State Governments and between the state and citizens, all indicate a disturbing trend towards the corrosion of the Social Contract. The rekindling of this Social Contract can be achieved through constitutional morality in practice. Allegiance and compliance to constitutional methods is imperative to achieve the goals of social, economic and political justice. Towards this end, here is an Action Plan for the cultivation of constitutional morality amongst our citizens and governing class of people. The Action Plan is necessary to infuse constitutional morality as a practical value, rather than keeping it as a theoretical construct only.

1. Every family must develop a governance framework with democratic values and try to meet and discuss matters of importance. This may be called as Constitutionality of Family where the decisions are arrived democratically. It would be better to develop this in the mother tongue.
2. Community or neighbourhood groups (in rural areas) and resident welfare associations (in urban areas) can chalk out a roadmap for imbibing constitutional values among the neighbourhood groups and community members. This can involve the civil society organizations that are working in areas related to constitutional and legal issues.
3. *Jaati* (caste), religion, faith-based organisations have to identify and

choose persons having familiarity and knowledge about constitutional values and hire them as Constitutional Resource Persons (CRPs) to disseminate the value and importance of the Constitution. A small honorarium may be extended to the CRPs as a token of gratitude.

4. Panchayats and Municipalities provide an effective institutional platform to develop action pointers wherein the practice of democracy beyond the Grama Sabha/Ward Committees need be envisaged, to enable the citizens to witness the functioning of local democracy. A Special Grama Sabha/Ward Committee meeting may be convened for citizens to disseminate constitutional principles and values on the eve of Constitution Day. Constitution Day should be filled with activities revolving around constitutional values and their practice.
5. All Universities and National Law Schools, with the active support of the Department and Law and Justice of Union and State Governments must team up to translate the essence of our Constitution into our respective mother tongues. This is imperative to improve Constitutional Literacy and can be termed as "Compendium of Citizen's Constitution (CCC)". The CCC must be a pocket or miniature version in simple language with pictures and diagrams so that a citizen can connect with the essence of constitutional values and morality at large.
6. Schools and Colleges may organise quiz and essay writing competitions, dramas and skits to motivate children, adolescents and youth to learn more about the Constitution.
7. Central and State Universities, research institutes and think-tanks

can conduct workshops, seminars and conferences on various themes related to the Constitution. Legal luminaries, constitutional experts, judges and lawyers may discuss and disseminate the practicalities involved in this exercise.

8. Some of the above measures/steps are already in place. However, they need to be undertaken with more sincerity of purpose with exclusive focus on nurturing constitutional values as a way of life, rather than stopping them at the level of commemoration or celebration.

The above initiatives can act as true tribute to Dr. Ambedkar's clarion call for constitutional morality. The cultivation of constitutional morality is the need of the hour for citizen's empowerment and national well-being.

Media Box



DH 10/12/22

METRO

'State's brain health initiative to be replicated nationally'

Project being implemented in three districts on pilot basis

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) would be replicated at the national level, NITI Aayog member V K Paul said at the event 'Ka-BHI - Reflection to Action' at Nimhans here on Friday.

He added that the country does not have a model for brain health initiatives. "We need to bring our best ideas to the Karnataka model so that a preventive, promotive and treatment-driven brain health initiative can be given to the nation. Soon, this will become the model that the WHO and the world will follow," Paul said.

Under the pilot of the Ka-BHI initiative in Bengaluru, Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts, 122 doctors in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been trained in neurological disorders and one Brain Health Clinic each has been set up in a district hospital in these districts.

The state government has launched the programme with the support of Nimhans and Niti Aayog.

The initiative aims to address the shortage of doctors and facilities to treat neurological disorders, like stroke, dementia, epilepsy and headaches. This would also decongest Nimhans, where many now go for treatment of simpler illnesses too.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that the initiative would be expanded across the state. "We will support all requirements in terms of financial and human resources. Our PHC doctors have completed three months of training already. We want Asha workers and ANMs to be trained next," he said. Suvarna Alladi, principal investigator from Nimhans for the project, said that of the 1,034 patients who sought care under Ka-BHI, the majority (603) had visited the brain health clinics in district hospitals, followed by Nimhans (325) and PHCs (166) whereas 682 cases could, in fact, have been treated by PHC doctors.

Among the 203 stroke patients, only nine had reached them in the golden hour which is critical for reducing chances of death or disability. Though 40 per cent of patients did approach a health institution within the golden hour, the institutions they approached did not have the right facilities. Hence more awareness is needed, along with stroke-ready centres in all district hospitals, Dr Alladi said.

The analysis also revealed that dementia patients were coming in only from urban areas, indicating a lack of awareness among the rural population. An eight-member scientific advisory group for the project was also announced. The website 'Healthcare Access and Innovation Laboratory', sponsored by NGV Foundation, was launched at the event.

DH
9/12/22

3B

'K'taka leads in open-access solar projects'

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Increasing awareness of green energy and the advantages it holds to the environment, coupled with better pricing, has led many commercial and industrial establishments in Karnataka to shift to the use of power supplied through open-access solar projects.

A recent report by Mercom, a clean energy research and communications firm, showed that Karnataka was leading the pack in India with 198 MW of the open-access solar projects added in the third quarter of the year.

Karnataka is also the biggest contributor to the production of energy through the open-access solar power projects. The state contributes 38% of the overall installation in India. Of the 7 GW of the open access solar projects installed in India, 2.7 GW installations are in Karnataka.

"Approvals to set up solar power plants are given out promptly and the entire process is smooth. Also, the regu-

lations are supportive of both the producers and consumers. This has helped the industry immensely," said Priya Sanjay, managing director, Mercom India.

Yet another researcher said the health of the discoms (distribution companies) also plays a major role in the growth of open-access solar power projects and many of the Escoms in the state are supportive.

The industry experts said that the open-access solar power projects provide good financial benefits with savings ranging between Rs 1.5 and Rs 2 per unit, based on the power pricing by the discoms.

According to a healthcare industry giant, which shifted over to the use of power generated through the open-access solar power projects, the company is able to save at least Rs 4 crore annually on power bills.

In the open-access solar projects, power will be generated from one of the solar plants (set up in areas where land is available easily) and the power so generated will be supplied into the grid, to be provided to companies.

IIPA-KRB EC Members in the Media

Source: *Deccan Herald* dt. 10 December 2022

A Poet of Syncretic India who might have been a Sage

Ghalib's best poems were written in three forms: *Ghazal* (Lyric), *Masnavi* (Parables), and *Qasidah* (Panegyric).



Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.)
Director, Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru

Mirza Ghalib's poetry - his Persian verse and Urdu Divan - is mystical, existential, and universal. Its central message: *"It is I who give meaning to the world, not the world that gives meaning to me. I am condemned to be free, to make choices, and it is my own experience of choosing a particular path that lends authenticity to my life."* It is poetry that is endearing, but elusive in its meaning. To enjoy the effervescent and timeless poetry of Ghalib, one has to go beyond mere reading; and seek to understand the creative process that reflects the literary genius, the biographical circumstances of his time, and the philosophic worldview that influenced this remarkable poet.

Read more [here](#)

Events



Books

A **Book Discussion** was organized at BMS College of Law, Bengaluru on 9th December 2022 on '*Discovering New India*' edited by **Dr. A. Ravindra** and **Dr. Priyanca Mathur**, EC Members of IIPA-KRB. Seen in the pic are (from L to R) Dr. Anitha D'Souza, Principal, BMS College of Law, Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Dr. A. Ravindra, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar and Dr. Debangana Chatterjee.



Feedback



Thank you for sending the virtual newsletter of IIPA KRB. The lead articles published are very informative. I do hope all the concerned would take right path to set right the wrong doings in the coming days for the good of all.

Dr. M. Devendra Babu,

Honorary Professor, Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Karnataka, and formerly Professor of Economics, ISEC, Bengaluru.



Laudable Initiative

DH
7/12/22

Bengaluru cop sets up libraries in police stations

These are open to the public and are aimed at reviving the culture of reading

ASRA MAVAD
TEAM METROLIFE

The deputy commissioner of police (south east) C K Baba has started an initiative to set up public libraries in police stations in the city. He has opened seven libraries in his division and is planning six more in the coming weeks.

The first three libraries were inaugurated in the Koramangala, Mico Layout and Electronics City police stations as part of the Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations on November 1. Others are running in HSR Layout, Hulimavu, Bommanahalli and Parappana Agrahara. By the end of December, the plans are to open a library each at the Bandepalya, Begur, Suddaguntanapalya, Madiwala, Adugodi, and Thilaknagar police stations.

Each library is stocked with books in English and Kannada cutting across genres. "There is something for everyone at these libraries — be it journals on interesting topics, autobiographies or fiction novels. We have also stocked colouring paper and colour pencils for kids," he says.

The books cannot be borrowed and need to be read on the premises, which offers a seating area for six. These libraries are open to all — from police officers and staff at the station to the public.

"When people come to a police station, they have to wait for some time. Often many find the police station environment hostile and feel anxious. Having a reading area may help them



At the Koramangala police station. Libraries have come up in seven police stations. Six more are due for inauguration. DH PHOTO BY BK JANARDHAN.

CK BABA
Deputy commissioner of police (south east)

When people come to a police station, they have to wait for some time. Often many find the police station environment hostile and feel anxious. Having a reading area may help them de-stress."



de-stress," he explains why he started this initiative.

He also hopes this will help change the general opinion about police officers and police stations.

"Public opinion is heavily influenced by what people see in movies, that 'hero' does all the hard work and the police come at the end (of the crisis). There are preconceived notions about how a police station functions. Instead, I want people to feel comfortable walking into a police station and talking to our officers," he says.

The 44-year-old cop believes people are losing touch with literature in the digital world. "I have fallen prey to this, and so have other police officers. I want to encourage the officers to read more and seek inspiration. Reading can help improve social mannerisms and soft-spoken skills," he adds.

To set up the library, Baba spread the word among his peers and put a call on his social media accounts to donate books.

"The response has been great. People have donated large numbers of books. We are in the process of cataloguing the books received and soon, each library will have about 800 books," he says.

The locations have been added to Google Maps. "We have created pins for each library. If anybody is looking for a library in a locality, they will be able to find one at a police station," adds Baba.

To donate books, call 90350 74371.





IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

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