



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

**ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು**

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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 **June 2023** issue of our *Virtual Newsletter*. This is our **35th issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is on the recently released *India Justice Report 2022*. Our Editor, **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar** has presented the highlights of the report in a bulleted form. The Feature also includes a diagram depicting the overall position of the States in India in the report. It is indeed a matter of pride that **Karnataka** has topped all States in the country in providing justice.

Our **Lead Article** is by **Dr. Sudeshna Mukherjee**, Associate Professor in Women Studies at Bangalore University. She has written on *Gender Issues in Karnataka – Prospects and Challenges*.

In the regular section titled, *Communication Pulse*, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, Executive Director at **Public Affairs Foundation** provides a set of *Tips to Engage with Communities Effectively*.

In the Section on *Karnataka in the News*, we reproduce two news items that appeared last month in the mainstream media; (1) **State takes Climate Change Planning to Grassroots Level**; and (2) **Among States, Karnataka in the Middle on Most Indicators**.

We then carry reports of two events organized by us in the recent past: (1) A conference on *'Experience of Administrative Reforms in India'* which was organized in collaboration with the **Institute for Social and Economic Change**, Bengaluru; and (2) A workshop on *Public Policy* which was organized in collaboration with the **Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy** of **St. Joseph's University**.

In the section on *IIPA-KRB Life Member's in the News*, we carry a report on the **Book Discussion on Mr. V. Balasubramanian's** book, *'Fall from Grace'* which was held at the Bangalore International Centre, Bengaluru.

We carry a Book Review by **Mr. V. Srinivas**, IAS of the book, *We the People of the States of Bharat* by Sanjiv Chopra.

We end the issue with our column on *Food for Thought*, where we reproduce some wise words of **Rabindranath Tagore**, whose birth anniversary was celebrated last month.

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.

I am delighted to inform our readers that it is the turn of the **Karnataka Regional Branch** to serve on the **Executive Committee** of the **IIPA, New Delhi**. As Chairman of the Branch, I was privileged to attend my first meeting there. I also presented copies of two of our recent publications to the **Director-General of IIPA, Mr. Surendra Nath Tripathi** and the members of the Executive Committee. Two photographs of the meeting and presentation of books are depicted on the next page.





Lead Feature

India Justice Report 2022

A Holistic Evaluation of Justice Delivery

D. Jeevan Kumar

India Justice Report 2022
Ranking States on Police, Judiciary,
Prisons and Legal Aid

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<https://indiajusticereport.org>

The **India Justice Report (IJR)** is a first of its kind national periodic reporting that ranks the capacity of states to deliver justice. Through the filters of human resources, infrastructure, budgets, workload and diversity, it assesses the capacity of 4 core pillars of the justice system to deliver to mandate: police, prisons, judiciary and legal aid. Importantly, by comparing data over a five-year period, the IJR assesses efforts governments make to improve the administration of justice.

This IJR is a collaborative effort undertaken in partnership with DAKSH, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Common Cause, Centre for Social Justice, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and TISS-Prayas.

The **major findings** of the *India Justice Report 2022* are bulleted below:

Rankings

- **Karnataka, 14th in 2020, jumped thirteen spots to the top.**
- Madhya Pradesh went from 16th to 8th and Andhra Pradesh from 12th to 5th.
- Among small states, Sikkim moved from 2nd to 1st place, and Arunachal Pradesh from 5th to 2nd.

- Maharashtra lost out, moving from top position in both IJR 2019 and IJR 2020 to 11th.
- Punjab dropped eight ranks from 4th to 12th, Rajasthan five places to 15th and Goa dropped from 3rd to last place amongst small states.
- While Tamil Nadu and Telangana maintained second and third place amongst large and mid-sized states, Uttar Pradesh remained at the bottom of the table for the third time in a row.

Budgets

- States' expenditure on police and judiciary has kept pace with overall state expenditure.
- Prisons, the poor child of the neighbourhood, which had earlier seen a dip in allocations, saw an improvement in funds between 2020 and 2021.
- Legal aid too recently saw increased infusions from the Centre and state exchequers.
- In 2020-2021 only 47 per cent of the Centre's modernisation grant could be used.

Human Resources

- Vacancies continue to plague all areas of the justice system and can touch 83 per cent, as among prison staff in Ladakh.
- No jurisdiction has the benefit of working with full judge strength in both high court and district courts.
- The actual number of judges now stands at 15 per million (ten lakh) population.
- Between 2020 and 2021, the actual numbers of prison doctors dropped drastically, taking vacancies to nearly 50 per cent or one doctor for 842 inmates, instead of the one for 300 inmates' benchmark.

Diversity

- Whether it is caste or gender, everywhere there is a shortfall in inclusion and the pace of repair remains glacial.
- Despite decades of heated debate, while individual states may meet one or other category, no state meets all three quotas (for SCs, STs and OBCs) across all subsystems.
- Nor are women anywhere near parity. It has taken fifteen years, from January 2007 to January 2022, for the share of women personnel in police to move from 3.3 per cent to 11.8 per cent.
- The distance from the principles of representation and equality is perhaps best exemplified by the composition of states' Human Rights Commissions: Women make up just 17 per cent of the entire SHRC cohort. Only 3 of 25 commissions have one woman member each. The others have none.

Infrastructure

- Over the past decade and even between reports, infrastructure to support justice delivery has slowly but steadily improved, particularly for the judiciary and police and perhaps more at the upper reaches than at the first responder level.
- Even though local shortages persist, at present there are enough court halls for judges nationwide.
- The decade has added nearly a quarter more police stations across the country, though on average 1 police station serves just over 78,000 people with a coverage of 187 sq. km.
- In 72 per cent of all police stations, there are now women's help desks.
- Prison infrastructure though remains wholly inadequate. Of the 1,314 prisons, 391 are overcrowded by more than 50 per cent.
- Facilities for mandated educational improvement, vocational training and assistance in rehabilitation remain rudimentary.

- Ways of accessing and delivering justice through technology, connectivity, computerisation, digitisation are being strongly relied on to make up for shortfalls in physical infrastructure and personnel, and these efforts have gained pace as never before.
- *There is also a steady rise in online access to information and services through a variety of citizen-centric portals, including e-payments and e-sewa kendras.*
- *Courts have adopted new technologies via video conferencing facilities, electronic summons and tracking apps like National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP).* More prisons have increased video conferencing facilities and after the Paramvir judgement, CCTVs to monitor activities inside police stations are making an appearance.

Trends and Patterns

Five-year assessments of Justice sub-systems have thrown up the following trends and patterns:

- Too many, like vacancies and accumulations of court cases, consistently point downwards, but others like better case clearance rates and the achingly slow but constant improvements in gender ratios and response, signpost determination to improve against all odds.
- Overall, financing has grown modestly. Significant financial infusions and experimentation into legal aid promise an uptick in legal representation to the needy.
- Overcrowding went up from 120 per cent to 130 per cent.
- At 77 per cent, more undertrial prisoners make up the inmate population than ever before—on average spending more time incarcerated than ever before.
- Legal aid institutions, even with best efforts, could reach only a fraction of their potential clientele.
- **Beneath the eye-watering figure of nearly 5 crore (50 million) total pending cases lies the dismaying one that records**

the ever-increasing length of time it takes to reach resolution.

Recommendations

1. Ensure 24*7 legal guidance and representation at police stations and courts at first instance.
2. Fully implement the Supreme Court's Paramvir Singh Saini judgement, mandating every police station to be equipped with CCTV cameras to check abuse.
3. Fill vacancies on an urgent footing.
4. Prioritise increased resources for first responders.
5. Increase diversity of caste, gender and the specially-abled across sub-systems.
6. Give training pride of place and prioritise human and financial resources in all training facilities.
7. Ensure UTRCs guidelines of 14 categories of prisoners to be considered for release.
8. UTRCs and all those officially mandated to visit jails, including judges, must be made accountable and their visits must be linked to their own performance review.
9. SHRCs must be full-resourced and reach out to the community proactively.
10. Designate the justice delivery system as an essential service and enhance, enlarge and equip it as a first responder able to provide effective justice delivery at all times

Clearly this state of permacrisis, where functionaries are expected to deliver at impossible levels and from which justice seekers need have little expectation, cries out for urgent repair.

With its comparisons and trend analyses, the report is intended to urge all stakeholders to set priorities, examine the possibility of strategic reinvestment and redeployment of resources, and assess their own efforts in delivering justice speedily and inexpensively, especially for the most remote and vulnerable communities.

In its international commitments under Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, India is committed to “*promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*” The deadline is 2030.

Much more importantly, the promise of abiding democracy at home is underpinned by the assurance that quality justice—fair and accessible—will be available to everyone.

As the report points out, *there is little time to lose.*

National Findings

Overall ranking*

Color guide

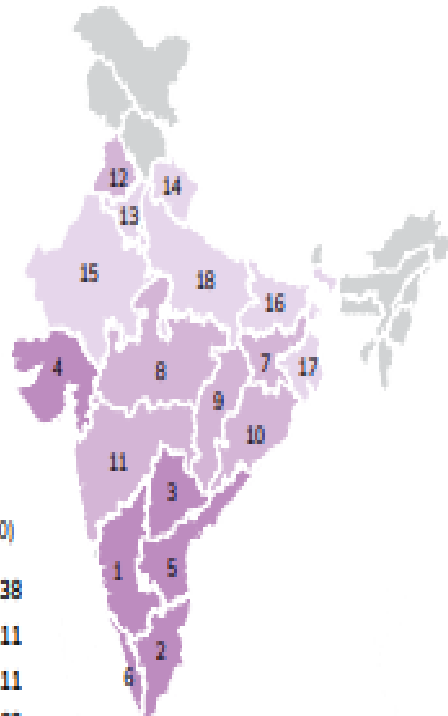
Best Middle Worst

Indicators
(in IJR 3)

102

Clusters

- I. 18 large and mid-sized states (population above 10 million)
- II. 7 small-sized states (population up to 10 million)



Map 1: Large and mid-sized states

Rank (out of 18)

IJR 1 2019	IJR 2 2020	IJR 3 2022
6	14	1
3	2	2
11	3	3
8	6	4
13	12	5
2	5	6
16	8	7
9	16	8
10	7	9
7	11	10
1	1	11
4	4	12
5	9	13
15	15	14
14	10	15
17	13	16
12	17	17
18	18	18

State	Score (out of 10)
Karnataka	6.38
Tamil Nadu	6.11
Telangana	6.11
Gujarat	5.60
Andhra Pradesh	5.41
Kerala	5.36
Jharkhand	5.26
Madhya Pradesh	5.25
Chhattisgarh	5.20
Odisha	5.16
Maharashtra	5.16
Punjab	5.10
Haryana	4.79
Uttarakhand	4.46
Rajasthan	4.36
Bihar	4.32
West Bengal	3.88
Uttar Pradesh	3.78

Karnataka tops states, UTs in providing access to justice

'India has 19 judges for every 10 lakh people as of Dec 2022'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karnataka tops list of states and Union Territories (UTs) in granting access to justice and three other southern states figure among the best five, according to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022.

The IJR, an initiative of the Tata Trusts launched in 2019, ranked states and UTs on various parameters such as vacancies in judiciary, budgetary allocations, infrastructure, human resources, legal aid, condition of prisons, functioning of police and state human rights com-

missions. Karnataka topped the chart among 18 large- and mid-size states having a population of over one crore each. It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

The report said Karnataka remained the only state to have consistently met its quota for SC, ST and OBC positions, both among police officers and the constabulary.

The IJR, released here on Tuesday, said except for Delhi and Chandigarh, no state or UT spends more than one per cent of its total annual expenditure on judiciary where the vacancy

of judges in high courts stands at 30%.

As of December 2022, the country had 19 judges for every 10 lakh people and a backlog of 4.8 crore cases. The Law Commission had suggested, as early as in 1987, that there should be 50 judges for every 10 lakh people in a decade's time.

The list of seven small states, having a population of less than one crore each, was headed by Sikkim, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

"The justice system as a whole remains affected by low budgets... Vacancy is an issue across the police, prison staff, legal aid, and judiciary. For 1.4 billion (140 crore) people, India has about 20,076 judges with about 22 % sanctioned posts vacant. Vacancy among high court judges is at 30%," the report said.

"In the police, women are only about 11.75 %, despite

their numbers doubling in the last decade. About 29% of the officer positions are vacant. The police to population ratio is 152.8 per lakh. The international standard is 222," the report said.

It said prisons are over-occupied at over 130% and more than two-thirds of the prisoners (77.1 %) are awaiting the completion of investigation or trial.

The IJR said most of the states have not fully utilised funds given to them by the Centre and their own increase in spending on the police, prisons, and judiciary has not kept pace with overall increase in state expenditure.

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur said, "The third IJR shows that states are making a substantive improvement over the last two ones in terms of adding new dimensions on diversity, train-

ing, and infrastructure. Some states have dramatically improved their performance but there is a lot that needs to be done on the whole."

"So far as the police is concerned there does appear to be a shortage of women officers in police. Legal aid is doing better but still a lot of people need to be provided quality free legal aid, we need to increase the confidence that people have in our services," he said.

Maja Daruwala, Chief Editor of IJR 2022, said as a member of the comity of nations and, more importantly, as a commitment to itself, India has promised that by 2030 it will ensure access to justice for all and built effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

"But the official statistics brought together in the IJR this year show that we still have a long way to go," she said.



Gender Issues in Karnataka – Prospects and Challenges



Sudeshna Mukherjee, PhD
Associate Professor
Centre for Women's Studies
Bangalore University

Gender issues in Karnataka are complex and multifaceted, entrenched in interlocking inequalities. Karnataka is striding ahead among Indian states with many positives, like being the tech capital of India, the second highest among the States in GST collection, having the lowest unemployment rates, along with having the highest per capita income among South Indian states. However, economic development does not always translate into human or gender-inclusive development.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) findings, Karnataka, one of India's progressive states, is frighteningly insecure regarding the perpetuation of domestic violence. According to the NFHS-5 report, Karnataka, with a whopping 44.4%, has the highest number of domestic violence cases in India. Embedded patriarchy is perceptible when disturbingly, 77% of women and 82% of men justify using such violence. It is important to note that the survey was conducted before the Covid-induced lockdown, and the numbers may have increased afterward following the "shadow pandemic." As per National Crime Record Bureau, crime against women in Karnataka has increased by 9.3% since 2017.

In Karnataka, many gender-inclusive measures are initiated to ensure Women's Empowerment, and that is perceptible in the State through women's increasing decision-

making power at the domestic level. According to NFHS-5, 88.7% of married women are involved in significant household decisions involving health care, major household purchases, and visiting family or relatives, 67.6% of women said they owned a house and/or land, the percentage of women having a bank or savings account was 88.7%, and 61% had a mobile- phone. Women in Karnataka also outnumbered men in terms of participation in Higher Education.

However, our performance is unsatisfactory on account of Economic Empowerment, as the female worker population ratio (WPR) is 31.7 in 2022, slightly above the national average of 28.7. But we must recognize the difference between measuring the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and male LFPR. According to the latest ILO standards, the limitation of productive work to labour force participation is narrow and only measures impact as a market product. It does not consider the value of women's unpaid domestic work, which can be seen as expense-saving work such as collecting firewood, cooking, tutoring children, etc., and contributing significantly to the household's standard of living. Improved ecosystem services, including affordable nurseries, expansion of rural job opportunities, access to skilling and credit, career advice/care, housing, transportation, etc., can help unlock the gender dividend for inclusive and broad-based growth.

With all these socio-economic developments, women constitute a significant voting power in Karnataka today. Karnataka witnessed a gradual increase in female voters. At 43.7 percent, the number of female voters is almost the same as that of men. Therefore, the recently concluded election reflects all political parties' initiatives to impress women voters. Four of the five guarantees announced by Congress targeted women or their households. These include free bus rides, monthly support of Rs. 2,000 for the female head of household, 10 kg of food

grains for BPL families, and 200 units of free electricity. The BJP, in turn, promised three cooking gas cylinders a year, 10 kg of food grain and half a litre of milk, free bus travel, hostels for working women, financial support and nutritional packages for pregnant women, and an increase in widows' pensions. JDS promised an incentive of ₹2 lakhs for women marrying youth from the farming community, a loan waiver for Stree Shakti Groups, providing five free LPG cylinders, Rs 6,000 allowance for pregnant women for six months, a hike of widow pension and distribution of bicycles and EV mopeds to college-going girl students. However, most of the promises are mainly targeted at meeting "Practical Gender Needs" – primarily the family's need, but women are responsible for meeting that.

However, simultaneously, the continued under-representation of women in Karnataka's legislation and decision-making process is an issue of grave concern and significant challenges for meeting "Strategic Gender Needs." The present Legislative Assembly election is an eye-opener for the existence of a "political glass ceiling" where, despite having 50% women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions, only 4.46% are women amongst the newly elected Assembly of 2023. This year, there were 185 women candidates out of the 2,613 contenders. Despite their lofty promises, all major political parties collectively failed to ensure adequate representation of women in governance.

Another gender issue posing a significant threat to achieving gender justice in Karnataka is frequent occurrences of "Child Marriage." Karnataka is number one among the Indian States regarding reported cases of Child Marriage. The complexities of Child Marriage demand intersectional understanding. Child Marriage, embedded in customary practices and social norms, is evidence of deep-rooted gender inequalities and discrimination. It results from the complex interplay of cultural, economic, and patriarchal social forces. Child Marriage single-

handedly impacts the attainment of multiple SDGs (Goals: 1,2,3,4,5,8, and 10).

There is gross underreporting of Child Marriage cases in Karnataka. If we compare child marriage data (provided by Child Marriage Prohibition Cell) and Teenage Pregnancy Report from the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal for FY 2016 to 2021, we will see a 100 to 700 times jump (e.g., 2021-22: Bangalore (U): Reported Child Marriage-13 Teen Pregnancy-2865 Chitradurga: RCM-9 TP - 1352, Mysore: RCM-33 TP- 1784, Kalburgi: RCM-6 TP- 569, Dakshin Kannada: CM-1 TP-80). All these teen pregnancies cannot be from outside the purview of marriage. They are mostly the outcome of Child Marriages only. These are only the tip of the iceberg, as teen pregnancies are often hushed up within families and by ANM workers and Doctors because under 18 mothers are not eligible for many maternal and pre-and post-natal benefits. This unattended Child Marriage and teen pregnancies further jeopardize the State's poor attainment of reduction in maternal (MMR) and infant (IMR) mortality performance among southern peers. As per NFHS-5, most teenage mothers are illiterate or have less than five years of education. Almost all the reported cases under NFHS-5 happened within the purview of marriage. Child Marriage and teen pregnancies are not specific to any particular caste, community, or region.

Despite having a progressive "Transgender Policy", Karnataka is far from achieving gender inclusive society where anybody, irrespective of sexualities, can live with independence and dignity. Undoubtedly challenges are many, and our most arduous battle is against the patriarchal and misogynist mindset. We are somehow working, however inadequate it may be, to transform the mindset of our daughters, but we have entirely ignored boys and men. Creating a gender-just society demands equality and complementarity across genders through intense gender sensitization from early childhood education through appropriate curriculum and pedagogy



Tips to Engage with Communities Effectively



Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander

Executive Director

Public Affairs Foundation

Any Government Officer has a prime duty to engage with the communities. Sometimes we believe that we are a good communicator, people understand but the result often is we do not get the required responses. Why does this happen? Simply put as an Officer you should understand and go armed with not only the purpose of the engagement but also ensure that the engagement is effective. To do this, I would strongly suggest that the following tips may be useful. This is important because as an Officer one of your primary tasks is to gather information and understand that the interaction with the communities should serve a purpose.

The following 13 points helped me with my tasks:

C Chat with the community/people

A good way to engage with the community is to chat with them, make them feel at ease/comfortable. This will ensure that it will be a two-sided dialogue. Make the scenario simple, be approachable and most important the

community should be convinced that you are their friend and not there to probe.

O Be organised

Being organised in your communication is always useful and depicts a picture of being professional. For example, organise your visit to the community, have an agenda, purpose, who you are meeting and when and why you are meeting them. A basic understanding of this and a simple organised schedule will not only be fruitful but also help you reach your objectives.

M Should be meaningful

The approach should ensure that your exchange should be meaningful to both you and the people you are meeting. It is always good to know why your audience would like to meet you and what you want to hear from them.

M Should be momentous

A significant amount of information can be gathered if one appreciates each and every discussion, however brief it may be.

U Be understanding

The simplest way to win the said audience is to be understanding. For example, you need to understand the undercurrents, the message you are trying to convey, and what you are hearing. By being understanding, you not only gain the trust of the people you are interacting with, but are also able to elicit important and key information.

N Be natural

Communication should be natural and to the point. Not only should you make the community feel comfortable with your presence, you should also ensure that they are open to sharing information. This can be done only if you are honest and direct.

I Should be interesting

Any communication can go quiet if it is boring and not interesting. You can make it interesting by having prior knowledge of the people and the area, and also by wanting to learn and know more.

C Colourful

A dry and boring approach to any topic can be dull and not help in continuing a conversation. Bringing in a bit of professionalism with some personal touches such as anecdotes can make the communication flow better and the people might be more receptive to you.

A Be appreciative

Appreciating even the simplest aspect makes an environment friendly. A high-handed attitude or 'I know-all' approach will never help. Being appreciative, supportive and positive are very important to gain the trust of a community.

T Be trusting

In any situation, especially when communicating, a trusting nature always help fill gaps and overcome hesitations of the community.

I Be an initiator

An author can suffer writer's block, and a communicator can suffer a communication block when trying to talk with members of a closed community. As a communicator, you may have to initiate the conversation to break the ice. A simple question about the family or the area can be a good ice-breaker. Likewise, a brief introduction about yourself and your work in the local language can work wonders in breaking the ice.

O Be open

In most cases, being open to situations, ideas and diversity is a great way to communicate. We often go prepared with a particular approach, method or way to speak, but it is important to be willing and able to adapt to different situations. Don't wear blinders, be open.

N Be neutral

Having a neutral rather than a one-sided opinion is always conducive. Forming opinions can stunt a conversation and it is worse if one is opinionated about a topic or during a discussion.

Conclusion

The above if understood and adapted will surely ensure an engaging conversation with the community.



Source: Deccan Herald dt. 7th May 2023

DECCAN HERALD

RISK REDUCTION

07 MAY 2023

State takes climate change planning to grassroots level

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Aimed at fighting climate change's impact at the grassroots level, gram panchayats (GPs) across Karnataka are preparing and implementing a disaster risk reduction sub-plan.

Studying thematic maps developed by the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), GPs have been identified as either drought-affected or flood affected.

A few GPs close to the Western Ghats have been identified to be landslide prone.

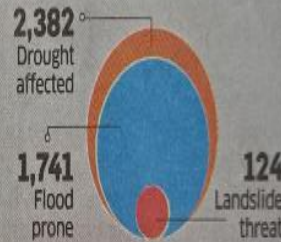
The initiative, taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), has so far categorised



2,382 GPs to be drought-affected, 1,741 GPs as flood-affected and 124 GPs to be landslide-affected.

"We have studied thematic maps prepared using data recorded over the last 20 years. Factors like rainfall pattern, soil quality and groundwater levels have been considered to categorise GPs," said Shilpa Nag, commissioner, Rural Development

GPs facing risk



(MGNREGS).

Based on the category, MGNREGS works will be taken up to reduce the impact of climate change.

For instance, in flood-affected areas, workers will construct bunds, renovate flood/diversion channels and construct check dams. In drought-prone areas, water harvesting and recharging works have been

planned.

Works have been scientifically drawn out and officials use the Composite Land Assessment and Restoration Tool (CLART) mobile application to determine if the works are suitable for a particular area.

"There is no set rule on the type of work that can be taken up. Hence, we have to ensure that works are relevant and sustainable in the selected areas," a senior official from the RDPR department explained.

Officials also work closely with locals to understand if the works can be implemented effectively.

Experts opined that it is important to create awareness about climate change at the rural grassroots since it will impact crops.

► Climate change, Page 8

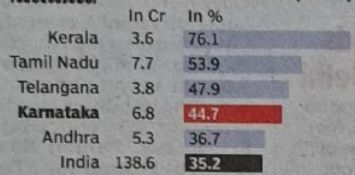


Among southern states, Karnataka in the middle on most indicators

After Tamil Nadu, Karnataka is the second largest southern state by population. A comparison of Karnataka with the national average and its peer states shows that on nearly all indicators it is better than the national average but has a middling rank among its neighbouring states. It is among the least urbanised southern states and ranks lower than Kerala and Tamil Nadu on IMR, fertility rate, institutional births as well as average years of schooling



Population And Urbanisation (2023)



IMR (per 1,000 live births, 2020)



Total Fertility Rate (births per woman, 2020)

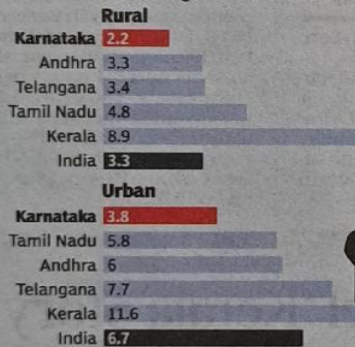


Institutional Births (2019-20)



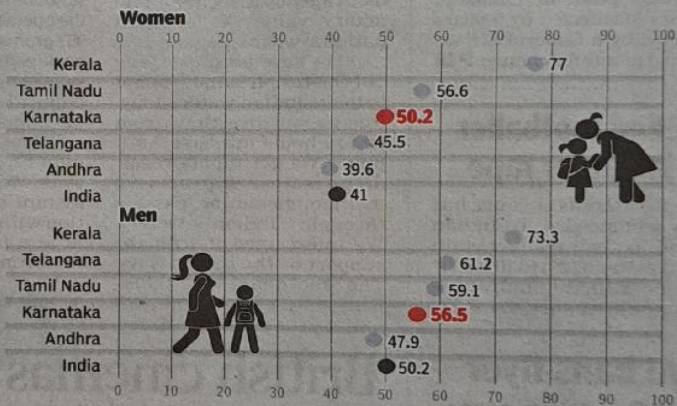
Lowest Unemployment Rate But High Inflation (2020-21)

Rural and urban unemployment in Karnataka is the lowest among southern states. Kerala has the highest unemployment rate here. Karnataka's inflation rate is higher than the national average and is the second highest in the south



10 Or More Years Of Schooling (% , 2019-20)

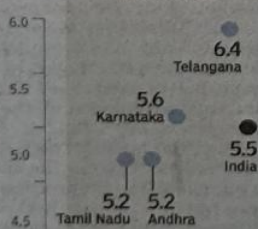
India and Tamil Nadu figures for years of schooling and institutional births are for 2019-21



Highest Per Capita Income But Lagging On Infrastructure

Karnataka's per capita income of Rs 2.8 lakh per annum was highest among the southern states for 2021-22. However, it is ranked lower in factory density, power consumption and road and rail density

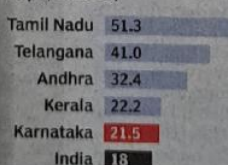
CPI Inflation



Per Capita Income (₹ lakh, 2021-22)



No. Of Factories (Per Lakh Popn, 2019-20)



Per Capita Availability Of Power (2021-22)



Ease Of Doing Business (Rank, 2019)



Length Of Roads (Per Sq.Km, 2019)



National Highways (Per 100 Sq.Km, 2022)



Railway Route (Km per 100 Sq.Km, 2021)



Source: RBI, NFHS



Report of Branch Events

Report 1 -

Conference on 'Experience of Administrative Reforms in India'

The Karnataka Regional Branch of IIPA and the Institute for Social and Economic Change, in association with Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 organized a conference on the theme, **Experience of Administrative Reforms in India** on 29th April 2023 at ISEC, Bengaluru.

On the occasion, the **Foundation Day Lecture** of the Branch was delivered by **Mr. V. Srinivas**, IAS, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. He spoke on "**Administrative Reforms – Lessons and Experiences 2019-2023**" where he highlighted the essence of India's governance model today based on the theme, Maximum Governance, Minimum Government.

The following papers were presented at the conference:

1. **Administrative Reforms in Karnataka** by **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2;
2. **Experience and Impact of Administrative Reforms Commissions in Kerala** by **Ms. Sheela Thomas**, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson and Managing Director, Kerala Rubber Ltd.;
3. **Frontline Public Delivery Institution in Karnataka – Recommendations for Improving Delivery of Services** by

Prof. Kala Sridhar, **Ms. B.P. Vani** and **Dr. Indrajit Bairagya** of ISEC; and

4. **Localizing Governance – Strengthening the Role of Last Mile Institutions in Karnataka** by **Dr. Meena Nair**, Head, Participatory Governance Research Group, Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru.

Two publications of the Branch were released on the occasion, by **Mr. S. Ramanathan**, IAS (Retd.):

1. Text of the **Foundation Day Lecture** of the Branch delivered by **Mr. V. Srinivas**, IAS on **Administrative Reforms – Lessons and Experiences, 2019-2023**; and
2. **Forging Ahead – Annual Reports of the Branch from 2011-12 to 2022-23.**

The conference was chaired by **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairman of the Branch. **Dr. D. Rajasekhar**, Director of ISEC welcomed the guests. **Mr. S. Ramanathan**, Chairman-Emeritus of the Branch, inaugurated the conference with his opening remarks. **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary of the Branch proposed a vote of thanks.

Participants at the conference, both in person and online, included serving and retired Faculty members and doctoral students at ISEC, office bearers and members of IIPA-KRB, officials of KARC-2 and serving and retired officers of the Indian Administrative Service and Karnataka Administrative Service.



Seen in the photo (from R to L) are **Mr. V. Srinivas, IAS, Mr. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), Dr. D. Rajasekhar and Mr. Munish Moudgil, IAS, Secretary to Government, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Government of Karnataka.**



Seen displaying the books which were released on the occasion are (from L to R): **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), Mr. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), Mr. V. Srinivas, IAS, Ms. Sheela Thomas, IAS (Retd.), and Mr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram, IAS (Retd.)**

Report 2:

Workshop on *Public Policy*

The **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the **IIPA** assisted the **Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy** of **St. Joseph's University**, Bengaluru in organizing a workshop on ***Public Policy*** on 3rd May 2023.

Inaugurating the workshop, **Mr. S. Ramathan**, IAS (Retd.), Chairman-Emeritus of the Branch spoke about the changing contours of Public Policy, due to the influence of Science and Technology, and the adoption of more and more innovations by governments, keeping in mind the aim of Good Governance.

Mr. S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka spoke on the theme, '***Public Policy Process in Government***'. He identified the challenges and issues before Public Policy for practitioners. In his view, governments should intervene only to set right market failure, information asymmetry and regulating positive and negative externalities. His Perception Kit for a good Public Policy included openness, negotiations with stakeholders, simplicity and the ability to understand the dynamic complexity of issues.

Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka; Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2; and the current Chairman of IIPA-KRB spoke on '***Public Policy – An Overview***'. He looked at the nature of the State in India before elaborating on the ideal Public Policy making process. He then identified the issues in the implementation of Public Policy which included capacity constraints and excessive centralization. He stressed the need for a feedback loop involving effective performance assessment of the impact of Public Policies on society.

Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Hon. Professor at Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, spoke on '***Wicked Problems in Public Policy***'. Tracing the etymology of the term "wicked problems" to Horst Rittel and Mel Webber's paper of 1973, he stated that wicked problems are all about unruly and intractable problems. The term 'wicked' has a meaning akin to that of 'malignant', 'vicious', 'tricky' or 'aggressive'. After defining the characteristics of Wicked Problems, he identified the typical policy responses, the complexity, crises and coping strategies adopted by policy practitioners in managing contemporary challenges. He stressed the need for Policy Innovations in dealing with intractable issues like urban development and decay, economic growth and sustainable development, genetic engineering and artificial intelligence.

Ms. Genesia Rodrigues, Alumna, Institute for Public Policy, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, spoke on '***Careers in Public Policy***'. After asking and answering the question, 'Why Pursue a Career in Public Policy?', she identified a set of six desirable characteristics in a Public Policy Skillset, namely Critical and Creative Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Statistics and Data Analysis, Field Work, Behavioural Studies and Communication. Among the desirable Public Policy Attitudes, she listed Patience, Leadership and Empathy. She listed the Public Policy Schools in India and in other countries, offering both full-time and part-time courses in Public Policy. She concluded her presentation by identifying the career opportunities for Public Policy students which included the Union, Central and State Civil Services, Fellowships in Government and Research Organizations, and Policy Analyst positions in NGOs, Government Departments/Ministries, thinktanks, the Big Four corporates and political parties.

Dr. Karamala Areesh Kumar, Head of the Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy at St. Joseph's University welcomed the speakers and participants. **Dr. V. Anitha**, Faculty, Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy at St. Joseph's University facilitated the workshop, with the able assistance of Student Coordinators Alka Bala, Ayush Bhattacharjee and Shehnazz.Choudhary. Shehnaz proposed a Vote of Thanks.



Seen in the pic are (from L to R): **Dr. Karamala Areesh Kumar**, **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), **Mr. S. Ramanathan**, IAS (Retd.), **Mr. S.V. Ranganath**, IAS (Retd.) and **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**.



Branch Life Members in the News

Book Discussion on V. Balasubramanian's book, *Fall from Grace - Memoirs of a Rebel IAS Officer*

The **Bangalore International Centre** had arranged for a discussion on the book ***Fall from Grace - Memoirs of a Rebel IAS Officer*** on 24 May 2023. Forty persons attended. Social Activist **Ms. Tara Krishnaswamy** and veteran Journalist **Umamathy** were interlocutors with the author Balasubramanian on some of the issues raised in the book namely, role of bureaucracy in the current time, democratic values, creeping corruption even in Judiciary and the falling standards in the Media. In his response, the author said India's neighbours and ex-British colonies Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar had the same bureaucratic system till 1947-1948. But they gave up the independence of the Bureaucracy which deteriorated their democratic system into varying degrees of military dictatorship. Especially, India has to learn from Pakistan. While in India the UPSC is the only institution against which no allegation of corruption has been made since 1951, in Pakistan the Superior Civil Services have been emasculated with the result Pakistan had two decades of direct military dictatorship and since then indirect control of the government. It is said that Pakistan suffers from 'three A's namely Allah, America and Army! If the Civil Services are enfeebled, India will go the Pakistan way.

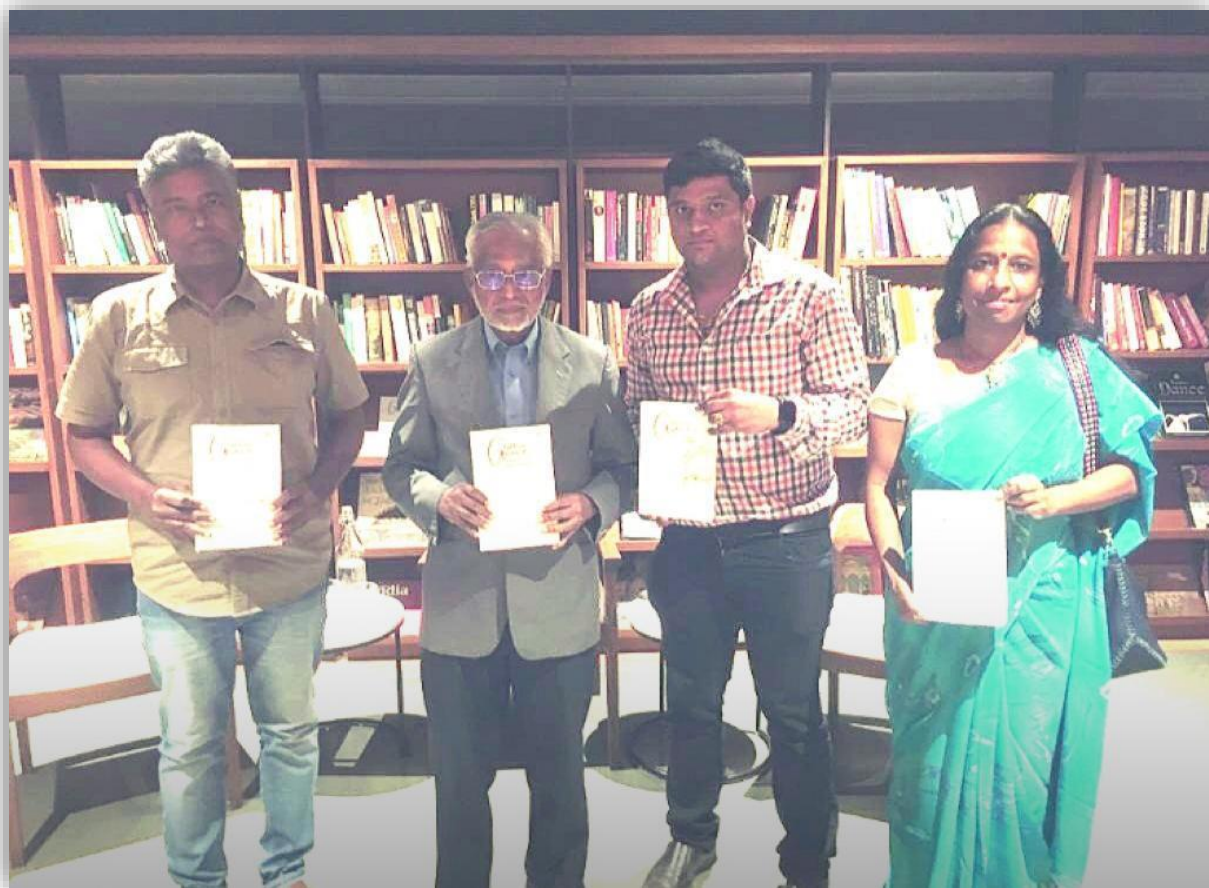
If there is no political interference, the Indian bureaucracy functions with utmost efficiency. For instance, innumerable elections are conducted by the constitutionally protected Election Commission solely through the

bureaucrats and governments change peacefully without any malpractice. In the recently conducted elections to Karnataka Legislative Assembly, 3.8 crores citizens voted in 58,282 polling booths, all managed by the bureaucracy. There was no instance of malpractice in any of the polling booths, the votes were counted in six hours' time and the government changed peacefully.

The author also pointed out that in the once in 13 years' occurrence of Maha Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, in 2019, 70 million devotees visited during 50 days at 14 lakhs per day. The Kumbh Mela Authority and its Committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner with Inspector-General and the District Collector and District Magistrate of Prayagraj as Vice Presidents with over a thousand officers working under them, conducted it by constructing a 25 square km township, 122,000 toilets, 550 km of water pipelines with 800 special trains transporting the devotees. These are mind-boggling feats unparalleled in the world.

Similarly, the handling of 9 million refugees from Bangladesh in 1971 Pakistan-Bangladesh war in 825 camps for over six months, managing the 2018 Kerala Floods were all successfully handled by the Indian Bureaucracy, the like of which is not seen even in developed countries. This is ample proof that where there is no political interference, the Indian bureaucracy works with Gold Standard. Some of the critics of Indian Bureaucracy calling for the abolition of All-India Services are ill-informed and should count their blessings, the author said.

The discussion took ninety minutes and ended successfully with questions from the audience and replies.



Seen in the pic are (from L to R) are **Mr. Umapathy, Mr. V. Balu, Mr. Deepak Srinivasa** and **Ms. Tara Krishnaswamy**.



Book Review

We, the People of the States of Bharat - The Making and Remaking of India's Internal Boundaries
- Dr. Sanjiv Chopra

Rs. 799/- Pages 397



V. Srinivas, IAS

Secretary to Government of India
Department of Administrative Reforms, Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Dr. Sanjiv Chopra, a distinguished civil servant, former Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie with over 35 years of experience in Government has written a remarkable history of India's unification, mining vast historical records to provide an animated and gripping account of modern India's cartography. The Nation's ability to negotiate its political and administrative boundaries with its citizens is depicted in the fact that nine provinces of the dominion of India as well as 562 princely States that existed in August 1947 are not reflected on the map in 2023. Most of the restructuring in the internal boundaries is marked by aspirations, assertions and adjustments of linguistic and ethnic groups seeking their place in the State and Federal polity.

Dr. Sanjiv Chopra's book has been endorsed by 14 eminent personalities, most of them being authors, with each one of them acknowledging the scholarly work, brilliant exposition and painstaking analysis. The book covers the period 1947 to 2019.

The book has 18 chapters, each one dealing with a changing map and administrative boundary. The first Hindi map of Independent India contained the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Subsequently the States of Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand were created to meet the aspirations of sub-regions, prior to which Haryana (1966), Himachal Pradesh (1971) were carved out as Hindi speaking States from Punjab. The appearance of China and the disappearance of Tibet in 1956 and the reappearance of Tibet in 1959 are discussed. 1952 witnessed linguistic agitations in several parts of the country which resulted in the announcement of the SRC. 1956 marked the foundational map of India with the origin of the linguistic States and the obliteration of Princely States and British provinces. 1961 was marked by the integration of foreign territories of Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and 1963 was marked by the creation of Nagaland and dismemberment of Assam. 1975 was marked by the merger of Sikkim, 2000 marked the statehood of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Uttaranchal and 2014 marked the acceptability of Telangana. 2019 marked the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Prof Makarand R. Paranjpe says, "Maps reflect and influence how a nation regards itself and the book is original, unique, even unprecedented in reimagining of post-independent India through its changing maps, looking especially at State formation and changing contours of Indian federalism."

The focus of the book is on boundaries of States and nomenclatures, each of which is impacted by politics and personalities. The lessons from this study are that language is a force that brings people together, there is a considerable difference in the way pan-India parties and regional parties looked at issues, political parties changed their perspectives with time and every story has multiple perspectives.

A thoroughly enjoyable read.



RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Speeding past life

DH
8/5/23

Expressways take away
the charm of slow driving
on shaded avenues

SUDHA NARASIMHACHAR

Expressways, white-topped roads, flyovers, metros, and 8-lane highways have all been in the news across the media. 'You can reach Mysore from Bangalore in 75 minutes,' screamed a news report. I was sure this was an exaggeration.

Last month, we drove to Mysore, and I was all excited about zooming on the new expressway just three days before it was formally inaugurated. Of course, it took us 90 minutes to reach Kengeri from Yelahanka, but I was stunned by the drive on a smooth expressway, which felt no less than a freeway in the US or the wonderful highways of Europe. In no time, we were passing by the nostalgic rocks of Ramanagara, where the Dream Girl had danced over broken glass pieces to Gabbar's commands in *Sholay*!

'What, Ramanagara? Incredible! In 40 minutes!' I exclaimed. Very soon, I saw the Cauvery of Srirangapatna at a distance! Yes, we reached Mysore in 75 minutes flat! None of us was tired of the journey, which was smoother than our journeys from North to South Bangalore. Nobody needed a bathroom stop or a coffee break! It is a fantastic road, and Nitin Gadkari really needs to be applauded!

But something was amiss. Back in the 1980s and 1990s, a trip to Mysore meant a lot of excitement. We used to drive to Mysore at least three or four times a year, and each journey was enjoyable. My father-in-law, who lost his vision towards the end of his life, would be excited to return to his native. He would note the time of departure and go, 'Are we at Kengal? I think we are now taking a turn towards Chennapatna; isn't this Maddur?' We would be surprised at his accurate guesses. Was there an aroma to these places that he sensed and we didn't?

The best part of the drive were the huge trees—banyan, peepal, tamarind,

raintree, and so many more—on either side, and the lush fields and orchards beyond that stretched till the horizon, dotted in between by small towns. Children could see sugarcane, paddy, vegetables, coconut groves, fruit orchards, raagi, and more crops for real that they see only in text books or movies today! All the vehicles would definitely stop over to drink the fresh, tender coconuts, buy fresh fruits and vegetables sold by the farmers immediately after harvest, and have breakfast or lunch at one of the many good highway hotels. The famous Maddur vadas were a much-awaited treat! There was no ignoring the lure of the colourful Channapatna toys and decorative items.

A trip to Mysore, thus, was more like an enchanting tour to faraway lands. All that is lost now! We don't see any towns on the way; there are no highway hotels, stores, or vendors unless we take the exit and go down. Though such expressways are a boon for regular travellers and businessmen, I miss the shaded avenues and all the fun we had on the way!



Food for Thought

"Go not to the temple" by Rabindranath Tagore (Nobel Prize in Literature, 1913) - what a powerful message for the World that is so divided today.

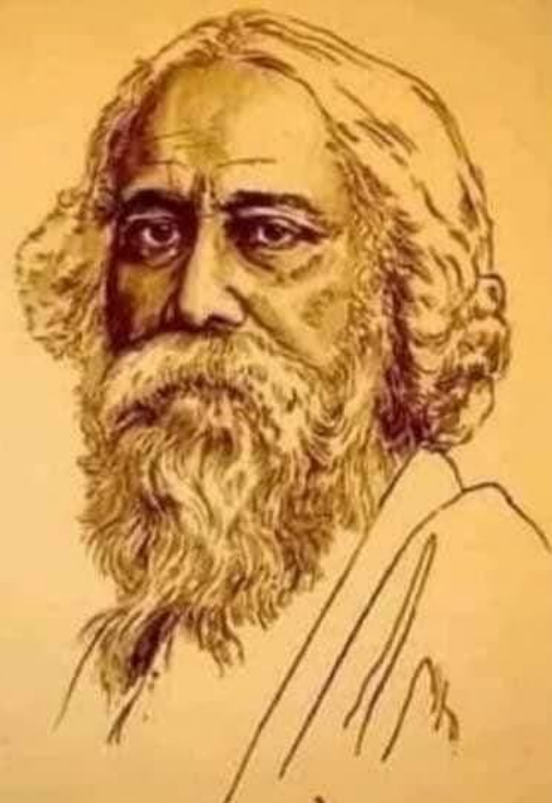
*Go not to the temple to put flowers
upon the feet of God,
First fill your own house with the
Fragrance of love and kindness.*

*Go not to the temple to light candles
before the altar of God,
First remove the darkness of sin,
pride and ego, from your heart...*

*Go not to the temple to bow down
your head in prayer,
First learn to bow in humility before
your fellowmen.
And apologize to those you have
wronged.*

*Go not to the temple to pray on
bended knees,
First bend down to lift someone who
is down-trodden.
And strengthen the young ones. Not
crush them.*

*Go not to the temple to ask for
forgiveness for your sins,
First forgive from your heart those
who have hurt you!*



— गुरुदेव —

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter



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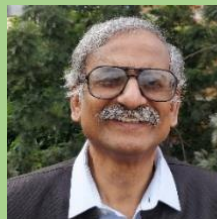
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