



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

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

**Virtual Newsletter**

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Views expressed by the contributors are personal and do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch.

**- Chief Editor**

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## A Note from the Chief Editor



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

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

I am happy to place before our readers the **January 2024** issue of our **Virtual Newsletter**. This is our **42<sup>nd</sup> issue**, since we began this initiative. **I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a fulfilling and satisfying 2024.**

Our **Lead Article** is titled, ***State of Administrative Reforms in India - Post-Pandemic Challenge***. It is based on the address delivered by me at the International Conference on '***Post Pandemic World Order: Issues and Challenges***' held at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) Bengaluru on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Our **Special Feature** this time is on the event organized by the **Centre for Sustainable Development**, Bengaluru on ***India's Sustainability at 75***.

In our regular section titled, ***Communication Pulse***, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, Executive Director at **Public Affairs Foundation** writes on **SDG-8** which deals with the

promotion of **Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment, and Decent Work for All**

In our reports of **Branch Events**, we carry a report of the **Special Lecture delivered by Mr. Sanjay Kaul** at Bangalore University on his book, ***An Alternative Development Agenda for India***.

We also carry a report of the event organized by our **Dharwad Local Branch** on the occasion of **Constitution Day 2023**.

In our regular section on **Branch Members Writings in the Popular Media**, we provide the links to articles penned by **Dr. A. Ravindra** and **Mr. G. Gurucharan**, as well as a joint tribute penned by **Mr. Sanjay Kaul** and **Smt. Uma Mahadevan** to a former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, **Mr. B.K. Bhattacharya** who passed away recently.

In our section on **Books**, we reproduce a Book Review of Shri Sanjay Kaul's book, ***An Alternative Development Agenda for India*** penned by **Mr. G. Gurucharan**.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue are personal and ***do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch***. Do write in, with your responses, views and ideas for improvement of the Newsletter.



## Lead Article

### State of Administrative Reforms in Karnataka –Post Pandemic Challenge

*(Address delivered at International Conference on 'Post Pandemic World Order: Issues and Challenges' held at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) Bengaluru on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.)*



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

I was **Chief Secretary** to Government of Karnataka from June 2018 to December 2020. After retirement, I worked as Chairperson of the **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission 2** for nearly three years and submitted 6 reports to Government. Based on my experience of being involved in the State Government's management of the first wave of the Covid pandemic from January to December 2020 and the experiences thereafter, I would like to present **certain challenges and possible responses in terms of administrative reforms to face the post-pandemic situation.**

**The challenges that were faced during the Covid pandemic and that continue to be faced in the post-pandemic period and the reforms needed to address them include the following:**

1. A **whole-of-society approach** involving civil society, corporates,

NGOs, volunteers worked wholeheartedly during the pandemic. This whole-of-society approach is required to tackle many more problems that a developing society and country such as ours faces. It is therefore necessary to institutionalise this approach by forming more Stakeholder Councils, Stakeholder Committees and launch a volunteering program in Government.

2. The Covid pandemic between 2019 and 2021 brought to the fore the need for **empowerment of community and local bodies such as Area Sabhas, Ward Committees, Gram Panchayats, Municipalities and frontline offices of government.** The community level organisations such as Area Sabhas and Ward Committees should be empowered by giving them untied funds and overseeing functions over local functionaries and institutions like Anganwadis, schools, ANM sub-centres etc.
3. The scale of **migrant labour from within the State and migrant labour from other States** which were not fully known or understood at the administrative level become a major issue to be tackled during the pandemic period. Documentation of migrants, schemes to ensure that migrants are provided necessary social security measures, for temporary shelter, for night shelters etc. are steps that are needed.

4. Measures to **identify and provide relief to the most affected socio-economic categories** were firmed up during the pandemic period. Programs like door delivery of rations and citizen services may be continued to help those with mobility problems like old age citizens, persons with disabilities, single working women, daily wage workers etc.
5. The pandemic saw the widespread **adoption of digital or online learning** across all levels. This has great potential for bridging learning gaps. Students from poor households were deprived of learning opportunities due to lack of smart phone or laptop or money for data charges. Programmes to ensure 4G or 5G connectivity in rural areas and provide WiFi in tribal areas and rural areas have picked up in recent years to attempt to bridge this divide partly.
6. The deprivation of **children from group activities** in culture, sports and on the playfield has affected their socialization process. More attention needs to be given to these activities.
7. **Use of technology** in many areas of pandemic management helped immensely. Control or War Rooms with linked databases and communication facilities, apps for monitoring Covid tests, Covid patients, bed allocation, ambulance movement and grievance redressal helplines, vaccination programme app Cowin, Tele ICU in Karnataka, etc., helped tremendously. These initiatives should be continued and expanded.
8. The attention given to **strengthening the public health sector** in terms of setting up of Covid care centres, Covid hospitals and wards, dedicated Covid care health centres, construction of hospitals, strengthening of urban PHCs, provision of equipment, ICU beds and filling up posts of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff were among the great achievements of the pandemic. This has led to greater awareness of the need for public provisioning of health services.
9. Setting up of **Expert Committees** and taking their recommendations seriously was a feature of Covid pandemic management. The practice of taking guidance from experts and building strong bridges with private health providers needs to be continued.
10. The importance of **frontline staff** was felt during the lockdown and later, in managing the Covid pandemic and the vaccination process. Braving fear of infection and death, stigma and ostracism, they worked wholeheartedly. Their efforts should be recognised by giving them incentives and better facilities.
11. With citizens unable to travel and visit offices, the need for **online delivery of government services** through digital means has become more accepted. There is greater emphasis now on making delivery of services contact-less, cash-less and paper-less.

12. Use of **communication and transparency** was a defining feature of the pandemic management. Media's role in highlighting the dangers of risky behaviour took the message forcefully into people's homes. Daily Covid bulletins with full details of infections, deaths, etc., online transparent messages, reports were being issued, however bad the message was. Karnataka state was recognised as the best in terms of Covid reporting and transparency by Stanford University in its study of response of different Indian States.



13. **Mental health** was recognised as an important aspect of pandemic management. Some patients committed suicide, unable to bear the stigma of Covid infection. In recognition of this, psychosocial counselling and helplines were set up. More than 25 lakh people were counselled.

14. The importance of **political leadership** in enabling all sections of society to come together and to give a purposeful direction to administrative machinery was a

feature of Covid management in the State.

15. **Training** became very important. From being a marginal aspect of administration, it came to centre stage because pandemic management was new to everyone. Lakhs of health personnel, private doctors, Anganawadi and other staff were trained.

16. Effective **use of available laws and institutions** is necessary to face such challenges. The Epidemic Diseases Act and existing institutions like RGUHS with their network of

medical, nursing and paramedical colleges, IT industry associations, companies, NGOs, resident welfare associations were sources of strength in meeting the Covid challenge. They should be tapped without hesitation and fully in facing other post-pandemic challenges.

**These are some important lessons that arise from our tackling the Covid pandemic. They would be invaluable in tackling other post-pandemic challenges also.**



## Lead Feature

### **India's Sustainability @ 75 Achievements, Challenges and Prospects**

A **Sustainability Leadership Summit** was organized by the **Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD)** to commemorate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Bengaluru.

accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, it organized an award ceremony for **Climate Champions** who participated in the **National Youth Climate Conclave** held in Bengaluru on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and also to selected startups and organizations in the field of sustainability.

More than 120 delegates including



(The **Centre for Sustainable Development** is a non-profit organization established in the year 2003 headed by **Dr. A. Ravindra**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka as Chairman and is governed by a board of highly distinguished personalities. CSD has successfully gained credit for rendering qualitative service both in the field of sustainable development, environment protection and skill development through a range of activities from IEC to impact studies.)

A highlight of the summit was the release of the volume on **India Sustainability @ 75** and **Bengaluru Declaration** to

diplomats, administrators, academicians, industrialists, policy makers, students and NGOs participated in the event. There were eminent dignitaries from various organizations such as Department of Environment and Forests, Gokula Education Foundation, NITI Aayog, Mahindra University, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Skill Development Corporation, Skill Council for Green Jobs etc., located across India. They delivered lectures on several challenging issues of Climate Change and Sustainable Development. In addition, beneficiaries

of CSD shared their experience after getting trained on various subjects.

#### **List of Delegates and Speakers**

- **Shri. Eshwara Khandre**, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Environment, Karnataka;
- **Shri. Javed Akthar**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary Dept. of Environment and Forests, Govt. of Karnataka;
- **Dr. Shalini Rajneesh**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Govt. of Karnataka;
- **Mr. Lehar Singh Siroya**, Member of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka;
- **Shri. M.R. Sreenivas Murthy**, IAS (Retd.), Chief Executive, Gokula Foundation (Medical);
- **Smt. Uma Mahadevan**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Skill Development, Govt. of Karnataka;
- **Dr. Abinash Dash**, Director, Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India;
- **Mr. Anirbhan Ghosh**, Head, Centre for Sustainability, Mahindra University;
- **Dr. S. Satapathy**, Former Director, Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of India;
- **Dr. Achalendra Reddy**, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai;
- **Dr. Dola Bhattacharjee**, Scientist, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment;
- **Dr. Ramanjaneyulu**, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad;
- **Mr. K. Krishan**, industrialist and former Chairman, Skill Council for Green jobs, New Delhi;
- **Ms. Sangeeta Patra**, Vice -resident, Skill Council for Green Jobs, New Delhi;
- **Mr. Naveen G.V**, Managing Director, Benchmark Gensuite;

- **Dr. Yale Lingaraju**, National Director, River Rejuvenation Projects, Art of Living, Bengaluru.

The SDG progress in India has been slow which gave rise to the need to bring together various leaders. India has an SDG Index score of 112 out of 163 countries according to the Sustainable Development Report, 2023. It is also stated in the report that with the current pace of progress, India would have 575 million of its population in absolute poverty and 87 million children out of school. *"A divergence of growth in terms of performance is observed, meaning some states are doing good in certain sectors and lagging way behind in others"* said Mr. Abinash Dash, Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India.

#### **SDGs - Progress and Challenges**

One of the major reasons for the gap in development and decrease in pace globally and in India is the Covid pandemic but it also forced countries to focus on health infrastructure and well-being. The assessment carried out by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) indicates that malnutrition and anaemia are the biggest concerns in India, due to improper nutrition. Malnutrition and undernutrition cases are increasing due to understaffing at PHCs, CHCs and district hospitals.

It is observed that the major difference between highly ranked countries in terms of SDG progress and India is the lack of availability and transparency of data, and formulation and use of evidence-based policies to address the Sustainable Development challenges.

#### **SDGs in Karnataka**

The State is focused on SDGs 1, 4 and 9, No Poverty, Quality Education, and Industry Innovation and Infrastructure



respectively, while incorporating other relevant SDGs in its efforts such as SDG 5, Gender Equality through promotion of STEM education for girls to help in SDG 9.

Importance and need of SDG-1 *No Poverty*, SDG-4 *Quality Education* and SDG-9 *Industry Innovation and Infrastructure* for Karnataka was discussed.

The State is working to measure SDGs by adopting Multi-Dimensional Poverty (MDP) index with respect to Zero Hunger aiming to eradicate malnutrition. The state has now uplifted 13000 children from malnutrition and is also moving from agro to agro-processing to help accelerate SDG 9 targets of the state. It has also carried out MDP assessment at sub-taluk levels and gram panchayat levels, of 750 villages. Karnataka State Government and UNDP, along with several other NGOs and partners (Nudge Foundation, Satya Sai Annapurna Trust, Selco Foundation) within the state work together to eradicate malnutrition.

**Ms. Uma Mahadevan**, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Skill Development, Government of Karnataka stated that the major challenge faced in skill development is bringing skills that are contemporary, while keeping in mind the future and sustainability. She also noted the Rural Solid Waste Management (RSWM) scheme in most of the GPs was introduced through which they trained about 11,000 SHG women about managing solid waste and also helped 2,600 women to get driving licenses to transport the solid waste through vehicles.

While it is important to transition at individual levels, some of the measures suggested overall to achieve targets are:

- Adoption of science-based sustainable activities in both corporate firms and the government/municipalities and use AI to achieve targets.
- Competitive federalism - NITI Aayog's approach in ensuring progress in states is by enforcing competitive federalism by active review and transparency of the status by ranking. One of their mechanisms called the Data Governance Quality Index, put in place by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), scores the 67 ministries of India based on type, frequency, granularity, etc. of data.
- Diversification of Public Distribution Systems to increase nutrition level.

### **Climate Change Challenge in achieving SDGs**

According to an article in the *Guardian*, the top 100 corporations of the world are responsible for 71% of emissions. This calls for the much-needed question of "why not" for clean and green alternatives, with them being economically efficient as well. For example, LED Lights, Green Buildings. Green Operations within organizations contribute very little to overall sustainability. The need of the hour is for Climate Solutions.

Climate Change and SDGs are always interlinked. There is a need to create an awareness to bring change in the behaviour of the community to achieve not only SDGs, but also mitigate the adverse effects of Climate Change. One such example is promoting and protecting traditional knowledge which was discussed by **Dr. Achalendra Reddy**, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. As we go deeper into the states, we find our villages which are tremendously rich in traditional knowledge. This is directly linked with

livelihoods of the people in the forests who are involved with use of natural resources. Proper laws and practices of sharing and using resources is essential to ensure both good living of communities involved and the environment.

Two of many efficient concepts with respect to Climate Change and SDGs, derived from the talks at the summit are:

1. **Green Economy:** Adopting a Green Economy is calculated to be efficient in all aspects and countries should strive to promote the same, stressed **Mr. K Krishan**, industrialist and former Chairman, Skill Council for Green Jobs, New Delhi. 90% of 1.4 billion live below 3 USD a day which would mean 800 million live sub-optimal lives. This calls for rapid transition to a green economy.
2. **Sustainable Agriculture:** There are issues with crop production like degrading fertility of the soil. Currently 30% of the soil is unfit for cultivation. Data shows 50% of rains occur in the span of 10 days making it difficult for sustainable production of crops. Six practices suggested by **Dr. Ramanjaneyulu**, Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture are as follows: Water and Moisture Management, Adaptive Cropping Systems, Integrated Livestock Management, Non-Pesticidal Management, Organic Seed System, and Sustainable Nutrient Management. These help in achieving sustainability and contribute to ultimately achieving SDGs. He also noted that agro-forestry and agro-horticulture will help maintain/balance.

### Road Ahead for SDGs

#### For Youth

As part of the community-driven climate actions, skilling of youth and promoting

Green Entrepreneurs is essential to achieve the targets. **Ms. Sangeeta Patra**, Vice President, Skill Council for Green Jobs, New Delhi advised youth to think out-of-the box and nurture their thought processes towards addressing the gaps in the job sector. The trend observed is that renewable energy like solar, bio, cogent, hydrogen and carbon credit sectors possess great opportunities in generating jobs in future. The Indian Government allows youth to take training under the National Apprenticeship Scheme, NATS - Apprenticeship in Technical Education in various sectors including green jobs.

#### Sustainable Ecosystems

Promotion of the previously mentioned sectors in communities and individuals in general will slowly push away fossil fuel consumption and ultimately reduce GHG emissions in the country. This builds and enhances ecosystems. Maintaining proper data with respect to ecosystems and thorough understanding of the environment will address the sustainability issues.

When ecosystems are built, it becomes important to manage micro-climates. Capturing rain and recharging ground water wherever possible will help to improve the local ecosystem. Restoration of tanks will be beneficial for wildlife and livestock to sustain in the coming days. Adopting Nature-based solutions rather than engineering solutions will help to solve the climate crisis in future.

## Text of *Bangalore Declaration* that was released on the occasion

### *Bengaluru Declaration- Accelerating SDG actions (November 4th 2023)*

#### *Preamble*

*Bearing in mind*, in Stockholm, in 1972, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,(1992) where in , both evinced a strongly human-centric approach with emphasis on the prevention of environmental harm.

*Recalling* the Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2000, established the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with 8 Goals to be achieved by 2015 and in 2015, Agenda 2030 and its 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets. The SDGs are global goals, built upon the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals in 2015,Which envisages "a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination".

*Noting* the global Progress on SDGs as on 2023 wherein-

Extreme poverty has declined considerably, the under-5 mortality rate fell by 49% between 2000 and 2017, immunizations have saved millions of lives, and the vast majority of the world's population have gained access to electricity. Recalling 186 parties have ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change, and almost all have communicated their first nationally determined contributions. About 150 countries have developed national policies to respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization.

*Recognizing* the challenges, we face wherein-

The ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor and between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability.

The global and local environment continues to suffer. Loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating, and developing countries more vulnerable, and air, water and marine pollution continue to rob millions of a decent life.

*Emphasizing* the Negative trends have been registered when it comes to providing clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), ensuring decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and supporting responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and *noting* there is insufficient data for Goal 11,12,13.

*Recalling*, at The New Delhi Leader's Declaration (NDLD) at the G-20 Conference September 2023 "With world sliding back on SDGs,G-20 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs commits the G-20 countries to undertake strong steps towards realizing 2030 Agenda...

***Convinced of the need to urgently accelerate the SDG actions, at National Level the 4 Regional Climate Conclaves, organised by CSD, the experts, citizen groups and youth, industry, government, Universities and Research Institutions, were engaged in articulating the current posturing , besides, actions for future ,by Nation-States, concerning sustainable development and climate change.***

*The following Bengaluru Declaration is the collective wisdom emerging out of the learnings of these together with other efforts of CSD. This is an optimistic expression of Hope, Commitment to the Mission, Preparedness to take up the task in the right earnest and a clear determination to stop not till the goal is reached, by India.*

*The Sustainable Development Leadership Summit organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development on November 4, 2023 in Bengaluru, after due deliberations, resolved to issue the Bengaluru Declaration on Sustainable Development to further accelerate the progress on SDGs, taking into account, in particular, the challenges faced at the state and local levels.*

### **Adopt this Declaration**

*This Declaration proclaims Out of the 17 goals enumerated in the UN SDGs, we consider the following goals need focused attention, as these have shown less progress than desired and need to be accelerated, to meet the 2030 Agenda.*

*Goal 2. Sustainable agriculture-food security*

*Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

*Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

*Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

*Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

*Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\**

*This Declaration urges that in addressing SDGs, Role of govt, society and markets in acceleration is critical at all levels working together in a spirit of justice and equity.*

### **Resolution**

*We, the Generation Current including the youth, the Stewards of Environment, Determined to save and secure ourselves and the Generation Subsequent, from the impending hazards of Unsustainable Development and extreme impacts of Climate Change and embark on a Model of Development that is Environmentally Sustainable and ensuring Climate Justice for all, hereby Solemnly Resolve and adopt a Lifestyle for Environment ("LiFE") that promotes- Consumption of organic produce, products and goods that are regionally and culturally compatible - increasing inclusion of little millets ("Siridhanya") in our food culture and dietary practices,*

- Avail services that are carbon neutral, energy conserving and efficient.*
- Availing mass public transport option.*
- Reuse, recycling, reduction and elimination of waste.*
- Reclaiming, restoration and rejuvenation of Local Commons like, Lakes and Water bodies; ecosystems; guarding, protecting nurturing and improving life-supporting and -sustaining, flora and fauna.*
- Rejection and elimination of unsafe, harmful and hazardous technologies, substances and practices that are life-threatening, life-debilitating and seriously impacting the integrity of natural resources and their sustainable use and relentlessly endeavour to usher in a Just, Equitous and Inclusive Social order.*
- Resolve to join hands and contribute our bit in making India a global leader in sustainable development and Bengaluru the Sustainability capital.*



### SDG 8

#### Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment, and Decent Work for All



**Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**

Executive Director  
Public Affairs Foundation

#### Background

SDG 8 aims to increase economic growth, efficiency, productivity and technological innovation, while addressing challenges like forced labour, slavery and human trafficking.

Karnataka's growth has been above national rates in the last three decades, with projections of Gross Domestic State Product (GSDP) growth rates of 6.43 percent in 2022 and 5.23 percent in 2030. The concerned departments for this goal are [Commerce and Industries](#), [Labour Department](#), Directorate of Economics and Statistics ([DES](#)) and [Home](#).

#### Context

Karnataka faces challenges in its secular, equitable and sustainable growth path due to its excessive reliability on Bengaluru as the sole growth centre. This model of Bengaluru- centricity is no longer sustainable, as growth plateaus and traditional manpower advantages have weakened. Infrastructure constraints, such as water scarcity, poor roads, traffic density and pollution pose

serious threats to future growth prospects. This also poses a challenge to

inclusiveness in the State, as workers released from agriculture vary regionally. The State faces an impending crisis at the intersection of migration, livelihoods and urbanisation, challenging productivity and inclusiveness.

Some of the **Key Challenges** and **Possible Solutions** are listed below:



#### Challenge 1: Lack of awareness among the public on Government initiatives



#### Possible Solutions

- Develop communication strategies and showcase benefits and opportunities available to citizens.
- Provide timely and accurate information to address concerns and maintain public trust.



#### Challenge 2: Disseminating information to marginalised communities



#### Possible Solutions

- Develop varied channels of communication so that no one is left behind.
- IEC campaigns should be innovative, topical and address the right audience with the right information.



#### Challenge 3: Lack of access to technology



#### Possible Solutions

- Focus and invest in expanding digital infrastructure.

- Ensure that information is accessible to all.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on digital literacy to empower citizens to access online information.



#### **Challenge 4: Linguistic Diversity**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Develop communication materials in multiple languages.
- Cater to the linguistic diversity.
- Use local dialects and cultural nuances to ensure better understanding and resonance.



#### **Challenge 5: Coordinating with Stakeholders**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Coordinate communication efforts across different government departments, agencies and organisations.
- Ensure a cohesive and unified message.
- Develop a central hub or portal for SDG 8-related information to streamline communication.



#### **Challenge 6: Transparency and Accountability**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Ensure transparent communication on the progress and outcomes.
- Address scepticism and build trust among the public regarding the government's commitment.



#### **Challenge 7: Lack of sustainability in efforts taken**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Initiate and conduct training programmes to enhance the communication skills of government officials and agencies involved in SDG 8 initiatives.
- Empower local leaders and influencers to effectively communicate key messages within their communities.



#### **Challenge 8: Advocating policies effectively**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Collaborate with non-governmental organisations, private sector entities, and international partners to amplify the reach of communication efforts.
- Leverage existing networks for broader dissemination of information.



#### **Challenge 9: Lack of robust communication strategies**



##### **Possible Solutions**

- Establish interactive platforms like town hall meetings, webinars, social media platforms for people to ask questions, provide feedback and participate in discussions.
- Encourage two-way communication to foster a sense of involvement and ownership.

#### **Conclusion**

Implementing these solutions requires a commitment to effective communication, collaboration among stakeholders and a deep understanding of the local context. Regular evaluation and adaptation of communication strategies based on feedback and changing circumstances are crucial for sustained success in achieving the Goal.



## Reports of Branch Events

### Special Lecture by Sanjay Kaul on An Alternative Development Agenda for India

The Karnataka Regional Branch, in association with the Department of Political Science of Bangalore University, organized a lecture by Mr. Sanjay Kaul on his recent book, '*An Alternative Development Agenda for India*' on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Mr. Kaul is a development policy analyst, author, and former IAS officer who has over four decades of professional experience in both the government and the private sectors. The author provided a revamped, transformative, and fiscally sustainable developmental agenda for India to radically improve the well-being and livelihoods of its citizens. Grounded in a '*People First*' approach, Mr. Kaul's alternative agenda focused on seven vital development areas of health, education, food and nutrition, child development, gender, livelihood and jobs, and urbanization.

In his opening remarks, Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the

Branch stated that Mr. Kaul's book provides useful insights into policy-making in government in the vital area of Human Development. Mr. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.), Chairman-Emeritus of the Branch said that the book is a valuable addition to existing literature on development policy. Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, Dr. S.M. Jayakar, in his Presidential Remarks, appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Department of Political Science of BU and the Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA in organizing such events for the benefit of both Faculty and students.

Prof. S.Y. Surendra Kumar, Chairman of the Department of Political Science of BU welcomed the dignitaries and gathering. Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary, IIPA\_KRB proposed a vote of thanks. The event was ably compered by doctoral student, Ms. Vincy.

*Seen in the pic below are (from L to R), Prof. Surendra Kumar, Mr. Sanjay Kaul, Dr. S.M. Jayakar, Mr. S. Ramanathan, Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar and Mr. Deepak Srinivasa.*



## Dharwad Local Branch Event

### Special Lecture on '*Constitutional Morality in India*' on the occasion of the celebration of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Day

A special lecture on '*Constitutional Morality in India*' was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by the Department of Political Science, NSS and IQAC of **Government First Grade College, Haliyal**, Uttar Kannada District, in collaboration with **IIPA Local Branch, Dharwad**. Smt. Sandhyakumari K., Assistant Professor of Commerce welcomed and introduced the guests. Dr. Sangeeta Kattimani, IQAC Coordinator and Organizing Secretary of the event gave introductory remarks on this occasion.

**Dr. Chandrashekhar Lamani**, Principal of the college, outlined the importance of the Indian Constitution for policymakers and people, emphasizing constitutional values. Resource Person **Dr. Vijayakumar N. Torgal KAS (Retd.)**, Vice-Chairman, IIPA Local Branch, Dharwad, in his special lecture stated that everyone should develop utmost reverence for the Constitution. Citizens'

awareness of Fundamental Rights and Duties is significant. Dr. Torgal outlined the important role of constitutional morality in the working of parliament and other

constitutional institutions of the Indian political system. He deplored the deterioration of constitutional morality in India.

**Dr. S.S. Patagundi**, Chairman, IIPA Local Branch, Dharwad in his presidential remarks held the view that legal and moral dimensions are significant in the working of the institutions of the political system. Because of this, the functioning of institutional mechanisms needs to be strengthened in the spirit of constitutional morality.

The programme began with the prayer song by Ashwini Gorekar. Kumar Karan Dammu compered the programme. Dr. Dhanaraj Kendur, Assistant Professor of English proposed a vote of thanks. Dr. Manjunath Lamani, Librarian, faculty members, non-teaching staff and 120 students of the college participated in the programme.







## Branch Members' Writings in the Popular Media



### Wind Up Bangalore Development Authority

**Dr. A Ravindra, IAS (Retd.)**  
Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka  
in *Deccan Herald* dt. 11 December 2023

*Transforming BDA into a healthy body is a Herculean task. Based on my experience as Chairman, BDA, and my study of urban issues, I propose some remedial measures.*

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/wind-up-bda-2805101>



### Whither Parliamentary Democracy?

**Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Rtd.)**  
Director, School of Social Sciences  
MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (MSRUAS), Bangalore.  
in *Deccan Herald* dt. 22 December 2023

The recent developments in Parliament -- the security breach, the varying interpretations on what happened and why; and in its wake, the seemingly intractable adversarial engagement between the treasury benches and the Opposition -- should be seen as a flash point that needs careful consideration. The ruling party and the Opposition have, as much by their method as by the content of their parliamentary discourse, pushed the polarities of constitutional democracy further apart. As concerned citizens, it is necessary to look at the ultimate core of the institution of the modern parliament and the intellectual foundations of parliamentarianism itself.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/whither-parliamentary-democracy-2821446>



### B.K. Bhattacharya embodied the best of the Civil Service

**Sanjay Kaul and Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta**

The passing away of **Shri B K Bhattacharya, IAS (Retd.)**, Karnataka's former Chief Secretary, on November 18, 2023, represents the end of an era. Bhattacharya belonged to that great generation of Indian civil servants who not only held the affection of their colleagues and the unshakeable trust of the people that they served, but also earned deep respect from the political leadership.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/bkb-embodied-the-best-of-the-civil-service-2778561>



## Books

### **Review of Sanjay Kaul's *An Alternative Development Agenda for India: People First***

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

Director, School of Social Sciences  
MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences  
(MSRUAS), Bangalore.

*The Hindu*, October 13, 2023

Sanjay Kaul's book on development policy begins with an assertion that all choices have consequences: The neoliberal economic reforms that swept India after 1991, have without doubt produced relatively stable and high economic growth. Together with a slew of welfare measures, neoliberalism has lulled the higher echelons of development administration into believing that India is on a strong development trajectory. This is not quite so, says the author in *An Alternative Development Agenda for India*, pointing to the deeply disturbing signs: widening inequality, jobless growth, and widespread malnutrition, among other problems of the poor.

The development challenge in a vast, populous, diverse, and democratic polity like India is a formidable challenge. This has been especially so in the past two decades that have seen negative externalities generated by transnational events — the great recession of 2008 and its overhang severely constraining economies across the world, the more recent COVID-19 pandemic and the myriad social and economic crises it triggered, and the ongoing and prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict with its spillover effects on global food supplies and prices.

It is in this backdrop that one must read Kaul's book.

### **Critical Appraisal**

A former civil servant and development policy analyst, the author brings to bear his experience of development practice as he seeks to set out an alternative development agenda, to improve human development outcomes in India. With its focus centred on what the author describes as a 'people first' approach, the book brings together the problems and possible solutions in universalising healthcare, overcoming malnutrition, improving learning outcomes, creating jobs, and promoting planned urbanisation. Each of the chapters marshals evidence admirably, and the sectors subjected to critical analyses to bring to the fore the central argument that India needs a bottom-up approach to planning and implementation of its development programmes. There is little that a reader familiar with India's development challenges would disagree with. Eclectic, reasonably well researched, and easy to read, the book would be of interest to those engaged in or studying development and public policy.

Towards the end of the book, the author has included a chapter that deals with implementation of the many recommendations that he makes in the book titled '*Principles, Actions, and Sustainability.*' While readers will appreciate the effort of the author, including making budget estimates, the question to ask is: *What are the chances that his proposals will be considered by the political leadership or indeed, the*

*author's former colleagues in the civil service.*

Lest I appear cynical, let me say the author is well meaning and writes with conviction. Yet, the discourse betrays a naivety uncharacteristic of an experienced bureaucrat. Consider the following: *First*, the time inconsistency problem in development governance. The political class is only interested in the next election, not the next generation. *Second*, elected governments are not ideologically agnostic; they represent specific class interests and will not allow any reforms that affect their interests. *Third*, the idea of India as a common market is seriously under challenge. Remember the migrant crisis during the pandemic? *Finally*, on the people first imperative, from a policy, legislation, and administrative architecture perspective, what can be more people first than the 73<sup>rd</sup> and the 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution? But the local bodies — urban and rural

alike — have no sources of revenue of their own and are at best seen as subalterns of the ministers and legislators in the States.

But this should not deter readers from appreciating the fundamental argument that Kaul makes persuasively: that the success of any theory of change is predicated on the hopes and aspirations of individuals that coalesce into collective action. The author must be commended for setting out an agenda that seeks to restore the locus of control to the people themselves. In doing so, he displays in-depth grasp of systemic design issues in development programmes and an understanding of how the government's administrative apparatus operates — what works and what does not — thus providing insights on why government failure occurs often.

The book is a useful addition to India's development discourse.



## Food for Thought





## **IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter**

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