

Karnataka Regional Branch

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Virtual Newsletter

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A Note from the Chairman, IIPA-KRB

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It gives me great pleasure to place before our esteemed readers, the fifth issue of our **Virtual Newsletter**, *Vastava Suddipatra*. It is a Special Issue on 'Governance'.

The **Lead Article** this month is by **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, Head, Policy Engagement and Communication at **Public Affairs Centre**, Bengaluru. Titled, **Why is Data Important in Development Praxis?** she unravels for us the highlights of PAC's just-released **Public Affairs Index (PAI-2020)**, the methodology followed, the findings and the ranking of States and Union Territories in India. This article is followed by a detailed report on the collaborative webinar organized by us, in association with the Public Affairs Foundation on **PAI-2020 – Governance in the States and UTs of India**.

We are also carrying this month some extracts from *Worldwide Governance Indicators*, produced by **Daniel Kaufmann and Aart Kraay.** Accessed from the **World Bank** website by our research team, the Governance indicators contribute to the growing empirical research on Governance which have provided activists and reformers worldwide with advocacy tools for policy reform and monitoring. The growing recognition of the link between *Good Governance* and successful development, as empirical evidence suggests, has stimulated demand for monitoring the quality of Governance across countries and within individual countries, over time. The website from which the document has been accessed, as well as the links for more details, are all indicated in the report.

In our feature titled, *Policy Matters in Karnataka*, we carry news of a development that the Bangalore City Corporation is to get its own law for better governance. The salient features of the Bill that was recently passed by the Karnataka Legislature is given here, in brief. The Bill has both Hits as well as Misses, as *Janaagraha* points out in the accompanying Table.

We have a new feature this time, titled, 'Bottom Line'. It depicts a painting done by a Class 9
student from Thrissur, that was sent to the Government of Kerala. The painting has been
selected as the cover of the Gender Budget document of the Government of Kerala for 2020-
21. We are grateful to Ms. Hema Ramani Iyer for the contribution and story.

Lead Article

Why is Data Important in Development Praxis? (Case Study from Public Affairs Centre, based on the Public Affairs Index 2020)

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Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander

Head, Policy Engagement and Communication Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru

Introduction

In today's world of uncertainties, in the wake of the disruption wrought by COVID-19, both professional and personal lives have been shaken up. What used to be normal has given way to a 'new normal'. Simply put, we (both individuals and organisations) have to re-set, re-adjust and re-orient to different things and change our approach to simple aspects of life.

The **Public Affairs Index**, a flagship project of Public Affairs Centre was launched in 2015 with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. However, the last two editions have not been funded and PAC decided to continue with the publication, since there was a value and usefulness, as indicated by several stakeholders.

Besides, it also ensured that an innovative approach would be adapted to focus on performance improvements of the States. The data that has been used for the analysis is taken from the public domain released by the Government.

To put it succinctly the key objectives, include:

- Creating a transparent and objective framework for predictive analysis using data;
- Providing a platform to assess progress, identify areas for improvement and prioritise interventions; and
- Improving accountability for better service delivery and governance performance.



Public Affairs Index 2020 (PAI 2020) is the fifth edition. It ranks the States and Union Territories in India, on the basis of their performance in subnational governance on the overarching theme of Sustainable Development along the three pillars of Equity, Growth and

Sustainability. Several indicators that construct these three pillars capture all the important Human Development aspects. PAI 2020 was launched on Saturday, October 30, 2020.

Methodology

The States are ranked based on indicators which were finalised using pair-wise correlation method followed by standardising the data, applying the Principal Component Analysis and thus arriving at the Composite Index to rank the States and Union Territories.

Highlights of PAI 2020

PAI 2020 constitutes three Pillars (Equity, Growth and Sustainability), five Themes (Voice and Accountability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption), 13 SDGs (SDGs-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16) and 50 Indicators. It was decided that PAI 2020 focus only on 13 of 17 SDGs where it was felt that the States have the greatest role to play.

Classification of States

In order to have a clear and focused report, the States were classified as Large States if they had a population of more than two crore; Small States were classified as States having a population of less than two crore.

"PAI is an objective data-based Composite Index, and there are no subjective elements in creating the index. The PAI data model generates the values, as well as the rankings. The Delta Analysis neutralises the weight of legacy data that often propels many States to higher ranks, regardless of how they performed in more recent years and lays more emphasis on the performance of more recent years."

PAI 2020 is an evidence-based report and provides a balanced understanding of subnational governance using data to assess the quality and competency of State Governments.

PAI 2020 has included new indicators totalling to 50 and a pair-wise correlation which is used to select the indicators. And they include:

- Union Territories
- A Chapter on Delta Analysis and State of States which analyses the growth of all the States and identifies the path in achieving a steady state.

PAI 2020 has moved forward from PAI 2019 to include a rigorous scientific model which serves as a toolkit to assess the governance performance of the States and Union Territories in India.

Structure of the Report

PAI 2020 includes nine chapters.

The 1st chapter emphasises the role and importance the States play in laying the foundation for an institutional architecture for development governance in India. The chapter also lays stress on the need for policies to encourage States to advance their roles to generate a multiplier effect to spur India's development. In doing so, the chapter also explains that States must be trusted by decentralising, delegating and empowering them to demonstrate that the States do matter.

The 2nd chapter discusses the model and the methodology followed to ensure reliability and validity. Reliability relates to governance, while validity refers to index measures used to measure governance. The chapter further explains the three dimensions of Sustainable

Development - growth, equity and sustainability - which represent the primary goals of governance, to measure the performance of the States.

The three pillars are defined by five governance praxis themes. They are:

- Rule of Law
- Government Effectiveness
- Regulatory Quality
- Control of Corruption
- Voice and Accountability.

These themes are further plotted into 13 Sustainable Development Goals, and below this layer are 50 indicators which are used to generate the Composite Index.

To maintain scientific rigour, the technique of **Principal Component Analysis** (**PCA**) has been used to enable self-selection of stand-alone component indicators, eliminating auto corelationships. The raw data for the various indicators were first converted to scaled scores (using normalized Z scores) that appropriately aligned with the direction of the indicator. A Composite Index was calculated at each level of the data structure.

The 3rd chapter discusses the importance and relevance of **Equity** to achieve balanced and sustainable development. To do this, the chapter explains that emphasis should be laid on increasing the equality of opportunity, by the States. In order to do this, 23 indicators across economic, social, gender and legal representations were explored to discuss and understand the Equity Principle.

The 4th chapter assesses the **Growth** imperative in India's development challenges. Government effectiveness and regulatory quality were the two themes on which indicators were based for the assessment. What is evinced clearly is that technology-based growth or enhanced total factor productivity as a source of growth is more sustainable over a period of time.

The 5th chapter focusses on sustainability and measures of **Sustainable Development** endeavours of the State Governments which are directed at the Human Development concerns of the present and the future.

The 6th chapter examines the performance and ranking of the states from 2015-2020 as the Delta value. Using available data, it also assessed the progress made by the States on select **Human Development** indicators. This is done by identifying 13 indicators across the pillars of Equity, Growth and Sustainability, which are important, both statistically and from the Human Development aspects. Trends were calculated and growth rates achieved by each State were ranked using available data.

The 7th chapter deals with inter-State disparities and indicates that some of the States were not in a position to participate in competitive federalism, quite simply, because they were stalled by capital and human resource constraints, as a result of poverty and backwardness.

States are classified into two categories -14 as **High Performing States** and 15 as **Low Performing States**. This was done based on the scores from the PAI 2020 Index. A common outcome was the presence of high levels of inequality indicated by the negative significance of equity indicators. This chapter also includes an analysis of convergence to understand if States were moving towards the path of steady growth over time. The results of the analysis indicate that while all States are moving towards achieving steady growth, albeit at differing paces, the role of female labour force participation is insignificant in the case of poor performing States.

The 8th chapter combines the three major streams of Sustainable Development and discusses the macro-economic transition occurring in India. As a result, two conclusions are drawn - there is a slow but steady convergence between States on growth and equity, and some States have deep rooted inequality that requires single-minded attention.

The 9th and final chapter, is an independent review on the evolution of Public Affairs Index, since its first publication in 2016, to the current issue. Primarily, the chapter situates PAI within the need for measuring governance and the uniqueness of PAI in developing a novel standard for governance measurement in the country.

The rankings based on PAI 2020 are:

- 1. Kerala emerged the Best Governed State in the Large States Category
- 2. Goa emerged the Best-Governed State in the Small States Category
- 3. Chandigarh emerged the Best-Governed Union Territory in the *Union Territory Category*

Overall PAI 2020 Index – Scores and Rankings

Rank	Large States	PAI 2020 Index
1	Kerala	1.388
2	Tamil Nadu	0.912
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.531
4	Karnataka	0.468
5	Chhattisgarh	0.429
6	Telangana	0.388
7	Maharashtra	0.143
8	Punjab	0.091
9	Gujarat	0.054
10	Madhya Pradesh	-0.345
11	Rajasthan	-0.38
12	West Bengal	-0.489
13	Assam	-0.671
14	Haryana	-0.701
15	Jharkhand	-0.957
16	Bihar	-1.158
17	Odisha	-1.201
18	Uttar Pradesh	-1.461
Rank	Small States	PAI 2020 Index
1	Goa	1.745
2	Meghalaya	0.797
3	Himachal Pradesh	0.725
4	Sikkim	0.602
5	Tripura	0.145
6	Arunachal Pradesh	0.048
7	Mizoram	-0.055
8	Nagaland	-0.116
9	Uttarakhand	-0.277
10	Delhi	-0.289
11	Manipur	-0.363

Rank	Union Territories	PAI 2020 Index
1	Chandigarh	1.057178
2	Puducherry	0.520187
3	Lakshadweep	0.003782
4	Daman & Diu	-0.07662
5	A & N Islands	-0.30783
6	Jammu & Kashmir	-0.50639
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-0.69031

Public Affairs Centre (PAC) engages in action research focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of India. PAC is a not-for-profit Think Tank established in 1994 with a mandate to improve the quality of governance in India.

You can watch the PAI 2020 Launch Video here- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-p-tSkiFS6A&feature=youtu.be

To receive a copy of the complete report:

Log on to www.pacindia.org

Download the Google Form (from the Home Page)

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Report of IIPA-KRB Activities

Collaborative Webinar on PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX 2020 - Governance in the States of India

The Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, in collaboration with the Public Affairs Foundation, Bangalore, organized a virtual webinar on the report of the Public Affairs Centre, *Public Affairs Index-2020 – Governance in the States of India*, on 21st November 2020. In his Introductory Remarks, Chairman of the Branch, Mr. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.) offered his congratulations to the research team of PAC headed by Dr. Gurucharan. Noting that the research team is made up of women researchers and academics, he conveyed his deep sense of appreciation to all of them for bringing out an excellent document.

In his Inaugural Address, **Mr. Sudhakar Rao**, Chairman of the Public Affairs Foundation stated that the Public Affairs Index (PAI) has found great acceptability across the country. Its popularity and acceptability have continued to grow year by year, and they are receiving requests from around the country to undertake similar work at State, district and local levels. **Dr. G. Gurucharan**, Director of the Public Affairs Centre, stated that PAI is an extremely objective data-based Composite Index, with no scope for any kind of subjectivity. The PAI data model generates the values as well as the rankings. The Delta Analysis neutralizes the weight of legacy data that often propels many states to higher ranks, regardless of how they have performed in more recent years. *The PAI has come to be seen as a very credible assessment of Public Governance*, he concluded.

Dr. Aparna Sivaraman, Senior Programme Officer and Lead Author for PAI-2020 walked the participants through the methodology and techniques used for data collection to assess different States and rank them, based on the three pillars of Equity, Sustainability and Growth. She mentioned that the data for the Index was selected only from central government sources. No data was sourced from any independent source, to avoid bias in the case of missing data. The methodology adopted is superior, rigorous and scientific. She shared the overall rankings for 2020. In terms of Large States, we have Kerala, Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka at the top four; and Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh at the bottom. In terms of Small States, Goa, Meghalaya, and Himachal Pradesh have been consistent good performers over the past five years. In terms of Union Territories, Chandigarh ranks first, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli is at the bottom.

Dr. Sivaraman identified some of the new features of PAI-2020 as follows:

- Addition of Union Territories for assessment and ranking;
- Use of pair-wise correlation in methodology;
- Independent review chapter on the evolution of the PAI;
- Sustainable Development Goal-level correlation analysis;
- Chapters on Delta Analysis and Inter-state Regression Analysis to show disparities between states; and
- Application of Principal Component Analysis which automatically generates scores.

In the **Panel Discussion** which followed, **Mr. K. Jairaj**, IAS (Retd.) was all praise for the way the PAI model has been constructed with methodological rigor, sound database verification and a politically unbiased narration in the report. This report has great pointers for action for those serving in government sectors. In his view, the five Southern states have topped the Growth table due to the following reasons:

- 1. Broad-based government action;
- 2. Human capital formation and skills;
- 3. Good education infrastructure;
- 4. Scientific temper and ethos of entrepreneurship;
- 5. Level of technology employed;
- 6. A dynamic private sector; and
- 7. Quality of leadership.

Mr. Jairaj made the following recommendations, at the end of his presentation:

- Make the PAI launch more resilient in the public space;
- Provide specific takeaways to the government from each of the pillars which can be adopted by them;
- Initiate a Policy Dialogue for around 15-20 decision makers to project what PAF and PAC are doing and how the state government can make use of it.

Dr. Narendra Pani, Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Study, Bangalore, emphasized on how Bangalore grew in the 70s, leading to the development of the garment industry and IT industry in 1991. He also remarked on how IT has left agriculture diminishing, and hence people have migrated thousands of kilometres, searching for jobs. All-male worker

groups that come from the states in North and East of India tend to have a tremendous impact on gender inequality, as well. There is no place in these groups for women. He also touched upon how labour rights existed earlier and have slowly disappeared. In his view, the poorer States in India seem to be doing better in the Delta Analysis of PAI. Dr. Pani felt that the causes behind the poor performance in governance in laggard States needed to be explored rigorously, and that there was need for a Companion Report to undertake this. He also desired a specific focus on sectors like agriculture.

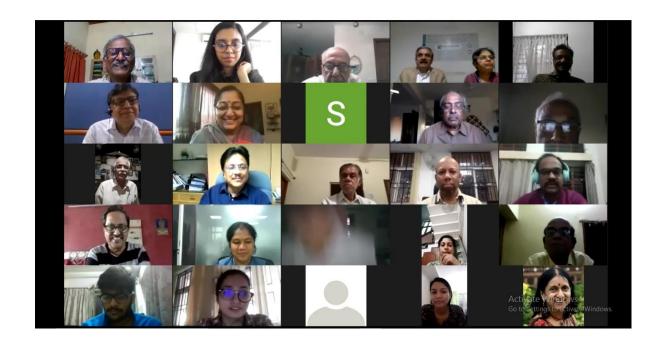
The next panellist, **Dr. Priyanca Mathur** from Jain (Deemed-to-be) University focused on how the States have compromised sustainability, to focus on equity and growth. She envisaged the sustainability pillar to be the driving force for development and said States should be looking to better their performance in this pillar.

Ever since the emergence of the term 'development' and its mapping, we have particularly seen in a geographically diverse and a large country like India, said Dr. Priyanca, a concomitant rise in cumulative inequity, which has adversely affected human capital accumulation in the backward States and especially the disadvantaged populations. Posing the question, "Why are some states like Odisha doing well in some areas and badly in others?" Dr. Priyanca felt the problem lay in the 'one-size-fits-all' formula adopted by the Union Government. When some states are not able to participate on equal terms with the others in a system of Competitive Federalism, there is a need to look at the root causes behind this inequality. She wanted all States to look at the pre-requisites of governance, focus on the Right to Human Development and address the inequity of gender discrimination. In Dr. Priyanca's words, "We need definite growth but perhaps a different model of growth. We need equity which looks at all kinds of inequalities, particularly gender inequality and sustainability. Because at the end of the day we need to look at sustainable consumption and production where we should be doing more and better, with less. We need to leave behind a better planet for our next generation."

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, Executive Director, PAF gave the welcome address. **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary, IIPA-KRB proposed the vote of thanks.

Note: A snapshot of some of the speakers, panellists and participants at the webinar appears on the next page.

The Public Affairs Centre has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the other Regional Branches of the Indian Institute of Public Administration in organizing similar webinars, where the Lead Presentation will be made by the PAC, and responses to the PAI-2020 can be made by serving and retired civil servants and by experts from civil society from those States. Colleagues from the other Regional Branches are requested to kindly contact Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander of the PAC at: director@pafglobal.org



Reports/Documents

(Accessed from: https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi on 16th December 2020)

Worldwide Governance Indicators

Produced by

Daniel Kaufmann

Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Brookings and

Aart Kraay

Development Economics, World Bank

Governance consists of the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. This includes the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them.

The *Worldwide Governance Indicators* are a compilation of the perceptions of a very diverse group of respondents, collected in large number of surveys and other cross-country assessments of governance. Some of these instruments capture the views of firms, individuals, and public officials in the countries being assessed. Others reflect the views of NGOs and aid donors with considerable experience in the countries being assessed, while still others are based on the assessments of commercial risk-rating agencies.

The *Worldwide Governance Indicators* report on six broad dimensions of governance for over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996-2019:

- Voice and Accountability
- Political Stability and Absence of Violence
- Government Effectiveness
- Regulatory Quality
- Rule of Law
- Control of Corruption

Please follow the links above for a definition of each of the six dimensions of governance, and a list of the individual indicators on which each aggregate indicator is based. The WGI are composite governance indicators based on over 30 underlying data sources. These data sources are rescaled and combined to create the six aggregate indicators using a statistical methodology known as an unobserved components model. A key feature of the methodology is that it generates margins of error for each governance estimate. These margins of error need to be taken into account when making comparisons across countries and over time.

For a full description of the WGI methodology, please click here.

The six composite WGI measures are useful as a tool for broad cross-country comparisons and for evaluating broad trends over time. However, they are often too blunt a tool to be useful in formulating specific governance reforms in particular country contexts. Such reforms, and evaluation of their progress, need to be informed by much more detailed and country-specific diagnostic data that can identify the relevant constraints on governance in particular country circumstances.

The WGI are complementary to a large number of other efforts to construct more detailed measures of governance, often just for a single country. Users are also encouraged to consult the disaggregated individual indicators underlying the composite WGI scores to gain more insights into the particular areas of strengths and weaknesses identified by the data.

The WGI are a research dataset initiated by Daniel Kaufmann (Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Brookings) and Aart Kraay (World Bank, Development Economics) in 1999. Pablo Zoido and Massimo Mastruzzi also made major contributions to the development and updating of the WGI. The WGI authors are grateful to the Knowledge for Change Program of the World Bank for financial support, to Jacquelyn Pavilon for outstanding research assistance, and to Anna Kojzar, Sebastian Dolber, and Parisa Nazarijam for web support.

<u>Disclaimer</u>: The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are a research dataset summarizing the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprises, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and private sector firms. The WGI do not reflect the official views of the Natural Resource Governance Institute, the Brookings Institutions, the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. The WGI are not used by the World Bank Group to allocate resources.

Criticism of the Worldwide Governance Indicators

While the *Worldwide Governance Indicators* offer a useful snapshot of some perceptions of a country's quality of governance, researchers have pointed out significant problems in their construction. These critics have claimed that users often fail to take into account or are not aware of their limitations. Criticisms include the following:

- 1. <u>Not Reproducible</u>: Many of the indicators underlying each source's ratings, are not published.
- 2. <u>Too Complex</u>: The WGI '*Control of Corruption*' uses 23 combinations of sources just for East Europe and Central Asia. The sheer number and diversity of indicators, produced by others, in a single WGI make it very difficult to understand.
- 3. <u>Arbitrary</u>: For example, WGI use the indicator "Environmental regulations hurt competitiveness" from the World Economic Forum's Executive Opinion Survey, but ignore that Survey's several questions that give high ratings to countries with a high standard of environmental protection.
- 4. <u>Absence of an Underlying Theory of "Good" Governance</u>: No normative concept or unifying single theory to distinguish between good or bad governance. When are taxes, labour or environmental regulatory protection desirable and when are they excessive?
- 5. <u>Hidden Biases</u>: Low weight given to household surveys relative to the weights of expert assessments and firm surveys. For example, Gallup's World Poll that asks citizens about their exposure to crime gets zero weight for "Rule of Law", but Global Insight Business Risk and Conditions, a U.S. commercial business information provider that measures the crime risk to businesses, gets the third highest weight.
- 6. <u>Lack of Comparability over Time and Space</u>: For example, the WGI "*Control of Corruption*" for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has 23 different combinations of sources, but only four pair of countries ratings are based on a common set of sources.
- 7. <u>Lack of Actionability</u>: WGI offers little guidance to concrete actions to improve the quality of governance. For example, an indicator for Rule of Law "how secure business people feel about their property," not *why* they feel that way.
- 8. Over-selling: The World Bank Institute advertises its WGIs as "reliable measurements of governance", but for example gives the misleading impression that the views of ordinary citizens are well represented, making the indicators particularly attractive to donor agencies concerned about the poor. WBI heavily stressed inclusion of the Gallup World Poll, a cross-country household survey available for a large number of countries, but Gallup's World Poll gets zero weight on two WGIs, marginal weight on two other WGIs and provides no data for the remaining two.
- 9. <u>Lack of Conceptual Clarity</u>: The six governance indicators measure a broad underlying concept of 'effective governance' ... they appear to say the same thing, with different words ... the six indices do not discriminate usefully among different aspects of governance. Rather, each of the indices whatever its label merely reflects perceptions of the quality of governance more broadly. An implication is that they may have limited use as guides for policymakers, and for academic studies of the causes and consequences of 'good governance' as well... their availability may well have crowded out efforts at measuring the impact of institutions as they really exist in a particular place on real outcomes.

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Policy Matters in Karnataka

Bangalore City Corporation to get its own Law for Better Governance

(*The Hindu*, dt. 11th December 2020)

The Karnataka Legislature has passed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Bill, 2020, to give a separate law for the city corporation that ensures a new municipal governance; increases the number of wards from 198 to 243; and empowers it to levy a fee on advertisements and impose entertainment tax.

The Bill was drafted based on a report of the Karnataka Legislature's Joint Select Committee. The Bill, among other things, increases the term of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor from one year to 30 months. With this Bill, the BBMP comes out of the governance structure under the Karnataka Corporation Act (KCA), 1976. The KCA is "inadequate in administrative and structural matters to govern Bengaluru," said the Bill, adding that there is "an urgent need to formulate an independent legislation for the working of the BBMP for the purposes of improving decentralization and integration of public participation at various levels of the BBMP".

The Bill allows the government to nominate residents of the city, such as experts in the fields of health, town planning and education, but the number of such members should not exceed 10% of the Councillors. The nominated members will not have the right to vote in the meetings of the corporation.

The Bill empowers the BBMP to levy a fee on advertisements and entertainment tax. It says no hoardings would be allowed to be displayed in the city, without the written permission of the Commissioner. After introduction of GST, BBMP could not levy tax on advertisements. Instead of a tax, there will now be a fee. Entertainment tax will be levied and collected over any ticket-based, non-ticket-based and televised entertainment.

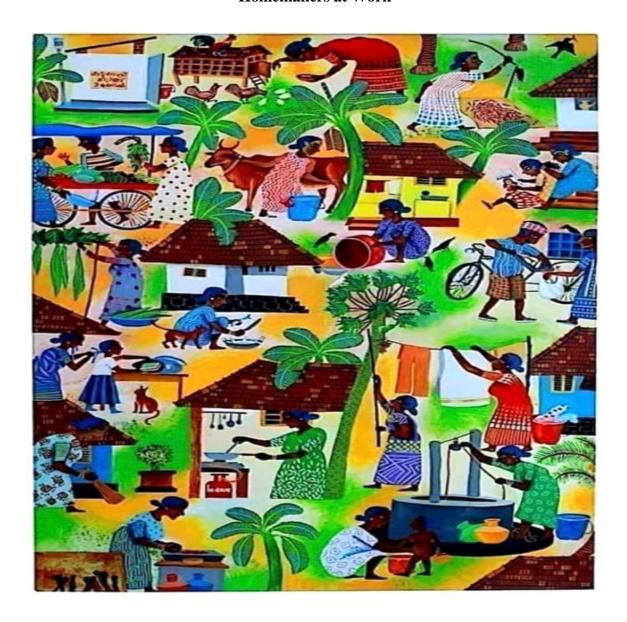
Rainwater harvesting has been made mandatory for houses built on 60 x 40 sq. ft. and above.

HITS	MISSES
Decentralized Structure, with Zonal and Ward Committees, and Area Sabhas.	No provision for a robust and coherent metropolitan governance mechanism
Mandate of Zonal Committee to be headed by the Councillor, instead of a Zonal Commissioner.	Complete side-step on spatial planning and natural environment
Increase in term of Mayor to 30 months.	No provisions on predictable finances to BBMP.
Constitution of Grievance Redressal Authority for municipal-service related issues.	Absence of technology backbone for Bengaluru's governance.

Source: Janaagraha

Bottom Line

Homemakers at Work



Story Behind Above Painting

"My wife doesn't do anything; she is just at home!" A father of a student from Kerala used to introduce his wife to others, in this fashion. But this boy always saw his mother busy with so much housework, so he painted her while she was "at work", and titled it, "My Mother and Mothers in the Neighbourhood". In the painting, he has depicted the unpaid work of women working at home. The School Teacher was so amazed to see this painting done by a Class 9 student, Anujath Vinayal from Thrissur, that he sent it to the Government of Kerala.

The painting has been selected as the cover of the **Gender Budget** document of the **Government of Kerala** for 2020-21.

(Contributed by Ms. Hema Ramani Iyer)

IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

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