



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

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Virtual Newsletter

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- Chief Editor

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A Note from the Chief Editor



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

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

I am happy to place before our readers the **September 2023** issue of our **Virtual Newsletter**. This is our **38th issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is by **Mr. T.V. Mohandas Pai** and **Ms. Nisha Holla**. Titled, **Karnataka – a \$1 Trillion GDP Vision**, it summarizes the major arguments made by them in a document which include several important policy recommendations for the government.

Our **Lead Article** is by **Dr. Vijayendra Rao** who makes out a very convincing case for making government more responsive to citizens via Panchayats and Self-Help Groups.

In our regular section titled, **Communication Pulse**, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, Executive Director at **Public Affairs Foundation** writes on **SDG-2** which deals with Hunger.

We carry reports of two events, one, the centenary celebrations of the **KAS Officers' Association**; and two, an event organized by our **Gulbarga Local Branch**.

In the section on **IIPA-KRB Members in the Media**, we give the link to as many as four articles penned by our distinguished members, which appeared in the popular media last month:

1. *"Revive Small Towns"* by **Dr. A. Ravindra**;
2. *"There's No Single Truth"* by **Mr. Gurucharan Gollerkeri**;
3. *"A Genre in Itself"* by **Smt. Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta**; and
4. *"Fighting Hunger with Compassion"* by **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**.

We also carry news about one of our distinguished Life Members, **Dr. D. Srinivasan**.

In our **Opinion** section, we provide the link to a thought-provoking article by **Mr. Vijay Prakash Srivastava** who thinks that more engineers qualifying for the Civil Services is a worrying development.

We end the issue with our column on **Food for Thought**.

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



Karnataka: A \$1 Trillion GDP Vision

TV Mohandas Pai and Nisha Holla

Published by: 3one4 Capital,
Bangalore, 2022

Karnataka is an economic powerhouse. It is the third largest state economy in the country, with a budget estimate of INR 25.7 lakh crore nominal GSDP in FY 24, translating to a per-capita GSDP of INR 3.83 lakhs. Karnataka's per-capita GSDP is the highest among the Top 5 states and, indeed, one of the highest in the country, the result of a substantial 66% contribution to the state economy by the services sectors with incredibly high value-add like IT.

Data shows Karnataka is rebounding strongly from the recessionary impact of COVID-19. In FY 22, the state contributed 8.7% to the national GDP in nominal terms, 11% of the new formal jobs created on the EPF system and exceeded tax revenue collections by INR 23,000 crore over the budget estimates of INR 2.31 lakh crore. The state has a robust revenue and tax profile and is fiscally well-managed. With decisive leadership and time-tested growth drivers, Karnataka can accelerate its growth to GDP of USD 500 billion by 2026 and GDP of USD 1 trillion by 2032. These targets align with India's GDP goals of USD 5 trillion by 2026 and GDP of USD 10 trillion by 2032, meaning the state will become 10% of the national economy. To do this, Karnataka will have to expand faster than India and accelerate its growth drivers.

Alongside the economic agenda, Karnataka must ensure it responds proactively to the population's needs. The state is ageing quite rapidly, with fertility dropping to 1.7 in 2019-21 and the number of births stagnating. The young population (18-23) is declining, while senior citizens aged 60+ are projected to grow to 15% in 2030. These

trends indicate the state will soon house a large ageing population, accompanied by a shrinking workforce, barring immigration; it is recommended that human capital be strengthened over the next decade to maintain high economic output despite the population downturn.

Four strategies are recommended to respond to the ageing state's needs:

1. Karnataka must focus on a comprehensive social security net for vulnerable sections of the society and its growing population of senior citizens.
2. Education will be vital in maintaining a productive workforce when the population declines. Government must focus on discharging its three mutually-independent roles in education – that of policymaker, instituting a competent accreditation agency and regulator independent of government, and restructuring the education department to deliver a higher quality of public education.
3. Higher education is of particular value in today's knowledge economy-led growth era, and specialization borne from quality higher education will help keep the economic pace up when the population downturn arrives.
4. The State must build a lot more healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas, with adequate primary, secondary and tertiary facilities in every district.

Regarding the economic agenda, a detailed survey of the state economic data reveals **three significant issues** that must be addressed for accelerated growth.

- There is a considerable asymmetry in workforce-to-sector dependence. 41% of

the workforce, and consequently the population, depends on the agriculture sector, contributing only 14% to state GVA. In comparison, 59% of the population depends on industry and services that contribute a combined 86% to state GVA while providing high-growth opportunities and higher-wage employment prospects. Consequently, the wage ratio of an agricultural dependent to one in industry and services is incredibly skewed, at 1:2.7:5.1, calling for an immediate rebalancing.

- The industry sector, in particular, is a laggard with a 5-year CAGR of only 6.1% compared to 11.6% for services and 16.6% for agriculture. It contains two highly under-utilized growth drivers: manufacturing and construction, that need policies and public investment to grow into massive economic growth engines and provide quality employment to the workforce coming off the land.
- The state economy is highly skewed towards the Bengaluru urban district, which, counter-productively, hardly receives any investment. Both components need addressal. The rest of the state requires a focused urbanization agenda, while Bengaluru needs the necessary allocation of resources to achieve its potential as a global hi-tech city.

With the above analysis, the report presents a detailed **9-point economic agenda**:

1. Amplify the agriculture sector value-add and output with comprehensive technology, branding, marketing and export strategies.
2. Expand manufacturing and exports via labour-intensive industries, predominantly in smaller towns for cost

efficiency and in labour-surplus regions like North Karnataka.

3. Boost the construction sector value-add with increased infrastructure spending that will lend impetus to mass employment, generation of taxes, exports and general productivity.
4. Pursue systematic urbanization in 200 smaller towns of the state so they can be developed to sustainably absorb the rural-to-urban shift.
5. Model NITI Aayog's Aspirational District program in Karnataka to rapidly develop the 10-15 poorest districts, primarily located in North Karnataka.
6. Invest in specialized hi-tech industries like biotechnology, semiconductors, electronics component design and materials innovation to develop future-forward manufacturing capabilities, sustain technological leadership, and expand domestic and export markets.
7. Invest in Bengaluru to consolidate its unique potential as a global hi-tech city.
8. Boost the IT services sector to build on feedforward capabilities like artificial intelligence, machine learning, internet-of-things, cybersecurity, agri-tech and other drivers.
9. Invest in the state's startup ecosystem—which leads the rest of the country—so these companies can proliferate and become economic growth engines for Karnataka.

The 13-point socio-economic agenda laid out in this report will accelerate Karnataka's growth and build on its momentum as one of India's leading states.

This Excerpt is the summary of the report published in September 2022, and has been partly updated to reflect the latest available data.



Making Government more Responsive to Citizens *via Panchayats and Women's Self-Help Groups*



Vijayendra Rao

Lead Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank

When we think about policy actions, we tend to think about the role of governments and markets: how to make them more efficient, reduce leakages, improve targeting etc. We often forget that there is a third tier – ordinary people; citizens; the community. The work of government is done in their name, but their interests, ideas, knowledge, and actions rarely directly prioritized.

Citizen-centered policy actions give local communities control over local issues to the extent possible – this makes policy-making more “**reflexive**”; where governments at every level, design and implement policy actions in active collaboration with citizens. When a local road needs to be built, or a pothole fixed, or teacher performance supervised, or housing to poor people in a village allocated, or the availability of medicines in the health center monitored, it is both logical and just that local communities be given more control. Instead, in country and after country, power from citizens is being taken away for a variety of reasons including a belief that centralized decision making is more equitable and efficient, and that technology can help improve outcomes if it is centrally deployed.

India is well ahead of other countries in the importance it gives to reflexive, citizen-centered decision making, at least in theory. This is a legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and his followers but also builds on ancient Indian traditions of village government. Perhaps

the most important concrete examples of this legacy are embedded in the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution which institutes the three-tier panchayat system, with electoral democracy an integral part of three-tiers, and a mandate that Grama Sabhas – village meetings - be held regularly where citizen bodies can deliberate and discuss village plans and monitor the actions of village government. No other country has instituted this form of “**oral democracy**” as extensively as India, and no other country has integrated electoral democracy with oral democracy as widely as India has.

Another important reflexive legacy of Mahatma Gandhi that has had a country-wide impact is the **women's Self-Help Group (SHG) movement** which has a history that goes back to SEWA in Gujarat and the Mahilya Samakhya programs of the 1980s and 90s, and that has culminated in the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)**. Over the last thirty years the institutions set up by the 73rd Amendment, and women's SHGs, have become part of the landscape and rituals of Indian rural life and most states have shown a steady improvement over the years in their operations. However, there is much more that can be done to improve the effectiveness of both of them. In this article, within the short space available, I will try to

draw on a large body of research to list a few of them.

Panchayats are a microcosm of higher levels of government and the challenges that they face are faced at the state and the national levels. But, because they usually fall within the jurisdiction of Panchayati Raj departments at the state level, several actions can be taken to improve their performance and citizen-orientation, and reduce leakages:

- **Increase devolution.** Pay more attention to the 3 Fs – Functions, Finance, and Functionaries – delegate more to panchayats rather than taking away their power: give them greater ability to generate revenue, and give them greater decision-making authority over local issues.
- **Pay attention to the quality of administrative data** and make it all publicly available in a manner that does not require a college education to understand by using effective visualization, maps, and interactive dashboards that are co-created with citizens, so that every citizen can understand and analyze the data and use it to make better decisions.
- **Create an independent and credible system of scoring Grama Panchayat performance** – this requires systems to be set up to ensure that the data used to assess performance is credible and not “self-reported” where it is keyed in by the PDO or some other village official whose has a self-interest in making sure the data tells only a positive story. The scoring system should be assessed using standard metrics evaluated by an independent body that is set up in such a manner that it cannot be compromised.
- **Incentivize the performance of panchayat elected officials and staff** drawing on this independent scoring system – by rewarding them with certificates of achievement, more finances for the village, and possibly cash rewards and higher salaries, but do it in a way that is credible and unquestionably fair.

- **Strengthen Grama Sabhas** – Grama Sabhas are at the heart of effective village governance - increase their frequency, and give them more power over things like village planning, and the selection of beneficiaries of public programs.
- **Use Grama Sabhas to listen to citizens** – people who attend raise various concerns, complaints and desires in them that can vastly improve the performance of government, if it listens and acts.
- **Set up formal and effective grievance redressal systems** that allow individual citizens to report problems to the concerned authorities who can then directly act on them.

Women’s SHGs have now been largely integrated under the rubric of the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)**, and have been focused on providing credit and financial services, training and skills development, and on vertical interventions on things related to health and nutrition. However, their most significant added value in my view is in building women’s social capital – we now have extensive women’s networks throughout the rural areas of the country and there is increasing evidence that this is changing gender relations in the country.

Yet, many challenges remain in building and sustaining these groups – for instance in most parts of the country the account books of these groups are not digitized, and neither are attendance records. This makes it difficult to track activities in the groups and to facilitate their work. Also, the government departments are currently set up to expand the number of groups and funnel vertical programs via them, rather than listen to them – to the needs of women in them – their desires, interests and expectations. All this can be rectified in a number of ways. Here are a few:

- a. **Improve tracking and monitoring of SHG performance** by digitizing their books of record, making the data available on dashboards available at all levels, including the group.

- b. **Build feedback loops** by providing mechanisms whereby groups can communicate their concerns and needs directly up the ladder, and where they can build networks by communicating with each other across villages and districts.
- c. **Women's SHGs can play a critical role in collecting and managing data**, a job that is currently assigned to PDOs, schoolteacher and *anganwadi* workers who have other responsibilities. These can range from doing a regular census of the village to determine local living conditions, to managing data on vital registration, to soliciting views on the quality of village facilities and services. Ideally these data should be presented back to communities with mapping and visualizations that are easily absorbed and understood.
- d. **Use women's networks to create opportunities** where collectives perform better than individuals – bulk food purchases, managing common property resources, managing village schools and clinics, etc.

A significant difference to the quality of village governance can be achieved by integrating SHGs with panchayats; what in the policy world is known as “convergence”, though the word is misleading because it is not a convergence between the two modalities but a process of coordination. This would not only improve the functioning of the SHGs, it would also improve the functioning of panchayats and balance their decisions more towards the needs of women. There are several ways in which this can be achieved:

- **All SHGs groups in a panchayat come together to form what is called a women's “Village Organization” or VO.** An easy way to integrate Grama Panchayats with SHGs is to make the GP president the ex-officio chair alternate chair of the VO. This will ensure that GP officials attend VO meetings, understanding their work, and their concerns.
- **Encourage SHG members to attend Grama Sabhas regularly and voice**

their needs and preferences there. Also, encourage SHG member to attend GP council meetings where possible, petition them, and address their grievances to them. This will reduce large gender imbalances in the degree to which women's voices are heard in Grama Sabhas.

- **Give SHGs a budget**, separate from the GPs budget, that will allow them to institute joint projects with GP.
- **Incentivize GPs to hire SHG members for jobs that the panchayat needs filled** – these can include staffing libraries, garbage collection and disposal, data collection, etc. Ensure that SHG members are paid a fair wage that is above the NREGS rate.
- **Set up a regular data collection system led by SHG** where they are surveying GP residents on basic living standards, needs, and perception of service quality. Visualize and map the data in a manner that can be understood by people who may have limited quantitative skills, make the data visualizations available in phone apps, and presented on the screen in public arenas in the GP – include the Grama Sabha. This would greatly facilitate bottom-up village planning and citizen of monitoring of village governance.
- **Have selected SHG members go for regular training** on panchayat rules, functions, budgets and governance so that can increase the pool of candidates available to run for election.

These suggestions are, because of the nature of 73rd Amendment and the NRLM, restricted to rural areas. It is a pity that urban government does not have equivalent institutions and resources available to its residents. This is both because of the well-known weaknesses of the 74th Amendment, but also a neglect of citizen involvement in urban governance. While introducing a new urban-focused constitutional amendment would be hard, it is relatively easy for State Governments to draw on ideas from panchayats and SHGs to set up similar institutions in urban areas - a topic that several NGOs and scholars have thought about for many years. The only thing lacking is political will.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER



Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander

Executive Director
Public Affairs Foundation

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal-2 (SDG-2) on **Zero Hunger** focuses on Ending Hunger, Achieving Food Security, Improving Nutrition and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture by 2030. According to a report suffering from stunting.

In India the child wasting rate is 19.3%, worse than 2014's (15.1%) and 2000's (17.15%) levels. This raises concerns on severe food insecurity, as 18% of mothers with children aged 6-23 months reported zero-food in the 24 hours before the survey. India ranks 107th in the 2022 Global Hunger Index, with a serious hunger score of 29.1.

Context

In Karnataka the concerned departments SDG Goal 2 include the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Agriculture, Co-operation, Animal Husbandry, Women and Child Department (WCD), Health and Family Welfare Services (HFW), Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Sericulture, and Fisheries.

The [Anna Bhagya Yojane](#) is a scheme launched by the Government of Karnataka. It primarily implements the National Food Security Act 2013 by providing free food grains to Priority House Holds ([PHH](#)) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana ([AAY](#)) households (AAY+PHH). The scheme has benefited around 1.26 crore families since November

published in 2020, 720-811 million people worldwide were suffering from hunger, 161 million more than in 2019. Over 30% of the world's population is moderately or severely food insecure, with 149.2 million children under 5

2019. The scheme includes digitising ration cards, leveraging Aadhaar for authenticated benefits, introducing SMS systems and a life cycle approach to support vulnerable populations. The Karnataka Nutrition Mission is established, along with other nutrition programmes like mid-day meals for this purpose.

Challenges

The challenges for the government is to understand malnutrition in different sectors of society and in different types, since malnutrition includes stunting, wasting and others. Broadly the government requires to use data to identify the need before implementing the programme. The approach cannot be one shoe fits all, the policies and programmes for children will not benefit women and the programmes for pregnant women can't be implemented on women suffering from malnutrition.

The key action point for the government is to analyse the needs of the concerned person before implementation. By doing this the government can utilise resources optimally and communities will also benefit from the same. To create awareness, the Government

should appoint nutritionists to conduct regular check-ups of people to ascertain their needs and progress since many people are not aware of their health and its requirements.

Specific Challenges

To mitigate challenges effective communication strategies need to be developed to create awareness, mobilise action and facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders. While there are several challenges, specifically the Officer in the Government of Karnataka should focus on the following

Challenge 1: Identify Key Challenges



Approach

1. Have a deep understanding of the specific challenges related to SDG 2 in Karnataka
2. Identify and prioritise the challenges to customise communication strategies. For example, it includes issues like food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of sustainable farming practices, unequal access to resources, etc.

Challenge 2: Stakeholder Mapping



Approach

1. Have constant consultation with the relevant stakeholders involved in the domain of agriculture, food security, and nutrition
2. Ensure that it includes government agencies, farmers' associations, NGOs, research institutions, community leaders, and more
3. Understand their roles and interests to help develop targeted communication.

Challenge 3: Developing clear, simple and meaningful messages.



Approach

1. Develop and simplify communication messages that are easy for the general public to understand. Avoid jargon and technical terms.
2. Include local context/relevance to include language preferences and cultural sensitivities of the region.
3. Frame positive to inspire hope and action. Highlight success stories and best practices from within Karnataka.

Challenge 4: All people in the community may have no access understanding of some media channels



Approach

Use appropriate communication channels to suit the needs of the stakeholders and they could include:

- Traditional Media-newspapers, radio and television to reach a wide audience, particularly in rural areas where digital access might be limited.
- Engage Youth and Community Leaders: Young people and community leaders can be powerful agents of change. Engage them through workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programmes. Encourage them to spread awareness within their communities.

Challenge 5: Behavioural Change Campaigns



Approach:

- Introduce campaigns on nutrition education to create awareness among communities on the importance of balanced diets and the impact of malnutrition.
- Sustainable Farming Practices: Promote workshops and training on sustainable farming techniques, emphasizing their benefits for both the environment and farmers' livelihoods.

Challenge 6: Feedback Mechanisms



Approach

- Establish mechanisms for two-way communication
- Allow communities to voice their concerns, suggestions and feedback
- Encourage a sense of ownership and empowerment.

Conclusion

In short a long-term engagement ensures sustainable change through ongoing communication efforts. Maintain consistency in messaging and engagement strategies to ensure continued awareness and action.





Report of Events

Centenary Celebration of KAS Officers' Association

The centenary of the establishment of the **Karnataka Administrative Service Officers' Association (KASOA)** was celebrated on a grand scale at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha on 9th August 2023. The event was inaugurated by the **Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Siddaramaiah**. The Presidential Address was delivered by the **Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot**. Present on the occasion were **Shri Krishne Byre Gowda**, Minister for Revenue of the Government of Karnataka, and **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**, former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Chairman of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 and Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA.

The **Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA** assisted the Karnataka Administrative Service Officers' Association (KASOA) in organizing a Lecture-Series on the occasion. The themes of the lectures and the the names of the Resource Persons are given below:

1. **Administrative Reforms for Better Governance** by **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**, former Chief Secretary of Karnataka, and Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2;
2. **Role of Administrators in Good Governance** by **Dr. Gururaj Karajagi**, President, Academy for Creative Teaching, Bengaluru; and
3. **What do Businesses and Citizens Expect from Administration?** by **Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai**, Chairman, Aren Capital and Manipal Global Education.

In the pic below, **Shri Mohandas Pai** is flanked by (*on extreme left*) **Dr. Ravi Tirlapur, KAS**, President, KASOA and **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)** (*extreme right*).



Report of Gulbarga Local Branch Event

On 9th August 2023, Karnataka Peoples' Education Society's Siddhartha Law College, Kalaburagi, in collaboration with the Kalaburagi Local Branch of the IIPA organized an Interaction Programme on "**Cyber Law and Awareness on Cyber Crimes**".

The programme was inaugurated by **Sri. Marula-Siddaradya, H.J.**, Additional Registrar-General, High Court of Karnataka, Kalaburagi who explained the importance of Cyber Law and the need for its awareness. He stated that technology is developing but so is its misuse, hence there is a need for citizens to be alert and cautious while using it.

The Chief Guest at the function, was **Mohammad Anwar Hussain Mogalani**, Civil Judge and Member-Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Kalaburagi. He stressed to need to create awareness of prevention measures in cyber-crime. Cautioning people while using the Internet, he said that cyber-crime is also a threat to the security of the nation. The Indian police is functioning more actively to resolve such crimes and to bring the guilty to the book. North Division Assistant Commissioner of Police. **Mr. Deepan M N.**, IPS said that people should become more alert about fake messages they get on their mobile phones. They will suffer loss of money if they responded to them. He also explained the various kinds of cyber-crimes.

Dr. B.S. Gulshetty, Hon. Secretary of the Gulbarga Local Branch of the IIPA explained the theme and objective of the interaction programme. He stated that the Branch had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Siddhartha Law College with the objective of imparting administrative, legal and social training and orientation on burning issues confronting society. **Sri. Shantappa Suran**, General Secretary, Karnataka Peoples' Education Society, Kalaburagi, presided over the programme. **Dr. S. Chandrashekhar**, Principal, Sidhartha Law College, Kalaburagi welcomed and introduced the guests. **Dr. Aparna J. Shinde**, Asst. Professor, Sidhartha Law College, Kalaburagi, proposed a vote of thanks. The programme was well attended by the students of various law and degree colleges, as well as by victims of cyber-crimes in Kalaburgi region.





Branch Members in the Popular Media

Revive Small Towns



They hold the key to congestion-free, cleaner mega cities

Dr. A Ravindra, IAS

Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

in *Deccan Herald* dt. 28 August 2023

People living in large metropolises are so obsessed with their own cities that they hardly pay any attention to smaller towns and cities, even in their neighbouring regions. In India, we have over 7,000 urban areas (any settlement with over 5,000 people and over 50 per cent of the males engaged in non-agricultural activities). However, the count of metropolitan cities (with a population of one million or more) stands at only about 65. This disregard for the development of smaller urban areas has led to a migration influx into

larger cities, triggering issues like overcrowding, congestion, pollution, and various other infrastructure and service-related challenges. The most pressing issue in cities with large migrant populations is providing employment and essential services, particularly for the economically disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society.

Read more at:
<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/revive-small-towns-2662910>

There's no Single Truth



Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Rtd.)

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

in *Deccan Herald* dt. 14 August 2023

There's no single truth. Societies have always engaged in revisionist history—retelling sharply contrasting accounts of events, people, or ideas from what had been written about them before.

Reassessing the leaders of the past and retelling history, as well as the ongoing debate on the revision of history text

books for school students, have been in contentious and acrimonious public discourse in recent times. The babel of voices that follow reminds me that the collective noun for a group of historians is 'argumentation' and for good reason. At every pivotal point in historical inquiry, historians, or pretenders, have wrestled over the past, debunking each

other, choosing different subjects for attention, and arguing about what actually transpired and how it is interpreted. Societies have always engaged in revisionist history—retelling sharply contrasting accounts of events, people, or ideas from what had been written about them before. The argument is that interpretive contests

are inherent to historical understanding and that contrarian views about the reality, significance, and meaning of the past are part of a democratic society.

Read more at:
<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/there-s-no-single-truth-2646269>

A GENRE IN ITSELF

The Civil Service Memoir is an Important Part of the Record of Public Administration



Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta in *The Hindu* dt. 20th July 2023

The civil service memoir is a genre in itself and an important part of the record. Civil servants are witnesses to major historical moments and key discussions on policy. Nevertheless, the best civil service memoirs aren't the 'tell-all' or salacious accounts filled with gossip about the weak or fractious moments of powerful leaders. The most interesting memoirs are insightful and reflective, acknowledging their role of

implementation rather than as prime movers of policy decisions; and providing glimpses of the truth, but in the poet's words, "telling it slant".

Read more at:



[thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)

<https://www.thehindu.com> › Books

Fighting Hunger with Compassion in Kerala

Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander in conversation with **Prasanth Nair**, IAS

Special Secretary to the Government of Kerala



Prasanth Nair, IAS speaks about Operation Sulaimani

“Operation Sulaimani (OpSu) holds a very special place in my heart. It’s an incredible initiative that brings together the people of Kozhikode to fight hunger with an outpouring of compassion.”

We started this beautiful campaign as a beacon of hope, reaching out to those in need, one meal at a time. Witnessing the plight of the hungry in our community moved us deeply, and we knew we had to do something about it. The ‘[Compassionate Kozhikode](#)’ campaign became our driving force, uniting us all to make a meaningful difference and ensure that no one goes to bed hungry.

OpSu is modelled on the ‘food on the wall’ or ‘paying ahead’ concept that is popular

in Europe, suitably customised for the Indian scenario.”

Read the full interview with **Mr. Prasanth Nair** by **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, by clicking on the link below:

<https://onthinktanks.org/articles/in-conversation-with-prashanth-nair-fighting-hunger-with-compassion-in-kerala/>

News about our Life Members



Dr. D. Srinivasan, IAS (Retd.), a nonagenarian Life Member of the IIPA (*seen seated in front*) is being felicitated at the UNESCO-initiated Youth Exchange Programme at Bangalore last month.

Seven volunteers from Germany will stay with Indian families for one year and be involved in environment-related and social service projects. Dr. Srinivasan is the Chairman of the International Youth Exchange Association India.



Announcement of Collaborative Branch Activity

JAIN - IIPA-KRB Annual Essay Competition 2023

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education of **Jain University** and the **Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA** announce the **JAIN - IIPA-KRB Annual Essay Competition** on the theme "**Citizen-Centric Governance in Karnataka - A Reform Agenda**".

First Prize: INR 10,000/- | **Second Prize:** INR 5,000/- | **Third Prize:** INR 3,000/-

Last date for Online Submission of Essays: 25 September 2023

Evaluation by Panel: To be completed by 25 October 2023

Announcement of Results and Prize Distribution: 14 November 2023

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2 in 3 civil servants are engineers or docs: Report DH 5/8/23

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Two in every three civil servants chosen after a three-tier exam between 2011 and 2020 were either an engineer or a doctor, a parliamentary panel has said, lamenting that the country is losing “good doctors and engineers”.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice headed by BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi said the “allurement” to become a civil servant is “perhaps also affecting” other fields.

It is “high time there is a rethink on the whole process” of recruitment for the Civil Services, the report ‘Review Of Functioning Of Recruitment Organisations Of Government Of India’ tabled in Parliament recently said.

According to the report, 5,880 or 55.06% of the total

Civil servants between 2011 & 20

Engineers	55.06%
Doctors	10.58%
Engineers and Doctors	65.64%

10,679 civil servants selected between 2011 and 2020 had an engineering background while 1,130 or 10.58% had medical background. Altogether, 7,010 or 65.64% of the total had an engineering or medical background.

“The maximum number of officers recruited are from technical and medical background. Every year, hundreds of technocrats are thus being lost, who are likely to work in other areas,” the report said.

Only 2,835 or 26.54% are from humanities background while the rest 834 or 7.8% are from other backgrounds.

More Engineers qualifying for Civil Services is Worrying

Vijay Prakash Srivastava
in *Deccan Herald*, Bangalore dt. 28 August 2023

Historically, the Indian Administrative Service was viewed as a career for humanities graduates, but this changed as candidates from various disciplines, especially engineering, joined the aspirant pool. The number of candidates with humanities backgrounds is on the decline. From 2011 to 2020, the percentage of engineers, many of whom passed out of IITs, among selected candidates rose from 46 per cent to 65 per cent. This shift raises concerns about technocrats leaving specialised fields, potentially impacting crucial sectors.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/more-engineers-qualifying-for-civil-services-is-worrying-2662907>

National Handloom Day is celebrated in India on **August 7** each year. The main goal is to pay tribute to the huge handloom community in the country for their contribution to carrying on the traditional heritage and ensuring financial stability.





Then That Is Freedom

When the political elite don't fear being questioned
And can defend their actions with truth or reason
Then that is freedom

When the farmer does not have to plead to live
And the hand that reaches out, is not to take but to give
Then that is freedom

When every individual has a right to his God
And religion expresses love, but does not champion god
Then that is freedom

When creed and the colour on skin
Does not bleed the mind to differ in
Then that is freedom

When everyone has a right to school and study
And no child or adult-ever cries hungry
Then that is freedom

When the water and air is not poisoned
And laughter is not masked or hidden
Then that is freedom

When livelihood can depend on Government
Not choked in taxes and archaic law enforcement
Then that is freedom

When the elderly can still pursue happiness
Not wait for death in dark silence
Then that is freedom

When science is for healing and the means to joy
And the sword and gun is an outdated comic's toy
Then that is freedom

When the flag is folded and the anthem has been sung
When it still sings true, in hope, with every new day begun
Then that is freedom

Dann Thomas

insearchofrhyme.blogspot.com



IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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