



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

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ  
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

## Newsletter | ಸುದ್ದಿಪತ್ರ

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## Note from the Chief Editor



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

Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka  
Former Chairman, Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2  
Chairperson, Indian Institute of Public Administration  
Karnataka Regional Branch



I am happy to place before our readers the **April 2025** issue of our **Newsletter**. This is our **57<sup>th</sup> issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Feature** is on **Karnataka's Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30** which aims to make the State Asia's clean mobility hub by focusing on Electric Vehicles (EVs), hydrogen vehicles, infrastructure and job creation. It is an ambitious initiative to make the State a leader in sustainable and clean transportation.

Our **Lead Article** is by **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar** on **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Contemporary Public Policy**. Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts on social justice, equality, human rights, and governance continue to offer valuable insights and serve as a guiding framework for the development of inclusive and progressive Public Policies.

In our section on **Audit Matters**, **Shri T. Sethumadhavan** reviews a recent book by Shri P. Sesh Kumar titled, **CAG: Ensuring Accountability Amidst Controversy: An Inside View**, published by White Falcon Publishing. According to him, the author maintains a professional and unbiased view, while discussing the performance of the CAG in ensuring public accountability,

**Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**, in her article on **How Social Experiments Help in Developing Public Policy** states that social experiments play an important role in developing Public Policy by providing real-world data and insights into how policies affect people.

In our reports of our Branch events, we report on the following events:

1. Our collaborative National Seminar with **Christ DTB University** on **Contemporary Trends and Approaches in Public Policy and Public**

**Administration"** which was held on 11 and 12 March 2025. We signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with Christ University on the occasion to hold collaborative programmes with them in the areas of Public Policy, Administration and Governance.

2. Launch of an **MA Programme in Public Policy** by **R.V. University**, Bengaluru on 19 March 2025.

In our section on **Branch Members Writings in the Media**, we carry links to thought-provoking articles penned by the following Life Members:

1. **Dr. A. Ravindra, IAS (Retd.);**
2. **Shri Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.)**
3. **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** and
4. **Prof. M.J. Vinod.**

In our **Book Review** section, we carry a review by **Dr. Harini Santhanam** of the book, **Global Perspectives on Localising Sustainable Development Goals - Mapping the Progress towards 2030**, edited by Dr. Chaya Degaonkar and Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander.

We end the issue with our column on **Food for Thought**. This time, we highlight the significance of **Mahavir Jayanti**.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors to the articles are their personal views, and do not necessarily represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the members of the Executive Committee of the Branch. Do write in, with your suggestions for improvement of the Newsletter.





## Lead Feature

# Karnataka's Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30 to Drive Sustainable Transportation

Karnataka's **Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30** aims to make the State Asia's clean mobility hub by focusing on Electric Vehicles (EVs), hydrogen vehicles, infrastructure and job creation. It is an ambitious initiative aimed at making the State a leader in sustainable and clean transportation.

With a planned investment of Rs 50,000 crore and the creation of one lakh jobs, the policy focuses on the entire clean mobility ecosystem, including EVs, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, battery manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and research & development.

### Transforming Karnataka into Asia's Clean Mobility Hub

Karnataka has been a frontrunner in the EV sector, attracting Rs 25,000 crore in investments across battery pack and cell manufacturing, component production, charging infrastructure, and OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers).

The new policy aims to take this momentum further by making Karnataka the number one destination in Asia for clean mobility.

The Policy outlines three primary objectives:

1. Establishing Karnataka as the top clean mobility hub in Asia through equitable and sustainable development.
2. Accelerating clean mobility adoption by enhancing charging infrastructure and hydrogen stations.
3. Fostering an innovation-driven clean mobility ecosystem by encouraging R&D, skill development, and industry-academia collaboration.

### Key Highlights of the Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30

#### Massive Investment and Job Creation

The Karnataka Government aims to attract Rs 50,000 crore in investments across the clean mobility value chain and generate one lakh new jobs over the next five years.

#### Expanding the EV and Hydrogen Ecosystem

The Policy supports the manufacturing of EVs (both fixed and swappable battery models), hydrogen-based vehicles, fuel cell electric vehicles, and clean mobility components

such as batteries, battery management systems, and EV-specific electronics.

Additionally, the government will promote battery recycling and reusability through dedicated centres.

#### Strengthening Charging and Hydrogen Infrastructure

With over 5,400 EV charging stations already installed, Karnataka plans to expand fast-charging networks and hydrogen refuelling stations:

- 500 fast-charging stations with Rs 10 lakh subsidy per station.
- 500 battery swapping stations with subsidies up to Rs 3 lakh for 2W/3W, Rs 5 lakh for cars, and Rs10 lakh for buses.
- 25 hydrogen stations with a Rs 1 crore subsidy per station.
- Special tariffs and incentives for EV charging providers.

#### Special Incentives for Clean Mobility Enterprises

The Karnataka Government will offer capital subsidies, tax exemptions, and land incentives for manufacturers and suppliers across the clean mobility sector:

- MSMEs will get capital subsidies ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 35 lakh based on investment size and location.
- Large and mega enterprises will receive capital investment subsidies of up to 25 per cent of their fixed assets.
- 100 per cent exemption on stamp duty and land conversion fee reimbursement.
- Tax exemptions on EV registrations to encourage adoption.

#### Establishment of Clean Mobility Clusters

To boost localized manufacturing, Karnataka will set up three Clean Mobility Clusters in Chikkaballapur, Dharwad, and Ramanagara, offering ready-to-occupy land, incubation centres, and common testing facilities.

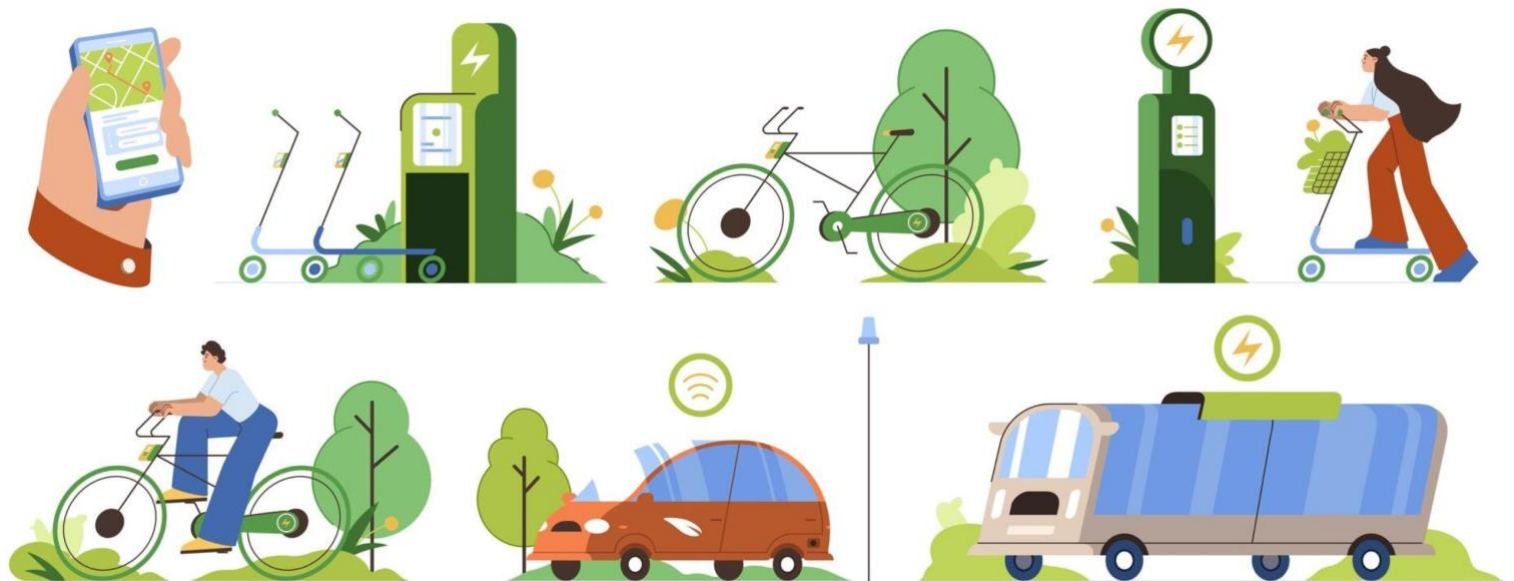
#### Research, Skill Development, and Start-up Support

- 30 per cent R&D reimbursement for breakthrough innovations in battery technology.
- Expansion of EV-related courses in ITIs, polytechnics, and universities.
- Establishment of venture capital funds for clean mobility startups.
- Collaboration with global universities for knowledge exchange in clean mobility technologies.

A State-Level Coordination Committee, led by the Additional Chief Secretary of Commerce & Industries, will monitor the policy's execution and recommend course corrections. A Technical Committee will define and certify enterprises eligible for incentives under the policy.

By focusing on manufacturing, infrastructure, R&D, and skill development, the policy aims to create a comprehensive clean mobility ecosystem, further strengthening Karnataka's position as India's EV and clean mobility hub.

The Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30 is a strategic step towards making Karnataka a global leader in sustainable transportation.





## Lead Article

### *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Contemporary Public Policy - D. Jeevan Kumar*

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a visionary scholar, social reformer, and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, remains a critical figure in shaping modern Public Policy in India. His thoughts on social justice, equality, human rights, and governance continue to offer valuable insights and serve as a guiding framework for the development of inclusive and progressive Public Policies. Below are key aspects of his relevance for contemporary Public Policy:

#### **1. Promotion of Social Justice and Equality**

Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong advocacy for the rights of marginalized communities—especially Dalits, backward classes, and women—provides a foundational blueprint for inclusive Public Policy. His vision of an egalitarian society based on justice and equal opportunity is reflected in policies such as reservations in education and employment for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The principles of Social Justice that Ambedkar espoused remain central to contemporary policies aimed at addressing historical inequalities, including affirmative action, scholarship schemes, and welfare programs.

Modern policymakers must continue to draw from Ambedkar's framework to design Public Policies that not only promote upward mobility for marginalized groups but also ensure that these communities are included in decision-making processes and governance. This includes policies in education, healthcare, housing, and employment aimed at reducing disparities and promoting socio-economic equality.

#### **2. Secularism and Social Cohesion**

Dr. Ambedkar's commitment to secularism is a vital aspect of his relevance in the contemporary policy landscape. He firmly believed in the separation of religion from the state and advocated for the protection of minority rights. His influence is evident in the Indian Constitution's provision for a secular state, which guarantees equal rights to individuals, regardless of their religious background.

In the current climate of rising religious polarization and communal tensions in India, Dr. Ambedkar's ideas on secularism and religious tolerance offer essential guidance for Public Policy. Policies promoting inter-faith dialogue, protecting religious minorities, and fostering social cohesion must be anchored in the secular principles championed by Ambedkar.

#### **3. Education as a Tool for Empowerment**

Dr. Ambedkar placed a significant emphasis on education as a means to uplift the oppressed and marginalized sections of society. His belief in education as a fundamental Human Right is a cornerstone of his legacy. Dr. Ambedkar's insistence on accessible and quality education for all resonates strongly in contemporary public policy discussions, especially in areas concerning educational reforms, the reduction of dropout rates among Dalit and tribal students, and the creation of inclusive educational institutions.

Policies promoting the right to education, scholarships, reservations in educational institutions, and measures to eliminate discrimination in academic settings can be seen as extensions of Dr. Ambedkar's vision. Further, the focus on skill development and vocational training for marginalized communities aligns with his ideas on empowering individuals to achieve economic independence and self-reliance.

#### **4. Empowerment of Women**

Dr. Ambedkar was ahead of his time in his advocacy for women's rights, emphasizing their equality in all aspects of life. His efforts to secure women's rights through the Hindu Code Bill, though not fully realized during his lifetime, laid the groundwork for future legal reforms that sought to enhance the rights of women in India.

Contemporary Public Policy must continue to build on Dr. Ambedkar's ideas to ensure the protection and advancement of women's rights, particularly in the context of issues like domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, reproductive rights, and equal pay for equal work. The empowerment of women, through policies ensuring their access to education, employment,

and healthcare, is critical in fulfilling Dr. Ambedkar's vision of an equal society.

## 5. Constitutionalism and Rule of Law

Dr. Ambedkar's role in drafting the Indian Constitution emphasizes his commitment to the rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights, and the promotion of democratic values. In an age when there are concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and the weakening of institutions, Dr. Ambedkar's ideas on constitutional governance provide a vital framework for contemporary Public Policy.

Policymakers must adhere to the Constitution's principles, ensuring the protection of civil liberties, ensuring judicial independence, and defending the rights of the most vulnerable sections of society. Public policies that undermine constitutional values and weaken democratic institutions stand in contrast to the vision that Dr. Ambedkar articulated.

## 6. Economic Justice and Inclusivity

Dr. Ambedkar's vision of economic justice was not limited to legal rights and social empowerment but extended to equitable economic distribution. His advocacy for land reforms, the fair treatment of labourers, and the upliftment of marginalized communities in economic terms remains highly relevant today, as India grapples with rising inequality and economic disparities.

Public Policy must focus on inclusive economic growth that addresses income disparity and promotes financial inclusion for marginalized groups. Policies promoting access to financial resources, entrepreneurship, and job opportunities for Dalits, tribals, and other underprivileged communities are essential in translating Dr. Ambedkar's vision of economic equality into reality.

## 7. Protection of Human Rights

Dr. Ambedkar's commitment to the protection of Human Rights for all citizens, regardless of caste, gender, or religion, is foundational to contemporary human rights

policy. His emphasis on dignity, respect, and equal rights laid the groundwork for future human rights legislation in India, including anti-discrimination laws, labour laws, and policies related to the rights of the disabled.

In an era where Human Rights violations continue in various forms—ranging from caste-based violence to human trafficking— Dr. Ambedkar's ideas can guide the formulation of policies that ensure the protection of Human Rights. This includes the strengthening of institutions that protect these rights and the active engagement of civil society in advocating for the marginalized.

## 8. Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Though Dr. Ambedkar did not directly address environmental issues, his principles of justice, equity, and the upliftment of marginalized communities can be extended to contemporary concerns about environmental justice. Vulnerable communities, particularly Dalits and tribals, are often the most affected by environmental degradation, climate change, and resource depletion.

Public Policy that addresses the intersection of environmental sustainability and social justice—ensuring that marginalized communities have access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment—is in line with Dr. Ambedkar's broader vision of an equitable society. Policies promoting Sustainable Development must ensure that the benefits of environmental conservation are equally shared.

## Conclusion

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts and contributions remain highly relevant to the formulation of Public Policy in contemporary India. His commitment to social justice, equality, secularism, economic justice, and human rights provides a comprehensive framework for policymakers striving to build a more inclusive and just society. As India continues to navigate complex challenges related to caste, gender, religion, and economic disparity, Dr. Ambedkar's vision offers invaluable guidance for crafting Public Policies that promote equality, dignity, and social harmony.

## Audit Matters



### CAG: An Inside View - Ensuring Accountability amidst Controversy <sup>1</sup>

#### Shri Thayyil Sethumadhavan

IA&AS (Retd.)  
Formerly Principal Accountant General  
Madhya Pradesh



CAG assumed central space in the media when its Audit Reports on 2G Spectrum and Coal Allocation were released more than a decade ago. Many observers believe that the 'policy paralysis' that followed the Reports ultimately led to the fall of the UPA 2 Government. The ruling disposition questioned the "**Presumptive Loss**" of Rs.1,76,645 crore arrived at by the CAG for spectrum allotments. In the Coal Report, CAG assumed a 'windfall gain' of Rs.1,86,000 crore to the allottees of coal blocks (through a Screening Committee procedure). Recently, Mr. P. Sesh Kumar, a former CAG functionary, has brought out a book which logically examines the validity of the use of the above concepts in audit, and concludes that while the Reports themselves were on the right lines and achieved the purpose of accountability and good governance <sup>2</sup>, the findings in the Reports regarding "presumptive loss and windfall gain" did not have the support of International Auditing Standards.

#### Jeep Scandals to Rafale Report

The book also deals with several CAG Reports which received significant media and parliamentary attention, starting with the Jeep Scandal of 1948, followed by the Fodder Scam, Bofors Deal, Commonwealth Games, and Rafale Acquisition, among others. The author concludes that these Reports revealed significant accountability issues, but the time lag in submission of the Reports raises questions about the audit planning process.

#### Policy Paralysis and Audit Holiday

<sup>1</sup> CAG: Ensuring Accountability Amidst Controversy: An Inside View by P. Sesh Kumar. Published by White Falcon Publishing; Price: Rs.799.00

The author maintains that the insinuation about CAG having impelled policy paralysis is unfounded. The bureaucracy, according to the author, instead of being fair and transparent, wrongly accused the CAG of creating fear psychosis.

The book includes an analysis of the number of audit reports submitted in recent years and concludes that there has been a '**partial audit holiday**' from 2016 onwards, which could be attributed to possible 'conflicts of interests' of the appointees. The author terms the redacted Rafale Report as a 'mysterious and precedent-setting approach to audit'.

#### Performance of the CAG over time

The book dwells upon some of the appreciable works done by the CAG including major audit achievements, substantial recoveries at the instance of audit, international audits, etc. The recent innovation relating to '**natural resources accounting**' is another praiseworthy effort. At the same time, the author rues the failure of the Voucher Level Compilation, and failure to update the system. The reluctance of the CAG to subject itself to external audit is another area of fair criticism.

#### Appointment of CAGs

The author advocates that the constitutional provisions regarding the single CAG may be replaced with a **Multi-member Board of Auditors**, patterned after the Central Election Commission, to make it more balanced and professional. Considering the vast responsibility of the CAG and its varied jurisdictions, the suggestion merits serious consideration at the highest levels.

The book fills in a void that existed in the realm of audit awareness and accountability. While discussing the performance of the CAG in ensuring public accountability, the author maintains a professional and unbiased view. The book is a valuable addition to the literature on public audit. All those who follow political and administrative developments in the country will find the book useful.

<sup>2</sup> The Supreme Court subsequently annulled the allocations as arbitrary, and the auctions at the behest of the Court fetched more revenue to the Government even than assumed in the Audit Reports.



# Communication Pulse

## How Social Experiments Help in Developing Public Policy



**Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander,**  
Freelance Consultant



### Introduction

Social experiments play an important role in developing public policy by providing real-world data and insights into how policies affect people. Ideally these experiments assist in testing, refining and implementing solutions which are effective and include solution-based evidence.

Social experiments can be defined as are research methods used to test real-world interventions and their impact on individuals, communities, or societies.

### Elements

There are some features which are important while adapting social experiments and they include:

- Use of Randomised Control Trials (RCSTs) where groups are compared and there is no intervention involved
- Adapting real world setting where laboratories are avoided and natural settings is used
- Introduce a policy or programme in a select area and compare results
- Use data to provide evidence for developing effective policies and programmes

### Importance

Social Experiments Important because they:

- Require less money in policy making by finding what works best
- Build public trust and encourages collaborations in decision making
- Aids in avoiding policy failures by conducting pilot studies before scaling it to a full scale roll out

### Benefits of Social Experiments

- Helps policy makers by generating empirical data to understand actual impact of policies before the implementation phase

*For example, Universal Basic Income (UBI) pilots in India and Finland provided insights into its feasibility and effects on employment and well-being.*

- Detect negative effects at an early stage and makes corrections

*For example, studies in rural India found that cash transfers sometimes led to inflation in local markets, requiring policy adjustments.*

- Conduct pilot testing before scaling up a policy nationwide to ensure that the approaches are correct

*For example, Delhi's Odd-Even Traffic Rule was first tested as a pilot before being implemented during periods of high pollution.*

Increases Public Trust and Transparency

*For example, Behavioural Nudge Policies (e.g., tax reminders via SMS) were first tested through experiments before full-scale adoption.*

### Barriers

- Despite its advantages and importance social experiments do have some barriers and they include:
- Opposing from public and ethical concerns where real people are involved and the risk of ethical dilemma may arise
- Constraints from policy makers due to fear of failures
- Risks in misuse of data and lack of strong data protection laws
- Complexities in measuring long-term impact due to difficulties in tracking the same due to long periods of waiting.

The said barriers can be overcome ensuring transparency, identifying long-term and institutional support for funds, strengthen data privacy and most customise scalability of policies by keeping in mind the local adaptation.

## Examples of how the Government of Karnataka has used Social Experiments

Karnataka has implemented several notable social experiments aimed at enhancing public policy and governance. Here are some key examples:

**Project Nemmadi (2006–2009):** An e-governance initiative introduced to help rural citizens access various government services through digital centres. The project aimed to bridge the digital divide and enhance service delivery in rural areas.

**Surya Raitha Scheme (2015–2018):** It was launched as a pilot at Nalahalli Panchayat to promote use of energy in agriculture. Despite its innovative approach, the project faced challenges and remained limited in scale. ([Karnataka's 'Surya Raitha' Experiment | Economic and Political Weekly](#))

**Model School Initiative in Ramanagara District (2022):** Launched an initiative to establish one model school per panchayat in Ramanagara district. The project encountered resistance from local communities and logistical challenges. ([Model school experiment in Karnataka's Ramanagara hits many roadblocks, officials say politics at play | Bangalore News - The Indian Express](#))

## Conclusion

These social experiments reflect and encourages proactive approach to test and implement innovative policies across various sectors, addressing challenges in scalability public acceptance and resource allocation. By using real-world testing, social experiments ensure that policies are effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of the people.



## Branch Events



### 1. National Seminar

#### ***Contemporary Trends and Approaches in Public Policy and Public Administration***

##### **Dr. Reetika Syal,**

Asst. Professor

Dept. of International Studies, Political Science and History

CHRIST (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru

The Department of International Studies, Political Science and History of **Christ (Deemed-to-Be) University**, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the **IIPA**, organized a **National Conference** on the theme, “**Contemporary Trends and Approaches in Public Policy and Public Administration**” on 11 and 12 March 2025 in the premises of Christ University. The **Inaugural Address** was delivered by **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and Chairperson of the Karnataka Regional Branch of IIPA. The **Presidential Address** was delivered by **Dr. Fr. Jose, CC**, Vice-Chancellor of Christ DTB University. A **Memorandum of Association** between the two institutions was signed on the occasion by Dr. Fr. Jose and Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar. **Dr. S.P. Vagishwari**, Head of the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History of Christ University welcomed the gathering. **Dr. Reetika Syal**, Assistant Professor in the Department and Convenor of the National Conference proposed a Vote of Thanks.

#### **Day 1: Technical Session 1**

This session was moderated by **Dr. D Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)-Karnataka Regional Branch, and Hon. Professor, Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj University

##### **Speakers:**

**Dr. Sunayana Ganguly**, Co-Founder, Climate Educators Network spoke on *Sustainable Development and Environment*

**Dr. Sangeetha Purshottaman**, Founder, Best Practices Foundation spoke on *Gender, Diversity and Inclusiveness*: and

**Ms. Vachana V.R.**, Manager- Advocacy, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Bengaluru spoke on *Urban Governance*.

The session focused on climate education and advocacy, economic conditions of marginalized women, and issues of urban governance. Experts shared insights on socio-economic and environmental challenges. Climate advocacy discussion emphasized integrating climate education into academic curricula. Economic struggles of marginalized women, including sex workers, beedi workers, and transgender individuals, were highlighted. Policy recommendations included financial and entrepreneurial support for business startups and mentorship for sustained business growth. Urbanization discussion analyzed India’s unique spatial urbanization patterns and the emergence of urban clusters. Emphasis on women’s leadership roles in city governance and planning.

#### **Technical Session 2a:**

##### Paper Presentations by Post-Graduate Students

Eight students presented papers on various topics ranging from disaster risk mitigation, structural integrity of the Indian electrical grid, issues surrounding access to legal identity documents, to sustainable urban transportation solutions.

The judges panel for this session consisted of:

Dr. L.T. Om Prakash, Associate Professor, Dept of Sociology, and Director of Centre for Social and Policy Research, Christ University

Dr. Pournamy, Assistant Professor, Dept. of International Studies, Political Science and History, Christ University

#### **Technical Session 2b:**

##### Poster Presentations by Under-Graduate Students

Twelve students presented papers on various topics ranging from food security, challenges of urban slum rehabilitation, Naxalism, to street-vending etc.

The judges panel for this session consisted of:

Dr. Azhar Khan C.A, Assistant Professor, Dept of Law, P.E.S University

Dr. Malavika Menon, Assistant Professor, Dept. of International Studies, Political Science and History, Christ University

#### **Day 2: Technical Session 3**

This session was moderated by **Shri T.M Vijay Bhaskar**, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)- Karnataka Regional Branch

##### **Speakers:**

**Ms. Manisha Marulasiddappa**, Manager Municipal Finance, *Janaagraha*, spoke on *Financial Governance*;

**Ms. Aishani Rai**, Manager, Aapti Institute spoke on *Digital Governance and E-Governance*; and

**Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Hon. Professor, Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj University, spoke on *Participatory Governance and Citizen Engagement*.

The session focused on governance, financial systems, and the role of technology in Public Policy. The discussions covered participatory governance and technological advancements in policymaking. Ms Manisha discussed challenges and strategies in financial governance. Her focus was on how strengthening financial governance is crucial for economic stability. Ms. Aishani Rai spoke about Technology in Public Policy and exploring societal solutions. Her talk focused on how technology was not an answer to all Public Policy problems. Also, wherever technology is being used now, it is being blamed for everything else which is not working. We need to focus innovative tech-driven solutions for societal issues, since technology-driven solutions enhance governance efficiency and policy implementation. Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar emphasized participatory governance and citizen engagement, highlighting transparency and inclusivity in policy-making. He spoke about how citizen participation leads to more effective and inclusive governance policies, along with emphasizing how citizen engagement leads to improving governance overall.

## Day 2: Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Address was delivered online by **Smt. Uma Mahadevan, IAS**, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka. This was followed by Dean's Address by **Dr. K. Jayasankara Reddy**, Dean & Professor, School of Social Sciences, Christ University. Awards and certificates were presented to the participating students, and winners of Poster presentation and Paper presentation by Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar. The **Presidential Address** was given by **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)**, Chairperson, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)- Karnataka Regional Branch. Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)- Karnataka Regional Branch proposed a Vote of Thanks.

The National Conference was successful in getting together a combination of academicians, practitioners, as well as serving and retired civil servants who were able to provide valuable insights to the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Christ University.

*Below:* **Shri T.M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson, IIPA-KRB and **Dr. Fr. Jose, C. C.**, Vice-Chancellor of Christ (DTB) University are seen holding the **Memorandum of Understanding** between the two institutions which was signed on the occasion. At extreme left is **Dr. Reetika Syal**, Convenor of the conference. Next to her is **Dr. S. P. Vagishwari**, Head of the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History at Christ University. At extreme right is **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**.



*Below: Left to Right – Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Dr. Sangeetha Purushothaman, Dr. Sunayana Ganguly, and Ms. V. R. Vachana are seen at the first Technical Session.*



## ***2. Report of the Launch of MA Programme in Public Policy at RV University, Bengaluru***

**Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson, IIPA, Karnataka Regional Branch was Chief Guest at the launch of the MA Public Policy programme by RV University, Bengaluru on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The event brought together distinguished academicians, policymakers, faculty, and students to discuss the program's vision, academic structure and career opportunities in the ever-evolving field of public policy.

**Prof. Dwarika Uniyal**, Vice-Chancellor (i/c) of RVU, delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the university's commitment to fostering leaders equipped to address contemporary policy challenges. **Prof. Pushkarni Panchamukhi**, Associate Dean of the School of Economics and Public Policy, further elaborated on the interdisciplinary nature of the program. She presented the vision and mission of the School.

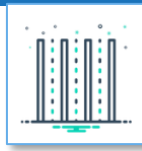
**Shri T. M. Vijay Bhaskar**, Chairperson, IIPA, Karnataka Regional Branch, the Chief Guest, in his keynote address stressed the importance of equipping students with a diverse knowledge base, spanning economics, law, technology, data sciences, and governance. He also spoke about the citizens' responsibility to adopt practices to curb corruption.

**Dr. C.R. Ranjini**, Professor of Public Policy at R.V. University, presented a detailed overview of the M.A. Public Policy programme. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks. An interactive session followed, allowing attendees to engage in discussions on Public Policy education, career trajectories, and the role of policy professionals in shaping the future.

**L to R** - Prof. Pushkarni Panchamukhi, Prof. Anuradha Chatterjee, Shri Vijay Bhaskar, Prof. Dwarika Uniyal, and Prof. Ranjini C. R.



## Book Review



# Global Perspectives on Localising Sustainable Development Goals

**Dr. Harini Santhanam,**

Associate Professor (Senior Scale)  
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)  
Bengaluru Campus, Karnataka



## *Global Perspectives on Localising Sustainable Development Goals – Mapping the Progress towards 2030*

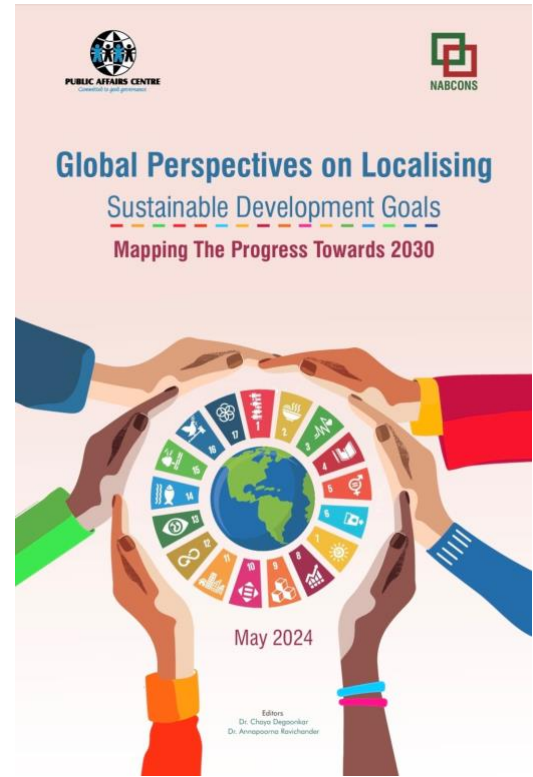
**Editors: Dr. Chaya Degaonkar & Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**

**Publishers: Nabard Consultancy Services (NABCONS) and Public Affairs Centre, Bengaluru, 2024.**

In all global narratives around SDGs in the modern era, three important thoughts emerge while attempting to bring home the real meaning of Sustainable Development:

1. The slow-evolving dimensions of what we need to preserve on earth
2. The “mid-crisis management” act of balancing energy, materials and time
3. The fast-changing world views on true sustainability, based on apparently irreconcilable dominance of perspectives leaning in favour of either environmental, economic or social sustainability

Under this perspective, the present book can be considered an “*exposé*” of sorts of the relevance of present-day approaches to sustainable development in India and Global South countries such as Pakistan, Palestine, Nepal etc. The structure and organisation of the book, is quite simple and straight forward, including chapters mirroring the UN’s descriptors of SDG goals 3,4,5,6,11,13 and 17. The mapping of the content to the targets and indicators of these goals provide an effective drawing board for analysing data, arguments and ground truth. Not only this makes for easy reference to information related to the actual set of goals, it also provides the best compilation of case studies that critically analyse developmental lapses,



gap areas and methodologies for assessing the progress of SDGs in selected countries of the Global South.

The authors of the 8 chapters in the book have provided a wonderful set of SDG use-case histories and valuable quantitative and qualitative information for the reader and learners of SDGs to closely observe the nature of progress. Take for example, the chapter on SDG 4 that critically analyses well-identified, yet unsolved aspects of differential education attainment across various socio-religious groups of India. The very next chapter on SDG 5 in the book captures the true nature of gender challenges and connects it to the lack in approaching progress due to local-scale of the issues across different sectors. These challenges continue to resonate in subsequent chapters related to labour market issues, the climatic and water crises in conflict zones, that go on to influence the true progress of SDG 11 goals for cities and communities. The present book is thus very effective in maintaining the essential thread of interconnectedness across case studies based on multiple SDGs.

On the other hand, the book also provides a much-needed balance of views acknowledging the magnitude of efforts provided by respective governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in target attainment versus their failures. Take for example, the action plan to

ban plastic in Nepal that resonates with similar efforts taken by the Central and State Governments in India. While all efforts have not synergised and synchronised, leading to multi-stage failures in many cases, the learnings from these approaches are the gold mine that the present book has tapped for its readers.

Taking forward the successes whether small or big, and linking them to building climate resilient communities are highlighted in the following chapters, complete with discussions on building beneficial private sector engagements (PSEs) across countries, the criticality of SDG-stakeholderships in solving modern day polycrises and the need to build truly scalable partnerships between the government, industries and communities. Each of the cases presented add the strength to this very central idea of establishing value to SDGs attainment.

The pre-final and final chapters on partnerships adds much knowledge on the need to strengthen contributions of PSEs to SDGs. The final chapter on India's SDG story, provides a strong matrix of reference to the reader on localisation of SDGs, exploring the verticals for transformation mapped to progress from horizontal localisation strategies currently employed across the country by government agency such as NITI Aayog, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as well as industrial partners.

Perhaps the one weakness that occurs to a reader at first-look, could be the non-coverage of cases over the entire SDG spectrum of goals. However, looking deeper, the editors' selection of the goals to be discussed is quite thoughtful to identify the most lagging sectors for many countries in the Global South. By foregoing the need to add a chapter for every SDG, the editors have adequately compensated by providing a wide breadth to authors to present the validity of their arguments for progress of SDGs, the depth of their research, and the rich quality of the evidence presented. Thus, the book also contributes much to its readers from the academic field.

*Does it offer new insights, challenge existing theories, or provide a comprehensive overview?* Yes, and that makes this book unique and essential reading for students, researchers and practitioners of SDGs. These efforts of the editors to cherry-pick best authors to portray the true

picture makes this a very recommendable book and one of my favourite resources as a teacher to teach SDGs in classroom. The present book opens a relevant canvas of important societal theories, insights and findings at a ground level related to the three thought processes described earlier, in search for the true definition of "progress".

To get a copy send an email to - [madhuri.srivastava@nabcons.in](mailto:madhuri.srivastava@nabcons.in)



## Branch Members' Writings In Popular Media



### *Too FAR, too Fast: Where is Bengaluru heading?*

*The Karnataka government's announcement of premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in constructions has stirred a controversy, with urban planners, real estate industry and the public engaged in discussions about the proposal which will have far-reaching consequences on the city and its quality of life.*

In **Deccan Herald** dt. 13 March 2025

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/too-far-too-fast-where-is-bengaluru-heading-3444386>

### *Tale of two Realities: Indians helped make America great but face Prejudice*

*Adding to the glittering list of American Nobel laureates are persons of Indian origin, such as scientists Har Gobind Khorana, S. Chandrasekhar, V. Ramakrishnan, and economist Abhijit Banerjee. Many other eminent intellectuals-- scientists, economists and scholars in various disciplines – serve in American universities.*

In **Deccan Herald** dt. 7 April 2025

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/tale-of-two-realities-indians-helped-make-america-great-but-face-prejudice-3480963>

**Dr. A. Ravindra**, IAS (Retd.)  
Former Chief Secretary of Karnataka



### *The Wonder Years: Nurturing Adolescent Mental Health*

*India is the most populous country but also the youngest, and has the most children and adolescents worldwide, with 35% of the population aged 0 to 19 in 2024. Childhood and adolescence are critical developmental stages for mental health, and the quality of their surroundings affects their well-being and progress.*

In **Deccan Herald** dt. 30 March 2025

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-wonder-years-nurturing-adolescent-mental-health-3469199>

### *Gold, Privilege and Perils of a Limited-Access Society*

*The perception of a two-tiered justice system – one for the elite and another for ordinary citizens – erodes trust in democratic institutions and the fairness of governance.*

In **Deccan Herald** dt. 17 February 2025

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/gold-privilege-and-perils-of-a-limited-access-society-3462534>

**Gurucharan Gollerkeri**, IAS (Retd.)  
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MS Ramaiah University of Applied  
Sciences



## Cellular Jail tells a Cruel History

It was built in 1906 by the British and is a true testament to the sacrifices made by the Indian freedom fighters. It also reflected the cruel approach of the British regime to ensure that the morale and attempts to win freedom by the Indians were destroyed.

In **Meghalaya Monitor** dt. 29 March 2025

<https://meghalayamonitor.com/cellular-jail-tells-a-cruel-history/>

**Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**  
Freelance Consultant



## Trump's Cryptic Quote and the looming Constitutional Crisis

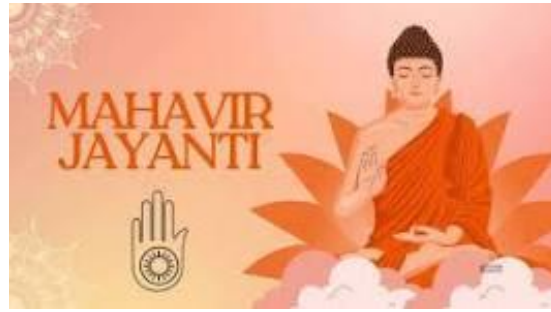
The battle lines seem to have been drawn because Trump appears to be positioning himself above the law and arguing that his actions fall outside the discussions of constitutionality.

In **Deccan Herald** dt. 21 March 2025

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/trump-s-cryptic-quote-and-the-looming-constitutional-crisis-3455788>

**Dr. M.J. Vinod**  
Professor of Political Science  
CHRIST (DTB) University, Bengaluru





### A Celebration of Non-Violence and Self-Discipline

**Mahavir Jayanti** is a significant festival in Jainism, commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira, the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara (spiritual teacher) of the Jain faith. The festival is observed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the Chaitra month in the Hindu calendar, which typically falls in March or April.

#### Key Significance

1. **Birth of Lord Mahavira:** Mahavir Jayanti marks the birth of Lord Mahavira, who is revered for his teachings on non-violence, self-discipline, and spiritual liberation.
2. **Jain Values:** The festival reinforces the core values of Jainism, including *ahimsa* (non-violence), *satya* (truth), *asteya* (non-stealing), *brahmacharya* (celibacy), and *aparigraha* (non-attachment).
3. **Spiritual Reflection:** Mahavir Jayanti is an opportunity for Jains to reflect on their spiritual journey, reaffirm their commitment to the principles of Jainism, and strive for personal growth and self-improvement.
4. **Community Celebrations:** The festival brings together the Jain community, fostering a sense of unity and shared values.

**Mahavir Jayanti is a celebration of the timeless principles of non-violence, self-discipline, and spiritual growth. As Jains come together to honour Lord Mahavira, they reaffirm their commitment to these values, promoting a more harmonious and compassionate world.**



# Editorial Board

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