

Report on

Public Affairs Index-2020

Governance in the States of India

Webinar Co-hosted by



Karnataka Regional Branch



PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION
Partnership for Better Governance

Saturday, November 21, 2020
Bengaluru

Background

With the successful launch of the Public Affairs Index 2020, which received an overwhelming response both from the public and the media Public Affairs Foundation (PAF) and The Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Karnataka Regional Branch co-hosted a webinar on "*Public Affairs Index 2020 Governance in the States of India*" on Saturday, November 21, 2020. The webinar was well received by the audience and attracted nearly 43 participants and was represented by 3 eminent panelists and a moderator, and 3 speakers from the host organisations.

Webinar Session

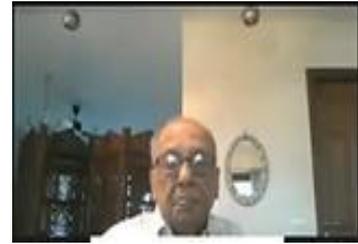
Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander, Executive Director, began the webinar welcoming all. Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary, IIPA-KRB, introduced the chief guest Shri. S. Ramanathan, IAS (Retd.) and Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Karnataka Regional Branch.



Dr. Jeevan began the session by stating that Shri S. Ramanathan is 92 years old and a retired IAS officer who has rendered outstanding and meritorious services in several sectors of Economic Development. Out of his long list of achievements in his entire service, the important positions held by him are Deputy Commissioner of Bijapur, Bellary, Bangalore districts. Secretary of Department of development and cooperation- GoK, Community Development Expert with the Govt. of Afghanistan, Director of projects under Ministry of shipping and Transport Government of India, Joint Secretary-Ministry of civil aviation Government of India, vice-Chairman-Karnataka State Road, Transport Corporation additional secretary economic Affairs Ministry of Finance Government of India and other important position we held was as chairman of the airport Authority of India.

After retiring from service, he also served as Director of the Institute of Public Administration New Delhi for the last 30 years. He is also the Chairman of the IIPA Karnataka Regional branch, which organises seminars, workshops, and other activities on contemporary issues and public administration with particular reference to the policies and programs of the government of Karnataka.

Shri S. Ramanathan began his welcome address by mentioning the good work done by Dr. Samuel Paul, Founder and Chairman of Public Affairs Centre and Public Affairs Foundation and congratulated G. Gurucharan, Director, PAC and team for the commendable work done by them in bringing out PAI 2020.



My congratulations to the research team of PAC headed by Dr. Gurucharan. It's indeed gratifying to see the research team-led by Gurucharan are all women researchers and academics. I have deep sense of appreciation & my congratulations to all of them for bringing out an excellent document - Public Affairs Index report 2020."

He added that PAI 2020 showcases the quality of governance in Indian states, which covers major states, Union territories including smaller states and Northeastern states. The various parameters such as **Sustainability, Growth** and **Equity** have been used for the purposes of studying issues in governance across all states is something very remarkable and it needs wide recognition by the government of India itself.

"I am deeply grateful to Gurucharan, Director of PAC for accepting a request to host a webinar with IIPA on the very important topic Public Affairs Index 2020"



Shri. Sudhakar Rao, Chairman, Public Affairs Foundation gave the Opening Remarks and welcomed all the participants and panelists. He began by stating that it is a privilege to be part of this webinar today along with the IIPA Karnataka."

He added that it is a matter of pride for the Public Affairs Center for publishing the Public Affairs Index (PAI), which has found great acceptability among media, across all states. Its popularity or acceptability has continued to grow year by year and many states started reaching out to PAC's PAI at sectoral level.

Shri. Sudhakar also gave a brief overview of Public Affairs Foundation and its current mandates, while also touching on how PAF and PAC work together to

bring out the research outputs and make it available to the public, evaluating public policy and so on and so forth.

He concluded by stating “We started studying the change year-by-year and the whole idea behind this is to adjust among them, learn and understand what is working for them and what is not working. My compliments to Gurucharan, for keeping the PAI 2020 objective and making it meaningful”.

Gurucharan G, provided an overview of Public Affairs Centre and set the context for the webinar by briefly speaking on Public Affairs Index 2020.



“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 emphasis on more on the performance of more recent years.”

Presentation on PAI 2020



Aparna Sivaraman, Senior Programme Officer and Lead Author for PAI 2020 made a presentation on PAI 2020. She walked the panelists and participants through the methodology and techniques used for data collection to assess different states and rank them based on three pillars **Equity, Sustainability and Growth**.

“There are few comprehensive assessments of governance in the states. The states are the theatres of development action and hence, it is important to understand how states are performing because that's going to tell us how the country's performing as a whole and third and the most important, that we have data”.

She also mentioned that the data for the Index was selected only from central government sources. No data was sourced from any independent state apart from the government website, just to avoid bias in the case of missing data ”.

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 & Uttar Pradesh at the bottom. In terms of small states Goa, Meghalaya, and Himachal Pradesh have been consistent good performers over the past 5 years. In terms of the union territories Chandigarh ranks first and Dadra & Nagar Haveli at the bottom.

Moving to the rankings - interestingly the top five large states are all South Indian States. We have Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh at the top. UP, Bihar, Odisha at the bottom and similar patterns of performances is observed in the small states such as UT.

Panel Discussions

G. Gurucharan began this session as a Moderator. He introduced the panelists and posed some questions to each one of them.

He began by introducing Shri K. Jairaj, IAS Officer (Retd.). Shri Jairaj was the Former Additional Chief Secretary (GOK), Trustee-BMS Educational Trust Chairman, BMS Institute of Technology, Chairman, BMS School of Architecture, Chairman, BMS College of Law. Jairaj is from the 1976 Batch of IAS, Karnataka Cadre and holds 36 years of experience.



Jairaj had the distinction of heading the Bangalore City Corporation as its Commissioner twice.

Growth

Shri K. Jairaj broadly covered the following points with reference to Growth

- All the top performing states in the growth pillar are the South Indian states. What do you think is enabling this? And why?
- In all the three categories of large states, small states and Union Territories, we see that growth is a strong driving force. Similarly, the Delta analysis on the Growth Pillar again sees Bihar, Assam and Odisha turning out to be the best performers while Tamil Nadu in the large states and Himachal Pradesh in the small states category feature in the bottom. What is your view on this?
- Agricultural distress is still a significant problem affecting the performance of small and large states. Why is this problem still persistent even after so many decades of various agricultural programmes?

"I express my gratitude to our esteemed Chief Guest Shri. S. Ramanathan and Dr. Jeevan Kumar for this opportunity; as well as Sudhakar Rao. I commend the leadership taken by Gurucharan for presenting a great report- PAI – that reflects sub-national governance in these times. This occasion is also an appropriate time to remember Dr. Samuel Paul, the Founder of PAC who pioneered governance in India. Today, PAC has acquired enormous respectability that must be entirely owed to the untiring work done by Dr. Samuel Paul," said Dr. Jairaj, IAS (Retd).

Shri Jairaj expressed his views on governance and shared his remarks on responses received by PAI 2020 with the audience and other panel members.

He added that he was extremely grateful for the way PAI model has been constructed with the methodological rigour, sound database verification and a politically unbiased narration in the report. This report has great pointers for action for those serving in Government sectors and describes the essential points. He gave few real time examples which he had come across during his tenure and how these lead to positive change in public services.

"I eagerly reviewed where Karnataka stands in all the three pillars and noticed that Karnataka stands 8th in the equity list, and 2nd in the growth list of large states. In the sustainability list, we have slipped from first place last year to fifth place this year. Well, that is a kind of moderate performance for Karnataka. I'm sure that Karnataka will improve certainly and reach a better place in each of these pillars in the coming years".

In response to the question *Why have the southern states the five southern states topped the growth table? He provided the following reasons:*

1. There has been a broad-based government action in the southern states in all spheres that impact the social fabric of the country, of the state namely health education, water energy and city development
2. Human capital formation and skills, which have taken place, thanks to the good technical and scientific education both in public and private sectors, in all these five states is because of the good educational infrastructure, that has led to continuous growth of human capital formation, which, in turn, led to a number of substantial spin-offs.
3. An important distinguishing factor which states why the southern states are on top compared to the others is the level of technology that is employed. It is evident in Bangalore, which is the science and technology capital of the country. This is also visible in Hyderabad and other parts of South India such as Coimbatore, shows a kind of a propulsion in the growth phenomena of these states
4. The existence of a dynamic private sector is also relevant to growth
5. The quality of leadership that we have in the south over the years to include the vision that our leaders have overwhelming emphasis to deliver good public services stimulates growth.

Equity

Dr. Narendra Pani, Professor, School of Social Sciences, National Institute of Advanced Studies covered the following:

- We see that the performance of indicators related to crimes and female worker population ratio have had significant impact on the SDGs that have been taken into account for PAI 2020. How do you think are they going to impact development in the long run?
- In the Delta Analysis, for the Equity pillar, traditionally poor performing states of Bihar and Odisha have come up to be the top performers, while traditionally good performing states of Kerala and Maharashtra feature towards the bottom of the rankings. Why do you think this has happened?
- In the context of the States of the states we see that the Equity Pillar is widely affected by the indicators of unemployment, state GDP, safely managed drinking water facilities. How do you view this interlinkage between equity, growth and sustainability?
- PAI 2019 and 2020 have pointed to wide inequalities between states. How will this impact the country's attainment of the SDG Agenda 2030?
- Equity parameters are not observed to be a driving force in the case of small states and Union Territories. What is your take on the impact of this for these states?

G. Gurucharan next introduced Dr. Narendar Pani by stating that he is a well-known academician and has spoken at several fora.

Dr. Pani emphasised 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's no place in these groups for women. He also touched upon how labour rights existed earlier and slowly disappeared.



"It's transactional if you like and it's very difficult to have a set of norms that you put in place as a result of which there is an increase in crime that we can see it as a governance issue as an administrative issue, but is precisely an issue of crime, which is highlighted in PAI report."

Sustainability

G. Gurucharan introduced Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor, Jain (Deemed-to-be) University.

Dr. Priyanca Mathur broadly spoke on the following

- In this year's PAI report, all the top performers in the sustainability pillar are not South Indian states, a feature observed in PAI 2020. Do you think that these states may have compromised in terms of sustainability to focus on Equity and Growth?
- What are the differentiators in the states of Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Goa that is leading them towards being the top performers in the Delta Analysis. If yes, should other states also consider such measures?
- How do you envisage the sustainability pillar to be a driving force for development? How should the states be looking to better their performance in this pillar?



Dr. Mathur began by stating that she was honoured and privileged to be in this esteemed webinar and congratulated G. Gurucharan *and his stellar team for their excellent evidence based assessment of human development and governance across the states in India*

She responded to the questions on have the states have compromised in terms of sustainability to focus on equity and growth. How does she envisage the sustainability pillar to be the driving force for development and how should the states 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. There has been a concomitant rise in cumulative inequity, which has adversely affected human capital accumulation in the backward States and especially the disadvantaged populations. And which is why I think so the strength of this report lies in its detailed cross state analysis".

She added that fuel is a very important indicator for sustainability and clean energy. Tamil Nadu is among the top three in sustainability and bottom three in growth now. It has seen an increase in growth and sustainability. But there is a decline in equity and the indicators where the stage is amongst the top three are usage of renewable energy, fiscal performance, school outcomes, increase in child sex ratio and reduced infant mortality rate. Presently these are the straight indicators. The PAI Sustainability Index and the equity indicators where the state of Goa is in the top three again the lessons lie here in the large proportion of its population that are covered by social protection. It's a top performer in institutional deliveries immunisation and a good performer in the percentage of households using clean cooking fuel and solid waste management. *"So when we look into the future ahead and concretely into what suggestions and recommendations we have we can see that the problem perhaps lies in the imposition of the doctrine of that 'one-size-fits-all' this actually is in you know contrary to the principle and philosophy of the doctrine of 'objective to realism'.*

Dr. Mathur continued that currently the societal and individual trends are maximising material progress or wealth completely and intrinsically stands in contradiction with any vision of a sustainable development. So, what's really important for the Central or State government is to look at their prerequisites of governance such as improving the regulatory quality, and look at growth in

terms of government effectiveness and not just distribution. Also, bringing a rise in private incomes which are not garnered as resources.

“We need to focus on human rights development, sustainability, growth and inequity. The important one that needs to be addressed is the gender inequity.”

Conclusion

The webinar ended with concluding remarks and recommendations from the eminent list of panelists. Key points included:

K. Jairaj shared:

- 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 & PAC are doing and how the state government can make use of it

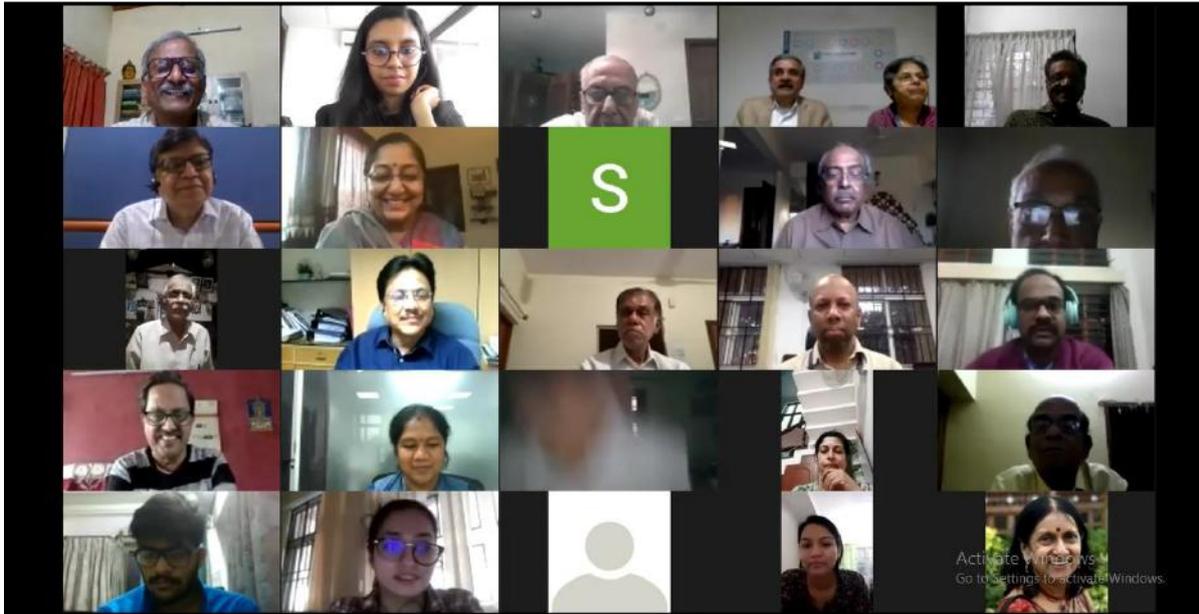
Dr. Pani shared:

- Bring out the PAI report along with a companion report that highlights causes for processes that have led to issues in the development process. This would be very rich and very rewarding.
- Take a sectoral view while preparing the report particularly agriculture.

Dr. Mathur mentioned:

- Include gender equality since, it links renewable energy and forest cover
- Focus on the SDGs (11,12,13,14 and 15) and other holistic ones which are dealing with the environment
- Include more sustainability needs to be the base because, if we are not taking care of our environment, planet growth and equity we will all just crumble and fall
- Identify more foundational pillars in addition to the existing ones
- Do not forget that there needs to be axiomatic synergy between these three pillars for government for any developmental perspective.

"We need definite growth but perhaps a different model of growth we need equity which looks at all kinds of inequalities, gender inequality and sustainability. Because at the end of the day we need to look at sustainable consumption and production where we are doing more and better with less. So that we have a better planet that we leave behind for our next generation."



To receive a copy of the PAI 2020 Report:

1. Log on to www.pacindia.org
2. Download a Google Form (available on the Homepage)
3. Submit the completed form
4. On verification you will receive a copy of the report

To watch the virtual event of the launch, click the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWxTEN9bNUo&feature=youtu.be>



Karnataka Regional Branch



PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOUNDATION
Partnership for Better Governance