

- Documenting the best practices of Women Members and the issues and problems faced by EWRs.
- The functioning of the newly constituted planning committees at the taluk, district and at the state level.
- Role of technology in Decentralization in bringing innovation and transparency in administration.
- Role of PRIs in Tackling of Covid-19 by creating awareness, providing PPE kits, food and sanitizer kits, employment opportunity under MGNREGA and NRLM Schemes etc.

### Seminar Guidelines:

Submission of Abstracts and Papers:

A. The abstract of the Seminar should be submitted by **21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022** along with

following details:

1. Title of the seminar paper

2. The text should be about 500 words in MS Word format, abstract should have research issues, objectives, methodology, findings and conclusions.

B. The committee will have a look at the abstracts and inform the authors of the selected abstracts by **23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022**.

C. All papers should be in a single word document (the total size of the papers should be of maximum 12 pages in A-4 size in Times New Roman with font size 12).

D. The final and full-length papers should be submitted by **8<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**. Abstract and paper should be sent to email to [n.billava@gmail.com](mailto:n.billava@gmail.com), or, [nsn.cmdr@gmail.com](mailto:nsn.cmdr@gmail.com)

### Important dates:

**Last date of submission of abstract: 21-10-2022**

**Intimation of acceptance of abstract: 23-10-2022**

**Last date of submission of full paper: 08-11-2022**

**Travel and Accommodation:** All selected paper contributors will be provided with travel allowance (round trip II AC train fair/ Bus Fare) only and

Honorarium subject to submission of original research paper. Needless to mention that local hospitality would be provided to the participants. There will not be any registration fee for paper presenters.

### About CMDR, Dharwad

The Centre for Multi-disciplinary Development Research (CMDR) has been functioning since 1976 as an autonomous non-profit research organisation. The ICSSR, New Delhi, recognized CMDR as a national level research institute for social science research in 1990. The aims and objectives of the Centre include conducting research on issues of socio-economic development, and decentralised planning at the sub-regional, regional and national levels in a multi-disciplinary framework, covering economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of human behaviour. CMDR also regularly organises capacity building programmes, research methodology workshops and Ph.D. programmes in Social Sciences. CMDR has now emerged as an active Think Tank of North Karnataka.

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## Two Day State Level Seminar on Panchayat Raj Institutions in Karnataka: Problems, Challenges and Prospects

**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, November 2022**

Sponsored by

**Indian Council of Social Science  
Research (ICSSR), New Delhi**



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Development Research (CMDR)**

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### **Seminar Concept Note:**

India's tryst with decentralisation effectively began with the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution which opened a new chapter in the history of Panchayati Raj. Set in this context, the proposed regional seminar makes an attempt to take a close look at similar tryst with decentralisation in the State of Karnataka as this would give a clear picture about the stand and steps taken by the State Government is committed to translate the 'blue print', as enshrined in the 73rd Amendment and also in eleventh schedule of the Constitution, into a reality. In Karnataka there have been efforts to redesign PRIs keeping in view the broad framework of the 73rd Amendment. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 provides for a three-tier structure of Panchayati Raj with Zilla Panchayats (at the district level), Taluk Panchayats (at the Taluk level) and Gram Panchayats (at the village level). In its preamble, the 1993 Act resolves to promote greater participation of the people and ensuring more effective implementation of rural development programmes. It is significant to note that the Karnataka Government is moving towards deepening democracy with 'The Path to Gram Swaraj in Karnataka' by bringing comprehensive amendments to the Karnataka panchayat Raj Act, 1993 to reinvigorate and rejuvenate functioning of panchayats at all levels of the PR system. More importantly, the new amendment is a move towards strengthening the organisational and institutional process by creating support systems and ensuring the autonomy of PRIs. The amended Act is renamed as "The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993" and it incorporates Directive Principles of Panchayat Policy to make it explicit the values of Grama Swaraj and through this to make "Gram Swarajya", dream of Mahatma Gandhi, in to a reality". The novel Coronavirus-19 has spread in almost all countries and WHO has considered it as a COVID-19 pandemic disease. It has affected multiple sectors

and adversely impacted the life of the people, both in urban and rural areas. In rural areas, it is the responsibility of the Panchayats, particularly of the Gram Panchayats to manage and coordinate responses to the pandemic, with the support of line departments, civil society organizations and local people. PRIs in Karnataka have been assigned with the responsibility of coordinating and monitoring several activities at the ground level in management of the pandemic since April 2020.

### **Focus of the Seminar:**

The Government of Karnataka has made an effort to take PRIs towards attaining the spirit of Article 243 G of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, as 'institutions of self-government' and, for engaging themselves in promoting economic development in the rural areas and also ensuring social justice in distributing the benefits of development to all the sections of society, a step towards deepening democracy. Although, we have completed 27 years of journey, still there are structural and functional necessities and also inbuilt intricacies concerning devolving functions, functionaries and funds, in a way seen as obstacles for the effective working of panchayats in the state. Meanwhile, there are positive aspects of the panchayats' governance which need to be documented by undertaking studies. When it comes to the functioning of panchayats there are regional variations and this can be seen both in terms of positive and negative ones. With this intention, the proposed regional seminar aims at discussing and documenting the field level experiences related to working of panchayats by inviting papers on the themes listed below from the academicians, administrators, experienced political leaders and research scholars. This seminar also focuses on the roles and responsibilities that have been assigned to PRIs for managing COVID-19-related issues.

### **Theme and Sub-themes of the Seminar:**

- The status of 3Fs (devolution of functions, funds and functionaries) with regard to carving out an autonomous functional jurisdiction of individual panchayats at different levels based on rigorous activity mapping of local level governments.
- Absorption capacity of the Panchayats in addressing the assigned responsibilities and functions and more specifically the management of grants and funds.
- Delivery of services for which panchayats are exclusively responsible for preparing and implementing 29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule.
- Ratios between untied funds (own source revenue plus flow of untied funds) and tied funds for execution of agency functions.
- Mechanism and trends in funds allocation and utilization in the context of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission recommendations.
- Review of panchayat personnel system, including the recruitment to and control over staff and the relationship between functionaries of three-tiers.
- Administrative leadership and functional relationship between elected non-officials and officials at all the three levels of Panchayats.
- People's participation in local planning and other activities of Panchayats: role of gram sabha, ward sabha and other participatory platforms.
- Effect of reservation in enhancing and deepening participation
- Local governance: Division of responsibilities between Panchayats and line departments
- Formal and informal relationships between different tiers of panchayats, and other grassroots organizations such as CSOs, NGOs, Youth Clubs, SHGs.
- Accountability mechanism including evaluation of functioning of Ombudsman, jamabandhi and social auditing systems.