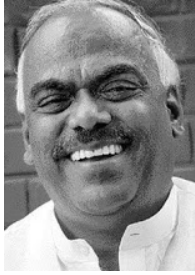


THE KARNATAKA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT AMENDMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON



KANADAM RAMAIAH RAMESH KUMAR, a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and former Speaker was born in Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District. Influenced by Karl Marx as a young boy, he has practised a 'left' ideology and relentlessly served his constituency for more than 35 years. Born into an agricultural family he still farms for a living, and is a linguist, nature lover and connoisseur of music. A strong critic of the failures in our system, he supports his stands with threadbare analysis. He believes in the capacity of people to take their own decisions, respects and honours their right to self governance and is a staunch believer in complete devolution and Panchayat Raj.

CORE COMMITTEE CHAIR



C. NARAYANASWAMY, a former MP from Bangalore North, born in an agricultural family, is an authority on rural development, Panchayat Raj and decentralization. He has worked with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer and Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He has been synonymous with the evolution of Panchayat Raj in Karnataka. A lawyer by profession, he has represented the cause of farmers and served Karnataka in several political and administrative positions. As President of Bangalore Rural Zilla Parishad, he introduced innovative programs that won him State and National Awards. He also conducts training programs on the subject for senior officials and elected representatives.

CORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



H. D. AMARANATHAN is a practising Advocate, specialised in Constitutional Law and Panchayat Raj Institutional Affairs. He has handled several cases related to election matters and Constitutional provisions. He was a Non Official Director of the Vishweshwaraiah Gramina Bank of Mandya District from 1986 – 2001 and is presently a Member of the Academic Council of the Karnataka State Law University. Specialised in Legislative Drafting he has helped shape several Bills and Legislations and drafted Rules and Regulations and By-laws. He is an authority on legal history and precedents.



G. C. BYYAREDDY is one of the leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Vice President of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha. He hails from Chintamani, Chikaballapur District. Son of freedom fighter G. S. Chowdappa, he was the State President of the Student Federation of India and an activist of the Kissan Sabha. Hailing from a rural background he is familiar with the problems faced by villages and concerned with the neglect of rural infrastructure. He is committed to strengthening Panchayats to meet the needs of the rural population to obtain the basic amenities that urban centres enjoy. He sees devolution and Panchayat Raj as a means to this end.



M. CHANDRA POOJARY is a Professor at the Folklore University, Haveri, whose present area of research is the 'Theory and Practice of Development' including Local Governance with special reference to Panchayat Raj System. The author of several major publications and research articles among which are Deshiyateya Nerallally Vikendrikarana and Samudaya mattu Sahabhagitva, he has participated in numerous national and international forums. His 'Peoples Plan or Participatory Planning' – a method of participatory planning has been refined and used by the State Institute of Rural Development, Karnataka.

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D. R. PATIL was a former member of the Zilla Parishad, Dharwad and Member of the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka is from Hulikote, Gadag constituency. He studied to be a Mechanical Engineer and since 1979 has headed several Cooperatives in the State and Centre. He began his political career as a Member of the Dharwad Zilla Parishad and is now the General Secretary of the KPCC Bangalore. He has represented his constituency as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1992 to 2007. Deeply committed to devolution and Panchayat Raj since the 1980's, he has been personally responsible for shaping several affirmative legislations in this regard.



NANDANA REDDY is a social and political activist and the Convenor of the Karnataka Gram Panchayat Hakkothaya Andolana and the founder of the Concerned for Working Children that was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Born into a Socialist family, she is also a trade unionist and writer, and the author of the Child Labour [Employment, Regulation, Training and Development] Bill, 1985. She served as the Chairperson of the International Working Group on Child Labour facilitating studies in 36 countries to recommend strategies to address child labour and is also a national and international consultant and designer of capacity building programmes.



VENKATRAO YESHWANTRAO GHORPADE, educated in India and the US, is the brother of late M. Y. Ghorpade, Finance and RDPR Minister, Karnataka. An electronics engineer, he established electronic industries in Sandur to provide local employment. He is on the Governing Council of the Sandur Education Society that runs schools and technical institutes. A promoter of Cooperative Banking, he established the first 'Mahila Bank'. He served as the Zilla Panchayat President, Bellary District, and is now the Secretary of the KPCC.

MEMBERS

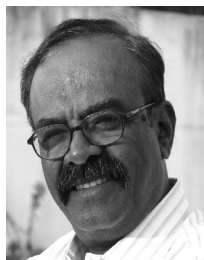


ALLAMA PRABHU PATIL, a member of the Legislative Council of Karnataka representing Gulbarga Local Authorities Constituency, was a member of the KPCC 2010 Campaign and Manifesto Committee. He has served his District as President of the Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat, District Congress General Secretary, President and Member of the University Academic Council, Member of the Central Jail Selection Committee, Public Accounts Committee and is the General Secretary of the Indo China Friendship Association. He is the President of the Karnataka Horticultural Federation Baglur, is now the Mandal Panchayat Pradan, Nelogi, Jewargi Taluk, and member of the Mahela Makkala Samathi.



AMARSINH VASANTRAO PATIL, is a son of the late Vasanthrao Patil who was known as the 'Tiger of Raibag' and a Cabinet Minister during the Devraj Urs and Ramkrishna Hegde governments. Amarsinh was a Zilla Panchayat President from Belgaum District from 1987 to 1993. He hails from Bekkeri, Talluk Raibag, Distict Belgavi and has represented his constituency in the Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2003. He obtained a LLM from the University of Cambridge and became a Barrister at Law, Middle Temple. As a student he was a Fellow of the Cambridge Common Wealth Society [London].

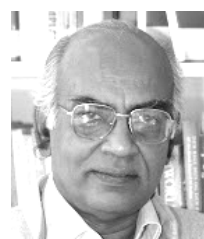
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T. R. CHANDRASEKHARA is a retired Professor of the Department of Development Studies, Kannada University, Hampi. With a PhD in Economics his area of specialisation is Development, Human Development and Gender, he is the author of several Research Papers and his Publications include Development Ideas of Amartya Sen and Gender Relations and Development. Now he is a member of the Quality Monitoring Group, DHDR, Planning Department, Government of Karnataka. He has won several awards including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Book Award, 2000, the Kavyananda Puraskara and the Charaka Development Journalism Award.



CYNTHIA STEPHEN is an Independent Researcher and Trainer with a special focus on Gender, Poverty, Development and the Rights of women and children and the marginalised sectors. With a special interest in the political empowerment of women she has published many papers and articles on Social Policy in national and international journals. Till March 2014, she was the State Programme Director of Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, a Government of India project for the Empowerment of Women through Education.



GEORGE MATHEW is the Founder Director and Chair of the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. A PhD in Sociology from JNU he was a Visiting Fellow and Professor at Univ. of Chicago and Padova respectively. A Fulbright Scholar and member of several national committees, national and international boards, he is currently specialising in systems of local government, decentralisation and gender equity. Author of several articles and research papers, he won the National Best Film Award for 'Swaraaj: The Little Republic', a strong depiction of women's empowerment in rural India.



F. H. K. JAKKAPPANAVAR, a strong Ambedkerite was the Executive Vice President of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. He hails from Navalli Village, Navalgund Taluk of Dharwad District, is the son of a freedom fighter. A national labour leader promoting reservations for the SC/ST he has founded several quality education institutions from primary to the degree level and Credit Cooperative Societies for the deprived classes, he is an advocate for the equality among all Indians with the theory and practice of inclusive growth.



T. JANARDHAN HULIGI, son of T. Satyanarayana, hails from Huligi, Munirabad and was the Zilla Panchayat President, Koppal District and is now a Member. While he was the President he facilitated the construction of 54,000 individual toilets in his District, the first to do so in the State. He was a Member of the Mandal Panchayat, President of the Youth Club, President of the Water Users Co-operative Society and President of the Salar Jung Sugar Mills Worker's Union. He was intensely involved with the struggle for the implementation of land reforms in Karnataka and believes that local governments should have a greater level of autonomy.



K. S. PUTTANNAIH, born in Kyathanahalli Village, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District is a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Melukote, and the President of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha. A Graduate from Banumaiah College, as a student he empathised with the suffering of farmers and bonded labourers and eventually entered politics as a member of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha. He is also the Acting President for Karnataka Sarvodaya Paksha. He first contested the Assembly Elections in 1994 and got elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Pandavapura constituency.

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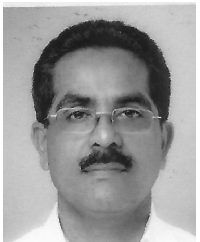
QUAZI ARSHAD ALI, a former Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from 2004 to 2006 representing the Bidar Constituency, is the President of the District Congress Committee Bidar and took charge on 2013. A journalist by profession, a prolific reader and writer, he is the editor of the Hindi daily Bidar Ki Awaaz and the Urdu daily Surkh Zameen. He is the recipient of the Rajyothsava and Press Academy Awards. A leader of the Muslim community, he has been promoting the cause of the minorities through his writings and publications.



T. R. RAGHUNANDAN is an international consultant and advisor on anti corruption and decentralised public governance. He has more than twenty six years of experience as a high ranking civil servant (IAS) and specialises in formulating policy regarding local governments, decentralisation and anti-corruption and also offers training and mentoring on these subjects. His passion is restoring vintage cars and he collects and restores antiques. As Director and co-founder of Avantika Foundation, he is building the Museum of Movement, to showcase India's romance with transport.



SHANTAMMA M. GUJJAL is a former Zilla Panchayat President from Dharwad and has come up through the ranks through dedication and hard work. She was first a Mandal Pradhan and then the President of the Shirakol Gram Panchayat. Very active in the Mahila Congress, she is now a member of the Hubli-Dharwad Corporation District Congress Committee. Winner of the Devaraj Urs Award for the best Zilla Panchayat President in Karnataka in 1999, she has also helped to promote the cooperative movement and supported several civil society organizations.



T. BALACHANDRA SHETTY, an Advocate by profession, was born in Tallur Village of Kundapura Taluk. He was a member of the Kundapura Taluk Panchayat and served as its Vice President. He was instrumental in organising the Karnataka State Federation of Taluk Panchayat Presidents and Vice Presidents and served as its state president. He trains members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and is actively involved in the Karnataka Gram Panchayat Hakkothaya Andolana and the activities of The Concerned for Working Children (NGO). He is a Notary Public appointed by Govt. of India.



SUSHIL KUMAR BHIMAPPA BELAGALI hails from a family of freedom fighters and the grandson of Rayappa and Gangavva Belagali. He is Director of several Cooperative Banks, was the Vice President of the Bagalakot Zilla Panchayat and the District Vice-President and General Secretary of the Youth Congress. He is an executive member of the Jamakhandi Dalit Committee, Honorary President of the Jamakhandi Taluk Rural Development Institute and Director of the Farmers Welfare Committee. He was a member of the District, Taluk and Zilla Panchayat election committee for the Congress Party.

MEMBER SECRETARY



G. DAKSHINA MOORTHY is specialised in Industrial and Administrative Law and holds an M. Phil in Labour Studies. An Advocate and Consultant, was a member of the Bangalore Bar. A Former District Judge and Former Secretary to Government in the Karnataka Department of Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation he has worked on several Joint Select Committees, Select Committees and Subordinate Legislation Committee and Legislature Committees. He is also a former First Director, Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform, a Government of Karnataka Initiative.