

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE KARNATAKA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1993

- The focus is 'development' within the frame of 'social justice' for all. Planning based on the 'priority ranking' matrix and bottom-up.
- Habitation Sabha, Ward Sabha and Gram Sabhas have been particularly recognised and their powers and functions have been clearly defined.
- Gram Sabha to be the basic unit of self-governance at the village level.
- A separate Gram Sabha to finalise plans and programs for:
 - a) Empowerment of ST/SC and
 - b) Women's and Children's welfare and empowerment
- Gram Panchayat area to be between 10000 – 15000 population.
- Villages near the Taluk borders to be attached to the nearest Gram Panchayat and treated as an ' Extension Panchayat'.
- Size of the Gram Panchayat to be between 9 and 25 elected members with each member representing a population of 600 and every constituency having a single member.
- Delimitation of areas and reservation of seats shall be vested with the State Election Commission (SEC).
- Reservations to be announced 45 days in advance of the issue of public notification for the elections.
- State funding of elections at all three levels – Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat.
- Rotation of seats once in ten years (two terms) for all categories and for all tiers – Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat.
- The term of office of Adhyakshas and Upadhyakshas is co-terminus with the term of the Panchayat – 5 years for all three tiers, namely, Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat.

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- Resignation of Adhyakshas and Upadhyakshas only on proven ill-health or incapacity to be certified by a competent authority approved by the State Election Commission.
- No-confidence motions against the Adhyakshas or Upadhyakshas cannot be moved for the first 30 months and thereafter no confidence motion shall be moved only on specific allegations of misuse or abuse of power or authority.
- Special attention to set an enabling environment for the more than 50% women elected to Panchayats to function in freedom and dignity and also to protect women working in Panchayat Raj Institutions from harassment and abuse.
- To set up a separate cadre of service to be called 'The Karnataka Panchayat Administrative Service' to meet the human resource needs of Panchayat Raj Institutions [PRIs].
- All the Panchayats in the three tiers shall have a uniform staff pattern consisting of 'Chief Secretaries', who shall function as administrative heads of the respective Panchayats.
- The CEO of a ZP, the EO of a Taluk Panchayat and PDO of a GP shall carry the designations as Chief Secretaries of the concerned Panchayats in the respective tiers.
- To set up an independent Board – Karnataka Panchayat Services Board- for defining the policies governing human resource development for PRIs.
- The Service Board to suggest changes required in various administrative rules, government orders, notifications and circulars in force; prepare and issue rules to be applicable to the Panchayat Administrative Services.

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- Government shall devolve and transfer the funds required to meet the staff salaries under non-plan, along with the functionaries to be transferred and vested in the Panchayats.
- At the Taluk level to set up a TPDC (Taluk Planning and Development Committee) for planning and development.
- TPDC Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha (who is one among the Adhyakshas of the Gram Panchayat in the Taluk) to be ex-officio members of the DPC (District Planning Committee) – two members from each Taluk.
- To have a separate Commissionerate or a Directorate of Panchayat to facilitate the smooth functioning of PRIs.
- To set up and cooperative bank for women at the Taluk level, and nominate 3 women members of the Taluk Panchayat as ex-officio directors on the bank.
- The 'Right to Recall' elected members of the Gram Panchayats by the State Election Commission lies with the Ward Sabha, who against a complaint filed by the Ward Sabha, where 50% of all the members are present and voting and 2/3 of those present, vote in favour of the resolution can impose penalties including removal from membership.
- The transfer of funds shall be commensurate with the transfer of functions and responsibilities, which shall not be less than 30% of the plan allocation of the State budget out of which not less than 50% shall be in the form of untied grants, based on a formula suggested by the State Finance Commission that takes into consideration parameters such as, size, population and backwardness of the Panchayat.
- To set up a 'District Panchayat Tribunal' as a dispute settlement mechanism of the Panchayats and the citizens in the area.
- To establish a 'Karnataka State Decentralised Planning and Development Board' to enable the State government to formulate development plans

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for the Panchayats. This Board will be chaired by the Planning minister and the co-chairmen shall be the RDPR minister along with the Urban Development Minister.

- To constitute a 'Karnataka Panchayat Raj Administrative and Technical Service Board' under the Chairmanship of the CM for capacity building of PRIs and its functionaries.

- The State Government shall make a budgetary allocation of funds necessary for capacity building of elected members and staff of all three tiers of Panchayats by imparting the required knowledge, attitude and skills to fulfil their responsibilities.