

International Journal of

# Political Science

January - June 2019  
Volume 5 Number 1

---

## Contents

---

### *Original Article*

- Disaster Management in India : Paradigm Shift in Public Policy 5  
M.R. Biju, M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha

### *Review Articles*

- India in Indian Ocean: Emerging Strategic Dynamics and Power Game 17  
Arunoday Bajpai
- India's 29<sup>th</sup> State: Telangana 31  
K. Kamala
- Decentralisation, Development and Governance in the Indian Federal Context 45  
M.R. Biju, M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha
- Minorities' Rights in India: An Appraisal 73  
Tanvi Yadav, Nagendra Ambedkar Sole
- Guidelines for Authors 79

## Decentralisation, Development and Governance in the Indian Federal Context

M.R. Biju<sup>1</sup>, M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

The new Panchayati Raj is opening up possibilities for a better flow of information and power and the dominant classes kept the ordinary people in the dark. Transparency in public dealings was missing because everything official was secret and confidential. Panchayats come to break this centralized information system when 30 lakh elected members ask for information on a variety of matters that affect people's lives. By all indicators northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are lagging behind in terms of social development. One of the reasons for this is the absence of social reforms movement that several other parts of the country have had from time to time. This historical gap could be filled by panchayats through motivation of the people to take charge of their own lives. At the threshold of the 21st century the new panchayats have the capacity to turn a new leaf in the life of the village of these states. Resistance will be high, it could even be violent; but democratization is a process that cannot be stopped by such outbursts. Once people taste power, they would yield to none. Unfortunately, forces against devolution of powers to the Panchayats as well as strengthening democracy at the grassroots are still powerful. One can discern deliberate attempts on the part of the vested interests supporting the status quo to create skepticism about the working of the local governments. Constructive criticism or creative action is absent. But the new Panchayati Raj showing the way. A strong campaign to make panchayats the integral part of people's life is the need of the hour. The process is irreversible. This is the second chance to restructure the Indian polity and Democracy

**Keywords:** Development; Democracy; Governance; Federalism.

### How to cite this article:

M.R. Biju & M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha, Decentralisation, Development and Governance in the Indian Federal Context  
International Journal of Political Science 2019,5(1) 45-71

These village republics have been the ruination of India and that they are a sink of localism, a den of ignorance, narrow-mindedness and communalism.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Constituent Assembly debates Dtd 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1948

### Authors Affiliation:

<sup>1</sup>Vis. School of Social Sciences and Head, Dept. of Public Administration and Policy Studies, Central University of Kerala, Kasargod, Kerala 695034, India. Deputy Editor, South Asian Journal of Socio-Political Studies, Jayam, 399-A, Vaidyanala Nagar, Asramom (Post), Kollam, Kerala 691 002, India.

### Corresponding Author:

M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha

Deputy Editor, South Asian Journal of Socio-Political Studies, Jayam, 399-A, Vaidyanala Nagar, Asramom (Post), Kollam, Kerala 691 002, India.

Email: [anjanpadmanabha@coo.com](mailto:anjanpadmanabha@coo.com)

Received on 02.01.2019 Accepted on 04.02.2019

Through the aforesaid remarks, Dr. Ambedkar might have summarized the condition of the village communities too sharply. What is significant here is to guard against a romantic view of the ancient village system of governance, especially in relation to the values of equality and democracy. Countering Dr. Ambedkar's aforesaid arguments against panchayats, Madhava Rau of Mysore had said 'it is true, some villages are chronically faction-ridden and indulge in petty tyrannies, or remain the strongholds of untouchability. A considerable number are pathetic or even moribund. However, he insisted that even if 30 percent could be classed as good, they could not be ignored. He quoted the example of the efforts being made by the then popular government in Mysore as "encouraging and, in some cases, quite gratifying." The argument of those who pleaded for the inclusion of village panchayats in the constitution finally prevailed, albeit in a modest measure. They managed to get