KARNATAKA INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY REFORM BENGALURU

105

DRAFT MODEL BILLS

Volume-III

COMPILED BY : PROF. C. S. PATIL

From Director's Desk

A meeting of experts was held under the Chairmanship of Sri.H.K.Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs andLegislation and Tourism, who is also Vice President of KILPAR to decide upon the activities which the institute has to take up on priority. Undertaking research in to the problems of the society where there are no laws or laws are not satisfactory and suggest new legislation and law reforms to be adopted was one of the activities which was recommended to be taken up immediately. The Director was tasked with the responsibility of contacting the legal experts, both professionals and academicians and call a meeting. The meeting was held on 21-2-2025. It was presided over by Sri.H.K.Patil, Hon'ble Law Minister. He emphasised that KILPAR through research teams constituted for the purpose should undertake review of laws made by the government, make suggestions of new laws to be enacted and take guidance from judgements. The Minister observed that Model Bills Banks should be created, draft Bills should be posted on the website, it should come to the public domain so that there can be public debate on them. A target of preparing 100 draft Bills was set. Ten research teams with principal investigators were constituted to undertake the exercise. The modalities to be followed by the teams were also circulated.

Accordingly the Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform embarked upon the project of drafting Model Bills in socially relevant areas and keep them ready for adoption whenever necessary. The objective was to address problems afflicting the contemporary society and provide remedy. Subsequently two meetings of the research teams were conducted on 27th and 28th February 2025 to narrow down upon the areas where new legislations and law reform are necessary. The research teams conducted research in their chosen areas and submitted their research reports along with draft Bills to KILPAR. These drafts were considered by a Committee consisting of Sri.G.Sridhar, Secretary to the Government, Department of Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, GOK, Sri.K.L.Ashok, Additional Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Human Rights, GOK and Prof.C.S.Patil, Director KILPAR in four meetings and approved with suggestions to make minor changes. A total of 104 Draft Bills are compiled team-wise and submitted herewith.

Bengaluru (C.S.Patil)
24-10-2025 Director

Acknowledgements

The patronage of Sri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, and the President, KILPAR enables us in the institution to undertake path breaking research activities. The leadership provided Sri.H.K.Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, who is also Vice President of KILPAR and his invaluable directions, suggestions and contributions through valuable discourses in the meetings has gone a long way in successfully completing the drafting of 105 Bills of social relevance, by ten Research Teams in a time bound manner. But for their support, undertaking a research activity and drafting of Bills of this scale would have been impossible. We place on record our gratitude to both of them.

Sri.G.Sridhar, Secretary to Government, Department of Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, Government of Karnataka, Sri.K.L.Ashok, Additional Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Government of Karnataka have stood with KILPAR through out till the completion of the task. The institute is beholden to them for the cooperation and guidance. We are grateful to Dr. Shivputra Baburao, KSAS, P.S. to the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation for the encouragement extended.

The research teams consisted of Ms. Maitreyi Krishnan., Advocate, All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ), Sri. L. Muralidhar Peshwa., Advocate, All India Lawyers Union, Sri. B M Sunil Kumar., Advocate, Dr. Sapna, Dean, Christ University School of Law, Bengaluru, Ms. Sawmya Suresh, Christ University School of Law, Bengaluru, Dr. Davis Panadan, Principal, Christ Academy School Of Law, Bengaluru, Dr. K.B. Kempe Gowda, Principal, Vivekananda Law College, Bengaluru, Dr. Sanjeeve Gowda G.S., Assistant Professor, V.V.Pura Law College, Bengaluru, Dr. Sandeep Desai, Dean, Amity Law School, Bengaluru, Sri. Vasanth Aditya J., Kreetam Law Associates, Bengaluru, Smt. Renuka, Kreetam Law Associates, Bengaluru, Sri. Shashikanth Karoshi, Advocate, Belagavi, Dr. Jagadish S. Halashetti, Advocate, Bengaluru, Dr. S.V. Jogarao, Advocate, Legalexcel Attorneys, Bengaluru, Dr. Shyam Kishore, Dean, Alliance University, Bengaluru and Sri. Y.G. Muralidharan, Chairman, CREAT, Bengaluru who shouldered the responsibility of conducting research and drafting the Bills. While these experts played the lead role, they were assisted by Ms. Anjana Rajsri, Ms. Pratyusha M.S., Dr.Gopi Ranganath, Dr. Chaitra V., Dr. Nandu Sam Jose, Dr. Nirun R.N., Mr. Priyank Jagawanshi, Dr Anjana Prasad S., Dr. Asha

P. Soman, Ms. Divya Sethia, Ms. Sinsa Elizabeth Sunny, Mr. Adrien.S, Dr. Chindhu Joseph, Christ Academy Institute Of Law, Bengaluru, Dr. Sini John, Dr. Irfan Rasool Najar, Ms.Shantala Matti, Mr.Sachin S. Patil, Mr. Ravindra A. Gunjale, Mr.Kaushik S. Karegoudar, Mr.Abhishek B. G., Mr. Bharath Y. J. and Mr.Vishal B. Banne in their respective reams. The KILPAR acknowledges their contribution with gratitude.

The efforts of Dr. Revaiah Odeyar, Research Head (Parliamentary Affairs), KILPAR and Mr.Sreedhara K.S., Research Head (Law) shouldered the responsibility of getting the draft Bills arranged and bound in the form of volumes are appreciated. The assistance of all the staff members of KILPAR throughout this project is well appreciated.

Bengaluru
Date: 24-10-2025 C. S. Patil

The Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform (KILPAR), Bengaluru

105 Draft Model Bills

THE KARNATAKA PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORISED PRACTICE OF LAW (FAKE ADVOCATES) BILL, 2025

A bill to combat the menace of fake advocates who undermine the integrity of the legal system by practising without proper qualification or enrolment, leading to exploitation of litigants and erosion of public trust.

A bill to prohibit the practice of law by unauthorized persons, to protect the interests of litigants, to maintain the dignity of the legal profession, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth year Republic of the India as follows;-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called as the Karnataka Prohibition of Fake Advocates Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Advocate" means an advocate whose name is entered in the roll of Advocates maintained under section 17 of the Advocates Act, 1961 and whose enrolment is valid and subsisting;

(b) "Authorized Advocate" means a person enrolled with the State Bar Council under the Advocates Act, 1961

(c) "Bar Council" means the Bar Council of India or the Karnataka State Bar Council, as the case may be;

(d) "Court" includes all Courts, Tribunals, Quasi-Judicial Authorities, Commissions, and any forum exercising judicial or quasi-judicial powers in the State;

(e) "Fake Advocate" means and includes any person who engages in unauthorised practice of law as defined in this Act;

(f) "Person" means and includes an individual, a company, a firm, or an association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not;

(g) Practice of law includes representing client in court, making submissions in court, drafting, or preparing pleadings or documents, giving paid advice, consultation;

(h) "QR Code" means Quick Response Code and is a two-dimensional barcode that stores information in the form of text, image, and numbers in a square grid of black squares on a white background easily accessible with a scan, either by a smartphone camera or a scanner.

(i) "Smart Card" means the QR Coded identification of an advocate issued by the Bar Council;
(j) Special Task Force means the enforcement agency constituted under this Act;
(k) Unauthorised Practice of Law means and includes any person who:
(i) practices law in any court, tribunal or before any authority without being enrolled as an advocate;
(ii) uses the designation 'Advocate' or any equivalent title without being duly enrolled;
(iii) falsely represents oneself as an advocate;
(iv) prepares pleadings or other legal documents for consideration without being enrolled;
(v) appears, acts, or pleads in any court without being enrolled as an advocate or without proper authority as provided under Order III Rule 1 and 2 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908;
(vi) Operates law firm/s without valid enrolment;
(vii) Impersonates advocates in any manner;
(viii) Provides online legal services without valid enrolment;
(l) "Verification Authority" means the body designated to verify advocate credentials
(m) "Victim" means and includes any person and his legal representatives or entity having availed services of fake advocate without knowledge.

CHAPTER II
PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORISED PRACTICE OF LAW

3. Prohibition of unauthorised practice of law.- (1) No person shall practice as an advocate in any court or before any authority unless he is enrolled as an advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961.

4. **Specific Prohibitions.-** No person, without being enrolled as an advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961,-

(i) shall use the designation "Advocate" or "Lawyer" or any equivalent title;

(ii) shall prepare, for consideration, any pleading, affidavit or other legal document or offer legal consultation;

(iii) shall present oneself as an advocate in legal documents, websites, or advertisements;

(iv) shall pretend to be an advocate, online or offline, by using another advocate's credentials including enrolment number;

(v) shall display "Advocate" or "Law Firm" boards;

(vi) shall create false LinkedIn profiles, law directories, or websites claiming legal expertise.

(vii) shall use advocate titles, robes, or symbols unless he is enrolled as an advocate.

Provided, Law Clerks, Law Students and Legal Interns, if they work under the supervision of an advocate without independently practicing, and Retired Judges/Law Officers/Law Teachers, if they provide advice, consultation, but cannot appear in court after retirement unless their sanad/license is duly renewed or permitted or appointed to appear in court/authority as amicus curiae and registered para legal aid worker if working under the supervision of an advocate without misrepresentation but such para legal aid worker shall not appear and plead before the court or authority and typists who type pleadings or any document under the instructions of an advocate are not liable to be prosecuted under this Act.

5. Digital Restrictions.- No person, without being enrolled as an advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961, -

(i) shall operate legal websites;

(ii) shall provide online legal services;

(iii) shall engage in legal blogging.

6. Verification of credentials.- (1) Every advocate shall display his enrolment number;

(a) on all professional documents and stationery, such as case files and visiting cards;

(b) at the entrance of his office or chamber;

(c) on all court documents, wherever needed;

(d) on his website and digital profiles, if any;

(2) The Karnataka State Bar Council shall maintain a real time, searchable online portal and mobile application and regularly update a digital database of all enrolled advocates which shall be accessible to the public free of cost.

(3) The Karnataka State Bar Council shall take steps towards issuance of smart cards with photo and QR codes with unique identity number and shall further take steps towards integration of digital database of all enrolled advocates with court management system and regularly update the database and synchronisation of the same.

(3) Every advocate shall produce his/her Identity Card or Smart Card issued by the State Bar Council at the time of filing and on every appearance before the Court to the Presiding Officer or any officer/staff appointed in this behalf, and the Presiding Officer or Officer/Staff appointed in this behalf may exempt advocates who appear regularly to the Court from producing his/her Identity Card or Smart Card on every appearance before the Court.

(4) Courts/Tribunals/Authorities must verify advocate's credentials at the time of accepting filings and on every appearance and must report suspected fake advocate to police immediately.

(5) The Courts/Tribunals/Authorities may adopt its own procedure for verification of credentials of advocates and may appoint any of its officer or staff for verification of credentials of advocates.

(6) Every advocate shall co-operate and show his smart card/identity card to the Court and Staff and to the Verification Committee or Special Task Force and to the police on request being made to verify his/her credentials.

CHAPTER III
OFFENCES, PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE

7. Penalties for unauthorised practice of law.- (1) Whoever commits unauthorised practice of law shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees and may extend to one lakh rupees.

(2) Whoever commits a second or subsequent offence under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to five years and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees and may extend to two lakh rupees.

(3) Whoever commits unauthorised practice of law involving multiple victims or as part of organized operations shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years, and with fine which shall not be less than five lakh rupees but may extend to ten lakh rupees.

(4) Procedure-All offences under this Act are cognizable and the provisions of Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhite, 2023 shall apply to the proceedings under this Act.

8. Penalty for employing fake advocates.- (1) Any person or institution who knowingly employs or engages a fake advocate shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees and may extend to one lakh rupees and on second or subsequent offence under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to five years and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees and may extend to two lakh rupees.

(2) Any online platform that knowingly allows fake advocates to operate shall be blocked and shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees and may extend to one lakh rupees and on second or subsequent offence under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to five years and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees and may extend to two lakh rupees.

9. Penalty for forging enrolment certificate or impersonating an enrolled advocate.- Whoever forges or falsifies any document purporting to be an enrolment certificate or smart code with QR Code or Advocate's Identity Card issued by the Bar Council or Bar Association, as the case may be, or impersonating an enrolled advocate shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than

one year but may extend to three years, and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but may extend to five lakh rupees.

CHAPTER IV
INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL

10. Power to investigate and search and seizure.- (1) Any police officer not below the rank of Police Sub Inspector shall investigate offences under this Act and shall have power to raid suspicious premises and seize fake documents.

(2) Every complaint received shall be subject to preliminary inquiry within fifteen days of receipt, and a detailed investigation shall be completed within sixty days from the date of registration of First Information Report, and charge sheet shall be filed within ninety days from the date of registration of First Information Report.

(3) The Karnataka State Bar Council shall constitute Verification Committees at each Taluk level to identify fake advocates. The Verification Committee shall consist of five members and the President of concerned Bar Association shall be the Chairman of the Verification Committee and one member shall be a lady advocate.

(3) All offences under this Act shall be tried by Judicial Magistrate of First Class and the trial shall, as far as practicable, be completed within six months from the date of filing of the charge sheet.

11. Special Courts .-(1) The State Government may, by notification, establish Special Courts for the trial of offences under this Act.

(2) The State Government may, by notification, appoint special public prosecutor to conduct the trial of offences under this Act.

CHAPTER V
Establishment of Special Task Force & Powers

12. **Special Task Force.-** (1) The State Government shall constitute Special Task Force which shall consist of senior police officers not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, representatives from the Karnataka State Bar Council, retired judges serving as advisors, technology experts with experience in digital verification systems, and legal officers with minimum ten years of experience.

(2) The Special Task Force shall have powers of investigation and arrest as provided under the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, with authority to conduct search and seizure operations, to freeze assets of accused persons, coordination powers with authorities of other states, and authority to conduct technology-based surveillance subject to legal safeguards.

(3) The Special Task Force may constitute district-level enforcement teams headed by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, specialized cybercrime units for investigating technology-related offenses, mobile verification

squads for conducting surprise checks, and public complaint cells for receiving and processing complaints from citizens.

CHAPTER V
MISCELLANEOUS

13. Complaint mechanism and Mandatory reporting.- Any member of public, Litigants, Judges, Court Staff, Advocates, Law Colleges, NGOs, Law Firms or Karnataka State Bar Council or Verification Committee must report suspected fake advocates to police and on such report the police, after preliminary inquiry, initiate action under this Act.

14. **Protection to whistle blowers.-** No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for furnishing information about a fake advocate in good faith.

15. Public awareness programs.- (1) The State Government shall, in consultation with the Karnataka State Bar Council, conduct public awareness programs to educate people about identifying genuine advocates.

(2) Karnataka State Bar Council shall conduct monthly verification drives in all Courts.

16. Victim Compensation.- Any person or entity, without knowledge, having engaged services of a fake advocate is entitled to refund of entire fees paid to such fake advocate and is also entitled to additional compensation up to rupees ten thousand but not less than rupees five thousand towards mental suffering. The Court while passing an Order of conviction and sentence under this Act shall on an application being made in this behalf by the Victim pass suitable Orders on victim compensation and such Order on victim compensation shall be treated as a decree.

17. Power to make Rules.-(1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every Rule made under this Act shall be laid before the State Legislature within six months for approval.

18. Act not in derogation of any other law.- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of the any other law, for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Karnataka Prohibition of Unauthorised Practice of Law (Fake Advocates) Bill, 2025, aims to combat the increasing issue of individuals practicing law without legitimate qualifications or registration with the Bar Council, thereby undermining the judicial system and exploiting litigants. The Bill makes it illegal to practise law without authorisation, imposes severe penalties like jail time and fines, and calls for frequent credential checks of advocates using smart cards and a digital database. It suggests victim compensation clauses, public awareness campaigns, and the creation of special courts and task teams for efficient enforcement. The goals of this law are to safeguard litigants, preserve the honour of the legal profession, and rebuild public confidence in the legal system. Hence this bill.

THE KARNATAKA GATED COMMUNITIES (RECOGNITION, REGULATION AND PUBLIC INTEGRATION) BILL, 2025

A Bill for governing the integration, security and public access of the gated communities by mandating statutory recognition, transparent governance and public integration and to strengthen urban equity and sustainable civic management.

WHEREAS it is expedient to recognise and regulate gated communities in the State of Karnataka to ensure planned urban development, to provide a statutory framework for security and community management, to protect the rights of residents and the public, and to ensure that roads and civic amenities remain part of the public domain while allowing gated communities to adopt measured security measures that reduce crime and enhance safety;

AND WHEREAS such regulation is necessary to harmonise gated communities with town planning, municipal services and environmental safeguards, and to provide speedy dispute resolution and oversight;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Gated Communities (Recognition, Regulation and Public Integration) Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) "Act" means this Act;

(b) "Architectural and engineering standards" means the standards issued by the Competent Authority in relation to widths, load-bearing capacities, drainage, street lighting and other technical aspects for roads and civic amenities required to be dedicated to the Public Domain under this Act;

(c) "Association" means the legally constituted Residents' Welfare Association, Apartment Owners' Association, or other body registered under this Act to manage a gated community;

(d) "Civic amenities" means public utilities and facilities including but not limited to roads (vehicular and pedestrian), footpaths, drains (stormwater and surface), public street lighting, public sewage/drainage conduits, and public water pipelines intended for dedication to the Public Domain;

(e) “Competent Authority” means the officer notified by the State Government under Section 4 for the purposes of registration, inspection and enforcement under this Act;
(f) “Dedication” means the formal transfer or handover of a road or civic amenity by the Developer, free from encumbrances and with required certificates, to the local body for inclusion within the Public Domain;
(g) “Developer” means any person, firm, company or entity who undertakes the planning, layout formation, sale, lease or development of a gated community or any part thereof;
(h) “Gated Community” means a contiguous residential or mixed-use development, enclosed wholly or partly by a continuous boundary or perimeter, having controlled entry/exit through gates, security arrangements and shared common areas, and comprising not less than twenty dwelling units or covering an area of not less than five thousand square metres; provided that the Competent Authority may, by notification, alter these thresholds for different urban categories;
(i) “Gated Area” means the land and structures falling within the boundary of a Gated Community;
(j) “Occupancy Certificate” means the certificate of completion and fitness of occupancy issued under the relevant Act or municipal bye-laws;
(k) “Public Domain” means the roads and civic amenities that are dedicated and accepted by the local body/Government as public property and subject to municipal/public maintenance and access rights;
(l) “Security Management Plan” (“SMP”) means the comprehensive plan prepared in accordance with section 23 and Schedule I setting out security arrangements, staffing, infrastructure, SOPs, data protection measures and liaison mechanisms with official agencies;
(m) “Surveillance Data” means video records, access logs, biometric data and other personal data generated by security or surveillance devices deployed in the Gated Community, to the extent applicable under law;
(n) “Tribunal” means the Gated Communities Adjudicatory Tribunal established under section 45 of this Act;
(o) “Ward Committee” and “Area Sabha” have the meanings assigned in the Karnataka Municipal Acts and the rules made thereunder.

CHAPTER II
OBJECTS, SCOPE, AND APPLICATION

3. Objects and scope.- (1) The primary objects of this Act are to;
(a) provide statutory recognition to gated communities and a clear regulatory framework for their formation, management and accountability;
(b) enhance safety and security within residential areas by enabling gated communities to adopt evidence-based security measures while ensuring respect for public access and civil liberties;

(c) ensure that roads and essential civic amenities remain part of the Public Domain and are dedicated to local bodies consistent with urban planning and municipal standards;
(d) secure minimum standards for infrastructure, environmental compliance, fire and disaster preparedness, and maintenance of shared facilities;
(e) establish transparent governance of Residents' Associations, financial accountability and consumer protections for residents; and
(f) provide a specialised, expeditious dispute resolution mechanism.

(2) This Act shall apply to all Gated Communities in the State of Karnataka except to such categories, areas or developments as may be expressly excluded by the Government by notification for reasons of national security, defence, public health, or other public interest.

CHAPTER III
COMPETENT AUTHORITY, RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION

4. Competent Authority.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, designate one or more officers as Competent Authorities for carrying out the functions under this Act and the rules made thereunder. For the Greater Bengaluru area the Competent Authority shall be the concerned City Corporation Authorities (CCA) constituted under section 25 of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, or such other officer as the Government may appoint.
(2) The Competent Authority shall exercise the powers conferred by this Act, including registration, inspection, verification of dedications and enforcement.
5. Recognition categories.- (1) Gated Communities shall be recognised in the following categories,-

(a) Open-layout gated communities where internal roads and civic amenities are dedicated to the Public Domain but controlled entry points are provided for security;

(b) Semi-open gated communities where some internal service lanes may remain under Association maintenance while primary roads are dedicated to public use; and

(c) Private gated enclaves where roads and amenities are retained in private ownership subject to strict conditions and only in exceptional cases with express municipal approval.

(2) The Competent Authority shall record the category in the Registration Certificate; provided that prior to recognition as a "Private gated enclave" the Competent Authority shall consult the local body and publish reasons for such exception.
6. General rule for Registration.- (1) No Developer shall hand over possession of dwelling units or commence phased handovers exceeding five units at a time unless the gated community is registered under this Act.

(2) An application for registration shall be made to the Competent Authority in such form and with such fees as prescribed and shall be accompanied by the documents listed in sub section (3).

(3) Documents required for registration shall include,—

(a) Approved layout plan, building plans and Occupancy Certificate;

(b) A completed Security Management Plan conforming to the requirements of section 23 and Schedule I;

(c) A schedule and plan for dedication of roads and civic amenities to the Public Domain (where applicable) together with engineering certificates certifying compliance with Architectural and engineering standards;

(d) Draft Model Bye-laws for the proposed Association as required under section 15;

(e) An undertaking from the Developer to deposit the Performance Security under Section 18; and

(f) Any other document required by the Competent Authority.

(4) On receipt of a complete application, the Competent Authority shall, after such inspections and consultations (including with the local body) as it considers necessary, grant registration within ninety (90) days or reject the application for specified reasons.

(5) Registration shall be recorded in a public register maintained by the Competent Authority and electronically accessible.

7. Provisional registration and conditions.- (1) Where the Competent Authority is satisfied that the Developer has complied with the essential prerequisites but certain works (including dedication formalities) are pending, it may grant Provisional Registration subject to conditions, timelines for fulfilment and the lodgement of a Performance Security under Section 18.

(2) The Competent Authority shall, on failure to comply with the conditions of Provisional Registration, impose penalties, call the Performance Security, or suspend registration.

8. Certificate of Recognition.- (1) Upon satisfactory completion of conditions, the Competent Authority shall issue a Certificate of Recognition specifying the category, the public dedications accepted and any conditions.

(2) The Certificate shall be conclusive evidence of recognition for the purposes of this Act.

CHAPTER IV
DEDICATION OF ROADS AND CIVIC AMENITIES TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

9. Principle of public dedication.- (1) The roads and civic amenities described in section 2(d) that are intended to serve general public circulation or common municipal functions shall be dedicated by the Developer to the local body and

accepted into the Public Domain in accordance with the procedures set out in this Chapter.

(2) The dedication requirement aims to preserve public access, enable municipal service delivery, ensure continuity of public infrastructure and prevent private monopolisation of public utilities.

10. Works and standards for dedication.- (1) A Developer shall construct roads and civic amenities intended for dedication in accordance with the Architectural and engineering standards and shall obtain certificates of conformity from licensed engineers.

(2) Before physical handover, the Developer shall ensure that all statutory clearances, encumbrance removals, protective service trenches, utility conduits, drainage connections and street lighting installations are complete and functional.

11. Procedure for dedication and acceptance.- (1) A Developer intending to dedicate roads or civic amenities shall submit an application for dedication to the local body in the prescribed form with supporting documents.

(2) The local body shall inspect the works within thirty (30) days of the application and grant a certificate of acceptance within sixty (60) days if the works meet standards; otherwise the local body shall issue a defect list and allow the Developer a reasonable timeframe not exceeding ninety (90) days to rectify defects.

(3) Where the local body refuses acceptance, reasons shall be recorded and communicated; disputes arising shall be decided by the Tribunal in summary proceedings.

12. Transfer of ownership and registration.- (1) On acceptance, the Developer shall execute such instruments of transfer and registration as are necessary to vest ownership of the dedicated roads and civic amenities in the local body free of encumbrances.

(2) The local body shall forthwith enter the dedicated roads and civic amenities in municipal records and maps, and provide the Developer with a certificate of public acceptance.

13. Temporary maintenance and service agreements.- (1) The local body may, subject to rules and after public consultation, enter into an agreement with the Association for temporary maintenance of dedicated roads and civic amenities for a limited period not exceeding five (5) years, renewable only by express municipal resolution and subject to strict performance audits.

(2) Notwithstanding any such agreement the roads and civic amenities shall remain in the Public Domain, and public access shall not be restricted nor tolls levied by the Association.

14. Prohibition on permanent privatization of public roads.- (1) No person or Association shall place permanent physical obstructions, barring devices or exclusionary measures that effectively deny public access to any road or civic amenity that has been dedicated to or accepted by the local body as Public Domain.

(2) Any contravention is an offence punishable under Chapter X of this Act.

CHAPTER V
ASSOCIATIONS: FORMATION, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

15. Formation and registration of Statutory Association.- (1) Every Gated Community shall, within three (3) months of the issue of a Certificate of Recognition or within three (3) months of first occupancy (whichever is earlier), constitute and register an Association in the prescribed form under this Act and adopt bye-laws consistent with Schedule III (Model Bye-laws).

(2) The Association shall be a legal entity capable of owning property, entering into contracts and to sue or being sued.

16. Composition and representation.- (1) The governing body of the Association shall be elected by residents on the basis of one-unit one-vote, subject to the Model Bye-laws.

(2) The Competent Authority may prescribe reservation for representation of tenants, women and other marginalised groups in the governing body depending on local population characteristics.

17. Duties of Associations.- An Association shall,

(a) maintain the common areas and internal infrastructure and maintain proper accounts thereof;

(b) prepare an annual maintenance budget and levy maintenance charges on residents in a transparent manner;

(c) maintain a Sinking Fund for long-term capital repairs and renewals;

(d) comply with the Security Management Plan and cooperate with police and emergency services;

(e) ensure environmental and statutory compliance for sewage, solid waste and stormwater disposal;

(f) permit access to municipal staff, utility service staff and emergency services; and

(g) hold an Annual General Meeting and publish audited accounts within six (6) months of the end of the financial year.

18. Performance Security and Bonds.- (1) The Competent Authority shall require the Developer to deposit a Performance Security (in cash or bank guarantee or bond) with the local body in such sum and for such period as prescribed to secure handover, rectification of defects and initial maintenance of dedicated infrastructure; provided the sum shall not be arbitrary and shall be proportionate to the works involved.

(2) The Performance Security may be called by the local body in the event of failure to perform obligations, with reasons communicated to the Developer after hearing.

19. Procurement, contracts and service providers.- Associations shall adopt transparent procurement rules for engaging security contractors and service providers; material contracts above such monetary thresholds as prescribed shall be subject to an open tender or a quotation process and be available for member inspection.

20. Accounts and audit.- (1) Associations shall maintain accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and have annual accounts audited by a chartered accountant.

(2) The audited annual accounts and budget shall be placed before the Annual General Meeting and uploaded on an Association portal or publicly accessible register.

CHAPTER VI: SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE AND DATA PROTECTION

21. Security as primary purpose.- (1) Security of residents is recognised as a legitimate objective of gated communities and their Associations; the Act seeks to enable proportionate measures to minimise crime while safeguarding public rights and personal data.

(2) Nothing in this Chapter shall authorise measures that arbitrarily restrict lawful public movement on dedicated roads or that violate applicable law on privacy and data protection.

22. Mandatory requirement of Security Management Plan (SMP).- (1) Every Developer or Association shall prepare, implement and maintain a Security Management Plan in the form and containing the particulars set out in Schedule I.

(2) The SMP shall be certified at the time of registration by the Competent Authority in consultation with the local police and a certified security auditor.

23. Minimum technical and staffing standards.- (1) The Competent Authority shall prescribe minimum standards for,—

(a) deployment of security personnel (training, background checks, badge issuance, gender-sensitive recruitment);

(b) visitor management systems and access control devices;

(c) CCTV and video surveillance equipment, installation standards (avoiding coverage of private windows of individual residences where practicable), encryption of surveillance data and secure storage;

(d) night lighting standards for streets and public spaces within the Gated Community; and

(e) emergency response and alarm systems.

(2) Minimum staffing ratios and training frequency shall be specified in rules; security guards assigned to entry points shall carry identification and be subject to code of conduct.

24. Retention, Access and Disclosure Surveillance Data.- (1) Surveillance Data collected by the Association shall be retained only for the period necessary for

security purposes, which shall not ordinarily exceed sixty (60) days for standard video data, except where required for ongoing investigation by police or where otherwise permitted by law.

(2) Access to Surveillance Data shall be strictly controlled and provided only to authorised Association officers, the local police on lawful requisition, or by court order. A record of all requests and disclosures shall be maintained.

(3) Associations shall not commercially exploit Surveillance Data or transfer it to third parties except with explicit informed consent of data subjects or on lawful compulsion.

25. Prohibition of intrusive biometric profiling.- No Association shall implement automated biometric identification systems for residents or visitors (including facial recognition) except where permitted under a lawful framework and on express authorisation from the Competent Authority in consultation with the local police and relevant data protection authority; any such authorisation shall be subject to strict safeguards.

26. Police liaison, community policing and emergency protocols.- (1) Associations shall maintain a documented liaison arrangement with local police and shall participate in community policing initiatives.

(2) Gates shall have manual override facilities and protocols to permit unobstructed access to authorise emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) and to municipal maintenance staff at all times.

27. Limits on private enforcement powers.- Associations and security personnel shall not exercise police powers of arrest other than citizen's arrest in terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure, nor shall they use unreasonable force; contraventions shall attract penal consequences.

CHAPTER VII
UTILITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

28. Utilities connections and responsibilities.- (1) Local bodies and statutory utility providers shall ensure that trunk connections for water, sewerage, electricity and telecommunications are provided up to the gating point or to the service distribution node identified for the Gated Community.

(2) Associations may operate internal distribution systems but shall ensure no interference with public mains, and shall allow utility agencies access for maintenance.

29. Sewage and waste management.- (1) Where a Gated Community operates an in-situ Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) or Solid Waste Processing facility, it shall obtain requisite environmental permissions, comply with effluent standards and ensure periodic testing and disclosure of test results to the Competent Authority.

(2) The Association shall maintain an integrated waste management system (segregation at source, composting and channelising recyclables) in accordance with municipal rules.

30. Public health and pest control.- Associations shall ensure vector control, sanitation and public health measures, and cooperate with municipal health authorities during public health emergencies.

CHAPTER VIII
RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND PROTECTIONS FOR RESIDENTS

31. Residents rights.- Residents shall have the right,-

(a) to equal access to common facilities and amenities subject to reasonable rules and charges;

(b) to information on Association budgets, accounts and contracts;

(c) to participate in governance through elections and general meetings; and

(d) to due process in disciplinary matters and redressal of grievances.

32. Restrictions on discriminatory practices.- Associations shall not enforce rules or bye-laws that discriminate on grounds of religion, caste, gender, disability, or lawful occupation, and rights of tenants shall be protected consistent with law.

33. Consumer protection and remedies.- (1) Residents shall be entitled to remedies for defective works, deficient services or mismanagement through the Tribunal or other consumer fora, including orders for rectification, compensation and refund of charges where justified.

(2) The Tribunal shall have power to order interim measures (including appointment of an administrator for the Association) where there is clear prima facie evidence of mismanagement.

CHAPTER IX
DISPUTE RESOLUTION: TRIBUNAL, PROCEDURE AND APPEALS

34. Establishment of the Gated Communities Adjudicatory Tribunal.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, establish one or more Gated Communities Adjudicatory Tribunals for the State.

(2) Each Tribunal shall consist of a Presiding Officer (a person who has served as a District Judge or with similar judicial experience) and two Members, one with experience in urban planning/engineering and one with experience in community or municipal administration.

35. Jurisdiction and powers.- (1) The Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate disputes between ,—

(a) Developers and Associations or residents;

(b) Associations and residents;

(c) Associations (or Developers) and local bodies in relation to dedication, acceptance, maintenance and public access; and

(d) Any other dispute arising under this Act.

(2) The Tribunal shall have the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure for summoning witnesses, requiring discovery and production of documents and enforcing its orders.

36. Procedure and time limits.- (1) The Tribunal shall follow summary procedures and dispose of matters ordinarily within six (6) months of filing, save for complex matters where the Tribunal may extend time on reasons recorded.

(2) Interim relief may be granted by the Tribunal on an expedited basis.

37. Appeal.- An appeal from the Tribunal's decision shall lie to the High Court on questions of law.

CHAPTER X
ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES AND OFFENCES

38. Enforcement by Competent Authority and local bodies.- (1) The Competent Authority and the local body shall have concurrent powers to enforce compliance with this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) For enforcement they may issue directions, improvement notices, and initiate recovery of sums due.

39. General penalties.- (1) If any person contravenes any provision of this Act or rules, the Competent Authority may impose penalties as prescribed which shall be proportionate to the contravention.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing, the penalties set out in Schedule II shall apply as minimum guidance; the Competent Authority may, in each case, require corrective action in addition to penalties.

40. Specific offences.- (1) Any act that denies or restricts public access to roads or civic amenities that have been handed over to the local body as public property is an offence, punishable by imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to ₹5,00,000, or both;

(2) Any unauthorized alteration, destruction, or manipulation of surveillance footage or related security data by residents, associations, or developers is an offence and is liable to a fine up to ₹2,00,000 and reimbursement of restitution costs;

(3) The deployment of biometric identification (including facial recognition) without explicit permission from the Competent Authority is an offence, carrying a fine up to ₹2,00,000 and an order for cessation of such systems;

(4) If any developer gives possession of units before the gated community is registered under the Act, the offence is punishable by a fine up to ₹25,00,000 and additional sanctions, including possible prohibition of future project approvals for a period of 5 years.

41. Recovery of maintenance charges.- The Association shall have the right to recover lawful maintenance charges from residents and to enforce such recovery by civil process; the Tribunal may intervene in case of disputes about quantum or methodology of charges.

42. Offence by association or officer.- Where an offence under this Act is committed by the Association, every officer of the Association who is in charge at the time shall be deemed to be guilty unless he/she proves that the offence was committed without his/her knowledge or that he/she exercised all due diligence to prevent it.

CHAPTER XI
RULES, MODEL BYE-LAWS AND SCHEDULES

43. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act including but not limited to,—

(a) forms of registration, provisional registration and Certificates of Recognition;

(b) contents and minimum acceptable standards of Security Management Plans;

(c) procedures for dedication and technical standards for roads and civic amenities;

(d) minimum staffing ratios and training standards for security personnel;

(e) model bye-laws for Associations (Schedule III);

(f) fees and Performance Security scales; and

(g) any other procedural matter.

(2) Every rule made shall be laid before each House of the State Legislature as soon as may be after it is made.

44. Model Bye-laws and Public Consultation.- (1) The Competent Authority shall prepare Model Bye-laws (Schedule III) which Associations must adopt subject to local custom after public consultation.

(2) The Competent Authority shall publish Model SMP templates (Schedule I) and minimum technical standards (Schedule II) for municipal acceptance of dedicated infrastructure.

CHAPTER XII
TRANSITIONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

45. Transitional provisions.- (1) Any Gated Community existing on the date of commencement of this Act shall obtain registration under this Act within twelve (12) months of commencement; the Competent Authority may grant Provisional Registration pending compliance with dedications and SMP conformity.

(2) Existing Associations shall conform their bye-laws to the Model Bye-laws within twelve (12) months.

46. Savings and interaction with other laws.- (1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the continuance of rights and obligations under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA), the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act and other statutory obligations; provided that in the event of inconsistency the provisions of this Act shall apply to matters specifically within its scope.

(2) The Competent Authority shall coordinate with municipal bodies, the Town and Country Planning Department and RERA authorities to ensure a coherent approach.

47. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit or prosecution shall lie against the Competent Authority or any officer for anything done in good faith under this Act.

48. Repeal and savings.- (1) The provisions of existing municipal bye-laws or agreements inconsistent with the objectives of public dedication shall be void to the extent of inconsistency; provided that bona fide existing rights acquired under valid instruments shall be respected unless otherwise compensated.

49. Power to remove difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with the Act which appears to be necessary for removing the difficulty. Any order made under this section shall be laid before the State Legislature.

SCHEDULE - I
(See Section)
SECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP) CONTENTS (MODEL)

The Security Management Plan shall ordinarily include the following items (minimum):

1. Description of the Gated Community (area, units, vehicular and pedestrian access points).
2. Categorisation of the Gated Community (Open-layout / Semi-open / Private Enclave).
3. Security objectives, risk assessment and crime profile analysis.
4. Security staffing plan (number of guards per shift, gender composition, training programme, vetting and background verification process).
5. Access control protocols for vehicles, visitors, deliveries, contractors and service personnel.
6. CCTV plan (locations, purpose of coverage, retention periods, encryption and access control measures).
7. Visitor management (temporary passes, digital logs, data retention periods).
8. Emergency response plan and liaison protocols with police, fire and ambulance services including gate override procedures.
9. Data protection policy for Surveillance Data and personal information.
10. Code of conduct for security personnel and grievance redressal mechanism.
11. Periodic audit and review schedule and requirement for annual security audit by a certified auditor.

SCHEDULE – II
(See Section)
MINIMUM PENALTIES GUIDELINE

This Schedule provides indicative minimum penalties: -

1. Failure to register: ₹2,00,000 per month till registration is obtained, up to a maximum of ₹25,00,000.
2. Non-completion of dedication works after notice: ₹50,000 per week until rectified (subject to maximum limits).
3. Obstruction of public road: ₹5,00,000 and/or imprisonment up to 6 months.
4. Tampering with Surveillance Data: ₹2,00,000.
5. Operating unauthorised biometric systems: ₹2,00,000 and cessation order

SCHEDULE – III

(See Section)

MODEL BYE-LAWS (KEY HEADS)

Model bye-laws shall cover the following heads:

1. Name, area and membership.
2. Objects and purposes, including security mission.
3. Governance structure, election rules, terms of office.
4. Meetings, quorum and voting rules.
5. Budget, maintenance charges, and sinking fund rules.
6. Contracts, procurement and conflict of interest rules.
7. Grievance redressal, disciplinary rules and appeal to Tribunal.
8. Data protection and surveillance policy consistent with this Act.

SCHEDULE – IV

(See Section)

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS (HEADS)

To make this Act effective the following amendments are proposed in the principal Acts:

1. **Karnataka Town & Country Planning Act, 1961**: Insert definitions of "Gated Community" and require Master Plans/ODPs to account for public dedication of roads and civic amenities as a condition for layout approvals.

2. **Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, / Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 / Karnataka Municipalities Act**: Insert provisions requiring municipal acceptance procedures for dedications, powers to enter temporary maintenance agreements with Associations, prohibition on tolling or denying public access on dedicated roads and rules for tax adjustments where Associations provide temporary maintenance.

3. **Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972**: Harmonise registration requirements for Associations to avoid duplication and ensure that Association decisions about common areas are subject to this Act's safeguards.

4. **RERA (State Rules)**: Require that projects that qualify as Gated Communities file an SMP and demonstrate measures for dedication and public access as preconditions for registration and issuance of completion certificates.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The rapid growth of gated communities in Karnataka has created concerns of security, governance, and public access to civic infrastructure. Existing laws do not adequately recognize or regulate such developments, leading to disputes and ambiguities. This Bill seeks to provide a clear statutory framework by granting recognition to gated communities, ensuring transparent governance of associations, mandating security management plans, and preserving civic amenities in the public domain. It also provides for equitable taxation and speedy dispute resolution through a specialized Tribunal. The proposed law thus balances the needs of resident safety with the principles of urban equity and sustainable municipal governance.

THE KARNATAKA ROOFTOP SOLAR INCENTIVE BILL, 2025

A Bill to promote, regulate and incentivize rooftop solar energy systems across Karnataka by providing comprehensive financial support, establishing streamlined regulatory frameworks, ensuring grid integration security, and fostering sustainable distributed energy development.

Whereas Karnataka recongizes the vast potential of rooftop solar energy across the State and the need to overcome barriers of high costs and complex procedures;

And Whereas it is expedient to promote rooftop solar systems through statutory incentives to achieve energy self-reliance and environmental protection;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Rooftop Solar Incentive Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "applicant" means any natural person, Hindu Undivided Family, company, firm, society, trust, cooperative society, or government entity that owns or legally occupies a building and applies for incentives under this Act;

(b) "benchmark cost" means the per-kilowatt peak cost of rooftop solar systems as determined and published annually by the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited;

(c) "building" includes any structure, erection, or part thereof intended for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental use, whether occupied or vacant;

(d) "commissioning" means the successful installation, testing, grid synchronization, and certification of a rooftop solar system by the concerned distribution company;

(e) "Distribution Company" or "DISCOM" means any company licensed under the Electricity Act, 2003 to distribute electricity in the State of Karnataka;

(f) "generation-based incentive" means the performance-linked financial incentive provided per unit of solar energy generated and fed into the grid;

(g) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(h) "grid-interactive system" means a rooftop solar system designed to operate in synchronism with the utility grid;

(i) “gross metering” means a metering arrangement where the entire energy generated by the rooftop solar system is exported to the grid at predetermined tariffs;

(j) “Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission” or “KERC” means the Commission established under sub-section (1) of section 82 of the Electricity Act, 2003;

(k) “Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited” or “KREDL” means the company incorporated under the Companies Act for promotion of renewable energy in the State;

(l) “local body” includes all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, Town Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, and other local authorities constituted under any law for the time being in force;

(m) “net metering” means a metering arrangement where energy consumption is offset against energy generation over a specified billing period;

(n) “prosumer” means a consumer who produces electricity through rooftop solar systems for self-consumption and sale of surplus to the grid;

(o) “rooftop solar system” means an integrated system comprising solar photovoltaic panels, inverters, mounting structures, safety devices, metering equipment, and associated components installed on building rooftops for conversion of solar energy into electricity;

(p) “State Nodal Agency” means the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited or such other agency as may be designated by the Government.

CHAPTER II
INCENTIVES AND SUBSIDIES

3. State capital subsidy.- (1) The Government shall provide a one-time capital subsidy for installation of new rooftop solar systems as follows:—

(a) for residential consumers with systems up to ten kilowatt peak capacity, twenty per cent of the benchmark cost or actual project cost, whichever is lower, subject to a maximum of twenty thousand rupees per kilowatt peak;

(b) for group housing societies, resident welfare associations, and educational institutions with systems above ten kilowatt peak and up to five hundred kilowatt peak capacity, fifteen per cent of the benchmark cost or actual project cost, whichever is lower;

(c) for agricultural consumers with systems up to twenty-five kilowatt peak capacity, thirty per cent of the benchmark cost or actual project cost, whichever is lower;

(d) for government buildings with systems above one hundred kilowatt peak capacity, twenty-five per cent of the benchmark cost or actual project cost, whichever is lower.

(2) Additional subsidies shall be provided to the following priority categories—

(a) additional ten per cent subsidy for households below poverty line

(b) additional five per cent subsidy for women-headed households;

(c) additional eight per cent subsidy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) additional five per cent subsidy for ex-servicemen.

(3) Enhanced subsidies for integrated systems,—

(a) rooftop solar systems with battery storage: additional five thousand rupees per kilowatt hour of storage capacity;

(b) hybrid systems combining solar and wind energy: additional five per cent subsidy.

4. Generation-based incentive.- (1) In addition to the capital subsidy under section 3, a generation-based incentive shall be provided for solar energy generated and fed into the grid as follows,

(a) two rupees and fifty paise per unit for the first and second years from commissioning;

(b) two rupees per unit for the third, fourth, and fifth years from commissioning;

(c) additional fifty paise per unit for systems maintaining performance ratio above eighty-five per cent.

(2) The generation-based incentive shall be disbursed quarterly through direct benefit transfer or adjustment in electricity bills.

5. Property tax rebate.-(1) Every local body shall grant a rebate of ten per cent on annual property tax for properties having commissioned rooftop solar systems under this Act.

(2) The rebate under sub-section (1) shall be applicable for five years from the financial year following commissioning.

(3) Building plan approval fees for rooftop solar system installations shall be completely waived.

(4) Development charges for new buildings incorporating solar-ready infrastructure shall be reduced by fifty per cent.

6. Electricity tariff benefits.- (1) Commercial and industrial consumers installing rooftop solar systems under this Act shall receive,—

(a) fifty per cent rebate on electricity wheeling charges for seven years;

(b) twenty-five per cent reduction in cross-subsidy surcharge for five years;

(c) time-of-day tariff benefits for systems with energy storage.

(2) Net metering benefits shall include—

(a) energy banking facility for twelve months;

(b) carry-forward of excess generation credits;

(c) exemption from standby charges for systems up to sanctioned load capacity.

7. Financing support.- (1) The Government shall provide three per cent interest subvention on loans up to ten lakh rupees for residential consumers.

(2) A loan guarantee scheme providing state guarantee for eighty per cent of loan amount shall be established through designated financial institutions.

(3) Tax-free green bonds may be issued for financing large-scale rooftop solar projects.

8. Eligibility conditions.- (1) Incentives under this Chapter shall be available only for rooftop solar systems commissioned on or after the commencement of this Act,

(2) All systems must carry a minimum performance warranty of twenty-five years,

(3) Systems installed under other Central or State subsidy schemes shall not be eligible for benefits under this Act.

CHAPTER III
IMPLEMENTATION AND FACILITATION

9. Institutional framework.- (1) The Government shall establish a Karnataka Solar Mission under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister for overall policy guidance and coordination.

(2) District Solar Committees shall be constituted in each district for implementation and monitoring at the district level.

(3) Tehsil-level facilitators shall be appointed for ground-level support and grievance handling.

10. Single-window clearance portal.- (1) The State Nodal Agency shall establish and maintain a comprehensive online portal providing,—

(a) application submission and real-time tracking;

(b) document verification and approval workflow;

(c) integrated payment processing;

(d) performance monitoring and analytics;

(e) grievance registration and resolution tracking.

(2) The portal shall be integrated with systems of all distribution companies, local bodies, financial institutions, and relevant government departments.

(3) A mobile application shall be developed for user convenience.

11. Streamlined approval process.- (1) Distribution companies shall grant technical feasibility approval within ten working days of receiving complete applications.

(2) If no communication is received within the stipulated period, the application shall be deemed approved.

(3) Net metering agreements shall be executed within seven working days of technical feasibility approval.

(4) Commissioning certificates shall be issued within fifteen working days of inspection.

(5) Subsidy disbursement shall be completed within thirty working days of commissioning.

12. Simplified procedures for small systems.- (1) Rooftop solar systems up to ten kilowatt peak capacity on residential buildings shall follow a simplified approval process based on self-certification by empanelled installers.

(2) Third-party inspection agencies empanelled with the State Nodal Agency may conduct commissioning inspections to expedite the process.

13. Role of local bodies.- (1) All local bodies shall amend their building bye-laws to mandate,—

(a) solar-ready infrastructure in new commercial buildings exceeding one thousand square meters built-up area;

(b) solar-ready electrical systems in new residential plots exceeding twelve hundred square feet;

(c) minimum twenty-five per cent rooftop coverage in industrial parks within three years.

(2) Local bodies shall issue structural stability certificates for rooftop solar installations within seven working days.

(3) Standardized solar-friendly building codes shall be adopted across all local bodies.

14. Quality control and safety standards.- (1) All components of rooftop solar systems shall conform to standards specified by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bureau of Indian Standards, and International Electro technical Commission.

(2) System installers shall be mandatorily registered with the State Nodal Agency based on technical competence, financial capacity, and past performance.

(3) Random quality audits shall be conducted on five per cent of all installations through third-party testing agencies.

(4) Real-time performance monitoring systems shall be mandatory for all installations above fifty kilowatt peak capacity.

(5) Comprehensive insurance covering asset protection and third-party liability shall be mandatory for all systems.

CHAPTER IV
FINANCING AND PAYMENT SECURITY

15. Karnataka Green Energy Fund.- (1) The Government shall constitute the "Karnataka Green Energy Fund" with an initial corpus of five thousand crore rupees for financing incentives under this Act.

(2) The Fund shall be augmented through,—

(a) annual budgetary allocations;

(b) proceeds from renewable energy cess;

(c) Central Government grants and schemes;

(d) proceeds from green bonds;

(e) international climate finance;

(f) revenues from carbon credits.

(3) The Fund shall be professionally managed through a designated agency with transparent governance mechanisms.

(4) Utilization shall be prioritized as follows,-

(a) sixty per cent towards capital subsidies;

(b) twenty-five per cent towards generation-based incentives;

(c) ten per cent towards infrastructure development;

(d) five per cent towards administrative expenses.

16. Payment security mechanisms.- (1) Distribution companies shall maintain revolving Letters of Credit for generation-based incentive payments.

(2) Dedicated escrow accounts shall be established for subsidy disbursements.

(3) Large commercial installers shall provide bank guarantees for performance assurance.

17. Penalty for delayed payments.- (1) If any distribution company fails to disburse subsidies within the prescribed timeline, it shall pay simple interest at one per cent per month on the delayed amount.

(2) For delayed generation-based incentive payments, simple interest at two per cent per month shall be payable.

(3) Recovery of penalties may be effected through adjustment against distribution company revenues or electricity regulatory mechanisms.

18. Financial inclusion measures.- (1) Rooftop solar loans shall be categorized as priority sector lending by all scheduled banks.

(2) Integration with Self-Help Groups and micro-finance institutions shall be promoted for small consumer financing.

(3) Cooperative banks shall be encouraged to provide solar financing products.

CHAPTER V
GRID INTEGRATION AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

19. Grid infrastructure development.- (1) A grid strengthening fund equivalent to two per cent of annual distribution company revenues shall be established for grid upgradation to accommodate distributed solar generation.

(2) Smart meters shall be mandatory for all rooftop solar consumers to enable bidirectional energy flow monitoring.

(3) Distribution companies shall undertake proactive network planning considering projected solar capacity additions.

20. Technical standards and safety requirements.- (1) All installations shall comply with safety regulations prescribed by the Central Electricity Authority.

(2) Specific fire safety measures shall be implemented for rooftop installations as per National Building Code.

(3) Structural safety certification by qualified engineers shall be mandatory for mounting structures.

(4) Earthing and lightning protection systems shall conform to relevant Indian Standards.

21. Grid stability measures.- (1) Rooftop solar systems above one hundred kilowatt peak capacity shall incorporate,—

(a) automatic voltage regulation capabilities;

(b) reactive power management systems;

(c) frequency response mechanisms as specified by the grid operator.

(2) Power factor requirements shall be maintained as per grid connection standards.

CHAPTER VI
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

22. Functions of State Nodal Agency.- (1) The State Nodal Agency shall be responsible for,—

(a) overall implementation and monitoring of this Act;

(b) empanelment and regulation of installers and service providers;

(c) market development and promotional activities;

(d) technology assessment and standard setting;

(e) coordination with Central Government schemes and international agencies.

(2) Annual capacity addition targets and performance metrics shall be established and monitored.

23. Monitoring and evaluation system.- (1) A comprehensive web-based monitoring system shall track,—

(a) real-time performance of all installations;

(b) subsidy utilization and disbursement status;

(c) grid integration impacts;

(d) environmental and social benefits.

(2) Annual third-party evaluation of scheme implementation and impact shall be conducted.

(3) Performance analytics and benchmarking shall be undertaken regularly.

24. Innovation and technology development.- (1) One per cent of the Fund corpus shall be allocated for solar technology research and development.

(2) Pilot projects for innovative technologies and business models shall be supported.

(3) Dedicated incubation support shall be provided for solar energy start-ups.

CHAPTER VII
GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

25. Multi-tier grievance redressal system.- (1) A four-tier grievance redressal mechanism shall be established:

(a) Level 1: Distribution Company Grievance Officer with seven days resolution timeline;

(b) Level 2: District Solar Committee with fifteen days resolution timeline;

(c) Level 3: Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission Ombudsman with thirty days resolution timeline;

(d) Level 4: High Court as per legal process.

(2) An online grievance portal with 24x7 complaint registration and tracking facility shall be operational.

26. Consumer protection measures.- (1) Mandatory performance guarantees shall be provided by installers to consumers.

(2) Standardized service agreements shall be prescribed for consumer protection.

(3) Insurance coverage for consumer protection against installer defaults shall be established.

CHAPTER VIII
PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

27. Penalties for distribution companies.- (1) Distribution companies violating prescribed timelines shall be liable to penalty of,—

(a) ten thousand rupees per day for individual case delays;

(b) one lakh to ten lakh rupees for systemic non-compliance.

(2) Penalties may be recovered through regulatory mechanisms or revenue adjustments.

28. Penalties for local bodies.- (1) Local bodies causing approval delays beyond prescribed timelines shall be liable to penalty of five thousand rupees per day.

(2) Repeated violations may result in suspension of development grants.

29. Penalties for installers and consumers.- (1) Empanelled installers violating quality standards or providing false information shall face,—

(a) suspension or cancellation of empanelment;

(b) blacklisting from the scheme;

(c) financial penalties up to fifty lakh rupees.

(2) Consumers providing false information shall be liable to refund all financial benefits with eighteen per cent annual interest.

(3) System manipulation or fraudulent practices shall attract criminal liability under relevant laws.

CHAPTER IX
SPECIAL PROVISIONS

30. Emergency and disaster resilience.- (1) Rooftop solar systems in critical facilities shall incorporate emergency backup capabilities.

(2) Priority grid access shall be provided during emergency situations.

(3) Uninterrupted power supply arrangements shall be ensured for hospitals and emergency services.

31. Employment and skill development.- (1) Mandatory local employment quotas shall be prescribed for solar projects.

(2) Comprehensive training and certification programs shall be established for skill development.

(3) Women's participation in the solar workforce shall be actively promoted.

32. Environmental and social impact.- (1) Regular environmental impact assessments shall be conducted for large-scale deployment.

(2) Social impact evaluation focusing on rural and marginalized communities shall be undertaken.

(3) Carbon footprint reduction achievements shall be monitored and reported.

CHAPTER X
MISCELLANEOUS

33. Power to make rules.- (1) The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid before the State Legislature.

34. Review and amendment provisions.- (1) The Government shall conduct comprehensive review of this Act every three years.

(2) Annual assessment and course correction mechanisms shall be established.

(3) Regular stakeholder consultations shall be conducted for continuous improvement.

35. Dispute resolution.- (1) Commercial disputes shall be resolved through binding arbitration mechanisms.

(2) The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission shall have jurisdiction over tariff and technical disputes.

(3) Legal challenges may be made to the High Court of Karnataka.

36. Transitional provisions.- (1) Existing solar policy frameworks shall remain in force until gradual transition to this Act.

(2) Existing agreements and commitments shall be protected through grandfathering provisions.

(3) Phase-wise implementation across districts may be undertaken as deemed necessary.

37. Power to remove difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act as appear necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act.

38. Annual reporting to Legislature.- (1) The State Nodal Agency shall prepare comprehensive annual reports on implementation of this Act.

(2) Such reports shall be laid before both Houses of the State Legislature by the Minister-in-charge within six months of the close of each financial year.

(3) The annual report shall include,—

(a) capacity additions and implementation progress;

(b) financial utilization and outcomes;

(c) grid integration impacts;

(d) employment generation and social benefits;

(e) environmental impact assessment;

(f) challenges faced and remedial measures;

(g) recommendations for improvement.

39. Repeal and savings.- (1) The Karnataka Solar Policy 2021-2026, insofar as it relates to rooftop solar systems, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said policy shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

(3) All pending applications and proceedings under the repealed policy may be continued and disposed of under this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Karnataka has established itself as a leader in India's renewable energy sector, yet the potential for distributed rooftop solar energy across urban, semi-urban and rural areas remains largely untapped. The existing policy framework, while providing a foundation, lacks the statutory backing necessary to drive mass adoption, ensure investor confidence, and guarantee long-term sustainability.

The current challenges preventing widespread adoption include high upfront capital costs, procedural complexities involving multiple agencies, policy uncertainties, and inadequate grid integration infrastructure. These barriers have resulted in rooftop solar deployment achieving less than ten per cent of its estimated potential across the State.

This Bill addresses these systemic challenges through a comprehensive legislative framework that provides:

1. **Financial certainty** through statutory backing for subsidies and incentives;
2. **Procedural simplification** through single-window clearances and time-bound approvals;
3. **Payment security** through dedicated fund mechanisms and penalty provisions;
4. **Technical standardization** through uniform quality and safety requirements;
5. **Institutional strengthening** through dedicated agencies and monitoring mechanisms.

The legislation aims to transform Karnataka into India's most progressive State for distributed solar energy adoption, significantly contributing to national climate commitments while ensuring energy security, economic development, and environmental sustainability for all citizens.

The Bill incorporates global best practices, addresses stakeholder concerns comprehensively, and provides a robust legal foundation for Karnataka's renewable energy leadership in the 21st century.

Hence this Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The financial implications of this Bill are estimated at rupees fifteen thousand crores over five years, comprising:

1. **Capital subsidies**: ₹9,000 crores (60%)
2. **Generation-based incentives**: ₹3,750 crores (25%)
3. **Infrastructure development**: ₹1,500 crores (10%)
4. **Administrative costs**: ₹750 crores (5%)

Funding sources:

- State budgetary allocations: ₹7,500 crores
- Central Government schemes: ₹3,000 crores
- Green bonds and climate finance: ₹3,000 crores
- Renewable energy cess and other sources: ₹1,500 crores

Expected economic benefits: ₹50,000 crores through job creation (2 lakh direct and indirect jobs), energy cost savings, industrial competitiveness enhancement, and environmental co-benefits.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill empowers the Government to make rules under Section 33 for effective implementation. The delegated legislation will cover:

1. Implementation procedures and operational guidelines
2. Technical standards and specifications
3. Financial procedures and audit requirements
4. Penalty procedures and appeal mechanisms
5. Forms, fees, and administrative processes

All rules will be subject to laying before the State Legislature as per constitutional requirements and standard legislative oversight mechanisms.

THE KARNATAKA PROTECTION OF MEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL, 2025

A Bill seeks to legally recognize and protect men who are victims of domestic violence, addressing physical, emotional, economic, legal, sexual, and social abuses which aims to ensure equitable legal protection for men facing domestic abuse.

A Bill to provide for the protection of men from domestic violence, to define and penalize acts of domestic abuse against men, to establish a framework for protection orders, reliefs, and redressal, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas, it is expedient to protect the rights of men guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of domestic violence;

And whereas, there is a need to provide effective protection and relief to men facing domestic abuse;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the **Karnataka Protection of Men from Domestic Violence Act, 2024**.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Aggrieved Person" means any adult male who is or has been in a domestic relationship and who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the respondent.

(b) "Domestic Relationship" means a relationship between two persons who live or have lived together in a shared household, including:

(i) Marriage or live-in relationships;

(ii) Relationships through blood, adoption, or marriage (e.g., father, son, brother, uncle, in-laws);

(iii) Joint family relationships.

(c) "Domestic Violence" includes,-

(i) Physical Abuse: Harm or injury to health, safety, or life; assault; criminal force; criminal intimidation.

(ii) Emotional or Psychological Abuse: Verbal abuse, insults, humiliation, threats, or blackmail.

(iii) Economic Abuse: Deprivation of financial resources, forced expenses, or damage to property.

(iv) Sexual Abuse: Any unwelcome sexual conduct, including coercion into sexual acts.

(v) Legal Abuse: Misuse of legal processes such as false cases under section 80, 85 86 of BNS 2023, and PWDV Act, 2005, or under any other law to harass.

(vi) Social Abuse: Defamation, isolation from family/friends, or false complaints to employers.

(d) "Live in relationship" means "an arrangement of living under which two persons who are unmarried live together to conduct a long-term relationship similarly as in marriage."

(e) "Protection Officer" means an officer appointed by the State Government to assist the aggrieved person.

(f) "Respondent" means any person who is alleged to have committed an act of domestic violence.

(g) "Shared Household" means a household where the aggrieved person lives or has lived in a domestic relationship.

CHAPTER II
PROTECTION OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

3. Appointment of Protection Officers.- The State Government shall appoint such number of Protection Officers in each district as it may deem necessary.

4. Duties of Protection Officers.- The Protection Officer shall, –

(a) Assist the aggrieved person in filing complaints,

(b) Ensure the provision of legal aid, medical facilities, and shelter homes if required,

(c) Report breaches of protection orders to the designated court.

CHAPTER III
PROTECTION ORDERS AND RELIEFS

5. Application for Protection Orders.- An aggrieved person may file an application to the designated court for a protection order.

6. Types of Protection Orders.- The designated court may pass-

(a) Protection Order: Restraining the respondent from committing any act of domestic violence.

(b) Residence Order: Restricting the respondent from entering the shared household or place of work of the aggrieved person.

(c) Restraint Order: Prohibiting the respondent from,-

(i) Entering the aggrieved person's place of work or any other place frequently visited by him.

(ii) Attempting to communicate with the aggrieved person.

(iii) Causing violence against the aggrieved person's relatives.

(d) Monetary Relief: Directing the respondent to pay compensation for domestic violence or losses suffered by the aggrieved person.

(e) Custody Order: Granting temporary custody of children to the aggrieved person, if applicable.

7. Interim and Ex Parte Orders.- The court may pass interim or ex parte orders based on the urgency of the situation.

CHAPTER IV
DESIGNATED COURTS AND JURISDICTION

8. Designated Courts.- The State Government shall designate one or more courts of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class in each district as "Designated Courts" to try offences under this Act.

9. Jurisdiction.- The designated court shall have jurisdiction over the area where,-

(a) The aggrieved person resides; or

(b) The respondent resides; or

(c) The domestic violence occurred.

10. Procedure.- The designated court shall try cases in a summary manner and endeavour to dispose of them within sixty days.

CHAPTER V
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

11. Penalties for Domestic Violence.- Whoever commits an act of domestic violence shall be punishable with,-

(a) Imprisonment for up to one year; or

(b) Fine up to ₹20,000; or

(c) Both.

12. Penalty for Breach of Protection Order.-Whoever breaches a protection order passed by the designated court shall be punishable with,-

(a) Imprisonment for up to three years; and

(b) Fine up to ₹50,000.

13. False Complaints.- If the designated court finds that a complaint was false or malicious, it may impose a penalty on the complainant equivalent to the penalty prescribed for the offence.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

14. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15. Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Domestic violence against men is a prevalent but often unaddressed issue. Existing laws do not adequately protect male victims. This Bill aims to provide a comprehensive legal framework to protect men from domestic violence, ensure their rights, and provide effective remedies. Hence, this Bill.

This draft bill is designed to be comprehensive, gender-neutral in its application to male victims, and includes specific reliefs such as restraint orders against entering workplaces and prohibiting communication. It also provides for penalties and designated courts for speedy justice.

THE KARNATAKA REGULATION OF BIKE TAXIS BILL, 2025.

A Bill that seeks to formalize and regulate bike taxi services by ensuring licensing, safety, fair pricing, driver welfare, and insurance, thereby integrating them into the state's urban mobility system.

A Bill to regulate the operation of bike taxis in the State of Karnataka, to provide for the licensing of aggregators, registration of bike taxis, and the safety and security of passengers and drivers, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas, it is expedient to provide a regulatory framework for the operation of bike taxis to ensure orderly growth, passenger safety, fair competition, and the welfare of drivers;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Regulation of Bike Taxis Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Aggregator" means a digital intermediary or market place for a passenger to connect with a driver for transportation by a bike taxi.

(b) "App" means the software application operated by the Aggregator for facilitating bike taxi services.

(c) "Bike Taxi" means a two-wheeler motorcycle, including an electric two-wheeler, with a valid registration certificate and a contract carriage permit, used for transporting a single passenger for hire.

(d) "Driver" means an individual possessing a valid driving licence and authorised by the Aggregator to provide bike taxi services.

(e) "Fare" means the amount to be paid by a passenger for a ride on a bike taxi, as displayed on the App or website.

(f) "Permit" means a contract carriage permit for a bike taxi issued by the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(h) "State Transport Authority (STA)" means the State Transport Authority constituted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

CHAPTER II
LICENSING OF AGGREGATORS

3. Mandatory License for Aggregators.- (1) No person shall operate as an Aggregator for bike taxis in the State of Karnataka without obtaining a license from the State Transport Authority (STA).

(2) An application for a license shall be made in the prescribed form, accompanied by the prescribed fee and documents, including,-

(a) Certificate of Incorporation;

(b) Details of the App and its technological capabilities;

(c) A copy of the privacy policy and terms of service;

(d) A demonstrated ability to comply with the provisions of this Act.

4. Grant of License.- (1) The STA may, after making such inquiry as it deems fit and being satisfied that the applicant fulfils the prescribed conditions, grant a license valid for five years, which may be renewed.

(2) The license may be granted subject to such conditions as the STA may deem fit to impose.

CHAPTER III
REGISTRATION AND PERMITS FOR BIKE TAXIS

5. Compulsory Registration and Permit.- (1) Every bike taxi used by an Aggregator must,-

(a) Hold a valid registration certificate under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(b) Be fitted with a high-security registration plate (HSRP);

(c) Obtain a valid "Contract Carriage Permit - Bike Taxi" from the concerned RTA.

(2) The bike taxi shall be painted in a Prescribed Colour Scheme (e.g., Yellow/Green with a distinct stripe) and display the words "BIKE TAXI" and the license number prominently on both sides.

CHAPTER IV
DRIVER ELIGIBILITY AND VERIFICATION

6. Driver Requirements.- No person shall be engaged as a Driver for a bike taxi unless he fulfils the following conditions:

(a) Holds a valid driving licence to drive a two-wheeler for at least one year;

(b) Is at least 21 years of age and not more than 65 years of age;

(c) Has undergone a verification process conducted by the Aggregator, which shall include:

(i) Verification of address and identity through Aadhaar or other prescribed documents;

(ii) A police verification report from the concerned authorities;

(iii) A valid medical certificate of physical fitness.

7. Mandatory Induction Programme.-

(1) Every Driver must successfully complete a 10-hour induction programme approved by the STA.

(2) The programme shall cover:

(a) Road safety and traffic rules;

(b) Defensive driving techniques;

(c) Area familiarisation and route planning;

(d) Customer service and etiquette;

(e) Gender sensitivity training;

(f) First-Aid and emergency response procedures;

(g) App functionality and data privacy norms.

CHAPTER V
OPERATIONAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

8. Identity Disclosure and App/website Features.- The Aggregator's App or website must, for every ride, clearly display to the passenger:

(a) The full name and photograph of the Driver;

(b) The registration number of the bike taxi;

(c) The license details of the Driver;

(d) The live location of the bike taxi and the route map;

(e) The estimated time of arrival and the final fare before the ride commences.

9. Safety of Passengers.- (1) The Aggregator shall provide the following safety features on its App/website,-

(a) An emergency/SOS button that, when activated, shall immediately alert the local police control room and share the live location and trip details.

(b) A facility to share ride details (Driver name, vehicle number, live location) with family or friends.

(c) A 24/7 helpline number for reporting safety concerns or grievances.

(2) The Aggregator shall provide two protective headgears (one for the driver and one for the passenger) which meet the standards prescribed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

10. Fare Regulation and Distribution.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, prescribe bike taxi fares and provide regulatory framework for fare structure to prevent predatory pricing by fixing minimum fare and ensure a level playing field.

(2) The Aggregator shall ensure transparency in fare calculation. The fare breakdown (base fare, distance, time, etc.) shall be displayed on the App/website.

(3) The Aggregator’s commission or share from each fare shall not exceed 20% of the total fare. The remaining amount shall be credited to the Driver's account promptly, as per the prescribed settlement cycle.

11. Penalty for Unjustified Cancellation.- (1) If a Driver cancels a ride after acceptance without a justifiable reason (to be defined in the rules, e.g., passenger misconduct, vehicle breakdown), the Aggregator shall:

(a) Levy a penalty on the Driver, which shall be credited to the passenger's account as a discount on the next ride.

(b) Record such cancellations; repeated instances may lead to suspension from the platform.

(2) If a passenger cancels a ride after a Driver has been assigned without a valid reason, a cancellation fee may be charged, which shall be passed on to the Driver.

12. Compulsory Insurance.- (1) Every Aggregator shall ensure that each bike taxi has a comprehensive insurance policy that covers:

(a) Third-party liability as per the Motor Vehicles Act;

(b) Personal accident cover for the Driver for up to ₹15 Lakh;

(c) Accidental death and permanent disability cover for the passenger for up to ₹10 Lakh.

CHAPTER VI
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

13. Penalties.- (1) Any person operating as an Aggregator without a valid license shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to ₹10,00,000 (Ten Lakh Rupees) for the first offence and ₹5,00,000 (Five Lakh Rupees) for each subsequent offence.

(2) For operating a bike taxi without a valid permit or in violation of colour code, the fine shall be ₹25,000 for the first offence and Rs.50,000/- for each subsequent offence.

(3) For a Driver operating without completing the induction programme or valid verification, the fine shall be ₹10,000/- for the first offence and Rs.20,000/- for each subsequent offence.

(4) The STA or an officer authorised by it shall have the power to compound offences under this Act.

(5) Whoever commits a second or subsequent offence under this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than the fine amount for the first offence.

(6) Procedure- All Offences under this Act are cognizable and the provisions of Bharathiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, shall apply to the proceedings under this Act, and all offences are triable by the Magistrate of First Class.

14. Suspension and Cancellation of License.- The STA may, after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard, suspend or cancel the license of an Aggregator for repeated violations of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder.

CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS

15. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including rules on:

(a) The form and fee for an Aggregator's license;

(b) The specifications for the bike taxi colour scheme and signage;

(c) The curriculum for the 10-hour induction programme;

(d) The fare structure and commission sharing model;

(e) The code of conduct for Drivers and Aggregators.

16. Act to Have Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The rapid growth of bike taxi services has created a need for a clear regulatory framework to ensure passenger safety, driver welfare, and orderly growth of the sector. This bill to provide such a framework by mandating licensing, safety protocols, fair revenue sharing, and insurance requirements. The provisions are designed to protect all stakeholders and integrate bike taxis seamlessly into Karnataka's urban mobility ecosystem.

Hence, this Bill.

THE KARNATAKA FAIR PRICING OF DIGITAL SERVICES BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for regulation, transparency, and fairness in the pricing of digital services in Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

A Bill to ensure transparency, equity, and fairness in the pricing of digital services in the State of Karnataka, to protect consumers from exploitative and discriminatory pricing practices, to establish a robust regulatory mechanism for grievance redressal, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas, the pervasive use of digital services has made them essential for daily life and commerce;

Whereas, there is a need to prevent unfair and opaque pricing practices that exploit consumer necessity and data;

Whereas, it is expedient to establish a legal framework to ensure fair pricing and protect consumer interests in the digital ecosystem;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Fair Pricing of Digital Services Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Algorithmic Pricing" means any system where prices are determined or influenced automatically by algorithms, machine learning, or artificial intelligence based on data inputs.

(b) "Consumer" means any person who avails any digital service for any purpose other than resale or commercial purpose.

(c) "Digital Service" means any service provided electronically over the internet or through digital platforms, including but not limited to ride-hailing, food delivery, e-commerce, online ticketing, digital content streaming, cloud services, and online education.

(d) "Fair Price" means a price that is,—

(i) transparently disclosed in full prior to purchase;

(ii) not exploitative or predatory;

(iii) not unfairly discriminatory between consumers of similar standing; and

(iv) based on a clear and justifiable economic rationale, which may include costs, market competition, and a reasonable profit margin.

(e) "Personalized Pricing" means the practice of charging different prices to different consumers for the same digital service based on their personal data, purchasing history, location, or behavioural patterns.
(f) "Regulatory Authority" means the Karnataka Digital Services Regulatory Authority established under Section 9.
(g) "Service Provider" means any individual, company, firm, or entity that provides a digital service to consumers within the State of Karnataka.
(h) "Surge Pricing" means the practice of increasing prices dynamically during periods of high demand.

CHAPTER II
PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PRICING

3. Obligation of Fair and Transparent Pricing.- (1) Every Service Provider shall ensure that the pricing of its digital services is fair and transparent.
(2) The total price payable by a consumer, including all fees, taxes, and charges, shall be clearly displayed upfront before the consumer confirms the transaction.
(3) Any use of Surge Pricing or Algorithmic Pricing must be clearly communicated to the consumer at the beginning of the transaction.
4. Prohibition of Unfair Pricing Practices.- (1) A Service Provider shall not,-
(a) Engage in Personalized Pricing that is exploitative or not based on justifiable cost-based factors.
(b) Impose hidden charges or fees not disclosed prior to the confirmation of purchase.
(c) Manipulate prices through collusion or anti-competitive algorithms.
(d) Exploit emergencies, festivals, or periods of exceptional demand to charge excessively high prices that bear no reasonable relation to the cost of providing the service.

CHAPTER III
CONSUMER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

5. Rights of Consumers.- Every consumer shall have the right to,-
(a) Clear and accurate information about the price of a digital service.
(b) A detailed breakdown of the final price.
(c) Be protected from unfair, discriminatory, or deceptive pricing practices.
6. Obligations of Service Providers.- Every Service Provider shall,-
(a) Maintain a log of their pricing algorithms and models, which shall be made available to the Regulatory Authority for audit upon request.
(b) Establish a transparent and accessible grievance redressal mechanism for consumers.
(c) Display the pricing policy in a clear manner on its platform or website.

CHAPTER IV
REGULATORY MECHANISM

7. Establishment of Regulatory Authority.-
(1) The State Government shall, by notification, establish an authority to be known as the Karnataka Digital Services Regulatory Authority.
(2) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than four other members, to be appointed by the State Government, possessing expertise in law, economics, consumer affairs, technology, and public administration.
8. Powers and Functions of the Authority.- The Authority shall have the power to,-
(a) Investigate, suo moto or upon a complaint, any alleged violation of the provisions of this Act.
(b) Direct a Service Provider to modify its pricing practices to ensure compliance with this Act.
(c) Impose penalties and issue directions as specified under this Act.
(d) Conduct periodic audits of the algorithms and pricing models of Service Providers.
(e) Promote consumer awareness about their rights under this Act.
9. Complaint Mechanism.- (1) Any consumer may file a complaint against a Service Provider for any violation of this Act to the Regulatory Authority.
(2) Every complaint shall be resolved by the Authority in a time-bound manner, preferably within sixty days from the date of its receipt.
(3) The Authority shall have the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for summoning, enforcing attendance, and examining witnesses on oath.

CHAPTER V
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

10. Penalties for Violation.- (1) Where the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that a Service Provider has contravened any provision of this Act, it may impose a penalty which may extend to ₹10,00,000 (Ten Lakh Rupees) for the first contravention.
(2) For every subsequent contravention, the Authority may impose a penalty which may extend to ₹20,00,000 (Twenty Lakh Rupees).
(3) In addition to the monetary penalty, the Authority may direct the Service Provider to refund the excess amount charged to the consumer with interest at a rate of 12% per annum.
11. Offences by Companies.- (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed,

was in charge of and responsible for the conduct of the business of the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence has been committed with the consent or negligence of any director, manager, secretary, or other officer of the company, such person shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence.

12. Power to Issue Directions.- The Regulatory Authority may, in the public interest, issue directions to any Service Provider to discontinue or modify a pricing practice that is found to be unfair or exploitative.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

13. Appeal.- Any person aggrieved by an order of the Regulatory Authority may prefer an appeal to the High Court of Karnataka within sixty days from the date of the order.

14. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Regulatory Authority or any officer thereof for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

15. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

16. Act to Have Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

17. Annual Reporting.- The Authority established under this Act shall submit an annual report to the Government of Karnataka on compliance, enforcement actions, and recommendations for improvement.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The increasing reliance on digital services has exposed consumers to opaque and often exploitative pricing models, including algorithmic price discrimination and unjustified surge pricing. Existing consumer protection laws are inadequate to address these technologically advanced challenges. This Bill aims to establish a specialized legal and regulatory framework to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in the pricing of digital services, thereby protecting the interests of consumers and promoting a healthy digital ecosystem in Karnataka.

Hence, this Bill

THE KARNATAKA LIVING WILL (ADVANCE DIRECTIVE WILL) BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the recognition and enforcement of living wills and advance healthcare directives in the State of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas it is expedient to recognize the right of individuals to make informed decisions regarding their medical treatment and end-of-life care;

And Whereas it is necessary to provide a legal framework for the creation, registration, and enforcement of living wills and advance healthcare directives;

And Whereas such provisions will ensure dignity, autonomy, and quality of life for individuals facing terminal illness or irreversible medical conditions;

Now Therefore , Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Living Will (Advance Directive Will) Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Advance Healthcare Directive" means a written document executed by a competent adult specifying the healthcare treatment preferences and decisions to be followed when the person becomes unable to communicate or make decisions;

(b) "Authorized Representative" means a person designated in the living will to make healthcare decisions on behalf of the declarant when they become incapacitated;

(c) "Competent Adult" means a person who has attained the age of eighteen years and is of sound mind, capable of understanding the nature and consequences of their decisions;

(d) “Declarant” means a competent adult who executes a living will or advance healthcare directive;
(e) “Healthcare Provider” means any licensed medical practitioner, hospital, nursing home, or healthcare institution providing medical treatment;
(f) “Irreversible Medical Condition” means a condition that cannot be cured or reversed by available medical treatment and will result in death or permanent unconsciousness;
(g) “Life-sustaining Treatment” means any medical intervention, technology, procedure, or medication that is administered to delay the moment of death;
(h) “Living Will” or “Advance Directive Will” means a written advance healthcare directive executed by a competent adult specifying their wishes regarding medical treatment in the event of terminal illness or irreversible medical condition;
(i) “Medical Board” means a board constituted under Section 12 for the purpose of certifying terminal illness or irreversible medical condition;
(j) “palliative care specialist” a specialized approach that improves the quality of life for patients and their families facing serious illnesses by relieving suffering and addressing physical, psychological, social, and spiritual problems
(k) “Registrar” means the officer appointed under Section 8 for registration of living wills;
(l) “Terminal Illness” means an irreversible condition caused by injury, disease, or illness that would, within reasonable medical judgment, result in death within a relatively short period of time.

CHAPTER II
EXECUTION OF LIVING WILL

3. Right to execute living will.- (1) Every competent adult shall have the right to execute a living will in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
(2) No person shall be compelled to execute a living will.
(3) The execution of a living will shall be entirely voluntary and free from coercion, fraud, or undue influence.
4. Contents of living will.-A living will may include,-
(a) Specific instructions regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment;
(b) Preferences for pain management and palliative care;
(c) Designation of an authorized representative;
(d) Instructions regarding organ donation;
(e) Preferences for place of death and funeral arrangements;
(f) Any other healthcare-related wishes or instructions deemed appropriate by the declarant.
5. Form and execution requirements.- (1) A living will shall be in writing and shall be in such form as may be prescribed.

(2) The living will shall be signed by the declarant and affix his/her recent photo at the lase page of will in the presence of two witnesses who shall also sign the document with their recent photo.

(3) The witnesses shall: (a) Be competent adults; (b) Not be related to the declarant by blood or marriage; (c) Not be entitled to any portion of the declarant's estate; (d) Not be healthcare providers treating the declarant; (e) Not be employees of healthcare facilities where the declarant is receiving treatment.

(4) The living will shall be attested by a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class or a Notary Public who shall maintain a register separately for living wills and the Declarant and witnesses shall affix their recent photo in the register maintained by a Notary Public.

6. Medical opinion requirement.- (1) At the time of execution, the living will shall be accompanied by an opinion from a registered medical practitioner certifying that,-

(a) The declarant is of sound mind and capable of making informed decisions;

(b) The declarant understands the nature and consequences of the living will;

(c) The declarant is not under any coercion or undue influence.

(2) The medical practitioner providing the opinion shall not be a witness to the living will.

7. Revocation and modification.- (1) A declarant may revoke or modify their living will at any time while competent by,-

(a) Executing a new living will in accordance with this Act;

(b) Destroying the existing living will with intent to revoke;

(c) Making a written declaration of revocation executed in the same manner as the original living will.

(2) Notice of revocation shall be communicated to all relevant healthcare providers and the Registrar.

CHAPTER III
REGISTRATION AND CUSTODY

8. Appointment of Registrar.- (1) The State Government shall appoint a Registrar for each district for the registration of living wills.

(2) The Registrar shall maintain a register of all living wills in the prescribed manner.

9. Registration procedure.- (1) Every living will executed under this Act shall be registered with the Registrar within thirty days of execution.

(2) The application for registration shall be made in the prescribed form along with the prescribed fee.

(3) Upon registration, the Registrar shall issue a certificate of registration to the declarant.

10. Custody and access.- (1) The original living will shall be kept in the custody of the Registrar.

(2) Certified copies may be provided to,-

(a) The declarant;

(b) The authorized representative;

(c) Healthcare providers upon request;
(d) Legal representatives with proper authorization.

11. Digital repository.- (1) The State Government may establish a digital repository for storing and accessing living wills.

(2) Adequate security measures shall be implemented to ensure confidentiality and prevent unauthorized access.

CHAPTER IV
MEDICAL BOARD AND IMPLEMENTATION

12. Constitution of Medical Board.- (1) For the purpose of implementing living wills, a Medical Board shall be constituted consisting of,-

(a) A senior medical practitioner with at least fifteen years of experience as Chairperson;

(b) A specialist relevant to the patient's condition;

(c) A palliative care specialist or pain management expert;

(d) A psychiatrist or neurologist;

(e) A medical social worker or counselor.

(2) The Board shall examine the patient and certify whether the conditions specified in the living will have been satisfied.

13. Certification process.- (1) When a healthcare provider receives a request to implement a living will, they shall refer the matter to the Medical Board.

(2) The Medical Board shall,-

(a) Examine the patient's medical condition;

(b) Review the living will and medical records;

(c) Consult with the treating physician;

(d) Interview the authorized representative if available;

(e) Issue a certificate within seven days of referral.

(3) The certificate shall state whether,-

(a) The patient's condition meets the criteria specified in the living will; (b) The patient is unlikely to recover from the medical condition;

(c) The living will should be implemented.

14. Implementation safeguards.- (1) No living will shall be implemented without certification from the Medical Board.

(2) A cooling-off period of forty-eight hours shall be observed after certification before implementation.

(3) During the cooling-off period, family members may approach the Medical Board for reconsideration.

(4) Emergency medical treatment to preserve life shall not be withheld during the certification process.

CHAPTER V
DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

15. Duties of healthcare providers.- (1) Healthcare providers shall,-

(a) Respect and honor valid living wills;

(b) Make reasonable efforts to ascertain the existence of a living will;

(c) Maintain confidentiality of living wills;

(d) Provide necessary information to patients regarding living wills;

(e) Refer matters to the Medical Board when required.

(2) No healthcare provider shall be compelled to act contrary to their professional judgment or ethical beliefs.

(3) If a healthcare provider is unable to comply with a living will due to conscience or professional reasons, they shall transfer the patient to another willing provider.

16. Duties of authorized representatives.- (1) An authorized representative shall,-

(a) Act in accordance with the wishes expressed in the living will;

(b) Make decisions in the best interest of the declarant;

(c) Consult with healthcare providers as necessary;

(d) Keep family members informed of decisions made.

(2) The authorized representative shall not make decisions contrary to the explicit instructions in the living will.

17. Family rights and consultations.- (1) Family members shall be consulted and kept informed throughout the implementation process.

(2) Family members may petition the Medical Board if they believe the living will is being improperly implemented.

(3) However, the wishes expressed in a valid living will shall prevail over family objections.

CHAPTER VI
LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND LIABILITY

18. Immunity from liability.- (1) Healthcare providers acting in good faith in accordance with a valid living will shall be protected from,-

(a) Civil liability;

(b) Criminal prosecution;

(c) Professional disciplinary action;

(d) Administrative sanctions.

(2) Members of the Medical Board acting within their official capacity shall have similar protection.

19. Validity and enforceability.- (1) A living will executed in accordance with this Act shall be legally valid and enforceable.

(2) Courts shall give due consideration to living wills in matters relating to medical treatment decisions.

(3) No person shall be held liable for honouring a valid living will executed under this Act.

20. Penalties for non-compliance.- (1) Any healthcare provider who willfully fails to honor a valid living will shall be liable for:

(a) Disciplinary action by the appropriate medical council;

(b) Civil liability for damages;
(c) Fine up to rupees fifty thousand.
(2) Any person who forges, falsifies, or destroys a living will with intent to deceive shall be punishable with imprisonment up to two years or fine up to rupees one lakh, or both.

CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

21. Recognition of living wills from other jurisdictions.- Living wills executed in accordance with the laws of other states or countries may be recognized if they substantially comply with the requirements of this Act.

22. Relationship with other laws.- (1) This Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.
(2) In case of conflict between this Act and any other law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail in matters relating to living wills.

23. Non-discrimination.- No person shall be discriminated against in the provision of healthcare services, insurance coverage, or employment based solely on the execution or non-execution of a living will.

24. Public awareness and education.- (1) The State Government shall undertake public awareness campaigns regarding living wills and advance healthcare directives.
(2) Healthcare institutions shall provide information and counselling services regarding living wills to patients and families.

25. Annual reporting.-(1) The Registrar shall submit an annual report to the State Government regarding: (a) Number of living wills registered; (b) Cases of implementation; (c) Challenges faced and recommendations for improvement.
(2) The State Government shall lay the report before the State Legislature.

26. Rules and regulations.- (1) The State Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
(2) Rules may be made regarding: (a) Forms and procedures for execution and registration; (b) Fees for registration and certification; (c) Qualifications and appointment of Registrars; (d) Constitution and functioning of Medical Boards; (e) Maintenance of records and digital repository; (f) Any other matter necessary for implementation.

27. Transitional provisions.- (1) Living wills executed before the commencement of this Act may be registered within six months of commencement if they substantially comply with the requirements of this Act.
(2) The State Government may establish temporary registration centers to facilitate registration during the initial period.

28. Amendment and review.- (1) This Act may be amended by the State Legislature as deemed necessary.
(2) The State Government shall review the working of this Act every five years and make necessary recommendations for improvement.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Karnataka Living Will (Advance Directive Will) Bill, 2025 seeks to provide a comprehensive legal framework for recognizing and enforcing living wills in the State of Karnataka. The Bill aims to uphold the fundamental right to autonomy and dignity in healthcare decisions, particularly for individuals facing terminal illness or irreversible medical conditions.

The Bill establishes clear procedures for execution, registration, and implementation of living wills while incorporating necessary safeguards to prevent misuse. It balances individual autonomy with family concerns and medical ethics, ensuring that such important decisions are made with proper deliberation and oversight.

The legislation is expected to provide clarity to healthcare providers, reduce family conflicts during difficult times, and ensure that individuals' wishes regarding end-of-life care are respected and honoured.

THE KARNATAKA TRANSPORTATION FARE REGULATION BILL, 2025

A bill to protect passengers from exploitative, unfair fare hikes during high-demand periods to ensure accessible, affordable transportation as a fundamental right for all, especially during festivals and emergencies.

A Bill to regulate fare pricing in the transportation industry in the State of Karnataka, to prevent unfair and exploitative pricing practices during periods of high demand, to ensure transparency and fairness to passengers, to curb price gouging, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas, it is expedient to protect passengers from exorbitant and unfair fare hikes imposed by transport operators during festivals, emergencies, and periods of high demand;

And whereas, the State is committed to ensuring that the essential service of transportation remains accessible and affordable without exploitative practices;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I:
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Transportation Fare Regulation Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Base Fare" means the maximum fare for a journey, as approved by the State Transport Authority (STA) or Regional Transport Authority (RTA) for a specific route and type of vehicle under normal conditions.

(b) "Dynamic Pricing" means a pricing strategy where fares are automatically adjusted by an aggregator or operator based on real-time demand and supply conditions.

(c) "High-Demand Period" means any period officially declared as such by the State Government, which shall include, but not be limited to, major festivals (e.g., Deepavali, Dasara, Ganesha Chaturthi, Christmas, New Year's Eve, Eid), public holidays, natural disasters, emergencies, or any other event leading to a significant surge in passenger demand.

(d) "Operator" means any entity or individual, public or private, including aggregators, that provides passenger transport services by road, including buses, taxis, cabs, auto-rickshaws, and bike-taxis.

(e) "Price Gouging" means the practice of increasing fares to an unfair or exorbitant level, significantly above the Base Fare or the regulated cap, during a High-Demand Period.
(f) "State Transport Authority (STA)" means the State Transport Authority constituted under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
(g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER II
FARE REGULATION MECHANISM

3. Regulation of Fares During High-Demand Periods.-
(1) Notwithstanding any other law in force, no operator shall charge a fare from a passenger that exceeds the Maximum Permissible Fare.
(2) The Maximum Permissible Fare shall be calculated as:
- Base Fare + (X% of Base Fare)
- Where 'X' is a percentage cap prescribed by the State Government, which shall not exceed 50% (Fifty Percent) of the Base Fare under any circumstance.
(3) The STA shall, in consultation with the government, notify the list of High-Demand Periods and the applicable cap 'X' at least thirty days prior to the commencement of such a period.
4. Transparency and Display of Fares.- (1) Every operator, especially aggregators using dynamic pricing, must clearly display the following to the passenger before the booking is confirmed:
(a) The Base Fare for the journey.
(b) The final fare being charged.
(c) A clear mention if the fare is being charged under a High-Demand Period pricing cap.
(d) The breakdown of the fare, including any additional charges.
(2) The fare displayed at the time of booking confirmation shall be the final fare charged to the passenger, and no hidden charges shall be added subsequently.

CHAPTER III
PREVENTION OF UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

5. Prohibition of Price Gouging.- The practice of Price Gouging, as defined in this Act, is expressly prohibited. Any fare that exceeds the Maximum Permissible Fare shall be deemed as Price Gouging.
6. Duty of Aggregators and Operators.- (1) It is the duty of every aggregator and operator to ensure their pricing algorithms and practices comply with the provisions of this Act.
(2) Aggregators must have a mechanism to cap the fares on their platform to prevent drivers from charging exorbitant amounts directly from passengers in cash, bypassing the app.

CHAPTER IV
PENALTIES

7. Penalties for Violation.- (1) Any operator found guilty of charging a fare above the Maximum Permissible Fare (Price Gouging) shall be liable to:

(a) Monetary Penalty: A fine which shall be ₹50,000 (Fifty Thousand Rupees) per passenger complaint or five times the excess amount charged, whichever is higher, for the first offence.

(b) Refund to Passenger: The excess amount charged shall be refunded to the passenger within fourteen days, along with interest at a rate prescribed by the government.

(2) For a second offence within a calendar year, the penalty shall be doubled, and the permit of the vehicle shall be suspended for thirty days.

(3) For a third or subsequent offence within a calendar year, the penalty shall be ₹2,00,000 (Two Lakh Rupees) per complaint, and the permit of the vehicle shall be cancelled permanently. In the case of an aggregator, their license to operate in the State may be revoked.

CHAPTER V
ENFORCEMENT AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

8. Power of State Transport Authority.- (1) The STA shall be the primary authority for the implementation and enforcement of this Act.

(2) The STA may appoint such officers and create such cells as it deems necessary for the enforcement of this Act, including Fare Regulation Officers.

9. Complaint Mechanism.- (1) Any passenger aggrieved by a violation of this Act may file a complaint through,-

(a) A dedicated helpline number;

(b) A designated online portal and mobile application;

(c) In writing, to the office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO).

(2) The complaint must be filed within thirty days of the journey and shall include proof of travel and payment (e.g., e-receipt, booking confirmation, payment gateway screenshot).

(3) The concerned authority shall after hearing both the parties pass an order within thirty days from the date of receipt of complaint.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

10. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

11. Act to Have Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The practice of charging exorbitant fares during festivals and emergencies has become widespread, causing significant hardship to the public. Existing laws are insufficient to curb this exploitative practice. This Bill aims to introduce a strong regulatory framework with clear caps, severe penalties, and an efficient redressal mechanism to protect consumers from unfair trade practices in the transportation sector. It seeks to balance the commercial interests of operators with the fundamental right of passengers to access affordable transportation.

Hence, this Bill.

THE KARNATAKA ONLINE SAFETY AND DIGITAL HARMONY BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the prevention and control of online hate speech, digital harassment, and cyber abuse; to establish the Karnataka Online Safety Authority for effective regulation and grievance redressal; to define the obligations of intermediaries; to provide for victim protection and support; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Karnataka in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent, and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Online Safety and Digital Harmony Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It applies to,—

(a) all persons residing in Karnataka;

(b) any person whose online conduct causes harm to a resident of Karnataka or has the potential to disturb public order within the State; and

(c) intermediaries, as defined in section 2, which operate within or provide services to users in Karnataka.

(4) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(1) "Authority" means the Karnataka Online Safety Authority established under section 3;

(2) "Coordinated Trolling" means an act carried out by a person or a group of persons, using multiple online identities or accounts, whether real or fabricated, in a concerted manner with the intent to,—

(a) systematically harass, intimidate, or silence an individual; or

(b) manipulate the functioning of a digital platform to amplify abusive content;

(3) "Digital Harassment" includes,—

(a) repeated and unwanted communication causing distress or alarm;

(b) cyber-stalking;

(c) voyeurism;

(d) doxxing, i.e., the malicious publication of private or identifying information;

(e) impersonation with fraudulent or malicious intent; and

(f) non-consensual sharing of intimate images;

(4) "Intermediary" means any person who on behalf of another person receives, stores, transmits, or provides any service with respect to any electronic record, and

includes telecom service providers, network service providers, internet service providers, web-hosting service providers, search engines, online marketplaces, and online social media platforms;

(5) "Online Hate Speech" means any communication through a digital platform which—

(a) advocates, promotes, or incites hatred, discrimination, or violence; and

(b) is directed against any person or group of persons on the grounds of religion, race, caste, community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, place of birth, or residence.

Explanation: Bona fide academic, artistic, journalistic, or satirical expression not intended to incite violence shall not constitute hate speech under this Act;

(6) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(7) "Victim" means any person who has suffered harm as a result of an offence under this Act.

CHAPTER II
ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE KARNATAKA ONLINE SAFETY AUTHORITY

3. Establishment of the Karnataka Online Safety Authority.- (1) With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, an Authority to be called the Karnataka Online Safety Authority.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

4. Composition of the Authority.- (1) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than six and not more than eight other members to be appointed by the State Government.

(2) The Authority shall be composed of individuals with expertise in the following fields, to be selected in such manner as may be prescribed:

(a) a Chairperson who is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court;

(b) a member with at least fifteen years of experience in technology law or digital rights;

(c) a member with expertise in cyber security and digital forensics;

(d) a member from the Indian Police Service, not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General, with experience in cybercrime investigation;

(e) a member with special knowledge of, and professional experience in, psychology and victim trauma;

(f) a member from the field of information technology with expertise in artificial intelligence and machine learning;

(g) a member representing civil society, particularly from organisations working on women's rights or digital rights.

5. Term of office and conditions of service.- The term of office, salaries, allowances, and other conditions of service of the Chairperson and other members, and the procedure for their appointment shall be such as may be prescribed.

6. Powers and functions of the Authority.- The Authority shall have the power to,—

(a) issue guidelines and codes of practice for intermediaries for ensuring online safety;

(b) conduct inquiries, *suo motu* or on a complaint, into violations of the provisions of this Act;

(c) direct intermediaries to remove or disable access to content that violates this Act;

(d) impose penalties on intermediaries for non-compliance with the provisions of this Act;

(e) advise the State Government on matters relating to policy and legislation on online safety;

(f) promote awareness and conduct research on issues relating to online safety;

(g) determine compensation payable to victims of offences under this Act;

(h) exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III
PROHIBITION AND PENALTIES

7. Prohibition of certain online acts.- No person shall,—

(a) engage in Online Hate Speech;

(b) engage in or facilitate Coordinated Trolling;

(c) commit any act of Digital Harassment.

8. Classification of offences: For the purposes of this Act, offences are classified as under,-

(1) Category ‘A’ (Severe Offences):Online Hate Speech inciting imminent violence, Coordinated Trolling campaigns, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, and doxxing with malicious intent.

(2) Category ‘B’ (Moderate Offences): Individual instances of trolling, harassment not amounting to a coordinated campaign, and impersonation for non-violent purposes.

(3) Category ‘C’ (Minor Offences): Single-instance inflammatory comments and mild forms of online abuse not falling under Category ‘A’ or B.

9. Penalties.-(1) Whoever commits a Category ‘A’ offence shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both.

(2) Whoever commits a Category 'B' offence shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees, or with both.
(3) Whoever commits a Category 'C' offence shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.
(4) The Court may, in addition to any punishment awarded under this section, direct the accused to undergo counselling or perform community service.

CHAPTER IV
INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT

10. Constitution of Specialised Cyber Police Units.- The State Government shall, by notification, constitute a specialised Cyber Police Unit to be called the Karnataka Cyber Safety Command at the state level, with Zonal Units and District Cells, for the investigation of offences under this Act.

11. Duties and responsibilities of Cyber Police Units.- The Cyber Police Unit shall be responsible for,—
(a) the investigation of offences under this Act;
(b) the preservation and forensic analysis of digital evidence;
(c) coordination with intermediaries for the purpose of investigation;
(d) providing assistance to victims in filing complaints.

12. Procedure for investigation.- (1) Every investigation under this Act shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita 2023.
(2) The State Government shall ensure that the Cyber Police Unit is equipped with the necessary technical, forensic, and human resources to effectively discharge its functions under this Act.

13. Digital Evidence Management.- All digital evidence collected during an investigation under this Act shall be preserved, documented, and handled in such manner as may be prescribed to ensure its integrity and admissibility in a court of law.

CHAPTER V
OBLIGATIONS OF INTERMEDIARIES

14. Due diligence to be observed by intermediaries.- (1) An intermediary which provides services to more than fifty thousand users in Karnataka shall,—
(a) appoint a Chief Compliance Officer, who shall be a resident in India, responsible for ensuring compliance with this Act;
(b) appoint a Nodal Contact Person for twenty-four hour coordination with law enforcement agencies;

(c) appoint a Resident Grievance Officer, who shall be proficient in the Kannada language, to handle grievances;
(d) publish a monthly compliance report in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
(2) The intermediary shall deploy appropriate automated and human moderation tools to identify and remove content which violates this Act.
15. Grievance redressal mechanism.- (1) Every intermediary shall establish a mechanism for the receipt and resolution of complaints from users or victims.
(2) Upon receiving a complaint, the intermediary shall acknowledge it within twenty-four hours and resolve it within such time as may be prescribed, based on the category of the offending content.

16. Transparency and reporting obligations.- Every intermediary shall, at such intervals and in such manner as may be prescribed, publish a transparency report detailing,—
(a) the number of complaints received and actions taken;
(b) the number of items of content removed proactively;
(c) the number of requests received from law enforcement agencies and actions taken thereon.
17. Safe harbour provisions and exceptions.- (1) An intermediary shall not be liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by it, if it complies with the due diligence requirements under this Act and the rules made thereunder.
(2) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall not apply if the intermediary,—
(a) has conspired or abetted in the commission of the unlawful act;
(b) upon receiving actual knowledge or a court order or being notified by the Authority, fails to expeditiously remove or disable access to the unlawful content.

CHAPTER VI
VICTIM PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

18. Victim support services.- The State Government shall establish Digital Victim Support Centres in every district to provide victims with,—
(a) legal aid and assistance;
(b) psychological counselling and mental health support;
(c) emergency support, including assistance for urgent takedown of content and police protection.
19. Special Courts and trial procedures.- (1) The State Government may, in consultation with the High Court of Karnataka, designate one or more Courts of Session in each district as a Special Court for the trial of offences under this Act.
(2) Trials before a Special Court shall, as far as practicable, be held on a day-to-day basis and shall be completed within six months from the date of filing of the charge sheet.

20. Compensation to victims.- (1) The Special Court may, upon conviction of the accused, order him to pay such compensation to the victim for the harm or loss suffered as the Court may deem reasonable.
(2) Where compensation under sub-section (1) cannot be recovered from the accused, the victim may be paid such compensation from the Karnataka Digital Safety Fund.

CHAPTER VII
FINANCE, ACCOUNTS, AND AUDIT

21. Karnataka Digital Safety Fund.- (1) There shall be constituted a fund to be called the Karnataka Digital Safety Fund.
(2) The Fund shall be applied for,—
(a) meeting the administrative expenses of the Authority;
(b) meeting the expenses of the Cyber Police Units;
(c) compensating victims as provided under section 20;
(d) promoting research and awareness on online safety.
22. Budget, accounts, and audit.- The Authority shall prepare, in such form and at such time each year as may be prescribed, its budget and annual report, which shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

23. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government, the Authority, or any officer thereof for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules made thereunder.
24. Power of State Government to make rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters:
(a) the composition of the Authority and the manner of selection of its members;
(b) the salaries and allowances payable to the members of the Authority;
(c) the procedure for investigation and the manner of handling digital evidence;
(d) the form and manner of transparency reports to be published by intermediaries;
(e) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.
25. Power of the Authority to make regulations.- The Authority may, with the previous approval of the State Government, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the provisions of this Act.
26. Overriding effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The proliferation of online hate speech, coordinated trolling, and digital harassment has created an environment of fear and intimidation, undermining constitutional values of equality, fraternity, and human dignity. Existing legal frameworks are inadequate to address the unique and evolving challenges posed by digital harm.

This Bill seeks to provide a comprehensive legal framework to ensure online safety and digital harmony in the State of Karnataka. It aims to establish an independent regulatory authority, define prohibited conduct with clarity, impose obligations on intermediaries, create specialised enforcement mechanisms, and provide robust support systems for victims, all while balancing the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

Hence, this Bill.

THE KARNATAKA PAYING GUEST ACCOMMODATION (REGULATION AND SAFETY) BILL, 2025

A Bill to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for Paying Guest accommodations in Karnataka, to provide for mandatory licensing, safety and hygiene standards, transparency in tenancy agreements, protection of resident rights, enforcement mechanisms, and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas the rapid urbanization and influx of students and professionals in Karnataka has led to the proliferation of Paying Guest accommodations;

And Whereas the absence of a specialized regulatory framework has resulted in safety hazards, exploitation of residents, and administrative challenges;

And Whereas it is expedient to establish a comprehensive system for the registration, licensing, monitoring, and regulation of Paying Guest accommodations to ensure public safety, resident welfare, and accountability of operators;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Paying Guest Accommodation (Regulation and Safety) Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Application of the Act.- (1) This Act shall apply to all Paying Guest accommodations operating within the State of Karnataka.

(2) This Act shall not apply to,-

(a) Educational institutions providing hostel accommodations to their own students;

(b) Hotels, lodges, and guest houses licensed under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961;

(c) Residential accommodations governed by formal tenancy agreements under the Karnataka Rent Control Act, 1999;

(d) Service accommodations provided by employers to their employees.

(3) The State Government may, by notification, exempt any category of accommodations from the operation of this Act, subject to such conditions as may be specified.

3. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Authority" means Competent Authority designated under Section 4;

(b) "Co-sharing PG accommodation" means a Paying Guest accommodation where persons of different genders are housed in the same premises with shared common facilities;

(c) "Competent Authority" means the officer designated by the State Government under Section 4 to exercise powers and perform duties under this Act;

(d) "License" means a license granted under Chapter III of this Act;

(e) "Operator" means any person who operates, manages, or controls a Paying Guest accommodation, whether as owner, lessee, or agent;

(f) "Paying Guest accommodation" or "PG accommodation" means any premises where lodging is provided to persons on payment basis with or without boarding facilities, but does not include premises exclusively used for the operator's family members;

(g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(h) "Regulatory Authority" means the Karnataka PG Accommodation Regulatory Authority established under Section 5.

(i) "Resident" means any person occupying a Paying Guest accommodation on payment basis;

(j) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

CHAPTER II
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4. Designation of Competent Authority.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, designate officers not below the rank of Deputy Commissioner as Competent Authorities for each district for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Competent Authority shall exercise powers and perform duties assigned under this Act within the territorial limits specified in the notification.

(3) The State Government may designate additional officers as Joint Competent Authorities to assist in the implementation of this Act.

5. Karnataka PG Accommodation Regulatory Authority.- (1) The State Government shall establish a body to be known as the "Karnataka PG Accommodation Regulatory Authority" for the effective implementation of this Act.

(2) The Regulatory Authority shall consist of,-

(a) A Chairperson, being a retired High Court Judge or an officer not below the rank of Additional Chief Secretary;

(b) Three Members representing urban development, fire safety, and consumer affairs;

(c) Two Representatives from PG operators' associations;
(d) Two Representatives from resident welfare organizations;
(e) One Expert in building safety and architecture.

(3) The Regulatory Authority shall,-
(a) Formulate policy guidelines for PG accommodation regulation;
(b) Monitor implementation of this Act across the state;
(c) Review and recommend amendments to rules and standards;
(d) Coordinate with various government departments;
(e) Publish annual reports on the PG accommodation sector.

6. Powers of Competent Authority.- The Competent Authority shall have the power to,-
(a) Grant, renew, suspend, or cancel licenses;
(b) Conduct inspections of PG accommodations;
(c) Issue directions for compliance with this Act;
(d) Impose penalties as prescribed;
(e) Receive and resolve complaints;
(f) Maintain registers of licensed PG accommodations;
(g) Coordinate with other authorities for effective enforcement.

7. Duties of Competent Authority.- The Competent Authority shall,-
(a) Process license applications within prescribed timelines;
(b) Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance;
(c) Maintain transparent records of all proceedings;
(d) Provide assistance to operators for compliance;
(e) Ensure prompt grievance redressal;
(f) Submit periodic reports to the Regulatory Authority.

8. State Advisory Committee.- (1) The State Government may constitute a State Advisory Committee to advise on matters related to PG accommodation regulation.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall include representatives from relevant government departments, industry associations, consumer groups, and subject matter experts.

CHAPTER III
LICENSING SYSTEM

9. Mandatory Registration and License.- (1) No person shall operate a Paying Guest accommodation without a valid license granted under this Act.

(2) Every operator of a PG accommodation existing at the commencement of this Act shall apply for a license within six months from such commencement.

(3) No new PG accommodation shall commence operation without obtaining a license under this Act.

10. Categories of License.- (1) PG accommodations shall be classified into the following categories based on capacity:

(a) **Category A**: Accommodating 1-20 residents

(b) **Category B**: Accommodating 21-50 residents

(c) **Category C**: Accommodating 51-100 residents

(d) **Category D**: Accommodating more than 100 residents

(2) Each category shall have specific requirements for infrastructure, safety standards, and operational compliance as prescribed.

11. Application for License.- (1) Every application for the grant of a license shall be made to the Competent Authority having jurisdiction over the area where the PG accommodation is located, in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Every application shall be accompanied by,-

(a) the prescribed fee;

(b) documents establishing ownership or legal right to use the premises;

(c) approved building plans and occupancy certificate;

(d) fire safety compliance certificate from competent authority;

(e) structural stability certificate from qualified engineer;

(f) water quality test report from recognized laboratory;

(g) electrical safety compliance certificate;

(h) such other documents and information as may be prescribed.

(3) The Competent Authority shall acknowledge receipt of the application within seven days.

12. Processing of License Application.- (1) The Competent Authority shall process the license application within 30 days of receipt of complete application.

(2) If additional information is required, the Authority may seek clarification, which shall be provided within 15 days.

(3) The Authority shall conduct physical verification of the premises before granting the license and video record the inspection of the premise and it shall form part of the record either granting or rejecting the application for license.

(4) If the application is rejected, detailed reasons shall be provided in writing.

13. Grant of License.- (1) If satisfied that the applicant has complied with all requirements, the Competent Authority shall grant the license.

(2) Every license granted under this section shall specify,-

(a) the category and maximum accommodation capacity;

(b) the period of validity;

(c) the conditions and restrictions subject to which the license is granted;

(d) special endorsements for co-sharing accommodations, if applicable.

(3) Every license shall be valid for three years from the date of issue, unless earlier suspended or cancelled.

13. Validity and Renewal of License.- (1) Every license granted under this Act shall, unless sooner suspended or cancelled, remain valid for a period of three years from the date of its grant.

(2) An application for renewal of license shall be made to the Competent Authority at least sixty days before the expiry of the existing license.

(3) The procedure for renewal shall be the same as that prescribed for the grant of a fresh license, and the Competent Authority may grant renewal subject to compliance with current standards and requirements.

(4) A license may be renewed for successive periods of three years each, subject to continued compliance with this Act.

15. Suspension and Cancellation of License.- (1)The Competent Authority may suspend a license for a period not exceeding three months if,-

(a) The operator violates any provision of this Act;

(b) The premises fail to meet prescribed standards;

(c) Complaints indicate serious safety concerns.

(2) The Authority may cancel a license if,-

(a) The operator repeatedly violates the Act;

(b) The premises pose imminent danger to residents;

(c) The license was obtained through misrepresentation;

(d) the operator fails to rectify violations despite suspension and notice.

(3) Before suspension or cancellation, the operator shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

(4) Upon cancellation of a license, the operator shall immediately cease operations and make arrangements for the alternative accommodation of existing residents.

16. Transfer of License.- (1) A license granted under this Act shall not be transferred without the prior approval of the Competent Authority.

(2) An application for transfer shall be made in the prescribed manner, accompanied by the prescribed fee and such documents as may be required.

(3) The Competent Authority may approve the transfer if it is satisfied that the transferee is eligible and capable of operating the PG accommodation in compliance with this Act

CHAPTER IV
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY STANDARDS

17. Minimum Infrastructure Requirements.-

Every PG accommodation shall comply with the following minimum requirements,-

(1) **Space Standards**:-

(a) minimum carpet area of 60 square feet per person in shared accommodation and 80 square feet for single occupancy;

(b) minimum ceiling height of 2.75 meters (9 feet);

(c) adequate natural ventilation and lighting in all occupied spaces.

(2) **Sanitation Facilities**:-

(a) minimum one toilet facility for every eight residents;

(b) minimum one bathing facility for every six residents;

(c) continuous water supply for at least 16 hours daily;

(d) proper drainage and sewerage connections.

(3) **Kitchen and Dining**:-

(a) Hygienic cooking facilities if food service is provided

(b) Adequate dining space

(c) Safe food storage arrangements

(4) **Common Areas**:-

(a) Adequate ventilation and natural lighting

(b) Recreation area for Category B, C, and D accommodations

(c) Separate facilities for different genders where applicable

18. Fire Safety Requirements:-

(1) Every PG accommodation shall maintain the following fire safety measures:

(a) fire extinguishers of appropriate type and capacity as per prescribed norms;

(b) smoke detection and fire alarm systems for Category C and D accommodations;

(c) clearly marked emergency exits and evacuation routes;

(d) emergency lighting systems;

(e) prominently displayed emergency contact numbers and evacuation plans.

(2) All fire safety equipment shall be regularly inspected and maintained in working condition.

(3) Fire safety training shall be provided to staff and residents at prescribed intervals.

(4) Annual fire safety inspections shall be conducted by the competent fire authority, and compliance certificates shall be obtained.

19. Security Arrangements.- (1) Every PG accommodation shall implement appropriate security measures including,-

(a) controlled entry and exit systems;

(b) CCTV surveillance in common areas (excluding private spaces);

(c) security personnel for Category C and D accommodations;

(d) visitor registration and monitoring system;

(e) adequate lighting in all common areas and approaches.

(2) For accommodations housing women residents, additional security measures shall include:

(a) female security personnel during night hours;

(b) separate entry facilities for women's sections in co-sharing accommodations;

(c) emergency alarm systems in women's accommodation areas;

(d) such other measures as may be prescribed.

20. Electrical Safety.- (1) All electrical installations in PG accommodations shall comply with the Indian Electricity Rules, 2005 and relevant Indian Standards.

(2) Electrical safety audits shall be conducted annually by qualified electrical contractors, and compliance certificates shall be maintained.

(3) Adequate power backup shall be provided for essential services including lighting, water supply, and security systems.

(4) All electrical equipment and appliances shall be of ISI mark or equivalent standard.

21. Water and Sanitation Standards.- (1) Every PG accommodation shall ensure:

(a) supply of potable water conforming to Indian Standards for drinking water quality;

(b) adequate storage capacity and regular cleaning of water storage systems;

(c) water quality testing at prescribed intervals by recognized laboratories.

(2) Proper waste management systems shall be implemented including:

(a) segregation of waste at source;

(b) appropriate collection and disposal arrangements;

(c) regular pest control measures.

22. Co-sharing PG Accommodations.- (1) Co-sharing PG accommodations shall require special endorsement on the license.

(2) Additional requirements for co-sharing PGs,-

(a) Separate accommodation blocks for different genders;

(b) Common areas with adequate supervision;

(c) Strict visitor policy and timings;

(d) Gender-sensitive complaint redressal mechanism;

(e) Enhanced security measures.

(3) The operator shall display rules for co-sharing accommodations prominently.

23. Health and Hygiene Standards.- (1) Where food service is provided, the operator shall ensure,-

(a) regular health checkups of kitchen staff;

(b) hygienic food preparation and storage facilities;

(c) compliance with food safety regulations;

(d) safe drinking water supply.

(2) The premises shall be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.

(3) Arrangements shall be made for emergency medical care and tie-ups with nearby healthcare facilities.

(4) Such other health and hygiene standards as may be prescribed shall be maintained.

CHAPTER V
OPERATIONAL COMPLIANCE

24. Mandatory Written Agreement.- (1) Every operator shall execute a written agreement with each resident.

(2) The agreement shall be in the prescribed format and shall clearly specify,-

(a) the rent and all other charges payable;

(b) the amount of security deposit and conditions for its refund;

(c) the notice period required for termination by either party;

(d) the services and facilities included in the rent;

(e) the house rules and regulations applicable to residents;

(f) the procedure for grievance redressal;

(g) the consequences of breach of agreement terms.

(3) A copy of the executed agreement shall be provided to the resident, and the original shall be maintained by the operator.

(4) No oral agreements shall be recognized for the purposes of this Act.

25. Rent and Pricing Transparency.- (1) All charges including rent, security deposit, and other fees shall be clearly specified in the written agreement.

(2) The operator shall not impose any hidden charges or levy additional fees not mentioned in the agreement.

(3) Annual rent increases shall not exceed ten percent of the existing rent unless justified by substantial infrastructure improvements or enhancement of services.

(4) A tariff card displaying all applicable charges shall be prominently displayed in the common area.

(5) The operator shall provide detailed receipts for all payments received from residents.

26. Security Deposit Regulations.- (1) The security deposit charged from any resident shall not exceed the equivalent of two months' rent.

(2) The security deposit shall be refunded to the resident within thirty days of vacation of the premises.

(3) Any deductions from the security deposit shall be itemized and substantiated with supporting documents.

(4) Interest on security deposit shall be paid to the resident at such rate as may be prescribed.

(5) The operator shall maintain a separate bank account for security deposits and shall not utilize such amounts for operational expenses

27. Rights of Residents.- Every resident shall have the right to,-

(a) safe, secure, and hygienic accommodation;

(b) privacy and personal security within the accommodation;

(c) access to all common facilities without discrimination;

(d) reasonable notice before eviction or termination of agreement;

(e) transparent pricing and billing;

(f) prompt grievance redressal;

(g) form or join resident welfare associations;

(h) such other rights as may be prescribed.

28. Operator Obligations.- Every operator shall,-

(a) maintain the premises and facilities in good and habitable condition;

(b) provide all services and facilities as agreed upon in the written agreement;

(c) respect the privacy and rights of residents;

(d) maintain proper books of accounts and records;

(e) comply with all applicable laws and regulations;

(f) not discriminate among residents on grounds of religion, caste, gender, or place of origin;

(g) provide assistance to residents in case of emergencies;

(h) discharge such other obligations as may be prescribed.

29. Maintenance of Records.- Every operator shall maintain the following records,-

(a) register of residents with complete details and dates of entry and exit;

(b) copies of all agreements executed with residents;

(c) income and expenditure accounts;

(d) maintenance and repair records;

(e) complaint register and action taken;

(f) safety inspection reports and compliance certificates

CHAPTER VI
ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

30. Inspection Powers.- (1) The Competent Authority or any officer authorized by it may, at any reasonable time, inspect any PG accommodation for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act.

(2) Every operator and person in charge of a PG accommodation shall provide all reasonable assistance and access to the inspecting officer.

(3) The inspecting officer shall prepare a detailed inspection report in the prescribed format and provide a copy thereof to the operator.

31. Compliance Notices.- (1) If any violation of this Act is found during inspection or otherwise, the Competent Authority may issue a compliance notice to the operator specifying,-

(a) the nature and details of the violation;

(b) the remedial measures to be taken;

(c) the time limit for compliance;

(d) the consequences of non-compliance.

(2) The operator may, with sufficient cause, seek an extension of time for compliance, which may be granted at the discretion of the Competent Authority.

32. Penalty Structure.- (1) **Administrative Penalties**,-

(a) Operating without license: Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000

(b) Violation of safety standards: Rs.5,000 to Rs.25,000

(c) Non-compliance with agreement terms: Rs.2,000 to Rs.10,000

(d) Failure to maintain records: Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000

(2) **Enhanced Penalties for Repeat Violations**: Double the prescribed penalty for second violation within two years.

(3) **Criminal Prosecution**: Causing danger to life or property may result in imprisonment up to one year or fine up to ₹1,00,000 or both.

33. Closure Orders.- (1) The Competent Authority may order the closure of any PG accommodation if,-

(a) it continues to operate without a valid license despite notices;

(b) it poses serious and imminent threat to the safety of residents;

(c) it persistently violates the provisions of this Act despite repeated warnings and penalties

(2) Before ordering closure, the operator shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard

(3) Before closure, residents shall be given reasonable time to find alternative accommodation.

34. Recovery of Penalties.- (1) All penalties imposed under this Act shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

(2) The Competent Authority may, for the recovery of penalties, attach and sell the assets of the defaulting operator in accordance with the provisions of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964.

35. Appeals.- (1) The State Government shall designate officers not below the rank of Regional Commissioner as Appellate Authorities for hearing appeals under this Act.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order of the Competent Authority may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority within thirty days of the communication of such order.

(3) The Appellate Authority shall dispose of every appeal within sixty days of its filing.

(4) The decision of the Appellate Authority shall be final and binding.

36. Limitation of Prosecution.- No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted after the expiry of two years from the date of commission of the offense.

CHAPTER VII
GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

37. Complaint Mechanism.-

(1) Any resident may file a complaint with verifying affidavit against the operator with the Competent Authority stating violation of the provisions of this Act.

(2) Complaints may be filed through the following means,-

(a) in writing addressed to the Competent Authority;

(b) through the online portal established for this purpose;

(c) through the dedicated toll-free helpline;

(d) through the mobile application developed by the State Government.

(3) private complaints with address details and affidavit of the complainant stating serious safety or security issues shall also be entertained.

38. Processing of Complaints.- (1) All complaints shall be acknowledged within 48 hours.

(2) The Authority shall investigate the complaint and resolve it within 15 days.

(3) If resolution requires more time, the complainant shall be informed with reasons.

39. Dispute Resolution.- (1) The Authority may constitute Local Dispute Resolution Committees comprising,-

(a) Competent Authority or nominee as Chairperson;

(b) One representative of operators;

(c) One representative of residents.

(2) The Committee shall attempt amicable settlement before formal proceedings.

40. Emergency Response.- (1) For safety emergencies, residents may contact the 24-hour helpline.

(2) Emergency response team shall reach the premises within 30 minutes in urban areas and 60 minutes in rural areas.

41. Compensation.- (1) The Competent Authority may, while disposing of complaints, order the operator to pay compensation to affected residents for,-

(a) wrongful eviction or termination of agreement;

(b) unlawful retention of security deposit;

(c) breach of agreement terms;

(d) harassment or discrimination;

(e) safety lapses resulting in harm or loss.

(2) The amount of compensation shall not exceed Rs.1,00,000 per case and shall be determined based on the nature and extent of loss or harassment suffered.

(3) Compensation awarded shall be recovered from the operator as arrears of land revenue if not paid within the specified time

CHAPTER VIII
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

42. Fees and Charges.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, prescribe the fees payable for,-

(a) application for grant and renewal of license;

(b) inspection and certification services;

(c) appeals and other proceedings;

(d) such other services as may be specified.

(2) The fees shall be reasonable and proportionate to the category of PG accommodation and services provided.

(3) Different fee structures may be prescribed for different categories and different areas.

43. Karnataka PG Regulation Fund.- (1) The State Government shall establish a fund called "Karnataka PG Regulation Fund."

2) The Fund shall consist of,-

(a) all fees collected under this Act;

(b) penalties recovered under this Act;

(c) grants and contributions from the State Government;

(d) donations and contributions from any other source approved by the State Government;

(e) interest accrued on investments of the Fund.

44. Utilization of Fund.- The Fund established under section 43 shall be applied for,-

(a) meeting the expenses of implementation and enforcement of this Act;
(b) capacity building and training programs for officials, operators, and residents;
(c) infrastructure development and safety upgradation support;
(d) research and development activities related to PG accommodation sector;
(e) resident welfare and support programs;
(f) development of information technology systems and digital platforms;
(g) such other purposes as may be approved by the State Government

45. Financial Assistance for Upgradation.- (1) The State Government may provide financial assistance to operators for,-

(a) Safety equipment installation;
(b) Infrastructure upgradation;
(c) Technology adoption.

(2) Assistance shall be provided through subsidized loans or grants as prescribed.

CHAPTER IX
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

46. Existing PG Accommodations.- (1) All existing PG accommodations shall apply for license within six months of commencement of this Act.
(2) They may continue operations during the pendency of license application.
(3) If license is refused, they shall wind up operations within 90 days.

47. Continuity of Existing Arrangements.- All existing contractual arrangements between operators and residents shall continue to be governed by their terms until natural expiry, provided that safety and security standards prescribed under this Act are complied with immediately upon commencement of the Act.

48. Training and Awareness.- (1) The State Government shall conduct training programs for,-

(a) Officials implementing the Act;
(b) PG operators on compliance requirements;
(c) Residents on their rights.

(2) Mass awareness campaigns shall be undertaken.

CHAPTER X
MISCELLANEOUS

49. Power to Make Rules.- In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

(a) the form and manner of applications and the procedure for processing them;
(b) the standards and specifications for different categories of accommodations;
(c) the fees payable for various services;
(d) the format for maintaining records and registers;
(e) the procedure for inspection and enforcement;
(f) the composition and procedure of various committees;

(g) any other matter which is required to be or may be prescribed.

50. Laying Before Legislature.- Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The exponential growth of Paying Guest accommodations in Karnataka, particularly in education and IT hubs, has created an urgent need for comprehensive regulation. The absence of a specialized legal framework has resulted in safety hazards, exploitation of residents, and administrative challenges affecting over 1.2 million individuals.

This Bill establishes a robust regulatory ecosystem addressing licensing, safety standards, operational transparency, enforcement mechanisms, and grievance redressal. Special provisions for co-sharing accommodations balance modern urban housing needs with safety and privacy concerns.

The legislation aims to transform the PG accommodation sector from an unregulated domain into a professionally managed industry, ensuring resident welfare while providing operators with legal certainty and business legitimacy.

By implementing this comprehensive framework, Karnataka will set a precedent for accommodation governance, establishing new benchmarks for resident protection and operator accountability while maintaining the state's competitive advantage in attracting students and professionals.

THE KARNATAKA COURT FEES AND SUIT VALUATION AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

A Bill to amend the Karnataka Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act, 1961 to introduce reasonable classification of disputes and litigants for determination of court fees, ensuring equitable access to justice while maintaining judicial revenue.

Whereas it is expedient to revise and rationalize the levy of Court Fees in the State of Karnataka by providing for a fair and equitable system of classification of disputes and litigants, based on the nature of the case, the complexity involved, and the financial capacity of the parties, so as to reduce the burden on ordinary citizens and ensure appropriate contribution from corporate entities and high-value litigants;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Court Fees and Suit Valuation Amendment Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. DEFINITIONS.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Principal Act" means the Karnataka Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act, 1961;

(b) "Individual litigant" means a natural person filing a suit or proceeding in their personal capacity;

(c) "Corporate entity" includes companies, corporations, limited liability partnerships, cooperative societies, and other artificial legal persons;

(d) "High-value litigation" means any suit, appeal, or proceeding where the subject matter value exceeds Rs. 50 lakhs;

(e) "Public interest litigation" means litigation filed in the interest of the general public or a class of persons;

(f) "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise" (MSME) shall have the meaning assigned to it under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

CHAPTER II
AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ACT

3. INSERTION OF NEW CHAPTER II A.- After Chapter II in the Act the following new 'Chapter II A' shall be inserted which is as follows;

"CHAPTER II A : Classification of Litigants and special provision for levy of court fee on individual litigants, MSME, and corporate entities, etc."

"Section 9A: CLASSIFICATION OF LITIGANTS AND FEE STRUCTURE:

(1) All civil suits, appeals, and applications shall attract court fees based on the following classification:

Class A - Individual Litigants:

(a) Court fee: As prescribed in the existing schedules

(b) Additional fee for matters where the value of the amount claimed is above Rs.20 lakhs an additional fee of 0.5% shall be paid on the total amount claimed to the maximum Rs. 25,000.

Class B – All MSME.-

(a) Court fee: As prescribed in existing schedules

(b) Additional fee for matters above Rs.20 lakhs: 0.7% of excess amount, maximum Rs. 50,000

Class C – Small Corporate Entities (turnover up to Rs.10 crores).-

(a) Court fee: As prescribed in existing schedules

(b) Additional fee: 1% of amount claimed, maximum Rs. 2 lakhs.

Class D – Medium Corporate Entities (turnover above Rs.10 crores to 100 crores).-

(a) Court fee: As prescribed in existing schedules

(b) Additional fee: 1.5% of amount claimed, maximum Rs. 5 lakhs

Class E – Large Corporate Entities (turnover above Rs.100 crores).-

(a) Court fee: As prescribed in existing schedules

(b) Additional fee: 2% of amount claimed, maximum Rs.10 lakhs

(2) The State Government may, by notification, revise the turnover thresholds and fee percentages every three years."

Section 9B: Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, court fees for Writ Petitions shall be classified as follows,-

(a) For individual litigants: Rs.500/-.

(b) For Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Rs.2,000/-.

(c) For corporate entities with annual turnover up to Rs.10 crores: Rs. 5,000/-

(d) For corporate entities with annual turnover up to Rs.100 crores: Rs. 10,000/-

(e) For corporate entities with annual turnover above Rs.100 crores: Rs.50,000/-

(f) For public interest litigation by registered non-profit organizations: Rs.1000/-

(5) For high-value litigation, an additional court fee of 0.1% of the claimed amount shall be levied, subject to a maximum of Rs.5 lakhs."

4. SUBSTITUTION OF SECTION 15.- The following shall be substituted in the place of current Section 15;

"15. Fee payable on Appeals, etc.- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act the Court fee for appeals arising out of original suit, petition, application, writ shall be as under; (a) a nominal fee of only Rs.200/- shall be paid by the plaintiff, petitioner, applicant, as the case may be, since he has already paid the court fee before the trial court, and (b) defendant or respondent, as the case may be, shall pay

the court fee on appeals as prescribed under this Act once and if he prefers second appeal he shall pay a nominal fee of Rs.200/- only.

5. INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 15A.- After Section 15 of the Principal Act, the following new section shall be inserted:

"**15A. VERIFICATION OF STATUS OF LITIGANT.-** (1) Every plaint, petition, or application shall contain an affidavit by the plaintiff/petitioner declaring: (a) their status as individual, MSME, or corporate entity; (b) annual turnover for the preceding financial year (in case of business entities); (c) that the information provided is true and correct.

(2) The court may, at any stage, call for documentary evidence to verify the status claimed by any party.

(3) False declaration of status shall attract penalty of Rs.50,000/- and may result in dismissal of the case."

6. INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 15B.- After the proposed Section 15A to the Principal Act, the following section shall be inserted:

"**15B. EXEMPTIONS AND REBATES.-**

(1) **Senior Citizens:** Individual litigants above 60 years of age shall be entitled to 25% reduction in court fees and there shall be no exemption if one of the parties is senior citizen.

(2) **Women Litigants:** In matters relating to matrimonial disputes, domestic violence, or gender-based discrimination, women litigants shall be entitled to 30% reduction in court fees.

(3) **Quick Disposal:** Cases disposed of within one year from the date of filing shall be entitled to 25% refund of court fee paid.

(4) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, in particular, such rules may provide for,-

(a) Forms for declaration of litigant status;

(b) Documentary evidence required for verification;

(c) Procedure for fee calculation in complex cases.

7. SAVINGS.- Nothing in this Act shall affect any proceedings pending before any court at the time of commencement of this Act, and such proceedings shall be continued and disposed of as if this amendment Act had not been passed.

8. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.- (1) All cases filed within six months before the commencement of this Act may, on application, have their court fees adjusted according to the new provisions if beneficial to the litigant.

(2) The State Government shall issue detailed guidelines within 90 days of commencement of this Act for implementation by all courts.

9. REPEAL AND SAVING.- All provisions of the Principal Act inconsistent with this Act shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, stand repealed, but such repeal shall not affect any right, privilege, obligation, or liability acquired, accrued, or incurred under the repealed provisions.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Karnataka Court Fees and Suit Valuation Act, 1958 governs the levy of court fees in the State. Since the amendment in 1973, the court fee for filing a writ petition under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution has remained at Rs. 100/-, irrespective of the value of the dispute or the capacity of the litigant. This uniform structure has created inequities, as ordinary citizens and weaker sections face significant burdens in litigation cost while corporations and financial institutions access writ remedies at negligible costs.

The Bill seeks to rationalise the levy of court fees by introducing classification of disputes and litigants based on financial capacity and nature of proceedings. It provides for nominal fees in appeal cases and incentives if case is decided in one year time and for senior citizen and woman litigants, and higher fees for corporations and large enterprises. This measure is intended to ensure fairness, reduce frivolous litigation, and augment State revenue for development of judiciary, while safeguarding access to justice for ordinary citizens.

Hence, the Bill.

THE KARNATAKA BROUGHT DEAD PATIENTS (REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION) BILL, 2025

Whereas there exists considerable ambiguity in the handling of cases where patients are brought dead to medical institutions and hospitals;

And whereas the absence of uniform statutory guidelines has led to practical, clinical, legal, and emotional dilemmas for doctors, hospitals, police authorities, and families;

And whereas it is expedient to ensure legal clarity, clinical discretion, procedural fairness, and cultural sensitivity in the registration and certification of brought dead patients;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called The Karnataka Brought Dead Patients (Registration and Certification) Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) Brought Dead (BD*)* means a person who is found to have no vital signs (pulse, respiration, or cardiac activity) upon arrival at a medical facility.

(b) Medico-Legal Case (MLC) means any case where as per clinical examination and decision appropriate investigation by law enforcement is warranted to establish cause or responsibility for injury or death.

(c) Designated Medical Officer means a registered medical practitioner duly authorised to assess and certify brought dead patients.

(d) Expected Death means death due to a known medical condition in a patient under active treatment or palliative care, where death is anticipated in the natural course of illness.

(e) Unexplained or Suspicious Death includes death under unknown circumstances, without medical history, or with visible injuries or signs of unnatural cause.

CHAPTER II
CLASSIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

3. Classification of Brought Dead Cases.- All brought dead cases shall, upon initial examination, be classified by the Designated Medical Officer as either,—

(a) Expected Natural Death; or

(b) Unexplained, Suspicious or Medico-Legal Death.

4. Certification of Cause of Death.- (1) In cases where medical history is available and death is consistent with the clinical decision and trajectory, the Designated Medical Officer may issue a Cause of Death Certificate and classify the case as non-MLC.

(2) When the injury or death clinically appear to be unnatural, in the absence of adequate clinical records or where foul play, trauma, or other suspicious elements are suspected, the case shall be registered as an MLC and appropriate intimation sent to police authorities.

5. Autopsy and Post-mortem.- (1) In all cases classified as MLC, post-mortem shall be mandatory and conducted by the authorised medical officer under police inquest.

(2) In non-MLC cases, post-mortem shall not be required unless specifically requisitioned by competent legal authority.

CHAPTER III
INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

6. Duties of Medical Institutions.- Every government and private hospital or emergency care unit shall,—

(a) Maintain standard operating procedures (SOPs) for BD case handling in accordance with this Act;

(b) Appoint a Designated Medical Officer or panel for classifying and certifying BD cases;

(c) Ensure prompt and sensitive communication with the deceased's relatives;

(d) Retain detailed documentation, including patient history, discharge summaries (if applicable), death certification, and classification notes.

7. Notification to Police.- (1) For cases classified as MLC, information shall be sent in writing in triplicate to the jurisdictional police station within 2 hours of BD declaration.

(2) For non-MLC cases, a summary report may be maintained in institutional records, subject to audit by the Directorate of Health Services.

CHAPTER IV
LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AND OVERSIGHT

8. Legal Protection to Medical Officers.-No suit or legal proceeding shall lie against any Designated Medical Officer for any action taken in good faith under the provisions of this Act.

9. Review Mechanism.- (1) A district-level Medico-Legal Oversight Committee shall be constituted comprising a judicial officer (retired), a senior physician, a forensic expert, and a legal advisor.

(2) The Committee shall periodically audit classifications and may review disputed cases suo motu or on petition by affected parties.

- The Committee is empowered to initiate appropriate proceedings before the concerned authorities or Courts depending upon the nature of grievance.

10. Handling of Foreign Nationals and International Patients.- (1) In the event that the deceased is a foreign national, the hospital shall inform the respective embassy or consulate through the Ministry of External Affairs protocol, along with local police notification.

(2) A distinct register of such cases shall be maintained by each designated institution and submitted for quarterly review to the State Medical Board.

CHAPTER V:
MISCELLANEOUS

11. Offences and Penalties.- Any willful suppression of material facts or failure to register an MLC when mandated shall attract disciplinary proceedings under the Karnataka Medical Registration Act, 1961 before Karnataka Medical Council and may entail criminal liability as per the BNS, 2023.

12. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including,—

(a) Criteria for "expected death" classification;
(b) Hospital documentation templates;
(c) Training and Capacity Building measures;
(d) SOP formats and training modules.

13. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions as may appear necessary for removing the difficulty.

SCHEDULE I
(See section)
Illustrative MLC Situations

- Confirmed or suspected cases of poisoning
- Brought Dead
- Injuries due to accidents or assault
- Sexual offences
- Burns
- Child abuse including sexual abuse - POCSO
- Cases of drunkenness
- Natural disasters
- Suspected or evident criminal abortion
- Sudden death on the operating table or after drug administration
- Suspected or evident suicides or homicides (including attempts)
- Unconsciousness with unclear cause
- Domestic violence
- Injuries likely to cause death
- Persons in police or judicial custody
- Patients brought in under suspicious circumstances (e.g., found dead on the road)
- Snake bite

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to address a critical medico-legal and clinical gap in the handling of brought dead patients by

- Introducing a classification system grounded in clinical judgment;
- Protecting families from unnecessary trauma;
- Streamlining medico-legal compliance through institutional protocols;
- Reducing burden on police forces;
- Ensuring that criminal acts are not obscured due to procedural lapses.

Given the increasing complexity of medical care, the growing volume of palliative and terminal care patients, and the significant legal risks faced by hospitals, the enactment of this legislation is both urgent and necessary.

THE KARNATAKA MILK QUALITY REGULATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to regulate, monitor and ensure the quality and purity of milk and milk products in the State of Karnataka, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Whereas it is expedient to ensure the purity, nutritional value, and safety of milk and milk products being produced, processed, sold, or distributed in the State of Karnataka;

And whereas adulteration of milk poses a grave threat to public health and violates the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India;

And whereas the State of Karnataka has legislative competence under Entries 6,14, 26, and 27 of List II and Entry 33 of List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Milk Quality Regulation Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. Definitions.- (a) "Adulteration" shall mean any addition or subtraction to milk which lowers or degrades its quality or safety, as defined under Section 3(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(b) "Milk" includes cow, buffalo, goat, sheep, camel, or any other animal milk intended for human consumption.

(c) "Milk Product" means any item derived from milk such as butter, cheese, curd, cream, ghee, paneer, etc.

(d) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(e) "Food Analyst" means a person appointed under Section 45 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(f) "FSSAI" means the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

CHAPTER II
MILK QUALITY STANDARDS AND TESTING

3. Quality Parameters and Compositional Standards.- (1) The Government shall by notification prescribe compositional and safety standards for milk including minimum fat %, SNF (Solid-Not-Fat), maximum permissible microbial limits, and permissible additives or preservatives.

(2) No person shall manufacture, store, sell, distribute or supply milk that does not conform to the prescribed standards.

4. Mandatory Testing and Certification.- (1) All dairies, milk vendors, cooperatives, and processors shall get their milk tested at NABL-accredited or State-notified laboratories at regular intervals.

(2) The Government shall establish or notify milk testing laboratories in each district.

(3) A Milk Quality Certificate shall be issued upon satisfactory compliance, valid for such period as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III
REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND PENALTIES

5. Registration and Licensing.- (1) No person shall engage in the business of collection, processing, or sale of milk without registering under this Act.

(2) The Licensing Authority shall be designated by the State Government and may inspect premises before granting or renewing licenses.

6. Powers of Inspection and Seizure.- (1) The Designated Officer or Food Safety Officer shall have powers to inspect, seize, or collect samples for analysis without prior notice.

(2) Obstruction of such inspection shall be punishable under this Act.

7. Penalties.- Whoever,—

(a) manufactures or sells adulterated milk, or

(b) violates compositional norms, or

(c) tampers with test results or certification,

shall be punishable with,-

(a) Imprisonment up to 3 years and fine up to ₹5 lakhs for the first offence;

(b) Imprisonment up to 7 years and fine up to ₹10 lakhs for repeated offences;

(c) Cancellation of registration/license and blacklisting.

CHAPTER IV
MISCELLANEOUS

8. Awareness and Promotion Measures.- The Government shall take steps to,-

Promote public awareness on milk quality;

Educate farmers and vendors on best practices;

Provide incentives for compliance and honest practices.

9. Rule-Making Power.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including,-

(a) Standards and testing protocols;

(b) Sample collection and certification formats;

(c) Licensing and renewal fees;

(d) Inspection checklists and penalty enforcement.

10. Act to Supplement Existing Laws.- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, or any other law for the time being in force.

11. Removal of Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act which appears necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework to regulate the quality and safety of milk and milk products in Karnataka. It aims to safeguard public health, protect consumers, deter adulteration, and support honest producers through enforceable quality standards, inspection mechanisms, traceability systems, institutional accountability, consumer participation, and penal provisions.

THE KARNATAKA REGULATION OF WHEELING AND DANGEROUS STUNTS ON ROADS BILL, 2025

A Bill to prohibit and penalize the act of wheeling and other dangerous stunts on public roads and to ensure road safety and public order in the State of Karnataka.

Whereas the practice of wheeling and dangerous road stunts has become increasingly prevalent, causing severe threats to life, public safety, and law and order;

And whereas the existing laws are inadequate to effectively prevent and penalize such acts;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Regulation of Wheeling and Dangerous Stunts on Roads Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Wheeling" means the act of lifting the front or rear wheel of a two-wheeler or a four wheeler while in motion on any public road or place.

(b) "Dangerous stunt" includes any maneuver or trick performed using a motor vehicle that endangers public safety and safety of the rider or driver.

(c) "Public road" means any road, street, or pathway to which the public has access.

(d) "Motor vehicle" shall have the same meaning as assigned under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

3. Prohibition of Wheeling and Dangerous Stunts.- No person shall engage in, attempt to perform, or abet the performance of wheeling or any dangerous stunt on a public road or any place.

4. Penalties.- (1) Any person found guilty of violating section 3 shall be punished,—

(a) For the first offence, with imprisonment up to six months, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both, and suspension of driving licence for a period of three months.

(b) For a second or subsequent offence, with imprisonment up to one year, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both, and cancellation of driving licence.

(2) The motor vehicle used in the commission of the offence shall be liable to seizure and confiscation.

(3) Where the act of wheeling or dangerous stunt results in injury, the offender shall be punishable under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and such offences shall be treated as cognizable and non-bailable.

5. Special Provisions for Juvenile Offenders.- Where the offender is a person below the age of eighteen years,—

(a) Action shall be taken under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015;

(b) The parent or guardian shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten thousand rupees;

6. Habitual Offenders.- (1) Any person convicted more than once under this Act shall be considered a habitual offender.

In such cases,-

(a) The offender shall be ineligible for bail under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), unless special circumstances are shown.

(b) The offender shall be subject to enhanced penalties including compulsory community service, mandatory attendance in de-addiction or behavioral therapy programs, and public disclosure of offence status as per rules.

(c) The juvenile may be directed to attend a road safety awareness program or perform community service.

6. Powers of Police Officers.- A police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector may arrest without warrant any person committing an offence under this Act and seize the vehicle involved.

7. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including the regulation of awareness programs and community service under this Act.

8. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or person in respect of anything which is in good faith done under this Act.

9. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

10. Regulation of Social Media Content.- (1) Any person who uploads or shares video content of wheeling or dangerous stunts on public platforms including social media, with the intent to encourage or glorify such acts, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ₹25,000 and/or imprisonment up to three months.

(2) The State Government may direct social media platforms to take down such content and cooperate with law enforcement agencies for identifying offenders.

(3) Repeated glorification of stunts by the same user or entity shall attract enhanced fines up to ₹1,00,000 and/or imprisonment up to one year.

(4) Social media platforms failing to comply with takedown requests within 24 hours may face penalties under the IT Act and this Act, as prescribed.

11. Community and Institutional Accountability.- (1) Where it is found that wheeling or dangerous stunts were facilitated or encouraged within or around educational institutions or private establishments, the head of such institution may be issued a warning or penalized under the rules prescribed.

(2) Repeated violations may lead to recommendations to educational authorities or licensing departments for initiating appropriate action.

12. Mandatory Road Safety Education.- (1) The Department of Education shall introduce a mandatory road safety module in schools and colleges including awareness of risks of wheeling and stunts.

(2) Police and Transport Departments shall conduct awareness campaigns periodically in collaboration with educational institutions and civil society organizations.

13. Use of Surveillance and Technology.- (1) The State Government shall implement surveillance mechanisms using CCTV, AI-based vehicle recognition systems, and other traffic monitoring technologies at high-risk zones.

(2) Evidence gathered through such means shall be admissible in legal proceedings under this Act.

14. Designation of "No-Stunt Zones".- (1) The Police Department shall identify and declare specific roads or zones as “No-Stunt Zones” where enforcement shall be stricter and enhanced penalties shall apply.

(2) Signages shall be installed to demarcate such zones and raise public awareness.

15. Annual Review and Reporting.- The State Government shall table an annual report before each house of the Legislature Assembly detailing:

(a) Number of offences registered under this Act;

(b) Nature of penalties imposed;

(c) Preventive and awareness measures taken;

(d) Recommendations for improving enforcement.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The act of wheeling—lifting the front wheel of a motorcycle while riding—has escalated into a significant public menace, particularly in urban centers such as Bengaluru, with serious consequences including fatalities, injuries, and civic unrest. Despite existing provisions under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the IPC, enforcement remains inadequate due to light penalties, procedural limitations, and legislative gaps. This Bill proposes a dedicated legal framework to criminalize wheeling and similar dangerous stunts, incorporating criminal deterrence, technological enforcement, juvenile accountability, and institutional responsibility. It draws from international best practices including Victoria's anti-hooning laws and the UK's Road Traffic Act, and is prompted by judicial recognition, notably by the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court in Arbaz Khan v. State of Karnataka, which emphasized the legislative vacuum surrounding such acts.

THE KARNATAKA UNDERTRIAL FREE LEGAL SERVICES AND RIGHTS BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the rights of undertrial prisoners, ensure access to free legal services, regulate humane treatment and timely judicial processes, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty; AND WHEREAS Article 39A mandates the State to provide free legal aid for securing justice; AND WHEREAS the increasing number of undertrial prisoners and prolonged detentions necessitate a legislative framework; BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Undertrial Free Legal Services and Rights Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. Definitions.-In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Undertrial" means a person detained in prison during the pendency of investigation or trial.

(b) "Legal Services" means services provided under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(c) "Designated Officer" means an officer appointed under this Act for monitoring compliance.

(d) "Prison" includes any place used for the detention of persons under judicial custody.

CHAPTER II
RIGHTS OF UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS

3. Right to free Legal Aid.- Every undertrial shall be entitled to free and effective legal services from the time of arrest.

4. Right to Information.- Every undertrial shall be informed of their rights, grounds of detention, and availability of legal aid in a language understood by them.

5. Right to Speedy Trial.- The State shall ensure expeditious investigation and trial of cases involving undertrial prisoners.

CHAPTER III
LEGAL SERVICES AND OVERSIGHT

6. Legal Aid Clinics in Prisons.- The State Legal Services Authority shall establish Legal Aid Clinics in all district and central prisons to provide continuous legal support.

7. Periodic Review Committees.- (1) The State Government shall constitute Review Committees at the district level.

(2) The Committees shall review the detention status of all undertrials every three months.

(3) Recommendations for release, bail, or expeditious trial shall be submitted to appropriate authorities.

8. Awareness and Access.- The Superintendent of every prison shall ensure that all undertrial prisoners have access to information about their legal rights and free legal aid.

CHAPTER IV
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

9. Appointment of Designated Officers.- The State Government shall appoint Designated Officers for monitoring compliance and addressing grievances relating to rights under this Act.

10. Digital Tracking and Reporting.- A centralized digital case tracking system shall be developed and integrated with court and prison databases to monitor pendency and detention durations.

CHAPTER V
PROVISIONS FOR VULNERABLE UNDERTRIALS

11. Special Protection for Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities.- (1) The State shall ensure separate and secure facilities for undertrial women, juveniles, and persons with disabilities.

(2) Legal aid lawyers trained in gender and disability sensitivity shall be appointed for their cases.

(3) Access to counselling and rehabilitation shall be provided during detention and post-release.

12. Pregnant Women and Mothers with Infants.- (1) Undertrial women who are pregnant or accompanied by children shall be given appropriate medical care and nutrition.

(2) Provision for temporary bail or parole may be explored for such women, subject to judicial discretion.

CHAPTER VI
LEGAL AID EFFECTIVENESS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

13. Monitoring of Legal Aid Delivery.- (1) The State Legal Services Authority shall maintain performance records of legal aid advocates representing undertrials.

(2) Benchmarked guidelines shall be framed for appointment, training, and evaluation of legal aid counsels.

14. Timelines for Bail Applications.- (1) All legal aid counsels shall file bail applications within 7 days of appointment unless legally inadvisable.

(2) The court registry shall monitor compliance and report delays to the Periodic Review Committee.

CHAPTER VII
COORDINATION WITH JUDICIARY AND POLICE

15. Judicial Review of Prolonged Detention.- (1) The Sessions Court shall review the status of any undertrial who has remained in custody beyond one-half of the maximum punishment prescribed for the offence, every 30 days.

(2) Bail or alternative detention shall be explored unless the delay is attributable to the accused.

16. Custody Review Before Chargesheet Filing.- In offences punishable with imprisonment of 3 years or less, the Investigating Officer shall justify the continued detention of the accused before the Magistrate at each remand stage until the chargesheet is filed.

CHAPTER VIII
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND REINTEGRATION

17. Pre-Release Legal Orientation.- All undertrials eligible for release shall be given a legal orientation program on parole conditions, employment rights, and support services.

18. Linkages with Rehabilitation Schemes.- The Designated Officer shall coordinate with social welfare and skill development departments to ensure released undertrials are linked to housing, employment, and counselling schemes.

CHAPTER IX
MISCELLANEOUS

19. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

20. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or authority under this Act for anything done in good faith.

21. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act, as may appear necessary for removing the difficulty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constitution of India, under Article 21, guarantees the right to life and personal liberty to every individual. Article 39A further mandates the State to provide free legal aid to ensure that justice is not denied to any person by reason of economic or other disabilities. Despite these constitutional safeguards, a significant number of undertrial prisoners continue to remain in custody for prolonged periods, often without access to timely legal assistance, awareness of their rights, or appropriate judicial remedies.

This Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework to protect the rights of undertrial prisoners in Karnataka. It aims to institutionalize timely legal aid, regular review of detention, access to legal information, and mechanisms for coordination between prison, police, and judiciary.

In particular, the Bill provides for:

- The right to free and effective legal services from the time of arrest;
- Access to legal aid clinics and regular detention review through district-level committees;
- Digital case tracking and designated officers to monitor implementation;
- Special protections for women, children, and persons with disabilities in custody;
- Mandatory timelines for filing bail applications and periodic judicial review;
- Coordination mechanisms between investigating agencies and the judiciary;
- Pre-release orientation and post-release rehabilitation linkages to reduce recidivism and aid reintegration.

The proposed legislation is necessitated by the growing number of undertrials and the need to uphold the dignity, legal rights, and liberty of persons in custody. It is intended to supplement existing laws such as the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, without derogating from any existing judicial remedy.

This Bill, therefore, seeks to enact the Karnataka Undertrial Legal Services and Rights Act, 2025 to provide humane, effective, and constitutionally sound mechanisms for addressing the plight of undertrial prisoners in the State.

THE KARNATAKA CONSUMER PROTECTION – MEDIATION FOR MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE CASES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Whereas the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 aims to ensure the timely and effective redressal of consumer grievances, including those relating to medical services;

And whereas generally medical negligence cases are complex, costly, and often delayed, resulting in hardship for both patients and healthcare providers;

And whereas a structured and specialized mediation framework is required to ensure fair, expeditious, and informed dispute resolution;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the The Karnataka Consumer Protection – Mediation for Medical Negligence Cases (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

(4) It shall apply to all the Hospitals or Healthcare Establishments, including Public/State, Private, Charitable and Public Sector etc.,

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Commission" means a District or State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019;

(b) "Medical Negligence case" includes any complaint, allegation, or claim of medical negligence, deficiency in service, or breach of duty by a healthcare provider or professional, including those resulting in grievous injury or death;

(c) "Mediation" means a process wherein parties voluntarily attempt to resolve a dispute with the assistance of a neutral third party called a mediator;

(d) "Panel" means the panel of healthcare mediators maintained under this Act;

(e) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

3. Application of the Act.- This Act shall apply to all medical negligence cases pending or instituted before any Consumer Commission in the State of Karnataka.

4. Referral to Mediation.- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, medical negligence case may be referred to mediation:

(a) with the informed written consent of all parties to the case;

(b) if the adjudicating authority is satisfied that the matter is appropriate for mediation.

(2) The referral shall not affect the rights or remedies of the parties in case the mediation fails.

5. Panel of Medical Mediators.- (1) The State Government shall maintain a panel of trained mediators possessing qualifications and experience in medical law, healthcare ethics, clinical practice, hospital administration etc.,

(2) The panel shall be regularly updated and accessible to all Commissions.

(3) The mediator shall be appointed from the panel by mutual consent of the parties or, failing that, by the Commission concerned.

6. Safeguards in Mediation.- (1) Mediation shall be conducted in a manner that is voluntary, confidential, impartial, and without prejudice to the rights of the parties.

(2) Mediators shall disclose any conflict of interest and maintain neutrality throughout the process.

(3) Parties shall be advised of the implications and legal consequences of settlement.

(4) During the mediation process, parties are entitled to legal representation.

7. Outcome of Mediation.- (1) Any settlement arrived at through mediation shall be reduced into writing and signed by all parties and the mediator.

(2) Such settlement shall have the same status and effect as an order passed by the Commission or court.

(3) If mediation fails, the matter shall be referred back for adjudication without any prejudice to the merits.

(4) If the settlement Order is not honoured by any party, the other aggrieved party is entitled to pursue Execution proceedings before the concerned Commission.

8. Training and Capacity Building.- The State Government shall, in collaboration with medical and legal institutions, conduct training programs and certification courses for mediators in the healthcare sector.

9. Rule-Making Power.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

10. Power to Make Regulations.- The State Government may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act to carry out the purposes of this Act.

11. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

(2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government or any officer or authority under it for any loss or damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

12. Act Not in derogation of other Laws.- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

13. Laying of Rules and Regulations Before the State Legislature.- Every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as it is made, before the State Legislature.

14. Savings.- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the jurisdiction of Consumer commissions to adjudicate medical negligence cases not resolved through mediation.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill aims to create a robust mediation mechanism for healthcare disputes in Karnataka. Given the high pendency of medical negligence cases and their complex nature, the Bill enables a legally recognized process that safeguards the interests of patients and medical practitioners alike. It ensures voluntary, fair, and qualified mediation with due legal sanctity.

This Act is within the legislative competence of the State of Karnataka under Entries 6 (Public Health), 14 (Administration of Justice), and 18 (Land and Land Tenure), List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and Entry 11A (Administration of Justice and Civil Procedure), List III (Concurrent List).

THE KARNATAKA EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2025

A Bill to make provisions for the recognition and enforcement of the rights to early childhood care, education, nutrition, health, and development for all children until they complete the age of six years, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS, Article 45 of the Constitution of India mandates the State to endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years;

AND WHEREAS, early childhood (0-6 years) is a a crucial phase and a critical juncture when nutrition, health, education and care are absolutely necessary and essential for the realization of the survival and development rights of children;

AND WHEREAS, the policy and programmatic landscape governing the domain of early childhood care, education and development has witnessed the introduction of key policy decisions, provisions, guidelines, and directives including the Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013;

AND WHEREAS, despite the criticality of the age group of 0-6 years, there is no clear articulation of legal entitlements for young children;

AND WHEREAS, the Judicial Commission Report (Number 259) titled "Early Childhood Development and Legal Entitlements," published in 2015, recognizes the fact that development of children is a critical human rights issue and provides elaborate insight into the importance of 0-6 years as a period of rapid growth whereby the foundation for cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development, language and personality are laid;

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of article 21(a) of the Constitution of India, right to free and compulsory education is recognized as a fundamental right for children aged 6-14 years, however, the same is not extended to children below six years of age;

AND WHEREAS, despite the constitutional mandates and provisions envisaged, there is no fully entrenched legal right to healthcare and adequate nutrition for children aged below six years of age;

AND WHEREAS, there is a compelling need for a unified legal framework to address key challenges such as lack of harmonizing standards and delivery norms across different sectors and activities, policies and schemes which are currently operational in a fragmented manner, lack of convergence leading to poor implementation, and lack of legal enforceability, as a law places the obligation on the State to recognise and fulfill such rights;

AND WHEREAS, a unified legal framework that articulates justiciable rights for children aged 0-6 years is essential for the realization of their survival and development rights, ensuring standardization and uniformity in pathways/services and entitlements;

BE it enacted by Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called The Early Childhood Care, Education and Development Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Child, for the purpose of early childhood care, nutrition, education and development, means a person from birth until he or she completes the age of six years.

(b) "Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development" (ECCE&D) means a comprehensive and integrated system of care, nutrition, health, early learning, and protective measures essential for the holistic growth and development of children from birth to six years of age.

(c) "Appropriate Government" means, in relation to any matter to which the executive power of the State Government extends, the State Government.

(d) "Nodal Authority" means such authority or officer as the Appropriate Government may, by notification, designate for the purposes of this Act.

(e) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(f) "Anganwadi Centre" means a child development centre established or recognized under this Act for providing Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development services.

(g) "Child Rights", for the purpose of this draft legislation, refers to the entitlements recognized under this Act for children aged 0-6 years.

(h) "Unified Framework" means a coordinated and integrated system for delivery of Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development services across various departments and stakeholders.

CHAPTER II
RIGHT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE, EDUCATION, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH

3. Right to Early Childhood Care and Education.- (1) Every child shall have a right to early childhood care, nutrition, health and education until he or she completes the age of six years.

(2) The Appropriate Government shall provide for early childhood care and education facilities, free of charge, for all children in the age group of three to six years, through Anganwadi Centres or other prescribed institutions, ensuring access for every child.

(3) The Appropriate Government shall endeavor to provide and strengthen early childhood care services for children in the age group of zero to three years, including but not limited to, crèche facilities, daycare, and parental support programmes, to be universally accessible, potentially modifying Anganwadi centres to accommodate services provided in Koosinamanes.

4. Right to Nutrition.- (1) Every child shall have a right to adequate nutrition from birth until he or she completes the age of six years.

(2) The Appropriate Government shall ensure the provision of age-appropriate, adequate, and safe nutritional support, including supplementary nutrition, through Anganwadi Centres or other designated service delivery points, to combat malnutrition and promote healthy growth.

(3) Special provisions shall be made for vulnerable children, including those from economically weaker sections, marginalized communities, and children with disabilities, to ensure their nutritional security.

5. Right to Health.- (1) Every child shall have a right to comprehensive health care services from birth until he or she completes the age of six years.

(2) The Appropriate Government shall ensure access to regular health check-ups, immunizations, early detection and intervention for developmental delays or health issues, and basic medical care for all children.

(3) Health services shall be integrated with Anganwadi Centres and primary health care systems to facilitate easy access for families.

(4) The health services shall prioritize and strengthen early detection of nutrition and health related deficiencies amongst children aged 0-6 years; these children shall be referred to the appropriate institutions for care, treatment and follow-up.

(5) The State government shall endeavour to identify health and nutritional deficiencies in children aged 0-6 years and mandate referral to nutrition rehabilitation centres in cases of children who are moderately or severely malnourished.

6. Right to Development and Protection.- (1) Every child shall have a right to an environment conducive to their cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and language development.

(2) The Appropriate Government shall take all necessary measures to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination.

(3) The Appropriate Government shall promote child-friendly spaces and ensure safety standards in all Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development facilities.

CHAPTER III
DUTIES OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

7. Duty to Provide Early Childhood Care and Education and Development Facilities.- (1) The Appropriate Government and local authorities shall establish and maintain Anganwadi Centres or other suitable facilities within accessible proximity to all habitations to ensure the provision of Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development to every child.

(2) These facilities shall be equipped to strengthen and include all services for children aged 0-3 years, and mandate pre-primary education for children in the age group of three to six years to be made a fundamental right.

8. Norms and Standards for Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development.- (1) The Appropriate Government shall, within one year of the commencement of this Act, prescribe norms and standards for:

(a) Infrastructure, including safe and hygienic premises, play areas, and child-friendly amenities.

(b) Teacher-child ratio, qualifications, training, and continuous professional development for Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development educators and caregivers.

(c) Curriculum framework and pedagogical approaches appropriate for different age groups (0-3 years and 3-6 years).

(d) Health, nutrition, and safety protocols.

(e) Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for quality assurance.

(2) These norms and standards shall be harmonized across different sectors and activities currently operational in a fragmented manner, ensuring a unified approach to multi-sectoral child needs.

9. Unified Framework and Convergence.- (1) The Appropriate Government shall establish a unified institutional legal framework anchored by the Department of Women and Child Development for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of all Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development services.

(2) This framework shall ensure convergence and coordination among various departments, including Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Education, and Social Justice, to ensure seamless delivery of services and avoid duplication or fragmentation.

10. Research and Development.- The Appropriate Government shall promote research, innovation, and development in the field of early childhood care, education, and development to continuously improve the quality and effectiveness of services.

CHAPTER IV
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

11. State/District Early Childhood Care and Development Authority.- (1) The Appropriate Government shall constitute a State Early Childhood Care and Development Authority and District Early Childhood Care and Development Committees for the effective implementation and monitoring of this Act. The guidelines for the term, composition and operationalisation of the committee shall be determined by a suitable expert committee constituted by the State. This authority shall be monitored by the Department of Women and Child Development. Procedure for necessary submissions, field visits, inspections shall be outlined by the Department of Women and Child Development.

(2) The functions of these authorities and committees shall include:

(a) Overseeing the establishment and functioning of Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development facilities.

(b) Ensuring adherence to prescribed norms and standards.

(c) Addressing grievances related to the provision of Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development services.

(d) Conducting regular surveys and assessments of the status of early childhood development.

(e) Mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships with civil society organizations and communities.

12. Grievance Redressal Mechanism.- (1) The Appropriate Government shall establish a robust and easily accessible grievance redressal mechanism for any violation of the rights guaranteed under this Act.

(2) Any person alleging a violation of the provisions of this Act may make a complaint to the Nodal Authority, who shall inquire into the complaint and take appropriate action within a prescribed timeframe.

13. Financial Memorandum.- (1) The Appropriate Government shall make budgetary allocations to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

(2) Funds for Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development shall be considered a priority expenditure.

14. Periodic training/capacity building/sensitization of duty bearers and functionaries.- (1) The State shall mandate periodic capacity building for duty bearers and functionaries; they shall be sensitised to a child rights centric approach and shall be empowered with a rights based perspective to child rights.

CHAPTER V
MISCELLANEOUS

15. Power to make rules.- (1) The Appropriate Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters:

(a) The manner of providing early childhood care and education facilities.

(b) The detailed norms and standards for Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education and Development facilities, curriculum, and personnel.

(c) The constitution, powers, and functions of the State/District Early Childhood Care and Development Authorities/Committees.

(d) The procedures for grievance redressal.

(e) Any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

15. Act to have an overriding effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act.

16. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Appropriate Government, or any officer or authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made thereunder.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The main objective of The Karnataka Early Childhood Care, Education and Development Bill, 2025 is to establish and enforce the rights to early childhood care, education, nutrition, health, and development for all children in Karnataka from birth until they complete the age of six years. It also aims to address matters connected with or incidental to these provisions.

The Bill seeks to create a unified legal framework to ensure that the State recognizes and fulfills these rights, addressing existing challenges such as fragmented policies, lack of standardized delivery norms, poor implementation due to lack of convergence, and the absence of legal enforceability for the entitlements of children aged 0-6 years. Furthermore, it aims to establish a robust system for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of all Early Childhood Care, Nutrition, Education, and Development (ECCE&D) services, anchored by the Department of Women and Child Development.

THE KARNATAKA TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS (WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE SUPPORT) BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the recognition and regulation of withholding and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (WLST) for terminally ill patients in the State of Karnataka in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions, and to provide for advance medical directives, ethical oversight, legal procedures, and safeguards.

Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has recognised the right of a person to die with dignity as a facet of Article 21 of the Constitution;

And whereas it is expedient to recognise and regulate the practice of withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (WLST) in terminally ill patients and ensure dignity, autonomy and compassion in end-of-life care;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Terminally Ill Patients (Withdrawal of Life Support) Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may notify.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Terminal illness" means an irreversible or incurable condition from which death is inevitable in the foreseeable future.

(b) "Life Sustaining Treatment" (LST) includes mechanical ventilation, dialysis, vasopressors, parenteral nutrition, ECMO, or any other invasive intervention.

(c) "Withdrawal" means discontinuation of LST in the best interests of a terminally ill patient.

(d) "Withholding" means non-initiation of LST in a terminally ill patient.

(e) "Advance Medical Directive" (AMD) means a written declaration of preferences for medical treatment made by a person with decision-making capacity.

(f) "Surrogate" means a person authorised to make healthcare decisions on behalf of a patient.

(g) "Primary Medical Board" (PMB) and "Secondary Medical Board" (SMB) shall have the meaning assigned in Chapter III.

(h) "DNAR" means "Do Not Attempt Resuscitation."

CHAPTER II
PATIENT AUTONOMY AND ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

3. Right to refuse treatment and die with dignity.- Every adult of sound mind shall have the right to refuse or discontinue any medical treatment, including LST, even if such refusal may result in death.

4. Advance Medical Directive (AMD).- (1) An AMD shall be executed by a person of sound mind in writing, signed before two witnesses and attested by a Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC).

(2) The AMD shall state,-

(a) The medical treatments to be refused or withdrawn;

(b) The circumstances under which such decisions shall apply; and

(c) The name(s) of surrogate decision-makers.

(3) A copy of the AMD shall be maintained,-

(i) With the competent local officer notified by the Government, and

(ii) In the digital or paper records of the treating hospital.

5. Nomination of surrogate.- In the absence of a valid AMD, the surrogate shall be the next of kin as per Section 2(i) of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.

CHAPTER III
PROCEDURE FOR WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWAL

6. Constitution of Medical Boards.- (1) Primary Medical Board (PMB): Shall consist of the treating physician and at least two subject experts with minimum five years' experience.

(2) Secondary Medical Board (SMB): Shall consist of three physicians, including one nominated by the District Health Officer.

(3) No member of the PMB shall be part of the SMB.

7. Procedure for WLST.- (1) PMB shall evaluate and record the clinical diagnosis, prognosis, and reasons for recommending WLST.

(2) SMB shall review the recommendation and give its opinion within 48 hours.

(3) Upon concurrence, the treating physician shall obtain consent from the surrogate and notify the jurisdictional JMFC.

(4) The JMFC shall send a copy to the Registrar of the High Court for record.

CHAPTER IV
ETHICAL OVERSIGHT AND CARE

8. Clinical Ethics Committee.- Each hospital shall constitute a Clinical Ethics Committee comprising:

(a) Hospital Administrator or nominee;

(b) Senior physician with expertise in palliative care;

(c) External medical expert;

(d) Legal expert;

(e) Social worker.

9. Palliative and compassionate care.- Upon WLST approval, the patient shall be transitioned to palliative care with dignity, cultural sensitivity, and familial support.

CHAPTER V
LEGAL PROTECTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

10. Protection for acts in good faith.- No person acting in good faith and in accordance with this Act shall be liable in civil or criminal proceedings.

11. Prohibition of active euthanasia.- Nothing in this Act shall permit or legalise active euthanasia.

12. Power to make rules.- The State Government may make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.

13. Repeal and savings.- All previous State circulars or executive orders inconsistent with this Act shall stand repealed.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the landmark judgment *Common Cause v. Union of India* [(2018) 5 SCC 1], recognised the constitutional right of every individual to die with dignity as an intrinsic part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court further laid down comprehensive guidelines for the execution of Advance Medical Directives (AMD) and the procedure for withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment (WLST) in terminally ill patients.

In its subsequent order dated 24.01.2023, the Supreme Court simplified the procedural safeguards for implementing AMDs and WLST, while emphasizing the need for uniform, compassionate, and ethically sound end-of-life care mechanisms.

Despite these directions, there exists a legislative vacuum at the State level to effectively implement and monitor the process of WLST. In the absence of statutory backing, hospitals, doctors, and families remain unclear about the legal and ethical contours of decisions relating to end-of-life care, often resulting in prolonged suffering, litigation, or fear of criminal liability.

The objective of this Bill is to give legal recognition to Advance Medical Directives, define procedures and safeguards for withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in terminally ill patients, and ensure that such decisions are made with due regard to the patient's autonomy, medical opinion, legal oversight, and ethical responsibility. The Bill also provides for the establishment of medical boards, the role of surrogates, formation of hospital ethics committees, and a mechanism for judicial recording and legal immunity for actions taken in good faith.

This legislative initiative seeks to bring dignity, compassion, and clarity to end-of-life care in Karnataka, in conformity with constitutional principles and judicial mandates.

THE KARNATAKA TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN ORGANS AND TISSUES (ALTRUISTIC DONATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

A Bill to regulate and facilitate ethical, transparent, and equitable live organ donations including altruistic and SWAP donations in the State of Karnataka; to ensure protection and welfare of donors and recipients; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the The Karnataka Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Altruistic Donations) Amendment Bill, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may notify.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994;

(b) "Rules' means the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014;

(b) "Authorization Committee" means the District or State level Committee constituted under the Act;

(c) "KNOS" means the Karnataka Network for Organ Sharing, an autonomous body under the Health Department;

(d) "Altruistic Donor" means a person who donates an organ without any biological or legal relation to the recipient and without expectation of consideration;

(e) "Swap Donation" means paired organ donation where two or more incompatible donor-recipient pairs exchange organs;

(f) "Registry" means the state-maintained database of live donors and recipients;

(g) "Donor" includes near relative, non-near relative, altruistic and swap donor;

(h) "Recipient" means a person registered and eligible to receive transplant.

CHAPTER II
PROCEDURE FOR ALTRUISTIC DONOR REGISTRATION AND TRANSPLANT MATCHING

3. Altruistic Donor Registration Protocol.- (1) All prospective altruistic donors must register through a licensed transplant hospital or designated KNOS zonal office.

(2) Preliminary medical screening, HLA typing, and psychological fitness assessment shall be carried out at any Government or designated private hospital.

(3) Upon successful evaluation, donors shall be listed in the Live Donor Registry maintained by KNOS.

(4) Each donor shall be entitled to,-

(a) Seek a second opinion from any independent medical professional;

(b) Full access to pre-operative risk counselling;

(c) The right to withdraw from the donation process at any stage prior to surgery.

4. Donor Eligibility and Safeguards.- (1) All donors must be,-

(a) Adults as defined by law;

(b) Capable of understanding the risks and implications of donation;

(c) Free from coercion or inducement;

(d) Medically and mentally fit as per approved screening criteria.

(2) Written informed consent in the prescribed format shall be mandatory before final listing.

(3) No organ shall be retrieved from any donor without final approval from the State Authorization Committee or Hospital Based Authorization Commitee.

5. Recipient Eligibility for Altruistic Donation.- (1) Recipients without a compatible near-relative donor may be considered.

(2) Preference shall be given to those who,-

(a) Have incompatible but willing near relatives (who can be part of swap chains);

(b) Demonstrate medical urgency and suitability.

(3) All recipients must be registered on the waitlist and undergo cross-match testing prior to allocation.

(4) The recipient shall bear all direct and indirect costs of the donor's procedure including,-

(a) Pre-evaluation tests;

(b) Hospitalization and surgery;

(c) Post-operative care and support;

(d) Wage compensation and insurance contributions.

6. Matching Mechanism and Anonymity.- (1) KNOS shall match altruistic donors with registered recipients strictly based on,-

(a) HLA and blood type compatibility;

(b) Wait list seniority;

(c) Urgency and medical suitability.

(2) All matches shall maintain strict anonymity.

(3) The donor shall not influence the selection of recipient, and vice versa.

(4) KNOS shall use a computerized algorithm and maintain audit trails of all matches.

7. Criteria for Matching.- (1) Matching shall be done using computerized algorithms based on compatibility and objective parameters.

(2) Direct contact between altruistic donor and recipient shall not be permitted.

(3) SWAP donation candidates shall be prioritized where mutual compatibility is established.

CHAPTER III
APPROVAL AND EVALUATION

8. Authorization Procedure.- (1) All altruistic or non-near relative donations require approval from the State/District Authorization Committee.

(2) The Committee shall,-

- Conduct independent interviews of donor and recipient;
- Examine financial, psychological, and social background;
- Rule out any commercial consideration or coercion.

9. Psychological Evaluation and Informed Consent.- (1) Donors must undergo standardized psychological and psychosocial assessments.

(2) Written informed consent in prescribed format must be signed and attested by a Judicial Magistrate.

(3) Donors have the right to withdraw at any stage before surgery.

10. Hospital Based Authorization Committees.- (1) Hospitals conducting more than 25 transplants annually may constitute Hospital Based Authorization Committees for near-relative and SWAP cases.

(2) Each such Committee shall include two Government nominees.

CHAPTER IV
POST-DONATION FOLLOW-UP AND RECIPIENT CONDITIONS

11. Donor Follow-Up Protocol.- (1) All transplant hospitals shall conduct,-

(a) Scheduled clinical follow-ups of the donor for at least five years;

(b) Annual reporting of donor health status to KNOS;

(c) Mandatory psychosocial assessments annually for the first three years.

(2) KNOS shall maintain an anonymized donor outcome registry.

(3) Any health complications linked to the donation procedure shall be reimbursed through the Donor Support Fund.

CHAPTER V
DONOR WELFARE AND SUPPORT

12. Donor Benefits.- (1) All medical and logistical expenses of donation must be reimbursed by the recipient.

(2) Altruistic donors shall receive,-

- ₹50,000/month for 3 months as wage compensation;
- Free health insurance for lifetime under state scheme;
- Scheduled follow-ups and support services.

13. KNOS Donor Support Fund.- (1) A Fund shall be established by the Government, administered by KNOS, sourced from,-

(a) Public donations;

(b) CSR contributions;

(c) ₹2 lakh organ utilization fee per transplant, to be paid by recipient hospital.

CHAPTER VI
ANONYMOUS ALTRUISTIC DONATION FRAMEWORK

14. Anonymous Donation and Centralized Matching System.- (1) The State shall maintain strict anonymity between altruistic donors and recipients.

(2) The Karnataka Network for Organ Sharing (KNOS) shall,-

(a) Conduct public awareness campaigns regarding altruistic donation;

(b) Maintain a Live Donor Registry for altruistic volunteers;

(c) Use computerized matching algorithms based on medical compatibility and objective priority criteria;

(d) Ensure that no donor or recipient interacts directly before transplant approval.

(3) All such donations shall be vetted by the State Authorization Committee, and matched recipients must be selected based on,-

(a) Time on transplant waitlist;

(b) Age and urgency;

(c) Medical compatibility;

(d) Any other objective criteria prescribed by the Government.

CHAPTER VII
CHAIN DONATION AND SWAP EXCHANGE REGISTRY

15. Paired and Chain Donations.- (1) In case of incompatible donor-recipient pairs, KNOS shall facilitate paired exchange (SWAP donations) or domino chain donations.

(2) KNOS may match multiple pairs where,-

(a) Donor A is incompatible with Recipient A;

(b) Donor B is incompatible with Recipient B;

(c) But Donor A is compatible with Recipient B and vice versa.

(3) Such matches shall be facilitated through a centralized chain registry, ensuring:

- Transparency;
- Medical compatibility;
- Voluntary consent of all participants.

(4) The donor initiating the chain may remain anonymous and must not influence downstream matches.

CHAPTER VIII
EXPEDITED APPROVAL AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

16. Time-bound Approval Mechanism.- (1) Authorization Committees shall dispose of all applications for altruistic or swap donation within four weeks of receipt.

(2) Failure to decide within this period shall be deemed approval, subject to compliance with prescribed safeguards.

17. Appeals and Oversight.- (1) Any donor or recipient aggrieved by the decision of the Authorization Committee may file an appeal before the State Medical Ethics and Grievance Committee constituted under this Act.

(2) The Committee shall dispose of such appeals within ten working days.

(3) A separate dashboard shall be maintained by KNOS to track pending applications and reasons for delay.

CHAPTER IX
SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY REJECTION

18. Non-Discrimination in Altruistic Evaluation.- (1) Authorization Committees shall not reject altruistic applications solely based on,-

(a) Economic disparity;

(b) Difference in religion, caste, community, or gender;

(c) Age gap between donor and recipient;

(d) Lack of prior familial or social relationship.

(2) Committees shall record detailed reasons in writing and such reasons shall be subject to judicial review.

(3) All Committee members shall receive periodic training on ethical norms and judicial precedents governing altruistic donations.

CHAPTER X
MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

19. Data and Reporting.- (1) All transplant hospitals must submit detailed monthly reports to KNOS.

(2) KNOS shall audit outcomes and maintain long-term records.

20. Clinical Ethics Committees.- (1) Every transplant hospital must constitute a Clinical Ethics Committee comprising:

(a) Hospital Administrator or nominee;

(b) External medical expert;

(c) Legal and social work professional;

(d) Palliative care specialist.

CHAPTER XI
DATA PRIVACY, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

21. Donor and Recipient Data Protection.- (1) All personal and medical data shall be stored in compliance with data protection laws and confidentiality standards.

(2) Hospitals and KNOS shall ensure:

(a) Encryption of sensitive records;

(b) Access only to authorized officials;

(c) Secure backup and audit capability.

22. Institutional Accountability.- (1) All transplant hospitals must,-

(a) Submit monthly reports of all transplant cases to KNOS;

(b) Maintain donor consent and evaluation records for a minimum of ten years.

(2) KNOS shall,-

(a) Publish annual statistics on transplant outcomes;

(b) Conduct periodic audits of hospital compliance;

(c) Report non-compliance to the State Government and Authorization Committees.

CHAPTER XII
MISCELLANEOUS

23. Offences and Penalties.- Any individual or hospital found violating this Act, including suppression of information, coercion, or commercial dealings, shall be liable under THOTA, 1994.

24. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may make rules for operationalizing this Act, including forms, formats, registry procedures, and eligibility criteria.

25. Good Faith Protection.- No civil or criminal liability shall lie on any person or body acting in good faith under this Act.

26. Repeal and Savings.- All prior circulars, orders or practices inconsistent with this Act shall stand repealed.

27. Removal of difficulty.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act which appears necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The State of Karnataka witnesses a significant gap between the demand for and supply of human organs, particularly kidneys and livers. Though the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA) governs this field, it lacks detailed procedures to operationalize altruistic or swap donations effectively at the State level.

The Kerala Government has, pursuant to High Court directions, issued detailed guidelines that ensure transparency, legal validity, and ethical safeguards in such donations. This Bill draws inspiration from the Kerala model and seeks to ensure Karnataka adopts a similar proactive approach.

This Bill aims to:

- Facilitate altruistic and swap (paired) donations with institutional safeguards.
- Prevent commercial exploitation of vulnerable persons.
- Establish a transparent registry and donor-recipient matching mechanism.
- Ensure donor welfare, post-operative care, and financial neutrality.

This Bill complements the framework under THOTA, 1994 and will strengthen Karnataka's transplant ecosystem through a state-specific institutional framework.

THE KARNATAKA CONSUMER PROTECTION (ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE IN STATE AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONS) AMENDMENT ACT, 2025.

A Bill to provide for effective functioning, digitisation, infrastructure enhancement, and timely disposal of cases in the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in the State of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Consumer Protection (Adjudication Procedure in State and District Commissions) Amendment Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Act" means the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (Central Act 35 of 2019);

(b) "Commission" means the State or District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission established under the Act;

(c) "Government" means the State Government of Karnataka;

(d) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER II
EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF COMMISSIONS

3. Management Hearings.- (1) Every Commission shall conduct a preliminary hearing titled Complaint Management Hearing within 1 week of filing of Version.

(A) Consumer Case Management & Disposal Framework,-

(Strict 90-Day Timeline from Court Notice till Judgment)

(i) Filing, Initial Scrutiny Admission and Court Notice

(ii) Pre-Litigation Stage :

(a) Pre-Complaint Mediation

(b) Complaints' referral to mediation is mandatory;

(c) If settlement fails, complaint proceeds to adjudication.

(iii) **First Hearing (Day 1 - 10):**

(a) Vakalat and Version by Opposite Parties within 45 days from the date of Court Notice.

(b) Opposite party must file written version along with documents.

(c) If no reply, ex-parte proceedings may begin.

(iv) Consumer Complaint Management Hearing:

(a) The Commission shall after filing of Version
(b) Frames Issues and
(c) Fix Timelines.

Step	Deadline (from 1st day Hearing)
Filing of Affidavits (if any)	30 days
Document Production & Marking	15 days
Evidence of Parties, witnesses, if any	Day 45 – day 55
Written Arguments	Day 56 – Day 60
Oral Arguments	Day 61 – Day 75
Judgment Reserved	Da 76 – Day 80
Order	Day 81 – Day 90

(v) Evidence Stage (Day 45 – Day 55):

(a) **Affidavit:**
  (a) Consumer files affidavit – Parties presence not required.
  (b) Opposite party may serve interrogatories.

(b) **Oral Evidence (Only if necessary):**
  (a) Recorded day-to-day (no adjournments).
  (b) If Commission is convinced, Cross-examination shall be completed in one sitting.

(c) **Commission's Power to Limit Evidence:**
  (a) Can reject irrelevant affidavits/documents.
  (b) Can strike off delaying tactics.

(d) **Arguments and Judgment (Day 61 - Day 90):**
  (a) Written Submissions (Mandatory, Day 51- Day 60)

(e) **Must include:**
  (a) Concise legal propositions.
  (b) Supporting precedents.

(f) **Oral Hearings (Limited, Day 61- Day 75):**
  (a) Max 1 hour per side. In case of complex maters, time may be extended.
  (b) No adjournments except extreme emergencies.

(g) **Judgment (Day 76 – Day 90):**
  (a) Reserved within 7 days of final hearing.
  (b) Pronounced within 10 days (with signed order).

(B) Execution Petition Management Hearings shall be scheduled upon filing of Vakalatnamas by both parties, in the concerned Execution Proceedings.

(a) **Filing and Initial Processing (Day 1-7):**
  (i) Execution Petition

(ii) Certified order copy Affidavit of assets (if seeking attachment)

(b) **Check for any lacunas (within 24 hours):**

(i) Ex–jurisdiction, complete documentation etc.,

(c) **Issue notice (day 3-7):**

(i) Mode: Email, and Registered Post (Rule 5 CPA Rules)

(ii) Returnable date: Day 15

(d) **First Hearing (day 15-20):**

(i) Respondent Compliance

(ii) Must submit either:

(iii) Payment proof (bank statement) OR

(iv) Written objections (with stay order if any)

(e) **Case Management Orders:**

Scenario	**Order**	**Deadline**
No appearance	Ex-parte proceedings	Day 16
Partial payment	Balance along with 9% interest	Day 20
Willful defiance	Asset attachment	Day 18

(f) **Enforcement (Day 21-45):**

(i) Ex–auction of movable property, attachment of property, etc

(g) **Daily Penalty (Day 36-45):**

(i) ₹5,000/day for non-compliance

(h) **Final Disposal (Day 46-60):**

(i) Commission issues closing order

(ii) Contempt Proceedings (if pending)

(iii) Summary hearing (Day 55)

(iv) Arrest warrant if defiance continues (Section 72 of CPA Act)

(i) **Strict Adjournment Policy:**

(i) Zero adjournments for money decrees

(ii) One adjournment allowed for complex enforcement (with ₹5k cost)

4. Time-Bound Adjudication.- (1) Every complaint shall be decided within the time period prescribed under Section 38(7) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

(2) Adjournments shall not exceed one week unless exceptional circumstances are recorded in writing.

(3) Costs occasioned by adjournments shall be levied on the defaulting party.

5. E-Filing and Virtual Hearings.- (1) All pleadings, affidavits, and documents shall be submitted via electronic filing systems.

(2) Virtual appearances shall be permitted and facilitated by provision of adequate digital infrastructure.

6. Expert Evidence.- (1) Where expert opinion is deemed necessary by the Commission or applied for by parties, the Commission shall appoint an appropriate expert.

(2) The cost of such expert shall be borne as directed by the Commission.

7. Use of Technology.- (1) Notices, summons, and communications shall be served through email, SMS, or electronic platforms.

(2) Mobile- and regional-language friendly versions of E-Daakhil and related portals shall be made available.

8. Online Orders.- All orders, including interim and final orders, shall be uploaded on the official portal of the Commission on the same day as delivery.

9. Legal Aid and Mediation Panels.- (1) Consumer Legal Aid Cells shall be established at all State and District Commissions.

(2) Mediation Panels shall be created and maintained at every Commission to facilitate resolution of disputes.

CHAPTER III
MISCELLANEOUS

10. Constitution of Additional Commissions.- The State Government may constitute additional Benches or Commissions for timely disposal of pending cases, by notification.

11. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

12. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act as appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides for time-bound adjudication of consumer disputes. However, in practice, Karnataka's Commissions are plagued by case backlogs, adjournments, digital gaps, and lack of enforcement.

This Bill seeks to:

- Enforce strict timelines for disposal of complaints and execution petitions.
- Integrate technology through mandatory e-filing, digital case tracking, and virtual hearings.
- Strengthen legal aid and mediation support for consumers.
- Establish infrastructure and procedural mechanisms to address the pendency of cases.

It is intended to ensure swift, accessible, and affordable consumer justice in Karnataka.

KARNATAKA PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BILL, 2025

A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the management of prisons and correctional institutions in the State of Karnataka, and to provide for the safe custody, correction, reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners as law-abiding citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the safe custody, correction, reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners as law-abiding citizens, and for the effective management of prisons and correctional services in the State of Karnataka and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called The Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government of Karnataka may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(1) After-care service means a service or activity aimed at the rehabilitation of the released prisoner for enabling him to lead life as a dutiful citizen.

(2) Civil Prisoner means any prisoner who is not committed to custody under a writ, warrant or order of any court or authority exercising criminal jurisdiction, or by the order of a court martial and who is not a detenue.

(3) Convict means any prisoner under sentence of a court exercising criminal jurisdiction or court martial.

(4) Correctional Service means any service or program aimed at the reformation and rehabilitation of an inmate, and includes services related to the assessment, supervision, treatment, training, control, custody of an inmate.

(5) Court includes any officer lawfully exercising civil, criminal or revenue jurisdiction.

(6) Directorate means the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services of the State of Karnataka.

(7) Detenue means any person detained in prison on the orders of a competent authority under any law providing for preventive detention.

(8) Family means Spouse, children, siblings, parents, grand-parents, grandchildren, and, in the context of transgender inmates, people related through socio-religious family system.

(9) Foreign Prisoner means any prisoner who is not a citizen of India.

(10) Furlough means short leave granted to a convict, after undergoing a prescribed period of sentence, as an incentive for maintaining good conduct in prison.

(11) Government means the Government of Karnataka.

(12) Habitual Offender means a prisoner who is committed to prison repeatedly for a crime.

(13) Head of the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services means an officer appointed by the Government of Karnataka to head the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services.

(14) High-risk Prisoner means a prisoner with high propensity towards violence, escape, self-harm, disorderly behaviour, likely to create unrest in the prison and a threat to public order and includes those engaged in organised crime and terrorist activities.

(15) High Security Prison means an independent self-sufficient prison complex with dynamic and strengthened security systems with provision for an independent Court complex, etc., to house convicted and undertrial inmates, who need to be kept in a high security custody area, such as persons involved in terrorist activities, gangsters, dangerous prisoners, hardened criminals, habitual offenders, prisoners with high propensity of escape, have the potential of rioting and negatively influencing other inmates, etc.

(16) History Ticket means the ticket, either in physical or electronic form, exhibiting all relevant information in respect of a prisoner.

(17) Inmate means any person lawfully confined in a prison and correctional institution.

(18) Institution means a place where prisoners are lawfully confined.

(19) Medical Officer in relation to prisons means a qualified Government medical practitioner deputed as a medical officer of a prison.

(20) Medical Subordinate Staff means a qualified Medical Assistant, such as Pharmacist, Nurse, Lab Technician, etc. deputed in a Prison.

(21) Open Correctional Institution means a place for confinement of eligible prisoners on such conditions, as may be prescribed under the rules, for giving them more liberty outside a regular prison for facilitating their rehabilitation after release.

(22) Parole means temporary release of a convict for a short period of time for attending to familial and social obligations.

(23) Prison means any place used permanently or temporarily under general or special orders of the Government of Karnataka for the detention of prisoners and includes all lands and buildings appurtenant thereto, but does not include –

(a) any place for the confinement of prisoners who are exclusively in the custody of the police;

(b) any place specially appointed by the Government of Karnataka under Section 457 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023;

(c) any place which has been declared by the Government of Karnataka by a general or special order to be a subsidiary jail.

(24) Prison Officer means an officer belonging to the Directorate and includes officers of any other security force or any other service deployed in the prison for assisting the prison administration for the safe custody of/providing correctional services to the prisoners.

(25) Prison Staff means an employee appointed by the Directorate, other than a prison officer, who exercises powers or performs duties or functions related to the administration of this Act or as may be assigned by the Government of Karnataka.

(26) Institution for Young Offenders means a prison for young prisoners established to ensure their care, welfare and rehabilitation, to provide an environment of education and training conducive to their reformation.

(27) Prisoner means a person committed to custody in a prison under the writ, warrant, order or sentence of a Court or a competent authority and includes convicted prisoner, civil prisoner, undertrial prisoner, prisoner remanded by a court to prison custody under the orders of a competent authority *and a* detenue.

(28) Prohibited article (contraband) means any item that presents a threat to the safety or security of the prisoners, prison staff, prison institution or any object, substance, or material forbidden by the Prisons and Correctional Institutions or the Government from being in a prisoner's possession, like cell phone, a communication device, drugs or anything that can be used as a weapon or to aid in escape, such as fire arms or any of its part, explosives, knives, wire, tools, chemicals, razor blades, alcohol, matches, lighters or any article, the introduction or removal of which into or out of a prison is prohibited by this Act or by the rules framed under the Act or by any other law or by any notification of the Government of Karnataka.

(29) Recidivist means any prisoner who is convicted for a crime more than once.

(30) Remission means a concession granted to an eligible convicted prisoner by the competent authority with the prospect of early release from prison by shortening of sentence, as may be prescribed under the rules.

(31) Rule means a rule made under this Act.

(32) Officer-in-charge of the prison means an officer appointed by the competent authority as in-charge of a prison, namely Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, etc.

(33) Undertrial prisoner means a person who is not a convict and has been committed to judicial custody pending investigation by the police or trial by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(34) Wireless Communication Device means a mobile phone, computer, tablet, laptop, palmtop or any other electronic device used for unauthorized communication using any cellular or satellite network or any other device notified by the competent authority.

(35) Young Offender means a prisoner who has attained the age of 18 years and has not attained the age of 21 years.

CHAPTER II
FUNCTIONS OF PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

3. **Functions of Prisons and Correctional Institutions.-** The functions of prisons shall be as follows,-

(i) to keep in safe custody, a prisoner committed under any writ, warrant or order of any court or competent authority;

(ii) to ensure safety and security of prisoners;

(iii) to provide necessities and medical treatment;

(iv) to provide correctional treatment for rehabilitation;

(v) to maintain discipline as per the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER III
PRISON ACCOMMODATION

4. Accommodation for Prisoners.- The Government of Karnataka shall provide a sufficient number of prisons and correctional institutions across the State for accommodating the prisoners. Such prisons and correctional institutions shall be constructed and maintained in compliance with the requirements and standards prescribed under this Act and the rules made thereunder.

5. Prison Architecture and Institutional Pattern.- (1) The pattern of construction of a prison, including ground space, ventilation, air space, bathing places, kitchen, work-sheds, hospitals and other structural elements, shall conform to such standards and specifications as may be prescribed by the Government of Karnataka through rules.

(2) The standards of physical and technological security for each prison shall be as prescribed under the rules.

(3) Prisons may be designed to facilitate segregation and separate lodging of different categories of prisoners including, but not limited to:

(a) women;
(b) transgender persons;
(c) persons with disabilities;
(d) persons suffering from contagious diseases or mental illness;
(e) persons with substance abuse history;
(f) old and infirm prisoners;
(g) undertrial prisoners;
(h) convicted prisoners;
(i) high security and habitual offenders;
(j) young offenders;
(k) civil prisoners;
(l) detenues.

(4) The prison and correctional institution setup may include accommodation and other functional facilities for prison officers and staff, as may be necessary.

(5) In the absence of a standalone High Security Prison in the State of Karnataka, high-risk prisoners, hardened criminals and habitual offenders shall be housed in separate cells or barracks within existing jails, ensuring segregation from other inmates including young and first-time offenders.

(6) Such separate accommodations for high-risk inmates shall include advanced architecture and institutional arrangements as may be prescribed under the rules, for ensuring secure and isolated custody.

6. Categories of Prisons and Correctional Institutions.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may establish and maintain various categories of prisons and correctional institutions, including,-

(a) Central Prisons
(b) District Prisons
(c) Sub Prisons

(d) Open Correctional Institutions
(e) High Security Prisons
(f) Exclusive Women Prisons
(g) Institutions for Young Offenders

(2) The Government may determine the number, type, and location of such institutions based on need and feasibility.

(3) Every Central and District Prison shall include dedicated High Security Wards for lodging high-risk prisoners, habitual offenders, recidivists, and hardened criminals in isolation from other inmates to prevent negative influence.

(4) These prisons shall be equipped with advanced security infrastructure, including arrangements for housing court complexes for conducting trials within the prison premises wherever necessary.

7. Temporary Accommodation for Prisoners.- Whenever the Government of Karnataka is satisfied that,-

(i) the number of prisoners in any prison exceeds the capacity for safe and secure custody, and transferring them to another prison is not feasible; or
(ii) due to an emergency situation including disease outbreak or structural unsafety, prisoners cannot be accommodated in the existing prison facilities;

It may make suitable arrangements for temporary prisons or shelters for the safe custody of such prisoners, in the manner and under such conditions as may be prescribed by rules.

CHAPTER IV
ORGANISATIONAL SET UP

8. Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services.- (1) There shall be a *Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services* in the State of Karnataka responsible for,-

(a) Implementing prison and correctional policies laid down by the Government of Karnataka;
(b) Planning, organising, directing, coordinating and controlling various prisons and correctional institutions in the State;
(c) Handling all matters connected with or incidental to prison administration and prisoner welfare.

(2) The Directorate shall consist of such officers and staff as may be prescribed by the Government of Karnataka from time to time, based on prison population, workload, and administrative requirements.

(3) The Directorate may include executive, ministerial, correctional, guarding, and medical personnel, whose recruitment and responsibilities shall be defined by rules framed under this Act.

9. Head of Prisons and Correctional Services.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall appoint a senior officer, of such rank and qualification as it deems appropriate, as the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services.

(2) The Head shall exercise overall control and supervision of the Directorate, including powers and duties under this Act and rules made thereunder.

(3) He shall also exercise administrative, financial, and disciplinary powers equivalent to that of a Head of Department and any other powers conferred by the Government from time to time.

10. Other Officers of Prisons.- (1) The Government may appoint such other officers as may be necessary to assist the Head of the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services in the efficient implementation of this Act.

(2) Every prison shall have an Officer-in-Charge, who may be designated as Superintendent, Additional Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent or any other equivalent officer, as prescribed under the rules.

(3) The general administrative control of the prison shall vest in the Officer-in-Charge. All other prison staff shall function under his direction as per duties prescribed under the rules.

11. Recruitment and Training.- (1) The qualifications, recruitment procedure, appointment, and training of prison officers and staff shall be as prescribed under the Karnataka Prison Rules.

(2) Salaries and service conditions shall be commensurate with the duties and responsibilities in a modern correctional system.

(3) All officers and staff shall undergo,-

(a) Basic induction training; and

(b) Periodic in-service refresher courses to ensure professional efficiency, discipline, and understanding of correctional principles.

CHAPTER V
DUTIES OF PRISON OFFICERS AND STAFF

12. Functions and Duties of Officer-in-Charge.- (1) Subject to this Act, the rules made thereunder, and the instructions of the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services, the Officer-in-Charge shall manage all matters concerning the prison, including,-

(a) Admission, classification, and discharge of prisoners;

(b) Maintenance of discipline and security;

(c) Supervision of correctional programs and prison leave;

(d) Expenditure, administration, and upkeep of prison infrastructure.

(2) The Officer-in-Charge shall ensure the safekeeping of prison records, including electronic records, and custody of articles and money belonging to prisoners.

(3) He shall supervise staff duties, enforce discipline, and maintain law and order within the prison.

(4) The Officer-in-Charge shall also exercise such disciplinary powers as are delegated to him under the Act or prescribed by the rules, including for managing high-security wards.

13. Medical Officer.- (1) Every prison shall have a designated Medical Officer, preferably deputed from the Health Department of the Government of Karnataka.

(2) In the absence of a designated Medical Officer, the medical officer or in-charge doctor of the nearest Government Hospital or Civil Hospital may temporarily discharge these duties.

14. Duties of Other Prison Officers and Staff.- All officers and staff of the prison shall perform duties as prescribed under the rules, including but not limited to,-

(a) Guarding and escorting prisoners;

(b) Assisting in classification, rehabilitation, and correctional activities;

(c) Supervising daily routines and enforcing discipline;

(d) Performing healthcare, vocational, recreational, and welfare-related duties as assigned.

15. Exercise of Powers in Absence of Officer-in-Charge or Medical Officer.- In the absence of the Officer-in-Charge or the Medical Officer, their respective duties and powers may be exercised by such other officer(s) as may be authorised by the Head of the Directorate or designated under the rules, either by name or official designation.

16. Prohibition on Business Dealings and Conflict of Interest,- (1) No prison officer or staff shall,-

(a) Have any business dealings directly or indirectly with any prisoner or their relatives;

(b) Engage in contracts for supply of goods or services to the prison;

(c) Derive financial or personal benefit from such activities.

(2) All officers and staff shall be bound by the applicable conduct and ethics rules of their service cadre.

17. Staff Welfare.- (1) The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services may establish a *Prison Staff Welfare Wing* to formulate and implement welfare measures for prison personnel.

(2) The welfare initiatives may include support for healthcare, housing, insurance, education of children, counselling services, and other facilities as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER VI
USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PRISON ADMINISTRATION

18. Use of Technology in Prison Administration.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall ensure the integration of appropriate technological systems into prison administration to enhance,-

(a) Security and safety of prisons and inmates;

(b) Efficiency in prison management;

(c) Transparency and accountability in prison operations.

(2) The following technologies may be adopted and deployed in all prisons across the State,-

(a) Biometric authentication and identity management systems;

(b) CCTV surveillance with recording and central monitoring;

(c) Scanning and detection devices for persons and materials;

(d) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for movement monitoring;

(e) Video conferencing for court hearings and legal consultations;

(f) Electronic access control systems for regulated movement of inmates and staff.

(3) The entire prison administration shall be computerised and integrated with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) for seamless data exchange and real-time monitoring.

(4) The Government of Karnataka shall deploy,-

(a) Cellular jamming systems;

(b) Mobile detection technologies;

(c) Other advanced tools to detect, prevent and eliminate unauthorised use of mobile phones and electronic devices inside prisons.

(5) The Government may implement electronic monitoring, such as ankle bracelets or GPS-enabled tracking devices, for prisoners on parole, furlough or temporary leave, as a condition for leave or temporary release.

(6) All technological measures adopted shall comply with privacy safeguards and standards prescribed under the rules framed by the Government.

CHAPTER VII
ADMISSION, TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE OF PRISONERS

19. Admission of Prisoners.- (1) The Officer-in-Charge shall receive and detain any person committed to his custody by a competent Court or authority, in accordance with a valid writ, warrant, or order, until such person is discharged or removed by due process of law.

(2) Upon execution or discharge of such writ, warrant, or order, it shall be returned to the issuing authority along with a certificate stating how it was executed or why the person was discharged.

(3) The Officer-in-Charge shall give effect to any sentence or order issued by a Court or competent authority under applicable law.

(4) If the legality of a warrant or order is in doubt, the Officer-in-Charge shall refer it to the Government of Karnataka for confirmation, and detain the person pending such confirmation under the conditions mentioned in the order.

(5) No person shall be admitted into prison unless a valid warrant or order of commitment is produced.

20. Transfer of a Prisoner to another State.- (1) Where any person is confined in a Karnataka prison under sentence of imprisonment or death, or for default of fine or security, the Government of Karnataka may, with mutual consent of another State Government, order the transfer of such prisoner to a prison in that State.

(2) Transfer of undertrial prisoners to another State shall be subject to the consent of the trial court.

21. Prisoners to be Searched and Examined on Admission, Exit and Re-entry.- (1) Every prisoner shall be thoroughly searched at the time of admission, re-entry, and prior to exit. Prohibited items, cash, valuables, and other articles shall be seized and stored securely by the Officer-in-Charge.

Provided that women and transgender prisoners shall be searched in a gender-appropriate and dignified manner as prescribed under the rules.

(2) Biometric and physical identification shall be recorded upon admission in accordance with the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 and applicable laws.

(3) Every prisoner shall undergo medical examination within 24 hours of admission. The Medical Officer shall record present and past illnesses.

(4) Prisoners exiting or re-entering the prison shall again undergo biometric verification and physical search.

22. **Search of Prisoners.-** Prisoners shall be subject to search at any time, including routine and surprise inspections, for detecting possession of prohibited articles, contraband, or anything that may compromise prison security.

23. Articles of Prisoners.- (1) All articles belonging to prisoners which are not prohibited and are permitted under rules shall be kept in the custody of an authorised officer.

(2) Items brought for use of prisoners by relatives or others may also be accepted and recorded, subject to rules.

24. Admission, Transfer and Repatriation of Foreigner Prisoners.- (1) On admission of any foreign national as a prisoner, immediate intimation shall be sent by the Officer-in-Charge to:

(a) The Head of the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services;

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India;

(c) Any other authority or agency as may be notified by the Central Government.

(2) The transfer and repatriation of such prisoners shall be dealt with in accordance with applicable treaties, agreements, and laws.

CHAPTER VIII
CLASSIFICATION OF PRISONERS

25. Composition of Classification and Security Assessment Committee.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall constitute a *Classification and Security Assessment Committee* for each prison or group of prisons, comprising officers of the Prisons and Correctional Services and other experts as may be prescribed.

(2) The Committee shall be responsible for,-

(a) Assessing the security risk of inmates;

(b) Classifying prisoners for correctional treatment;

(c) Recommending segregation, special care, or precautionary measures based on risk and rehabilitation needs.

(3) The powers, duties, composition, and procedure of the Committee shall be defined by rules framed under this Act.

26. Grounds of Classification and Categories.- (1) The Classification and Security Assessment Committee shall classify inmates based on relevant criteria, including but not limited to,-

(a) Age
(b) Gender
(c) Nature and gravity of offence
(d) Stage of trial or conviction
(e) Mental and physical health
(f) Propensity for violence or escape
(g) Behaviour and correctional needs

(2) Broad categories of prisoners may include,-

(a) Civil Prisoners
(b) Criminal Prisoners
(c) Convicted Prisoners
(d) Undertrial Prisoners
(e) Detenues
(f) Habitual Offenders
(g) Recidivists

(3) Such categories shall be housed in separate barracks, enclosures, or cells to prevent negative influence and radicalisation of inmates.

(4) Prisoners shall also be segregated by gender as,-

(a) Male
(b) Female
(c) Transgender

(5) Further sub-classifications may include,-

(a) Drug addicts and alcoholics
(b) First-time offenders
(c) Foreign nationals
(d) Aged or infirm prisoners (65+ years)
(e) Prisoners with infectious or chronic diseases
(f) Mentally ill prisoners
(g) Prisoners sentenced to death
(h) High-risk prisoners
(i) Women prisoners with children
(j) Young offenders (18–21 years)

(6) Dangerous or high-risk prisoners shall be kept in special high-security wards or institutions as specified.

(7) The Officer-in-Charge shall ensure enhanced vigilance, care, and security arrangements for such high-risk inmates, as may be directed by the Government.

CHAPTER IX
PROTECTION OF SOCIETY FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIGH-RISK PRISONERS, HABITUAL OFFENDERS AND HARDENED CRIMINALS

27. Taking Appropriate Measures Against Criminal Activities of Prisoners.- (1) The Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services, in coordination with the Karnataka Police Department, shall take all necessary steps to safeguard society from criminal activities originating from within prisons.

(2) Prisoners shall be classified based on,-

(a) Nature of crimes;

(b) Past criminal history;

(c) Behaviour and conduct in prison;

(d) Risk of negatively influencing others.

They shall be housed separately in secure barracks or cells to prevent criminal networking or indoctrination.

(3) High-risk prisoners, habitual offenders, and hardened criminals shall not be entitled to parole, furlough, or any kind of prison leave by default. Any exception shall require special approval as per prescribed rules.

28. Special Provisions for Security, Intelligence Gathering, Surveillance and Rotation of Prison Staff on Duty.- (1) Prisons and correctional institutions shall maintain heightened surveillance on high-risk prisoners to prevent,-

(a) Organised crime;

(b) Gang activity;

(c) Witness intimidation;

(d) Communication with criminal networks.

(2) Intelligence units of the Directorate shall coordinate with the State Intelligence Department for,-

(a) Gathering internal intelligence from inmates;

(b) Monitoring communication and interactions;

(c) Preventing conspiracies, escapes, or riots.

(3) The Government of Karnataka shall ensure,-

(a) Regular searches and detection of contraband;

(b) Deployment of jamming and detection devices;

(c) Surprise inspections, especially in high-security wards.

(4) Staff posted in high-risk wards or cells shall be rotated periodically to avoid familiarity, corruption, or compromise of security.

(5) The release (whether on bail, parole, or completion of sentence) of high-risk, hardened, or habitual offenders shall be notified to the District Superintendent of Police, who shall monitor their activities post-release.

(6) The movement of such prisoners during medical escorts, court hearings, or other transfers shall be managed under strict police supervision to ensure public safety.

29. Use of Electronic Tracking Devices on Prisoners.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may make it mandatory for prisoners availing prison leave (parole/furlough/emergency release) to wear electronic tracking devices for continuous monitoring.

(2) Violation of tracking conditions shall lead to,-

(a) Immediate cancellation of prison leave;

(b) Disqualification from future prison leaves;

(c) Penal action as per applicable law and rules.

CHAPTER X
PRISON REGIMEN FOR WOMEN PRISONERS

30. Separate Accommodation for Women Prisoners.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may establish exclusive prisons for women, or dedicated enclosures within existing prisons, ensuring complete separation from male prisoners.

(2) In prisons housing both men and women, the following safeguards shall be observed,-

(a) Women shall be confined in a separate building or enclosure;

(b) There shall be a separate entrance for the women's ward;

(c) No physical or visual contact between male and female prisoners shall be permitted.

(3) Female wards of the prison hospital shall be designated for women inmates.

(4) Only female prison officers and staff shall be posted in women's prisons or women's wards. Male staff may be deployed outside, and may enter only in emergencies, with proper authorization and presence of a female officer, as prescribed.

(5) Women prisoners shall be provided access to all correctional programs, vocational and educational activities, healthcare, and recreational facilities, with accommodations for gender-specific needs.

31. Pregnant Women Prisoners.- (1) If a woman prisoner is found to be pregnant at the time of admission or during incarceration, the Medical Officer shall notify the Officer-in-Charge.

(2) Adequate medical care, nutrition, and necessary support for prenatal and postnatal health shall be provided, as per rules framed under this Act.

32. Women Prisoners with Children.- (1) A woman prisoner may be permitted to keep her child with her in prison until the child attains six years of age.

(2) The following safeguards shall apply,-

(a) The child shall be provided appropriate food, clothing, healthcare, and developmental care;

(b) Recreational, educational, and health facilities shall be ensured;

(c) Efforts may be made to place the child with a relative or suitable institution when appropriate.

(3) Records of such children shall be maintained and periodically reviewed.

33. Inquiry into Complaints of Sexual Harassment.- (1) Any complaint of sexual harassment, assault, or misconduct made by a woman prisoner shall be acted upon promptly, confidentially, and in accordance with the law.

(2) The prison shall establish an appropriate mechanism (e.g., Internal Complaint Committee) for redressal of such grievances as per applicable guidelines, including those under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

CHAPTER XI
TRANSGENDER PRISONERS

34. Prison Regimen for Transgender Prisoners.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall ensure that all transgender prisoners are housed with dignity, safety, and respect for their self-identified gender.

(2) The Officer-in-Charge shall, at the time of admission, record the prisoner's self-identified gender and ensure classification accordingly.

(3) Separate and secure *enclosures or wards* for transgender prisoners shall be created in every prison, as may be prescribed under the rules, to ensure their safety and privacy.

(4) Transgender prisoners shall be provided access to,-

(a) Medical care, including hormone therapy and psychological support, wherever required;

(b) Correctional programs, vocational and educational opportunities;

(c) Welfare and recreational services, without discrimination.

(5) All staff dealing with transgender prisoners shall undergo sensitivity and orientation training, as prescribed under the rules.

(6) The rights, safety, and well-being of transgender inmates shall be upheld in accordance with,-

(a) The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019*;*

(b) Karnataka State transgender welfare policies; and

(c) Any other guidelines prescribed by the Central or State Government.

CHAPTER XII
CUSTODY AND SECURITY OF PRISONERS

35. Safe Custody and Security of Prisoners.- (1) The Officer-in-Charge of every prison shall ensure secure custody and prevent escape, assault, arson, or any act prejudicial to the safety of prisoners or prison staff.

(2) Security measures may include but are not limited to,-

(a) High-security walls, gates, and perimeter control;

(b) Watch towers, power fencing, flood lighting;

(c) Central surveillance system (CCTV);

(d) Alarm and public address systems;

(e) Screening and scanning equipment;

(f) Access control and biometric systems;

(g) Measures for control of prohibited articles.

(3) The Head of Prisons and Correctional Services shall have authority to transfer any prisoner within Karnataka to another prison for reasons of security, discipline, overcrowding, medical necessity, or public interest, as prescribed by the rules.

(4) Upon request from the Officer-in-Charge, the local police authorities shall provide,-

(a) Escort for prisoners during court production, hospital visits, or parole;

(b) Additional support for managing high-risk or violent prisoners;

(c) Security assistance during emergency situations.

(5) Use of physical restraints or force on a prisoner shall be regulated by the rules and may be applied only when necessary to prevent escape, violence, or self-harm, and must be recorded with reasons.

36. Visit to Prisoners.- (1) Prisoners may communicate with visitors—family, friends, and legal counsel—either physically or via video conferencing, under the supervision of the prison authorities.

(2) The following shall be maintained for every visitor,-

(a) Name and address;

(b) Photograph;

(c) Biometric identification and verification;

(d) Purpose and duration of visit.

(3) Foreign prisoners shall be allowed to communicate with family members and consular representatives, in accordance with the Vienna Convention and rules prescribed by the Government.

(4) Legal consultations between inmates and their advocates shall be facilitated confidentially, subject to verification and security protocols.

37. Search of Visitors and Prison Staff.- (1) All visitors entering the prison shall be subject to search in the manner prescribed by the rules.

(2) If any visitor refuses to undergo search, entry into the prison shall be denied and such refusal shall be recorded.

(3) Provisions shall be made for gender-sensitive and disability-friendly search procedures for women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities.

(4) All prison staff and officers shall be searched at the time of entry to and exit from the prison to prevent smuggling or misconduct.

CHAPTER XIII
DISCIPLINE IN PRISONS

38. Discipline in Prisons.- (1) The Officer-in-Charge shall be responsible for maintaining discipline among prisoners, prison officers, and staff, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and rules framed under it.

(2) The enforcement of discipline shall be fair, humane, and in line with the dignity of inmates, as prescribed by the rules.

(3) Every prisoner shall,-

(a) Obey lawful instructions of prison officers;

(b) Abide by the provisions of this Act and rules;

(c) Maintain order and refrain from misconduct.

39. Prison Offences.- The following acts shall be deemed *prison offences* when committed by a prisoner,-

(1) Wilful disobedience of rules or orders.

(2) Assault or use of force.

(3) Use of abusive, threatening, or obscene language.

(4) Immoral or disorderly behaviour.

(5) Feigning illness or injury to avoid work.

(6) Refusal to work (if sentenced to rigorous imprisonment).

(7) Negligence or idleness during work.

(8) Mismanagement or sabotage of assigned tasks.

(9) Damage to prison property.

(10) Tampering with or defacing records (physical or digital).

(11) Possession, transfer or concealment of prohibited articles.

(12) Making false accusations against officials.

(13) Failing to report conspiracies, escapes, or emergencies.

(14) Escape or attempt to escape, or assisting others.

(15) Use or possession of wireless communication devices.

(16) Trespassing into unauthorised areas.

(17) Unauthorised communication with outsiders.

(18) Impersonation of staff or misuse of uniforms.

(19) Smuggling or attempting to smuggle contraband.

(20) Intimidation or coercion of fellow inmates.

(21) Participation in hunger strikes or collective indiscipline.

(22) Acts of sexual abuse, harassment, or sodomy.

(23) Gambling or organising illegal activities.

(24) Aiding or abetting any of the above offences.

40. Punishment for Prison Offences.- (1) After due inquiry, the Officer-in-Charge may impose one or more of the following punishments for prison offences (other than offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or special laws):

(a) Formal warning (recorded in the history ticket);

(b) Suspension of recreational and canteen privileges (up to 1 month);

(c) Forfeiture of remission (up to 3 months);

(d) Stoppage of visits (excluding legal counsel, up to 1 month);

(e) Separate confinement (up to 1 month).

41. Punishment for Possession or Use of Mobile Phones and Contraband.- (1) Any prisoner, visitor, or prison official found using, possessing, introducing, or removing mobile phones or prohibited electronic devices shall be punished with,-

(a) Imprisonment up to 3 years; or

(b) Fine up to ₹25,000; or

(c) Both.

(2) In case of repeated or aggravated contravention, punishment shall be,-

(a) Minimum 2 years and up to 3 years imprisonment; and/or

(b) Fine up to ₹25,000.

(3) Sentences under this section shall run consecutively with any existing sentence.

(4) Offences under this section are cognizable and non-bailable.

42. Procedure on Repeated Committal of Prison Offences.- If a prisoner repeatedly commits offences or if the offence is deemed serious beyond the powers of the Officer-in-Charge, the case shall be forwarded to the jurisdictional Magistrate, who may,-

(a) Try the charge; and

(b) Upon conviction, impose imprisonment up to 3 years in addition to any current sentence.

43. Display of Prison Offences and Penalties.- A list of prison offences and corresponding penalties shall be,-

(a) Displayed prominently in English and Kannada;

(b) Posted inside the prison for awareness among prisoners and staff.

CHAPTER XIV
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

44. Prisoners' Health Care.- (1) Every prisoner shall have access to adequate healthcare, including preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services, as may be prescribed under the rules.

(2) Healthcare services shall be,-

(a) Gender-responsive;

(b) Culturally appropriate;

(c) Inclusive of mental, physical, and dental care.

(3) The Officer-in-Charge shall ensure the timely availability of,-

(a) Trained medical personnel;

(b) Essential medicines;

(c) Emergency care;

(d) Regular health check-ups.

(4) Female prisoners, pregnant women, elderly inmates, and prisoners with chronic or infectious diseases shall receive special medical attention.

45. Mental Health – Psychological Assessment and Treatment.- (1) Any prisoner suffering from mental illness shall be identified, assessed, and provided appropriate psychiatric care and counselling within the prison or through external facilities.

(2) The Government of Karnataka may, through general or special order, direct the transfer of any prisoner with mental illness to a notified mental health establishment under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, with prior permission from the Mental Health Review Board under Section 103 of that Act.

(3) The method and procedure for such transfer and care shall be as prescribed under the rules and shall ensure,-

(a) Humane handling;

(b) Confidentiality;

(c) Family communication;

(d) Periodic mental health reviews.

(4) Psychological services such as counselling, group therapy, and stress management programs shall be made available to prisoners to assist in emotional and social rehabilitation.

CHAPTER XV
WELFARE PROGRAMS FOR PRISONERS

46. Vocational Training, Skill Development, Education and Recreation Facilities.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall ensure that all prisons provide opportunities for,-

(a) Education (including adult literacy and formal education);

(b) Vocational training;

(c) Skill development;

(d) Recreational and cultural activities.

(2) A library shall be established in each prison with books, newspapers, legal literature, and educational material suited to the needs of prisoners.

(3) Vocational training programs may include activities such as,-

(a) Carpentry, tailoring, handicrafts;

(b) Food processing, farming, printing;

(c) Digital literacy and other market-relevant skills.

(4) The aim of these programs is to,-

(a) Aid rehabilitation;

(b) Improve employability after release;

(c) Promote self-reliance and self-esteem.

(5) Recreational and spiritual programs such as sports, music, drama, art, meditation, and yoga may also be organised.

(6) The Officer-in-Charge shall facilitate the conduct of these programs in coordination with government departments, NGOs, educational institutions, and corporate partners.

(7) The Government may frame a scheme to create a Prisoners' Welfare Fund for the benefit of prisoners. Contributions may include,-

(a) Proceeds from jail industry products;

(b) Donations;

(c) Grants;

(d) Voluntary contributions by staff or institutions.

Section 47. Establishment of Canteens and Sales Outlets:

(1) Every prison shall have a canteen or cooperative outlet where prisoners may purchase permitted items for daily use at fair prices, as fixed by the Officer-in-Charge.

(2) The canteen shall be managed under the supervision of designated staff or inmates, as per rules.

(3) Sales outlets may be established inside or outside prisons for the sale of goods produced by prisoners under vocational programs. Such outlets may cater to,-

(a) General public;

(b) Government departments;

(c) Private organisations.

(4) Revenue from these sales may be,-

(a) Partially shared with the prisoners as wages;

(b) Used to support welfare activities;

(c) Deposited into the Prisoners' Welfare Fund.

CHAPTER XVI
SENTENCE PLANNING

48. Individual Sentence Planning,-

(1) An Individual Sentence Plan shall be prepared for every convicted prisoner serving a substantive sentence of imprisonment, aimed at their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

(2) The sentence plan shall include,-

(a) Psychological and behavioural assessment;

(b) Educational and vocational training needs;

(c) Health care and mental health requirements;

(d) Correctional program participation;

(e) Work allocation and productivity;

(f) Risk management and release preparation.

(3) The Officer-in-Charge shall prepare and regularly update each plan in consultation with relevant prison staff, psychologists, educators, and correctional experts.

(4) The plan shall be reviewed at regular intervals, and its progress shall be recorded in the prisoner's file.

(5) Progress in sentence planning may be taken into account while considering,-

(a) Remission;

(b) Parole or furlough;

(c) Pre-mature release;

(d) Transfers to open or semi-open institutions.

49. Work Programme and Wages.- (1) Every prisoner, including undertrial and civil prisoners or those sentenced to simple imprisonment, may be provided the opportunity to engage in meaningful work subject to,-

(a) Medical fitness;

(b) Availability of suitable work;

(c) Safety and security considerations.

(2) Work may include,-

(a) Jail industries;

(b) Maintenance of prison premises;

(c) Agriculture, dairy, or allied activities;

(d) Services in prison canteens, kitchens, libraries, or offices.

(3) Prisoners shall be paid wages for their work, as prescribed by the Government, which shall be fair and revised periodically.

(4) A portion of wages may be,-

Deposited in the prisoner's personal account;

(a) Utilised for canteen purchases or family support;

(b) Contributed to the Prisoners' Welfare Fund or victim compensation, as per rules.

(5) The Officer-in-Charge shall maintain accurate records of wages earned, spent, and deferred.

CHAPTER XVII
OPEN AND SEMI-OPEN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

50. Open and Semi-Open Correctional Institutions.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may establish Open and Semi-Open Correctional Institutions in different parts of the State for the rehabilitation of selected categories of prisoners, particularly those who,-

(a) Have demonstrated good behaviour;

(b) Pose a low risk of escape or violence;

(c) Have completed a minimum period of their sentence as prescribed by rules;

(d) Are nearing the end of their sentence;

(e) Are eligible for reformation-based rehabilitation.

(2) Such institutions shall,-

(a) Operate with minimal physical security infrastructure;

(b) Allow prisoners to work outside under supervision;

(c) Enable greater self-discipline, trust, and responsibility;

(d) Provide education, skill training, employment, and reintegration support.

(3) Categories of prisoners not eligible for transfer to open or semi-open institutions may include,-

(a) Habitual offenders;

(b) Prisoners with violent criminal history;

(c) High-risk prisoners and gang members;

(d) Prisoners under trial or facing appeal in serious offences.

(4) Transfer of eligible prisoners shall be based on recommendations of a Sentence Review Board or any other authority constituted by the Government.

(5) The performance, discipline, and conduct of prisoners in open institutions shall be reviewed periodically. Any breach of rules may result in,-

(a) Return to closed prisons;

(b) Loss of earned remission;

(c) Disqualification from further benefits.

(6) The rules shall specify,-

(a) Eligibility and selection process;

(b) Infrastructure and staffing;

(c) Rights and responsibilities of inmates;

(d) Security protocols;

(e) Monitoring mechanisms.

CHAPTER XVIII
PRISON LEAVE, REMISSION AND PRE-MATURE RELEASE

51. Prison Leave.- (1) A prisoner may be granted leave from prison for any of the following purposes,-

(a) **Furlough** – periodic short leave as a reward for good behaviour;

(b) **Parole** – temporary release for emergency or humanitarian grounds;

(c) **Custody Leave** – escorted leave for court production, investigation, or medical reasons.

(2) The procedure, eligibility, frequency, and duration for grant of each type of leave shall be as prescribed under the rules.

(3) The sanctioning authority shall assess,-

(a) Behaviour and conduct of the prisoner;

(b) Risk assessment and security classification;

(c) Purpose and urgency of leave;

(d) Likelihood of misuse or escape;

(e) Previous history of compliance with leave conditions.

(4) High-risk prisoners, habitual offenders, and persons convicted of serious crimes may be excluded from such leave unless explicitly approved by the State Government or designated competent authority.

(5) Prisoners granted leave may be subject to,-

(a) GPS/electronic monitoring;

(b) Police verification;

(c) Surety or bond requirements;

(d) Return reporting deadlines.

52. Remission.- (1) Remission of sentence may be granted as an incentive for,-

(a) Good conduct;

(b) Participation in correctional or vocational programs;

(c) Contribution to prison work and services;

(d) Educational achievements.

(2) Remission may be,-

(a) **Ordinary remission** – earned monthly;

(b) **Special remission** – granted on national or state occasions or for extraordinary acts;

(c) **State remission** – awarded by the State Government under the Bharathiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

(3) The quantum, criteria, and process of remission shall be prescribed by rules and supervised by the Officer-in-Charge and the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services.

53. Pre-Mature Release.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may consider pre-mature release of prisoners who have served a substantial portion of their sentence, based on,-

(a) Nature and gravity of the offence;

(b) Conduct and discipline in prison;

(c) Psychological and behavioural assessments;

(d) Participation in correctional programs;

(e) Recommendations of the Sentence Review Board.

(2) Prisoners convicted for offences punishable with life imprisonment may be released only after serving the minimum sentence required by law and in accordance with applicable remission policies and judicial pronouncements.

(3) Pre-mature release shall not be a right but a reformative privilege, subject to conditions and periodic review.

CHAPTER XIX
INSPECTION OF PRISONS

54. Inspection of Prisons.- (1) Every prison and correctional institution in Karnataka shall be regularly inspected to ensure,-

(a) Compliance with this Act and the rules made thereunder;
(b) Safety and security of prisoners and staff;
(c) Maintenance of hygiene, sanitation, and healthcare;
(d) Proper implementation of correctional and welfare programs;
(e) Observance of human rights standards.

(2) The following authorities may inspect prisons,-

(a) Head of Prisons and Correctional Services or his nominee;
(b) District Magistrate;
(c) Chief Judicial Magistrate or other designated judicial officers;
(d) State Human Rights Commission and Karnataka State Legal Services Authority;
(e) Such other authorities or committees as may be prescribed.

(3) Each inspecting authority shall,-

(a) Record findings in the prescribed format;
(b) Submit the inspection report to the Government or designated authority;
(c) Recommend corrective action, if needed;
(d) Follow up on implementation of recommendations.

(4) The Government of Karnataka may notify a schedule for *periodic inspections* and may prescribe surprise checks.

(5) Prisoners shall have the right to present grievances or complaints before inspecting authorities, and such complaints shall be duly recorded and reviewed.

CHAPTER XX
AFTER-CARE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

55. After-Care and Rehabilitation Services.- (1) The Government of Karnataka shall formulate and implement an After-Care and Rehabilitation Policy for released prisoners to facilitate their reintegration into society and reduce the chances of recidivism.

(2) The policy may include,-

(a) Transitional shelters or halfway homes;
(b) Vocational training and employment placement;
(c) Counselling and psychological support;
(d) Legal aid and documentation assistance;
(e) Linkages to social welfare schemes;

(f) Support for reconnecting with families.

(3) The Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services shall maintain a database of released prisoners who require after-care support and shall facilitate their referral to appropriate services.

(4) The Government may,-

(a) Partner with NGOs, voluntary organisations, and civil society institutions;

(b) Create a dedicated After-Care Fund for implementing these services;

(c) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of after-care programs.

(5) Special efforts shall be made to support,-

(a) Women prisoners with dependent children;

(b) Elderly and infirm prisoners;

(c) Transgender persons;

(d) Foreign nationals;

(e) Victims of substance abuse;

(f) Prisoners without family or community support.

(6) The after-care services shall be extended for a reasonable period after release, as may be prescribed by rules.

CHAPTER XXI
MISCELLANEOUS

56. Transfer of Civil and Unconvicted Criminal Prisoners.- The Officer-in-Charge may, with approval from the Directorate, transfer civil prisoners and undertrial prisoners between prisons for reasons of safety, discipline, medical necessity, or overcrowding.

57. Legal Aid and Services.- (1) All prisoners shall have access to legal aid and assistance.

(2) The Officer-in-Charge shall,-

(a) Inform prisoners of their legal rights;

(b) Facilitate meetings with legal aid counsels;

(c) Coordinate with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority.

(3) Apart, prisoner's deposition of any nature before the concerned Court shall be through Video conference or any other appropriate technology, as prescribed by the Rules.

58. Prison Development Board.- (1) The Government of Karnataka may constitute a *Prison Development Board* for each district or region, comprising public representatives, prison officials, and experts.

(2) The Board shall advise on,-

(a) Infrastructure development;

(b) Welfare and rehabilitation programs;

(c) Fundraising and partnerships.

59. Sentence Review Board.- (1) The Government shall constitute a *Sentence Review Board* at the State level.

(2) The Board shall consider cases related to,-

(a) Pre-mature release;

(b) Open prison eligibility;

(c) Remission policies;

(d) Other sentence-related matters as prescribed.

60. Victim and Witness Protection.- The Government shall take steps to ensure that activities of prisoners, particularly high-risk individuals, do not endanger the safety or privacy of victims, witnesses, or the general public.

61. Research and Development.- The Directorate may,-

(a) Collaborate with research institutions;

(b) Undertake studies on correctional reforms, reoffending patterns, and rehabilitation outcomes;

(c) Publish reports and best practices.

62. Community Participation.- The Government may encourage community-based organisations and NGOs to participate in correctional programs, after-care services, and awareness campaigns, subject to verification and regulation.

63. Rule-Making Power.- The Government of Karnataka may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, including but not limited to,-

(a) Security procedures;

(b) Prison leaves and sentence planning;

(c) Staffing and training;

(d) Medical and mental healthcare;

(e) Prisoner classification and segregation.

64. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may issue orders not inconsistent with the Act to remove such difficulty, within two years from the date of commencement.

65. Repeal and Saving.- (1) On commencement of this Act, the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963 and any other laws inconsistent with this Act shall stand repealed.

(2) All actions, decisions, or notifications made under the repealed laws shall continue unless inconsistent with this Act.

66. Act Not to Affect Jurisdiction of Courts.- Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to limit or affect the jurisdiction of any court, especially in matters of bail, remand, trial, appeal, or enforcement of rights.

67. Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent in any other State law for the time being in force.

68. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit, prosecution, or legal proceeding shall lie against any official or person acting in good faith under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

69. **Savings of Powers Under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**.- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the powers of courts or authorities under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

70. Power to Delegate.- The Government may, by notification, delegate any of its powers under this Act to the Head of Prisons and Correctional Services or any other officer or authority as it may deem fit.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963, which currently governs prison administration in the State, has over time become inadequate in addressing the modern challenges of correctional management, prisoner rehabilitation, technological integration, human rights compliance, and gender sensitivity. There is an urgent need to overhaul the legal framework in light of evolving jurisprudence, international best practices, and the recommendations made by expert bodies including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

This Bill seeks to consolidate and comprehensively reform the law relating to the management, administration, and regulation of prisons and correctional services in Karnataka. It aims to shift the paradigm from mere confinement to meaningful correction, reformation, and reintegration of prisoners into society as law-abiding citizens.

Key features of the Bill include:

- Establishment of modern prison infrastructure with advanced security architecture and segregation of high-risk, vulnerable, and special-category prisoners;
- Emphasis on correctional, vocational, educational, and psychological rehabilitation programs tailored to individual sentence plans;
- Provision for open and semi-open correctional institutions to encourage reform-based custody;
- Gender-sensitive prison regimen, including exclusive provisions for women, pregnant inmates, and transgender prisoners;
- Legal recognition of technological tools such as biometric identification, electronic monitoring, video conferencing, and integration with national criminal justice systems;
- Provisions for after-care, parole, remission, and premature release aligned with principles of rehabilitation and public safety;
- Institutional mechanisms like the Directorate of Prisons, Sentence Review Board, and Prison Development Boards to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective governance.

The proposed legislation also seeks to harmonise the prison law of Karnataka with the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023, while adapting it to the specific administrative, social, and legal needs of the State.

In view of the above, the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2025, is proposed.

KARNATAKA CHILD MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BILL, 2025

A Bill to establish a comprehensive national framework for the promotion, protection, and enhancement of mental health and well-being of children across Karnataka, to mandate cross-sectoral integration of mental health services, to provide for early screening and intervention, to strengthen service delivery mechanisms, to combat stigma, to increase accessibility of mental health support, and to foster preventative approaches through supportive environments.

WHEREAS the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to include the right to health, including mental health;

WHEREAS India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which recognizes the right of every child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including mental health;

WHEREAS the National Mental Health Policy, 2014, and the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, recognize the need for special provisions for mental healthcare of children but lack comprehensive frameworks specifically addressing child mental health;

WHEREAS the National Education Policy, 2020, emphasizes the importance of social-emotional learning and mental well-being of students but requires supportive legislative frameworks for effective implementation;

WHEREAS the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has highlighted the increasing prevalence of mental health concerns among children and the critical gaps in services and support systems;

WHEREAS recent studies indicate that approximately 15-20% of children and adolescents in India experience mental health disorders, with many going undiagnosed and untreated due to lack of awareness, stigma, and inadequate services;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health challenges among children, highlighting the urgent need for robust mental health support systems;

WHEREAS early intervention in childhood mental health concerns can significantly improve long-term outcomes and prevent more serious mental health conditions in adulthood;

WHEREAS there exists a critical need for a comprehensive, integrated, and cross-sectoral approach to child mental health that addresses prevention, early identification, intervention, and continuous support;

WHEREAS the State of Karnataka recognizes that investing in child mental health is essential for the overall development and well-being of children and the future prosperity of the State;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to enact a comprehensive legislation to establish a national framework for promoting child mental health and well-being, integrating mental health screening and intervention into existing systems, enhancing mental health awareness and literacy, strengthening mental health services, addressing stigma, ensuring accessible support, and focusing on preventative measures;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent, and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Child Mental Health and Well-being Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "child" means any person below the age of eighteen years;

(b) "mental health" means a state of well-being in which a child realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can learn and study productively, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community;

(c) "mental health professional" includes psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurses, or any other appropriately trained mental health practitioners as may be specified;

(d) "mental health services" means services provided for the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation, and prevention of mental health conditions;

(e) "integrated screening" means systematic assessment processes conducted across educational, healthcare, and social welfare settings to identify mental health needs among children;

(f) "early intervention" means timely provision of specialized services and supports to children showing signs of mental health difficulties;

(g) "preventative measures" means strategies and interventions designed to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors related to child mental health;

(h) "stigma" means negative attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours directed toward individuals with mental health concerns;

(i) "supportive environment" means physical, social, and emotional settings that promote psychological safety, positive relationships, and healthy development.

CHAPTER II
GOVERNANCE

3. Karnataka State Child Mental Health Council.- (1) The State Government shall by notification establish a Karnataka State Child Mental Health Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") to oversee the implementation of this Act.

(2) The Council shall consist of,-

(a) the Minister for Women and Child Development, who shall be the ex-officioCo-Chairperson;

(b) the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare;

(c) the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development;
(d) the Principal Secretary, Department of Education;
(e) the Commissioner, Department of Health and Family Welfare;
(f) the Commissioner, Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens;
(g) the Director, Karnataka State Mental Health Authority;
(h) two representatives from child rights organizations;
(i) two mental health professionals specializing in child and adolescent mental health;
(j) two representatives from academic institutions;

(3) The Council shall meet at least once every quarter.

5. Functions of the Council.- The Council shall,-

(a) formulate policies, programs, and guidelines for the implementation of this Act;
(b) coordinate between different departments and stakeholders for effective implementation;
(c) monitor and evaluate the implementation of the provisions of this Act;
(d) advise the State Government on matters related to child mental health and well-being;
(e) establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration;
(f) recommend allocation of adequate resources for child mental health programs;
(g) create frameworks for data collection, research, and evaluation;
(h) develop standards and protocols for service delivery; and
(i) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

6. District Child Mental Health Committees.- (1) Each state government shall establish a District Child Mental Health Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the District Committee") to implement the provisions of this Act at the district level.

(2) The District Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and shall include representatives from the District Health Office, District Education Office, District Child Protection Unit, District Legal Services Authority, and other relevant stakeholders.

(3) The District Committee shall,-

(a) implement programs and activities in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Council;
(b) ensure coordination among different stakeholders at the district level;
(c) monitor the implementation of child mental health programs within the district;
(d) collect and maintain data related to child mental health services and outcomes;
(e) address district-specific challenges and develop local solutions; and
(f) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III
INTEGRATED SCREENING AND EARLY INTERVENTION

8. Universal Mental Health Screening.- (1) All schools, anganwadis, primary health centres, and childcare institutions shall conduct regular mental health screening for children under their care, using age-appropriate, standardized, and culturally sensitive screening tools approved by the Council.

(2) The screening shall be conducted,-

(a) at entry points into educational institutions;

(b) annually as part of school health programs;

(c) during routine health check-ups at primary health centres; and

(d) upon admission to childcare institutions.

(3) The screening shall be conducted with appropriate consent mechanisms and with strict confidentiality protocols as may be prescribed.

9. Referral Mechanisms.- (1) The council shall recommend referral pathways for children identified with mental health concerns through screening.

(2) Each educational institution, healthcare facility, and childcare institution shall designate a nodal officer responsible for coordinating referrals.

(3) A centralized digital referral system shall be developed to track referrals and ensure follow-up.

10. Early Intervention Programs.- (1) The Council shall recommend early intervention programs for children identified with mental health concerns.

(2) Early intervention programs may include,-

(a) counselling services;

(b) peer support programs;

(c) parental guidance and support;

(d) specialized therapeutic interventions; and

(e) academic accommodations and support.

(3) Early intervention programs shall be evidence-based, culturally appropriate, and regularly evaluated for effectiveness.

11. School Mental Health Program.- (1) Every school shall establish a School Mental Health Program comprising,-

(a) a designated school counsellor or mental health professional;

(b) a school mental health team including teachers trained in basic mental health support;

(c) regular mental health awareness activities for students and staff;

(d) protocols for identifying and supporting students with mental health concerns; and

(e) linkages with external mental health services.

(2) The Department of Education shall provide necessary guidance, training, and resources for implementing the School Mental Health Program.

CHAPTER IV
AWARENESS AND LITERACY

12. Mental Health Curriculum.- (1) Mental health education shall be integrated into the school curriculum at all levels.

(2) The mental health curriculum shall be notified by the Council which may cover,-

(a) understanding emotions and emotional regulation;

(b) stress management and coping skills;

(c) recognizing signs of mental health concerns;

(d) help-seeking behaviours;

(e) preventing bullying and violence;

(f) promoting inclusive and supportive peer relationships.

(3) The Department of Education, in consultation with mental health experts, shall develop and regularly update the mental health curriculum.

13. Awareness Programs.- (1) The State Government shall conduct regular awareness programs on child mental health and well-being targeting,-

(a) children;

(b) parents and caregivers;

(c) teachers and educators;

(d) healthcare providers;

(e) community leaders; and

(f) the general public.

(2) Awareness programs shall utilize various media and communication channels, including social media, to maximize reach.

(3) Special initiatives shall be undertaken to reach marginalized and vulnerable communities.

14. Parental Education and Support.- (1) The State Government shall develop and implement programs for educating parents about child mental health, positive parenting practices, and early identification of mental health concerns.

(2) Parent support groups shall be established at the community level to provide peer support and guidance.

(3) Parental education programs shall be integrated into existing platforms such as parent-teacher meetings, anganwadi services, and community health programs.

15. Capacity Building for Professionals.- (1) Regular training programs shall be conducted for professionals working with children, including,-

(a) teachers and school staff;

(b) healthcare providers;

(c) anganwadi workers;

(d) child protection officers;

(e) police personnel; and

(f) judicial officers.

(2) Training programs shall focus on identification of mental health concerns, appropriate response strategies, and referral mechanisms.
(3) The State Government shall collaborate with academic institutions and professional bodies to develop and conduct these training programs.

CHAPTER V
STRENGTHENING SERVICES

16. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.- (1) The State Government shall establish a comprehensive network of child and adolescent mental health services, including,-

(a) community-based mental health support services;
(b) specialized outpatient services at district hospitals;
(c) inpatient facilities at designated hospitals;
(d) crisis intervention services; and
(e) rehabilitation and reintegration services.

(2) Services shall be evidence-based, culturally appropriate, and regularly evaluated for quality and effectiveness.

17. Mental Health Professionals.- (1) The State Government shall take measures to increase the number of mental health professionals specializing in child and adolescent mental health, including,-

(a) creating specialized positions in government healthcare facilities;
(b) offering incentives for professionals to work in underserved areas;
(c) supporting specialized education and training programs; and
(d) establishing clear career pathways for mental health professionals.

(2) The State Government shall develop and maintain a registry of qualified mental health professionals specializing in child and adolescent mental health.

18. Community-Based Mental Health Support.- (1) Community-based mental health support services shall be established at the primary health centre level.
(2) Community health workers, ASHAs, and anganwadi workers shall be trained to provide basic mental health support and facilitate referrals.
(3) Peer support programs and community support groups shall be established and promoted.

19. Technology-Based Mental Health Services.- (1) The State Government shall develop and promote technology-based mental health services, including,-

(a) telemedicine and telepsychiatry services;
(b) mental health helplines and crisis support;
(c) digital mental health interventions; and
(d) online counselling services.

(2) Technology-based services shall adhere to appropriate standards of quality, ethics, and data privacy.

20. Integration with Primary Healthcare.- (1) Mental health services for children shall be integrated into primary healthcare services.

(2) Primary health centres shall be equipped to provide basic mental health assessment and support.

(3) Healthcare providers at primary health centres shall be trained in identifying and addressing common mental health concerns among children.

CHAPTER VI
ADDRESSING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

21. Anti-Stigma Initiatives.- (1) The State Government shall implement comprehensive anti-stigma initiatives to address negative attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours related to child mental health.

(2) Anti-stigma initiatives shall include,-

(a) public education campaigns;

(b) media engagement;

(c) community dialogue programs;

(d) incorporation of anti-stigma messages in school curricula; and

(e) engagement with religious and community leaders.

22. Prohibition of Discrimination.- (1) No child shall be discriminated against on the basis of mental health status in,-

(a) educational institutions;

(b) healthcare services;

(c) employment opportunities;

(d) access to public services; or

(e) any other aspect of public life.

(2) Any act of discrimination on the basis of mental health status shall be considered a violation of this Act and shall be dealt with accordingly.

23. Positive Representation in Media.- (1) The State Government shall work with media organizations to promote positive and accurate representation of child mental health issues.

(2) Guidelines shall be developed for ethical reporting of child mental health issues.

(3) Media literacy programs shall be promoted to help children critically evaluate media messages related to mental health.

24. Recognition and Celebration.- (1) The State Government shall recognize and celebrate initiatives, individuals, and organizations that make significant contributions to promoting child mental health and combating stigma.

(2) An annual Karnataka Child Mental Health Awards shall be instituted to recognize such contributions.

CHAPTER VII
ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

25. Child-Friendly Services.- (1) All mental health services for children shall be designed and delivered in a child-friendly manner, taking into account,-

(a) developmental stages and needs;

(b) cultural and linguistic considerations;

(c) gender sensitivity; and

(d) accessibility for children with disabilities.

(2) Child-friendly spaces shall be created within mental health facilities to provide a welcoming and non-threatening environment.

26. Affordable and Accessible Services.- (1) The State Government shall ensure that mental health services for children are affordable and accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

(2) Mental health services for children shall be included under health insurance schemes, including the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

(3) Special measures shall be taken to ensure accessibility of services in rural and remote area

27. Outreach Services.- (1) Mobile mental health units shall be established to provide services in underserved areas.

(2) Regular mental health camps shall be organized in schools and communities.

(3) Home-based mental health services shall be provided for children with severe mental health conditions or mobility limitations.

28. Special Provisions for Vulnerable Children.- (1) Special provisions shall be made to address the mental health needs of vulnerable children, including,-

(a) children living in poverty;

(b) children with disabilities;

(c) children in institutional care;

(d) children in conflict with law;

(e) children affected by natural disasters or emergencies;

(f) children from marginalized communities; and

(g) children exposed to violence, abuse, or neglect.

(2) Targeted programs shall be developed to address the specific mental health needs of these groups.

29. Cultural Competence.- (1) Mental health services shall be delivered in a culturally competent manner, respecting diversity in beliefs, values, and practices.

(2) Mental health professionals shall receive training in cultural competence.

(3) Culturally appropriate assessment tools and intervention strategies shall be developed and utilized.

CHAPTER VIII
PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

30. Supportive Environments.- (1) All settings where children spend significant time, including homes, schools, and communities, shall be encouraged to create supportive environments that promote mental well-being.

(2) Guidelines shall be developed for creating mentally healthy environments in different settings.

31. School-Based Prevention Programs.- (1) All schools shall implement evidence-based prevention programs focusing on,-

(a) social-emotional learning;

(b) resilience building;

(c) positive school climate;

(d) prevention of bullying and violence; and

(e) stress management and coping skills.

(2) The Department of Education shall provide necessary resources and support for implementing these programs.

32. Parenting Programs.- (1) The State Government shall promote evidence-based parenting programs that enhance parent-child relationships and promote positive parenting practices.

(2) Parenting programs shall be made available through various platforms, including anganwadi centres, schools, and community centres.

33. Life Skills Education.- (1) Comprehensive life skills education shall be provided to all children to enhance their psychosocial competence and ability to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.

(2) Life skills education shall be integrated into the school curriculum and shall also be made available through community-based programs.

34. Early Childhood Development.- (1) The State Government shall strengthen early childhood development programs to lay a strong foundation for mental health and well-being.

(2) Anganwadi centres shall incorporate activities promoting social-emotional development of young children.

(3) Parents and caregivers shall be educated about the importance of early experiences for mental health development.

35. Digital Well-being.- (1) Guidelines shall be developed for promoting digital well-being among children, addressing,-

(a) healthy use of technology;

(b) digital citizenship;

(c) online safety;

(d) prevention of cyberbullying; and

(e) critical media literacy.

(2) Schools and parents shall be supported in implementing these guidelines.

CHAPTER IX
RESEARCH, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

36. Research on Child Mental Health.- (1) The State Government shall promote and support research on child mental health, including,-

(a) epidemiological studies;

(b) evaluation of interventions and programs;

(c) development and validation of assessment tools; and

(d) studies on risk and protective factors.

(2) A state-level research and innovation centre for child mental health shall be established to coordinate and support research activities.

37. Data Collection and Monitoring.- (1) A comprehensive data collection system shall be established to monitor,-

(a) prevalence of mental health concerns among children;

(b) utilization of mental health services;

(c) outcomes of interventions and programs;

(d) impact of policy initiatives; and

(e) other relevant indicators.

(2) Data shall be disaggregated by age, gender, geographical location, and other relevant factors to identify disparities and target interventions accordingly.

38. Quality Standards and Accreditation.- (1) Quality standards shall be developed for child mental health services and programs.

(2) An accreditation system shall be established for mental health services providing care to children.

(3) Regular quality audits shall be conducted to ensure compliance with standards.

39. Annual Status Report.- (1) The Council shall prepare an annual status report on child mental health in the state, including,-

(a) progress in implementing the provisions of this Act;

(b) data on key indicators;

(c) good practices and innovations;

(d) challenges and barriers; and

(e) recommendations for future action.

(2) The annual status report shall be presented to the State Legislature and made available to the public.

CHAPTER X
FINANCE AND RESOURCES

40. Child Mental Health Fund.- (1) The State Government shall establish a Child Mental Health Fund for implementing the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Fund shall receive allocations from,-

(a) the State Budget;

(b) contributions from Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives;

(c) grants from national and international organizations; and

(d) such other sources as may be prescribed.

(3) The Fund shall be administered by the Council.

41. Budget Allocation.- (1) The State Government shall allocate adequate resources in the annual budget for implementing the provisions of this Act.

(2) At least 5% of the health budget shall be allocated for mental health, of which at least 30% shall be specifically for child mental health programs and services.

42. Utilization of Existing Schemes.- (1) Resources from existing schemes and programs related to health, education, and child development shall be leveraged to support child mental health initiatives.

(2) Guidelines shall be issued for integrating child mental health components into these schemes and programs.

CHAPTER XI
MISCELLANEOUS

43. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government, the Council, the District Committees, or any officer or member thereof for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done under this Act.

44. Power to Remove Difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid before the State Legislature.

45. Power to Make Rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid before each house of the State Legislature.

46. Act to Have Overriding Effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

47. Repeal and Savings.- (1) Any existing provisions related to child mental health in other Acts that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall stand repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the repealed provisions shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

KARNATAKA DIGITAL INFRASTUCTURE AND DATA GOVERNANCE ACT, 2025.

A Bill to provide a regulatory team work regulating digital infrastructure development and data Governance in the State of Karnataka.

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

PART I

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.-(1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Digital Infrastructure and Data Governance Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2 . Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Authority" means the Karnataka Digital Infrastructure Authority established under Section 3;

(b) "Data Center" means a facility housing computer systems and associated components for the purpose of storing, processing, or distributing data;

(c) "Data Governance Framework" means the systematic approach to managing, protecting, and utilizing data assets for public service delivery within state government systems;

(d) "Digital Infrastructure" includes data centers, cloud computing facilities, internet exchange points, content delivery networks, and associated physical infrastructure for digital services within the state;

(e) "Digital Manufacturing" means the production of electronic hardware, software, and digital products within Karnataka;

(f) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(g) "Kannada Digital Access" means the provision of digital services and interfaces in Kannada language with appropriate technical standards;

(h) "Notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(i) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(j) "Public Data" means data collected, processed, or maintained by state government entities for public service delivery, excluding personal data subject to central data protection laws;

(k) "Qualified Digital Enterprise" means an entity engaged in digital infrastructure development, data services, or digital manufacturing that meets criteria prescribed under this Act;

(l) "Single Window Clearance" means the integrated system for obtaining all required state and local government approvals through a unified digital platform;

(m)"State" means the State of Karnataka.

PART II
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3. Establishment of Karnataka Digital Infrastructure Authority.- (1) The Government shall, by notification, establish a body corporate to be known as the Karnataka Digital Infrastructure Authority.

(2) The Authority shall have perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The head office of the Authority shall be at Bengaluru.

4. Composition of Authority.- The Authority shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a) the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, who shall be the Chairperson, ex-officio;

(b) the Director, Centre for e-Governance, who shall be the Vice-Chairperson, ex-officio;

(c) the Principal Secretary to Government, Urban Development Department, ex-officio;

(d) the Principal Secretary to Government, Industries and Commerce Department, ex-officio;

(e) the Principal Secretary to Government, Energy Department, ex-officio;

(f) the Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, ex-officio;

(g) the Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director of Industries and Commerce, ex-officio; (h) three members to be nominated by the Government from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in digital infrastructure, information technology, or related fields;

(i) two members to be nominated by the Government representing industry associations.

Section 5 - Tenure and Removal of Nominated Members.- (1) The nominated members shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of their nomination and shall be eligible for re-nomination.

(2) The Government may remove any nominated member from office before the expiry of his term after giving him a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(3) The procedure for nomination and the terms and conditions of service of nominated members shall be such as may be prescribed.

5. Chief Executive Officer.-(1) The Government shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer of the Authority who shall be the principal executive officer of the Authority.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed or as may be delegated to him by the Authority.

6. Powers and Functions of Authority.- The Authority shall have the following powers and functions, namely:-

(a) to act as the nodal agency for facilitating digital infrastructure development in the State;

(b) to administer the single window clearance system for digital infrastructure projects;

(c) to recommend to the Government policies and measures for promotion of digital infrastructure;

(d) to coordinate with various departments and agencies for expeditious clearances;

(e) to monitor implementation of digital infrastructure projects;

(f) to promote public-private partnerships in digital infrastructure development;

(g) to ensure compliance with prescribed standards and regulations;

(h) to perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as may be assigned to it by the Government.

PART III
SINGLE WINDOW CLEARANCE SYSTEM

7. Establishment of Single Window System.- (1) The Government shall establish a digital single window system for processing all approvals and clearances required from departments and agencies of the Government and local authorities for digital infrastructure projects.

(2) The Authority shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the single window system.

(3) All digital infrastructure projects notified by the Government shall be required to apply through the single window system.

8. Time Limit for Clearances.- (1) All applications submitted through the single window system shall be processed within such time limits as may be prescribed by the Government.

(2) The time limit shall be calculated from the date of submission of complete application along with all requisite documents.

(3) If any department or agency fails to communicate its decision within the prescribed time limit, the approval shall be deemed to have been granted subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

9. Integrated Project Monitoring.- (1) The Authority shall maintain a digital platform for real-time monitoring of the status of all applications.

(2) The applicant shall be provided with a unique identification number for tracking the application.

(3) The Authority shall ensure coordination among various departments and agencies for timely processing of applications.

PART IV
RIGHT-OF-WAY AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITATION

10. Right-of-Way for Digital Infrastructure.-(1) Any person may apply for permission to lay optical fiber cables and install related digital infrastructure along or across:-

(a) roads vested in the Government or local authorities;

(b) lands belonging to the Government or local authorities;

(c) canals and waterways under the control of the Government.

(2) The application shall be made in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The Authority shall coordinate with the concerned departments and local authorities for grant of right-of-way permissions.

(4) The fee for right-of-way permissions shall be such as may be prescribed.

(5) All entities granted right-of-way permissions shall comply with the restoration and maintenance standards as may be prescribed.

11. Common Digital Infrastructure Facilities.- (1) The Government may establish common infrastructure facilities for use by digital infrastructure enterprises.

(2) Such facilities includes testing laboratories, incubation centers, and shared utility infrastructure.

(3) The terms and conditions for use of common facilities shall be such as may be prescribed.

PART V
DATA GOVERNANCE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

12. Framework for State Data Governance.-The Government shall establish a framework for governance of data collected and maintained by Government departments and agencies for public service delivery.

(1) The framework shall provide for:- (a) standards for data collection, storage, and processing; (b) protocols for inter-departmental data sharing; (c) measures for data security and privacy protection; (d) procedures for data quality assurance; (e) guidelines for data retention and disposal.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to personal data which is governed Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 or any other by any law made by Parliament.

13. Inter-Departmental Data Sharing.- (1) Government departments may share data with other Government departments for improving public service delivery, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) All data sharing shall be through secure channels and in accordance with the protocols established under the framework.

(3) The Authority shall maintain a register of all data sharing arrangements entered between various departments of the government.

14. Data Security Standards.- (1) The Government departments and agencies shall comply with the data security standards prescribed under this Act.

(2) Regular security audits shall be conducted in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) Any breach of data security shall be reported to the Authority within twenty-four hours of detection.

PART VI
KANNADA LANGUAGE DIGITAL ACCESS

15. Mandatory Kannada Language Interface.- (1) All digital services and applications of the Government departments and agencies shall provide interface and content in Kannada language.

(2) The technical standards for Kannada language implementation including Unicode compliance, fonts, and input methods shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) Voice-based interfaces in Kannada shall be provided for services accessed by citizens in rural areas.

16. Accessibility Standards.-(1) The Government digital services shall comply with accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

(2) Special provisions shall be made for Kannada language screen readers and other assistive technologies.

(3) The Authority shall monitor compliance with accessibility standards and may issue directions for improvement.

PART VII
CYBER SECURITY MEASURES

17. Cyber Security Standards for State Systems.- (1) All Government departments and agencies shall implement cyber security measures in accordance with standards prescribed under this Act.

(2) The standards prescribed shall be in alignment with the guidelines issued by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and other competent authorities established by the Central Government.

(3) The State Government shall establish a State Cyber Security Coordination Centre

(4) The State Cyber Security Coordination Centre shall coordinate cyber security measures across Government departments.

18 . Incident Reporting and Response.- (1) Any incident which affects Government systems or its critical digital infrastructure shall be immediately reported to:- (a) the State Cyber Security Coordination Centre; (b) the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, where required under Central Government guidelines.

(2) The procedure for incident reporting and response shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) Regular cyber security drills and awareness programs shall be conducted for Government personnel.

PART VIII
INCENTIVES AND PROMOTION

Section 20 - Incentives for Digital Infrastructure.- (1) The Government may, by notification, provide incentives for establishment of digital infrastructure including,-

(a) capital investment subsidy;
(b) interest subsidy;
(c) reimbursement of stamp duty and registration charges;
(d) electricity duty exemption;
(e) such other incentives as may be prescribed.

(2) Eligibility criteria and procedure for availing incentives shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The Government may enter into memoranda of understanding with qualifying enterprises for providing customized incentive packages for large-scale investments.

21 - Special Economic Zones and Parks.-(1) The Government may notify areas as special zones for digital infrastructure development.

(2) Such zones may be provided with,-

(a) pre-approved clearances for specified activities;
(b) common infrastructure facilities;
(c) simplified regulatory procedures;
(d) such other facilities as may be prescribed.

22 - Promotion of Digital Manufacturing.- (1) The Government shall promote manufacturing of digital and electronic products in the State through appropriate incentive schemes.

(2) Common facility centres for testing, certification, and research may be established for digital manufacturing enterprises.

(3) Skill development programs shall be conducted in collaboration with industry to meet the requirements of digital manufacturing sector.

PART IX
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

23 – Penalties.- (1) Whoever contravenes any provision of this Act or any rule made thereunder shall be punishable with penalty which may extend to five lakh rupees.

(2) Whoever fails to provide Kannada language interface as required under Section 16 shall be punishable with penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees and a further penalty of five thousand rupees for each day of continuing contravention.

(3) Prosecution shall not be instituted except with the previous sanction of the Authority.

24 - Compounding of Offences.-(1) An offence punishable under this Act may be compounded by such officer as may be authorized by the Authority, on payment of such sum as may be prescribed.

(2) The sum prescribed for compounding shall not exceed the maximum amount of penalty which may be imposed for the offence.

25 - Offences by Companies.- When an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

PART X
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

26 - Karnataka Digital Infrastructure Fund.- (1) The state government shall constitute a fund which shall be called the Karnataka Digital Infrastructure Fund.

(2) The fund shall consist of,-

(a) moneys received from the Government by way of grants or loans;
(b) fees and charges received by the Authority;
(c) moneys received by the Authority from any other source.

(3) The Fund shall be applied towards,-
(a) meeting expenses of the Authority;
(b) development of digital infrastructure;
(c) promotion activities and incentives;
(d) such other purposes as may be prescribed.

27 – Budget.- The Authority shall prepare, in such form and at such time each year as may be prescribed, a budget for the next financial year showing the estimated receipts and expenditure and forward the same to the Government.

28 - Accounts and Audit.- The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed.

(1) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or by such person as may be appointed by him in this behalf.
(2) The Authority shall furnish to the Government such returns and statements as may be required from time to time.

PART XI
RULE-MAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS

26 - Power to Make Rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

(a) Constitution, powers, and procedures of the Authority and its committees
(b) Criteria for qualifying as digital infrastructure projects and enterprises
(c) Technical standards for digital infrastructure and Kannada language support
(d) Procedures for single-window clearance and right-of-way permissions
(e) Incentive schemes and eligibility criteria
(f) Data governance protocols and security standards
(g) Penalty structures and enforcement procedures
(h) Any other matter required to be or which may be prescribed

(3) All Rules made under this Act shall be laid before the State Legislature as soon as may be after it is made.

27 - Delegation of Powers.-(1) The State Government may, by notification, delegate any of its powers under this Act to the Authority or any other appropriate authority.

(2) The Authority may, with prior approval of the State Government, delegate specific functions to committees or officers as deemed necessary for efficient implementation.

(3) All such delegations shall be subject to such conditions and limitations as may be prescribed.

PART XII
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

28 - Transitional Provisions.- (1) **Existing Approvals**,- All clearances and approvals granted under previous policies shall continue to be valid for their specified duration;

(2) **Pending Applications**,- Applications pending before the commencement of this Act shall be processed under the new framework with appropriate timelines;

(3) **Existing Contracts**,- Existing agreements and contracts shall continue to be governed by their original terms unless modified by mutual consent;

29 - Coordination with Central Government.-(1) The State Government shall establish formal coordination mechanisms with central ministries and agencies for matters of mutual concern;

(2) Regular consultation processes shall be instituted for policy alignment and conflict resolution;

(3) Joint working groups may be established for specific projects or initiatives requiring center-state coordination;

(4) Information sharing and best practice exchange shall be facilitated through appropriate channels.

30 - Annual Review and Adaptation.-(1) State Government shall conduct annual reviews of this Act's implementation and effectiveness;

(2) Recommendations for amendments or policy modifications shall be considered based on implementation experience and changing technology landscape;

(3) Stakeholder consultations shall be conducted as part of the review process;

31 - Removal of Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, make such provisions as may be necessary for removing the difficulty.

32 - Act to be in Addition to and Not in Derogation of Other Laws.- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

KARNATAKA ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND REWILDING BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for ecological restoration and rewilding in the State of Karnataka, to establish legally binding mandates for ecosystem restoration, to create institutional mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Ecological Restoration and Rewilding Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. **Definitions.-** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
   (a) "Ecological restoration" means the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, with the goal of re-establishing the ecological integrity and enhancing human well-being.
   (b) "Rewilding" means the practice of restoring natural ecological processes and reducing human control over landscapes to allow ecosystems to regain their natural character and dynamics.
   (c) "Ecosystem" includes forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal areas, rivers, lakes, and other natural or semi-natural biological communities.
   (d) "Indigenous ecological knowledge" means traditional ecological knowledge and practices of local communities, including Scheduled Tribes, relating to ecosystem management and conservation.
   (e) "Competent Authority" means the authority designated under section 4.
   (f) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka.
   (g) "Trophic cascade" means ecological phenomenon triggered by the addition or removal of top predators and involving reciprocal changes in the relative populations of predator and prey through a food chain.
   (h) "Baseline study" means scientific assessment of existing ecological conditions prior to restoration activities.

CHAPTER II
ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3. **Karnataka Ecological Restoration Authority.-** (1) The State Government shall, within six months of the commencement of this Act, establish an authority to be called the "Karnataka Ecological Restoration Authority" (KERA).

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to contract, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(3) The Authority shall consist of,-

(i) A Chairperson, who shall be a person of eminence in the field of ecology or environmental science.

(ii) Member Secretary, who shall be an officer not below the rank of Additional Chief Secretary.

(iii) Five technical members representing forestry, wildlife, agriculture, water resources, and coastal management.

(iv)Two members representing Scheduled Tribes and local communities.

(v) One representative each from academia and civil society organizations.

4. **Powers and functions of the Authority.-** The Authority shall have the following powers and functions,-
    (i) Formulate comprehensive ecological restoration and rewilding plans for the State.
    (ii) Set legally binding targets for restoration across different ecosystem types.
    (iii)Coordinate with existing authorities including Forest Department, Wildlife Board, Pollution Control Board, and Urban Development Authorities.
    (iv)Monitor and evaluate restoration projects.
    (v) Maintain a database of degraded ecosystems and restoration priorities.
    (vi)Facilitate research and development in restoration techniques.
    (vii) Ensure compliance with provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER III
RESTORATION TARGETS AND MANDATES

5. **Legally binding restoration targets.-** (1) The State Government shall, in consultation with the Authority, establish the following minimum restoration targets to be achieved within fifteen years of the commencement of this Act,-
    (a) Forest ecosystems: Restoration of not less than 100,000 hectares of degraded forest land.
    (b) Grassland ecosystems: Restoration of not less than 50,000 hectares of degraded grasslands.
    (c) Wetland ecosystems: Restoration of not less than 25,000 hectares of degraded wetlands.
    (d) Coastal ecosystems: Restoration of not less than 200 kilometers of degraded coastal areas.

(2) These targets shall be reviewed every five years and may be enhanced based on scientific assessment and available resources.

(3) The targets established under this section shall be legally binding on all concerned departments and agencies of the State Government.

6. Ecosystem-specific restoration mandates.- (1) Forest Restoration: All forest restoration activities shall be undertaken in accordance with the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and Forest Rights Act, 2006, ensuring,-

(i) Recognition of traditional rights of forest dwelling communities.

(ii) Use of native species for plantation.

(iii) Restoration of wildlife corridors and connectivity.

(2) Grassland Restoration: Grassland restoration shall focus on,-

(i) Restoration of native grass species.

(ii) Sustainable grazing management.

(iii) Conservation of grassland-dependent wildlife species.

(3) Wetland Restoration: Wetland restoration shall be undertaken in compliance with Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, focusing on,-

(i) Restoration of hydrological regimes

(ii) Control of pollution sources.

(iii) Conservation of wetland-dependent species.

(4) Coastal Restoration: Coastal restoration shall be undertaken in accordance with Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, emphasizing,-

(i) Mangrove restoration.

(ii) Dune stabilization.

(iii) Marine biodiversity conservation.

CHAPTER IV
REWILDING PRINCIPLES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Rewilding guidelines.- (1) All rewilding projects shall be based on scientific principles and shall aim to,-

(i) Restore natural ecological processes.

(ii) Re-establish trophic cascades where ecologically feasible.

(iii) Minimize human intervention in natural systems.

(iv) Enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change.

(2) Rewilding projects involving reintroduction of species shall be undertaken only after:

(i) Comprehensive feasibility studies.

(ii) Approval from competent authorities under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

(iii) Consultation with local communities.

(iv) Development of human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures.

8. **Community participation in rewilding.-** (1) Local communities, particularly Scheduled Tribes, shall be involved in all stages of rewilding projects affecting their traditional territories.

(2) Indigenous ecological knowledge shall be integrated with scientific methods in designing and implementing rewilding projects.

(3) Adequate livelihood alternatives shall be provided to communities affected by rewilding initiatives.

CHAPTER V
FUNDING MECHANISMS AND INCENTIVES

9. **Karnataka Ecological Restoration Fund.-** (1) The State Government shall establish a fund to be called the "Karnataka Ecological Restoration Fund" for financing restoration and rewilding projects.

(2) The Fund shall consist of,-

(i) Annual budgetary allocation by the State Government.
(ii) Contributions from the Central Government and international agencies.
(iii) Environmental compensation funds.
(iv) Corporate social responsibility contributions.
(v) Green bonds and other financial instruments.

10. **Incentive mechanisms.-** (1) The State Government may provide the following incentives for restoration projects,-

(i) Tax benefits for private entities undertaking restoration.
(ii) Subsidies for purchase of native plant species.
(iii) Priority in government contracts for eco-certified businesses.
(iv) Recognition and awards for outstanding restoration work.

(2) Payment for ecosystem services schemes may be established to compensate landowners for restoration activities.

CHAPTER VI
REGULATORY STREAMLINING

11. **Single window clearance system.-** (1) The Authority shall establish a single window clearance system for ecological restoration projects to minimize procedural delays.

(2) All approvals and clearances required under various Acts and Rules shall be coordinated through this system.

(3) Timeline for granting approvals shall not exceed 90 days from the date of complete application.

12. **Exemptions and fast-track procedures.-** (1) Restoration projects on degraded government lands may be exempted from certain procedural requirements, subject to environmental safeguards.

(2) Projects involving restoration of less than 5 hectares may be granted fast-track approval within 30 days.

CHAPTER VII
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

13. Research and development initiatives.-(1) The Authority shall promote research in:

(i) Native species propagation techniques.
(ii) Ecosystem restoration methodologies.
(iii) Climate-resilient restoration practices.
(iv) Traditional ecological knowledge documentation.
(v) Monitoring and evaluation tools.

(2) Partnerships shall be established with academic institutions, research organizations, and international bodies.

14. Technology transfer and capacity building.- (1) The Authority shall facilitate technology transfer from research institutions to field practitioners.

(2) Regular training programs shall be conducted for government officials, NGOs, and community groups involved in restoration work.

CHAPTER VIII
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

15. Monitoring framework.- (1) The Authority shall establish a comprehensive monitoring framework including,-

(i) Baseline ecological assessments.
(ii) Regular monitoring protocols.
(iii) Use of remote sensing and GIS technology.
(iv) Community-based monitoring systems.
(v) Impact evaluation methodologies.

(2) Annual monitoring reports shall be published and made publicly available.

16. Adaptive management.- (1) Restoration and rewilding projects shall follow adaptive management principles, allowing for modifications based on monitoring results.

(2) Lessons learned from projects shall be documented and shared for improving future initiatives.

CHAPTER IX
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

17. Compliance monitoring.- (1) The Authority shall regularly monitor compliance with restoration targets and mandates established under this Act.

(2) Non-compliance by government departments or agencies shall be reported to the State Government for corrective action.

18. Penalties.- (1) Any person who wilfully damages or destroys restoration sites shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or with both.

(2) Government officials who fail to implement restoration mandates without justifiable cause may face disciplinary action under relevant service rules.

CHAPTER X
INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK

19. Coordination with existing laws.- (1) This Act shall be implemented in coordination with and shall not override,-

(i) Indian Forest Act, 1927
(ii) Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
(iv) Environment Protection Act, 1986
(v) Forest Rights Act, 2006
(vi) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
(vii) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
(viii) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

(2)In case of any conflict between the provisions of this Act and existing Central Acts, the provisions of Central Acts shall prevail.

20. Compliance with constitutional provisions.- (1) All activities under this Act shall be undertaken in compliance with,-

(i) Article 48A (Protection and improvement of environment)
(ii) Article 51A(g) (Fundamental duty to protect environment)
(iii) Fifth Schedule provisions (where applicable to Scheduled Areas)

(2) Rights of Scheduled Tribes and forest dwelling communities under Article 244 and relevant statutes shall be fully protected.

CHAPTER XI
MISCELLANEOUS

21. Rules and regulations.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) All rules made under this Act shall be laid before the State Legislature.

22. Annual report.- The Authority shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of this Act and submit it to the State Government, which shall cause it to be laid before each house of the State Legislature.

23. Review and amendment.- This Act shall be reviewed every ten years to assess its effectiveness and may be amended as necessary to achieve its objectives.

24. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

25. Repeal and savings.- (1) Any law, rule, regulation, or order in force in the State immediately before the commencement of this Act, insofar as it is inconsistent with this Act, shall stand repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the repealed law shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.

THE KARNATAKA METAVERSE REGULATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the regulation of metaverse platforms, and virtual reality environments, to establish standards and protocols for safety of the user and platform accountability, to protect the rights of users in virtual spaces and immersive spaces, and to promote responsible innovations in metaverse and related technologies within the State of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy- sixth year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Metaverse Regulation Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Avatar"includes a digital representation of a user's identity within a metaverse platform;

(b) "Digital Asset" means any virtual item, currency, property, or content which exists within a metaverse platform and has economic value or utility within such platform;

(c) "Digital Identity" means a verified virtual identity created for privacy protection while maintaining linkage to real identity for law enforcement purposes when required;

(d) "Immersive Technology"includes virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, or any other technology that creates simulated environments for user interaction;

(e) "Know Your Customer (KYC)" means the process of verifying and documenting the real identity of users for accountability and legal compliance purposes;

(f) "Metaverse Platform"includes any digital platform or service that provides immersive, interactive, three-dimensional virtual environments where users can engage in social, commercial, educational, or recreational activities through avatars or other digital representations;

(g) "Platform Provider" means any person, entity, or organization that operates, manages, or provides access to a metaverse platform;

(h) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(i) "Real-time Content Moderation" means the continuous monitoring and filtering of content within metaverse platforms to ensure compliance with applicable laws and community standards;

(j) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(k) "User" means any natural person who accesses, uses, or interacts with a metaverse platform;

(l) "Virtual Environment" means any computer-generated three-dimensional space within a metaverse platform where users can interact;

(m)"Virtual Reality Interface" means any hardware or software system that enables users to interact with virtual environments, including headsets, controllers, and haptic devices.

3. Application of the Act.- (1) This Act shall apply to all platform providers who ,-

(a) operate metaverse platforms serving users resident in Karnataka;

(b) conduct business activities within the territorial jurisdiction of Karnataka through metaverse platforms;

(c) collect, process, or store data of users resident in Karnataka.

(2) This Act shall not apply to,—

(a) traditional video games that do not constitute metaverse platforms as defined under this Act;

(b) simple video conferencing or communication applications;

(c) platforms used exclusively for internal business operations by registered entities.

CHAPTER II
PLATFORM REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE

4. Mandatory registration of platform providers.- (1) No person shall operate any metaverse platform serving users in Karnataka without obtaining registration under this Act.

(2) Every platform provider shall apply for registration within ninety days of the commencement of this Act or before commencing operations, whichever is later.

(3) The application for registration shall be made in such form, contain such particulars, and be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.

(4) The State Government may prescribe categories of registration based on the nature, scale, and user base of metaverse platforms.

5. Conditions for registration.- (1) The State Government shall grant registration to a platform provider if it is satisfied that,—

(a) the platform provider has adequate technical and financial capacity to operate the metaverse platform safely;

(b) the platform incorporates necessary safety features and content moderation systems;

(c) the platform provider has appointed a resident grievance officer in Karnataka;

(d) the platform provider agrees to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

(2) Registration granted under this section shall be valid for a period of three years and may be renewed for successive periods of three years each successively.

6. Platform accountability standards.- (1) Every platform provider shall,—

(a) establish and maintain content moderation policies to prevent harmful content;
(b) implement effective mechanisms to prevent harassment, abuse, and exploitation of users;
(c) provide clear terms of service and community guidelines;
(d) ensure transparency in algorithmic systems that affect user experience;
(e) maintain records of user complaints and redressal;
(f) implement real-time content moderation systems to ensure compliance;
(g) establish secure linkage mechanisms between digital identities and real identities .

(2) Platform providers shall submit quarterly reports of compliance of section 6(1) to the State Government in such form as may be prescribed.

(3) All platform providers shall implement Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures to verify user identities while maintaining user privacy through digital identity systems.

CHAPTER III
USER PROTECTION AND SAFETY

7. Identity verification and accountability framework.- (1) Every platform provider shall implement a comprehensive identity verification system for,-

(a) KYC compliance for all users accessing metaverse platforms;
(b) secure digital identities that protect user privacy in normal operations;
(c) encrypted linkage between digital identities and verified real identities;
(d) availability of real identity information to law enforcement agencies upon lawful requisition.

(2) The identity verification system shall be designed for the purpose to:

(a) protect user privacy during regular platform interactions;
(b) prevent anonymous misuse of platform services;
(c) enable accountability for user actions within virtual environments;
(d) facilitate investigation of offences committed through the platform.

(3) Platform providers shall maintain identity records in accordance with data protection and retention standards as may be prescribed.

(4) Access to real identity information shall be provided only upon:

(a) lawful orders from competent courts;

(b) requisitions from authorized law enforcement agencies;

(c) directions from regulatory authorities under applicable laws;

(d) other circumstances as may be prescribed by the State Government.

8. Age verification and minor protection.- (1) Platform providers shall implement age verification mechanisms to prevent access by minors below the prescribed age limit.

(2) Protections measures shall be provided for minor users, including,—

(a) enhanced content filtering;

(b) restricted communication with unknown users;

(c) parental controls and supervision features;

(d) prohibition of commercial targeting.

(3) No platform provider shall collect, process, or monetize personal information of minor users without explicit parental consent.

8. Avatar rights and digital identity protection.- (1) Users shall have the right to,—

(a) control and modify their avatar representation;

(b) protect their avatar from any unauthorized use or impersonation;

(c) delete their avatar and associated data at the time of account termination;

(d) create and maintain digital identities to protect privacy while ensuring accountability.

(3) Platform providers shall implement technical measures to prevent avatar impersonation and identity theft.

(4) Users shall be notified of any attempts to replicate or misuse their avatar identity.

(5) All users shall undergo KYC verification to link their online identity with real identity for accountability purposes while maintaining privacy through digital identity mechanisms.

(6) Platform providers shall maintain a secure registry of all avatars and digital identities to ensure,-

(a) prevention of copyright infringement in avatar design;

(b) protection of personality rights of individuals;

(c) elimination of avatars that promote racial, gender, ethnic, or other forms of bias or discrimination;

(d) availability of identification records for law enforcement agencies when legally required.

(7) No avatar shall be created or maintained that:,-

(a) infringes upon intellectual property rights of any person;

(b) violates personality rights of any individual without consent;

(c) promotes or represents discriminatory characteristics based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or other protected categories;

(d) impersonates public figures, government officials, or other individuals without authorization.

10. Virtual environment safety standards.- (1) Platform providers shall ensure that virtual environments meet prescribed safety standards including,—

(a) content appropriateness guidelines;
(b) prevention of virtual harassment and abuse;
(c) protection against harmful immersive experiences;
(d) emergency exit mechanisms from virtual environments;
(e) real-time content moderation to prevent dissemination of unlawful content.

(2) Users shall have the right to immediately exit virtual environment and report safety concerns.

(3) Platform providers shall maintain incident logs and take prompt action on all safety reports.

(4) All content delivered through metaverse platforms shall be subject to real-time moderation to ensure:
(a) compliance with all laws in force in India;
(b) prevention of any content that violates public order, decency, or morality;
(c) filtering of contents that promotes violence, hatred, or discrimination;
(d) blocking of all content that may be defamatory, obscene, or harmful to minors.

(5) The State Government may, by notification, specify categories of content that shall not be published, displayed, or distributed through metaverse platforms operating within Karnataka.

(6) Platform providers shall implement automated content detection systems capable of identifying and blocking prohibited content in real-time before it reaches other users.

CHAPTER IV
DIGITAL ASSET GOVERNANCE

11. Digital asset transparency.- (1) Platform providers shall provide clear and comprehensive information about,—

(a) ownership rights of digital assets;
(b) transferability and portability of digital assets;
(c) conditions under which digital assets may be modified or removed;
(d) valuation mechanisms for digital assets.

(2) Users shall be notified in advance of any changes to digital asset policies.

12. Virtual economy regulations.- (1) Platform providers operating virtual economies shall,—

(a) maintain transparent pricing mechanisms;
(b) prevent market manipulation and fraud;
(c) provide clear terms for virtual currency exchange;
(d) protect users from economic exploitation.

(2) Virtual transactions involving real monetary value shall comply with applicable laws including taxation.

13. Digital asset portability.- (1) Users shall have the right to export or transfer their digital assets in standard formats where technically feasible.

(2) Platform providers shall not unreasonably restrict the portability of user-created digital assets.

(3) Upon platform termination, users shall be provided reasonable opportunity to export their digital assets.

CHAPTER V
CONTENT REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

14. Real-time content moderation requirements.- (1) Every platform provider shall implement comprehensive real-time content moderation systems that,-

(a) monitor all user-generated content before publication or distribution;
(b) automatically detect and block content violating applicable laws;
(c) prevent dissemination of harmful, illegal, or prohibited content;
(d) maintain audit logs of all content moderation actions.

(2) The content moderation system shall be capable of identifying and blocking,-

(a) content promoting violence, terrorism, or unlawful activities;
(b) obscene, pornographic, or sexually explicit material;
(c) defamatory, fraudulent, or misleading content;
(d) content that violates intellectual property rights;
(e) hate speech or content promoting discrimination;
(f) any other content as may be specified by the State Government through notification.

(3) Platform providers shall ensure that content moderation systems,-

(a) operate continuously without interruption;
(b) are updated regularly to address emerging threats;
(c) provide mechanisms for legitimate content appeals;
(d) maintain transparency in moderation policies and actions.

15. State Government powers for content regulation.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify categories of content that shall be prohibited on metaverse platforms, including but not limited to,-

content threatening public order, safety, or national security;

(a) content violating cultural sensitivities or religious sentiments;
(b) content promoting illegal activities or substances;
(c) content harmful to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

(2) Upon notification under sub-section (1), platform providers shall immediately update their content moderation systems to block all such content.

(3) The State Government may issue emergency directives to block specific content or virtual environments that may pose immediate threat to public safety or order.
(4) Platform providers shall comply with content blocking directives within the timeframe specified by the State Government, which shall not exceed twenty-four hours except in exceptional circumstances.

CHAPTER VI
GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

16. Appointment of grievance officer.-Every platform provider shall appoint a grievance officer who shall be responsible for,—

(a) receiving and addressing user complaints;
(b) ensuring compliance with platform safety standards;
(c) coordinating with law enforcement when required;
(d) maintaining records of grievances and resolutions.

17. Grievance redressal mechanism.- (1) Platform providers shall establish an accessible grievance redressal mechanism that allows users to— (a) report safety incidents and violations; (b) seek resolution of disputes; (c) request account or avatar-related assistance; (d) appeal content moderation decisions.

(2) Grievances shall be acknowledged within twenty-four hours and resolved within fifteen days of receipt.

(3) Users shall be provided with regular updates on the status of their grievances.

CHAPTER VII
ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

18. Penalties for non-compliance.- (1) Any platform provider who contravenes the provisions of this Act shall be liable to,—
(a) warning for first violation;
(b) penalty not exceeding fifty lakh rupees for subsequent violations;
(c) suspension of registration for repeated violations;
(d) cancellation of registration for serious or persistent violations.
(2) In determining the quantum of penalty, consideration shall be given to,—
(a) the nature and gravity of the violation;
(b) the harm caused to users;
(c) the size and resources of the platform provider;
(d) previous compliance history.

20. Power to investigate.- (1) The State Government or any officer authorized by it may investigate alleged violations of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of investigation, the authorized officer may,-

(a) access platform data and documentation;

(b) interview platform personnel and users;

(c) conduct technical audits of platform systems;

(d) seek cooperation from platform providers.

21. Suspension and blocking powers.- (1) In case of serious violations that pose imminent threat to user safety, the State Government may,—

(a) direct temporary suspension of platform operations;

(b) order blocking of specific virtual environments or features;

(c) require immediate remedial measures.

(2) Such orders shall be subject to review and shall specify the duration and conditions for restoration.

CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

22. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government or any officer acting under this Act for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act.

23. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,—

(a) registration procedures and fees for platform providers;

(b) safety standards and technical requirements for metaverse platforms;

(c) content moderation guidelines and procedures;

(d) age verification mechanisms and minor protection measures;

(e) digital asset governance standards;

(f) grievance redressal procedures and timelines;

(g) penalty determination criteria and procedures;

(h) KYC compliance requirements and digital identity standards;

(i) real-time content moderation technical specifications;

(j) avatar registration and verification procedures;

(k) procedures for law enforcement access to identity information.

24. Rules to be laid before Legislature.- Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the

successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

25. Removal of difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

(2) No such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the commencement of this Act.

26. Act to supplement and not override existing laws.- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force, and nothing contained in this Act shall affect any provision of any other law for the time being in force relating to data protection, consumer rights, cybercrime, or intellectual property.

KARNATAKA SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES FOR WOMEN BILL, 2025

A Bill to ensure safety, accessibility, and inclusivity of public spaces for women in the State of Karnataka through comprehensive safety measures, infrastructure improvements, community participation, law enforcement training, and technological integration, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS the Constitution of India guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws to all persons under Article 14.

WHEREAS Article 15(3) of the Constitution empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children;

WHEREAS India is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which calls for appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all fields;

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of India has, in various judgments including Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997) and the Delhi Domestic Working Women's Forum v. Union of India (1995), emphasized the right of women to live with dignity and free from violence;

WHEREAS the Government of Karnataka recognizes that women's equal right to the use and enjoyment of public spaces is essential for their full participation in civic, economic, social, and political life;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent, and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces for Women Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act, and any reference to the commencement of this Act in relation to any provision shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) "Accessibility" means the degree to which a product, device, service, environment, or facility is usable by women, including women with disabilities, in line with universal design principles as defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016;

(b) "Appropriate Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(c) "CCTV" means Closed-Circuit Television and other video surveillance systems used for security monitoring;

(d) "CPTED" means Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, a multi-disciplinary approach to deter criminal behaviour through environmental design that considers the relationships between people and their environment;
(e) "Gender audit" means a systematic assessment of how women and men are affected differently by policies, programs, services, and public spaces, with the aim of identifying gender gaps and recommending corrective measures;
(f) "Gender-based violence" means any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life;
(g) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;
(h) "Last-mile connectivity" means transportation services or infrastructure that bridge the gap between major transit points and a person's final destination;
(i) "Nodal Authority" means the Karnataka State Commission for Women designated as the authority for implementing this Act;
(j) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
(k) "Public space" includes streets, roads, footpaths, parks, gardens, playgrounds, plazas, marketplaces, public transport facilities including bus stops and railway stations, government buildings, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, recreational areas, cultural centers, shopping malls, cinema halls, places of worship, and other areas accessible to the general public whether owned publicly or privately;
(l) "Safe City Program" means a comprehensive set of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety of women in urban areas through a combination of technological, infrastructural, and community-based interventions;
(m) "Safety audit" means a systematic analysis of the design and use of public spaces with respect to factors that may contribute to incidents of gender-based violence or harassment, in order to identify measures to enhance safety;
(n) "Sexual harassment" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in Section 354A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013;
(o) "State" means the State of Karnataka;
(p) "Urban Local Body" means a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Town Panchayat, or other local self-government constituted under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964, or other relevant municipal laws in the State;
(q) "Women with disabilities" refers to women who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, as defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

CHAPTER II
SAFETY AND GENDER AUDITS

3. Mandatory Safety and Gender Audits.- (1) Every Urban Local Body shall conduct comprehensive safety audits and gender audits of public spaces within its jurisdiction at least once every two years, with interim reviews to be conducted annually.

(2) The safety and gender audits shall,-

(a) Identify physical, social, and infrastructural elements that contribute to or mitigate safety risks for women through systematic documentation and risk assessment;

(b) Include active participation of women's groups, women with disabilities, senior citizens, adolescent girls, minority groups, local community members, urban planners, architects, law enforcement officials, and relevant experts;

(c) Assess the adequacy, placement, maintenance, and functionality of facilities such as street lighting, public toilets, pedestrian walkways, benches, rest areas, and public transport waiting areas;

(d) Evaluate the presence, coverage, functionality, and effectiveness of surveillance systems, emergency response mechanisms, and communication channels;

(e) Document patterns of usage of public spaces by women at different times of the day, week, and seasons, including usage patterns during festivals and events;

(f) Identify hotspots with higher incidence of crime or harassment against women through analysis of police records, community feedback, and reported incidents;

(g) Conduct on-site reviews of public spaces during both daytime and nighttime to assess safety concerns under different lighting conditions;

(h) Review existing infrastructure in terms of visibility, emergency escape routes, signage, and crowding potential;

(i) Analyse the spatial distribution of services and amenities from a gender perspective;

(j) Assess the specific needs and concerns of diverse women including adolescent girls, elderly women, pregnant women, women with young children, and women with disabilities.

(3) The Nodal Authority shall,-

(a) Develop standardized methodologies, tools, and guidelines for conducting these audits within six months from the commencement of this Act;

(b) Provide training and capacity building for officials and community members involved in conducting these audits;

(c) Ensure that audit teams are gender-balanced and include women from diverse backgrounds;

(d) Establish quality control measures to ensure thoroughness and objectivity of the audits.

(4) Reports of these audits shall:

(a) Be made publicly available within 30 days of completion through official websites, local government offices, and public libraries;

(b) Be published in both English and Kannada, with accessible formats available for persons with disabilities;

(c) Include detailed findings, recommendations, and proposed action plans with clear timelines;

(d) Form the basis for action plans as prescribed under Section 4;

(e) Be submitted to the State Government, the State Commission for Women, and the State-level Coordination Committee.

(5) Citizens shall have the right to contribute to safety audits through a participatory mechanism that shall be established by each Urban Local Body.

4. Compliance and Action Plans.- (1) Within three months of the completion of safety and gender audits, each Urban Local Body shall,-

(a) Prepare a detailed Compliance and Action Plan addressing the findings of the audit;

(b) Prioritize actions based on severity of safety concerns identified;

(c) Allocate specific budgets for implementation of recommended measures;

(d) Assign responsibilities to relevant departments and officials;

(e) Establish clear timelines for implementation of each recommended measure;

(f) Create monitoring mechanisms to track progress of implementation.

(2) The Compliance and Action Plan shall be,-

(a) Approved by the concerned Urban Local Body through a resolution;

(b) Made publicly available through the same channels as the audit report;

(c) Submitted to the Nodal Authority for review and feedback;

(d) Updated quarterly to reflect progress in implementation.

(3) The Nodal Authority shall review all Compliance and Action Plans and may,-

(a) Suggest modifications or enhancements;

(b) Provide technical assistance for implementation;

(c) Monitor compliance with timelines;

(d) Coordinate between different departments for effective implementation.

CHAPTER III
URBAN PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

5. Integration of CPTED Principles.- (1) All urban development authorities, planning authorities, and Urban Local Bodies in the State shall incorporate CPTED principles in their master plans, development plans, town planning schemes, local area plans, and building regulations.

(2) The CPTED principles to be integrated shall include,-

(a) Natural surveillance: Design elements that maximize visibility of people, parking areas, and building entrances such as windows overlooking streets and public spaces, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets, front porches, and adequate lighting;

(**b) Territorial reinforcement:** Clear demarcation between public, semi-public, and private spaces through physical elements such as landscape plantings, pavement designs, gateway treatments, and fences;

(c) Access control: Strategic placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, and lighting to clearly guide people and vehicles to and from the proper entrances while decreasing opportunities for crime;

(d) Maintenance: Upkeep of built environments to prevent deterioration and abandonment of space that can signal disorder and lack of oversight;

(e) Activity support*:* Placing activities in such a way that individuals engaged in those activities become part of the natural surveillance system;

(f) Target hardening: Features that prohibit entry or access such as window locks, dead bolts for doors, and interior door hinges.

(3) The State Government shall, within one year of the commencement of this Act,-

(a) Update the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, and relevant building bylaws to incorporate these principles;

(b) Develop detailed design guidelines for implementation of CPTED principles in different types of public spaces;

(c) Mandate safety impact assessments for new urban development projects;

(d) Establish a technical advisory committee to provide guidance on implementation of CPTED principles;

(e) Conduct capacity building programs for urban planners, architects, and engineers on gender-sensitive and safety-oriented design.

(4) All new development plans and master plans shall,-

(a) Undergo a mandatory safety and gender audit during the planning stage;

(b) Include specific sections addressing women's safety in public spaces;

(c) Consider mixed land use development to ensure natural surveillance throughout the day;

(d) Plan for adequate buffer zones between incompatible land uses;

(e) Integrate transportation planning with land use planning to enhance safety.

(5) The Karnataka Urban Development Authorities shall revise their development control regulations to include,-

(a) Minimum requirements for active frontages in buildings facing public spaces;

(b) Standards for permeability and visibility of boundary walls;

(c) Requirements for adequate lighting in common areas;

(d) Provisions for safe pedestrian movement;

(e) Guidelines for landscaping that enhances visibility and safety.

6. Infrastructure Improvements.- (1) Based on the findings of safety and gender audits, Urban Local Bodies shall develop and implement Public Space Safety Action Plans that include,-

(a) Enhanced street lighting with minimum illumination standards as prescribed, including:

(i) Minimum lux levels for different categories of streets and public areas;

(ii) Uniformity of lighting to avoid dark spots;

(iii) Appropriate height and spacing of streetlights;
(iv) Regular maintenance schedule;
(v) Energy-efficient lighting solutions;
(vi) Backup power arrangements for critical areas.

(b) Well-maintained and accessible public toilets for women at regular intervals, with,-
(i) At least one women's toilet complex for every 500 meters in commercial and high-footfall areas;
(ii) Adequate water supply, ventilation, and lighting;
(iii) Accessible design for women with disabilities;
(iv) Hygienic disposal systems for menstrual waste;
(v) Changing facilities for infants;
(vi) Regular cleaning and maintenance protocols;
(vii) Female attendants during operational hours;
(viii) Clearly visible signage indicating location.

(c) Safe pedestrian walkways free from encroachments, including,-
(i) Minimum width standards based on pedestrian volume;
(ii) Level, non-slip surfaces;
(iii) Curb cuts at intersections for accessibility;
(iv) Tactile paving for visually impaired persons;
(v) Appropriate buffer from vehicular traffic;
(vi) Shade elements where feasible;
(vii) Regular maintenance schedule.

(d) Designated waiting areas for public transport with adequate lighting, seating, and shelter, including,-
(i) Weather protection features;
(ii) Seating designed for comfort and dignity;
(iii) Clear visibility from surrounding areas;
(iv) Information displays showing routes and schedules;
(v) Emergency communication facilities;
(vi) CCTV coverage where feasible.

(e) Clear and visible signage displaying helpline numbers, emergency contact information, and wayfinding information, including,-
(i) Standardized design for easy recognition;
(ii) Multi-lingual information in Kannada, English, and other locally relevant languages;
(iii) Use of universal symbols for accessibility;
(iv) Braille information and audio facilities at key locations.

(f) Urban greenery and landscaping that enhances rather than compromises safety,-
(i) Regular pruning to maintain visibility;
(ii) Selection of appropriate plant species;

(iii) Landscaping that defines pathways and activity areas;

(iv) Maintenance schedules to prevent overgrowth.

(g) Designated safe public spaces in each ward,-

(i) Well-lit, open areas accessible to all;

(ii) Regular police or security presence;

(iii) Clear sight lines and multiple access/egress points;

(iv) Basic amenities including seating, shade, and drinking water;

(v) Emergency communication points.

(2) The State Government shall,-

(a) Allocate specific funds in the annual budget for implementing these Action Plans, with at least 15% of the urban development budget earmarked for women's safety infrastructure;

(b) Create a special purpose vehicle or designated fund for innovative safety infrastructure projects;

(c) Develop standard designs and specifications for safety infrastructure elements;

(d) Establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure quality of implementation;

(e) Conduct periodic assessments of the effectiveness of safety infrastructure;

(f) Recognize and reward Urban Local Bodies for exemplary implementation of safety measures.

(3) All new public infrastructure projects shall,-

(a) Undergo a gender-sensitive design review before approval;

(b) Include specific components addressing women's safety;

(c) Allocate at least 10% of the project budget for safety features;

(d) Incorporate feedback from women users in the design phase;

(e) Undergo safety certification before being opened to the public.

(4) The Transport Department shall ensure,-

(a) Integration of last-mile connectivity measures with main public transport systems;

(b) Women-only sections in buses during peak hours;

(c) Adequate lighting in and around public transport vehicles;

(d) Installation of CCTV cameras in public transport vehicles;

(e) Training of transport staff in gender sensitivity and emergency response;

(f) Display of emergency contact numbers in all public transport vehicles;

(g) GPS tracking of public transport vehicles;

(h) Development of protocols for addressing harassment complaints in public transport.

7. Accessibility for Women with Disabilities.- (1) All public spaces shall be designed or modified to ensure accessibility for women with disabilities in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Harmonized Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities issued by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

(2) Such designs shall include,-

(a) Ramps with appropriate gradient (1:12 or gentler) and tactile paving, including:

(i) Minimum width of 1.2 meters;
(ii) Non-slip surfaces;
(iii) Handrails on both sides at appropriate heights;
(iv) Landing areas at regular intervals and direction changes;
(v) Proper drainage to prevent water accumulation.

(b) Accessible public toilets with required fixtures as per accessibility standards, including,-
(i) Minimum internal dimensions of 2.2 meters x 2 meters;
(ii) Door with minimum clear opening of 900mm;
(iii) Grab bars adjacent to the toilet at appropriate heights and positions;
(iv) Wash basins at accessible heights with lever-type faucets;
(v) Emergency call buttons within reach from the toilet;
(vi) Visual and tactile signage;
(vii) Non-slip flooring;
(viii) Alarm systems with both visual and auditory signals.

(c) Reserved seating in public transport and waiting areas, including,-
(i) Minimum 10% of seating reserved for persons with disabilities;
(ii) Clear signage indicating reserved seating;
(iii) Priority boarding mechanisms;
(iv) Space for mobility aids;
(v) Seating with appropriate dimensions and support features.

(d) Audio-visual signals at pedestrian crossings, including,-
(i) Audible signals with standardized tones;
(ii) Visual countdown timers;
(iii) Tactile guidance systems leading to and from crossings;
(iv) Extended crossing times at major intersections;
(v) Push buttons at accessible heights.

(e) Accessible emergency communication systems, including,-
(i) Multiple modes of communication (voice, text, visual);
(ii) Positioning at accessible heights;
(iii) Clear instructions in multiple formats;
(iv) Integration with specialized services for persons with disabilities;
(v) Regular testing and maintenance protocols.

(f) Information and wayfinding systems in accessible formats, including,-
(i) Braille signage at key points;
(ii) Large print information;
(iii) Simplified pictograms and universal symbols;
(iv) Colour contrast for improved visibility;
(v) Audio information systems at major public facilities.

(g) Accessible pathways throughout public spaces, including,-
(i) Minimum clear width of 1.8 meters;

(ii) Level, even surfaces;
(iii) Consistent design of tactile guidance systems;
(iv) Removal of projecting obstacles;
(v) Rest areas at regular intervals.

(3) The State Government shall establish an Accessibility Compliance Cell to,-
(a) Monitor and ensure implementation of accessibility standards in all public spaces;
(b) Conduct regular accessibility audits;
(c) Provide technical assistance to Urban Local Bodies and other agencies;
(d) Develop guidelines for accessibility specific to local contexts;
(e) Address grievances related to accessibility issues;
(f) Coordinate with disability rights organizations for regular feedback;
(g) Develop capacity building programs on universal design and accessibility;
(h) Create and maintain a public database of accessible facilities across the State;
(i) Recognize and promote best practices in accessibility implementation.

(4) All existing public spaces shall be retrofitted to meet accessibility standards in a phased manner,-
(a) Phase I (within one year): All government buildings, major transit hubs, and healthcare facilities;
(b)Phase II (within two years): Educational institutions, recreational facilities, and commercial centres;
(c) Phase III (within three years): All other public spaces as defined under this Act.

(5) The Department of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens shall,-
(a) Allocate specific funds for accessibility retrofitting;
(b) Develop standard designs for accessible infrastructure elements;
(c) Conduct awareness programs on the rights of persons with disabilities;
(d) Train technical personnel in accessibility standards and universal design;
(e) Establish certification mechanisms for accessibility compliance.

CHAPTER IV
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

8. Community-based Safety Initiatives.- (1) Urban Local Bodies shall establish Neighbourhood Safety Committees with at least 50% women representation, including representation from women with disabilities, minority communities, and other vulnerable groups.

(2) These committees shall,-
(a) Conduct regular safety walks in the locality at different times of the day to identify safety concerns;
(b) Serve as a liaison between the community and law enforcement agencies, with clearly defined communication protocols;
(c) Maintain vigilance and report safety concerns to appropriate authorities through established reporting channels;

(d) Participate in decision-making regarding local safety infrastructure through formal consultation mechanisms;

(e) Organize community awareness programs on women's safety and gender sensitivity;

(f) Monitor the implementation of safety measures recommended in safety audits;

(g) Facilitate community ownership of public spaces through regular activities and events;

(h) Establish neighbourhood watch programs with clear operational guidelines;

(i) Maintain a register of safety concerns and follow up on their resolution;

(j) Meet at least once a month with documented minutes and action points.

(3) The State Government shall develop and implement a comprehensive bystander intervention training program for,-

(a) Public transport personnel, including drivers, conductors, and station staff;

(b) Staff of public establishments, including government offices, hospitals, and educational institutions;

(c) Educational institutions, including teachers, students, and administrative staff;

(d) Volunteer groups and community organizations involved in public service;

(e) Private security personnel deployed in public spaces;

(f) Staff of commercial establishments in public areas;

(g) Sanitation workers and other field staff of Urban Local Bodies;

(h) Frontline healthcare workers.

(4) The bystander intervention training shall include,-

(a) Recognizing potentially unsafe situations;

(b) Understanding the impact of non-intervention;

(c) Safe methods of intervention appropriate to different situations;

(d) De-escalation techniques for potentially violent situations;

(e) Proper documentation and reporting procedures;

(f) Legal protections available to good Samaritans;

(g) Psychological first aid for survivors of harassment or violence;

(h) Specific considerations for interventions involving persons with disabilities;

(i) Post-intervention support and follow-up.

(5) The State Government shall establish a dedicated helpline for reporting safety concerns in public spaces, which shall,-

(a) Be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;

(b) Be linked to the nearest police station and emergency response services;

(c) Have staff trained in handling distress calls sensitively;

(d) Maintain confidentiality of callers when requested;

(e) Be accessible to persons with disabilities through multiple communication channels;

(f) Have multilingual capabilities to serve diverse populations;

(g) Maintain detailed records of all calls and follow-up actions;

(h) Undergo regular audits for response time and effectiveness;

(i) Have protocols for escalation in case of emergency;

(j) Coordinate with other emergency services as needed.

(6) Urban Local Bodies shall establish Safe Neighbourhood Grants to,-

(a) Fund community-led safety initiatives;

(b) Support innovative approaches to enhancing public safety;

(c) Facilitate collaboration between community groups and local authorities;

(d) Promote best practices in community safety management;

(e) Recognize and reward successful community safety initiatives.

9. Awareness and Education.- (1) The State Government shall develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign on,-

(a) Women's right to safe public spaces, including constitutional and legal provisions;

(b) Reporting mechanisms for harassment and violence, with step-by-step guidance;

(c) Community responsibility in ensuring public safety, including bystander intervention;

(d) Legal provisions and remedies available for women facing harassment in public spaces;

(e) Recognition of different forms of harassment and discrimination;

(f) Available support services for survivors of violence or harassment;

(g) The importance of respecting diversity and inclusion in public spaces;

(h) Specific concerns of women with disabilities in public spaces;

(i) Role of men and boys in promoting women's safety.

(2) The awareness campaign shall utilize,-

(a) Traditional media including newspapers, radio, and television;

(b) Digital and social media platforms;

(c) Outdoor advertising in public spaces;

(d) Community events and street plays;

(e) Public announcements in transit systems;

(f) Information kiosks at public facilities;

(g) Mobile applications and digital messaging;

(h) Educational institutions and workplaces;

(i) Religious and community gatherings;

(j) Accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

(3) The Department of Education shall incorporate modules on gender equality, respectful behaviour, and public safety in school and college curricula,-

(a) Age-appropriate content starting from primary education;

(b) Interactive teaching methodologies including role plays and case studies;

(c) Regular workshops and special sessions;

(d) Training for teachers and educators on delivering this content;

(e) Parent engagement programs to reinforce messages at home;

(f) Student-led initiatives to promote safety in educational environments;

(g) Regular assessment of learning outcomes related to these modules;

(h) Recognition for institutions implementing exemplary programs;

(i) Integration with co-curricular and extracurricular activities;

(j) Collaboration with experts and civil society organizations.

(4) The State Government shall designate an annual "Safe Public Spaces Week" to,-

(a) Highlight the importance of safety in public spaces;

(b) Recognize individuals and organizations contributing to safer public spaces;

(c) Conduct special awareness programs and activities;

(d) Engage citizens in safety audits and improvement initiatives;

(e) Release annual reports on the state of public safety;

(f) Launch new initiatives and programs;

(g) Facilitate public dialogue on safety concerns and solutions;

(h) Showcase successful interventions and best practices;

(i) Engage media in promoting safety awareness;

(j) Evaluate progress and set goals for the coming year.

CHAPTER V
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

10. Gender-sensitive Law Enforcement.- (1) All police personnel in the State shall undergo mandatory gender sensitization training,-

(a) At the time of induction as part of basic training curriculum;

(b) As part of in-service training at least once every two years;

(c) As a prerequisite for promotion to senior positions;

(d) After any significant amendment to laws related to women's rights and safety;

(e) Through specialized modules for personnel assigned to women's help desks.

(2) The training shall cover,-

(a) Gender-sensitive response to complaints, including appropriate language and behaviour;

(b) Legal provisions related to women's safety, including recent amendments and judgments;

(c) Trauma-informed approach to handling cases of gender-based violence;

(d) Special considerations for women with disabilities;

(e) Proper documentation and evidence collection in cases of harassment;

(f) Understanding of intersectional discrimination and its impact;

(g) Protocols for maintaining confidentiality and privacy;

(h) Coordination with support services for survivors;

(i) Sensitization on LGBTQ+ issues as they relate to public safety;

(j) Use of technology in responding to safety concerns.

(3) Each police station shall have,-

(a) At least 33% women police personnel across all ranks;

(b) A designated Women Help Desk operational 24 hours, staffed by trained female officers;

(c) Basic infrastructure for women including separate toilets, changing rooms, and rest areas;

(d) At least one officer trained in sign language and disability sensitivity;

(e) Standard operating procedures for handling cases of harassment in public spaces;

(f) Information materials in accessible formats;

(g) A dedicated female Investigation Officer for cases involving violence against women;

(h) Proper recording facilities for taking statements;

(i) A private space for interviewing survivors;

(j) A directory of support services for referrals.

(4) The Police Department shall,-

(a) Develop standard operating procedures for patrolling public spaces with specific attention to identified hotspots;

(b) Establish specialized "Safe City Patrol Units" with adequate female representation;

(c) Implement a performance evaluation system that includes metrics on handling of gender-based violence cases;

(d) Create specialized investigation teams for crimes against women in public spaces;

(e) Establish protocols for coordination with transportation authorities, Urban Local Bodies, and other relevant agencies;

(f) Develop and maintain a database of offenses in public spaces to identify patterns and hotspots;

(g) Install panic buttons at strategic locations connected directly to the nearest police station;

(h) Conduct regular community outreach programs to build trust and cooperation;

(i) Publish quarterly reports on the status of women's safety in their jurisdiction;

(j) Recognize and reward personnel who demonstrate excellence in ensuring women's safety.

(5) The State Government shall establish a Special Task Force on Women's Safety in each district to,-

(a) Monitor implementation of safety measures in the district;

(b) Coordinate between different agencies involved in ensuring women's safety;

(c) Respond to emerging threats or patterns of harassment;

(d) Review the effectiveness of existing safety measures;

(e) Recommend policy changes based on ground-level experiences;

(f) Engage with community groups and civil society organizations;

(g) Oversee implementation of awareness and education programs;

(h) Monitor prosecution rates in cases of violence against women in public spaces;

(i) Prepare quarterly reports on the status of women's safety in the district;

(j) Conduct surprise inspections of public spaces to assess safety conditions.

11. Institutional Framework.- (1) The Karnataka State Commission for Women shall serve as the Nodal Authority for the implementation of this Act and shall,-

(a) Monitor implementation of the provisions of this Act across the State;

(b) Review safety and gender audit reports submitted by Urban Local Bodies;

(c) Evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken under the Act;

(d) Make recommendations to the State Government for policy changes;

(e) Prepare an annual report on the status of women's safety in public spaces;

(f) Establish standards and benchmarks for safe public spaces;

(g) Coordinate research on emerging issues related to women's safety;

(h) Develop model guidelines for implementation of various provisions of the Act;

(i) Address grievances related to non-implementation of the Act;

(j) Facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices across Urban Local Bodies.

(2) The Nodal Authority shall be strengthened with.-

(a) A dedicated Safe Public Spaces Cell with specialized staff;

(b) Adequate financial resources for monitoring and implementation;

(c) Powers to seek information and reports from any public authority;

(d) Authority to issue advisories to concerned departments;

(e) Technical expertise through consultants and advisors;

(f) District-level coordination units;

(g) Digital infrastructure for data collection and analysis;

(h) Research and documentation capabilities;

(i) Training and capacity building facilities;

(j) Public interface mechanisms for citizen engagement.

(3) The State Government shall constitute a State-level Coordination Committee comprising representatives from,-

(a) Department of Women and Child Development (Chairperson);

(b) Urban Development Department;

(c) Home Department;

(d) Transport Department;

(e) Public Works Department;

(f) Department of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens;

(g) Karnataka State Legal Services Authority;

(h) Karnataka State Commission for Women;

(i) Representatives from women's organizations;

(j) Experts in urban planning and public safety;

(k) Representatives from academic institutions;

(l) Representatives from media;

(m) Legal experts specialized in women's rights;

(n) Representatives from disability rights organizations;

(o) Representative from the State Human Rights Commission.

(4) The Committee shall,-

(a) Meet at least once every quarter to review the implementation of this Act;

(b) Facilitate inter-departmental coordination for implementation;

(c) Review progress reports from different districts and Urban Local Bodies;

(d) Identify systemic issues affecting implementation;

(e) Recommend policy interventions to address identified gaps;

(f) Approve state-level action plans and programs;

(g) Monitor budget utilization for programs under the Act;

(h) Commission independent evaluations of major initiatives;

(i) Recognize outstanding contributions to women's safety;

(j) Ensure accountability of all implementing agencies.

(5) Each district shall establish a District Safe Public Spaces Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner with representation from,-

(a) District-level officers of relevant departments;

(b) Local elected representatives;

(c) Representatives from women's organizations;

(d) Representatives from disability rights organizations;

(e) (e) Representatives from educational institutions;

(f) Legal experts;

(g) Urban planners and architects;

(h) Representatives from local businesses;

(i) Representatives from resident welfare associations;

(j) Representatives from public transport workers;

(k) Media representatives.

(6) The District Committee shall,-

(a) Oversee implementation of the Act within the district;

(b) Coordinate between different agencies at the district level;

(c) Monitor safety and gender audits within the district;

(d) Review action plans of Urban Local Bodies in the district;

(e) Identify district-specific safety concerns and solutions;

(f) Facilitate community engagement in safety initiatives;

(g) Maintain a district-level database on safety indicators;

(h) Conduct periodic safety assessments of major public spaces;

(i) Report quarterly to the State-level Coordination Committee;

(j) Address grievances related to women's safety in public spaces.

(7) Urban Local Bodies shall designate a Safe City Cell within their organization structure, which shall,-

(a) Coordinate implementation of the Act within their jurisdiction;

(b) Conduct safety and gender audits as prescribed;

(c) Develop and implement action plans based on audit findings;

(d) Engage with Neighbourhood Safety Committees;

(e) Maintain data on safety infrastructure and incidents;

(f) Address local concerns related to women's safety;

(g) Coordinate with police and other relevant agencies;

(h) Report regularly to the municipal council or corporation;

(i) Manage local awareness and education programs;

(j) Monitor maintenance of safety infrastructure.

CHAPTER VI
TECHNOLOGICAL INTEGRATION

12. Utilization of Technology for Safety.- (1) The State Government shall implement an integrated technological framework for women's safety that includes,-

(a) A mobile application with panic button functionality that:

(i) Alerts the nearest police station and emergency contacts;

(ii) Transmits the user's real-time location;

(iii) Allows audio-visual recording of incidents;

(iv) Functions in low connectivity areas;

(v) Has simple, intuitive user interface;

(vi) Operates in multiple languages including Kannada;

(vii) Is accessible to persons with disabilities;

(viii) Includes safety tips and information;

(ix) Facilitates reporting of unsafe locations;

(x) Provides information on nearby safe spaces and facilities.

(b) CCTV surveillance at strategic locations in public spaces with due consideration for privacy concerns, including,-

(i) High-resolution cameras with night vision capabilities;

(ii) Coverage of entry/exit points, isolated areas, and high-footfall zones;

(iii) Appropriate signage indicating areas under surveillance;

(iv) Regular maintenance and functionality checks;

(v) Adequate storage of footage as per prescribed duration;

(vi) Clear protocols for access to footage;

(vii) Integration with central monitoring systems;

(viii) Backup power arrangements;

(ix) Weatherproof installations;

(x) Regular audits of surveillance coverage.

(c) GPS tracking for public transport vehicles, including,-

(i) Real-time location tracking visible to users;

(ii) Integration with mobile applications;

(iii) Deviation alerts for scheduled routes;

(iv) Emergency alert systems;

(v) Speed monitoring capabilities;

(vi) Service history recording;

(vii) Driver identification systems;

(viii) Maintenance alert systems;

(ix) Passenger count monitoring;

(x) Integration with central transport management systems.

(d) Digital mapping of safe and unsafe zones based on audit findings and crime data, including,-

(i) User-friendly interfaces showing safety levels of different areas;
(ii) Real-time updates based on reported incidents;
(iii) Crowdsourced information with verification mechanisms;
(iv) Integration with navigation applications;
(v) Recommendations for safer routes;
(vi) Information on nearby safety infrastructure;
(vii) Time-based safety ratings (day/night variations);
(viii) Historical data analysis for pattern identification;
(ix) Accessibility information for persons with disabilities;
(x) Regular updates based on infrastructure improvements.

(e) Accessible emergency communication points in public spaces, including,-
(i) One-touch emergency calling facilities;
(ii) Clear visibility and signage;
(iii) Universal accessibility features;
(iv) Vandal-resistant design;
(v) Regular functionality testing;
(vi) Integration with central emergency response systems;
(vii) Two-way communication capability;
(viii) Location identification feature;
(ix) Multilingual support;
(x) 24/7 monitoring and response.

(f) Smart street lighting systems that,-
(i) Adjust illumination based on natural light conditions;
(ii) Report malfunctions automatically;
(iii) Have motion-sensing capabilities in low-footfall areas;
(iv) Optimize energy consumption;
(v) Maintain minimum illumination standards at all times;
(vi) Have remote monitoring and control capabilities;
(vii) Include backup power systems for critical areas;
(viii) Integrate with other safety infrastructure;
(ix) Have tamper-detection abilities;
(x) Allow for scheduled maintenance alerts.

(g) Intelligent transport management systems that,-
(i) Monitor actual arrival and departure times;
(ii) Provide real-time information to passengers;
(iii) Optimize route planning for safety;
(iv) Monitor vehicle occupancy;
(v) Facilitate emergency response for transport-related incidents;
(vi) Integrate with other urban mobility systems;
(vii) Analyse passenger flow patterns;

(viii) Enable digital payment systems;

(ix) Monitor driver behaviour;

(x) Support proactive maintenance scheduling.

(2) All data collected through these technological measures shall be,-

(a) Protected in accordance with relevant data protection laws and the Personal Data Protection Act;

(b) Used only for the purpose of ensuring public safety;

(c) Accessible to authorized personnel only, with clear access control protocols;

(d) Retained for a specified period as prescribed, after which it shall be securely deleted;

(e) Subject to regular security audits and vulnerability assessments;

(f) Backed up securely with disaster recovery protocols;

(g) Anonymized when used for analytical purposes;

(h) Shared with other agencies only on a need-to-know basis and with appropriate safeguards;

(i) Protected from unauthorized modification or deletion;

(j) Made available to individuals for their own data as per applicable laws.

(3) The State Government shall establish a Central Command and Control Centre for monitoring and coordinating emergency response that shall,-

(a) Be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;

(b) Be staffed by trained personnel including women operators;

(c) Have real-time monitoring capabilities for multiple safety systems;

(d) Maintain direct communication links with all emergency services;

(e) Have advanced analytics capabilities for incident prediction and prevention;

(f) Maintain comprehensive incident logs and response times;

(g) Conduct regular drills and simulations for emergency scenarios;

(h) Have backup power and communication systems;

(i) Implement standard operating procedures for different types of emergencies;

(j) Undergo regular audits for effectiveness and response efficiency.

(4) All technological systems shall,-

(a) Comply with relevant standards and certifications;

(b) Undergo regular security assessments;

(c) Be designed for scalability and future upgradation;

(d) Have clear maintenance protocols and responsibilities;

(e) Include user feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement;

(f) Be subject to periodic performance evaluations;

(g) Have appropriate backup and redundancy systems;

(h) Be documented with comprehensive technical specifications;

(i) Have training programs for operating personnel;

(j) Include cost-effective maintenance plans.

13. Research and Innovation.- (1) The State Government shall establish a dedicated fund to promote research and innovation in technologies that enhance women's safety in public spaces, which shall,-

(a) Provide grants for research projects focused on women's safety;

(b) Support startups developing innovative safety solutions;

(c) Finance pilot projects testing new safety technologies;

(d) Fund impact assessment studies of existing safety measures;

(e) Support knowledge exchange programs with other states and countries;

(f) Enable commercialization of proven safety innovations;

(g) Support academic research in relevant fields;

(h) Finance intellectual property protection for innovations;

(i) Support industry-academia partnerships in safety technology;

(j) Fund annual safety innovation challenges.

(2) The Government shall collaborate with academic institutions, research organizations, and technology companies to develop effective safety solutions through,-

(a) Formal partnership agreements with clear deliverables;

(b) Joint research programs with shared resources;

(c) Establishment of Chairs in Women's Safety at premier institutions;

(d) Creation of specialized research centres focused on urban safety;

(e) Industry-sponsored fellowships for research in safety technologies;

(f) Development of standardized testing protocols for safety technologies;

(g) Organization of hackathons and innovation challenges;

(h) Support for field testing of prototype solutions;

(i) Creation of open data repositories on safety parameters;

(j) Establishment of a Women's Safety Technology Park.

(3) The State Government shall establish a Safe City Innovation Lab that shall,-

(a) Test and evaluate new safety technologies in controlled environments;

(b) Provide certification for proven safety solutions;

(c) Develop standards and protocols for safety technologies;

(d) Conduct training programs on new safety technologies;

(e) Serve as a demonstration centre for best practices;

(f) Facilitate knowledge transfer between developers and implementers;

(g) Provide technical consulting to Urban Local Bodies;

(h) Publish research findings and technical reports;

(i) Host national and international experts for knowledge exchange;

(j) Organize annual safety technology exhibitions.

CHAPTER VII
FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION

14. Budgetary Provisions.- (1) The State Government shall allocate a specific percentage, not less than 5% of the annual budget, for the implementation of this Act.

(2) The budgetary allocation shall be distributed across the following components,-

(a) Infrastructure development and maintenance (40%);

(b) Technology implementation and maintenance (25%);

(c) Capacity building and training programs (15%);

(d) Research and innovation (10%);

(e) Awareness and education programs (10%).

(3) Every Urban Local Body shall allocate a minimum of 10% of its annual development budget for measures related to women's safety as prescribed under this Act, with specific sub-allocations for,-

(a) Safety infrastructure development;

(b) Regular maintenance of safety infrastructure;

(c) Local awareness programs;

(d) Support for community safety initiatives;

(e) Implementation of audit recommendations.

(4) The State Government may levy a special safety cess for funding initiatives under this Act, which shall,-

(a) Not exceed 0.5% of the applicable tax;

(b) Be transparently accounted for in a separate fund;

(c) Be used exclusively for purposes specified under this Act;

(d) Be subject to special audit procedures;

(e) Have clear utilization guidelines.

(5) The State Government shall explore and facilitate additional funding sources including,-

(a) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions;

(b) Public-Private Partnerships for safety infrastructure;

(c) Multilateral and bilateral funding for specific projects;

(d) Special purpose vehicles for large-scale initiatives;

(e) Municipal bonds for urban safety infrastructure;

(f) Crowd funding for community-based initiatives;

(g) Foundation grants for research and innovation;

(h) Inter-governmental transfers for specific programs;

(i) User charges for premium safety services;

(j) Revenue from advertising on safety infrastructure.

(6) All funds allocated for women's safety under this Act shall,-

(a) Be non-divertible for other purposes;

(b) Have simplified but transparent utilization procedures;

(c) Be subject to social audits at the local level;

(d) Have outcome-based monitoring mechanisms;

(e) Be released in a timely manner as per approved plans;

(f) Have clear accountability frameworks for implementing agencies;

(g) Be subject to performance-based incentives and penalties;

(h) Have clear reporting requirements;

(i) Undergo regular financial and performance audits;

(j) Have clearly defined cost norms for different components.

15. Implementation Timeline.- (1) Within six months of the commencement of this Act, the State Government shall,-

(a) Constitute the State-level Coordination Committee and define its operational procedures;

(b) Issue detailed guidelines for safety and gender audits including methodologies, standards, and reporting formats;

(c) Initiate gender sensitization training for law enforcement with standardized curricula and evaluation methods;

(d) Develop and release the mobile application for women's safety with all prescribed functionalities;

(e) Establish the Nodal Authority's Safe Public Spaces Cell with adequate staffing and resources;

(f) Draft and notify all rules and regulations required under the Act;

(g) Establish District Safe Public Spaces Committees in all districts;

(h) Initiate baseline studies of women's safety in public spaces across the State;

(i) Launch a preliminary public awareness campaign about the Act;

(j) Allocate initial funds to Urban Local Bodies for preparatory activities.

(2) Within one-year, Urban Local Bodies shall,-

(a) Complete initial safety and gender audits with comprehensive documentation and public disclosure;

(b) Develop Public Space Safety Action Plans with prioritized interventions, timelines, and budgets;

(c) Establish neighborhood Safety Committees in all wards with proper representation;

(d) Identify and begin improvements in high-priority unsafe areas;

(e) Install emergency communication systems in strategic locations;

(f) Establish Safe City Cells within their administrative structure;

(g) Train staff on gender sensitivity and implementation of the Act;

(h) Develop local-level awareness materials and programs;

(i) Implement initial phase of CCTV coverage in high-risk areas;

(j) Begin retrofitting of public toilets for accessibility and safety.

(3) Within two years, Urban Local Bodies shall implement at least 50% of the measures identified in their Action Plans, including,-

(a) Completion of street lighting improvements in at least 50% of identified areas;

(b) Construction or renovation of at least 40% of required public toilet facilities;
(c) Implementation of CPTED principles in at least 30% of public spaces;
(d) Training of at least 50% of relevant personnel in gender sensitivity;
(e) Establishment of at least one model safe public space in each ward;
(f) Implementation of accessibility features in at least 40% of public spaces;
(g) Installation of panic buttons and emergency communication systems in at least 50% of identified locations;
(h) Completion of bystander intervention training for at least 30% of target groups;
(i) Integration of at least 60% of public transport vehicles with GPS tracking;
(j) Development of at least 40% of planned pedestrian infrastructure.

(4) Within three years, the State Government shall,-
(a) Complete a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the Act;
(b) Develop a phase II implementation plan based on evaluation findings;
(c) Scale successful pilot initiatives to all applicable areas;
(d) Establish Centres of Excellence for women's safety in at least three major cities;
(e) Develop standardized designs for safety infrastructure based on implementation experience;
(f) Update guidelines and standards based on implementation feedback;
(g) Initiate advanced research programs on emerging safety concerns;
(h) Develop specialized training modules for different stakeholder groups;
(i) Establish a knowledge management system for best practices and lessons learned;
(j) Develop a sustainability plan for long-term maintenance of safety infrastructure.

(5) Within five years, Urban Local Bodies shall,-
(a) Complete implementation of 100% of measures identified in their Action Plans;
(b) Institutionalize regular safety audits as part of urban management;
(c) Integrate safety parameters in all urban development projects;
(d) Develop self-sustaining mechanisms for maintenance of safety infrastructure;
(e) Establish community ownership models for local safety initiatives;
(f) Achieve full compliance with accessibility standards in all public spaces;
(g) Implement comprehensive technological integration across all safety systems;
(h) Develop local safety indices for regular monitoring;
(i) Establish mentorship programs for other Urban Local Bodies;
(j) Develop case studies and documentation of implementation experiences.

CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

16. Annual Reports and Transparency.- (1) The Nodal Authority shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of this Act, which shall include,-
(a) Comprehensive assessment of the status of women's safety in public spaces across the State;
(b) District-wise analysis of implementation progress;

(c) Evaluation of effectiveness of various interventions;
(d) Financial analysis of fund utilization;
(e) Documentation of best practices and successful initiatives;
(f) Analysis of challenges and limitations faced;
(g) Recommendations for policy and implementation improvements;
(h) Statistical analysis of safety parameters and incidents;
(i) Feedback from community consultations and stakeholders;
(j) Research findings and emerging trends.

(2) The report shall,-

(a) Be tabled in the State Legislature within three months of the end of each financial year;
(b) Be made available to the public through:
(i) Official websites of relevant departments;
(ii) Public libraries;
(iii)Government information centres;
(iv) Educational institutions;
(v) Media briefings;
(c) Be published in both English and Kannada;
(d) Be available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
(e) Include visual representation of data for easier understanding;
(f) Be summarized in user-friendly formats for wider dissemination;
(g) Be discussed in a public forum with stakeholder participation;
(h) Be shared with all Urban Local Bodies for reference and learning;
(i) Be submitted to relevant national authorities;
(j) Be preserved as public record.

(3) All implementing agencies shall maintain transparency in implementation through,-

(a) Proactive disclosure of plans, budgets, and progress on official websites;
(b) Regular public consultations on implementation;
(c) Social audit mechanisms for community feedback;
(d) Citizen monitoring committees at local levels;
(e) Open data initiatives related to safety parameters;
(f) Regular media briefings on progress and challenges;
(g) Grievance redressal mechanisms with public tracking systems;
(h) Public display of information at project sites;
(i) Quarterly progress reports accessible to citizens;
(j) Regular town hall meetings on safety initiatives.

17. Penalties and Enforcement.- (1) If any public official fails to discharge duties assigned under this Act without reasonable cause, they shall be liable for disciplinary action as per service rules, which may include,-

(a) Written reprimand in service records;
(b) Delay or denial of promotional opportunities;

(c) Temporary withholding of increments;
(d) Mandatory additional training;
(e) Transfer from the current posting;
(f) Suspension in serious cases of negligence;
(g) Recovery of financial losses caused by negligence;
(h) Administrative inquiry leading to potential demotion;
(i) Adverse entry in Annual Confidential Reports;
(j) Any other action as prescribed under applicable service rules.

(2) If an Urban Local Body fails to comply with the provisions of this Act, the State Government may,-

(a) Withhold grants and financial assistance to such body until compliance is achieved;
(b) Issue formal notices requiring compliance within specified timeframes;
(c) Appoint special officers to oversee implementation in case of continued non-compliance;
(d) Require submission of detailed compliance plans with timelines;
(e) Order special audits of the Urban Local Body;
(f) Require public disclosure of reasons for non-compliance;
(g) Suspend specific development approvals until compliance is achieved;
(h) Impose administrative supervision by higher authorities;
(i) Require mandatory training for elected representatives and officials;
(j) Take any other appropriate action as may be prescribed.

(3) The State Government shall establish a dedicated enforcement wing that shall,-

(a) Monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act;
(b) Conduct surprise inspections of public spaces and facilities;
(c) Investigate complaints of non-compliance;
(d) Issue improvement notices to non-compliant entities;
(e) Recommend appropriate action against defaulting agencies or officials;
(f) Maintain a public database of compliance status;
(g) Coordinate with regulatory authorities of different sectors;
(h) Develop compliance assessment tools and methodologies;
(i) Train enforcement personnel in relevant procedures;
(j) Report regularly to the State-level Coordination Committee.

18. Power to Remove Difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

(2) No such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of three years from the commencement of this Act.

(3) Every order made under this section shall be laid before each House of the State Legislature as soon as possible after it is made.

19. Power to Make Rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters,-

(a) The methodology, standards, and formats for safety and gender audits;

(b) The minimum standards for street lighting, public toilets, and other safety infrastructure;

(c) The composition, powers, and functions of various committees established under this Act;

(d) The procedures for implementation of CPTED principles in urban planning;

(e) The standards for accessibility in public spaces;

(f) The protocols for use of technology for safety purposes;

(g) The procedures for data protection and privacy;

(h) The allocation and utilization of funds;

(i) The training curricula for different stakeholder groups;

(j) The monitoring and evaluation frameworks;

(k) The reporting formats and procedures;

(l) The grievance redressal mechanisms;

(m) The penalties for non-compliance;

(n) The certification processes for safety compliance;

(o) The coordination mechanisms between different agencies;

(p) Any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid before each House of the State Legislature.

20. Overriding Effect.- (1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent any woman from exercising any other remedy available under any other law for the time being in force.

21. Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, the Nodal Authority, or any officer of the Government, or any member, officer, or employee of the Nodal Authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

22. Power to Exempt.- The State Government may, if it is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient in the public interest so to do, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt any class of public spaces from all or any of the provisions of this Act for such period and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the notification.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The safety and accessibility of public spaces for women is a critical factor in determining their ability to participate fully and equally in public life. Despite constitutional guarantees and legal protections, women in Karnataka continue to face harassment, discrimination, and barriers to access in public spaces. This adversely affects their mobility, educational and economic opportunities, and overall well-being.

This Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive framework to ensure that public spaces in Karnataka are safe, accessible, and inclusive for all women, including women with disabilities. It mandates regular safety audits, integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in urban planning, improvements in public infrastructure, community-based safety initiatives, gender-sensitive law enforcement training, accessibility measures for women with disabilities, and utilization of technology for enhancing safety.

The Bill recognizes that ensuring women's safety in public spaces requires a multi-sectoral approach with clear responsibilities, accountability mechanisms, adequate resources, and community participation. It establishes institutional structures at state, district, and local levels to oversee implementation and provides for regular monitoring and evaluation.

This Bill is expected to significantly enhance the safety and accessibility of public spaces for women in Karnataka, thereby contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Hence this Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of approximately Rs. 500 crores would be involved, in addition to a non-recurring expenditure of approximately Rs. 1,000 crores over a five-year period for infrastructure development, technology implementation, capacity building, and other activities mandated under the Bill.

The Bill also provides for leveraging additional resources through special cess, corporate social responsibility contributions, public-private partnerships, and other innovative financing mechanisms.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 19 of the Bill empowers the State Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The matters in respect of which rules may be made relate to administrative details and procedures. The delegation of legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

KARNATAKA STATE RECOGNITION AND INCLUSION OF INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE BILL, 2025

A Bill to establish a comprehensive legal framework that moves beyond traditional environmental protection measures to explicitly recognize and operationalize the concept of intergenerational climate justice.

WHEREAS climate change represents one of the most pressing challenges of our time, threatening not only the present generation but also the well-being, rights, and survival of generations yet unborn;

WHEREAS the State of Karnataka, with its rich biodiversity, diverse ecosystems, and vulnerability to climate change impacts including altered monsoon patterns, increased frequency of droughts and floods, rising temperatures, and threats to water security, has a particular responsibility to implement forward-looking climate policies;

WHEREAS the Constitution of India, under Article 21, guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to include the right to a clean and healthy environment, a right that extends to future generations;

WHEREAS the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in various judgments including M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (1987), Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996), and Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996), has recognized the principles of sustainable development, precautionary principle, and polluter pays principle as integral components of environmental jurisprudence in India;

WHEREAS India is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and other international instruments that recognize the importance of intergenerational equity in addressing climate change;

WHEREAS Karnataka has already demonstrated leadership through its State Action Plan on Climate Change (2012, revised 2021), but requires a more comprehensive framework specifically addressing the interests of future generations;

WHEREAS decisions made today regarding energy systems, infrastructure development, land use planning, and resource management will have profound implications for the climate that future generations will inherit;

WHEREAS the State recognizes its moral and ethical obligation to consider and protect the interests of future generations in its climate-related decision-making processes;

WHEREAS it is essential to establish legal principles, institutional frameworks, and implementation mechanisms to ensure that the voices and interests of future generations are adequately represented in climate policy deliberations;

WHEREAS the State acknowledges the disproportionate impact that climate change may have on vulnerable communities and the importance of ensuring that transitions to low-carbon development are just and equitable across generations;

WHEREAS there is an urgent need to bridge the gap between short-term political and economic considerations and the long-term imperatives of climate stability and sustainability;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for a comprehensive legal framework for integrating intergenerational climate justice into the State's governance systems;
BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent, and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka State Recognition and Inclusion of Intergenerational Climate Justice Act, 2025.
(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.
(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.
2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
(a) "Intergenerational Climate Justice" means the principle that acknowledges the right of future generations to inherit a stable climate system and natural environment that supports their well-being, and recognizes the responsibility of present generations to preserve these systems;
(b) "Future Generations" means human beings who are yet to be born or who are too young to participate in decision-making processes concerning matters likely to have significant impact on the future quality of life and environment;
(c) "Climate Impact" means any change attributable directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere or local environment, and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods;
(d) "Long-term" means a period extending to at least 50 years from the present;
(e) "Public Authority" means any authority or body, or institution of self-governance established or constituted,-

(i) by or under the Constitution;
(ii) by any other law made by the State Legislature;
(iii) by notification issued or order made by the State Government;

(f) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
(g) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka;
(h) "Commission" means the Karnataka State Commission for Future Generations established under Section 4 of this Act;
(i) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner for Future Generations appointed under Section 5 of this Act;
(j) "State Climate Action Plan" refers to the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change, as updated and revised from time to time.

CHAPTER II

INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

3. Recognition of Intergenerational Climate Justice.- (1) The State Government hereby recognizes and establishes the principle of Intergenerational Climate Justice as a fundamental consideration in all climate-related decision-making processes within the State.

(2) All public authorities in the State shall, while formulating policies, laws, rules, and regulations related to climate change, environmental protection, natural resource management, and sustainable development, consider the interests and well-being of Future Generations.

(3) The principles of Intergenerational Climate Justice shall include,-

(a) The Precautionary Principle, whereby lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage;

(b) The Prevention Principle, which emphasizes the duty to prevent, reduce and control environmental harm;

(c) The Polluter Pays Principle, which requires that the costs of pollution be borne by those who cause it;

(d) The Principle of Sustainable Development, which requires that development meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

(e) The Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, which recognizes historical differences in contributions to environmental problems and differences in capacity to address them.

CHAPTER III

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

4. Establishment of the Karnataka State Commission for Future Generations.- (1) The State Government shall, within six months from the date on which this Act comes into force, by notification, establish a body to be known as the Karnataka State Commission for Future Generations.

(2) The Commission shall be an autonomous body having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall by the said name sue or be sued.

5. Appointment of Commissioner for Future Generations.- (1) The State Government shall appoint a Commissioner for Future Generations who shall head the Commission.

(2) The Commissioner shall be a person of eminence with expertise in environmental law, climate science, sustainable development, or public policy, and shall have a demonstrable track record of advocating for environmental protection and sustainability.

(3) The Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which they enter upon office or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, and shall be eligible for reappointment for one more term.

6. Functions of the Commissioner for Future Generations.- The Commissioner shall,-

(a) Act as a guardian and advocate for the interests and rights of Future Generations in relation to climate change and environmental sustainability;

(b) Review and provide recommendations on proposed legislation, policies, and projects that may have long-term climate impacts;

(c) Monitor compliance with the Future Generations Climate Impact Assessment requirements specified in Section 11;

(d) Intervene, with the permission of the appropriate court or tribunal, in legal proceedings involving matters that may significantly affect the interests of Future Generations in relation to climate change;

(e) Prepare and submit to the State Government an annual report on the state of intergenerational climate justice in Karnataka;

(f) Promote public awareness and education about intergenerational climate justice and sustainable development;

(g) Collaborate with similar institutions at the national and international levels to advance intergenerational climate justice;

(h) Perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

7. Powers of the Commissioner.- (1) The Commissioner shall have the power to,-

(a) Request information from any public authority regarding policies, projects, or actions that may have significant long-term climate impacts;

(b) Summon and enforce the attendance of any person and examine them under oath;

(c) Require the discovery and production of any document;

(d) Receive evidence on affidavits;

(e) Issue commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) Review any act or failure to act by a public authority with respect to its obligation to consider the interests of Future Generations;

(g) Recommend to the State Government or relevant public authority appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of Future Generations.

(2) The Commissioner shall, while investigating any matter under this Act, have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

8. Intergenerational Climate Justice Advisory Council.- (1) The State Government shall establish an Intergenerational Climate Justice Advisory Council to advise the Commissioner.

(2) The Advisory Council shall consist of,-

(a) The Commissioner, who shall be the Chairperson;

(b) Two experts in climate science;

(c) Two experts in environmental economics;

(d) Two experts in sustainable development;

(e) Two representatives from civil society organizations working on environmental protection;

(f) Two representatives from indigenous communities;

(g) Two representatives from youth organizations;

(h) Two representatives from industry associations;

(i) The Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka;

(j) The Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka;

(k) Such other members as may be prescribed.

(3) The Advisory Council shall meet at least once every three months and provide recommendations to the Commissioner on matters related to intergenerational climate justice.

9. Karnataka Climate Justice Fund.- (1) The State Government shall establish a fund to be known as the Karnataka Climate Justice Fund for financing climate adaptation and mitigation projects that specifically benefit future generations.

(2) The Fund shall be administered by the Commission in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the State Government.

(3) The sources of the Fund shall include,-

(a) Grants and allocations made by the State Government;

(b) Contributions from the State Green Fund established under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, 1976;

(c) A portion of the proceeds from carbon pricing mechanisms, if implemented by the State;

(d) Voluntary contributions from individuals, corporations, and other entities;

(e) Any other source as may be prescribed.

(4) The Fund shall be utilized for,-

(a) Supporting low-carbon development initiatives;

(b) Financing climate adaptation projects in vulnerable communities;

(c) Promoting research and innovation in clean technology and sustainable practices;

(d) Supporting environmental education and awareness programs;

(e) Any other purpose consistent with the objectives of this Act, as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IV

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

10. Integration with Existing Environmental and Climate Frameworks.- (1) The principles and provisions of this Act shall be integrated with and complement existing environmental and climate change legislation, including but not limited to,-

(a) The Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change, 2021;

(b) The Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, 1976;

(c) The Karnataka Forest Act, 1963;

(d) The Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011;

(e) The Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961;

(f) The Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961;

(g) Any other relevant State legislation related to environmental protection and climate change.

(2) In case of any inconsistency between the provisions of this Act and any other State law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

11. Future Generations Climate Impact Assessment.- (1) All major policies, projects, and development plans that may have significant long-term climate impacts shall be subject to a Future Generations Climate Impact Assessment (FGCIA).

(2) The FGCIA shall assess,-

(a) The potential short-term, medium-term, and long-term climate impacts of the proposed policy, project, or plan;

(b) The distribution of these impacts across current and future generations;

(c) Alternatives that might mitigate adverse impacts on Future Generations;

(d) Measures to enhance positive impacts and minimize negative impacts on Future Generations;

(e) Consistency with national and international climate commitments.

(3) The State Government shall, within six months from the date on which this Act comes into force, prescribe guidelines for conducting the FGCIA.

(4) The FGCIA shall be conducted by independent experts appointed by the Commission and shall be made available for public consultation before the final decision on the policy, project, or plan is taken.

(5) The FGCIA shall be mandatory for,-

(a) Major infrastructure projects with a life span exceeding 20 years;

(b) Urban development plans and master plans for cities and towns;

(c) Industrial policies and projects that may significantly alter greenhouse gas emissions;

(d) Policies and projects related to energy production and distribution;

(e) Land use change policies and projects affecting more than 100 hectares;

(f) Water resource management plans for river basins;

(g) Any other category of policies, projects, or plans as may be prescribed.

12. Long-term Climate Planning.- (1) The State Government shall, in consultation with the Commission, develop and periodically update a Long-term Climate Action Strategy for the State of Karnataka, projecting at least 50 years into the future.

(2) The Strategy shall,-

(a) Set long-term goals for greenhouse gas emissions reduction;

(b) Identify climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation needs across different regions and sectors;

(c) Outline pathways for low-carbon, climate-resilient development;

(d) Integrate principles of intergenerational equity and climate justice;

(e) Be aligned with national and international climate goals, including the Paris Agreement.

(3) The Strategy shall be reviewed and updated at least once every five years, incorporating the latest scientific knowledge and technological developments.

(4) All departments and public authorities of the State Government shall align their sectoral plans and policies with the Long-term Climate Action Strategy.

13. Climate-Responsive Budgeting.- (1) The State Government shall adopt climate-responsive budgeting that explicitly considers the long-term climate implications of fiscal decisions.

(2) The annual budget of the State shall include a statement on climate allocations that identifies,-

(a) Expenditures on climate mitigation and adaptation measures;

(b) The proportion of the budget allocated to projects and programs that benefit Future Generations in terms of climate resilience;

(c) Measures taken to phase out subsidies and incentives for activities that contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions;

(d) Investments in clean technology, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure.

(3) The Finance Department, in consultation with the Commission, shall develop guidelines for climate-responsive budgeting within one year from the date on which this Act comes into force.

14. Intergenerational Climate Justice in Education.- (1) The State Government shall ensure that principles of climate change, sustainability, and intergenerational justice are integrated into educational curricula at all levels.

(2) The State Education Department, in consultation with the Commission, shall,-

(a) Develop educational materials on climate change, sustainability, and intergenerational justice appropriate for different age groups;

(b) Provide training to teachers on these subjects;

(c) Encourage educational institutions to adopt sustainable practices and reduce their carbon footprint;

(d) Promote research on climate change and its intergenerational impacts.

15. Public Participation and Transparency.- (1) The State Government shall ensure meaningful public participation, with special emphasis on youth participation, in climate-related decision-making processes.

(2) All information related to climate change policies, plans, and assessments shall be made publicly accessible, subject to reasonable restrictions in accordance with existing laws.

(3) The Commission shall establish mechanisms to facilitate public, especially youth, participation in the development and implementation of climate policies.

(4) The Commission shall maintain a publicly accessible database of Future Generations Climate Impact Assessments and other relevant information.

CHAPTER V

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

16. Compliance with Intergenerational Climate Justice Principles.- (1) All public authorities shall comply with the principles of intergenerational climate justice as set out in this Act in their decision-making processes.

(2) The Commission shall develop and publish guidelines to assist public authorities in complying with their obligations under this Act.

(3) Each public authority shall designate a nodal officer responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Act.

17. Intergenerational Climate Justice Audit.- (1) The Commission shall conduct periodic audits of compliance with the principles of intergenerational climate justice by public authorities.

(2) The audit shall assess,-

(a) The extent to which public authorities have integrated intergenerational climate justice principles into their decision-making processes;

(b) The quality and comprehensiveness of Future Generations Climate Impact Assessments;

(c) The implementation of measures to protect the interests of Future Generations;

(d) Progress towards achieving the goals set out in the Long-term Climate Action Strategy.

(3) The results of the audit shall be made public and presented to the State Legislature.

18. Remedies and Enforcement.- (1) Any person may file a complaint with the Commission regarding non-compliance with the provisions of this Act by a public authority.

(2) The Commissioner, upon receipt of a complaint or *suo motu*, may investigate alleged non-compliance and issue directions for compliance.

(3) If a public authority fails to comply with the directions of the Commissioner, the Commissioner may:

(a) Publish a report on such non-compliance;

(b) Make a special reference to the State Legislature;

(c) Approach the appropriate court or tribunal for appropriate orders or directions.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall prevent any person from seeking remedies available under any other law for the time being in force.

19. Annual Report.- (1) The Commission shall prepare an annual report on the state of intergenerational climate justice in Karnataka, which shall include,-

(a) An assessment of progress made in implementing the provisions of this Act;

(b) Challenges and barriers to implementation;

(c) Recommendations for strengthening intergenerational climate justice;

(d) Case studies and best practices;

(e) Any other matter relevant to the objectives of this Act.

(2) The annual report shall be laid before the State Legislature and made publicly available.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

20. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters:

(a) The salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the Commissioner;

(b) The procedure for conducting the Future Generations Climate Impact Assessment;

(c) The administration and utilization of the Karnataka Climate Justice Fund;

(d) The procedures for the functioning of the Commission;

(e) Any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

21. Power to remove difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

(2) No order under sub-section (1) shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(3) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

22. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government, the Commission, the Commissioner, or any person acting under the direction of the State Government or the Commission in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule made thereunder.

23. Act to have overriding effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other State law for the time being in force.

24. Power to amend Schedules.- The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend any Schedule to this Act.

THE KARNATAKA ONLINE GAMING REGULATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for online gaming activities within the State of Karnataka; to constitute the Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority; to provide for licensing and regulation of online gaming operators; to ensure consumer protection and responsible gaming practices; to prevent illegal gambling activities; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas the online gaming sector has emerged as a significant contributor to Karnataka's digital economy, generating substantial employment and tax revenue;

And Whereas the Karnataka High Court in its judgment dated 14th February 2022 in All India Gaming Federation v. State of Karnataka has established constitutional principles requiring distinction between games of skill and games of chance;

And Whereas it is necessary to establish a regulatory framework that protects consumers while respecting fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India;

And Whereas it is expedient to prevent illegal offshore gambling platforms from targeting residents of Karnataka and to ensure responsible gaming practices;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Online Gaming Regulation Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Aadhaar" means the unique identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India;

(b) "Authority" means the Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority established under section 5;

(c) "Blocking Order" means an order issued by the Authority directing Internet Service Providers to block access to specified websites or platforms;

(d) "Consumer Protection Fund" means the fund established under section 32;

(e) "Game of Chance" means any game, scheme, or competition where the outcome is predominantly determined by luck, randomness, or uncertainty rather than the skill of the participant, and includes but is not limited to,-

(i) casino games such as roulette, dice games, and slot machines;

(ii) lotteries and raffles;

(iii) betting on uncertain events;

(f) "Game of Skill" means any game where the outcome is predominantly determined by the skill, knowledge, training or expertise of the participant, as recognised by judicial precedent, and includes but is not limited to,-

(i) chess;

(ii) rummy when played with skill;

(iii) poker as recognized by judicial precedent;

(iv) fantasy sports requiring skill-based team selection;

(g) "Gaming Operator" means any person who owns, operates, manages, or provides an online gaming platform;

(h) "Gaming Platform" means any website, mobile application, or digital interface through which online gaming services are provided;

(i) "Geo-fencing" means technology that restricts access to online gaming platforms based on geographical location;

(j) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(k) "Illegal Offshore Platform" means any gaming platform operating from outside India without a valid license under this Act and targeting residents of Karnataka;

(l) "License" means a license granted under Chapter III of this Act;

(m) "Minor" means a person who has not completed eighteen years of age;

(n) "Notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(o) "Online Gaming" means playing games on the internet or any electronic network for stakes, where players participate using money or money's worth with the expectation of winning money or money's worth;

(p) "Payment Gateway Freezing" means the suspension of payment processing services to unlicensed gaming operators;

(q) "Person" includes an individual, firm, company, corporation, society, or any other legal entity;

(r) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(s) "Real Money Gaming" means online gaming where participants pay an entry fee or stake money with the opportunity to win money or money's worth;

(t) "Regulations" means regulations made by the Authority under this Act;

(u) "Responsible Gaming" means policies and practices designed to prevent and minimize potential harms associated with gaming;

(v) "Rules" means rules made by the State Government under this Act;

(w) "Self-exclusion" means a facility whereby a person may request to be excluded from accessing gaming platforms for a specified period;

(x) "State" means the State of Karnataka.

3. Application.- (1) This Act shall apply to,-

(a) all gaming operators registered or operating within the State of Karnataka;

(b) all gaming platforms accessible to residents of Karnataka;

(c) all persons participating in online gaming from within Karnataka.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall apply to,-
(a) games played without stakes;
(b) games specifically exempted by the State Government by notification.

4. Act to override other laws.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

CHAPTER II
KARNATAKA ONLINE GAMING AND BETTING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

5. Establishment and incorporation of Authority.- (1) With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint, there shall be established an Authority to be called the Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The head office of the Authority shall be at Bengaluru.

6. Composition of Authority.- (1) The Authority shall consist of,-

(a) a Chairperson, who shall be a person who has been a Judge of the High Court or a person of eminence with at least twenty-five years of experience in law, administration, or technology;

(b) three Members, of whom,-

(i) one shall be a person having at least twenty years of experience in information technology or cyber security;

(ii) one shall be a person having at least twenty years of experience in finance, economics, or chartered accountancy;

(iii) one shall be a person having at least twenty years of experience in social welfare, psychology, or public health.

(2) The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the State Government on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of,-

(a) the Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka - Chairperson;
(b) the Principal Secretary, Department of Law - Member;
(c) the Principal Secretary, Department of Finance - Member;
(d) two experts nominated by the State Government - Members.

(3) The Chairperson and Members shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term.

7. Powers and functions of Authority.- (1) The Authority shall have the following powers and functions,-

(a) grant, renew, suspend, or revoke licenses for gaming operators;

(b) classify games as games of skill or games of chance based on judicial precedents and the predominance test;

(c) monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act;

(d) investigate complaints and violations;

(e) issue blocking orders for illegal platforms;
(f) direct payment gateway freezing for unlicensed operators;
(g) maintain a public registry of licensed operators;
(h) formulate regulations for responsible gaming;
(i) coordinate with central and other state agencies;
(j) impose penalties for violations;
(k) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.
(2) The Authority shall, in the discharge of its functions, be guided by the principles of,-
(a) protecting consumer interests;
(b) preventing illegal gambling;
(c) ensuring transparency and fairness;
(d) respecting constitutional rights;
(e) promoting responsible gaming.

8. Advisory Committees.- (1) The Authority shall constitute the following Advisory Committees,-

(a) **Technical Advisory Committee:** consisting of,-
(i) Chief Information Officer, Government of Karnataka - Chairperson;
(ii) Representative of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru;
(iii) Representative of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru;
(iv) Two representatives from licensed gaming operators nominated by the Authority;
(v) One cyber security expert nominated by the Authority;
(vi) One representative from Internet Service Providers Association;
(vii) Director, Department of Information Technology, Government of Karnataka - Member Secretary.

(b) **Consumer Protection Advisory Committee:** consisting of,-
(i) Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of Karnataka - Chairperson;
(ii) One representative from Reserve Bank of India;
(iii) Two representatives from consumer organizations registered in Karnataka;
(iv) One chartered accountant nominated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India;
(v) One advocate specializing in consumer law;
(vi) One mental health professional from NIMHANS;
(vii) Joint Secretary, Authority - Member Secretary.

(c) **Responsible Gaming Advisory Committee** :consisting of,-
(i) Director, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka - Chairperson;
(ii) Two psychiatrists specializing in addiction, one from NIMHANS;
(iii) One representative from Centre for Addiction Medicine, NIMHANS;
(iv) One social worker with experience in gambling addiction;
(v) One representative from financial counseling organizations;
(vi) One representative from licensed gaming operators;
(vii) Deputy Secretary, Authority - Member Secretary.

(2) The Advisory Committees shall meet at least once every quarter and advise the Authority on matters within their respective domains.
(3) Members of Advisory Committees shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be reappointed.
9. Meetings of Authority.- (1) The Authority shall meet at least once every month at such time and place as the Chairperson may determine.
(2) Three Members including the Chairperson shall constitute a quorum.
(3) Decisions shall be taken by majority vote, and in case of equality, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
10. Officers and staff of Authority.- (1) The Authority may appoint such officers and staff as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions.
(2) The terms and conditions of service of officers and staff shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III
LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

11. Requirement of license.- (1) No person shall operate an online gaming platform offering real money gaming to residents of Karnataka without obtaining a license under this Act.
(2) Any person operating without a license shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
12. Classes of licenses.- The Authority may grant the following classes of licenses,-
(a) **Class A License** - Comprehensive license for operating multiple games of skill with real money;
(b) **Class B License** - Limited license for operating specified games of skill;
(c) **Class C License** - Ancillary service license for payment processing, software provision, or platform services.
13. Eligibility for license.- (1) An applicant for a license shall,-
(a) be a company incorporated in India;
(b) have a minimum net worth of,-
(i) five crore rupees for Class A license;
(ii) two crore rupees for Class B license;
(iii) fifty lakh rupees for Class C license;
(c) have no criminal antecedents;
(d) possess adequate technical infrastructure;
(e) have robust security systems;
(f) comply with all applicable laws.
(2) The Authority shall conduct due diligence including background checks of promoters, directors, and key management personnel.
14. Application for license.- (1) An application for license shall be made in such form and manner as may be prescribed, accompanied by,-

(a) non-refundable application fee of,-
(i) ten lakh rupees for Class A license;
(ii) five lakh rupees for Class B license;
(iii) two lakh rupees for Class C license;
(b) required documents and information;
(c) security deposit as prescribed.
(2) The Authority shall decide on the application within ninety days of receipt of complete application.
15. Grant of license.- (1) The Authority may grant a license subject to such conditions as it deems fit, including,-
(a) compliance with technical standards;
(b) implementation of responsible gaming measures;
(c) maintenance of user funds in segregated accounts;
(d) regular audits and reporting;
(e) cooperation with law enforcement.
(2) A license shall be valid for a period of five years and may be renewed.
(3) Annual license fee shall be,-
(a) fifty lakh rupees for Class A license;
(b) twenty lakh rupees for Class B license;
(c) five lakh rupees for Class C license.
16. Display of license.- Every licensed operator shall prominently display its license number and validity on its platform and in all advertisements.
17. Renewal of license.- (1) An application for renewal shall be made at least ninety days before expiry.
(2) The renewal fee shall be fifty percent of the initial license fee.
(3) The Authority may refuse renewal if the licensee has violated any provisions of this Act.
18. Suspension and revocation.- (1) The Authority may suspend or revoke a license if the licensee,-
(a) violates any provision of this Act;
(b) fails to comply with license conditions;
(c) provides false information;
(d) becomes ineligible under section 13;
(e) fails to pay prescribed fees or penalties.
(2) Before suspension or revocation, the licensee shall be given an opportunity of being heard.
(3) A licensee whose license is revoked shall be disqualified from applying for a fresh license for five years.

CHAPTER IV
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE GAMING

19. Age verification.- (1) Every gaming operator shall implement Aadhaar-based age verification to ensure no minor accesses real money gaming.

(2) Failure to implement age verification shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees.

20. Know Your Customer.- (1) Gaming operators shall implement comprehensive KYC procedures including,-

(a) identity verification through Aadhaar;

(b) address verification;

(c) income documentation for setting deposit limits;

(d) PAN card linkage for tax compliance.

(2) Operators shall maintain KYC records for seven years.

21. Deposit limits.- (1) Gaming operators shall implement deposit limits based on,-

(a) daily limit not exceeding ten thousand rupees;

(b) monthly limit not exceeding one lakh rupees;

(c) annual limit based on declared income, not exceeding ten percent of annual income.

(2) Users may set lower voluntary limits.

(3) Operators violating deposit limits shall be liable to fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees per violation.

22. Time restrictions.- (1) Gaming platforms shall,-

(a) display continuous time spent on platform;

(b) issue mandatory alerts after every hour of play;

(c) enforce cooling-off period of thirty minutes after three hours of continuous play;

(d) limit daily gaming to six hours per user.

(2) Violation of time restrictions shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.

23. Self-exclusion.- (1) Gaming operators shall provide self-exclusion facility allowing users to exclude themselves for periods ranging from one week to permanent exclusion.

(2) Operators shall share self-exclusion data with other licensed operators to ensure effective implementation.

(3) Marketing to self-excluded persons shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

24. Mandatory warnings.- Every gaming platform shall display,-

(a) addiction helpline numbers prominently;

(b) warnings about risks of excessive gaming; (c) links to financial counseling resources;

(d) responsible gaming tips.

25. Protection of user funds.-(1) Gaming operators shall

(a) maintain user funds in segregated bank accounts;

(b) not use user funds for operational expenses;

(c) obtain insurance covering user deposits;
(d) provide transparent withdrawal procedures.
(2) Misuse of user funds shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to five years and fine which may extend to one crore rupees.
26. Dispute resolution.- (1) Gaming operators shall establish internal grievance redressal mechanisms.
(2) Unresolved disputes may be referred to the Authority.
(3) The Authority shall establish online dispute resolution mechanisms.
27. Data protection.- Gaming operators shall comply with data protection laws and shall not share user data except as required by law.
28. Prohibition on credit.- (1) Gaming operators shall not,-
(a) extend credit to users;
(b) allow gaming on credit;
(c) facilitate third-party lending.
(2) Violation shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
29. Advertising restrictions.- (1) Gaming advertisements shall not,-
(a) target minors;
(b) make misleading claims;
(c) promise guaranteed winnings;
(d) appear during programs meant for children.
(2) Violation of advertising restrictions shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees.
30. Prohibition on surrogate gaming.- Use of proxy or surrogate players shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year and fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.
31. Financial counseling.- Gaming operators shall contribute 0.1% of gross gaming revenue to financial counseling services for problem gamblers.
32. Consumer Protection Fund.- (1) There shall be established a Consumer Protection Fund.
(2) The Fund shall comprise,-
(a) contributions from gaming operators at 0.5% of gross gaming revenue;
(b) penalties collected under this Act;
(c) grants from Government.
(3) The Fund shall be used for,-
(a) consumer awareness programs;
(b) research on gaming addiction;
(c) treatment facilities;
(d) compensation for affected consumers.

CHAPTER V
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

33. Financial compliance.- Gaming operators shall,-

(a) maintain detailed financial records;

(b) submit quarterly financial statements;

(c) undergo annual audits by chartered accountants;

(d) comply with GST and income tax requirements.

34. Anti-money laundering.- (1) Gaming operators shall,-

(a) implement anti-money laundering policies;

(b) report suspicious transactions to Financial Intelligence Unit;

(c) maintain transaction records for ten years;

(d) conduct enhanced due diligence for high-value transactions.

(2) Failure to report suspicious transactions shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.

35. Transaction limits.- (1) Single transaction limits,-

(a) cash deposits prohibited;

(b) maximum single deposit: fifty thousand rupees;

(c) maximum single withdrawal: one lakh rupees.

(2) All transactions above ten thousand rupees shall be reported to the Authority.

36. Payment system compliance.- (1) Gaming operators shall use only,-

(a) RBI-authorized payment gateways;

(b) banking channels with full KYC;

(c) payment methods that ensure traceability.

(2) Use of cryptocurrency or anonymous payment methods prohibited.

37. Tax deduction at source.- Gaming operators shall deduct tax at source as per Income Tax Act provisions on winnings exceeding ten thousand rupees.

38. Audit requirements.- (1) Gaming operators shall conduct,-

(a) quarterly internal audits;

(b) annual statutory audits;

(c) special audits as directed by Authority.

(2) Audit reports shall be submitted to the Authority within thirty days.

CHAPTER VI
TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT

39. Random Number Generation.- (1) All games using random number generation shall,-

(a) use certified RNG systems;

(b) undergo quarterly testing;

(c) maintain audit logs.

(2) Manipulation of RNG shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to five years and fine which may extend to one crore rupees.

40. Game fairness.- (1) Gaming operators shall,-
(a) disclose odds and probabilities;
(b) ensure transparent game rules; (c) prevent unfair advantages;
(d) maintain game integrity.
(2) Unfair game practices shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
41. Technical security.- Gaming platforms shall implement,-
(a) SSL encryption for all transactions;
(b) two-factor authentication;
(c) regular security audits;
(d) incident response procedures.
42. Geo-fencing requirements.- (1) Gaming operators offering services in Karnataka shall implement geo-fencing to,-
(a) verify user location;
(b) restrict access from prohibited jurisdictions;
(c) comply with state-specific regulations.
(2) Failure to implement geo-fencing shall result in suspension of license.
43. ISP blocking.- (1) Upon direction from the Authority, Internet Service Providers shall block access to,-
(a) unlicensed gaming platforms;
(b) illegal offshore gambling sites;
(c) platforms violating this Act.
(2) ISPs failing to comply with blocking orders shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees per day of non-compliance.
44. Payment gateway freezing.- (1) The Authority may direct payment gateways to,-
(a) freeze accounts of unlicensed operators;
(b) block transactions to illegal platforms;
(c) report suspicious gaming transactions.
(2) Payment gateways shall comply within twenty-four hours of receiving directions.
45. Data retention.- Gaming operators shall retain,-
(a) user registration data for seven years;
(b) transaction records for ten years;
(c) game logs for five years;
(d) complaint records for five years.
46. Regulatory access.- Gaming operators shall provide the Authority,-
(a) real-time access to monitoring systems;
(b) API access for compliance verification;
(c) periodic data submissions as prescribed.

CHAPTER VII
OFFSHORE PLATFORM PREVENTION

47. Identification of offshore platforms.- (1) The Authority shall maintain and regularly update a list of illegal offshore gambling platforms targeting Karnataka residents.

(2) Criteria for identification include,-

(a) operating without license under this Act;

(b) accepting payments from Karnataka residents;

(c) advertising to Karnataka audience;

(d) offering prohibited games.

48. Blocking mechanisms.- (1) For identified offshore platforms, the Authority shall,-

(a) issue blocking orders to all ISPs;

(b) direct domain registrars to suspend domains;

(c) coordinate with CERT-In for IP blocking;

(d) direct app stores to remove applications.

(2) Blocking orders shall be reviewed every six months.

49. Financial blocking.- (1) The Authority shall direct,-

(a) banks to block accounts facilitating offshore gambling;

(b) payment gateways to cease processing for such platforms;

(c) card networks to block merchant codes.

(2) Financial institutions shall report compliance within seven days.

50. Advertising restrictions.- (1) Publishing advertisements for offshore gambling platforms shall be punishable with,-

(a) for individuals: imprisonment up to one year and fine up to ten lakh rupees;

(b) for companies: fine up to fifty lakh rupees.

(2) Online platforms hosting such advertisements shall remove them within twenty-four hours of notice.

51. Coordination with central agencies.- The Authority shall coordinate with,-

(a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology;

(b) Financial Intelligence Unit;

(c) Enforcement Directorate;

(d) Central Bureau of Investigation.

52. International cooperation.- The Authority may,-

(a) enter into agreements with foreign regulators;

(b) share information on illegal operators;

(c) coordinate enforcement actions.

53. Whistleblower rewards.- (1) Persons providing information leading to successful action against offshore platforms shall receive rewards up to ten lakh rupees.

(2) Whistleblower identity shall be protected.

CHAPTER VIII
PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

54. Penalties for operators.- (1) Operating games of chance for money shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years and fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
(2) Operating without license shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years and fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.
(3) Subsequent offenses shall attract double penalties.
55. Penalties for users.- (1) Participating in illegal gambling shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.
(2) Using false identity for gaming shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months and fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.
56. Penalties for facilitators.- (1) Providing premises for illegal gambling shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and fine which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees.
(2) Providing technical services to illegal operators shall attract similar penalties.
57. Corporate liability.- (1) Where an offense is committed by a company,-
(a) the company shall be liable to fine;
(b) every person in charge shall be liable to imprisonment and fine.
(2) Directors and key management personnel shall be presumed responsible unless they prove lack of knowledge or due diligence.
58. Continuing offenses.- For continuing violations, additional fine up to one lakh rupees per day may be imposed.
59. Compounding of offenses.- (1) The Authority may compound offenses punishable with fine only.
(2) Compounding amount shall not exceed maximum fine prescribed.
60. Investigation powers.- (1) The Authority may,-
(a) conduct searches with warrant;
(b) seize documents and electronic devices;
(c) examine persons on oath;
(d) requisition information.
(2) Obstruction of investigation shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year and fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.
61. Special courts.- (1) The State Government shall designate special courts for trying offenses under this Act.
(2) Special courts shall dispose of cases within six months.
62. Appeals.- (1) Appeals against Authority orders shall lie to the High Court within sixty days.
(2) Appeals against special court decisions shall follow Criminal Procedure Code provisions.
63. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit or legal proceeding shall lie against the Authority or its officers for anything done in good faith under this Act.

CHAPTER IX
MISCELLANEOUS

64. Transitional provisions.- (1) Existing gaming operators shall apply for license within ninety days of commencement.

(2) Operators may continue operations for one hundred eighty days pending license decision.

(3) Operators not applying within prescribed time shall cease operations immediately.

(4) Existing contracts shall remain valid for their term subject to compliance with this Act.

65. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Rules may provide for,-

(a) application procedures;

(b) fee structures;

(c) technical standards;

(d) reporting requirements;

(e) any other matter required to be prescribed.

(3) Rules shall be laid before the State Legislature.

66. Power to make regulations.- (1) The Authority may make regulations consistent with this Act and rules.

(2) Regulations may provide for: (a) licensing procedures; (b) compliance requirements; (c) technical specifications; (d) operational guidelines.

67. Annual report.- (1) The Authority shall prepare annual report on,-

(a) licensing statistics;

(b) enforcement actions;

(c) consumer complaints;

(d) financial performance;

(e) policy recommendations.

(2) The report shall be laid before the State Legislature.

68. Review of Act.- The State Government shall review the working of this Act every three years and make necessary amendments.

69. Removal of difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may make such provisions as appear necessary for removing the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid before the State Legislature.

70. Savings.- Nothing in this Act shall affect,-

(a) any other law relating to gambling or betting;

(b) the Public Gambling Act, 1867 except as modified;

(c) the Prize Competitions Act, 1955;

(d) the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998.

71. Repeal.- The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, in so far as it relates to online gaming, is hereby repealed

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The online gaming industry has emerged as a significant contributor to Karnataka's digital economy. However, the rapid growth of this sector has been accompanied by concerns about consumer protection, illegal gambling activities, and the proliferation of unregulated offshore platforms. The Karnataka High Court's judgment dated 14th February 2022 in All India Gaming Federation v. State of Karnataka struck down the previous attempt at regulation, emphasizing the need to distinguish between games of skill and games of chance while respecting fundamental rights.

This Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework that addresses these judicial concerns while providing effective consumer protection and enforcement mechanisms. The key objectives are:

1. To establish the Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority as an independent regulator with powers to license and monitor gaming operators.
2. To create a licensing framework that ensures only legitimate operators with adequate safeguards can offer gaming services to Karnataka residents.
3. To implement robust consumer protection measures including age verification, deposit limits, time restrictions, and self-exclusion facilities.
4. To prevent money laundering and ensure financial transparency in gaming operations.
5. To establish technical standards ensuring game fairness and security.
6. To create enforcement mechanisms to block illegal offshore gambling platforms.
7. To provide for penalties proportionate to violations while respecting due process.
8. To establish a framework that balances industry growth with consumer protection and social responsibility.

This Bill incorporates lessons from the 2022 judicial setback and recent enforcement challenges, creating a constitutionally compliant framework that distinguishes between permissible skill-based gaming and prohibited gambling activities. It aims to position Karnataka as a leader in responsible gaming regulation while fostering legitimate industry growth and innovation.

Hence the Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Karnataka Online Gaming Regulation Bill, 2025, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State. The recurring expenditure is estimated as follows:

1. Establishment of Karnataka Online Gaming and Betting Regulatory Authority:
    - Salaries and allowances of Chairperson and Members: Rs. 1.5 crores per annum
    - Salaries of officers and staff: Rs. 3 crores per annum
    - Office expenses and infrastructure: Rs. 1 crore per annum
    - Technology infrastructure and monitoring systems: Rs. 2 crores per annum
2. Establishment of Advisory Committees:
    - Sitting fees and expenses: Rs. 50 lakhs per annum
3. Consumer Protection initiatives:
    - Awareness campaigns: Rs. 1 crore per annum
    - Support for treatment facilities: Rs. 2 crores per annum
4. Enforcement mechanisms:
    - Coordination with agencies: Rs. 50 lakhs per annum
    - Special court infrastructure: Rs. 1 crore per annum

Total estimated annual recurring expenditure: Rs. 12 crores

Non-recurring expenditure in the first year:

- Setting up Authority office: Rs. 5 crores
- Technology infrastructure: Rs. 10 crores
- Total non-recurring: Rs. 15 crores

The expenditure would be partially offset by:

- License fees (estimated Rs. 10 crores per annum)
- Penalties and fines (estimated Rs. 2 crores per annum)
- Contributions to Consumer Protection Fund (estimated Rs. 5 crores per annum)

Net annual burden on state exchequer after offsetting revenue: Nil (surplus expected)

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 65 of the Bill empowers the State Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act. Matters in respect of which rules may be made include:

1. Forms and procedures for license applications
2. Fee structures for various categories
3. Technical standards and specifications
4. Security deposit requirements
5. Reporting formats and timelines
6. Qualifications of Authority staff
7. Any other matter required to be prescribed

Clause 66 empowers the Authority to make regulations for:

1. Detailed licensing procedures
2. Compliance monitoring mechanisms

3. Technical specifications for platforms
4. Operational guidelines for gaming
5. Dispute resolution procedures
6. Format for maintaining records

The delegation of legislative power is necessary as matters of detail and technical specifications need flexibility for adaptation to changing technology and market conditions. The rules and regulations will be subject to legislative scrutiny as they will be laid before the State Legislature. The proposed delegation is of normal character and does not involve any matter of principle. The Authority, being a specialized body with technical expertise, is best positioned to frame detailed operational regulations within the framework established by the Act.

THE LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP BILL, 2025

A Bill to address multiple inter connected problems arising from the absence of comprehensive legislation governing live-in relationships in modern society.
Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Live-in Relationship Act, 2025.
(2) It extends to the whole of India and applies also to citizens of India domiciled in the territories to which this Act extends.
(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.
2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
(a) "cohabitants" means:
(i) a man and a woman who are (or were) living together as if they were husband and wife; or
(ii) two persons of the same sex who are (or were) living together as civil partners.
(b) "degrees of prohibited relationship" means the degrees of prohibited relationship as defined in,-
(i) Section 3 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, for persons governed by Hindu law;
(ii) Section 4 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, for persons governed by Christian law;
(iii) Section 2 of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, for persons governed by Parsi law;
(iv) Personal law applicable to the parties, for persons governed by other personal laws; (v) The Indian Penal Code, 1860, Chapter XVI, for all other persons.

(c) "district court" means, in any area for which there is a city civil court, that court, and in any other area, the principal civil court of original jurisdiction, and includes any other civil court which may be specified by the State Government by notification in the Official Gazette as having jurisdiction in respect of the matters dealt with in this Act;

(d) "live-in relationship" means a relationship between two persons who: (i) are not legally married to each other; (ii) are not within degrees of prohibited relationship; (iii) have executed a valid Live-in Relationship Agreement in accordance with this Act; (iv) having regard to all the circumstances of their relationship, have a relationship as a couple living together on a domestic basis.

(e) "Live-in Relationship Agreement" means the mandatory written contract between cohabitants executed in accordance with Section 5 of this Act, which shall serve as the constitutional

document governing all aspects of their relationship, analogous to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a company;

(f) "joint property" means property acquired jointly by cohabitants during the period of live-in relationship;

(g) "separate property" means property owned individually by each cohabitant before entering into or during the live-in relationship;

(h) "child of live-in relationship**"** means a child born to cohabitants during their live-in relationship.

CHAPTER II

CONDITIONS AND VALIDITY OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

3. Conditions for valid live-in relationship.- A live-in relationship shall be deemed valid if and only if the following conditions are fulfilled,-

(i) neither party is legally married to each other or to any other person;
(ii) neither party is incapable of giving valid consent in consequence of unsoundness of mind;
(iii) both parties are above the age of twenty-one years; (iv)
(iv) the parties are not within the degrees of prohibited relationship as defined in clause (b) of Section 2; (v)
(v) the relationship is entered into with free consent of both parties without coercion, fraud, or undue influence; (vi)
(vi) the parties have executed a valid Live-in Relationship Agreement in accordance with Section 5 of this Act**.**

Provided that no live-in relationship shall be recognized under this Act without a valid Live-in Relationship Agreement in the form given under the schedule of this Act.

4. Determination of valid live-in relationship.- The court shall determine the existence of a valid live-in relationship primarily by examining,-

(a) validity of a registered Live-in Relationship Agreement**;**
(b) compliance with the conditions specified in Section 3;
(c) the actual implementation of the terms of the Agreement by the parties;
(d) the length of the period during which cohabitants have been living together under the Agreement;
(e) the nature of their relationship defined in the Agreement;

(f) the financial arrangements as specified in the Agreement.

Provided that in the absence of a valid Live-in Relationship Agreement, no relationship shall be recognized as a live-in relationship under this Act, regardless of the period of cohabitation or other circumstances.

CHAPTER III

LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

5. Mandatory Live-in Relationship Agreement.- (1) **Mandatory Requirement**: No live-in relationship shall be valid or recognized under this Act unless the parties have executed a Live-in Relationship Agreement in writing.

(2) **Constitutional Document**.- The Live-in Relationship Agreement shall serve as the constitutional document of the live-in relationship, analogous to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of a company, and shall,-

(a) define the fundamental structure and purpose of the relationship;
(b) govern all rights, duties, and obligations of the parties;
(c) serve as the primary source of law for the relationship;
(d) override any other understanding or arrangement between the parties.

(3) Essential Contents,- Every Live-in Relationship Agreement shall mandatorily contain,-

(a) **Memorandum Clauses:**

(i) names and details of the parties;
(ii) purpose and objectives of the live-in relationship;
(iii) duration of the relationship (if specified);
(iv) place of residence and domicile;
(v) financial contribution and responsibility framework;

(b)**Articles Clauses:**

(i) property rights and ownership structure;
(ii) financial arrangements and management;
(iii) household responsibilities and duties;
(iv) decision-making processes;
(v) provisions regarding children;
(vi) termination procedures and consequences;
(vii) (vii) dispute resolution mechanisms;
(viii) (viii) modification procedures.

(4) The Agreement shall be: (a) in writing; (b) signed by both parties in the presence of at least two witnesses; (c) notarized by a notary public; (d) stamped as per the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

(5)The Agreement may be registered under the Indian Registration Act, 1908, and such registration shall serve as conclusive proof of its execution and contents.

6. Supremacy of the Live-in Relationship Agreement.- (1) The Live-in Relationship Agreement shall be the primary law governing the relationship between the parties.

(2) The Provisions of the Indian Contract Act will be applicable in interpretation of the Agreement.

(3) The Agreement cannot override: (a) fundamental rights under the Constitution of India; (b) rights of children under any law; (c) criminal law provisions; (d) public policy and morality.

7. Amendment and Modification of Agreement.- (1) **Amendment Procedure**: The Live-in Relationship Agreement may be amended only by,-

(a) mutual written consent of both parties;

(b) following the same formalities as required for the original Agreement;

(c) specific amendment procedures laid down in the Agreement itself.

(2) **Effect of Amendment:** Any amendment shall be effective from the date specified in the amendment or from the date of execution, whichever is later.

(3) **Registration of Amendments:** Amendments may be registered separately or as part of a consolidated Agreement.

8. Property rights governed by Agreement.- (1) **Separate Property**,- Each cohabitant shall retain absolute ownership of,-

(a) property owned before entering into the live-in relationship;

(b) property acquired individually during the relationship through inheritance, gift, or personal earnings specifically designated as separate property.

(2) **Joint Property**: Property acquired jointly during the live-in relationship shall be owned in the proportions specified in the live-in relationship agreement.

(3) **Property rights governed by agreement**: The property rights of cohabitants shall be primarily governed by the terms of their live-in relationship agreement.

(4) **Default provision for property division:** In the absence of specific provisions in the agreement regarding any assets,-

(a) rights over such assets shall be determined by evidence of purchase, payment, or contribution;

(b) in the absence of such evidence, all assets acquired during the live-in period shall be divided equally between the cohabitants.

7. Rights in money and property during relationship.- (1) Where any question arises as to the right of a cohabitant to,-

(a) money derived from any allowance made by either cohabitant for their joint household expenses; or

(b) any property acquired out of such money;

(2) Subject to any agreement between the cohabitants to the contrary, such money or property shall be treated as belonging to each cohabitant in equal shares.

8. Financial provision upon termination of relationship.- (1) At the time of termination of a live-in relationship, otherwise than by death, the rights and obligations of cohabitants shall be governed by,-

(a) the terms of their live-in relationship agreement;

(b) the provisions of the Indian Contract Act,

(2) No cohabitant shall be entitled to any maintenance, alimony, or similar periodic payments from the other cohabitant solely by virtue of the live-in relationship if not provided for specifically in the agreement.

(3) The remedies available under the Indian Contract Act, 1872 shall be available to either partner to the extent they relate to assets, property, or contractual rights created by the live-in relationship agreement.

CHAPTER IV

RIGHTS AND STATUS OF CHILDREN

9. Legitimacy and status of children.- (1) Any child born to cohabitants in a live-in relationship shall be deemed legitimate for all purposes under law.

(2) Such legitimacy shall be effective whether the child is born before or after the commencement of this Act, and regardless of whether the live-in relationship continues or terminates.

(3) No child shall suffer any legal disability or discrimination on account of being born in a live-in relationship.

10. Rights of children born in live-in relationships.- (1) A child born in a live-in relationship shall have the same rights as a child born to married parents, including,-

(a) right to maintenance from both parents;

(b) right to inheritance from both parents;

(c) right to education and care;

(d) right to protection from abuse and neglect;

(e) all other rights available to legitimate children under any law for the time being in force.

(2) The rights specified in the live-in relationship agreement regarding children shall not diminish or affect the fundamental rights of the child under any other law.

(3) Both parents shall have equal responsibility for the care, maintenance, and welfare of the child.

11. Inheritance rights of children.- (1) A child born in a live-in relationship shall have the right of inheritance in the property of both parents equal to that of a child born to married parents.

(2) Such inheritance rights shall include,-

(a) rights in self-acquired property of parents;

(b) rights in ancestral property, subject to the personal law governing each parent;

(c) rights under any will or testamentary disposition.

(3) The child's inheritance rights shall not be affected by the termination of the live-in relationship between the parents.

12. Parental obligations under personal law.- (1) The obligations of each parent towards the child under their respective personal law shall remain unaffected by this Act.

(2) Each parent shall be liable for the maintenance, education, and welfare of the child as if the child were born in a valid marriage under their personal law.

(3) In case of conflict between the provisions of this Act and any personal law regarding parental obligations, the provision more favorable to the child shall prevail.

13. Custody and guardianship of children.- (1) In any proceeding relating to custody of children born in a live-in relationship, the court shall be guided by the paramount consideration of the welfare of the child.

(2) Both parents shall have equal rights to seek custody and guardianship of the child.

(3) The court may pass interim orders for custody, maintenance, and education of children as deemed just and proper.
(4) Applications regarding maintenance and education of children shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of service of notice on the respondent.

CHAPTER V

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PROTECTION

14. Protection from domestic violence.- (1) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 shall apply to women in live-in relationships.

(2) A live-in relationship shall be deemed to be a "domestic relationship" within the meaning of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

(3) All remedies available under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 shall be available to women in live-in relationships.

CHAPTER VI

REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION

15. Mandatory registration of Agreement.- (1) Every Live-in Relationship Agreement shall be compulsorily registered with,-
(a) the Registrar appointed under the Indian Registration Act, 1908; and
(b) the District Magistrate of the district where the parties reside.
(2) **Legal Validity**: No live-in relationship shall have legal validity until the Agreement is registered in accordance with sub-section (1).
(3) **Registration Procedure**: (a) The Agreement shall be presented for registration within thirty days of execution;
(b) Both parties must appear personally before the Registrar;
(c) The Registrar shall maintain a separate register for Live-in Relationship Agreements;
(d) A registration certificate shall be issued upon successful registration.
(4) **Public Record**: The registration shall create a public record of the live-in relationship, similar to marriage registration.
(5) **Amendment Registration**: All amendments to the Agreement shall also be registered following the same procedure.

CHAPTER VII

SUCCESSION AND INHERITANCE

16. Succession rights of cohabitants.- (1) Cohabitants shall have no automatic succession rights in each other's property solely by virtue of the live-in relationship.

(2) Succession rights, if any, shall be governed by,-

(a) the terms of the live-in relationship agreement;

(b) any will or testamentary disposition;

(c) the Indian Succession Act, 1925, where applicable.

17. Intestate succession.- In the absence of a will and specific provisions in the live-in relationship agreement, a cohabitant shall not be entitled to any inheritance from the other cohabitant's estate under the laws of intestate succession.

CHAPTER VIII
DISSOLUTION AND TERMINATION

18. Termination of live-in relationship.- (1) A live-in relationship may be terminated by,-

(a) mutual consent of both parties;

(b) unilateral decision of either party;

(c) death of either party;

(d) marriage of either party to a third person.

(2) Upon termination, the rights and obligations shall be settled in accordance with the live-in relationship agreement and the provisions of this Act.

19. Settlement of disputes upon termination.- (1) Disputes arising from termination of live-in relationship shall be resolved through,-

(a) mutual negotiation;

(b) mediation;

(c) arbitration, if provided in the agreement;

(d) court proceedings.

(2) The court shall have jurisdiction to determine disputes relating to property division and child custody.

CHAPTER IX
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20. Non-discrimination.- No person shall discriminate against individuals in live-in relationships in matters of,-

(a) employment;

(b) housing;

(c) education;

(d) healthcare;

(e) social services;

(f) any other public or private service.

21. Savings clause.- Nothing in this Act shall affect,-
(a) the validity of marriages under any law for the time being in force;
(b) the rights of married persons under any law;
(c) the application of personal laws, except as specifically provided in this Act.
22. Overriding effect.- The provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect over any other law to the extent of inconsistency, except where such other law provides greater protection or rights to women, children, or economically weaker parties.
23. Rules and regulations.- (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
(2) State Governments may make rules for matters within their competence under this Act.
24. Amendment of existing laws.- (1) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is hereby amended to include specific reference to live-in relationships as defined in this Act.
(2) Other laws may be amended by the appropriate government to ensure consistency with this Act.
25. Repeal and savings.- (1) Any law, custom, or usage inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.
(2) Nothing in this repeal shall affect any right, privilege, obligation, or liability already accrued under any such law, custom, or usage.

MODEL LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

MEMORANDUM OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN: [Name], [Age], [Occupation], [Address] (hereinafter called "Party A")
AND: [Name], [Age], [Occupation], [Address] (hereinafter called "Party B")
FUNDAMENTAL CLAUSES:

1. **Purpose**: To establish a live-in relationship based on mutual respect, understanding, and shared responsibilities.
2. **Duration**: [Specify if fixed term or indefinite]
3. **Residence**: [Primary residence address and arrangement]
4. **Financial Framework**: [Basic contribution structure]

ARTICLES OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP
ARTICLE I - PROPERTY RIGHTS

(a) Individual property ownership
(b) Joint property acquisition rules
(c) Property management and disposal

ARTICLE II - FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Household expense sharing
(b) Individual financial responsibilities
(c) Joint savings and investments

ARTICLE III - PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Household duties and responsibilities

(b) Personal conduct and behavior

(c) Decision-making processes

ARTICLE IV - CHILDREN PROVISIONS

(a) Care and custody arrangements

(b) Financial responsibility for children

(c) Educational and healthcare decisions

ARTICLE V - TERMINATION

(a) Grounds for termination

(b) Notice requirements

(c) Property settlement upon termination

ARTICLE VI - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

(a) Internal resolution mechanisms

(b) Mediation and arbitration

(c) Court jurisdiction

KARNATAKA MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT INTEGRATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the comprehensive integration of menstrual health and sustainable waste management considerations across government departments and sectors in the State of Karnataka, to ensure equitable access to menstrual health resources, to promote sustainable menstrual waste management practices, to eliminate stigma surrounding menstruation, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas menstrual health is a fundamental aspect of public health and human dignity;

Whereas sustainable management of menstrual waste is essential for environmental protection and public sanitation;

Whereas a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach is necessary to address the multifaceted challenges related to menstruation;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. Objectives of the Act.- The objectives of this Act are,-

(a) To ensure that menstrual health considerations are integrated into all relevant government policies and programmes;

(b) To promote sustainable menstrual waste management practices throughout the State;

(c) To ensure equitable access to menstrual products, facilities, and education for all menstruating individuals;

(d) To eliminate stigma and discrimination related to menstruation;

(e) To foster coordinated action across government departments on menstrual health and waste management;

(f) To promote research and innovation in sustainable menstrual products and waste management technologies.

3. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) "Committee" means the Inter-departmental Coordination Committee on Menstrual Health and Waste Management established under section 12;

(b) "Economic barriers" means financial constraints that limit access to menstrual products, facilities, or services;

(c) "Environmental Impact Assessment" or "EIA" means the process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, considering inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, as required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendments;

(d) "Fund" means the Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Fund established under section 16;

(e) "Health Impact Assessment" or "HIA" means an approach that can help evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is implemented;

(f) "Local authorities" means municipal corporations, municipalities, town panchayats, zilla panchayats, taluk panchayats, and gram panchayats;

(g) "Marginalized communities" includes scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, economically weaker sections, persons with disabilities, and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups;

(h) "Menstrual education" means age-appropriate, scientifically accurate, and culturally sensitive education about menstruation, menstrual hygiene management, and related topics;

(i) "Menstrual health" means a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in relation to the menstrual cycle, and includes:

(a) Access to clean and safe menstrual management materials, infrastructure, and services;

(b) Access to appropriate healthcare for menstruation-related discomfort and disorders;

(c) A positive and respectful environment free from stigma and discrimination;

(d) The freedom to make informed choices about menstrual management;

(j) "Menstrual hygiene management" or "MHM" means the practice of using clean materials to absorb or collect menstrual blood, that can be changed in privacy as often as necessary, using soap and water for washing the body as required, and having access to facilities to dispose of used menstrual management materials;

(k) "Menstrual leave" means leave from work or educational institutions granted specifically during menstruation;

(l) "Menstrual products" means products used to absorb or collect menstrual blood, including but not limited to disposable sanitary napkins, reusable cloth pads, tampons, menstrual cups, period underwear, and biodegradable sanitary products;

(m) "Menstrual waste" means used menstrual products including but not limited to disposable sanitary napkins, tampons, and other related waste generated during menstruation;

(n) "Smart City initiative" refers to urban development projects under the Smart Cities Mission launched by the Government of India;

(o) "State" means the State of Karnataka;

(p) "Sustainable menstrual products" means menstrual products that are designed to minimize environmental impact through biodegradability, reusability, reduced resource consumption, or other environmentally beneficial characteristics;
(q) "Sustainable menstrual waste management" means the collection, segregation, transportation, processing, treatment, and disposal of menstrual waste in a manner that is environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and economically viable, with preference given to reduction, reuse, and recycling over disposal;
(r) "WASH" means Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene infrastructure and services.

CHAPTER II
INTEGRATION IN URBAN AND RURAL PLANNING

4. Integration of menstrual waste management in planning. - (1) All urban and rural development plans, sanitation planning, waste management development programs, and Smart City initiatives within the State shall integrate comprehensive menstrual waste management infrastructure.
(2) The Urban Development Department shall ensure that,-
(a) All municipal corporations and municipalities incorporate specific provisions for menstrual waste management in their solid waste management plans, including but not limited to,-
(i) Installation of specialized collection bins for menstrual waste in public toilets, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, workplaces, and other public places;
(ii) Establishment of a separate collection system for menstrual waste;
(iii) Identification and implementation of environmentally sound treatment and disposal methods for menstrual waste;
(iv) Promotion of sustainable menstrual products through awareness and incentive mechanisms.
(b) Building codes and bylaws include provisions for,-
(i) Adequate toilet facilities with menstrual hygiene management infrastructure in public buildings, commercial establishments, and residential complexes;
(ii) Specifications for menstrual waste disposal facilities in public and private buildings.
(c) Smart City proposals and implementation plans explicitly address menstrual waste management through,-
(i) Integration of smart technologies for menstrual waste collection and processing;
(ii) Data-driven approaches to optimize menstrual waste management services;
(iii) Innovative, sustainable, and culturally appropriate solutions for menstrual waste disposal.
(3) The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department shall ensure that,-
(a) All zilla panchayats, taluk panchayats, and gram panchayats incorporate provisions for menstrual waste management in their development plans, including,-

(i) Installation of incinerators or other appropriate disposal facilities at the panchayat level;

(ii) Integration of menstrual waste management in rural sanitation programmes;

(iii) Training of sanitation workers on safe handling and disposal of menstrual waste;

(iv) Promotion of sustainable menstrual products in rural areas through awareness campaigns and accessibility initiatives.

(b) Village sanitation plans include specific components addressing menstrual hygiene management.

(4) The State Pollution Control Board shall,-

(a) Develop specific guidelines for the management and disposal of menstrual waste within six months of the commencement of this Act;

(b) Establish standards for menstrual waste incinerators and other processing technologies to ensure minimal environmental impact;

(c) Monitor compliance with these guidelines and standards;

(d) Conduct periodic environmental audits of menstrual waste management facilities;

(e) Support research on environmentally sustainable menstrual waste management technologies.

(5) The Housing and Urban Development Department shall,-

(a) Integrate menstrual waste management considerations in housing schemes and slum development projects;

(b) Ensure adequate provision of menstrual hygiene facilities in urban housing projects;

(c) Promote community-level solutions for menstrual waste management in informal settlements and slum areas.

CHAPTER III
IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

5. Inclusion of menstrual health and waste in impact assessments.- (1) All Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted for projects within the State shall explicitly consider potential impacts on,-

(a) Generation, management, and disposal of menstrual waste;

(b) Water resources required for menstrual hygiene management;

(c) Environmental implications of proposed menstrual waste disposal methods;

(d) Access to menstrual hygiene management facilities for project-affected populations;

(e) Potential environment-related barriers to menstrual hygiene management.

(2) All Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) conducted for projects within the State shall explicitly consider potential impacts on:

(a) Menstrual health of affected populations, particularly for vulnerable groups;

(b) Access to menstrual hygiene products, facilities, and services;

(c) Prevalence and management of menstruation-related health conditions;

(d) Psychological and social impacts related to menstruation;

(e) Economic impacts related to menstrual health management.

(3) The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority shall, within six months of the commencement of this Act,-

(a) Revise the EIA guidelines to include specific parameters related to menstrual health and waste management;

(b) Develop a checklist for evaluating menstrual health and waste management considerations in project proposals;

(c) Require project proponents to specifically address menstrual waste generation and management in their Environmental Management Plans.

(4) The Health and Family Welfare Department shall,-

(a) Develop comprehensive guidelines for conducting HIAs that incorporate menstrual health considerations within six months of the commencement of this Act;

(b) Provide training to HIA practitioners on assessing menstrual health impacts;

(c) Establish methodologies for quantitative and qualitative assessment of menstrual health impacts.

(5) The Department of Ecology and Environment shall,-

(a) Conduct a baseline study on the environmental impact of current menstrual waste disposal practices in the State within one year of the commencement of this Act;

(b) Develop environmental standards for menstrual waste management facilities;

(c) Promote research on the environmental impacts of different types of menstrual products.

6. Gender impact assessment.-

(1) All major development projects, policies, and programmes in the State shall include a Gender Impact Assessment that specifically considers,-

(a) Effects of the initiative on menstrual health and hygiene management for women and girls;

(b) Differential impacts on menstruating individuals from various socio-economic backgrounds;

(c) Measures to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive outcomes.

(2) The Karnataka State Commission for Women shall, within six months of the commencement of this Act, develop guidelines for conducting Gender Impact Assessments that include menstrual health considerations.

CHAPTER IV
MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

7. Establishment of monitoring and evaluation framework.-

(1) The State Government shall establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress on,-

(a) Menstrual health indicators including but not limited to,-

(i) Access to menstrual products, disaggregated by region, socio-economic status, and age;

(ii) Availability and adequacy of menstrual health education in educational institutions;

(iii) Provision of adequate WASH facilities for menstrual hygiene management in schools, workplaces, and public spaces;

(iv) Diagnosis and treatment rates for menstrual disorders;

(v) Implementation of menstrual leave policies in workplaces and educational institutions;

(vi) Levels of menstruation-related stigma and discrimination.

(b) Sustainable menstrual waste management indicators including,-

(i) Quantity of menstrual waste generated, collected, processed, and disposed;

(ii) Coverage of specialized menstrual waste collection systems;

(iii) Number and distribution of menstrual waste processing facilities;

(iv) Environmental compliance of menstrual waste disposal methods;

(v) Adoption rates of sustainable menstrual products.

(c) Cross-sectoral integration efforts and their effectiveness,-

(i) Degree of integration of menstrual health considerations in departmental policies;

(ii) Number and impact of collaborative programmes;

(iii) Resource allocation for integrated menstrual health initiatives;

(iv) Stakeholder satisfaction with integration efforts.

(2) The Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics shall be responsible for developing and implementing this framework within one year of the commencement of this Act, in consultation with the Committee.

(3) The framework shall include,-

(a) Key performance indicators with specific targets and timelines;

(b) Data collection methodologies and responsibilities, with preference given to sex-disaggregated data;

(c) Reporting and review mechanisms at state, district, and local levels;

(d) Provisions for public disclosure of findings through easily accessible formats;

(e) Mechanisms for incorporating feedback into policy revisions;

(f) Participatory monitoring approaches involving communities, particularly menstruating individuals.

(4) An annual report on the state of menstrual health and waste management in Karnataka shall be:

(a) Prepared based on this framework by the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics;

(b) Reviewed and approved by the Committee;

(c) Presented to the State Legislature within three months of the end of each financial year;

(d) Made publicly available through the official website of the State Government and other appropriate means.

8. Baseline surveys and periodic assessments.- (1) The State Government shall conduct a comprehensive baseline survey on menstrual health and waste management practices across the State within one year of the commencement of this Act.

(2) The survey shall cover,-

(a) Current menstrual products used and disposal practices;

(b) Access to menstrual hygiene facilities in different settings;

(c) Prevalence of menstrual health issues;

(d) Knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to menstruation;

(e) Environmental impact of current menstrual waste disposal methods.

(3) Follow-up assessments shall be conducted every three years to track progress and identify emerging issues.

9. Research and innovation.- (1) The State Government shall promote research and innovation in,-

(a) Sustainable menstrual products suitable for different user groups;

(b) Environmentally sound menstrual waste management technologies;

(c) Effective menstrual health education methodologies;

(d) Approaches to reduce menstruation-related stigma.

(2) The Department of Science and Technology shall establish a dedicated research fund for menstrual health and waste management innovation within six months of the commencement of this Act.

(3) The Committee shall identify research priorities annually and facilitate collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and government departments.

CHAPTER V
DEPARTMENTAL INTEGRATION OF MENSTRUAL HEALTH POLICIES

10. Integration of menstrual health policies across departments.- (1) All relevant government departments shall integrate menstrual health and sustainable waste management considerations into their policies, programmes, and operations.

(2) The Health and Family Welfare Department shall,-

(a) Integrate menstrual health services into primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare systems;

(b) Develop clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of menstrual disorders;

(c) Include menstrual health indicators in health management information systems;

(d) Train healthcare workers on menstrual health assessment and counselling;

(e) Ensure availability of menstrual products in healthcare facilities;

(f) Conduct awareness programmes on menstrual health and hygiene;

(g) Establish specialized menstrual health clinics at district hospitals.

(3) The Education Department shall,-

(a) Implement comprehensive, age-appropriate menstrual health education in all educational institutions from upper primary level onwards;

(b) Ensure adequate WASH facilities for menstrual hygiene management in all educational institutions;

(c) Train teachers and school staff on supporting students during menstruation and addressing menstrual health needs;

(d) Develop and distribute educational materials on menstruation that are scientifically accurate, culturally sensitive, and age-appropriate;

(e) Establish mechanisms to prevent menstruation-related school absenteeism, including flexible attendance policies during menstruation when necessary;

(f) Ensure availability of emergency menstrual products in all educational institutions;

(g) Implement menstrual waste management systems in educational institutions, including proper disposal facilities;

(h) Conduct regular awareness programmes for students, parents, and community members to address menstruation-related stigma and misconceptions.

(4) The Women and Child Development Department shall,-

(a) Incorporate menstrual health components in all women's empowerment and adolescent development programmes;

(b) Train anganwadi workers and other field staff on menstrual health education and support;

(c) Establish menstrual health support groups at community levels;

(d) Ensure availability of menstrual products in childcare institutions and women's hostels;

(e) Develop programmes specifically targeting vulnerable groups including adolescents, persons with disabilities, and those from marginalized communities;

(f) Conduct community-level awareness campaigns to address menstruation-related taboos and misconceptions;

(g) Establish mechanisms for regular consultation with women and girls regarding menstrual health needs and challenges.

(5) The Labour Department shall,-

(a) Develop and implement menstrual leave policies for public and private sector workplaces;

(b) Establish minimum standards for menstrual hygiene facilities in workplaces, including adequate toilets, running water, soap, private changing spaces, and disposal facilities;

(c) Develop guidelines to prevent discrimination based on menstruation in recruitment, promotion, and other employment practices;

(d) Include menstrual health considerations in occupational health and safety frameworks;

(e) Conduct workplace awareness programmes on menstrual health;

(f) Establish grievance redressal mechanisms for addressing menstruation-related workplace issues;

(g) Ensure labour inspectors are trained to monitor compliance with menstrual health and hygiene requirements.

(6) The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department shall,-

(a) Integrate menstrual hygiene management into rural sanitation programmes;

(b) Develop and implement village-level menstrual waste management systems;

(c) Train rural sanitation workers on safe handling and disposal of menstrual waste;

(d) Conduct awareness programmes in rural communities on menstrual health and sustainable practices;

(e) Establish community-based distribution systems for menstrual products in rural areas;

(f) Incorporate menstrual health considerations in gram panchayat development plans;

(g) Train elected women representatives on advocating for menstrual health needs in local governance.

(7) The Urban Development Department shall,-

(a) Develop and implement city-level menstrual waste management plans;

(b) Establish adequate public toilet facilities with menstrual hygiene management infrastructure;

(c) Integrate menstrual health and hygiene considerations in slum development and urban housing projects;

(d) Ensure proper collection, transportation, and disposal systems for menstrual waste;

(e) Develop innovative approaches for menstrual waste management in Smart City initiatives;

(f) Train urban local body officials on integrating menstrual health considerations in urban planning and development.

(8) The Environment, Forest and Ecology Department shall,-

(a) Develop environmental standards and guidelines for menstrual waste processing and disposal;

(b) Conduct environmental impact assessments of current menstrual waste disposal practices;

(c) Promote research and innovation in environmentally sustainable menstrual products and disposal technologies;

(d) Monitor environmental compliance of menstrual waste management facilities;

(e) Develop and implement extended producer responsibility frameworks for menstrual product manufacturers;

(f) Conduct awareness programmes on the environmental impact of menstrual products and sustainable alternatives.

(9) The Water Resources Department shall,-

(a) Ensure adequate water supply for menstrual hygiene management in public facilities, educational institutions, and healthcare settings;

(b) Develop guidelines for water requirements for menstrual hygiene management in different settings;

(c) Integrate menstrual hygiene water needs in water resource planning and allocation;

(d) Ensure water quality monitoring to prevent health risks during menstrual hygiene management;

(e) Develop strategies for ensuring water security for menstrual hygiene management during water scarcity periods.

(10) The Social Welfare Department shall,-

(a) Develop targeted interventions for addressing menstrual health needs of marginalized communities;

(b) Ensure availability of menstrual products and facilities in social welfare institutions;

(c) Address economic barriers to menstrual health through subsidy schemes and other support mechanisms;

(d) Train social welfare officers on addressing menstrual health needs of beneficiary groups;

(e) Integrate menstrual health considerations in disability support services.

(11) All departments shall, within one year of the commencement of this Act,-

(a) Conduct an assessment of their policies, programmes, and operations to identify opportunities for integrating menstrual health considerations;

(b) Develop department-specific menstrual health integration policies and implementation plans;

(c) Allocate specific budget for menstrual health integration activities;

(d) Designate nodal officers responsible for menstrual health integration;

(e) Develop capacity building plans for staff on menstrual health issues relevant to their work;

(f) Establish monitoring mechanisms to track implementation of menstrual health integration policies.

11. Menstrual leave and workplace facilities.- (1) The Labour Department shall, within six months of the commencement of this Act, issue comprehensive guidelines for,-

(a) Implementation of menstrual leave policies in public and private sector workplaces, including,-

(i) Eligibility criteria and application procedures;

(ii) Number of menstrual leave days permitted;

(iii) Measures to prevent discrimination against employees availing menstrual leave;

(iv) Documentation requirements, if any, with emphasis on maintaining dignity and privacy;

(v) Grievance redressal mechanisms for issues related to menstrual leave.

(b) Minimum standards for menstrual hygiene facilities in workplaces, including,-

(i) Adequate number of clean and functional toilets with running water, soap, and hand-washing facilities;

(ii) Private changing and washing spaces;

(iii) Proper disposal facilities for menstrual waste;

(iv) Emergency supply of menstrual products;

(v) Rest spaces for managing menstrual discomfort.

(c) Prevention of discrimination based on menstruation, addressing,-

(i) Protection against dismissal, demotion, or unfavourable treatment due to menstruation or menstrual leave usage;

(ii) Prevention of harassment or stigmatization related to menstruation;

(iii) Accommodations for menstruation-related health conditions;

(iv) Equal opportunities for training, promotion, and career advancement regardless of menstrual status.

(2) All government departments, public sector undertakings, and local authorities shall,-

(a) Implement these guidelines within one year of their issuance;

(b) Conduct training and sensitization programmes for all employees on menstrual health and the workplace policies;
(c) Establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance;
(d) Submit annual reports to the Labour Department on implementation status.
(3) The Labour Department shall,-
(a) Monitor compliance with these guidelines in private sector workplaces through regular inspections;
(b) Provide technical support to employers for implementation;
(c) Recognize and incentivize organizations with exemplary menstrual health supportive practices;
(d) Take appropriate action against non-compliant organizations.

CHAPTER VI
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

12. Establishment of Inter-departmental Coordination Committee.- (1) The State Government shall establish an Inter-departmental Coordination Committee on Menstrual Health and Waste Management within three months of the commencement of this Act.
(2) The Committee shall consist of,-
(a) The Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department – Chairperson;
(b) Representatives not below the rank of Joint Secretary from the following departments,-
(i) Education
(ii) Women and Child Development
(iii) Urban Development
(iv) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
(v) Environment, Forest and Ecology
(vi) Labour
(vii) Water Resources
(viii) Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics
(ix) Social Welfare (x) Science and Technology
(xi) Finance
(xii) Information and Public Relations
(c) The Chairperson, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board;
(d) The Chairperson, Karnataka State Commission for Women;
(e) The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Karnataka;
(f) Three representatives from civil society organizations working on menstrual health and hygiene, with at least one representing a marginalized community;
(g) Two representatives from academic or research institutions with expertise in public health, environmental management, or gender studies;
(h) Two representatives from menstrual product manufacturers, including at least one sustainable product manufacturer;

(i) Two representatives from waste management organizations with experience in menstrual waste management;
(j) One representative from a healthcare providers' association;
(k) One representative from schoolteachers' association;
(l) Joint Director, Health and Family Welfare Department – Member Secretary.
(3) The Committee shall meet at least once every quarter, and more frequently if required.
(4) The tenure of non-governmental members shall be three years, with provision for reappointment for one additional term.
(5) One-third of the non-governmental members shall be women or other menstruating individuals.
(6) The Committee may establish sub-committees or working groups for specific tasks or issues.
(7) The Committee shall be provided with adequate staff and resources to fulfill its functions effectively.
13. Functions of the Committee.- The Committee shall,-
(1) Ensure holistic and coordinated action on menstrual health and waste management across different government sectors;
(2) Review departmental plans and policies to ensure adequate integration of menstrual health and waste management considerations;
(3) Identify gaps in implementation and recommend corrective measures;
(4) Facilitate information sharing and best practices across departments;
(5) Advise on allocation of resources for cross-sectoral initiatives;
(6) Develop state-level strategies and action plans for addressing menstrual health and waste management challenges;
(7) Monitor the implementation of this Act and rules made thereunder;
(8) Coordinate capacity building and training initiatives across departments;
(9) Facilitate partnerships between government departments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector;
(10) Commission research studies on menstrual health and waste management issues;
(11) Develop guidelines and standards for menstrual health integration in different sectors;
(12) Review and approve proposals for funding under the Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Fund;
(13) Organize state-level conferences, workshops, and awareness campaigns on menstrual health and sustainability;
(14) Advise the State Government on emerging issues and policy matters related to menstrual health;
(15) Submit annual reports to the State Government on the status of integration efforts and implementation of this Act.
14. District-level coordination committees.- (1) The State Government shall establish District-level Coordination Committees on Menstrual Health and Waste Management in each district within six months of the commencement of this Act.

(2) The District-level Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and include representatives from relevant district-level departments, local authorities, civil society organizations, and community representatives.
(3) The District-level Committee shall,-
(a) Coordinate implementation of menstrual health integration activities at the district level;
(b) Develop district-specific action plans based on local needs and challenges;
(c) Monitor progress on menstrual health and waste management indicators within the district;
(d) Facilitate coordination between different stakeholders at the district level;
(e) Address implementation challenges and barriers at the district level;
(f) Submit quarterly reports to the Committee on progress and challenges.

15. Coordination mechanisms.- (1) The Committee shall establish formal coordination mechanisms including,-
(a) Joint planning processes for cross-sectoral initiatives;
(b) Integrated budgeting frameworks for menstrual health and waste management activities;
(c) Shared information systems for tracking progress and outcomes;
(d) Joint monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
(e) Regular coordination meetings at different administrative levels;
(f) Digital platforms for information sharing and coordination;
(g) Joint capacity building and training initiatives.
(2) All government departments shall designate nodal officers for menstrual health coordination who shall,-
(a) Represent the department in coordination meetings;
(b) Facilitate information sharing between their department and the Committee;
(c) Coordinate implementation of menstrual health integration activities within their department;
(d) Submit regular progress reports to the Committee.

CHAPTER VII
JOINT FUNDING AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

16. Establishment of Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Fund.- (1) The State Government shall establish a Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Fund to support cross-sectoral programs and initiatives.
(2) The Fund shall be administered by the Committee established under section 12.
(3) The Fund shall receive financial allocations from,-
(a) Budgetary allocations by the State Government;
(b) Contributions from relevant departments as determined by the State Government;
(c) Corporate Social Responsibility contributions;
(d) Grants from national and international organizations;
(e) Any other sources as approved by the State Government.
(4) The Fund shall maintain separate accounts for different types of initiatives and shall be audited annually as per the established government procedures.

17. Utilization of the Fund.- (1) The Fund shall be utilized for programs that combine efforts from multiple departments to address menstrual health and waste challenges in an integrated manner, including but not limited to,-

(a) School sanitation and menstrual education programs, involving Education, Health, and Rural/Urban Development Departments;

(b) Community-based menstrual waste management initiatives, involving Environment, Rural/Urban Development, and Women and Child Development Departments;

(c) Research and development of sustainable menstrual products and disposal technologies, involving Environment, Science and Technology, and Health Departments;

(d) Awareness campaigns addressing social taboos and promoting sustainable practices, involving Information and Public Relations, Women and Child Development, and Health Departments;

(e) Training and capacity building of frontline workers across departments on menstrual health and hygiene;

(f) Pilots of innovative approaches to menstrual health and waste management challenges;

(g) Subsidy programs for sustainable menstrual products, particularly for economically disadvantaged groups;

(h) Impact assessment studies and evaluations;

(i) Development of information, education, and communication materials;

(j) Technology solutions for improved menstrual waste management.

(2) At least 25% of the Fund shall be allocated to initiatives specifically targeting marginalized communities.

(3) The Committee shall develop guidelines for the submission, evaluation, and approval of proposals for funding under this section within six months of the commencement of this Act.

(4) The guidelines shall include,-

(a) Eligibility criteria for funding;

(b) Application procedures and formats;

(c) Evaluation parameters and methodology;

(d) Monitoring and reporting requirements;

(e) Financial management guidelines;

(f) Impact assessment frameworks.

18. Collaborative programs.- (1) The State Government shall promote and implement collaborative programs that address menstrual health and waste management challenges through coordinated efforts of multiple departments.

(2) Priority areas for collaborative programs shall include,-

(a) Integrating menstrual education and infrastructure in educational institutions;

(b) Community-based menstrual waste management systems;

(b) Community-based menstrual waste management systems;

(c) Comprehensive menstrual health services in healthcare facilities;

(d) Workplace menstrual health initiatives;

(e) Sustainable menstrual product innovation and accessibility;
(f) Addressing economic barriers to menstrual health management;
(g) Eliminating stigma and taboos related to menstruation;
(h) Research on menstrual health needs and challenges of specific populations.
(3) Each collaborative program shall,-
(a) Have clearly defined objectives, outcomes, and indicators;
(b) Identify specific roles and responsibilities for participating departments and stakeholders;
(c) Include adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
(d) Ensure participation of community members, particularly menstruating individuals, in planning and implementation;
(e) Incorporate sustainability considerations in design and implementation;
(f) Include knowledge management and documentation components for wider learning and replication.
(4) The Committee shall develop a state-level strategic plan for collaborative programs on menstrual health and waste management within one year of the commencement of this Act.

19. Public-private partnerships.-
(1) The State Government shall encourage public-private partnerships for addressing menstrual health and waste management challenges, focusing on,-
(a) Development and distribution of affordable and sustainable menstrual products, with specific emphasis on,-
(i) Innovation in biodegradable and eco-friendly materials;
(ii) Production technologies that reduce environmental impact;
(iii) Distribution systems that reach marginalized and remote communities;
(iv) Affordability mechanisms including cross-subsidization and tiered pricing;
(v) Product designs that address diverse user needs.
(b) Establishment of menstrual waste processing facilities, including,-
(i) Collection and transportation systems;
(ii) Processing technologies that minimize environmental impact;
(iii) Recovery of resources from menstrual waste where feasible;
(iv) Integration with broader waste management systems;
(v) Employment generation through waste management activities.
(c) Implementation of innovative solutions for menstrual health and waste management, including,-
(i) Digital platforms for menstrual health education and support;
(ii) Technology-enabled monitoring of menstrual waste management systems;
(iii) Social marketing approaches for sustainable menstrual practices;
(iv) Community-based distribution systems;
(v) Menstrual health social enterprises and micro-entrepreneurship models.
(2) The Committee shall develop a framework for such partnerships within one year of the commencement of this Act, which shall include,-

(a) Eligibility criteria for private sector partners;
(b) Types of partnership models to be promoted;
(c) Risk-sharing mechanisms;
(d) Performance monitoring systems;
(e) Social and environmental safeguards;
(f) Transparency and accountability measures;
(g) Benefits and incentives for private sector partners;
(h) Dispute resolution mechanisms;
(i) Knowledge sharing requirements.
(3) The framework shall ensure that all partnerships,-
(a) Prioritize public health and environmental sustainability over commercial interests;
(b) Ensure affordability and accessibility of menstrual products and services, particularly for marginalized communities;
(c) Respect user dignity, privacy, and choice;
(d) Adhere to the highest quality and safety standards;
(e) Promote sustainable practices throughout the value chain;
(f) Contribute to local economic development and employment generation;
(g) Include adequate monitoring, evaluation, and public reporting mechanisms.

20. Extended producer responsibility.-

(1) The State Government shall, within one year of the commencement of this Act, develop and implement an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for menstrual product manufacturers and importers.
(2) The EPR framework shall require manufacturers and importers to,-
(a) Establish collection and take-back systems for used menstrual products;
(b) Invest in environmentally sustainable processing and disposal technologies;
(c) Reduce environmental impact through product redesign and material innovation;
(d) Provide clear information to consumers on proper disposal;
(e) Contribute financially to menstrual waste management systems;
(f) Submit annual reports on their EPR activities;
(g) Invest in research and development of more sustainable product alternatives.
(3) The Environment, Forest and Ecology Department shall be responsible for developing detailed guidelines and monitoring implementation of the EPR framework.

CHAPTER VIII
EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY

21. Addressing needs of marginalized communities.- (1) All policies, programmes, and initiatives related to menstrual health and waste management shall give special attention to the needs of marginalized communities, including but not limited to,-
(a) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
(b) Economically weaker sections;
(c) Persons with disabilities;

(d) Minorities;
(e) Migrants and displaced persons;
(f) Urban slum dwellers;
(g) Remote rural communities;
(h) Transgender persons and non-binary individuals who menstruate.
(2) The State Government shall:
(a) Conduct specific needs assessments for these groups within one year of the commencement of this Act;
(b) Develop targeted interventions based on identified needs;
(c) Allocate adequate resources for such interventions;
(d) Ensure representation of these groups in planning and decision-making processes;
(e) Develop culturally appropriate communication and education materials;
(f) Monitor impact of interventions on these groups through disaggregated data collection and analysis.
(3) The Social Welfare Department shall establish a special cell for coordinating interventions for marginalized communities and monitoring their effectiveness.
22. Subsidization and affordability measures.- (1) The State Government shall implement measures to ensure affordability of menstrual products, particularly for economically disadvantaged groups, including,-
(a) Direct subsidies for menstrual products;
(b) Inclusion of menstrual products in public distribution systems;
(c) Tax exemptions or reductions on menstrual products;
(d) Bulk procurement mechanisms for public institutions;
(e) Support for local production of low-cost menstrual products;
(f) Innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable menstrual products with higher upfront costs.
(2) The Finance Department shall, in consultation with the Committee, develop a comprehensive strategy for menstrual product subsidization within six months of the commencement of this Act.
(3) The strategy shall identify,-
(a) Target beneficiary groups;
(b) Types of products to be subsidized, with preference for sustainable options;
(c) Subsidy mechanisms and delivery systems;
(d) Funding sources and allocation mechanisms;
(e) Monitoring and verification systems;
(f) Measures to prevent leakage and misuse;
(g) Exit strategies and sustainability measures.
23. Accessibility for persons with disabilities.- (1) All menstrual health facilities, services, and information shall be accessible to persons with different types of disabilities.
(2) The Department of Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens shall develop specific guidelines for,-

(a) Physical accessibility of menstrual hygiene facilities;
(b) Accessible information and education materials on menstrual health;
(c) Specialized training for caregivers on supporting menstrual health needs;
(d) Adapted menstrual products for different disability needs;
(e) Inclusive menstruation-related policies and programmes.
(3) All government departments shall ensure compliance with these guidelines in their menstrual health integration activities.

24. Special provisions for educational institutions.-
(1) All educational institutions in the State shall,-
(a) Provide adequate menstrual hygiene facilities for students, faculty, and staff;
(b) Implement comprehensive menstrual health education;
(c) Ensure availability of emergency menstrual products;
(d) Establish proper menstrual waste disposal systems;
(e) Train teaching and non-teaching staff on supporting students during menstruation;
(f) Implement flexible attendance policies for menstruation-related absences;
(g) Provide private rest spaces for managing menstrual discomfort;
(h) Address stigma and discrimination related to menstruation.
(2) The Education Department shall,-
(a) Develop detailed guidelines for implementation of these provisions within six months of the commencement of this Act;
(b) Allocate specific funding for menstrual hygiene infrastructure in educational institutions;
(c) Include compliance with these provisions in school inspection and accreditation processes;
(d) Provide technical support to educational institutions for implementation;
(e) Monitor implementation through regular reporting and spot checks.
(3) Special provisions shall be made for residential educational institutions, including,-
(a) 24-hour access to menstrual hygiene facilities;
(b) Regular supply of menstrual products;
(c) Proper storage facilities for personal menstrual products;
(d) Trained healthcare staff to address menstrual health issues;
(e) Adequate water supply for menstrual hygiene management.

CHAPTER IX
AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

25. Awareness campaigns.- (1) The State Government shall conduct comprehensive awareness campaigns on menstrual health and sustainable waste management practices.
(2) The campaigns shall address,-
(a) Scientific aspects of menstruation;
(b) Menstrual hygiene management practices;
(c) Available menstrual products and their proper use;
(d) Proper disposal of menstrual waste;
(e) Environmental impact of different menstrual products;

(f) Available menstrual health services;
(g) Rights and entitlements related to menstrual health;
(h) Addressing stigma, taboos, and misconceptions.
(3) The campaigns shall utilize multiple communication channels including,-
(a) Mass media including television, radio, and newspapers;
(b) Social media and digital platforms;
(c) Outdoor advertising;
(d) Community-level communication through frontline workers;
(e) Interpersonal communication through peer educators;
(f) Cultural and artistic expressions including theatre, music, and visual arts;
(g) Special events and observances.
(4) The Information and Public Relations Department shall coordinate the campaigns with technical inputs from the Health and Family Welfare Department and the Committee.
(5) The campaigns shall be designed to reach different audience segments, including,-
(a) Adolescent girls and women;
(b) Boys and men;
(c) Parents and caregivers;
(d) Teachers and educators;
(e) Healthcare providers;
(f) Community leaders and religious authorities;
(g) Policymakers and administrators.
(6) The effectiveness of awareness campaigns shall be evaluated regularly through knowledge, attitude, and practice surveys.

26. Capacity building.- (1) The State Government shall implement comprehensive capacity building programmes for,-
(a) Government officials across departments on integrating menstrual health considerations in their work;
(b) Healthcare providers on addressing menstrual health issues and counselling;
(c) Teachers and school staff on menstrual health education and support;
(d) Frontline workers including ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, and auxiliary nurse midwives on community-level menstrual health support;
(e) Sanitation workers on safe handling of menstrual waste;
(f) Urban and rural planners on integrating menstrual hygiene infrastructure;
(g) Elected representatives at state, district, and local levels on advocating for menstrual health needs;
(h) Civil society organizations on implementing menstrual health programmes.
(2) The Administrative Training Institute in collaboration with relevant departments shall develop standardized training modules on menstrual health for different target groups.
(3) The Committee shall oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive capacity building plan within one year of the commencement of this Act.

(4) The plan shall include,-
(a) Training needs assessment for different stakeholder groups;
(b) Development of training curricula and materials;
(c) Identification of training methodologies and approaches;
(d) Training of trainers programmes;
(e) Integration of menstrual health in existing training programmes;
(f) Refresher training mechanisms;
(g) Evaluation and certification systems.
(5) Adequate financial and human resources shall be allocated for capacity building activities.

CHAPTER X
MISCELLANEOUS

27. Grievance redressal mechanism.-
(1) The State Government shall establish a multi-tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing complaints related to,-
(a) Lack of access to menstrual hygiene facilities;
(b) Inadequate menstrual waste management services;
(c) Discrimination or stigmatization related to menstruation;
(d) Non-implementation of provisions of this Act;
(e) Any other matters related to menstrual health and waste management.
(2) The mechanism shall include,-
(a) Local-level grievance cells at educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and workplaces;
(b) Block and district-level grievance redressal committees;
(c) A state-level appellate authority.
(3) The Women and Child Development Department shall develop detailed guidelines for the grievance redressal mechanism within six months of the commencement of this Act.
(4) The mechanism shall ensure:
(a) Accessibility for all individuals, including those from marginalized communities;
(b) Confidentiality and privacy of complainants;
(c) Timely resolution of complaints;
(d) Protection against victimization for filing complaints;
(e) Regular monitoring and reporting of complaints and their resolution.
28. Annual reporting.- (1) Each government department specified in section 10 shall prepare and submit an annual report on implementation of menstrual health integration activities to the Committee.
(2) The Committee shall compile these reports along with its own activities into a comprehensive State Annual Report on Menstrual Health and Environment Integration.
(3) The State Annual Report shall,-
(a) Document progress on key indicators;
(b) Highlight achievements and best practices;

(c) Identify challenges and barriers;
(d) Propose strategies and recommendations for addressing challenges;
(e) Include financial information on allocations and expenditures;
(f) Present case studies and success stories;
(g) Outline plans for the coming year.
(4) The State Annual Report shall be,-
(a) Submitted to the State Legislature within three months of the end of each financial year;
(b) Made publicly available through the official website of the State Government and other appropriate means;
(c) Disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.

29. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters,-
(a) The composition, qualifications, appointment, term of office, salaries and allowances, and conditions of service of members of any authority or committee established under this Act;
(b) The procedure to be followed by the Committee and other bodies established under this Act;
(c) The form and manner in which plans, reports, and other documents shall be prepared and submitted;
(d) Standards and guidelines for menstrual hygiene facilities and waste management infrastructure;
(e) Procedures for monitoring and evaluation of activities under this Act;
(f) The manner of implementation of various provisions of this Act;
(g) Any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.
(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

30. Power to remove difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.
(2) No such order shall be made after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.
(3) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature.

31. Protection of action taken in good faith.- (1) No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government or any officer of the State Government or any member of the Committee or any person acting under the direction of the State Government or the Committee in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

(2) No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding against any decision made or order passed by any officer or authority under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

32. Act to have overriding effect.- (1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent the State Government from establishing higher standards for menstrual health and waste management than those specified under this Act.

33. Amendment of certain enactments.- The enactments specified in the Schedule shall be amended in the manner specified therein.

34. Power to amend Schedule.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Schedule by adding, omitting, or altering any entry therein.

(2) Every notification under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is issued, before each House of the State Legislature.

35. Repeal and savings.-

(1) The Karnataka Menstrual Health and Environment Integration Ordinance, 2025 (Karnataka Ordinance No. XX of 2025) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

THE KARNATAKA SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIALS ACT, 2025

A Bill to provide for the regulation and mandatory use of sustainable building materials in building constructions within the State of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas the State of Karnataka recognizes the urgent need to address environmental degradation caused by unsustainable construction practices;

And Whereas the construction sector contributes significantly to carbon emissions and resource depletion, necessitating regulatory intervention;

And Whereas the National Green Tribunal has directed the development of enforceable guidelines for sustainable construction practices;

And Whereas it is expedient to establish a comprehensive framework for sustainable building materials to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and promote public health;

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Sustainable Building Materials Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and for different areas.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "accredited testing laboratory" means a laboratory accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) or any other agency notified by the State Government for the purpose of testing sustainable building materials;

(b) "biosourced material" means material partially or wholly derived from plant or animal biomass, processed for use in construction, with minimum biosourced content as specified in Schedule I;

(c) "building" means any structure or erection or part of a structure or erection which is intended to be used for residential, commercial, industrial, public, or any other purpose and includes foundations, plinth, walls, floors, roofs, chimneys, plumbing and building services, fixed platforms, verandah, balcony, cornice or projection, part of a building or any wall enclosing or intended to enclose any land or space and signs and outdoor display structures but does not include any boundary wall not exceeding 2.4 meters in height;

(d) "carbon footprint" means the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a building material throughout its lifecycle, measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO2e) per unit as specified in Schedule II;

(e) "certifying authority" means the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) or any other agency designated by the State Government under section 4;

(f) "competent authority" means the authority appointed under section 3 for implementation of the provisions of this Act;

(g) "construction activity" means the erection of a building, including site preparation, excavation, fabrication, and installation of building components;

(h) "designated consumer" means any building owner or developer undertaking construction activity exceeding the thresholds specified in section 6;

(i) "embodied carbon" means greenhouse gas emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the lifecycle of a building material, excluding operational emissions;

(j) "Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)" means a verified document that reports environmental data of products based on lifecycle assessment as per ISO 14025 or equivalent standards;

(k) "government building" means any building owned, leased, or occupied by the State Government, local authorities, or public sector undertakings;

(l) "green building rating" means certification under any rating system notified by the State Government including but not limited to GRIHA, IGBC, or LEED;

(m) "lifecycle assessment" means systematic analysis of environmental impacts of materials throughout their existence from raw material extraction through processing, use, and disposal;

(n) "local authority" means a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Town Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, or Gram Panchayat;

(o) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka;

(p) "occupancy certificate" means the certificate issued by the local authority permitting occupation of a building after completion;

(q) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(r) "recycled content" means the proportion of recycled materials in a product expressed as a percentage by mass;
(s) "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to this Act;
(t) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka;
(u) "substantial renovation" means renovation of a building where more than 50% of the surface area of the building envelope undergoes renovation or where the cost ofrenovation exceeds 30% of the building's current value;
(v) "sustainable building material" means any building material that meets the criteria specified in Schedule I and has been certified by the certifying authority;
(w) "thermal performance" means the ability of building materials to resist heat flow, measured in terms of thermal resistance (R-value) or thermal transmittance (U-value);
(x) "waste-derived material" means building materials manufactured using construction and demolition waste, industrial by-products, or other waste streams as specified in Schedule III.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

3. Appointment of competent authority.- (1) The State Government shall, by notification, appoint a competent authority for the purposes of implementation of this Act.
(2) The competent authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government.
(3) The State Government may appoint such other officers and staff as may be necessary to assist the competent authority in discharge of functions under this Act.

4. Designation of certifying authority.- (1) The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) shall be the certifying authority for sustainable building materials under this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the State Government may, by notification, designate any other agency as certifying authority either in addition to or in substitution of KREDL.
(3) The certifying authority shall have the following functions:—
(a) establish testing protocols and certification procedures for sustainable building materials;
(b) maintain a registry of certified sustainable building materials;
(c) conduct or authorize third-party verification of material compliance;
(d) issue, suspend, or revoke sustainability certificates;
(e) provide technical guidance to manufacturers and construction professionals;
(f) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

5. State Sustainable Building Materials Committee.- (1) The State Government shall constitute a State Sustainable Building Materials Committee consisting of,-

(a) Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary, Department of Energy – Chairperson;
(b) Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development – Member;
(c) Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Ecology - Member;
(d) Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce - Member;
(e) Managing Director, KREDL - Member Secretary;
(f) Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board - Member;
(g) Two representatives from academic institutions with expertise in sustainable construction - Members;
(h) Two representatives from the construction industry - Members;
(i) One representative from environmental civil society organizations - Member;
(j) Such other members as the State Government may nominate.

(2) The Committee shall perform the following functions,-

(a) advise the State Government on matters of policyrelating to sustainable building materials;
(b) review and recommend updates to Schedules based on technological advancements;

(c) monitor implementation and suggest corrective measures;

(d) coordinate with other states and central agencies for harmonization of standards;

(e) perform such other functions as may be assigned by the State Government.

(3) The Committee shall meet at least once every quarter and follow such procedures as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III

SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

6. Mandatory use of sustainable building materials.- (1) Every designated consumer shall use sustainable building materials as specified in Schedule I for the following categories of construction,-
(a) all government buildings with built-up area exceeding 500 square meters;
(b) all private buildings with built-up area exceeding 2,000 square meters;
(c) all buildings seeking environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006;
(d) all buildings applying for green building certification;

(e) any other categories as may be notified by the State Government.

(2) The mandatory requirements under sub-section (1) shall apply to,-

(a) new construction commencing after the appointed day;

(b) substantial renovation of existing buildings; (

c) additions to existing buildings where the addition exceeds the thresholds specified.

(3) The percentage of sustainable materials required shall be,-

(a) minimum 40% by cost of total materials for government buildings;

(b) minimum 30% by cost of total materials for private buildings;

(c) such higher percentages as may be prescribed for specific categories.

7. Performance standards for sustainable materials.- (1) All sustainable building materials used under this Act shall meet the following minimum performance standards,-

(a) embodied carbon not exceeding limits specified in Schedule II;

(b) recycled content as specified in Schedule III;

(c) thermal performance values as specified in Schedule IV;

(d) absence of prohibited substances listed in Schedule V; € compliance with relevant Indian Standards for structural and safety requirements.

(2) The certifying authority shall develop detailed testing protocols for verification of performance standards.

(4) Materials meeting enhanced performance criteria as specified in Schedule VI shall be eligible for additional incentives under section 16.

8. Special provisions for glass facades.- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the use of glass in external facades of buildings shall not exceed 40% of the total external wall area.

(2) All glass used in external applications shall,-

(a) be double-glazed or triple-glazed with minimum Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) values as specified in Schedule VII;

(b) have UV reflectance exceeding 75%;

(c) incorporate bird-safe design features as prescribed;

(d) meet minimum thermal performance standards specified in Schedule IV.

(3) The provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) shall apply to all buildings irrespective of size or category.

9. Waste-derived material requirements.- (1) Every designated consumer shall ensure minimum use of waste-derived materials as follows,-

(a) minimum 25% fly ash content in bricks, blocks, and tiles;

(b) minimum 20% recycled aggregate in non-structural concrete;

(c) minimum 30% ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS) or fly ash in structural concrete;

(d) such other requirements as may be prescribed.

(2) The State Government may, in consultation with the Committee, revise the percentages specified in sub-section (1) based on availability and technological advancements.

CHAPTER IV
CERTIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE

10. Certification process.-(1) No person shall manufacture, sell, or use any material claimed to be sustainable under this Act without obtaining certification from the certifying authority.

(2) Every manufacturer or supplier of sustainable building materials shall apply for certification in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The certifying authority shall, after verification through accredited testing laboratories, issue a sustainability certificate valid for such period not exceeding three years as may be specified.

(4) The certificate shall specify,-

(a) performance parameters achieved;

(b) authorized uses and applications;

(c) validity period;

(d) conditions, if any;

(e) unique identification number for traceability.

11. Digital registry and tracking.- (1) The certifying authority shall maintain a digital registry of all certified sustainable building materials accessible to the public.

(2) Every certified material shall be assigned a unique QR code or similar digital identifier for verification at construction sites.

(3) Designated consumers shall maintain digital records of all sustainable materials used, including:— (a) source and certification details; (b) quantities used; (c) location of installation; (d) test certificates.

(4) The digital records shall be submitted to the competent authority in such manner as may be prescribed.

12. Third-party verification.- (1) The competent authority may empanel third-party verification agencies for independent assessment of compliance.

(2) Every designated consumer shall, at such stages as may be prescribed, obtain third-party verification certificates confirming compliance with sustainable material requirements.

(3) The cost of third-party verification shall be borne by the designated consumer.

13. Integration with building plan approval.- (1) Every application for building plan approval submitted to local authorities for buildings covered under section 6 shall include,-

(a) detailed sustainable materials compliance plan;

(b) calculations demonstrating percentage compliance;

(c) preliminary material specifications;

(d) undertaking to comply with all provisions of this Act.

(2) No building plan shall be approved without the sustainable materials compliance plan.

(3) Local authorities shall verify compliance at the following stages:— (a) foundation level; (b) plinth level; (c) each floor slab; (d) before issue of occupancy certificate.

14. Occupancy certificate requirements.- (1) No occupancy certificate shall be issued for buildings covered under section 6 without,-

(a) final compliance certificate from the certifying authority;

(b) third-party verification report;

(c) digital documentation of all materials used;

(d) payment of any penalties for non-compliance.

(2) The certifying authority shall issue the final compliance certificate within 30 days of application with complete documentation.

(3) In case of partial compliance, conditional occupancy may be granted subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER V

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

15. Powers of inspection.- (1) The competent authority or any officer authorized by it may:—

(a) enter and inspect any construction site during working hours;

(b) examine materials and documentation;

(c) collect samples for testing;

(d) require production of certificates and records;

(e) issue directions for compliance.

(2) Every designated consumer and contractor shall provide all facilities and assistance required for inspection.

(3) Obstruction of inspection shall be punishable under section 20.

16. Incentives for compliance.- (1) The State Government may provide the following incentives for exemplary compliance,-

(a) property tax rebate between 5% to 15% based on percentage of sustainable materials used,-

(i) additional floor area ratio (FAR) or floor space index (FSI) up to 10%;

(ii) expedited building plan approvals;

(iii) reduced scrutiny fees;

(iv) public recognition and awards;

(v) such other incentives as may be notified.

(2) Buildings achieving more than 60% sustainable material usage shall be eligible for enhanced incentives as may be prescribed.

(3) The incentives shall be available for a period of 10 years from the date of occupancy certificate.

17. Environmental compensation for non-compliance.- (1) Where any designated consumer fails to comply with the sustainable material requirements, the competent authority shall levy environmental compensation calculated as follows,-

(a) 2% of total project cost for shortfall up to 10%;

(b) 5% of total project cost for shortfall between 10% to 25%;

(c) 10% of total project cost for shortfall exceeding 25%.

(2) The environmental compensation shall be in addition to any other penalty under this Act.

(3) The amount collected as environmental compensation shall be credited to the State Environment Fund for promotion of sustainable construction.

18. Continuous monitoring.- (1) The certifying authority shall establish a monitoring mechanism for post-occupancy verification of sustainable material performance.

(2) Building owners shall submit annual compliance reports for the first five years after occupancy.

(3) Random audits may be conducted to verify continued compliance and material performance.

CHAPTER VI
PENALTIES AND OFFENCES

19. Penalty for use of non-certified materials.- (1) Whoever uses materials falsely claimed to be sustainable without valid certification shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.

(2) Whoever manufactures or sells materials with false sustainability claims shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty-five lakh rupees and suspension of business license.

20. Penalty for non-compliance by designated consumers.- (1) Where any designated consumer fails to comply with the mandatory requirements under section 6, the competent authority may impose penalty as follows,-

(a) first violation: fine up to five lakh rupees;

(b) continuing violation: additional fine up to fifty thousand rupees per day;

(c) subsequent violations: fine up to twenty-five lakh rupees.

(2) Non-payment of penalty shall result in,-

(a) withholding of occupancy certificate;

(b) disconnection of utilities;

(c) sealing of premises;

(d) such other action as may be prescribed.

21. Penalty for false documentation.- Whoever submits false documentation or certificates under this Act shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees and shall be blacklisted from undertaking construction activities in the State for a period of three years.

22. Offences by companies.- (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of and responsible for the conduct of the business shall be deemed guilty and liable for punishment.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall render any person liable if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

23. Cognizance of offences.- No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except upon a complaint in writing made by the competent authority or any officer authorized by it.

CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS

24. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for,-

(a) procedures for certification and renewal;

(b) fees for various services;

(c) forms and formats for applications and reports;

(d) standards for testing laboratories;

(e) qualification and empanelment of third-party verifiers;

(f) procedures for inspection and monitoring;

(g) manner of calculating environmental compensation;

(h) procedures for appeal and revision;

(i) any other matter required to be prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days.

25. Power to amend Schedules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification and after consultation with the Committee, amend any Schedule to this Act.

(2) Every notification under sub-section (1) shall be laid before the State Legislature.

26. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government, competent authority, certifying authority, or any officer for anything done in good faith under this Act.

27. Act to override other laws.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

28. Power to remove difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act as may appear necessary for removing the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall be laid before the State Legislature.

29. Appeals.- (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the competent authority may prefer an appeal to the State Government within 60 days in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The State Government may admit an appeal after expiry of 60 days if sufficient cause is shown.
(3) The decision of the State Government on appeal shall be final.
30. Transitional provisions.- (1) Buildings for which building plan approval has been obtained before the appointed day shall not be subject to the provisions of this Act.
(2) Buildings under construction on the appointed day may opt for compliance and avail benefits under section 16.
(3) The State Government may notify transitional guidelines for phased implementation.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE I

(See sections 2(c), 6 and 7)

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIALS

PART A

MANDATORY SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

1. **Structural Materials:**
    (a) Fly ash bricks/blocks (minimum 25% fly ash content)
    (b) Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) blocks
    (c) Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB)
    (d) Recycled aggregate concrete (minimum recycled content as per Schedule III)
    (e) Ferrocement components
    (f) Pre-engineered steel with minimum 25% recycled content
2. **Walling Materials:**
    (a) Bamboo-based panels and boards
    (b) Agricultural waste-based boards (rice husk, bagasse, etc.)
    (c) Recycled wood-plastic composite panels
    (d) Gypsum boards with minimum 20% recycled content
    (e) Cellular Lightweight Concrete (CLC) blocks
3. **Roofing Materials:**
    (a) Micro-concrete roofing tiles
    (b) Bamboo corrugated sheets
    (c) Solar reflective tiles (SRI > 78)
    (d) Green roof systems
    (e) Recycled plastic roofing sheets
4. **Insulation Materials:**
    (a) Recycled denim insulation

(b) Cellulose insulation from recycled paper
(c) Cork insulation boards
(d) Sheep wool insulation
(e) Aerogel insulation

5. **Flooring Materials:**
   (a) Bamboo flooring
   (b) Recycled rubber flooring
   (c) Terrazzo with recycled aggregates
   (d) Reclaimed wood flooring
   (e) Linoleum from natural materials

PART B

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION

Materials must meet at least three of the following criteria,-

(a) Contains minimum 20% recycled content
(b) Contains minimum 20% rapidly renewable content
(c) Sourced within 400 km radius
(d) VOC emissions below limits in Schedule V
(e) Embodied carbon below thresholds in Schedule II
(f) Recyclable at end of life (minimum 75%)
(g) Certified by recognized environmental certification body

SCHEDULE II

(See sections 2(e), 7)

EMBODIED CARBON LIMITS

Material Category	Maximum Embodied Carbon (kg CO2e/unit)
(a) Concrete	300 per m^3
(b) Steel	1.5 per kg
(c) Aluminum	8.0 per kg
(d) Bricks/Blocks	0.15 per brick
(e) Glass	15.0 per m^2
(f) Insulation	5.0 per m^2 (100mm thickness)
(g) Timber	-1.0 per kg (carbon negative)
(h) Plastics	3.0 per kg

SCHEDULE III

(See sections 2(y), 7, 9)

MINIMUM RECYCLED CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Material	Minimum Recycled Content (% by mass)
(a) Structural Steel	25%
(b) Reinforcement Steel	30%
(c)Aluminum	40%
(d) Concrete (Structural)	20%
(e) Concrete (Non-structural)	30%
(f) Gypsum Products	20%
(g) Acoustic Tiles	50%
(h) Carpet	30%
(j) Plastic Products	50%

SCHEDULE IV

(See sections 7, 8)

THERMAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Building Component	Maximum U-Value (W/m²K)	Minimum R-Value (m²K/W)
External Walls	0.40	2.50
Roof	0.33	3.00
Glass (Double Glazed)	1.80	-
Glass (Triple Glazed)	1.20	-
Floors	0.45	2.22

SCHEDULE V

(See sections 7)

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

(1) Asbestos in any form
(2) Lead-based paints or coatings
(3) Formaldehyde exceeding 0.1 ppm emission rate
(4) Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) exceeding:
    (a) Paints: 50 g/L
    (b) Adhesives: 70 g/L
    (c) Sealants: 250 g/L
    (d) Carpets: 100 μg/m²h
(5) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
(6) Hexavalent chromium
(7) Mercury compounds
(8) Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

SCHEDULE VI

(See section 7)

ENHANCED PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

Materials meeting ALL of the following criteria qualify for enhanced incentives:

(1) Embodied carbon at least 50% below Schedule II limits
(2) Minimum 50% recycled or rapidly renewable content
(3) Sourced within 200 km radius
(4) Zero VOC emissions
(5) Third-party environmental certification (Cradle to Cradle, Environmental Product Declaration, etc.)
(6) Demonstrated 100% recyclability
(7) Manufactured using minimum 50% renewable energy

SCHEDULE VII

(See section 8)

GLASS FACADE SPECIFICATIONS

Glass Type	Minimum SHGC	Maximum U-Value	Visible Light Transmission
(a) Double Glazed (Clear)	0.25	1.8 W/m²K	40-60%
(b) Double Glazed (Tinted)	0.20	1.8 W/m²K	20-40%
(c) Triple Glazed	0.18	1.2 W/m²K	35-55%
(d) Double Glazed with Low-E	0.22	1.6 W/m²K	45-65%

Additional Requirements:

(a) Bird-safe patterns with maximum 5cm x 5cm clear spaces
(b) UV reflectance > 75%
(c) Safety compliance as per IS 2553

AUTHORITIES SUPPORTING SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS
Karnataka Sustainable Building Materials Act, 2025

SCHEDULE I: SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIALS
Part A - Mandatory Sustainable Materials
1. Fly Ash Bricks/Blocks (Minimum 25% fly ash content)
Legal Authorities:

- Delhi High Court - Writ Petition No. 2145/1999: Mandated "at least 25% fly ash in clay bricks, tiles, and blocks"
- MoEF&CC Notification S.O. 2804(E) dated 3rd November 2009: Mandatory use of fly ash products within 300 km radius of thermal power plants
- Supreme Court - Association of Power Producers v. Sandplast (2018-2019): 100% fly ash utilization requirement
- NGT Principal Bench Orders (2018-2020): Mandated ash-based building materials

Technical Standards:

- IS 13757:1993: Burnt Clay Fly Ash Building Bricks (specifies 25-40% fly ash)
- IS 12894:2002: Fly Ash-Lime Bricks (specifies minimum 50% fly ash)
- BIS Standards: Validate 25% as minimum viable content for structural integrity

2. Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) Blocks
Technical Authorities:

- IS 2185 (Part 3):1984: Specification for AAC blocks
- National Building Code 2016: Recognizes AAC as approved walling material
- CPWD Specifications 2019: Includes AAC blocks in government construction

Research Support:

- CBRI Roorkee Studies: 5 times better thermal insulation than clay bricks
- IIT Delhi Research (2019): 30% reduction in embodied energy compared to conventional bricks

3. Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB)
Standards and Guidelines:

- IS 1725:2013: Stabilized Soil Blocks for masonry
- Bureau of Indian Standards: Specifies 5-10% cement stabilization
- BMTPC Guidelines: Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council standards

International Recognition:

- UNESCO Guidelines: Traditional building materials for sustainable construction
- CRAterre (International Centre for Earth Construction): Technical specifications

4. Bamboo-based Materials
Indian Standards:

- IS 15912:2018: Structural Design using Bamboo - Code of Practice
- IS 9096:2006: Preservation of Bamboo for structural purposes
- National Mission on Bamboo Applications: Technical specifications

Research Validation:

- FRI Dehradun: Bamboo tensile strength comparable to mild steel (160-370 MPa)
- IIT Bombay Studies: Validated structural applications

Part B - Performance Criteria (20% thresholds)

International Standards:

- ISO 14040 Series: Life Cycle Assessment principles establishing 20% as significant contribution
- LEED v4.1: 20% recycled content threshold for material credits
- EU Construction Products Regulation (305/2011): 20% threshold for sustainable classification

Indian Context:

- GRIHA Version 2019: 20% threshold for sustainable material points
- IGBC Green New Buildings Rating: 20% recycled content for enhanced credits

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SCHEDULE II: EMBODIED CARBON LIMITS

Concrete - 300 kg CO_2e/m^3

Research Authorities:

- Indian Concrete Journal (2021): Average OPC concrete = 400-450 kg CO_2e/m^3
- TERI Study (2020): 30% reduction achievable with SCMs = ~300 kg CO_2e/m^3
- IIT Madras Research: Validated 300 kg CO_2e/m^3 with 30% fly ash/GGBS

International Benchmarks:

- UK BREEAM Standards: Target 300-350 kg CO_2e/m^3 for low carbon concrete
- World Green Building Council: Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment targets

Steel - 1.5 kg CO_2e/kg

Industry Standards:

- World Steel Association (2022): Global average = 2.3 kg CO_2e/kg
- Indian Steel Industry: Best performers achieve 1.8-2.0 kg CO_2e/kg
- JSW Steel Sustainability Report: 1.95 t CO_2/t crude steel (2021)

Technical Feasibility:

- BF-BOF Route with Best Practices: 1.8-2.0 kg CO_2e/kg
- EAF Route (Scrap-based): 0.4-1.5 kg CO_2e/kg
- Target of 1.5 reflects 65% EAF + 35% BF-BOF optimal mix

Aluminum - 8.0 kg CO_2e/kg

Global Standards:

- International Aluminium Institute: Global average = 11.4 kg CO_2e/kg
- Hindalco Sustainability Report (2022): 11.25 t CO_2e/t aluminum
- Best Available Technology: 8.0-8.5 kg CO_2e/kg (hydropower smelting)

Timber - (-1.0 kg CO_2e/kg) Carbon Negative

Scientific Validation:

- IPCC Guidelines (2019): Wood products store 0.9-1.1 kg CO_2e/kg

- Forest Research Institute (FRI): Indian timber species sequester 0.8-1.2 kg CO2e/kg
- FSC Certification Standards: Validates carbon storage calculations

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SCHEDULE III: MINIMUM RECYCLED CONTENT

Structural Steel - 25% Recycled Content

Industry Standards:

- Bureau of Indian Standards: IS 2062 allows recycled content
- Indian Steel Industry Average: Currently 30-35% scrap usage
- Ministry of Steel Policy (2017): Promotes scrap usage

International Precedents:

- LEED Requirements: 25% minimum for steel credits
- EU Steel Industry: Average 40% recycled content

Concrete Recycled Aggregate - 20% (Structural), 30% (Non-structural)

Technical Standards:

- IS 383:2016: Allows up to 25% recycled aggregate in concrete
- CPWD Guidelines (2021): 20% RCA in structural concrete
- IRC:121-2017: Guidelines for use of C&D waste in road construction

Research Validation:

- IIT Delhi Studies: 20% RCA maintains structural integrity
- CBRI Research: 30% RCA viable for non-structural applications

Aluminum - 40% Recycled Content

Industry Capability:

- Aluminum Association of India: Current recycling rate 35%
- Hindalco Reports: Technical capability for 50% recycled content
- Global Aluminum Industry: Average 40% achievable

SCHEDULE IV: THERMAL PERFORMANCE

External Walls - U-value 0.40 W/m²K

Building Codes:

- ECBC 2017: Prescribes 0.40 W/m²K for composite climate
- NBC 2016: Recommends similar values for Karnataka climate zones
- BEE Guidelines: Validated through energy modeling

Climate Analysis:

- Karnataka Climate Zones: Predominantly warm-humid and composite
- CARBSE Studies: 0.40 W/m²K optimal for Karnataka conditions

Roof - U-value 0.33 W/m²K

Standards Support:

- ECBC 2017: Specifies 0.33 W/m²K for roofs in composite climate
- Cool Roof Rating Council: Validates thermal performance metrics

- ISHRAE Standards: Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers

Glass Performance Values

Technical Standards:

- ECBC 2017: SHGC limits for different climate zones
- IS 2835: Safety glass specifications
- IGBC Glass Selection Guidelines: Performance parameters

MoEF&CC Advisory (2019): Mandates high-quality reflective double glass

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SCHEDULE V: PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

VOC Limits

Indian Standards:

- IS 15489:2004: VOC limits for paints
- Green Product Certification: CII-GreenPro standards

International Alignment:

- EU Directive 2004/42/CE: VOC limits (India adopted similar)
- LEED v4.1: Low-emitting materials thresholds
- WHO Guidelines: Indoor air quality parameters

Formaldehyde - 0.1 ppm

Health Standards:

- WHO Air Quality Guidelines: 0.1 mg/m³ (0.08 ppm)
- Indian National Ambient Air Quality Standards: Aligns with WHO
- CPCB Guidelines: Indoor air quality standards

Prohibited Substances List

Regulatory Basis:

- Stockholm Convention: POPs (India ratified 2006)
- Hazardous Wastes Rules 2016: Prohibited materials
- BIS Standards: Various standards prohibiting asbestos, lead

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SCHEDULE VI: ENHANCED PERFORMANCE (50% better than baseline)

Justification for 50% Improvement:

- Paris Agreement: 45% emission reduction by 2030
- IPCC Special Report 1.5°C: 50% reduction needed in building sector
- India's NDC: Enhanced ambition requires 50% improvement
- Leading Green Building Standards: LEED Platinum, GRIHA 5-star require similar

Technical Feasibility:

- IIT Bombay Study (2021): 50% embodied carbon reduction achievable
- TERI Analysis: Best practices achieve 60% reduction
- International Case Studies: Demonstrated feasibility

SCHEDULE VII: GLASS FACADE SPECIFICATIONS

40% Maximum Glass Area

Regulatory Authority:

- MoEF&CC Advisory F. No. 22-34/2018-IA.III dated 4th January 2019: "reducing glass usage to 40% of the exposed area"
- NGT Chennai Order (2023): Directed implementation of glass facade guidelines

SHGC Values (0.18-0.25)

Technical Standards:

- ECBC 2017 Table 4.3: SHGC requirements by climate zone
- Karnataka Composite Climate: SHGC ≤ 0.25 prescribed
- BEE Star Rating: Window performance parameters

UV Reflectance >75%

Environmental Justification:

- NGT Direction: Avian safety requirements
- Ornithological Studies: 75% UV reflectance reduces bird strikes
- BNHS Research: Indian bird species UV vision sensitivity

Bird-Safe Pattern (5cm x 5cm)

Scientific Research:

- American Bird Conservancy: 2"x4" (5cm x 10cm) rule
- Max Planck Institute: 5cm spacing prevents collision
- SACON Studies: Indian bird species flight patterns

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING AUTHORITIES

Economic Thresholds (500 m² government, 2000 m² private)

Precedents:

- ECBC Applicability: >100 kW connected load (~2000 m²)
- Environmental Clearance: >20,000 m² built-up area
- Municipal Building Bye-laws: Special requirements >500 m²
- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Economies of scale above these thresholds

Compliance Percentages (40% government, 30% private)

Benchmarking:

- Maharashtra Green Building Policy: Similar differentiation
- CPWD Green Building Requirements: 40% sustainable materials
- International Best Practices: 30-50% range for mandates
- Market Readiness Assessment: Supply capacity analysis

Transition Periods and Validity (3 years)

Industry Standards:

- ISO 14001: 3-year certification cycle
- BIS Product Certification: 3-year validity norm
- Technology Evolution: 3-year update cycle appropriate

- International Precedents: EU CPR similar timeframes

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS VALIDATING REQUIREMENTS

1. Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee
2. Indian Institute of Technology (Multiple campuses)
3. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
4. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)
5. Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun
6. Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), Chennai

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORTING STANDARDS

1. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Green Building Centre
2. Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)
3. GRIHA Council
4. Indian Concrete Institute
5. Institute of Steel Development & Growth (INSDAG)
6. Aluminium Association of India

INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT

1. ISO Standards (14040, 14025, 15392)
2. ASTM International Standards
3. European Standards (EN)
4. LEED, BREEAM, WELL Standards
5. UN Sustainable Development Goals
6. Paris Agreement Commitments

This comprehensive compilation demonstrates that all requirements and numbers in the schedules are supported by:

- Legal precedents and judicial orders
- Indian Standards and building codes
- Scientific research and technical studies
- Industry capabilities and best practices
- International standards and commitments
- Economic feasibility analyses

The thresholds chosen represent a balance between environmental ambition and practical achievability within Karnataka's current market conditions.

Authorities for schedules

SCHEDULE II

(See sections 2(e), 7)

EMBODIED CARBON LIMITS

Material Category	Maximum Embodied Carbon (kg CO2e/unit)	Authority
Concrete	300 per m³	TERI Study 2020; IIT Madras Research on 30% SCM concrete
Steel	1.5 per kg	World Steel Association 2022 (EAF route); JSW Sustainability Report 2021
Aluminum	8.0 per kg	International Aluminium Institute BAT; Hindalco Report 2022
Bricks/Blocks	0.15 per brick	CBRI Roorkee Studies 2019; IS 13757:1993 (fly ash bricks)
Glass	15.0 per m²	Saint-Gobain India EPD 2020; IGBC Materials Database
Insulation	5.0 per m² (100mm thickness)	BEE Guidelines 2021; ISHRAE Standards
Timber	-1.0 per kg (carbon negative)	IPCC Guidelines 2019; FRI Dehradun carbon sequestration data
Plastics	3.0 per kg	PlastIndia Foundation 2021; CPCB Guidelines on recycled plastics

SCHEDULE III

(See sections 2(y), 7, 9)

MINIMUM RECYCLED CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Material	Minimum Recycled Content (% by mass)	Authority
Structural Steel	25%	IS 2062:2011; Ministry of Steel Policy 2017; LEED v4.1
Reinforcement Steel	30%	IS 1786:2008; Indian Steel Industry avg. 30-35% scrap usage
Aluminum	40%	Aluminium Association of India 2022; Hindalco technical capability
Concrete (Structural)	20%	IS 383:2016 (allows 25%); CPWD Guidelines 2021; IIT Delhi Studies
Concrete (Non-structural)	30%	IRC:121-2017; CBRI Research validation; C&D Waste Rules 2016
Gypsum Products	20%	IS 2095:2011; Saint-Gobain India sustainability targets
Acoustic Tiles	50%	IGBC Materials Credit MRc4; Armstrong India specifications
Carpet	30%	CII-GreenPro Standards; Interface India sustainability data
Plastic Products	50%	CPCB Guidelines 2019; Plastics Waste Management Rules 2016

SCHEDULE IV

(See sections 7, 8)

THERMAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Building Component	Maximum U-Value (W/m²K)	Minimum R-Value (m²K/W)	Authority
External Walls	0.40	2.50	ECBC 2017 Table 4.2 (Composite Climate); NBC 2016 Part 8
Roof	0.33	3.00	ECBC 2017 Table 4.2; BEE 5-Star Rating Parameters
Glass (Double Glazed)	1.80	-	ECBC 2017 Section 4.3.3; ISHRAE Standards 2019
Glass (Triple Glazed)	1.20	-	IGBC Glass Selection Guide; MoEF&CC Advisory 2019
Floors	0.45	2.22	ECBC 2017 (over unconditioned space); CARBSE Guidelines

SCHEDULE V

(See sections 7)

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Substance	Limit/Prohibition	Authority
1. Asbestos in any form	Completely Prohibited	Hon'ble Supreme Court Order 2011; Hazardous Wastes Rules 2016
2. Lead-based paints or coatings	Completely Prohibited	IS 15489:2004; MoEF&CC Regulation of Lead Contents in Paints Rules 2016
3. Formaldehyde emission rate	Not exceeding 0.1 ppm	WHO Air Quality Guidelines 2010; IS 13149:2013
4. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):		
- Paints	50 g/L	IS 15489:2004; CII-GreenPro Standards
- Adhesives	70 g/L	LEED v4.1 EQc2; IGBC IEQ Credit 3.2
- Sealants	250 g/L	EU Directive 2004/42/CE adopted by India
- Carpets	100 µg/m²h	CPCB Indoor Air Quality Guidelines 2019
5. CFCs and HCFCs	Completely Prohibited	Montreal Protocol; Ozone Depleting Substances Rules 2000

Substance	Limit/Prohibition	Authority
6. Hexavalent chromium	Completely Prohibited	Hazardous Wastes Rules 2016; BIS Standards
7. Mercury compounds	Completely Prohibited	Minamata Convention ratified by India 2018
8. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Completely Prohibited	Stockholm Convention ratified 2006; POPs Rules 2018

SCHEDULE VII

(See section 8)

GLASS FACADE SPECIFICATIONS

Glass Type	Minimum SHGC	Maximum U-Value	Visible Light Transmission	Authority
Double Glazed (Clear)	0.25	1.8 W/m²K	40-60%	ECBC 2017 Table 4.3; MoEF&CC Advisory F.No.22-34/2018-IA.III
Double Glazed (Tinted)	0.20	1.8 W/m²K	20-40%	ECBC 2017; ISHRAE Window Performance Standards
Triple Glazed	0.18	1.2 W/m²K	35-55%	BEE 5-Star Window Rating; IGBC Enhanced Energy Performance
Double Glazed with Low-E	0.22	1.6 W/m²K	45-65%	IS 2835:1987; GRIHA Criterion 14

Additional Requirements:

Requirement	Specification	Authority
Bird-safe patterns	Maximum 5cm x 5cm clear spaces	NGT Chennai Order 2023; American Bird Conservancy Guidelines adopted by BNHS
UV reflectance	> 75%	NGT Direction on avian safety; SACON Research on Indian bird species
Safety compliance	As per IS 2553	IS 2553:1990 - Safety Glass Specification
Maximum glass area	40% of external facade	MOEF & CC Advisory dated 4th January 2019

THE KARNATAKA ADVENTURE SPORTS (REGULATION AND SAFETY) Bill, 2025

A Bill to regulate the conduct, safety standards, and licensing of adventure sports in the State of Karnataka and to ensure the safety and well-being of participants and the promotion of responsible adventure tourism.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. **Short Title, Extent, and Commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called The Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulation and Safety Act, 2025.
   (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Karnataka.
   (3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. **Definitions.-** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a)"Adventure Activity" refers to the list of adventure activities mentioned in Annexure-III;

(b) "Adventure sports" means outdoor or indoor recreational activities involving physical exertion, risk, and skill, including but not limited to mountaineering, rock climbing, river rafting, scuba diving, paragliding, trekking, bungee jumping, ziplining, rock climbing, scuba diving, mountain biking, and similar high-risk activities.

(c) "Adventure Tourism" encompasses the exhaustive list of adventure activitie sclubbed into three main categories: Land-based, Air-based and Water-based Adventure Activities, as mentioned in Annexure-III.

(d) "Adventure Tourism Centre" means the center of operations mentioned by the Adventure Tourism Operator [ATO] in the Registration Form;

(e) "Adventure Tourism Operator" or "ATO" or the "Operator", means any individual, organization, or agency providing services or facilities for adventure sports in Karnataka;

(f) "Applicant" means the ATO applying for Registration under this Act.

(g)"Authority" means the Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulatory Authority constituted under this Act.

(h) "Department" means the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka.

(i) "Equipment" includes all necessary gear (safety, rescue, adventure equipment) required for conducting the activity and fulfilling the safety requirements enlisted for the activity by the relevant governing body;

(j) "International / National & State Association / Organization" means the list of bodies governing individual sport/activity mentioned in Annexure-IV;

(k) “License” means a permission issued under this Act to operate adventure sports activities.

(l) “Licensing Authority” means an authority notified by the Government for issuing licenses under this Act.

(m) “Participant” means any individual who engages in adventure sports activities.

(n) “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.
(o) “Registration” means the recognition of Adventure Tourism Operator under the Act and does not mean any Licensing;

(p) “Registration Form” means the form appended to these guidelines in Annexure-I;

(q) “Safety Standards” means guidelines prescribed for the safe conduct of adventure sports, including equipment standards, personnel qualifications, and emergency protocols.

CHAPTER II
REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

3. **Mandatory Registration of Operators.-** (1) No person shall operate or offer adventure sports activities without registration with the Licensing Authority.
   (2) Applications for registration shall be made in the prescribed form and accompanied by the prescribed fee.

4. **Licensing of Operators.-** (1) Operators shall obtain a license after verification of safety infrastructure, qualified personnel, and adherence to prescribed guidelines.
   (2) The license shall be valid for a period of three years and shall be renewable.

5. Registration Procedure.- There will be two-fold registration procedure for adventure tourism activity as follows.

(1) Temporary Registration Certificate: It is mandatory to obtain a Temporary Registration Certificate from Divisional Committee of Tourism for organizers of adventure tourism activities that are covered under the Act.

(i) All organizers who are engaged in organizing any type of Adventure Tourism Activity on Land, Air or Water will have to apply for Temporary Registration Certificate within six months from the date of issuance of the Act. As a special case, the organizers will be allowed to continue their Adventure Tourism Activities during this six-month period given for temporary registration.

(ii) It is also mandatory for the organizers to obtain a temporary registration certificate who commenced adventure tourism venture after the issuance of the Act.

(iii) After applying for temporary registration, conditional permission will be given for organizing adventure tourism activities. During the validity period of the temporary registration certificate, the organizers of Adventure Tourism Activities should follow the safety guidelines under the Act.
(iv) For both the above types of organizers it will be mandatory to obtain final certificate within 18 months from the date of the issuance of the Act.
(v)The organizers of Adventure Tourism Activities should apply online for Temporary Registration Certificate by submitting application in the prescribed application format along with the required documents to the Director, Directorate of Tourism. Registration fee of Rs.500/ - will have to be paid online through GRAS system. For those adventure organizers who are not able to apply online on their own, online registration facility will be provided at the Headquarter of the Directorate of Tourism and the Deputy Director (Tourism) Regional Offices.
(vi)Temporary registration certificate will be issued by the Office of the Director after scrutinizing the application. The validity of this registration certificate shall be one year from the date of issue.
(vii) Temporary registration is an exceptional provision given to Adventure Tourism Activity organizers to acquire the necessary capabilities and prepare for final registration and this provision will be available for maximum one year.
(viii) The concerned temporary registration holders must acquire the various qualifications required for the respective Adventure Tourism Activities as mentioned in the Act within a period of one year from the date of temporary registration.
(ix) In exceptional circumstances, only one extension of six months for the Temporary Registration will be given only after verifying the reasons. In this regard, the decision of the Director, Directorate of Tourism will be final.
(x) In case of - snorkeling, scuba diving, passenger transport / boating / boating project / sports area and water sports diving projects - all being at one place, it is mandatory for the organizer to obtain a confirmation of area from Karnataka Maritime Board.

6. Documents to be submitted along with the temporary registration form.- (1) Document showing the category of the organizer (charitable organization / organization registered under the Companies Act / partnership organization / Gumasta license etc.) - whichever is applicable
(2) Documents for personal identity of the applicant (Aadhar card / Driving License / Electoral Identity Card (any one of these).
(3) PAN Card (Income tax proof) required
(4) In case of Charitable organizations / organizations registered under the Companies Act / partnership firms, a copy of the resolution of the concerned organization authorising the applicant to register the organization.
(5) A document showing the address and possession of the main office premises of the Adventure Tourism Activity Organizer (electricity Act / property tax Act / water Act/ telephone Act- any one).
(6) Income Tax Returns of last two years (if available)

(7) GST certificate (if available)
(8) If office premises is rented, then copy of Rent Agreement.
(9) Undertaking for following Safety Guidelines while conducting Adventure Tourism Activity.

7. Inspection of the facility.- (1) Inspection Agency: The Department of Tourism will direct Divisional Committee to conduct inspection of the adventure tourism centres. The agency shall conduct the inspection and submit the report to the Director of Tourism.

(2) Scrutiny of documents and Physical inspection:

(i) On receipt of application and inspection fees from the ATO along with required documents, the Inspection agency will scrutinise the submitted documents and conduct a physical inspection.
(ii) The facilities and services will be evaluated against the enclosed Checklist given in Annexure.

(3) Inspection Report:

(i) The Inspection Agency will submit a detailed inspection report to the Director of Tourism.
(ii) In such cases where the Inspection Agency identifies rectifications to be made by the Operator, an assessment report detailing the works to be carried out will be uploaded online and communicated to the operator.
(iii) The operator shall carry out the required rectifications and submit a compliance report online.
(iv)The compliance report should be submitted within 30 days from the date of issue of assessment report, failing which the application will be rejected and the Operator will have to submit a fresh application for registration.

(4) Re-inspection:

Upon submission of the compliance report, the applicant shall select a suitable time slot for re-inspection. The Inspection Agency along with one representative from the Department of Tourism, shall conduct a re-inspection and submit the report online and a re-inspection fee as prescribed will be payable before the re-inspection along with the compliance report.

8. Registration fees.- (1) If applicant is registering for more than one type of adventure, he/she will be charged a registration fee of Rs. 1500 /- per adventure activity.
(2) In case the registration is granted for business / office, such organizer can organize the Adventure Tourism Activities (such as nature trail, temporary camping, trekking, rappelling) at any place in Karnataka. The fees should be paid through GRAS system.

9. Final Registration Certificate.- (1) The final registration certificate will be issued to organizations carrying out Adventure Tourism Activities based on the criteria given in the safety guidelines such as certified equipment, trained staff and leaders, all the required infrastructure as well as the site inspection report.
(2) An application must be submitted to the Office of the Director (Tourism) for the final registration certificate along with all the required documents, at least 60 days before the expiry of the temporary registration certificate.

(3) If the application for the Final Registration Certificate is received after the expiry of the temporary registration certificate, the Director of Tourism will have the right to take a decision on case to case basis.
(4) Applications received for Final Registration Certificate will be scrutinized by the Divisional Committee (with site inspection if required). The Divisional Committee will take necessary action within 30 days on applications received for registration and submit the same with recommendations to Tourism Directorate for grant of final registration.
(5) Types of Adventure tourism activities for Temporary Registration Certificate (trekking, rappeling, nature trail, temporary camping, rock climbing will be considered as a single activity and for one or more of these activities) a single final certificate will be issued.
(6) For Zip Line, Bike Tour, Cycling, All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) activities, a separate final certificate will be issued for each of these adventure tourism activities considering them as independent adventure activity.
(7) Water Sports Unit will include Banana Boat, Jet Ski, Parasailing, Sea Water Rafting, Kite Surfing, Canyoning, Water Scooter, Speed Boat, Kayaking, Paddle Surfing, Power boat boating etc. and only one temporary certificate of registration will be issued for all these activities.
10. Action to be taken on Final Registration.- (1) A separate Cell for Adventure Tourism Activities will be formed in Directorate of Tourism. Director (Tourism) will head this cell. This cell will scrutinize the application received for registration and submit the same for approval and registration to the committee formed for Adventure Tourism Activity Registration.
(2) Appropriate action will be initiated about issuing final registration after the Adventure Tourism Activity Cell takes decision on the proposals received from Divisional Committee along with recommendation.
(3) If this cell finds some discrepancies in the application, it will be returned to the concerned within 15 days with remark. The Adventure Tour Operator will remove these discrepancies within 15 days and re-submit the application to Directorate of Tourism office.
(4) Adventure Tourism Activity Cell will grant registration within 30 days of receipt of the complete application form from the office of Dy. Director (Tourism).
11.Issuance of Final Certificate of Registration.- (1) The Director of Tourism shall issue a certificate of registration to the Adventure Tour Operator considering the report submitted by the Inspection Agency. The Department of Tourism reserves the right to accept or reject any application or issue instructions for revaluation, as the case may be.
(2) In case of rejection of application, the Operator may reapply for fresh registration within 60 days from the date of rejection after rectifying all the defects pointed out.
(3) The Final Registration Certificate issued for Adventure Tourism Activities will be valid for 3 years from the date of issuance of such Registration Certificate.

12. Renewal of Registration.- (1) The application for renewal of registration has to be submitted online at least three months before the expiry of the registration to the Department of Tourism.

(2) Any delay in the submission of application for renewal of registration will be accepted for a maximum period of 2 months from the expiry of registration with a penalty of Rs.

5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) for each month of delay. If the application for renewal of registration is not submitted within 2 months after the expiry of registration, then the Registration will be cancelled, and the facility will be shut down.

13.Renewal Charges.- (1) The renewal fee for each Adventure Activity will be Rs.1,000/-.
(2) If the applicant is applying for renewal of registration for more than one Adventure Activity, he/she will be charged Rs.1, 000/- per activity.
(3) These fees must be paid through GRAS system.
(4) The renewal period will be two years. Renewal is required to be done after every two years.

14. Inspection.- (1) Inspection Agency: The Department of Tourism will direct the Divisional Committee to conduct inspection of the adventure tourism centres. The agency shall conduct the inspection and submit the report to the Director of Tourism.

(2) Inspection report:

(i) The Inspection Agency will submit a detailed inspection report to the Director of Tourism.

(ii) In such cases where the Inspection Agency identifies rectifications to be made by the Operator, an assessment report detailing the works to be carried out will be uploaded online and communicated to the operator.

(iii) The operator shall carry out the required rectifications and submit a compliance report online.

(iv) The compliance report should be submitted within 30 days from the date of issue of assessment report, failing which the application will be rejected and the Operator will have to submit a fresh application for registration.

(3) Periodic Inspection:

(i) The Director of Tourism can authorise an inspection agency / Officer appointed by him to inspect the premises of the ATO registered under the Act.

(ii) Any deficiencies pointed out by the Inspecting agency / Officer shall be informed to the Department with a copy to the Adventure Tourism Operator within one week from the date of inspection.

(iii) In case if there are any major deficiencies noticed, a maximum time of 60 days may be granted, and the registration is suspended until the deficiencies are rectified. The ATO must not operate during the suspension period.

(iv) If the major deficiencies are not rectified within the maximum period of 60 days, and if there is no valid cause for non-rectification, then the Director of Tourism shall cancel the registration of the said Adventure Tourism Operator.

15. Re-inspection.- (1) Upon submission of the compliance report, the applicant shall select a suitable time slot for re-inspection.
(2) The Inspection Agency along with one representative from the Department of Tourism, shall conduct a re-inspection and submit the report online and a re-inspection fee as prescribed will be payable before the re-inspection along with the compliance report.

16. Suspension/ Cancellation of Registration.- (1) The Tourism Department may suspend or cancel the registration of an operator for,-

(a) Violation of safety standards;

(b) Conducting activities in prohibited or unsafe locations;

(c) Failure to maintain necessary insurance; or

(d) Any act endangering the life of a participant;

(e)Violation of the registration conditions which including the failure on the part of the Operator / authorised legal representative to maintain requisite standards, reports of un-hygienic conditions, unlawful activities, malpractices, misbehavior with customers, etc.

(f) The Director of Tourism is empowered to blacklist such organizers and ban them from conducting adventure tourism activities in future in Karnataka. Before taking any such action, the concerned organizers will be given due opportunity of hearing.

(2) Any penal action against the organizers of Adventure Tourism Activity under the provisions of this Act will be without prejudice to any other action taken under the applicable provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Consumer Protection Act or any other law for the time being in force.

CHAPTER III

SAFETY, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS - CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ADVENTURE TOURISM OPERATORS

17. Infrastructure.- The Adventure Tourism Operator providing services to tourists should have the following basic minimum infrastructure to ensure a safe & comfortable experience,-

(1) **Registration & briefing facility:** The Operator should have a sheltered registration and briefing area or lounge. There should be a notice board on display with information about the activities, price, risk mitigation and weather conditions. Basic amenities like drinking water should be provided in this area.

(2) **Washroom & Toilets:** The Operator should have neat and clean washrooms with designated wet & dry areas for changing. Toilets should be well maintained and sanitary. Priority should be given to the privacy and therefore well marked and labelled zones should be provided.

(3) **Locker system:** The Operator should have a locker facility for participants to store their valuables while they are participating in the activity. If a locker system is not possible due to high volume, a storage zone should be marked with CCTV coverage and adequate signage wherever applicable.

(4) **Access for ambulance:** The Operator should have planned access for ambulance and emergency services. The GPS coordinates of the access point should be shared with emergency services and available in the emergency response plan for immediate communication.

(5) **Access to water body for water sports activities:** The activity location/spot should have safe entry/ exit access points. This access point should be clear of other traffic like fishing vessels/ other industrial stakeholders. Preferable access points should be well marked with flags, buoys & sign ages where ever possible.

(6) **Equipment maintenance area:** The Operator should have a dedicated equipment maintenance area with access to fresh water to clean equipment. The required tools and consumables for maintenance should be neatly organised and inventory managed to ensure availability in case of emergency maintenance.

(7) **Equipment storage area:** The Operator should have a dedicated storage room which should be neat and dry with well labelled shelves / zones for easy access to equipment. Equipment should be locked and secured to avoid participants' use without supervision.

(8) **CCTV:** The Centre should have CCTV cameras installed to monitor the premises. The footage should be stored in a central storage space for a period of at least 30 days.

18. Human Resources.- It is mandatory for the Operator to have trained personnel operating and managing activities. At no point of time should an inexperienced staff member operate activities.

(1) Minimum requirement: Operators should ensure they have the following qualified staff during operating hours. Minimum manpower requirements and qualification as specified by the rules for the activity / sport should be adhered to.

(i) Manager: The operator should have a qualified manager on site.

(ii) Guides & Instructors: Guides and instructors operating the activity should be qualified for the activity they operate within the scope of their training.

(iii)Lifesavers: For Land / Air based activities, the operator should at any given time have a certified lifesaver on duty observing the activity area. For watersports activities, the water sports centre should at any given time have a certified lifeguard and rescue boat driver on duty observing the activity areaiv

(iv) Technical Staff: Maintenance of all equipment should be done by technically qualified and experienced staff.

(v)Medical Fitness Certificate: All instructors / guides / lifesavers / lifeguards must obtain Medical Fitness Certificate by a certified doctor and the certification must be documented in the records.

(2) Personal qualifications:

(i) Manager's Qualification: The manager of the adventure tourism centre should be qualified personnel who have undergone training from a recognized training institute.

(ii) Instructor/ Guide Qualification: Instructors should be certified through a recognised training institute / national or international federation for the sport. Guides should work under the supervision of instructors and be certified through a recognised training

institute / national or international federation for the sport. At no given time should other staff members instruct / guide participants of the given activity.

(iii) **Lifeguard / Lifesaver Qualification:** Lifesavers / Lifeguards should be certified through a recognised training institute/national or international federation.

(iv) **Technical Staff Qualification:** Technical staff who perform regular and routine maintenance on equipment should be trained as per the equipment manufacturers' guidelines. Instructors/ Guides can also be technically trained for maintenance of equipment.

19. Equipment.- It is mandatory for all operators to have good quality and well-maintained equipment.

(1) Safety Gear:

(i) Helmets: Protective headgear is mandatory for sports as prescribed by the National Federation for the Sport.

(ii) Safety Harnesses: Quality safety harnesses are mandatory for land-based &air-based sport as prescribed by the National Federation for the Sport..

(iii) Lifejackets for water-based activities: To ensure participants safety each participant should wear a quality life jacket / personal floatation device or buoyancy aid as prescribed by the National Federation for the Sport. For general motorised water activities, a Type 2 life jacket is compulsory.

(2) Rescue Gear:

(i) To ensure safe operations, the on-duty Lifesaver / Lifeguard must have access to the following rescue equipment:

(a) Communication device (Phone, VHF or UHF)
(b) Navigation tool (GPS/Charts)
(c) Whistle
(d) First Aid kit
(e) Rescue Knife
(f) Tool kit

(ii) A Water sports Operator must have the following rescue equipment in addition to the above:

(a) If operating in open waters, a fully equipped rescue boat with engine
(b) If operating in confined sheltered waters, rescue board / kayak
(c) Rescue tube for surface rescue
(d) Face mask and fins for underwater retrieval

(iii) Adventure Activity equipment: The equipment used for the activities should be of good quality and well maintained as prescribed by the international / national / state association / organisation governing the sport.

(iv) Maintenance: The equipment should be maintained as per manufacturer's instructions with daily upkeep to prevent corrosion, damage from sunlight and abrasion. A maintenance manual should be maintained by the operator with a detailed maintenance schedule for all equipment. Documents should be maintained about the maintenance of the equipment actually due vis-a-vis requirement of the manufacturer / guidelines published by the federation / association for the sport. All periodical maintenance of equipment should be documented and presented on demand during inspection.

20. Operations and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).-It is mandatory for the Operator to have trained personnel operating and managing activities. At no point of time should an inexperienced staff member operate activities

(1) Area of operation:

(i) The area of operation should be clearly identified

(ii) GPS coordinates of the activity zone should be submitted to the Tourism Department and the district administration, and a copy kept ready in case of any Search & Rescue (SAR) situation.

(iii) If there are other stakeholders of the marked area, regular meetings should be held, and open communication encouraged to ensure safe practices.

(iv) There should be a minimum distance of 1 km between two water sports operators to ensure quality experience for tourists.

(2) Period of operation:

(i) The period of operation of activity should be in daylight hours.

(ii) Operation timings should be clearly mentioned in all marketing materials as well as at the operation site.

(3) Safety briefing/ check:

(i) The operator must ensure that their instructor / guides perform a safety briefing before starting the activity.

(ii) A thorough check of safety protocols should be done after the safety briefing.

(4) Boarding or Off-boarding:

(i) The instructor or guide should be present during the boarding / off-boarding of participants.

(ii) The equipment should be checked every time before use and certified by the instructor that it is fit for use.

(iii) All safety instructions should be mentioned in signages at the boarding point.

(5) Maintenance:

(i) Daily maintenance of equipment should be practiced by staff.

(ii) Securing equipment at the end of each day is mandatory to avoid misuse.

(iii) Equipment status check should be undertaken on a weekly basis to ensure no damage.

(iv) Breakdown / incident report is to be maintained for a period of 3 years.

(6) Waiver or Indemnity Form:

(i) It is mandatory for all participants to sign a waiver / indemnity form.

(ii) The waiver or indemnity form should clearly mention the risks of participating in the activity.

(iii) The form should collect emergency contact details of the participants.

(iv) For minor persons, forms should be countersigned by adults.

(v) The Operator has to ensure the forms are filed, duly countersigned along with date by the operator and stored for a period of 3 years.

21. Rights and Duties of Participants.- (1) Consent and Waiver,-

(i) Participants must provide informed written consent before participating.

(ii) No waiver shall absolve the operator from liability arising from negligence.

(1) Age and Health Restrictions

(i) Minimum age and health conditions shall be specified for each activity.

(ii) Operators shall have the right to deny participation based on health concerns.

22. Insurance.- (1) The Operator should have adequate insurance coverage to cover the risk to the staff and the participants.

(2) It shall be mandatory for operators to maintain third-party liability and participant accident insurance.

(3) The participants shall be informed of insurance coverage prior to engaging in any activity.

(4) It will be the responsibility of the organizers to comply with the Safety Guidelines regarding the insurance coverage of the participants, organizers and employees participating in the activity, and professionals (permanent, contractual or otherwise).

23. Risk Mitigation.- Risk mitigation methods should be planned before commencing any operations to ensure safety of the operator, participants, bystanders, equipment, and environment.

(1) **Risk Assessment:** A detailed risk assessment chart should be developed for each activity and zone. This chart should be on display in the staff area as well and included in training manuals. An Emergency Response Plan should be shared with the Tourism Department. A copy of the same should be available in the centre for display.

(2) **Weather & Hazard Board:** A detailed weather display should be displayed in the participant briefing zone within area to update any hazards that are present in the activity zone.

(3) **Scenario Training:** Regular scenario training should be organised and documented for staff members to ensure they are trained for handling incidents / accidents.

(4) **Environmental Protection:** Adventure sports shall not be conducted in ecologically sensitive zones without clearance from the State Environment Department. The

operator shall ensure waste management and ecological preservation during operations.

24. Duties of Adventure Tourism Operators.- (1) They shall manage the equipment appropriately and changes in the equipment/ facilities / functioning of the ATO should be in formed online to the Department of Tourism within 1 week.

(a) The ATO shall follow the relevant laws / rules & regulations prevalent in the State of Karnataka.

(b) The ATO is fully responsible, accountable & liable for the Adventure Tourism Centre.

(c) Relevant FSSAI permit must be obtained for any food outlet in the Adventure Tourism Centre.

(d) Registration of the ATO shall be finalised within 30 days from the date of receipt of compliance report, after all rectifications are incorporated.

(e) The ATO shall comply with the Tax Laws like, Income Tax Act, Goods and Services Tax and other applicable Laws.

(f) The fee once paid will not be refunded or adjusted for future dues / penalty etc., under any circumstances.

(g) The applicable rates for electricity, water tax, property tax and sewerage charges would be charged from the registered ATO.

(h) They should alert clients to dangers and assess the capabilities of clients

(i) They shall evaluate weather conditions

(j) Ensure that there are sufficient numbers of staff and are adequately qualified.

(k) Due compliance of environmental laws.

(l) It will be necessary to obtain "No Objection Certificate"/written permission from parents of participants below the age of Eighteen years.

(m) When the participants register for adventure activity, they should be informed online/by text message about the adversities during Adventure Tourism Activity and care to be taken.

(n) Guides and rotating teams should be appointed at the place of adventure.

(o) An expert guide should be available to keep the equipment, tools, machines required during Adventure Tourism Activity in good condition and properly maintained. It will help in reducing the accidents during the adventure tourism activities or completely prevent it.

25. Duties of Operators in Fixed Spots.- (1) It is necessary to display maps for directions, banners conveying risks and instructions about Adventure Tourism Activities. Watch towers should be erected at the place of adventure tourism activity and sirens should be used at risky spots.

(2) There should be enough safety arrangements at the place of adventure tourism activity (e.g., safety nets, etc.).

(3) If it is observed that the safety equipment/safety arrangements are of inferior/substandard quality/incomplete then action will be taken against the concerned owner / conductor of the programme.

(4) Precautions should be taken as per the directions of Fire Brigade Department to ensure that fire does not break out at the place of Adventure Tourism Activity. It will also be the responsibility of organizers/owners/conductors to remain in contact with fire brigade squad / rescue teams to ensure timely help, if required.

(5) It is expected that First Aid Centre is located at the place of activity.

(6) Ensure that no hindrance is caused to the traffic in the area where adventure tourism activity is conducted.

(7) Due care should be taken to ensure that betting does not take place at the place of adventure tourism activity.

(8) Care should be taken to ensure that illegal business is not carried out at the place of adventure tourism activity. If it comes to the notice of the Tourism Department that illegal business is being conducted, then concerned officials of Tourism Department should lodge a complaint and initiate appropriate action under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

(9) If adventure tourism activity is conducted without following the rules and conditions laid down by government and if any hazard is caused to people, then the concerned persons will be charged with culpable homicide.

(10) The socio-geographical aspects, technical aspects, rules in force etc., should be kept in mind while conducting adventure tourism activity.

(11) Precaution should be taken to ensure that provisions of Fire Arms Act and Explosives Act are not violated while conducting adventure tourism activity.

(12) If an accident is caused while conducting adventure tourism activity, the organizer will be totally held liable for it.

(13) Guides supervising participants shall have accreditation given by any National or International Institute. Alternatively the guide should have completed an in-house training programme which focusses on:

(i) An introduction to the adventure sport, protective clothing, equipment and pre-ride inspections.

(ii) Rules and warm up exercises if required.

(iii) Strategies of the sport and risk awareness.

(iv) Safe and responsible practices.

(14) Customers should be provided with necessary equipment such as helmet, face shield or goggles, gloves, footwear, clothing, spares and first aid.

(15) Before commencing each sport, Guides must carry out an inspection. An inspection will minimize the chance of injury or malfunction.

(16) Children under the age of Eighteen years require parental consent for the adventure sport and adult supervision.

(17) The following is the basic minimum documentation required:

(i) Equipment purchase documentation, including warranty, service & maintenance history documentation.

(ii) Operating Manual for each sport.

(iii) Training and assessment log for all guides.

(iv) First aid certificates for all guides.

(18) A basic risk assessment should be conducted before participants are permitted to participate in the sport.

(19) An Emergency Action Plan must be in position and regular training imparted to the staff for the same.

(20) A first aid kit must be available and the venue/route itself must be easily accessible. In addition, a detailed emergency procedure must be written that includes contact numbers of the available emergency services. Evacuation routes and emergency procedures must also be included in the company's risk assessment.

(21) Medical Concerns: These are of two types: personal and accident related during the ride. For personal medical conditions clients should be advised to carry medication and inform the ride leader. For accident related concerns, the ride leader should have a plan in addition to a First Aid Kit.

26. Basic Minimum Standards for Grant of Recognition to Adventure Tourism Operators.-

(i) The Adventure Tour Operator must own necessary equipment and all accessories and safety gear. It must be well maintained, serviced and in perfect working order with the required documentation.

(ii) The Adventure Tour Operator must have at least two full time trained guides duly qualified / knowledgeable about conducting the activity safely, group dynamics, rules, communication skills and repairs / punctures etc. They must possess valid First Aid / CPR certification.

(iii) The operator must have SOPs for conducting sport and an Emergency Action Plan.

(iv) A detailed risk assessment must be carried out prior to conducting of sport.

(v) A list of hospitals in the vicinity of the tour should be carried by the guide.

(vi) A detailed SOP for inspecting sport, documentation and safety gear prior to conducting trips must be in position.

(vii) The Adventure Tour Operator must have a registered office.

(viii) The Adventure Tour Operator must be registered with the Tourism Department.

(ix) The Adventure Tour Operator should possess necessary certification.

(x) The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace' policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

CHAPTER IV
REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

27. Constitution of the Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulatory Authority.-
(1) The State Government shall, by notification, constitute an Authority known as the Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulatory Authority (KASRA).
(2) The Authority shall consist of,-
(a) Chairperson – an officer not below the rank of Principal Secretary;
(b) One expert each from tourism, environment, sports, and safety sectors;
(c) Representatives from district administrations of high-tourism zones;
(d) Any other member as prescribed.

28. Functions of the Authority.- The Authority shall,-
(a) Frame regulations for licensing, safety, training, and conduct of adventure sports;
(b) Issue, renew, suspend, or cancel licenses;
(c) Promote sustainable adventure tourism;
(d) Monitor environmental compliance and land use;
(e) Facilitate training and certification of personnel;
(f) Maintain a database of operators and accidents;
(g) Advise the State Government on policy matters.

29. Constitution of State Level Committee.- (1) The State Government shall, with effect from such date as it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, constitute a State Level Committee for implementation of the Act, to exercise the powers conferred on, and perform the functions assigned to, that Committee under this Act. A State Level Committee is formed for effective implementation of Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulation and Safety Act, 2025.

(1) A State Level Committee constituted under this Act shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(i) A Chairman, who is Secretary to government, Department of Tourism
(ii) A Member Secretary, Directorate of Tourism, Department of Tourism
(iii) Such member, who is Director General of Police, Karnataka or Senior Officer nominated by Chairman
(iv) Such member, who is Chief Forest Conservator or Senior Officer nominated by Chairman
(v) Such member, who is Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board
(vi) Such member, who is Joint/Deputy Secretary, Water Resources Department
(vii) Experts in Land, Air and Water based Adventure Tourism Activities nominated from Expert list of Tourism Directorate (3+2+2) Member 9 Joint Director

30. Functions of State Level Committee.- (1) The main functions of the Central Board shall be comprehensive development of all types of adventure tourism activities in the State.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing functions, the State Level Committee shall ensure safety and regulate adventure sports through following measures,-

(i) To determine the methodology and procedure for inquiries in accidents caused during adventure tourism activities.

(ii) To determine the procedure for redressal of complaints.

(iii) To suggest improvements if necessary, in the scope of work of the Divisional Adventure Tourism Activities Committees.

(iv) To provide all necessary assistance to the government for proper implementation of this Act.

(v) To prepare a policy framework for the overall development and promotion of adventure tourism activities.

(vi) To approve new adventure tourism activities in tune with the changing times and to suggest improvements.

(vii) To take measures for time bound implementation of this Act.

(viii) To hold quarterly meetings of this committee for reviewing the implementation.

(ix) To guide innovative adventure tourism activities in Karnataka about publicity in various media at national level.

(x) To prepare guidelines for gradation of registered adventure activity organizers.

(xi) To implement 'One Window Scheme' to make it easier for registrations/renewals of organizers and to get permissions from various government departments such as Forest, Archeology, Irrigation, Home etc.

(xii) To guide Directorate of Tourism in preparing panel of experts and approve the panel list received from Adventure Tourism Activities Cell.

31. Divisional Committee.- (1) The State Government shall, with effect from such date as it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a District Level Committee for implementation of the Act, to exercise the powers conferred on, and perform the functions assigned to, that Committee under this Act. A District Level Committee is formed for effective implementation of Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulation and Safety Act, 2025.

(2) A District Level Committee constituted under this Act shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(i) A Chairman, who is Deputy Director, Department of Tourism

(ii) A Member Secretary, Directorate of Tourism, Department of Tourism

(iii) Such member, who is jurisdictional Superintendent of Police, Karnataka or Senior Officer nominated by him

(iv) Such member, who is Forest officer or Senior Officer nominated by him

(v) Such member, who is Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board

(vi) Such member, who is Executive Engineer, Water Resources or Public Works Department

(vii) Experts in Land, Air and Water based Adventure Tourism Activities nominated from Expert list of Tourism Directorate

32. Functions of Divisional Committee.- (i) To scrutinize the application forms received for final registration based on temporary registration.

(ii) To conduct onsite inspection, if required, of adventure tourism activity equipment/trainers/staff/basic infrastructure and other related aspects.

(iii) To submit the report about eligible organizers to Adventure Tourism Activity Cell along with site visit report and remarks.

(iv)To take criminal action/stop organizers involved in illegal adventure tourism activities and to submit the report to the Director, Tourism.

(v)To conduct inquiries if an accident is caused during an adventure tourism activity, take appropriate action against the concerned persons based on such inquiry.

(vi) Maintain coordination between District level Adventure Tourism Associations and the government.

(vii) To provide all possible assistance for proper implementation of the Act.

(viii) Collection of information about origin, spread and major achievements in adventure tourism activities in the division

33. Composition of Adventure Tourism Activity Cell.- (1) The State Government shall, with effect from such date as it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, constitute Adventure Tourism Activity Cell for implementation of the Act, to exercise the powers conferred on, and perform the functions assigned to, that Cell under this Act. Adventure Tourism Activity Cell is formed for effective implementation of Karnataka Adventure Sports Regulation and Safety Act, 2025.

(2)An Adventure Tourism Activity Cell constituted under this Act shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(i) A Chairman, who is Deputy Director, Department of Tourism
(ii) A Member Secretary, Under Secretary to Government, Department of Tourism
(iii)Such member, who is Executive Engineer, Water Resources or Public Works Department
(iv)Experts in Land, Air and Water based Adventure Tourism Activities nominated from Expert list of Tourism Directorate

34. Functions of Adventure Tourism Activity Cell.- (i) Detailed scrutiny of applications received from Divisional Committee

(ii) To decide about granting temporary and final registration certificate based on such scrutiny.

(iii)To give recommendations to State Level Committee for solving the problems in implementation of the Act

(iv)To take steps to publicize and implement the Act.

(v) To prepare guidelines for preparing panel of experts, prepare an expert panel and place it before State Committee for approval.

(vi)To grant star-rating to registered adventure tourism activity organizers.

(vii) To implement 'One Window Scheme' for temporary and final registration

CHAPTER V
ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

35. Inspecting Authorities.- (1) The State Government shall appoint Adventure Sports Inspectors with the power to inspect operations, seize unsafe equipment, and recommend suspension.

36.Penalties.- (1) Fine of Rs.10, 000/- and sealing of equipment being used for Organizing Adventure Tourism Activities without Registration.

(2) Fine of Rs.15,000/- and sealing of equipment/sealing of office being used for organizing Adventure Tourism Activities, if the same organizer is found to be conducting activity without obtaining registration or illegal organization of activity for second time.

(3) Fine of Rs.25,000/-, if the same organizer is found to be conducting activity without obtaining registration or illegal organization of activity for third time and criminal action will be initiated.

(4) Fine up to ₹1,00,000/- and suspension of license for breach of safety standards.

(5) Fine up to ₹50,000 for suppression of accidents.

(6) Fine up to 20,000/- for not having an expert guide as prescribed in the Safety Guidelines.

37. Appeal.- The ATO may file an appeal against the cancellation order / rejection of application to the Secretary to Government, Tourism Department, Karnataka within 30 days from the date of communication of the order of the Director of Tourism and the decision of the Secretary to Government, Tourism shall be final.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

38. Advisory Committee.- (1) A Karnataka Adventure Sports Safety Advisory Committee shall be constituted to review practices, suggest policy reforms, and evaluate the implementation of this Act.

(2) The committee shall include experts in adventure sports, safety engineering, tourism, and public administration.

39. Power of State government to Make Rules.- (1) The Department of Tourism is authorised to frame and issue rules or orders for laying down the procedure of online submission of application, processing, and registration of the Adventure Tourism Operator and for revision /modification of the formats of the Application and other formats /introduction of new formats (under intimation to Government).

(1) The Department of Tourism is authorised to evolve procedure for the Inspection and grievance redressal mechanism for visitors / guests / Operator.
(2) The Department of Tourism is also authorised to fix the Inspection Agency and inspection / re-inspection charges.
(3) The Secretary to Government, Tourism Department, Government of Karnataka reserves the right to modify the guidelines / terms and conditions from time to time as is considered necessary and appropriate and that shall be binding the Adventure Tourism Operator.
(4) The State Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The State Government shall notify activity-specific standards, including,-

(a)Equipment specifications;

(b) Staff qualification and ratio;

(c) Operational protocols.

40. Repeal and Savings.- (i) Any regulation inconsistent with this Act shall stand repealed to the extent of inconsistency, without affecting actions taken under previous regulations.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Adventure sports are growing rapidly in Karnataka, offering both tourism potential and risks. In the absence of a structured legal framework, the safety of participants is compromised. This Bill seeks to institutionalize licensing, safety standards, accountability, and emergency preparedness in order to promote responsible and secure adventure tourism in the state.

THE KARNATAKA CITIZENS' RIGHT TO HEARING BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide the right of hearing to the citizens within the stipulated time limits and to provide for the matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Be enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy Sixth Year of the Republic of India, as follows: -

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Citizens' Right to Hearing Bill, 2025

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Karnataka

(3) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definition.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Complaint" means any application made by a citizen or a group of citizens to a Public Hearing Officer for seeking any benefit or relief relating to any policy, programmes or scheme run in the State by the State Government or the Central Government, or in respect of failure or delay in providing such benefit or relief, or regarding any matter arising out of failure in the functioning of, or violation of any law, policy, order, programmes or scheme in force in the State by, a public authority but **does not** include grievance relating to the service matters of a public servant, whether serving or retired, or relating to any matter in which any Court or Tribunal has jurisdiction or relating to any matter under Right to Information Act, 2005(Central Act No. 22 of 2005) or services notified under the Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens [also known as SAKALA] Act, 2011 [Karnataka Act 1 of 2012]

(b) "days" means the working days, referred to as time limit;

(c) "decision" means a decision taken on a complaint or appeal or revision by the Public Hearing Officer or appellate authority or revision authority notified under this Act and includes the information sent to the complainant or the appellant, as the case may be;

(d) "First appellate authority" means an officer or authority notified as such under section 3;

(e) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;

(f) "Local Authority" includes any authority, municipality, municipal corporation, town panchayat, planning authority, Industrial township, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayats and Gram Panchayats and other local self-Governments constituted by law and Development Authorities or other statutory or non-statutory bodies by whatever name called for the time being invested by law to render essential service of public utility in the State or to control, manage or regulate such services within a specified local area;

(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made under this Act; and

(h) "Public Authority" means the Organization or Authority or body or institution or a Local Authority established or constituted, -

(i) by or under the Constitution in the State;
(ii) by any other law made by the State Legislature;
(iii) by notification issued or order made by the Government and includes, -
(1) body owned, controlled or substantially financed; or
(2) non-Governmental organization substantially financed; directly or indirectly by the Government.

(i) "Public Hearing Officer" means a Public Hearing Officer notified under Section 3;
(j) “Public servant” means a person substantively appointed to any service or post of the public authority;
(k) revision authority means an office or authority notified as such under Section 3
(l) "Right to hearing" means an opportunity of hearing provided to the citizens on a complaint within the stipulated time limit and right to get information about the decision made in the hearing on the complaint;
(m) "Second appellate authority" means an officer or authority notified as such under section 3;
(n) "State Government" means the Government of Karnataka
(o) "Stipulated time limit" means the maximum time allowed to Public Hearing Officer for providing an opportunity of hearing on a complaint, or to the first appellate authority or the second appellate authority for deciding an appeal, or to the aforesaid authorities for informing the complainant or appellant, as the case may be, of the decision on such complaint or appeal, as the case may be;

3. Notification of Public Hearing Officers, First Appellate Authority, Second Appellate Authority and Revision Authority and stipulated time limit.- The State Government may notify from time to time, the public hearing officer, first appellate authority, second appellate authority and revision authority and stipulated time limits.

4. Right to get opportunity of hearing on complaint within the stipulated time limit.- (1) The Public Hearing Officer shall provide an opportunity of hearing on a complaint filed under this Act within the stipulated time limit.

(2) The Public Hearing Officer may seek the assistance of any other officer or employee as he considers it necessary for the proper discharge of his duties under sub-section (1).

(3) Any officer or employee, whose assistance has been sought under sub-section (2), shall render all assistance to the Public Hearing Officer seeking his assistance and for the purposes of any contravention of the provisions of this Act, such other officer or employee, as the case may be, shall be treated a Public Hearing Officer.

(4) The stipulated time limit shall start from the date when a complaint is filed to the Public Hearing Officer or to a person authorized by him to receive the complaints. Receipt of a complaint shall be duly acknowledged.

(5) The Public Hearing Officer on receipt of a complaint under sub-section (1) shall, within the stipulated time limit, provide an opportunity of hearing to the complainant and after hearing the complainant, decide the complaint either by accepting it or by referring it to an authority

competent to grant the benefit or relief sought for or by suggesting an alternative benefit or relief available under any other law, policy, order, programmes or scheme or by rejecting it for the reasons to be recorded in writing and shall communicate his decision on the complaint to the complainant within the stipulated time limit.

5. Information and Outreach.- (1) For the purposes of the efficient and effective implementation of this Act, the State Government shall take steps for providing information in the media and other forms about this Act to the public.

(2). The State Government shall establish Information and Facilitation Centers which may include establishment of customer care centers, call centers, help desks and people's support centers.

6. Appeal.- (1) Any person who is not provided an opportunity of hearing within the stipulated time limit or who is aggrieved by the decision of the Public Hearing Officer, may file an appeal to the First Appellate Authority within thirty days from the expiry of the stipulated time limit or from the date of the decision of the Public Hearing Officer:

Provided that the First Appellate Authority may admit the appeal after the expiry of the period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(2) If the Public Hearing Officer does not comply with the provision of section 4, any person aggrieved by such non compliance may submit complaint directly to the First Appellate Authority which shall be disposed of in the manner of a first appeal.(3) The First Appellate Authority may order the Public Hearing Officer to provide the opportunity of hearing to the complainant within the period specified by it or may reject the appeal.

(4) A Second Appeal against the decision of the First Appellate Authority shall lie to the Second Appellate Authority within thirty days from the date of the decision of the First Appellate Authority:

Provided that the Second Appellate Authority may admit the appeal after the expiry of the period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(5) An aggrieved person may file an appeal directly to the Second Appellate Authority, if the Public Hearing Officer does not comply with the order of first appellate authority under sub-section(3) or the first appellate authority does not dispose of the appeal within the stipulated time limits which shall be disposed of in the manner of a second appeal.

(6) The Second Appellate Authority may order the Public Hearing Officer or the first appellate authority to provide an opportunity of hearing to the complainant or dispose of the appeal, as the case may be, within the period specified by it or may reject the appeal.

(7) Along with the order to provide an opportunity of hearing to the complainant, the Second Appellate Authority may impose a penalty on Public Hearing Officer in accordance with the provisions of section 7.

(8) The first appellate authority and second appellate authority shall, while deciding an appeal under this section, have the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act No. 5 of
1908) in respect of the following matters, namely: -
(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
(b) discovery and production of any document or other material object producible as evidence;
(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
(d) requisitioning of any public record;
(e) issuing commission for the examination of witnesses;
(f) reviewing its decisions, directions and orders; and/or
(g) any other matter which may be prescribed.

7. **Penalty. -** (1) Where the second appellate authority is of the opinion that the Public Hearing Officer has failed to provide an opportunity of hearing within the stipulated time limit without sufficient and reasonable cause, it may impose on him a penalty which shall not be less than five hundred rupees but which shall not exceed five thousand rupees:

Provided that before imposing any penalty under this subsection, the person on whom penalty is proposed to be imposed shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(2) The penalty imposed by the second appellate authority under sub-section (1) shall be recoverable from the salary of the Public Hearing Officer.

(3) The second appellate authority, if it is satisfied that the Public Hearing Officer or the first appellate authority has failed to discharge the duties assigned to him under this Act, without assigning sufficient and reasonable cause, may recommend action
against him under the service rules applicable to him.

8. Revision. -The Public Hearing Officer or first appellate authority aggrieved by an order of the second appellate authority in respect of imposing of penalty under this Act may make an application for revision to the officer or authority nominated by the State Government within a period of sixty days from the date of that order. The nominated officer or authority shall dispose of the application in accordance with the prescribed procedure:

Provided that the officer or authority nominated by the State Government may entertain an application after the expiry of the said period of sixty days, if he is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

9. Protection of action taken in good faith. -No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act or any rules made thereunder.

10. Bar of jurisdiction of courts. -No civil court shall have jurisdiction to hear, decide or deal with any question or to determine any matter which is by or under this Act required to be heard, decided or dealt with or to be determined by the Public Hearing Officer, first appellate authority, second appellate authority or the officer nominated by the State Government.

11. Provisions to be in addition to existing laws. – The provisions of this Act shall in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

12. Power to make rules. -(1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) All rules made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, after they are so made, before the House of the State Legislature, while it is in session, for a period of not less than fourteen days, which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if before the expiry of the session in which they are so laid or of the session immediately following, the House of the State Legislature makes any modification in any such rules or resolves that any such rule should not be made, such rule shall there after have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

13. Removal of difficulties. -(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by an order published in the Official Gazette, do anything, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, which appears to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order under this section shall be made after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is so made, before the House of the State Legislature.

THE KARNATAKA STATE COACHING CENTERS (CONTROLAND REGULATION) BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for the control and regulation of coaching centers of the State to register, control, regulate and determine minimum standards and requirements for registration of such centers, to take care of interests of students and provide them career guidance and psychological counseling for mental well-being, to take appropriate measures to provide security and reduce stress among students enrolled in the coaching centers, and to provide better academic support and holistic development of students in preparation of different competitive examinations and admission into specialized institutions etc. and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy- Sixth year of the Republic of India as follows: —

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be The Karnataka State Coaching Centers (control and regulation) Bill, 2025

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Karnataka.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Advertisement" shall have the same meaning as defined under section 2(1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019);

(b) 'coaching' means tuition, instructions or guidance in any branch of learning imparted to more than 50 students but does not include counselling, sports, dance, theatre and other creative activities;

(c) 'Coaching center' includes a center, established, run, or administered by any person to provide coaching for any study programmes or competitive examinations or academic support to students at school, college, and university level, for more than 50 students;

(d) 'government' means government of Karnataka;

(e) 'institution' means school or any other educational institution recognized or controlled by, or affiliated to a Board, or controlled or recognized by State / Central Government, an affiliated college, and associated college, a constituted college, a university or educational institution established under the act of central government or State government;

(f) (h) "Misleading Advertisement" shall have the same meaning as defined under

(g) section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (35 of 2019);

(h) 'proprietor' means an owner of a coaching center seeking registration or registered and includes joint owner;

(i) 'tutor' means a person who guides or trains students in any coaching center and includes tutor giving specialized tuitions;

(j) 'University' means a university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, and includes any such institution as may, in consultation with the University concerned, be recognized by the UGC in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf under UGC Act.

(k) 'Form' means the form appended to these rules;

(l) 'Registering Authority' means for the purpose of registration:

a) Of Coaching Centers Offering Post-PUC Competitive Exam Coaching and Graduation and post graduation coaching the registering Authority shall be Department of Collegiate Education.

b) Of Coaching Centers Offering Pre-University Level Coaching the registering Authority shall be Department of Pre-University Education

c) Of Coaching Centers Offering Primary and secondary level coaching (Standard I to X)the registering Authority shall be Divisional Secretary of the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB)

d) Of Coaching Centers Offering coaching for other courses the registering Authority shall be the Deputy Director of Public Instructions of that district under whose jurisdiction the Coaching Center is located.

3. Obligations of every person engaged in coaching.– (1) Any person who is engaged in coaching while making an advertisement shall –

(a) disclose important information such as rank secured, name and duration of course, whether such course is paid with the candidate's photograph;

(b) display disclaimer and any other important information prominently. The font of disclaimer and important information in the advertisement shall be the same as that used in the claim;

(c) accurately represent the service, facilities, resources and infrastructure of the coaching center;

(d) truthfully represent, if applicable, that the course(s) offered are duly recognised and have the approval of a competent authority such as All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), etc.

(e) maintain transparency in making an advertisement;

(f) every coaching center shall endeavour on a best effort basis to become a partner in the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline of the Central Government

4. Procedure for registration of Tutorial Institution/coaching center.-

(1) Applications for registration of a coaching center shall be made in Form-Ito the registering authority by delivering it in person or sending it through registered post acknowledgement due.

(2) Every such application for registration by the coaching center specified in column (2)of the table shall be accompanied by a registration fee as specified in the corresponding entries in column (3) thereof. The registration fee shall be paid in the form of an account payee cheque or demand draft drawn within one month from the date of application and in favour of the

registering authority. The demand draft shall be made payable at the branch of the Bank located in the headquarters of the registering authority or in the surrounding locality.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Class of Tutorial Institutions/coaching center	Registration fee to be paid
1	Up to Lower Primary Institutions (Standard I to VII)	15,000
2	Secondary School (Standard VII to X)	30,000
3	Pre-University	40,000
4	Degree Courses	40,000
5	Other Courses	40,000

(3) Registration fee once paid shall not be refunded where registration is granted and where registration is refused the amount of the fee paid shall be refunded without interest to the applicant. The refund shall be made in the form of an account payee cheque drawn by the registering authority on the local treasury where the applicant resides.

(4) The registration fee received under sub-rule (2) shall be held in a personal deposit account opened in the name of the registering authority in the nearest District Treasury.

(5) (a) The registering authority after satisfying itself whether or not the applicant has complied with the provisions of Section 5 and these rules. It may register the institution in the register maintained for the purpose or refuse the registration.

(b) The registration certificate shall be issued in Form-II.

(c) The refusal order shall indicate the reasons for refusal and shall be accompanied by the voucher of refund of registration fee.

(d) The Applicants in whose favour the registration certificate is issued shall start the institution and the standard during the academic year as per specifications laid down in the registration certificate and the date of starting shall be intimated to the registering authority. Failure on the part of the Applicant to start the institution and the standard during the specified academic year shall result in automatic cancellation of registration certificate and on no account it will be treated as valid for the subsequent academic years.

5. Registration of existing coaching center.- (1) For registration of a coaching center specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 35 such coaching center shall make an application in Form-I to the registering authority, within a period of ninety days from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) The Application under sub-rule (1) shall be accompanied by the fee specified in sub rule (2) of rule 3 and it shall be delivered personally in the office of the registering authority and due acknowledgement obtained or shall be sent by speed post or registered post acknowledgement due.

(3) The provisions of rule 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis in respect of the applications received under this rule.

6. Terms and Conditions for Registration.- (1) No coaching center shall,-

(i) engage tutors having qualification less than graduation.

(ii) make misleading promises or guarantee of rank or good marks to parents/students for enrolling them in the coaching center.

(iii) publish or cause to be published or take part in the publication of any misleading advertisement relating to any claim, directly or indirectly, of quality of coaching or the facilities offered therein or the result procured by such coaching center or the student who attended such class.

(iv) be registered, if it has less than minimum space requirement per student.

(v) hire the services of any tutor or person who has been convicted for any offence involving moral turpitude.

(vi) be registered unless it has counselling system as per the requirement of this Act.

(2) The person operating coaching center shall submit an affidavit regarding fulfillment of all mandatory terms and condition mention in sub section (1) of section 8 of this Act along with application for registration.

(3) coaching center shall have a website with updated details of the qualification of tutors, courses/curriculum, duration of completion, hostel facilities (if any), and the fees being charged, easy exit policy, fee refund policy, number of students undertaken coaching from the center and number of students finally succeeded in getting admission in Higher Education Institutions etc.

(4) coaching center shall adhere to the various laws, rules, regulations etc. including separate registration as applicable in the local jurisdiction.

6. Karnataka Coaching Centers (Control and Regulation) Authority.- (1) With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, there shall be constituted for the purposes of this Act an Authority to be called the Karnataka Coaching Centers (Control and Regulation) Authority.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The Authority shall consist of the following, namely: -

(a) Secretary in-charge, Department of Higher Education- Chairman;

(b) Secretary in-charge, Department of School Education or his nominee not below the rank of Deputy Secretary- Member;

(c) Secretary in-charge, Department of Technical Education or his nominee not below the rank of Deputy Secretary- Member;

(d) Secretary in-charge, Department of Medical Education or his nominee not below the rank of Deputy Secretary- Member;

(e) Director General of Police or his nominee not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police- Member;

(f) Commissioner/Director, College Education- Member;
(g) Director, Local Bodies, Bangalore- Member;
(h) A Psychologist from Government Hospital to be nominated by the Medical Department for two years- Member;
(i) An officer of Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department, not below the rank of Accounts Officer nominated by the Finance Department for two years- Member;
(j) Two representatives from coaching centers nominated by the Chairman of authority for two years- Member;
(k) Two representatives from student's parent society;
(l) Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education- Member Secretary.

Explanation: For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression "Secretary in-charge" means the Secretary to the Government in-charge of a department and includes an Additional Chief Secretary and a Principal Secretary when he is in-charge of that department.

(4) The authority if required shall appoint a district authority not more than 10 members including a Chief Officer at district level to ensure that the provisions of the Act are met. Duties of the district Authority shall be determined by the Authority after discussing with the members.

(5) A nominated member of the Authority may be removed, if he does any act which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Authority, is not in conformity with the aims and objectives of the Authority, provided that no nominated member shall be removed from the Authority without giving him an opportunity of being heard.

7. Powers and functions of the Authority.- (1) The Authority shall entertain the appeal preferred under sub-section (3) of section 18 of this Act against the order of the Registering Authority or district authority.

(2) The Authority may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(3) The Authority shall dispose of the appeal within thirty days of filing of appeal after giving an opportunity of being heard.

(5) The Authority shall meet as often as may be necessary at such time and such place as may be decided by the Chairman.

(6) The Authority shall monitor performance of Registering Authorities and give directions to the Registering Authorities, as are necessary for ensuring compliance of provisions of this Act and rules and orders made thereunder.

(7) The Authority shall ensure that grievances of parents and students in coaching centers are redressed in a time bound manner.

(8) The Authority may suo-moto or upon any complaint, cause an inspection/enquiry and call any records of a coaching center. The owner or person-in-charge of the coaching center shall produce before the Authority such records as may be required by the competent officer during the inspection.

(9) The Authority shall have power to call for any information from District authorities for specific purpose and objectives as may be prescribed.

(10) Any other function for interest of students, holistic development of students, career guidance, psychological council and mental wellbeing etc. of students.

(11) Immediately after the commencement of this Act within a period of 90 days a website shall be set up to receive complaints from the parents, students, coaching center and other stake holder, have help line details, option for login for the registered coaching center, option to furnish details of compliance and records of the coaching center, and any other features as the Authority may deem fit.

7. Infrastructure Requirements.- (1) Within the basic structure of the coaching center, a minimum one square meter area may be allocated for each student during a class / batch. There shall be sufficient infrastructure in proportion to the number of students enrolled.

(2) The coaching center building shall adhere to fire safety codes, building safety codes and other standards and shall obtain a Fire and Building Safety Certificate from the appropriate authorities as decided by the relevant competent Authority or appropriate government.

(3) For the assistance of the students, coaching center shall have first aid kit and medical assistance/treatment facility. List of referral services like hospitals, doctors for emergency services, police helpline details, fire service helpline, women helpline etc. shall be displayed and the students shall be informed about them.

(4) The coaching center building shall be fully electrified, well ventilated, and sufficient lighting arrangements shall be made in each classroom of the building.

(5) Safe and potable drinking water shall be available for all students and staffs of the Center.

(6) The coaching center may be suitably fitted with CCTV cameras wherever required and security shall be well maintained.

(7) A complaint box or register may be placed at the coaching center for the students to raise a complaint. Coaching center shall have committee for redressal of complaints / grievances of students.

(8) Provision of separate toilets for males and females shall be made within the coaching center building premises.

8. Curriculum.- (1) The coaching centers shall have to issue a prospectus including course contents for different kinds of academic support and duration for completion of course contents along with the following particulars: -

(i) coaching center shall make efforts to complete the classes in the stipulated time as mentioned in the prospectus.

(ii) coaching classes for those students who are also studying in institutions/ schools shall not be conducted during their institutions / schools' hours, so that their regular attendance in such institutions/schools remains unaffected and also to avoid dummy schools.

(iii) Remedial or support classes may be provided to student who require additional support in their academics,

(iv) The curriculum/class timetable may be suitably spaced out to allow the students to relax and recuperate and thus, not build additional pressure on them.

(v) coaching center shall ensure weekly off for students as well as tutors.

(vi) There shall be no assessment-test/ exam on the day after weekly off.

(vii) During the important and popular festivals in the respective region, coaching center shall customize leave in such a manner that the students are able to connect with their family and get emotional boosting.

(viii) coaching centers shall conduct coaching classes in a way that it is not excessive for a student and it should not be more than 5 hours in a day and the coaching hours should neither be too early in the morning nor too late in the evening

(ix) coaching centers shall organize classes for co-curricular activities for holistic development and enhancing cognitive abilities of students. The coaching centers, while teaching core subjects should also organize counselling sessions for tutor, employee and all students on development of Life Skills, scientific temper & evidence-based thinking; creativity & innovativeness; fitness, wellness, emotional bonding & mental wellbeing, age-appropriate challenges, motivation; collaboration and teamwork; problem solving and logical reasoning; ethical and moral reasoning: knowledge and practice of human and Constitutional values, personal safety (gender sensitization & abuse prevention); Fundamental Duties; citizenship skills and values; knowledge of India; environmental awareness, sanitation and hygiene etc.

(2) The following Code of Conduct shall be ensured and comply by the Coaching Centers:-

(i) The number of students to be enrolled in each class/ batch may be clearly defined in the prospectus. In no case such enrolment shall be increased in class/batch during the currency of the course.

(ii) The number of students admitted may be in line with the requirements of maintaining a healthy teacher-student ratio in each class and for creating more opportunities for building relationship with tutor and counsellors. It should be ensured that students are able to connect with the tutor and the student has easy access and visibility to the screen/blackboards.

(iii) The students shall be well apprised about the difficulty of exams, syllabus, level of intensity of preparation and efforts required from the student before enrolling into the curriculum.

(iv) The students shall be made aware about the educational environment, cultural living, realities, and difference between preparation of school level examinations and competitive examination.

(v) Apart from options for admission in engineering and medical institutes, information about other career options may be provided to the students, so that they do not get stressed about their future and can choose a new option of alternative careers.

(vi) An admission or mock test to assess the capability of the student may be conducted. Based on the capability and interest of student, the coaching center may convey the realistic expectation of student's capability to parents and suggest the way forward.

(vii) The students and parents shall be made aware that admission in the coaching center is no way guarantee of success for admission in institutions like medical, engineering, management. law etc. or in the competitive examination.

(ix) Coaching center should conduct periodic workshops and sensitization sessions regarding students' mental health in collaboration with mental health professionals.

(x) Coaching center should create awareness amongst students and parents regarding the pedagogy, the timeline of the course, and the facilities available in the coaching center. They may be counselled about negative impacts of unnecessary mental pressure and burden of expectation on their children.

(xi) Coaching center shall not make public the result of assessment test conducted by it. Keeping the assessment test confidential, it should be used for regular analysis of performance of students and the student whose education performance is deteriorating, should be provided counselling as per the provisions of this Act.

9. Fees.- (1) The tuition fees for different courses/curriculum being charged shall be fair and reasonable and receipts for the fee charged must be made available.

(2) The coaching center must issue a prospectus mentioning them different courses/curriculum, their duration of completion, number of classes, lectures, tutorials and the fees being charged, easy exit policy, fee refund etc. These details shall also be displayed at prominent and accessible place in the premises of the building.

(3) The prospectus, notes and other material shall be supplied by the coaching center to their enrolled students without any separate fees thereof.

(4) If the student has paid for the course in full and is leaving the course in the middle of the prescribed period, student will be refunded from out of the fees deposited earlier for the remaining period, on pro-rata basis within 10 days. If the student is staying in the hostel of the coaching center, then the hostel fees and mess fee etc. will also be refunded.

(5) Under no circumstances, the fee on the basis of which enrolment has been made for at particular course and duration shall be increased during the currency of the course.

10. **Counselors and Psychologists Support.-** (1) Due to high competition and academic pressure on students, coaching centers should take steps for mental wellbeing of the students and may conduct classes without putting undue pressure on its students. Also, they should establish the mechanism for immediate intervention to provide targeted and sustained assistance to students in distress and stressful situation.

(2) The coaching center shall ensure to develop a counselling center and is easily available for the students and parents. Information about the names of psychologists, counselors, and the time they render services may be given to all students and parents. Trained counsellors could be appointed in the coaching center to facilitate effective guidance and counselling for students and parents.

(3) Coaching centers are encouraged to involve counselors and experienced psychologists to counsel and provide psychotherapeutic service to students for the resolution of mental stress and depression.

(4) Career counselors may be on boarded to assess the student's interest, aptitude and capability, and accordingly guide and counsel the students and their parents with realistic expectations to choose the best career option.

(5) Regular workshops and awareness weeks may be arranged for parents, students and teachers on mental health and prevention of stress by the coaching center. It should also focus on basic training in health, good nutrition, personal and public hygiene, disaster response and first-aid as well as scientific explanations of the detrimental and damaging effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The matter of positive parenting should also be stressed upon in the interaction session organized for parents by the center in the context of students' mental health, resilience and responsible self-care

(6) Tutors may undergo training in mental health issues to convey information effectively and sensitively to students about their areas of improvement.

(7) As part of counselling the coaching center should establish peer group interaction. Coaching center may organize group-based curricular exercises in discussions, competitions and projects.

(8) The doubts of student shall be resolved by those tutors who have taught in the class so that student feel satisfied.

(9) The coaching center shall follow framework for promotion of mental health in the institution i. e Level of Problems, Mental Wellbeing, Framework for Mental Health Promotion, Mental Health Knowledge Attitudes & Behavior Psychosocial Problems, Severe Problems/Disorders.

11. **Duties and functions of coaching centers.-** The following shall be the duties and functions of a coaching center, namely: -

(i) to register themselves with the relevant registering Authority as per provisions of this Act;

(ii) The coaching center shall not discriminate against any applicant / student on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, descent etc. during the admission and teaching process.

(iii) Batch segregation on academic performance ground shall not be done, as it leads to excessive pressure on the students affecting their mental health. Batches should be formed in the order of entry/admission of students and the batch shall not be changed till completion of the counsel; The coaching center building, and the surrounding premises shall be Divyang-friendly and in compliance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016; Tutors may be sensitized regarding learning disabilities and make students with learning disabilities feel comfortable.

(iv) Special provisions may be made by the coaching center to encourage greater representation of students from vulnerable communities such as female students, students with disabilities, and students from marginalized groups.

(v) to provide necessary information about coaching students, their residential place and such other information to the District Authority if required;

(vi) to rein in the malpractices of bogus advertisement, false claims, lucrative offers, sure selection by coaching centers. The coaching center shall disclose actual statistical information of students including total number of registered students' course wise, selected students and percentage of selection, etc.;

(vii) to give admission on the basis of a uniform comprehensive screening test, if the number of aspirants is more than available seats/infrastructure;

(viii) to organize before commencement of the session, orientation programmes for the students and parents highlighting what to expect out of the student life, typical schedule of a student, batch size, number of study hours, support system available, etc.;

(ix) to provide guidance of career counsellors to the students about alternate career options within medicine and engineering etc.;

(x) to provide option to students or parents to pay fee in minimum four equal instalments;

(xi) to comply with the fee refund policy including hostel and mess fee, easy exit policy as per provision of this Act and rules and policies made thereunder and also include the same in brochures;

(xii) to arrange for adequate sitting space in class and compulsory week day off not to be followed by a test, task and assignment;

(xiii) to ensure that coaching centers shall abide by the orders issued by the State Government regarding national holidays, local holidays as declared by the District Collector and main festivals;

(xiv) to ensure security measures in coaching center by installing sufficient number of CCTV cameras, appointment of security guard etc.;

(xv) to avoid batch segregation/reshuffling on basis of academic performance and test results;

(xvi) to ensure attendance of students and to inform the parents of students in case the student is reported absent for more than two days without prior intimation;

(xvii) to conduct a follow up programmes in every three months with the parents to ensure the progress and discuss the problems of their ward;

(xviii) to create awareness among the students regarding available psychological counselling services and helpline numbers;

(xix) to ensure fee collection and fee refund of students as per provision of this Act,

(xx) to ensure strict compliance of provisions and terms and conditions for registration and required minimum infrastructure as per provisions of this Act;

(xxi) to display helpline number and email of and psychologist

(xxii) to install complaint and suggestion box in coaching center.

(xxiii) The coaching centers shall conduct gatekeeper training as recommended by the World Health Organization from NIMHANS/equivalent institutes for its promoters, workers, teachers and all its staff to identify mental stress and depression in students at an early stage.

(xxiv) to ensure compliance of all other terms and conditions and provisions of this Act and rules and regulation made under this Act.

12. **Maintenance of Records.-** (1) The coaching center should maintain and produce such records, accounts, registers, or other documents, as may be prescribed by the authority.

(2) The coaching center may submit the annual report to the authority for the record.

Restriction on shifting of Coaching center Coaching center shall be conducting coaching only at the place indicated in the registration certificate and shall not be shifted to any other place than its registered place, without the prior written approval of the registering Authority in that behalf.

13. **Restriction on shifting of coaching center.-** coaching center shall be conducting coaching only at the place indicated in the registration certificate and shall not be shifted to any other place than its registered place, without the prior written approval of the registering authority in that behalf.

14. **Enquiry of activities of the coaching center.-** The authority, or any other officer authorized by the authority shall conduct continuous monitoring of the activities of the coaching center and enquire any coaching center regarding the fulfillment of required eligibility of registration and satisfactory activities of the coaching center.

15. **Disposal of complaints.-** (1) A complaint may be filed before the authority against the coaching centers by the student, parent or tutor / employee of the coaching center and against the students / parents by the coaching centers. The complaints shall be disposed of within thirty days by the authority.

(2) After giving opportunity of hearing on the report of the district authority or the inquiry committee as the case may be, the district authority shall impose penalty or take action for cancellation of registration.

(3) The aggrieved coaching center, student or parent may file an appeal to the Authority within thirty days against the order passed by the District Authority or the registering Authority.

16.Penalties.-(1) In case of violation of any of the terms and conditions of registration or general conditions, the coaching center shall be liable for penalties as follows

(i) Rs 25,000/- for first offence

(ii) Rs. 1,00,000/- for the second offence

(iii) revocation of registration for subsequent offence

17. Cancellation of registration.- The certificate of registration granted to the coaching center, without prejudice to any other penal action that may be taken for violation of relevant law, at any time be cancelled, if the concerned district authority is satisfied that the coaching center has contravened any of the provisions of the Act or violated any of the terms and conditions subject to which the registration was granted:

Provided that, no such order shall be passed by the district authority without giving the holder of such certificate a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the proposed order.

18. **Procedure for Appeal.-** Any Person aggrieved by the order of refusal to register a coaching center or its renewal or cancellation of registration, may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of such order, appeal to the authority in the manner as may be specified by it.

19. **Prohibition of misleading advertisement relating to coaching center.-** No coaching center shall publish or cause to be published or take part in the publication of any misleading advertisement relating thereto.

20. **Protection of act done in good faith.-** No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Authority and District Authority, or Chairman or any member, officer, employee in respect of anything done or intended to be done in good faith in pursuance of the provisions this Act, or the rules made thereunder.

21. **Power to make rules.-** (1) The State Government shall make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) All rules made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after they are so made, before the House of the State Legislature, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which they are so laid, or of the session immediately following, the House of the State Legislature makes any modifications in any of such rules, or resolves that any such rule should not be made, such rules shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be published by the State Government in the Official Gazette.

22. **Power to remove difficulties.-** (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with this Act, as it deems necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Provided that no order under this section shall be made after expiry of three years from the date of the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every notification issued under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is issued, be laid before the House of State Legislature.

FORM NO. I

(See Rules 3, 4& 5)

APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TUTORIAL INSTITUTIONSOR COACHING CENTER

(1) Name and address of the institution or coaching center.

(2) Name and address of the individual owning the institution or coaching center/proposing to establish a tutorial institution or coaching center.

(3) Aims and objects in establishing the Tutorial institution or coaching center.

(4) Date on which the in establishing has been established or is proposed to be opened.

(5) Particulars of the treasury challan under which the prescribed application fee has been paid.

(6) Particulars of Registration Deposit amount, if already deposited in the joint account of other District Educational Officer and the individual/Educational agency (documentary evidence to be produced).

(7) Whether the applicant is seeking registration of the Tutorial institution or coaching center afresh or of the already existing tutorial institution.

(8) Particulars of the original registration, if any (true-copy of the original registration shall been closed).

(9) Details of the assets and liabilities including the investments in the banks and other commercial concerns.

(10) Details of the infra-structural facilities provided in the institution:

(a) Accommodation (details of the number of class-rooms with dimensions –sketch plan of the building to be enclosed)

(b) Details of furniture provided.

(c) Details of the equipment and other material provided in the laboratory.

(d) Details of the books provided in the library.

(e) Details of the sanitary facilities provided (Sanitary certificate issued by Corporation or Municipal medical officer to be enclosed).

(11) Details of the teachers appointed, if already appointed such as names, salary/wages paid, qualification and whether the qualification is adequate to teach the subjects to which they are asked to handle.

(12) Clauses/courses in which students are given coaching/proposed to be given coaching.

(13) Details of records and registers maintained by the Tutorial institution or coaching center, if already opened.

(14) Details of other institutions run by the Education agency, if any.

(15) Details of hostel facility provided, if any.

(16) Any other information the applicant would like to furnish.

DECLARATION

I Sri/Smt./Kum..... Son/wife/daughter ofSri.....do hereby declare that the particulars furnished above are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am prepared to undergo any penal action that may be imposed on me if any of the particulars furnished in the application are found to be false and misleading at any time subsequently. I further declare that I am prepared to obey the instructions which may be issued by the competent authorities from time to time.

Place: **SIGNATURE OF.....**
DATE: (with office stamp)

THE KARNATAKA DIGITAL LITERACY PROMOTION BILL, 2025

A Bill to promote and ensure digital literacy among the rural and urban poor of Karnataka by supplementing existing digital infrastructure, aligning with national digital education and cybersecurity policies, empowering citizens to safely use technology for education, access government schemes, conduct secure online financial transactions, and enhance cyber and data protection literacy, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Whereas access to digital tools and literacy are prerequisites for inclusive development and digital empowerment;

And whereas the State of Karnataka is committed to bridging the digital divide among its children, rural and urban poor by enhancing capabilities for secure digital participation;

And whereas it is necessary to align state efforts with the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), Digital India Programme, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023;

And whereas the Centre for e-Governance (CeG), established in 2006 as the nodal agency for e-governance in Karnataka, is best positioned to lead digital transformation initiatives and promote inclusive digital literacy across the State;

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Digital Literacy Promotion Act, 2025.
(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Karnataka.
(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
(a) “Digital Literacy” means the ability to use digital devices, communication tools, and networks to access, manage, understand, integrate, evaluate, create, and communicate information safely and appropriately.
(b) “Marginalized Groups” include children in government schools, persons living below the poverty line (BPL), women-headed households, SC/ST communities, persons with disabilities, and rural and urban poor citizens.
(c) “Designated Agency” means any department, authority, or organization notified by the Government to implement this Act.

(d) “Digital Infrastructure” includes broadband connectivity, mobile connectivity, computing devices, internet access points, and digital public services infrastructure.
(e) “Cyber Literacy” means awareness and knowledge of responsible digital behavior, including cyber hygiene, fraud prevention, privacy management, and safe use of digital tools.
(f) “Data Protection Literacy” refers to knowledge of data privacy principles, digital consent, rights under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and secure handling of personal data.
(g) “Local Government” means a Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI), Urban Local Body (ULB), Municipality, or any statutory body responsible for local governance and development under the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, and Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964.

CHAPTER II
OBJECTIVEES AND SCOPE

3. Objectives of the Act.- The Act aims to,-
(a) Promote universal digital literacy in Karnataka with a special focus on the rural and urban poor, including children and women.
(b) Supplement and strengthen existing digital infrastructure.
(c) Equip citizens with the skills to access online education, digital public services, secure digital finance, and e-governance platforms.
(d) Enhance citizens’ knowledge of cyber security, data protection, digital rights, and privacy laws.
(e) Operationalize national digital policies including NDLM, NEP 2020, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, within the state.

CHAPTER III

INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWOR

4. Nodal Agency.- Centre for e-Governance (CeG).- (1) The Centre for e-Governance (CeG), Government of Karnataka, established in 2006, shall be the designated nodal agency for implementation of this Act.
(2) CeG shall,-

(a) Develop and implement the *State Digital Literacy Action Plan* aligned with national policies;
(b) Coordinate with all government departments, district administrations, and local governments to operationalize digital literacy programs;
(c) Prepare curriculum frameworks, training standards, and monitoring guidelines;
(d) Empanel implementation partners including NGOs, academic institutions, and private organizations;
(e) Leverage and upgrade existing e-Governance and ICT infrastructure in collaboration with relevant departments.

5. District and Local Implementation Units.- (1) Every district shall constitute a District Digital Literacy Cell (DDLC) under the District Collector.
(2) Local Governments shall,-

(a) Identify beneficiaries through gram sabhas and urban ward committees;
(b) Identify and enroll eligible beneficiaries for digital literacy programs;
(c) Develop and implement a digital literacy program that is consistent with the national policies and guidelines;
(d) Provide physical spaces for Digital Learning Centers (DLCs);
(e) Maintain community digital asset registers;
(f) Coordinate digital training schedules with schools and CSOs;
(g) Monitor last-mile service delivery and feedback mechanisms;
(h) Collaborate with the private sector and other local and international stakeholders in the development and implementation of internationally recognized digital literacy programs

CHAPTER IV

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

6. Digital Learning and Training Infrastructure.- (1) DLCs shall be established at,-

(a) Every government high school (or)

(b) Every Panchayat Bhawan or Grama One Center

(c) Urban poor settlements and municipal libraries

(2) Existing digital infrastructure under schemes like PMGDISHA, CSC 2.0, and Smart Classrooms shall be integrated and upgraded.
(3) ICT Labs shall be made accessible after school hours for community use.

7. Curriculum for Digital and Data Literacy.- (1) Digital Literacy Curriculum shall include,-

(a) Basics of computer and mobile usage

(b) Digital communication tools and online navigation

(c) Digital financial transactions and safety

(d) Data protection, privacy rights, and responsible digital behavior

(e) Cybercrime prevention and redressal mechanisms

(f) The Curriculum shall be available in Kannada and other regional languages. Schools shall integrate the curriculum from Grade 5 onwards as per NEP 2020 guidelines.

8. Trainers and Volunteers.- (1) Accredited trainers shall be certified through a state-recognized program.
(2) Volunteer-based digital literacy campaigns such as Digital Sevaks, Digital Shiksha Doots, and College Ambassador Programs shall be operationalized.
(3) Retired teachers and local youth shall be given preference as community digital trainers.

CHAPTER V
CYBER AND DATA PROTECTION LITERECY

9. Cyber and Privacy Education Modules.- (1) The CeG shall develop standardized cyber hygiene and privacy awareness modules.
(2) These modules shall cover,-

(a) Understanding phishing, fake news, and scams

(b) Strong password practices

(c) Use of privacy settings on social platforms

(d) Rights under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

(3) Modules shall be incorporated into school and public training curricula.

10. Data Protection Support Desks.- (1) District and block-level support desks shall assist citizens with,-

(a) Understanding data privacy policies

(b) Reporting digital violations

(c) Accessing redressal mechanisms under the DPDP Act and IT Act.

CHAPTER VI
FIMANCIAL PROVISIONS

11. Digital Literacy Development Fund.- The Government shall create a Karnataka Digital Literacy Development Fund, administered by CeG in coordination with the Department of IT, BT and S&T.

(2) Sources include,-

(a) State budgetary support

(b) Central assistance for digital missions

(c) CSR contributions under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013

(d) Grants and donations from development partners

(3) The Fund shall be subject to independent audit and public accountability mechanisms.

CHAPTER VII

MONITORING, EVALUTION AND ACCOUNTABALITY

12. Karnataka Digital Literacy Index (KDLI).- (1) The CeG shall annually publish a Digital Literacy Index for each district based on coverage, access, skills, gender equity, and impact.

(2) The Index shall be tabled before the State Legislature and published on public platforms.

13. Roles of Panchayats and ULBs in Monitoring.- Local Governments shall,-

(a) Maintain village-level digital literacy records;

(b) Track school and community participation;

(c) Identify and report infrastructure gaps;

(d) Facilitate citizen redressal through digital grievance cells.

14. Offences and Penalties.- Misuse of training funds, infrastructure, or data collected under the Act shall be punishable with,-

(a) Disqualification from the program;

(b) Recovery of misused funds;

(c) Legal action under relevant sections of the BNS, DPDP Act, and IT Act, 2000.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCEISCELLANEOUS

15. Power to Make Rules.- The State Government, in consultation with CeG may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

16. Power to Remove Difficulties.- If any difficulty arises, the Government may, by order, take necessary steps not inconsistent with the Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill recognizes that sustainable digital empowerment requires not just infrastructure but inclusive skill development. Leveraging the existing institutional strength of the Centre for e-Governance, this Act seeks to coordinate and scale digital literacy efforts across the State, with a focus on safe, informed, and equitable digital participation.

THE KARNATAKA STATE DOMESTIC WORKERS [PROTECTION AND WELFARE] Bill, 2025

A Bill to provide for regulation of work of Domestic Workers in the State of Karnataka, in order to improve their working conditions and to ensure their rights to fair wages, decent working conditions, social security and protection against abuse and exploitation.

BE it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title, Extent and Commencement.- [a] This Act may be called the Karnataka State Domestic Workers [Protection] Act, 2025

[b] It shall extend to the whole of the State of Karnataka

[c] It shall not apply to domestic workers migrating for employment to any other State or Country

[d] It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

[*a*] "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the concerned State Government and in all other cases, the Central Government;

[*b*] "beneficiaries" means every domestic worker registered as a beneficiary under this Act;

[*c*] "child" means a person who has not completed eighteen years of age;

[d] "District Board" means the District Domestic Workers [Protection Board] established under section …. of the Act;

[4] "Domestic Work' means work performed in or for a household or households

[f] "Domestic Worker' means any person engaged in domestic work within the employment relationship, in return for wages, whether part-time or full-time, and includes live-in workers, cooks, cleaners, caregivers, drivers and others performing household services and shall include replacement worker who is working as a replacement for the domestic worker

[g] "Employer" means any person who engages the domestic worker to do any work in a household whether part time or full time either directly or through service provider and who has an ultimate control over the affairs of the household which includes any other person to whom such affairs of the household are entrusted and in relation to contract labor, the principal employer;

[h] "Worker" means a person who is employed as a domestic worker in a single household or multiple households

[i] "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made under the Act by the appropriate Government.

[j] "service provider" means any voluntary association or placement agency or company registered under any law for the time being in force, which espouses the cause of domestic workers or provides or engages them in employment with the principal employer but excludes those collectives or cooperatives that are created by the workers themselves as a means of collective bargaining;

(l) "State Board" means the Karnataka State Domestic Workers Protection Board established under section……. of this Act;

[m] "workplace" means any household or a place where a domestic worker works as per the terms of the employment agreement;

[n] "Wages" means all emoluments which are earned by an employee while onduty or on leave in accordance with the terms and conditions of his employment and which are paid or are payable to him in cash and includes dearness allowance but does not include any bonus, commission, house rent allowance, overtime wages and any other allowance.

3. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law, for the time being in force.

CHAPTER II
REGISTRATION

4.(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, all domestic workers shall be registered as per procedure herein after prescribed.

(2) An application for registration shall be made in such form, as may be prescribed, to the District Board in this behalf.

(3) Every application under sub-section (*2*) shall be accompanied by such documents together with such fee as may be prescribed.

(4) If the District Board is satisfied that the applicant has complied with the provisions of this Act and the rules made there-under, it shall register the name of the domestic worker as a domestic worker under this Act:

Provided that an application for registration shall not be rejected without giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard and without assigning reasons in writing.

(*5*) Any person aggrieved by the decision under sub-section (4) may, within thirty days from the date of such decision, prefer an appeal to the State Board and the decision of the State Board on such appeal shall be final:

Provided that the State Board in this behalf may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the domestic worker was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

5. Every service provider shall prior to the process of recruitment or engagement of domestic worker register itself with the district Board by submitting an application along with prescribed fee, and providing such details as may be prescribed:

Provided that the District Board or any such person so authorized by it may entertain any such application for registration after expiry of the period fixed in this behalf, if he is satisfied that the applicant had sufficient cause for delay in making the application.

6. Every employer, within one month of the commencement of the employment of a domestic worker, shall submit to the District Board an application along with prescribed fee, and providing such details as may be prescribed:

Provided that the district Board or any such person so authorized by it may entertain any such application for registration after expiry of the period fixed in this behalf, if he is satisfied that the applicant had sufficient reason for the delay in making the application in time.

7. (1) Wherever a domestic worker undertakes work through a service provider, it shall be the duty of such service provider to get the domestic worker registered within one month from the commencement of the work, with the District Board by making an application along with prescribed fee and providing such details as may be prescribed.

(2) Where a domestic worker undertakes work under a single employer and is not engaged through any service provider, then it shall be the duty of such employer to ensure that the domestic worker is registered with the district Board within one month from the commencement of the work:

Provided that the District Board or any such person so authorized by if may entertain any such application for registration after expiry of the period fixed in this behalf, if he is satisfied that the applicant had sufficient cause for delay in making the application.

8. Where a domestic worker undertakes part-time work in two or more households and is not engaged through any placement agency, the employer shall ensure that the domestic worker is registered with the District Board and the prescribed fees is paid

10. (*1*) No employer/service provider shall employ a domestic worker unless a certificate of registration in respect of such employment is issued by the respective District Board or government servant so authorized.

(*2*) If the District Board or any government servant so authorized by it is satisfied, either on a reference made to it in this behalf or otherwise that the service provider or employer has failed to register, then the penalties prescribed under this act shall apply.

11. In case of failure to pay annual contribution to the District Board, the worker ceases to be beneficiary under the Act.

12. A registration certificate shall be renewed at an interval of one year, on the payment of fee as may be prescribed.

13. (*1*) No employer to which this Act applies shall employ domestic worker unless the renewal of registration certificate is carried out by him in respect of such employment as issued under this Act.

14. Beneficiaries of the Fund.- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every domestic worker above the age of eighteen years, registered under this Act shall be entitled to the benefits provided by the Board from its Fund under this Act.

(2) Every domestic worker above the age of sixty years shall continue to be beneficiary under this Act, however, shall not pay annual contribution to the Fund.

15. (1) The District Board shall give to every beneficiary an identity card with his photograph duly affixed.

(2) A beneficiary who has been issued an identity card under this Act. shall produce the same whenever demanded by any officer of Government or the District Board, or any other authority for inspection.

16. Maintenance and Digitization of records.- The District Board shall maintain records or register of all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and in prescribed form and shall ensure that all records are computerized within a reasonable time.

CHAPTER III
IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITIES UNDER THE ACT

17. (1) The State Government shall, with effect from such date as it may, by notification appoint, constitute a Board to be known as the Karnataka State Domestic Worker Protection Board to exercise the powers conferred on, and perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act.

(2) The State Board shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The State Board shall consist of a Chairperson, a person to be nominated by the State Government and such number of other members, not exceeding fifteen, as may be appointed to it by the appropriate Government:

Provided that the State Board shall include an equal number of members representing the State Government, the employers and the Domestic Workers and that at least one-third members of the Board shall be women.

(4) The terms and conditions of appointment and the salaries and other allowances payable to the Chairperson and other members of the State Board, and the manner of filling of casual vacancies of the members of the State Boards, shall be such as may be prescribed.

18. (1) The State Board shall appoint a Secretary and such other officers and employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The Secretary of the State Board shall be its chief executive officer.

(3) The terms and conditions of appointment and the salary and allowances payable to the Secretary and the other officers and employees of the State Board shall be such as maybe prescribed.

19. (1) The State Board shall meet at such time and place and observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including the quorum at such meetings) as may be prescribed.

20. (1) The State Board Shall,—

(*i*) with the previous approval of the appropriate Government, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made there under for all or any of the matters to be provided under this Act.

(*ii*) review and monitor the District Boards constituted for the State and take appropriate steps to ensure its proper and effective implementation;

(*iii*) allocate funds to the District Board and administer the State Domestic Workers Welfare Fund and allocate such amounts to District Boards as may be considered necessary;

(*iv*) prescribe the fees to be charge from the employers, service providers/ placement agencies and domestic workers from time to time;

(*v*) prescribe fee for registration as beneficiaries under the Fund and rate per mensem for the beneficiaries of the fund;

(v) implement such schemes and welfare measures as formulated in consultation with the Central Committee;

(vi)prescribe the form of register to be maintained for registration of domestic workers under the fund;

(*viii*) procedure for renewal of registration certificate;

(*ix*) entertain appeals with respect to any decision by the District Board;

(vii) ensure decent conditions of service, including rates of remuneration, hours of work and conditions;

(*xi*) provide immediate assistance to a beneficiary in case of accident;

(xiii) make payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of sixty years;

(*xiii*) sanction loans and advances to a beneficiary for construction of a house not exceeding such amount and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;

(xiv) pay such amount in connection with premium for Group Insurance Scheme of the beneficiaries as it may deem fit;

(*xv*) give such financial assistance for the education of children of the beneficiaries as may be prescribed;

(*xvi*) meet such medical expenses for treatment of major ailments of a bene ficiaryor, such dependent, as may be prescribed;

(*xvii*) make payment of maternity benefit to the female beneficiaries; and

(*xviii*) make provision and improvement of such other welfare measures and facilities as may be prescribed.

21.- The State Board shall prepare, in such form and at such time each financial year, as maybe prescribed, its budget for the next financial year, showing the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Board and forward the same to the State Government.

22.- (1) The State Board shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed in consultation with the State Accounts and Audit

(2) The State Government shall cause the annual report and auditor's report to be laid, as soon as may be after they are received, before the State Legislature.

23.- (1) The appropriate Government may for the purposes of preparation and implementation of the schemes for welfare of domestic workers, in a District, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish such number of Boards to be known as "District Domestic Workers Protection Board:
(2) The District Board shall consist of members shall be as in the State Domestic Workers Protection Board
3) The Chairperson of the District Board shall be one of the members appointed to represent the State Government, nominated in this behalf by the State Government.
(4) The term of office of members of the District Board shall be such as may be prescribed.
(5) The members of the District Board shall meet once every four months to review the operation of the Act and evaluate the implementation of the Act.
(6) The meetings of the District Board and the procedure to be followed for the purpose and all matters supplementary or ancillary thereto shall be such as may be laid down by the regulations.
24.- (1) The District Boards shall perform the following functions,—

(a) to carry out or cause to carry out the registration of domestic workers, employers, service providers and placement agency as per the procedure prescribed under the Act in the name and Account of State Board and maintain records and registration of domestic workers as beneficiaries under the Act;

(b) to collect cess in the name and account of the State Board from service providers and employers at the time of registration as prescribed;

(c) to grant following benefits to beneficiaries which they are entitled to under the Act:

(i) provision for immediate assistance and rehabilitation to a beneficiary in case of an accident arising in the course of employment;

(ii) financial assistance for the education of beneficiary and his/her children;

(iii)provision for medical expenses for treatment of ailments of abeneficiary or his/her such dependent;

(iv) provision for maternity/paternity benefit to the women/men beneficiaries:

Provided that, such maternity/paternity benefit shall be restricted to two children only;

(v) make payment of funeral expenses to the legal heir on the death of the beneficiary;

(vi) facilitate the settlement of disputes through conciliation;

(vii) renewal of registration certificate and collection of annual contribution;

(viii) issue of identity card for the beneficiary;

(ix) disseminate information on available social security schemes for the Workers;

(xii) training and imparting skills to the domestic workers;

(xiv) provide legal aid to beneficiaries in case of a court proceeding to address their claims;

(xv) implement any schemes or any welfare measures framed by the State Boards;

(xvi) maintain complaint registers for grievance redressal of Domestic

Workers;

(xvii) board shall also establish or devise establishment of creche facilities for children of domestic workers;

(xviii) such other benefits as may be decided by the District Board, from time to time.

(d) The District Board in consultation with the State Board may make available such schemes as applicable under other laws such as the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008.

(2) The District Board shall designate any one or more of the following at such areas as may be considered necessary for purposes of facilitating registration of workers:

(i) Local Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) or urban local bodies;

(ii) Resident Welfare Associations/Society;

(iii) Non-profit organizations working among the Domestic Workers:

(3) The District Board shall maintain such registers and records giving such particulars of domestic workers employed, the nature of work performed by the domestic worker, and such other particulars in such form as may be prescribed.

25.- (1) Subject to any rules made by the State Government in this behalf, the District Board may, within the local limits: —

(a) make such examination and hold such inquiry as may be necessary for ascertaining whether the provisions of this Act have been or are being complied within any place or premises;

(b) require the production of any document, record or evidence (written or oral);

(c) enter, any place or premises with such assistance as it may consider necessary, at all times if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any domestic worker

26. Powers of the District Board.- (1) Each District Board shall have the same powers as are vested in civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, when adjudicating a dispute in respect of the following matters, namely,—

(a) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) compelling the production of documents and material objects;

(c) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses;

(d) in respect of such other matters as may be prescribed.

27. (1) No person shall be chosen as, or continue to be, a member of the Board who,

(a) is a salaried officer of the District Board;

(b) is or at any time has been adjudged insolvent;

(c) is found to be a lunatic or has become of unsound mind; or

(d) is or has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude.

(2) The State Government may remove from office any member, who

(a) is or has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in subsection(1); or

(b) is absent without leave of the District Board for more than three consecutive meetings of the Board;

(c) in the opinion of the Government, has so abused the position of member as to render that person's continuation in the office detrimental to the public interest or is otherwise unfit or unsuitable to continue as such member:

Provided that, no person shall be removed under clause (c), unless person has been given a reasonable opportunity to show cause as to why he should not be removed.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, the members shall hold office during the pleasure of the State Government and if in the opinion of the State Government.

(*a*) the member representing employers and the domestic workers, ceases to

adequately represent the employers or, as the case may be, the domestic workers, or(*b*) having regard to exigencies of circumstances or services in the State

Government, the member representing the State Government cannot continue to represent the State Government, then it may, by an order, remove all any of them from office at any time.

28. Any member of the District Board may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the State Government, and his office shall, on acceptance of the resignation, become vacant.

29. No act or proceeding of the District Board shall be questioned or invalidated merely by reason of any vacancy in its membership or by reason of any defect in the constitution thereof.

30.-(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the State Government, appoint a full time Secretary and such other officers and employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act. Disqualification and removal of member of the District Board

2) The Secretary of the District Board shall be its Chief Executive Officer.

(3) The functions, terms and conditions of appointment and the salary and allowances payable to the secretary and other officers and employees of the District Board shall be such as may be laid down, from time to time, by regulations.

31. (*1*) In the case of complaints relating to non-functioning of the District Board, a complaint shall be filed with the State Board.

(*2*) The State Board shall conduct an enquiry and if found, the complaint to be true and

as the District Board dysfunctional shall dissolve the District Board.

(*3*) Upon dissolution of a District Board, new Board shall be constituted within fifteen days.

32. No child shall be employed as a Domestic Workers or for any such incidental or ancillary work which is prohibited under any law for the time being in force.

CHAPTER IV
ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND

33. (*1*) There shall be formed a Fund, to be called the Domestic Workers Protection Fund, and credited thereto,—

(*a*) one percent of House Tax collected by the Local bodies as contribution towards Funds of Domestic Workers every month.

(*b*) Employers' contribution collected by the District Boards in the name and

Account of the State Board as annual registration fee under section …...

(*c*) any grants made to the Fund by the Central Government and State Government or any other person or organization;

(*d*) any amount received by the District Board in the name and Account of State Board from the beneficiaries as registration fees/workers contribution under section…..

(*e*) all amount from the District Boards received as registration and other fees of domestic workers, Employers and Service providers.

(*f*) any income from investment from Nationalized Bank of the amounts in the Fund.

(*g*) share from GDP and state revenue;

(*h*) all fines collected.

(*i*) all other sums received by the District Board from any other sources.

(*2*) The Fund allocated by the State Board to a District Board shall be administered and applied by the District Board to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with measures and facilities which are necessary or expedient to promote the welfare and social security of Domestic Workers;

(*i*) to defray the cost of such welfare measures or facilities for the benefit of

Domestic Workers/beneficiaries as may be decided by the State Board.

(*ii*) to sanction any money in aid of any scheme for the welfare of the Domestic Workers including family welfare. family planning, education, insurance and other welfare measures;

34.A domestic worker or Employer who has been registered as a beneficiary under this Act shall, until he attains the age of sixty years, contribute to the Fund at such rate per mensem, as may be specified:

Provided that the District Board may, if satisfied that a beneficiary is unable to pay his contribution due to any financial hardship, waive the payment of contribution for a period not exceeding three months at a time.

35. When a beneficiary has not paid his contribution under sub-section (1) of section… for a continuous period of not less than one year, he shall cease to be a beneficiary, but he will continue to be a member:

Provided that if the District Board is satisfied that the non-payment of contribution was for a reasonable ground and that the domestic worker is willing to deposit the arrears, he may allow the domestic workers to deposit the contribution in arrears and on such deposit being made, the registration or entitlement to receive benefits of domestic workers shall stand restored.

CHAPTER V
REGULATION OF THE WORKING CONDITIONS

36.- (1) Every employer and service provider shall provide such particulars of the domestic workers engaged directly or through agency, to the District Board or any person so authorized by it, in such form and on paying such fees as may be prescribed.

(*2*) No service provider or a person/agency shall carry on the business of providing services of domestic workers to any employer unless the said service provider or agency or person is registered under the Act.

(*3*) The service provider shall maintain the records, in a standard format as prescribed by the District Board, of all domestic workers being contracted by them for purposes of employment from any part of the territory of India and provide the details thereof in such form as may be prescribed.

(*4*) Working Hours of the domestic servant shall be as prescribed

(*g*) Interval for rest—The periods of work of a domestic worker each day shall be so fixed that no period shall exceed five hours and that no domestic worker shall work for more than five hours before he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour.

37. The employer shall provide the domestic worker with basic amenities like safe drinking water, food, first aid and washrooms.

38. The employer shall provide a live-in domestic worker with private and decent accommodations for rest and dressing.

39.-The employer shall directly pay the wages to the bank account of the domestic worker within the first five days of the month.

40. The employer and domestic worker shall provide one month notice to the domestic worker and employer before termination of employment and provide wages worth fifteen days of employment.

41. (1) Every domestic worker shall be entitled to a paid sick leave on the account of

being sick, provided that the No. of days for sick leave shall not exceed fifteen days.

(*2*) Every domestic worker who has worked for a period of two hundred forty days or more in a household shall be entitled to fifteen days of annual paid leave which shall not include the weekly holidays or sick leave.

42. Every domestic worker shall enroll under ESI so as to avail domestic worker to been rolled under benefit from health cover, including maternity benefit.

43. No domestic worker shall be subjected to the offence of sexual, physical or verbal assault, violence, trafficking wrongful confinement and bonded/forced labor by any employer or a member of his household.

44. (1) No employer or voluntary organization registered under this Act shall discriminate on the basis of caste, race, region, language, color, sex, creed or religion, in matters such as recruitment, conditions of employment, payment of wages etc.

45. (1) The appropriate Government shall by notification fix the minimum rates of wages payable to domestic worker.

(2) The appropriate Government shall review minimum wages at such intervals as it may think fit. Provided that the intervals of review shall not exceed five years.

CHAPTER VI
GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

46. (*1*) Every District shall have one or more Grievance Redressal Committee for there solution of disputes arising out of grievances relating to rejection and denial of registration, cancellation of registration and claims as well as other grievances regarding District Board.

(*2*) The Grievance Redressal Committee shall consist of equal number of members from the employer and the domestic worker.

(*3*) The Chairperson of the Grievance Redressal Committee shall be selected from the employer and from among the workmen alternatively on rotation basis every year.

(*4*) The total number of members of the Grievance Redressal Committee shall not exceed more than six and there shall be, as far as practicable, one-woman member

(*5*) No withstanding anything contained in this section, the setting up of GrievanceRedressal Committee shall not affect the right of the domestic worker to raise any dispute on the same matter under the provisions of this Act.

(*6*) The Grievance Redressal Committee may compete its proceedings within forty-five days on receipt of a written application by or on behalf of the aggrieved party.

(*7*) The Domestic worker who is aggrieved of the decision of the Grievance Redressal Committee may appeal to the District Collector against the decision of Grievance Redressal Committee and the Collector shall, within one month from the date of receipt of such appeal, dispose of the same and send a copy of his decision to the works concerned.

(*8*) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to the Domestic worker for whom there is an established Grievance Redressal Mechanism in the establishment concerned.

CHAPTER VII
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

47. (1) Any service provider or placement agencies or employer who is not registered under this Act or has not renewed the registration certificate as per this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months and with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(2)Any service provider or agency or employer who contravenes the provisions of the Act or any rules made there under shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months and with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both, and in the

case of a continuing contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day of continuing offence.

(*3*) If any person who has been convicted of any offence punishable under subsection(2) is again guilty of an offence involving a contravention or failure of compliance of the same provision, he shall be punishable on a subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and with fine which shall not be less than forty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or with both:

(*4*)In case of default of payment to the domestic worker the employer shall be liable to make payment along with the interest on such payment as per the State rules and if pays to any domestic worker less the minimum rates of wages fixed for that employee's class of work, or less than the amount due to him under the provisions of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(*5*)Any person who willfully obstructs any officer so authorized by the District Board to conduct inspection under the Act or refuses or willfully neglects to afford such officer any reasonable facility for making any inspection, examination, inquiry or investigation authorized by or under this Act in relation to the employer or a service provider to whom, this Act applies, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months and with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(*6*)Whoever willfully refuses to produce on the demand of such an inspecting person so authorized by the District Boards, any register or other document kept in pursuance of this Act or prevents or attempts to prevent or does anything which he has reason to believe is likely to prevent any person from appearing before or being examined by an inspecting person acting in pursuance of his duties under this act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with a fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees, or with both.

(*7*) Any person who—

(*i*) knowingly sends, directs or takes any girl or women/domestic worker to anyplace for immoral purposes or to a place where she is likely to be morally corrupted or,

(*ii*) in any manner sexually exploits or indulges in trafficking of such man domestic worker or child or,

(*iii*) if found ill-treating or discriminating any domestic worker on the basis of caste, sex, class, race, religion or region or,

(*iv*) in any manner abuses or illegally confines any domestic worker or,

(*v*) compels any domestic worker to render any forced labor or,

(*vi*) provides any child as domestic worker,

shall be subjected to imprisonment for not less than three years and which may extend up to a period of seven years and fine up to fifty thousand rupees.

48. On identification of victim by service provider or District Board, the complaint shall

be initiated to the District collector by the service Provider or District Board, as the case may be.

49. (*1*) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a complaint—

(*a*) made by, or with the previous sanction in writing of, the State Board or the District Board or(*b*) made by an office-bearer of a voluntary organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Trade Unions Act or any other law for the time being in force; or

(*2*) No court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

50. (*1*) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything

inconsistent therewith contained in any other law or in the terms of any agreement or contract of service, whether made before or after the commencement of this Act:

(*2*) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as precluding any domestic worker from entering into an agreement with the principal employer as the case may be, for granting them rights or privileges in respect of any matter which are more favourable to them than those to which they would be entitled under this Act.

51. (*1*) If the appropriate Government is satisfied that, or otherwise is of the opinion that, —

(*a*) The State Board is unable to perform its functions, or

(*b*) The State Board has persistently made delay in the discharge of its functions or has exceeded or abused its powers, then the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, supersede the State Board and re-constitute it in the manner specified in section 19 within a period of twelve months from the date of supersession

(*2*) After the supersession of the State Board and until it is reconstituted, the power sand functions of the State Board under this Act shall be exercised and performed by the appropriate Government or by such officer or officers as the appropriate Government may appoint for this purpose.

(*3*) When the State Board is superseded, the following consequences shall ensue, that is to say—

(*a*) all the members of the State Board shall, as from the date of publication of the notification under sub-section (*1*), vacate their office;

(*b*) all the powers and functions, which may be exercised or performed by the

State Board shall, during the period of supersession, be exercised or performed by such persons as may be specified in the notification.

(*c*) all funds and other property vesting in the State Board shall, during the

period of supersession, vest in the State Government and on the reconstitution of the State Board, such funds and property shall reinvest in the State Board.

52. (*1*) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not

inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

(*2*) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of State Legislature

53. (*a*) The State and District Boards shall maintain proper accounts an other relevant records and prepare annual statements of accounts in such form as may be prescribed.

(*c*) The State and District Boards shall furnish to the appropriate Government before such date as may be prescribed its audited copy of accounts together with the auditor's report.

54. (*1*) The appropriate Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(*2*) Every rule made by the appropriate Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature

THE KARNATAKA FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL, 2025

An Act to provide for protection of the interests of financial consumers and for the said purpose, to establish authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' disputes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth year of the Republic India as follows:-

1. Short Title and Commencement.- (1) This Act shall be known as the "The Karnataka Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act".

(2) It extends to the whole of state of Karnataka

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. Definition .- (a) Advertisement means every form of advertising, whether in a publication, or by the display of notices, signs, labels or show cards by means of circulars or other documents, by an exhibition of pictures or photographic or cinematographic films, by way of sound broadcasting or television, by the distribution of recordings, by internet or other computer or digital means, or in any other manner, and the term “advertising” shall be construed accordingly

(b) bundled services or products” means two or more services or products offered for sale in a package although each such service or product is also available for sale separately in the market
(c) Financial consumer refers to a person or entity, or their duly appointed representative, who is a purchaser, lessee, recipient, or prospective purchaser, lessee or recipient of financial products or services. It shall also refer to any person, natural or juridical, who had or has current or prospective financial transaction with a financial service provider pertaining to financial products or services;
(d) financial services or products” means the financial services or financial products developed, offered or marketed by a financial services provider or for and on behalf of another person by a financial services provider;
(e) financial consumer dispute means a civil dispute between a financial consumer and a financial services provider arising over a service or a product

(f) Financial regulators refer to the SEBI, RBI, MCA, Finance Ministry, IRDAI, Pension Regulatory Authority and such other regulatory authorities as may be defined under this Act from time to time.
(g) Financial service provider refers to a person, natural or juridical, which provides financial products or services that are under the jurisdiction of financial regulators as defined in this Act.
(h) Government refers to the State Government and such other authorities as may be notified in this regard.
(i) Market conduct refers to the manner by which a financial service provider designs and delivers its financial products or services and manages its relationships with its clients and the public;
(j) Marketing refers to the act of communicating, offering, promoting, advertising, or delivering of financial products or services by financial service providers; and
    (i) Responsible pricing refers to the pricing, terms, and conditions of financial products and/or services that are set in a way that is both affordable to clients and sustainable for financial service providers by taking into account, among others, client needs and the pricing schemes of the competitors

3. Scope and Coverage.- This Act applies to all financial products or services offered or marketed by any financial service provider.

4. Financial Regulators.- The SEBI, RBI, MCA, Finance Ministry, IRDAI, Pension Regulatory Authority, shall enforce the provisions of this Act on all financial service providers under their jurisdiction by virtue of their respective charters, special laws and amendments thereto.

5. Powers of the Financial Regulators.- Financial regulators under this Act shall have the following powers,-

(**a) Rulemaking:** Financial regulators shall have the authority to formulate their own standard and rules for the application of the provisions of this Act to specific financial products or services within their jurisdiction guided by internationally accepted standards and practices. Financial regulators may also determine reasonableness of interest charges or fees which a financial service provider may demand, collect, or receive for any service or product offered to a financial consumer. Likewise, they may issue their respective rules of procedure concerning administrative actions arising from the implementation of this Act.

(b) **Market Conduct Surveillance and Examination:** Financial regulators may conduct surveillance and examination, on-site or off-site, on their respective financial service providers, consistent with their respective risk-based supervision policies, to ascertain that the provisions of this Act are complied with. The examination for financial consumer protection compliance may be conducted separately from examination of prudential regulations compliance. The provisions on the conduct of examination and surveillance provided in the respective charters of financial

regulators, and pertinent special laws shall be made applicable in the examination and surveillance activities authorized under this Act.

The department heads and the examiners of the financial regulators shall be authorized to administer oaths to any director, officer, or employee of the supervised financial service providers subject to the examination of their marker conduct and compliance with this Act, and to compel the presentation of all books, documents, papers, or records in any form necessary in their judgment to ascertain compliance of financial service providers to this Act.

The supervised financial service provider shall afford to its respective financial regulator full opportunity to examine its records, and review its systems and procedures, at any time during business hours when requested to do so by the financial regulator.

(c) Market Monitoring: Financial regulators shall have the authority to require their respective supervised financial service providers and their third party agents/service providers to submit reports or documents, as needed. For purposes of market monitoring, the financial regulators may obtain relevant data about financial products, services and markets from other government agencies, which shall be duty-bound to furnish the same.

(d) Enforcement: Financial regulators shall have the authority to impose enforcement actions on their respective supervised financial service providers for noncompliance with this Act and other existing laws pertinent to the jurisdiction and authority of the respective financial regulators. Such enforcement actions may include the following:

(1) Restriction on the ability of the supervised financial service provider to continue to collect excessive or unreasonable interests, fees or charges, including all other interests, fees and charges;

(2) Disqualification and/or suspension of directors, trustees, officers, or employees of the supervised financial service provider responsible for violations of the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), or orders of the financial regulators;

(3) Imposition of fines, suspension, or penalties for any noncompliance with or breach of this Act, its IRR, or the orders of the financial regulators;

(4) Issuance of a cease-and-desist order to the financial service provider without the necessity of a prior hearing if in the financial regulator's judgment, the act or practice, unless restrained, amounts to fraudor a violation of the provisions of this Act and its IRR, or may unjustly cause grave or irreparable injury or prejudice to financial consumers. The financial service provider shall be afforded an opportunity to defend its act or practice in a summary hearing before the financial regulator or its designated body, upon request made by the financial service provider within five (5) calendar days from its receipt of the order. If no such hearing is requested within the said period, the order shall be final. If

a hearing is requested by the financial service provider, the proceedings shall be conducted summarily without adhering to the technical rules of evidence, and all issues shall be determined primarily on the basis of records, after which the financial regulator may either reconsider or finalize and execute its order;

(5) Suspension of operation of any supervised financial service provider in relation toa particular financial product or service when in the financial regulator's judgment, based on findings, the financial service provider is operating in violation of the provisions of this Act, and its IRR; and

(6) In any proceedings in which the financial regulators may impose a penalty for noncompliance with or breach of this Act and other existing laws under their jurisdiction, the financial regulators, in addition to the imposed fine, may enter an order requiring accounting and disgorgement of profits obtained, or losses avoided, as a result of a violation of this Act and other existing laws, including reasonable interest. The financial regulators are authorized to adopt rules, regulations, and orders concerning the creation and operation of a disgorgement fund, payment to financial consumers, rate of interest, period of accrual, and such other matters as deemed appropriate to implement this provision.

(e) Consumer Redress or Complaints Handling Mechanism: Financial regulators shall provide efficient and effective consumer redress or complaints handling mechanism such as mediation, conciliation or other modes of alternative dispute resolution to address conflict/dissatisfaction from financial consumers arising from financial products or services. The financial consumer may avail of the mechanism prior to adjudication.

(f) Adjudication: Financial regulators shall have the authority to adjudicate all actions as provided under existing laws.

6. Reporting duties of the financial services provider.- Every financial services provider shall submit a bi-annual report to the Financial Regulators on the policies adopted with respect to financial consumer protection, including ,—

(a) the measures taken to monitor compliance with policies;

(b) financial education activities;

(c) information on the number, type and conclusion of disputes of the financial consumers handled internally;

(d) the activities of agents or third parties acting on behalf of the financial services provider; and

(e) any monitoring activity undertaken over such entities.

The report for the first half of the year shall be submitted by 15 July of each year and that for the second half of the year shall be submitted by 15 January of the succeeding year.

Where a financial services provider contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) or subsection (2), the financial services provider shall be liable to an administrative penalty not exceeding Rs. 10,000 and an additional penalty of Rs. 1,000 for each day or part thereof during which the contravention continues.

Where a financial services provider submits a report under subsection (1) giving information known to be false, or recklessly makes a false or misleading statement, the financial services provider shall be deemed to have committed an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Rs. 40,000.

7. Duties and Responsibilities of Financial Service Providers.

(a) Board and Senior Management Oversight: The Board of Directors and the members of senior management of financial service providers shall ensure conformity with this Act and shall provide the means by which they shall identify, measure, monitor, control, and manage consumer protection risk inherent in their operations, in accordance with the rules and regulations of their financial regulators.

(b) Appropriate Product Design and Delivery: Financial service providers shall continuously evaluate their financial products or services to ensure that they are appropriately targeted to the needs, understanding and capacity of both their markets and their clients. This shall include among others, the following:

> **(1) Affordability and suitability assessments:** Financial service providers should have written procedures for determining whether a particular financial product or service is suitable and affordable for their clients. This shall include the determination of whether or not the amount and terms of the offered financial product or service allow various clients to meet their respective obligations with a low probability of serious hardship, and that there is a reasonable prospect that the financial product or service will provide value to its client. For the purpose of extending credit, this assessment will include measures to prevent over-indebtedness.
>
> **(2) Cooling-off period:** Financial service providers are expected to adopt a clear cooling-off policy, as may be prescribed by law or by rules and regulations issued by the relevant financial regulator upon its determination that a cooling-off period is necessary for a particular financial product or service that is subject to its regulation. Such policy should, among others, provide a cooling-off period that will allow a client to consider the costs and risks of a financial product or service, free from the pressure of the sales team of the financial service provider. The length of the cooling-off period should be individually determined by the financial service providers based on reasonable expectation of the time

required for a client to fully evaluate all the terms and risks of the financial product or service and contact concerned parties who may be affected by its terms and conditions, unless a minimum or fixed period is prescribed by the financial regulator for compliance by the financial service provider or when stipulated in the terms of the financial product or service. Financial regulators may opt not to provide for cooling-off period for short-term transaction or contracts.

During the cooling-off period, the financial consumer may cancel or return the contract without penalty; however, nothing herein prevents the financial service providers from recovering the processing costs incurred, as may be approved by the financial regulators. Financial service providers are prohibited from engaging in practices that unreasonably burden the financial consumer in the exercise of the right of cancellation during the cooling-off period. If the financial product or service is a contract of insurance, a pre-need or a health maintenance organization (HMO) product, the right of return cannot be exercised after the financial consumer has made a claim.

(3) Pre-payment of loans and other credit accommodations: A borrower may, at any time prior to the agreed maturity date, prepay a loan or other credit transactions in whole or in part: Provided, That costs or fees charged to the borrower for such pre-payment, if any, shall be disclosed to ensure transparency, disclosure, and responsible pricing as required under this section.

(c) Transparency, Disclosure, and responsible Pricing: Financial service providers must ensure that they adopt disclosure principles in their communications and their contracts with financial consumers, including the use of clear and concise language to ensure that all information concerning the financial product or service is understood by the target clients. This shall also include updated and accurate disclosure of information such as pricing or any cost associated with the product or service, and should be made in a consistent manner to facilitate a comparison between similar financial products or services across the industry.

Sufficient product disclosure must be provided before the contracting of the financial product or service to give the client enough basis and time for review. Any change in the terms or conditions of a financial product or service shall be provided to the client.

In their advertising materials, financial service providers shall disclose the contact information of their consumer assistance unit providing consumer assistance and handling financial consumer complaints. Financial service providers shall also disclose that they are regulated and the advertising materials must identify the relevant financial regulator.

Financial service providers are legally responsible for all statements made in the marketing and sales materials that they produce relative to their financial products or services. Disclosure of information on financial products or services shall be made available to the public by the financial service provider through printed materials, mass media, websites or digital platforms.

Financial service providers must have internal policies and procedures for setting prices for their products and services that take into consideration, among others, the principle of responsible pricing.

(d) Fair and Respectful Treatment of Clients: Financial service providers shall have the right to select their clients: Provided, That they shall not discriminate against clients on the basis of race, age, financial capacity, ethnicity, origin, gender, disability, health condition, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or political affiliation: Provided, further, That financial service providers may provide distinction, as necessary, when making a risk assessment on a specific financial product or service.

Financial Service providers are prohibited from employing abusive collection or debt recovery practices against their financial consumers.

(e) Privacy and Protection of Client Data: Each financial service provider must respect the privacy and protect the data of their clients. Consistent with the provisions of Digital Personal Data Protection, Act 2023, the financial regulators shall issue regulations in coordination with the National Privacy Commission, governing the disclosure of client data to a third party.

Clients have the right to review their data to ensure that inaccurate or deficient data is corrected or amended, refuse the sharing of their information to a third party and request the removal of their data from the service provider's system if they no longer wish to use the provider's services.

(f) **Financial Consumer Protection Assistance Mechanism**: Each financial service provider must establish a single consumer assistance mechanism for free assistance to financial consumers on financial transactions concerns. This shall include handling of complaints, inquiries and requests.

A financial service provider must provide clear information on the actions taken or to be taken on a complaint, inquiry or request from a financial consumer. In the case of alleged disputed amount or unauthorized transactions, a financial service provider, pending the result of its final investigation report, shall suspend the imposition of interest, fees and charges, or provide similar reasonable accommodations to the financial consumer.

Financial consumers who are unsatisfied with the financial service provider's handling of their complaints, inquiries and requests, may elevate their concerns to the financial regulator which has jurisdiction over the financial service provider concerned.

(g**) Information Security Standards**: Financial service providers shall adopt and implement information security standards to ensure the safety and protection of the confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity, and non-repudiation of the client's information and financial transactions and to ensure the data privacy of their clients. The financial regulators shall

prescribe the minimum information security standards for compliance by all financial service providers.

8. Enforcement action by Financial Regulatory.-Where a financial services provider has violated any of the provisions of this Act or any regulations, directions or orders made thereunder, the Competent Authority may, in addition to a penalty under this Act, take one or more of the following enforcement actions against such financial services provider, —

(a) direct the financial services provider to take corrective action within a specified period of time;

(b) suspend whole or partial services or products involved in the violation;

(c) recommend to the financial services provider to take appropriate action against its directors, supervisors, managers or employees;

(d) direct the financial services provider to refund its customers affected by the violation; and

(e) any other actions, as the Financial Regulator may deem fit

Where a financial services provider fails to take the corrective action under subsection (1)(a) during the time-period set out by a Financial regulators, the Financial regulators may give a notice directing the financial services provider to take corrective action within a specified period of time.

(3) Where the financial services provider fails to comply with the directions issued under subsection (2), the Financial regulators may take any actions provided under clauses (b) to (d) of subsection (1).

9. Bundling of Products.- When a financial consumer is obliged by the financial service provider to purchase any product, including an insurance policy, as pre-condition for availing a financial product or service, the financial consumer shall have the option to choose the provider of such product subject to reasonable standards set by the financial service provider, and this information shall be made available to the financial consumer.

10. Training.- Staff of financial service providers who deal directly with financial consumers, including those who are involved in financial consumer protection assistance mechanism or cybersecurity, must receive adequate training suitable to the complexity of the financial products or services they offer. Financial service providers must be qualified as appropriate for the complexity of the financial product or service they offer.

11. Investment Fraud.- It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to commit investment fraud as defined in this Act. Any person who commits investment fraud shall be subject to the penalties as prescribed under the rules framed under this Act.

12. No Waiver of Rights.- No provision of a contract for a financial product or service shall be lawful or enforceable if such provision waives or otherwise deprives a client of a legal right to sue the financial service provider, receive information, have their complaints addressed and resolved, or have their non-public client data protected.

13. Liability of a Financial Service Provider on the Acts or Omission of its Authorized Representatives.- The financial service provider shall be responsible for the acts or omissions of its directors, trustees, officers, employees, or agents in marketing and transacting with financial consumers for its financial products or services. The financial service provider shall be solidarily liable with accredited third-party service providers for their acts or omissions in marketing and transacting, which may include, but not limited to, debt collection, with financial consumers for its financial products and services.

14. Prescription.- All actions or claims accruing under the provision of this Act, and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, shall prescribe after five (5) years from the time the financial consumer transaction was consummated, or after five (5) years from the discovery of deceit or nondisclosure of material facts: Provided, That such actions shall, in any event. prescribe after ten (10) years from the commission of the violation: Provided, further, That for insurance contracts, the prescriptive period for the commencement of action provided under the Insurance Code shall apply.

15. Penalties.- Any persons who willfully violates this Act or the rules, regulations, orders, or instructions issued by the financial regulators to implement this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year, but not more than five (5) years, or by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand rupees but not more than two lakhs or both, at the discretion of the court: Provided, That if the violation is committed by a corporation or a juridical entity, the directors, officers, employees, or other officers who are directly responsible for such violation shall be held liable thereto.

16. Administrative Sanctions.- Without prejudice to the enforcement actions prescribed under Section 6(d) of this Act and the criminal sanctions provided under Section 15 of this Act, the administrative sanctions of the respective charters of the financial regulators shall be made applicable to a financial service provider, its directors, trustees, officers, employees or agents for violation of this Act or any related rules, regulations, orders or instructions of financial regulators; or to any persons found administratively liable for investment fraud: Provided, That for persons found responsible for investment fraud, the SEC may impose a fine of no less than Fifty thousand rupees but not more than two lakhsfor each instance of investment fraud plus not more than Ten thousand rupees for each day of continuing violation: Provided, further, That in case profit is gained or loss is avoided as a result of the violation of this Act or investment fraud, a fine not more than three (3) times the profit gained or loss avoided may also be imposed by the financial regulator: Provided, finally, That in addition to the administrative sanctions that may be

imposed, the authority of the financial service provider to operate in relation t a particular financial product or service may be suspended or cancelled by the financial regulator.

17. Independent Civil Action.- A financial regulator, consistent with public interest and protection of financial consumers, is authorized to institute an independent civil action on behalf of aggrieved financial consumers for violations of this Act and its IRR. If any of theses proceedings, the financial regulators obtain a civil penalty against any person or entity, or such person or entity agrees to settle such civil penalty, the amount of such civil penalty shall on the motion of the financial regulators, be added to and become part of a disgorgement fund or other fund established for the benefit of the aggrieved financial consumer.

18. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The financial regulators shall prepare the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within one (1) year from its effectivity.

19. Separability Clause.- If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other provisions not thereby affected shall remain valid.

20. Removal of Difficulty clause. - If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with such provisions which appears to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

THE KARNATAKA GYMNASIUMS AND FITNESS CENTRES (REGULATION AND LICENSING) BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for regulation and control of gymnasiums and fitness centers which are engaged in activities, such as giving training on weight lifting and body building and conduct courses for weight reduction and proper nutrition in the state of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER- I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Gymnasiums and Fitness Centers (Regulation) Act, 2017.

(2) It extends to the whole of State of Karnataka

(3) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —
(*a*) "appropriate Government" means the State Government of Karnataka
(*b*) "competent authority" means any office or officer notified by the appropriate Government under section 4, to perform functions assigned under this Act;
(*c*) "gymnasium or fitness centre" means any establishment by whatever name called engaged in giving training on weight lifting, body building and giving nutritional advice on fitness and weight reduction;
(*d*) "instructor" means any person engaged for giving training on weights, body building and nutritional advice to members enrolled in any gymnasium or fitness centre;
(*e*) "member" means any person enrolled with any gymnasium or fitness centre;
(f) “misleading advertisements” "misleading advertisement" in relation to any product or service, means an advertisement, which,—
(*i*) falsely describes such product or service; or
(*ii*) gives a false guarantee to, or is likely to mislead the consumers as to the nature, substance, quantity or quality of such product or service; or
(*iii*) conveys an express or implied representation which, if made by the manufacturer or seller or service provider thereof, would constitute an unfair trade practice; or

(*iv*) deliberately conceals important information [Section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER II

REGISTRATION OF GYMNASIUM AND FITNESS CENTERS

3.- (1) With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint, no person or establishment shall run a gymnasium or a fitness centre without prior registration with the competent authority.

(2) Any person or establishment running a gymnasium and fitness centre before the commencement of this Act shall apply for registration to the competent authority within a period of forty-five days from the date of commencement of this Act in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

4. Procedure for Registration.- (1) An application for a license shall be made to the State Authority in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
(2) The application shall be accompanied by,—
(a) proof of ownership or lease of premises;
(b) compliance with fire safety, accessibility and otherstandards fixed by

the appropriate Government in this regard.
(c) proposed list of equipment and qualified staff;
(d) such fee as may be prescribed.

5. Grant or refusal of license.- (1) The competent authority shall, inspect the gymnasium of the fitness center and after being satisfied with the various requirements under this Act, grant registration certificate to the applicant in such manner and form as may be prescribed which shall be valid for three years.

(2) The competent authority shall grant the registration only after re-inspecting the gymnasium or the fitness centers and on fulfilment of requirements fixed in this behalf by the appropriate Government under this Act.

(3) The competent authority may refuse to register a gymnasium or fitness centre or renew its registration if it fails to comply with the norms and standards fixed by the appropriate Government:

Provided that in case of non-registration or non-renewal of registration of a gymnasium or a fitness centre, the competent authority shall record reasons in writing and communicate the same to the applicant.

(*7*) The competent authority shall take a decision on the application filed under section(4 [1]) within a period of thirty days.

6. Suspension or cancellation of license.- The Competent Authority may suspend or cancel the license if the fitness centre,—
(a) violates safety, accessibility, or hygiene norms;
(b) employs unqualified or uncertified staff;
(c) engages in fraudulent or unethical practices; or
(d) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

7. Minimum operational requirements.- Every licensed fitness centre shall,—
(a) maintain hygienic and safe conditions;
(b) ensure equipment is safe, regularly maintained, and in accordance with international safety standards;
(c) provide first aid and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) facilities;
(d) ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities;
(e) have adequate ventilation, lighting, and emergency exits;
(f) comply with any other standard prescribed.

8. The appropriate Government shall, —

(*a*) fix the fee to be charged by the gymnasium and fitness centers from members for various activities;

(*b*) prescribe minimum qualification for instructor in the gymnasium and fitness centre;

(*c*) fix the instructor-member ratio for gymnasium and fitness centers;

(*d*) lay down norms for minimum infrastructure for starting and running

gymnasium and fitness centers; and

(*e*) prescribe such other norms as may be necessary for the purpose.

9. Display requirements.- Every fitness centre shall display at a prominent place in the gymnasium or fitness centre: -
(a) its license;
(b) certificates of its fitness professionals;
(c) emergency contact numbers, first aid, etc.

(d) code of conduct for trainers and members.

(e) name and phone number of the person to with whom complaint can be lodged

10. Insurance.- All fitness centres shall obtain insurance coverage for,—
(a) public liability;
(b) professional liability of trainers; and
(c) personal accidents to members or staff.

CHAPTER IV

CONSUMER PROTECTION

11. Standard contract requirements.- All membership contracts shall,—
(a) be in clear, concise language;
(b) include cancellation and refund policies aligned with fair trade practices;
(c) specify the duration, renewal terms, and member obligations;

12. Cooling-off period.- Every member shall have a right to cancel their membership within ten days of enrolment and receive a full refund of membership fee paid by the member

13. Grievance redressal.- (1) Every fitness centre shall nominate a person as 'Grievance Redressal Officer [GRO] who shall be responsible to receive, hear and solve the grievance of the members
(2) Unresolved complaints may be referred to the Competent Authority

(3) The Member has the right to approach the Commissions established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

14. Prohibition of misleading advertisements.- No fitness centre shall give any advertisement that is false, misleading, or unsubstantiated by evidence.

15. Rights of the Gymnasium or Fitness Center Members.- Every member of the Gymnasium or Fitness Center shall have the following rights in addition to the rights as prescribed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

(1) **Right to Safe Facilities**: Members have the right to expect that the gym or fitness center will maintain a safe environment. This includes ensuring that all equipment is in working order, the premises are clean and free from hazards, and proper safety protocols are followed. Gyms are responsible for ensuring the safety of their members by providing appropriate staff training, maintaining equipment, and ensuring emergency protocols are in place.
(2) **Right to Compensation for Injury**: If a member is injured due to a gym's failure to meet safety standards—such as faulty equipment, inadequate supervision, or poor facility maintenance—they have the right to seek compensation. This may include medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other damages resulting from the injury.

(3) **Right to Protection under Contract Law**: Many gym memberships involve a contract between the member and the gym. If the gym fails to meet the terms of that contract, including maintaining safety standards, the consumer may be entitled to cancel their membership or receive a refund. Gym contracts typically include clauses on facility conditions, equipment maintenance, and services provided. If these clauses are violated, consumers can take legal action to enforce their rights.

(4) **Right to Report and File Complaints**: Members have the right to file complaints with relevant local authorities or consumer protection agencies if a gym is not meeting safety standards.

(5) **Right to Legal Action for Negligence**: If a Member is injured due to the gym's negligence (e.g., failure to repair broken equipment, inadequate staff supervision, or failure to address safety hazards), they may be able to file a personal injury lawsuit. In such cases, the member would need to prove that the gym's negligence directly caused the injury. Legal action could result in compensation for medical bills, lost income, pain and suffering, and other related costs

CHAPTER VI

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

16. Operating without a license.- Whoever operates a gymnasium or fitness centre without a valid license shall be punishable with a fine up to Rs. 1,00,000 and closure of the centre or both.

17. Non-compliance with operational standards.- Failure to comply with the prescribed operational standards shall attract a fine up to Rs. 50,000 and suspension of license or both

18. Issue or cause to issue misleading advertisements.- Any gymnasium or fitness centre is found guilty of issuing false certifications or misleading advertisements shall be liable to a fine up to Rs. 25,000 and/or cancellation of license.

19. Repeat offences.- In case of repeated violations, the Competent Authority may impose higher fines and order permanent closure of the gymnasium and fitness centre.

CHAPTER VII

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Power to remove difficulties.- (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such orders shall be made after the expiry of the period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

21. Overriding effect of the Act.-The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything in consistent there with contained in any other law for the time being in force on the subject and save aforesaid the provisions of the Act shall be in addition to and not derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

22. Power to make rules.- (1) The State Government may by notification in the Official Gazettee make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

23. Power of inspection.- The Authority or any officer authorized may inspect any fitness centre to ensure compliance with this Act.

24. Protection of action taken in good faith.- No suit or legal proceeding shall lie against the Authority or any officer for anything done in good faith under this Act.

25. Power to remove difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, by order, make such provisions not inconsistent with this Act as may be necessary.

26. Repeal and savings.- Any existing State law or order inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall stand repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the licensing, operation, and oversight of fitness centres in the State. Drawing from regulatory frameworks in the other countries, it aims to establish minimum safety standards, enhance professional accountability, protect consumer rights, and ensure quality service delivery in the growing fitness industry.

THE KARNATAKA PAYING GUEST REGULATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for mandatory registration of Paying Guest accommodation and to regulate the operation of PG accommodations in the State of Karnataka

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy- Sixth year of the Republic of India
As follows: —

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1.- (*1*) This Act may be called the Karnataka State Paying Guest Regulation Act 2025.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint.

2.- Definitions.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "Paying Guest" (PG) means a person who resides in a private accommodation, not as a tenant but as a guest, on payment of a fee, where meals or basic services may or may not be included. It shall be inclusive of occupant.
(b) "PG Owner" means any person, partnership, company, or entity owning or managing an establishment that provides Paying Guest accommodation on a commercial basis.
(c) “PG accommodation” means a private or shared living space where a guest pays fee for a room and potentially other facilities like meals, laundry, and cleaning, as part of a larger home or building.
(d) "Corporation" means the municipal corporation or local district authority under whose jurisdiction the Paying Guest establishment falls.

CHAPTER II
Registration and Licensing

3. (1) No person shall operate a PG accommodation without registering the establishment with the respective district corporation.
(2) For the purpose of registration furnishingfollowing details shall be mandatory:

(a) Complete address and proof of ownership with regard to PG accommodation. Provided that PG owners owning multiple PG accommodations must registereach accommodation separately.
(b) The registration fee for a Paying Guest (PG) accommodation equivalent to twice the amount of the last payable property tax.
(c) The maximum occupancy of the PG accommodation along with the number of rooms and the number of persons that can be accommodated.
(d) A compliance report on safety and hygiene.

(e) A background verification report of the owner and the PG warden from the jurisdictional Police station.

(3)Every application for a license or permission shall be addressed to the Nodal officer.
(4)Every license shall be given under the signature of the Zonal Commissioner or of a Corporation officer empowered to grant the same for that particular zone.

CHAPTER II
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PG OWNERS AND PAYING GUESTS

4. Rights and responsibilities of PG owners.- (1) Each PG Owner shall ensure to take following measures in the PG accommodation,-

(a) Maintain a register of guests mentioning duly all the details of the paying guest including name, adhaar number, native or the permanent address, contact details, parent(s) or the guardian's contact details, any other information which may be required to ensure proper identity and safety of the paying guest.
(b) Clear written communication of rent and charges, amenities available, and rules of the PG accommodation.
(c) Collect pre-defined rent and charges as specified in the agreement avoiding arbitrary or frequent increases without prior written notice.
(d) Issue receipt for all payments or transactions done.
(e) Adequate sanitization and Ventilation.
(f) Access to ample water supply of clean water for drinking and domestic use**.**
(g) Take Safety measures, installation of fire extinguishers,display of emergency contact numbers, a well-stocked first aid kit, and clearly marked emergency exits.
(h) Installations of CCTV cameras at all entry and exit points as well as in common areas with a minimum 90 days footage backup in each camera.
(i) Avoid unlawful discrimination among guests with respect to amenities provided, the rent collected or any other matter as the case may be.
(j) Where number of paying guests exceeds thirty provide adequate parking facilities in order to avoid public inconvenience.
(k) Obtain a Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI) license within three months of receiving business license where PG accommodation is offering in house catering services to paying guests.
(l) Provide Locker facilities to individual occupant.

Explanation.---For the purpose of this section,---
a) "Sanitization": Involves regular cleaning, pest control and maintenance of common areas, bathrooms, and kitchens.
b) "Ventilation": Refers to adequate light fresh air circulating throughout the space, reducing the risk of mold and unpleasant odors.

c) “in house catering services”: Shall mean the PG accommodation where paid food supply is made within premises of the PG accommodation.

5. Rights and responsibilities of Paying guest.- (1) Paying Guests shall have the right to a safe and hygienic living environment which shall also include minimum of seventysqft space for an individual paying guest.

(2) Paying Guests should not be evicted without due notice of minimum thirty days unless it is otherwise specified in the agreement.

(3) Paying Guests shall abide by the PG rules as communicated upon entry.

CHAPTER III
ENFORCEMENT AND MONITORING MECHANISM

6. Enforcement and Monitoring Mechanism.- (1) The State Government shall designate a Nodal Officer in tire 1 and tire 2 cities for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of this Act. District which do not fall under the above tire 1 or 2 cities the duty of overseeing the implementation of this Act shall be with a KAS officer of Grade B or above in the concerned district corporation.

(2) The Nodal Officer and the KAS officer shall perform the following duties,-

(a) Ensuring timely registration and inspection of PG establishments.
(b) Coordinating with local corporations, police, and health departments.
(c) Submitting quarterly compliance and grievance redressal reports to the State Department of Urban Development or any other designated authority.
(d) The Nodal Officer has the power to stop use of premises used in contravention of licenses.

(3) The State Government may frame rules for the functioning of the Monitoring Committees and reporting protocols under this Act.

CHAPTER IV

TAXATION AND REVENUE COMPLIANCE

7. Taxation and Revenue Compliance.- (1) All registered PG Owners shall be required to file annual returns with the local municipal body disclosing:

(a) Number of rooms or beds available in the PG accommodation.
(b) Average monthly occupancy.
(c) Total annual revenue from PG services.

(2)The State Government, in consultation with the Department of Commercial Taxes and Urban Development, shall prescribe a standardized occupancy-based tax or service levy, which may be,-

(a) A fixed amount per occupied bed per month, or
(b) A percentage of annual revenue generated through PG operations

(3) The local municipal corporation shall be empowered to collect and audit such tax or levy and ensure timely compliance.

(4) The State Government may, by notification, exempt PG accommodations below a certain income threshold or with a small number of occupants, subject to prescribed criteria.

CHAPTER V
PENALTIES AND APPEAL

8.Penalties.- (1) Any PG Owner operating without registration within six months of the coming into force of this Act shall be liable to pay a fine of Rupees twenty-five thousand or more based on the level of operation they operate.

(2) Repeated violations shall attract sealing of the premises or revocation of the license by the Corporation as it deems fit.

(3)Fraudulent conduct, harassment, or criminal negligence of the paying guest owner shall be referred to law enforcement agencies.

(4) No action shall be taken by any authority under this Act without serving a written fifteen days notice of violation and the consequences of non-compliance followed by a written order of the action that is going to be taken subsequently.

9.Appeal.- (1) Any person aggrieved by an order under this Act may appeal to the District Magistrate within 30 days of receiving such an order.

CHAPTER VI
MISCELLANEOUS

10. Protection action taken in good faith.- No suit, prosecution, or legal proceeding shall lie against any officer or person acting in good faith under the provisions of this Act. Provided that the act engaged by the officer or person is with intent to highlight the non-adherence of this Act

11. Power to make rules.- The State Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act. Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if , before the expiry of the session immediately following the sessions a foresaid both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall from the date on which the modification or annulment is notified by the State Government in the official Gazette have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

THE KARNATAKA PRE-LEGISLATIVE CONSULTATION BILL, 2025

A Bill to provide for mandatory pre-legislative consultation mechanisms within each Ministry or Department of the State Government, establishment of internal teams to co-ordinate such consultations and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. (*1*) This Act may be called the Karnataka Pre-Legislative Consultation Act, 2025.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date, as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette.

2. Definition.- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(*a*) "Chief Consultation Commissioner" and "Consultation Commissioner" shall mean the Chief Consultation Commissioner and the Consultation Commissioner appointed under sub-section (*3*) of section 12;

(*b*) “Consultation Commission" means the Consultation Commission constituted under sub-section (*1*) of section 12;

(*c*) "Consultation Officer" means the Consultation Officer designated under sub-section (*1*) of section 11;

(*d*) "draft legislation" means a proposed draft of Bill, draft set of rules or regulations that are presently under consideration, and are required to be tabled in, or passed by the Houses of Legislatives to have legal effect;

(*e*) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(f) “Public Authority” means the Organization or Authority or body or institution or a Local Authority established or constituted, -

- (i) by or under the Constitution in the State;
- (ii) by any other law made by the State Legislature;
- (iii) by notification issued or order made by the Government and includes, -
  - (1) body owned, controlled or substantially financed; or
  - (2) non-Governmental organization substantially financed; directly or indirectly by the Government.

(*g*) "public comments" means communication from stakeholders or thegeneral public, either written or online, detailing data, views, arguments andinput regarding a draft legislation;

(h) "public consultation" means the conducting of a physical meetingbetween the relevant department or ministry, the identified stakeholder and/orthe general public to discuss and receive inputs on the draft legislation; and

(i) "stakeholders" means such individuals or group of individuals whoare likely to be affected by a draft legislation.

CHAPTER II

PUBLISHING OF DRAFT LEGISLATIONS

3. (*1*) Every Public Authority shall proactively publish the draft legislation on its website as to be prominently visible and easily accessible to the general public and in such other manner as may be prescribed.

(*2*) Where such draft legislation affects a specific group of people, it may be documented and disseminated through print or electronic media or in such other manner, as may be considered necessary to give wider publicity so as to reach the affected people.

4. Every Public Authority shall publish or place in public domain the draft legislation and related information, including brief justification for such legislation, essential elements of the draft legislation, its broad financial implications, and an estimated assessment of the impact of such legislation on environment, fundamental rights, lives, and livelihoods of the concerned and affected people.

5. The Details as specified under section 4 shall be kept in the public domain in such manner as may be specified by the Department or Ministry concerned for a minimum period of thirty days.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to publish draft legislation following matters: —

(*a*) internal functioning of any Department or Ministry or its personnel, public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts; and

(*b*) any other affairs concerning the security of the State.

CHAPTER III

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONSULTATION

7. (*1*) Every Public Authority shall, in addition to placing any draft legislation in the public domain, provide forums for the relevant stakeholders and the general public to comment on the draft legislation through submission of written data, views and arguments, with or without opportunity to present the same orally in any manner.

(*2*) For the purpose of inviting public comments under sub-section (*1*), the concerned Public Authority shall clearly specify, —

(*a*) The physical address, email address or web link where public comments may by submitted;

(*b*) Form of submission of public comment including format and word limit; and

(*c*) Deadline for submission of public comment.

8. (*1*) Where the concerned Public Authority provides the opportunity to the public or the stakeholders to comment on the draft legislation, it shall clearly and publicly provide notice of offering such comments and where such comments are to be obtained only from a specific number of stakeholders, then such stakeholders shall be served notice in person in such form as may be prescribed.

(*2*) The notice under sub-section (1) shall include inter alia,-

(a) A statement of the time, place and nature of public comments;

(*b*) Reference to the authority under which the draft legislation is proposed;

(*c*) The terms or substance of the draft legislation and a description of the subjects and issues involved; and

(*d*) Such other details as may be prescribed.

9. The concerned Public Authority, shall, after consideration of all relevant matter presented through the public consultation and public comments, publish an output document summarizing the details of stakeholders identified, inputs received and the reasons for accepting and rejecting the suggestions received in such form as may be prescribed.

10. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if the concerned Public Authority is of the view that it is not feasible or desirable to hold public consultations or invite public comments, it shall record its reasons in writing in such form as may be prescribed.

11. (*1*) Every Public Authority shall, within one hundred days of the coming into force of this Act, designate such number of officers as the Consultation Officers as may be necessary, for the fulfilment of such department, or ministry's obligations as set out under this Act.

(*2*) The Consultation Officers designated under sub-section (*1*) of each Public Authority shall be responsible for: —

(*a*) Ensuring the publication of the draft legislation in the manner setout in section 3;

(*b*) Providing the required forum for public comments;

(*c*) Identifying key stakeholders to be consulted;

(*d*) Coordinating and setting up avenues for public consultations;

(*e*) Generating the output document;

(*f*) Rendering all required assistance to the Consultation Commission; and

(*g*) Fulfilling such other responsibilities as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IV

CONSULTATION COMMISSION

12. (*1*) The State Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a body to be known as the Consultation Commission to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to it under this Act.

(*2*) The Consultation Commission shall consist of—

(*a*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner; and

(*b*) Such number of Consultation Commissioners, not exceeding ten asmay be deemed necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(*3*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner and Consultation Commissioner shallbe appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a Committee consistingof—

(*i*) The Chief Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee;

(*ii*) The Leader of Opposition in the House of the People or Leader of thesingle largest party in opposition as the case may be; and

(*iii*) A State Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister.

(*4*) The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs ofthe Consultation Commission shall vest in the Chief Consultation Commissioner whos hall be assisted by the Consultation Commissioners and may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things which may be exercised or done by the State Consultation Commission autonomously without being subjected to directions by any other authority under this Act.

(*5*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner and Consultation Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in Public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

(*6*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner or any Consultation Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

(*7*) The headquarters of the Consultation Commission shall be at Bengaluru.

13. (*1*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Provided that no Chief Consultation Commissioner shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of Sixty-five years.

(*2*) Every Consultation Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five yearsfrom the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, and shall not be eligible for reappointment as such Consultation Commissioner: Provided that every Consultation Commissioner shall, on vacating his office under this sub-section be eligible for appointment as the Chief Consultation Commissioner in the manner specified in sub-section (*3*) of section 12. Provided further that where the Consultation Commissioner is appointed as the Chief Consultation Commissioner, his term of office shall not be more than five years in aggregate as the Consultation Commissioner and the Chief Consultation Commissioner.

(*3*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner or a Consultation Commissioner may, at any time, by writing under his hand addressed to the Governor, resign from his office: Provided that the Chief Consultation Commissioner or a Consultation Commissioner may be removed in the manner specified under section 14.

(*4*) The salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service—

(*a*) The Chief Consultation Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Information Commissioner;

(*b*) A Consultation Commissioner shall be the same as that of a Information Commissioner.

(*5*) The State Government shall provide the Chief Consultation Commissioner and the Consultation Commissioners with such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of their functions under this Act, and the salaries and allowances payable to and the terms and conditions of service ofthe officers and other employees appointed for the purpose of this Act shall be suchas may be prescribed.

14. (*1*) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (*2*), the Chief Consultation Commissioner or any Consultation Commissioner shall be removed from his office only by order of the Governor on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity, on a reference made to it by the Governor, has, on inquiry, reported that the Chief Consultation Commissioner or any Consultation Commissioner, as the case may be, ought on such ground be removed.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*) the Governor may by order remove from office the Chief Consultation Commissioner or any Consultation Commissioner if the Chief Consultation Commissioner or a Consultation Commissioner, as the case may be,—
(*a*) Is adjudged an insolvent; or
(*b*) Has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Governor, involves moral turpitude; or
(*c*) Engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
(*d*) Is in the opinion of the Governor, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or
(*e*) Has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as the Chief Consultation Commissioner or a Consultation Commissioner.
15. The Consultation Commissioner shall, —
(*a*) Inspect the conduct of public consultations and invitation of public comments by various Ministries and Departments;
(*b*) Prescribe best standards for conducting public consultations;
(*c*) Determine the exceptions wherein the requirements of this Act shall not apply;
(*d*) Penalize Consultation Officers for in-effective functioning under this Act; and
(*e*) Undertake such other functions as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

16. (*1*) Where a Public Authority fails to,—
(*a*) Designate officers as Consultation officers under sub-section (*1*) of section 11; or
(*b*) Contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets contravention of other provisions of this Act or any rules made there under by the State Government or the Consultation Commission as the case may be; such concerned Department or Ministry shall be punishable with a fine which may extend up to fifty thousand rupees.
17. The State Government shall, after due appropriation made by State Legislature by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds for carrying out the purposes of this Act from time to time.

18. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government, may make such order or give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of any difficulty: Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

19. (*1*) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(*2*) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Legislature, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall there after have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case maybe; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The cornerstone of a deliberative democracy is the participation of the citizens in the process of law-making. Laws, after all, are made for the public good, and the simplest way to understand what that public good is, would be to first take the opinion of the public in this regard. Building consensus through consultation can help to create a legislation is truly by the people, and of the people. A Legislation, so built, can be effective in ensuring greater compliance, given that the legislation has the mandate of the people, who have lent their voice towards the making of the law.

The purpose of introducing a Bill of this nature is to,—

(*a*) Promote community participation and inclusion in the dialogue, decision-making, and implementation of solutions to common problems or goals by contributing towards law-making processes.

(*b*) Provide for more transparency regarding lawmaking processes; and

(*c*) Create strong laws that account or multiple perspectives and approaches.

This Bill seeks to provide a degree of legislative backing to the pre-legislative consultation policy in order to ensure better compliance as well as provide for procedures, mechanisms and penalties in relation to the conducting of consultations.

Hence this Bill.

KARNATAKA PRIVATE SCHOOLS FEE (REGULATION) BILL, 2025

The Bill provides provisions to regulate collection of fee in private affiliated schools in state of Karnataka and matters incidental to it.

Objectives of the Bill - The Bill aims at regulating collection of fee by private affiliated schools in Karnataka and to bring uniformity in fee structure of all the schools and to promote affordable elementary and secondary education to all children.

Be it enacted by the Karnataka State Legislature in the Seventy-Sixth year of the Republic of India as follows: —

CHAPTER -1

PRELIMINARY

1.**Short title, Extent and Application.-** (1) The Bill may be called as The Karnataka Private Schools Fee (Regulation) Bill, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of Karnataka and applicable to all the private affiliated schools in Karnataka/ affiliated private educational institutions imparting elementary and secondary education regulated by state board, CBSE, ICSE, etc.

(3) It may come into force as the date fixed by the appropriate government by notification in official gazette.

2. **Definitions.-** (a) Academic year means the period of 12 months as prescribed by the school or different academic year mentioned by the school from time to time.

(b) Admission Policy means the set of rules and regulations framed by school for every academic year.
(c) Appropriate government means the Government of Karnataka.
(d) Affiliated school includes schools governed by CBSE, ICSE, State Board.
(e) Department of school education established by the state government.
(f) Director includes the officer appointed by the state government in Department of School Education.
(g) Dispute Redressal forum as constituted under section 13 of the Bill.
(h) District Education Officer means officer appointed by Education Department of the appropriate government.
(i) Divisional level fee regulatory committee constituted by the government under section 7 of this Bill.
(j) Elementary education means schooling from 1st standard to 8th standard.

(k) Fee means any amount collected in any manner by the school towards the admission of students in schools.
(l) Fee Regulatory Committees constituted under section 7 of the Bill.
(m) Infrastructure means facilities provided for holistic development of students.
(n) Parent includes the parent/ guardian or wards of student pursuing education in school.
(o) Parent-Teachers Association constituted under section 5 of the Bill.
(p) Private School means schools established, managed, controlled and regulated by private management recognized by state government.
(q) Revision Committee constituted by the state government under section 7 the Bill.
(r) School means any institution or organization imparting formal basic elementary and secondary education from play home to 10^{th} standard governed by State board, CBSE, ICSE, etc.
(s) School Level Fee Committee means a committee established under section 7 of the Bill to regulate fee structure inschool.
(t) Students welfare Fund constituted under section 10 of the Bill.

CHAPTER-II

FEE COLLECTION AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

3. Fee collection.- (1)Private schools can collect mandate fee and optional fee from parents which are follows,-

(a) Mandate fee includes:
(i) Prospectus and registration fee
(ii) Admission Fee
(iii) Examination Fee
(iv) Tuition Fee
(v) Composite Annual Fee

(b) Optional Fee includes:
(i) Transportation
(ii) Boarding
(iii) Food
(iv) Excursions, Etc.
(2)School authorities shall issue proper fee receipt mentioning the detail components of fee collected from students for a specified academic year.

4. Parameters for collection of fee.-
(a) Residential facilities
(b) Medical facility
(c) Food facilities
(d) Transportation facilities

(e) Sports facilities
(f) Curricular &Extracurricular Events
(g) Books facilities
(h) Uniform facilities
(i) Qualified teaching staff
(j) Skilled development classes
(k) Library facilities
(l) Strength of students
(2) The above-mentioned parameters can be modified by the executive committee from time to time to meet the needs of the education structure of the school.
(3)The school authority must issue fee notification 60 days before the commencement of each academic year and same shall be well communicated in advance to all the parent and published on notice board of the school premises and the official website of the school along with the admission policy of the school.
(4)School authority shall make provisions for the payment of fee through instalment mode if it is requested by parents.
(5)Students shall not be subjected to any disgrace, harassment for non-payment of fee. Any decision of removal of students for non- payment fee cannot be taken without the prior approval of the Divisional Level Fee Committee and without giving 60 days prior intimation to the parents.

5.Prohibition of collection of excess fee.- No private school shall collect excess fee than fixed or approved by the state government as per the law.

6. Constitution of the Parent- Teachers' Association.- (1)The parent and teachers' association shall be formed by the head of the institution at the commencement of every academic year. Parents of all the students can be the member of the association. The purpose of the association is to look into the issues incidental to the education such as fee, evets, infrastructure and any grievances relating to education structure of the school.
(2)The Association shall constitute the Executive Committee at the commencement of every academic year. The executive committee shall conduct regular meetings for every 4 months and the outcome of the meeting shall be communicated to all the members of the Parent-Teachers Association in 15 days after the conclusion of every meeting.
(3)The composition of the executive committee shall be as follows,-
(a) President-Head of the school
(b) Vice- President -Parents nominee shall be elected by the members of the association for every academic year
(c) 2 Members -Teachers' nominee shall be elected by the head of the school
(d) 1 Member- Management nominee shall be elected by the management of the school
(e)2 Members- Parents' nominee from the association

(4)The executive committee shall at least consist member from Scheduled caste/Scheduled tribe/ other backward caste categories on a rotation basis for every academic year. The executive committee shall consist of at least one-woman member. The executive committee shall discuss about the issues relating to educational measures and incidental matters and take decisions with the majority vote.

(5)The Executive Committee of the association shall propose the admission fee structure of the school according to the parameters mentioned in the Bill and the same shall be approved by the Executive Committee with 2/3 majority decision of the committee.

7. Fee Regulatory Authorities.- There shall be an establishment of 3 tire authorities to regulate fee structure in private schools

(1) School Level Fee Committee.- Every school shall constitute an internal Fee Committee to fix fee on the basis of the parameters mentioned in the Bill and it shall consist of the following members,-

(a) Parents Nominees (High income Class & Low Income class)- 2 Members

(b) Principal of the School-1Member

(c) Management Nominees- 2 Members

(d) Nominee of the Education Department- 2 Members

The admission fee structure proposed by the executive committee of the Parents- Teachers Association shall be placed before the School Level Fee committee for the approval. The School level committee shall approve the proposed fee within 15 days from the date of submission by the executive committee.

(2) Divisional Level Fee Regulatory Committee.-At every district, Divisional Fee Regulatory Committee shall be constituted by the government to supervise and approve the fee structure proposed by the School Level Fee Committee and it shall consist the following members,-

(a) Divisional Commissioner- 1 Member

(b) Officer representing Primary and secondary education- 2 Members

(c) State Treasury officer- 1 Member

(d) Parent representatives (High Income class & Low income class, Sc/ST/OBC)- 2 Members

(e) School Management representatives- 2 Members

The proposed admission fee structure of the private schools shall be placed before the Divisional Level Fee Regulatory Committee for the approval. Within 15 days, the Divisional Level Fee Regulatory Committee shall either approve or reject the proposed fee structure of the private schools with its observations.

If the proposed fee structure is rejected by the Divisional Level Fee Regulatory Committee, the School Level Fee Committee can revise the fee structure and can re–submit it to the Divisional Level Fee Regulatory Committee for the approval.

Without the approval of the Divisional Level Fee Committee, schools shall not collect admission fee from students. In case of contravention of the this, the state government can recommend for de-recognization of private schools after giving an opportunity of being heard.

If any disputes arise regarding the decision of the Divisional Level Fee Committee relating to the dis-approval of the proposed admission fee structure, the matter can be referred to the Revision Committee established by the state government under the Bill.

(3) Revision Committee.-Government shall constitute a Revision Committee at state to approve or revise the fee structure of schools. It shall consist of the following members:

(a) Secretary in-charge of primary and secondary education- 2 members

(b) Secretary of State Treasury- 1 Member

(c) Judicial Member- Retired Hugh Court judge -1 Member

(d) Representatives of Parents (High income class & low income Class/ SC/ST/PBC)- 2 Members

(e) School Management representatives- 2 Members

(f) Account officer of the Department of School Education- 1 Member

Any matter appealed before the Revision Committee by an aggrieved party can be decided by majority decision within 60 days from the date of an appeal filed and the committee can function as a quasi-judicial body.

The decision of the Revision Committee pertaining to the fee structure shall be final.

8. Hike in admission fee for the academic year.- The private schools can hike the admission fee by 5% to 15% with the prior approval of the Divisional Level Fee Committee.

9.Regulation of Accounts and Maintenance of Records.- (1)Maintain Transparency through online transaction where the Divisional Committee Level fee can supervise the fee collection by private schools.

(2) School shall maintain proper accounts of books relating to fee collection and utilization of fees.

(3)The records pertaining to the above shall be inspected by the regulatory authorities of the state government.

(4) If any private schools contravene the provisions shall be liable to pay fine of 5 lakhs and for repetition of the offence school shall be liable for 10 lakhs for continuation of such offence.

CHAPTER –III
MISCELLANEOUS

10.Students Welfare Fund.- Income generated by the school through commercial events, renting of premises, etc can be pooled into students welfare fund and it can be utilized to give scholarships to students or for welfare of students.

11. Offences and Penalties.- If any private schools contravene the provisions of the Bill, the state government shall order for the inquiry by Department of School Education against such private schools.

On the basis of the report submitted the officer, the Department of School education can de-recognized the schools.

The penalty of 10 lakhs can be imposed on schools for contravening the provisions of the Bill.

12. No action against an act done in Good faith.- No suit, prosecution or any legal proceedings can be initiated against any person, school, government authorities for the act done in good faith.

13. Dispute Resolution Body.-Any disputes arise between parents and school under this Bill shall be referred to Government Mediation Centers for the amicable settlements.

14.Barring the Jurisdiction of the regular Courts.- No court shall the take cognizance of the disputes arise under this Act.

15. Powers to make Rules.- The State Government shall make any rules to enforce and to fulfill the objectives of the Act.