

**Seminar by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
&
Karnataka Election Watch
on
Voter awareness, money and muscle power in the Karnataka Elections 2023**

Date and Time: 26th April at 3 PM

Venue: Students' Christian Movement of India House (SCMI House), 29, 2nd Cross,
CSI Compound, Mission Rd, Sampangirama Nagara, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560027

Agenda

Time	Session
15:00- 15:10	Keynote address and introduction of the speakers Prof Trilochan Sastry , Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee of ADR
15:10- 15:25	Report Release: 15th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka: Analysis of Performance of MLAs (2018 - 2023)
15:25- 16:15 Time allotted per speaker: 10-12 mins	Panel Discussion on “ Voter awareness, money and muscle power in the Karnataka Elections 2023 ” Moderator: Prof Trilochan Sastry Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ms Kavita Ratna, Representative of the Secretariat of Grama Panchayat Hakkothaya Andolana2. Mr Harish Narsappa, State Coordinator of Karnataka Election Watch, Senior Advocate, Co-founder of DAKSH, Founder of Samvad Partners3. Mr Vinay K Sreenivasa, Advocate4. Ms Kathyayini Chamaraj, State Coordinator of Karnataka Election Watch and Executive Trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore
16:15- 16:45	Question and Answer Session
16:45- 16:50	Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks Prof Trilochan Sastry
16:50 onwards	Tea and Snacks

Background Note

In the wake of the upcoming Karnataka Assembly elections, ADR analysed the background details of the 224 sitting MLAs. 35% (76) MLAs declared criminal cases against themselves, 26% or 56 MLAs declared serious criminal cases. 209 out of the 224 sitting MLAs i.e. 95% were crorepatitis while the average assets of MLAs was Rs 29.85 cr.

ADR also analysed the MPs/MLAs and candidates financial and criminal cases in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections since 2004. A total of 8893 candidates who have contested either Parliamentary or State assembly elections since 2004 from Karnataka have been analysed and a total of 801 MPs/MLAs who have held seats either in the Parliament or State assembly since 2004 from Karnataka were also analysed.

1135(13%) out of these 8893 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves. 705 (8%) out of the 8893 candidates analyzed have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Out of 801 MPs/MLAs analyzed since 2004, 239 or 30% have declared criminal cases against themselves and 150 or 19% have serious criminal cases. The average assets of all candidates (8893) analyzed since 2004 is Rs 5.91 crores. The average assets of all MPs/MLAs (801) analyzed since 2004 is Rs.22.33 crores.

Additionally, ADR analysed the affidavits of 219 sitting MLAs from Karnataka Assembly 2018. Out of these 219 MLAs, there are 32 MLAs (15%) against whom charges have been framed by the court for offences falling under Section 8(1) (2) & (3) of the R.P Act, 1951. Pendency in respect of criminal cases where charges have been framed under Sec 8 (1), (2), (3): average number of years that criminal cases against 32 MLAs have been pending is 5 years and 6 MLAs have a total of 9 criminal cases pending against them for ten years or more.

During the course of this event, we will be releasing the report on the “15th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka: Analysis of Performance of MLAs (2018 - 2023)”. It will be interesting to see a discussion around the findings of this report and the plausible recommendations from our panellists.

Throughout the ongoing election campaign in Karnataka, media has frequently reported about instances of money being spent and distributed to bribe voters. As on 20 April, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said that around Rs 200 crore worth seizures have been made in Karnataka since the implementation of the model code of conduct. These include cash, liquor, precious metals, freebies and drugs.

In the above context, it also becomes crucial that the voters are sensitised about the grave consequences of criminality and money power on the quality of governance and are empowered with information that helps them make an independent and informed voting choice. Clearly, crime and money remain the indomitable winners who continue to enjoy a stranglehold on India's electoral politics and solicit immediate attention. In the light of the above, we hope that the speakers will reflect upon the focus points mentioned above and share their invaluable insight with us.