

THE KARNATAKA CROWD CONTROL (MANAGING CROWD AT EVENTS AND VENUES OF MASS GATHERING) BILL, 2025

A Bill to effectively **manage and control crowd at sponsored** events and venues of mass gathering **pertaining to political rally, jatra, conference, etc,** in the State of Karnataka.

Whereas it is expedient to effectively **Manage and control crowd at sponsored** events and venues of mass gathering **pertaining to political rally, jatra, conference, etc,** in the State of Karnataka and for matters connected therewith and 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, commencement and application. - (1) This Act may be called the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Act, 2025.

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

(3) **This Act shall not apply to Jatra, Rathotsava, Pallakki Utsava, Teppada Teru, urus, or any religious event pertaining to any religion, caste or creed.**

2. Definitions.-(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

(a) “Crowd” means a large gathering of people typically in a disorganized or unruly way, at such **sponsored** events and venues **pertaining in to political rally, jatra, conference, etc,** as may be notified by the Government from time to time;

(b) "events" and “event planners” means such functions where there is likelihood of gathering of mass, as the Government may, by notification, from time to time specifies;

- (c) "Government" means the Government of Karnataka;
- (d) "Notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
- (e) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (f) "Venue" means such place where there is likelihood of gathering of mass, as the Government may, by notification, from time to time specify and
- (g) "Victim" means a person, or group of persons who suffers bodily injury or death at such venue or event.

(2) The words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 45 of 2023) or the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 46 of 2023) shall have the same meaning respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

CHAPTER II

CONDUCTING OF EVENTS

3. The Organizer of the events has to apply to the Jurisdictional Police station.- (1) The Organizer of the event has to apply to the Jurisdictional Police Station, in such form, before such time as may be prescribed along with the details of approximate number of participants .

(2) On receipt of such Application, the Jurisdictional Police Station may, subject to the conditions as may be prescribed, allow the Organizer to hold the event at such venue.

(3) The Jurisdictional Police station may, subject to the conditions as may be prescribed, may change the date, time or venue, by giving the reasons.

(4) In case of emergency, the Jurisdictional Police station may, cancel or postpone the event altogether subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

(5) In case of emergency, the Jurisdictional Police station may change the venue of the event altogether subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

4. Punishment for offence.- (1) Whoever does not obey the orders of the Police, or violates the provisions of this Act or rules made hereunder, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine up to five thousand rupees or both.

(2) **Penal Provision to event planners who gathers the crowd for commercial purpose like sports or circus, etc., If the event planner does not apply before conducting the event or fails to control the crowd gathered and fails to give the compensation or violates the provisions of this Act or rules made hereunder in any other way, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine up to five lakhs rupees or both.**

(3) An offence under this Act shall be non-cognizable and non-bailable and shall be triable by magistrate of the first class.

5. Offence of event planners. - (1) Any person,-

- (a) Who intentionally disobeys the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder;
 - (b) Who does not take prior permission of the Jurisdictional Police station before conducting the event;
 - (c) who conducts an event at a venue and if it results in death or bodily injury to any person participating either directly or indirectly in such event or any person who dies or suffers bodily injury as a consequence of such event; and
 - (d) Who with intent to create disturbance in any event which results in death or bodily injury, stampede.
- shall be considered as offence by event planner.

CHAPTER-III

AID, ABET OR OTHERWISE ASSISTANCE FOR COMMITTING CRIME AT EVENT OR VENUE

6. Punishment for aiding, abetting or assisting for committing crime at event or Venue.- (1) Whoever knowingly or unknowingly believes that commission or omission of any other person would be an offence under

the provisions of this Act, **with intent to create disturbance in any event which results in death or bodily injury, stampede** and thereby aids, abets or otherwise gives that other person any assistance for such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine or both:

(2) Any intermediary who knowingly or unknowingly or due diligently believes that commission or omission of any other person shall be an offence under the provisions of this Act, provide their platform to commit such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term, which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine or both.

(3) Whoever knowingly or unknowingly believe or has reasonable cause to believe that commission or omission of any other person shall be an offence under the provisions of this Act, expends or supplies any money in furtherance or in support of an act which is an offence under this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term, which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine or both.

CHAPTER-IV VICTIM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7. Victim impact assessment.- (1) The prosecution, when adducing evidence or addressing the court on sentence in respect of an offence under this Act, consider the interests of a victim of the offence and the impact of the offence on the victim and, where practicable, furnish the court of law with a victim impact statement:

Explanation:-For the purposes of this section, a victim impact statement means a sworn statement or affirmation by a victim or someone authorised by a victim to make such a statement on his behalf, which contains the physical, psychological, social, economic or any other consequences of an offence under this Act for a victim and family member or associate of a victim.

(2) The event planner is responsible to pay the compensation to the person who is severely injured in such event, mass gathering

pertaining in to political rally, jatra, conference, etc, or compensation to the family member of the deceased. In case of the event planner not paying the compensation, the government may collect the amount as arrears of land revenue. The event planner's property can be auctioned by the government.

CHAPTER- V

PREVENTION OF ACTS LEADING TO CROWD GATHERING

8. Prevention of acts leading to crowd gathering.- (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Central Act 46 of 2023), whenever the District Magistrate has reason to believe that **in any event in a venue**, within his jurisdiction, a situation has arisen where there is an apprehension of breach of peace or creation of discord between members of different groups, castes or communities under the provisions of this Act, he may, by order in writing, **prohibit any act, event in any venue**, which in his opinion is likely to cause apprehension in the minds of another community or caste or group that it is directed to intimidate, threaten or otherwise promote ill-will against that community or caste or group **or such event may results in death or bodily injury to the persons who are participating.**

(2) A competent authority, appointed by the Government by notification, in any area within his jurisdiction, may by order in writing,—

(a) direct the conduct of any assembly or procession in any place or street and specify by general or special notice, if any, by which and the times at which, such procession may or may not pass;

(b) require, by general or special notice, on being satisfied that any person or class of persons intend to convene or collect a assembly or an procession in any place or street or to form an assembly or procession which would in his judgment, if uncontrolled, is likely to cause a breach of peace due to commission of offence under the provisions of this Act, that the person convening or collecting such assembly or procession or directing or promoting such assembly or procession shall not do so without applying for and obtaining a permission to this effect; and

(c) prohibit or regulate the use of loudspeaker, music or sound amplifier or any other instrument inducing noise in any street or public place or procession, or in any private place or procession, if the use of which may cause commission of offence under the provisions of this Act.

(3) An order under this section shall remain in force for such period as may be specified or thirty days, whichever is less:

Provided that, if the Government, after reviewing the effect of the order, considers it necessary for the preservation of peace or harmony between different groups, castes or communities or public safety or maintenance of public order in such area, may, by notification, direct that the order issued under this section shall remain in force for such further period not exceeding sixty days from the date of the first order.

CHAPTER-VI

AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

9. Awareness, education and training to prohibit death or bodily injury at any event in any place.- (1) The Government shall have the duty to promote awareness among public for the prohibition, prevention of death or bodily injury at any event in any venue.

(2) In performance of the duty referred in sub-section (1), the Government may perform such functions which shall include, but not be limited to,-

(a) Conducting education and information campaigns to inform the public about the consequences of participating in such events in such venues aimed at prevention of death or bodily injury or stamped;

(b) Training public officials on the prohibition, prevention of stampede and such training shall include social context training.

CHAPTER-VII

MISCELLANEOUS

10. Protection of action done in good faith.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer or authority of the

Government for an act which is done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

11. Act not in derogation of any other law.- Save as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force except to the extent the provisions of other law are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

12. Power to make rules.-(1) The State Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, by notification 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 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 in which it is so laid or the session or sessions immediately following, 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 or omitted to be done under that rule.