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## EDITORIAL 01

### Wrongheaded policy: On the Karnataka jobs-for-locals bill

*The Karnataka Bill on reserving jobs for locals is self-defeating*

Despite the fact that attempts to provide reservation in jobs for local workers have been proven unconstitutional and have been rejected by courts, the **temptation** to **pander** to nativist sentiments remains among State governments. A case in point is the draft Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, cleared by the Congress government's cabinet but later "temporarily withheld" following an uproar from industry heads and trade bodies in Karnataka. The Bill **envisaged** that industries and other establishments would appoint local candidates in 50% of management positions and 70% of non-management positions, and set **stringent** criteria for defining local candidates. Similar Bills were passed in Andhra Pradesh in 2019, Haryana in 2020, and Jharkhand in 2023. While the Karnataka Bill added **proficiency** in Kannada as one of the criteria to define eligibility of a local candidate, the





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Haryana and Andhra Pradesh laws were largely based on residency criterion. The Punjab and Haryana High Court **quashed** the Haryana Act in 2023 holding it violative of equality guaranteed under Article 14 and freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution. It added that the Act went against the rights of citizens from the rest of the country and that States **enacting** such laws could set up “artificial walls” throughout India. The Andhra Pradesh Act is still being heard in court, while the Jharkhand Bill has not been implemented. Apart from the aforementioned reasons, the Karnataka Bill is also violative of Article 16(3) that allows for reservation based on residence, but limits it to public employment and to be enforced only by a law made in Parliament and not by a State Legislature.

The temptation for the Karnataka government to come up with Bills that provide for reservation for locals and labour protectionism despite their proven unconstitutionality is perhaps motivated by the fact that there is resentment among resident workers in better-off States that their jobs are being taken over by migrant workers. This is especially so among those aspiring for jobs in the private sector, where some employers have sought to exploit migrant workers to work for longer hours and at lower pay without benefits or social protections and without political support that is

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otherwise available to local workers. If Karnataka is concerned about this **segmentation** of the labour market that pits the migrant worker against the locals, it should enforce labour rights for the former as well; and by **curbing** exploitative practices, it could create a level playing field for all workers. Protectionism for the local worker and **parochialism** is not the answer.

### SUMMARY

The Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024, was initially cleared but later withheld due to nativist sentiments. The bill aimed to appoint local candidates in 50% of management and 70% of non-management positions. Similar bills were passed in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and Jharkhand. However, the Karnataka Bill violates Article 16(3), which allows for reservation based on residence but limits it to public employment. The Karnataka government's desire to create jobs for locals and labor protectionism despite their unconstitutionality is driven by resentment among resident workers in better-off states who feel their jobs are being taken over by migrant workers. Enforcing labor rights for both locals and migrant workers could create a level

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playing field for all workers, rather than promoting protectionism for local workers.

## Vocabulary

### 1. Temptation

**Synonyms:** Allure, enticement, seduction.

**Antonyms:** Repulsion, deterrent, dissuasion

### 2. Pander

**Synonyms:** Indulge, gratify, cater

**Antonyms:** Deny, thwart, resist

### 3. Envisaged

**Synonyms:** Imagined, envisioned, predicted

**Antonyms:** Ignored, overlooked, disregarded

### 4. Proficiency

**Synonyms:** Expertise, skill, competence

**Antonyms:** Incompetence, ineptitude, ignorance

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## 5. Stringent

**Synonyms:** Strict, rigid, severe

**Antonyms:** Lenient, relaxed, permissive

## 6. Quashed

**Synonyms:** Suppressed, extinguished, subdued

**Antonyms:** Encouraged, promoted, upheld

## 7. Enacting

**Synonyms:** Implementing, performing, executing

**Antonyms:** Neglecting, disregarding, ignoring

## 8. Segmentation

**Synonyms:** Division, partition,

**Antonyms:** Integration, unification, whole

## 9. Curbing

**Synonyms:** Restraining, limiting, controlling

**Antonyms:** Releasing, allowing, permitting



## 10. Parochialism

**Synonyms:** Narrow-mindedness, provincialism, insularity

**Antonyms:** Broad-mindedness, open-mindedness, cosmopolitanism

## EDITORIAL 02

### Trump season: On the 2024 U.S. Presidential election

The former president is leading, but the election is still months away

As the Republican National **Convention** drew to a close in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, it became obvious that the Party's expected nominee for the 2024 U.S. presidential election in November, former President Donald Trump, is not only **capitalizing** on the popularity boost that he has **inevitably** benefited from since surviving an assassination attempt a week earlier, but has now established total control of the Republican Party and is in a strong position to take on **incumbent** President Joe Biden in that regard. The Convention itself marked several firsts — not only was Mr. Trump's speech the first major public remarks he delivered since the assassin's bullet injured his ear but otherwise left him **unscathed**, but the Convention itself was held for the first time in person since the COVID-19

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pandemic resulted in the cancellation of all public political events in 2020. It would also appear that Republican strategists have deepened their appreciation of optics as far as Mr. Trump's appeal among the electorate goes. There was a distinct attempt to project the political power of women at the event, almost as if to soften the former president's image, which was in years past **battered** by revelations of his **unflattering** remarks about women. Mr. Trump's wife Melania made a rare appearance at the event, as did his 17-year-old granddaughter Kai, his daughter-in-law and co-chair of the Republican National Committee, Lara, Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders, Mr. Trump's former Press Secretary, and Indian American Usha Chilukuri Vance, who is the wife of Mr. Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance.

There is much to analyse in Mr. Trump picking the 39-year-old Mr. Vance for Vice Presidential candidate in the upcoming race. Mr. Trump is evidently keen to win over younger demographic **cohorts** in this election; he is also aligned to white, male America, and what it stands for in the country's **fraught** politics today. There is also a geographic message in the subtext — as the junior Senator from Ohio, Mr. Vance could also become a critical **interlocutor** for the Trump campaign's engagement with the all-important Rust Belt states — swing states of the mid-western U.S. that can potentially make or break a presidential candidate. While there is no denying Mr. Trump's overall strong position and lead in swing states





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according to several national polls, three months is a long time in politics, and that certainly applies to the U.S.

### SUMMARY

The Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, concluded with former President Donald Trump leading the party in popularity and establishing total control of the Republican Party. The convention marked several firsts, including the first major public remarks since the assassination attempt. Republican strategists have deepened their appreciation of optics, with a focus on projecting the political power of women and addressing the issue of his unflattering remarks about women. Trump's pick of 39-year-old Usha Chilukuri Vance for Vice Presidential candidate is seen as a strategic move to win over younger demographics, align with white, male America, and engage with the Rust Belt states, which could potentially impact a presidential candidate. Although Trump's overall strong position and lead in swing states are evident, three months is a long time in politics.



## Vocabulary

### 1. Capitalizing

**Synonyms:** Exploiting, leveraging, utilizing

**Antonyms:** Neglecting, ignoring, overlooking

### 2. Inevitably

**Synonyms:** Unavoidably, inescapably, certainly

**Antonyms:** Unavoidably, inescapably, certainly

### 3. Convention

**Synonyms:** Tradition, custom, norm

**Antonyms:** Innovation, deviation, unorthodoxy

### 4. Incumbent

**Synonyms:** Current, sitting, reigning

**Antonyms:** Challenger, successor, contender

### 5. Unscathed

**Synonyms:** Unharmed, uninjured, intact

**Antonyms:** Injured, harmed, damaged

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## 6. Battered

**Synonyms:** Beaten, damaged, worn

**Antonyms:** Pristine, intact, unscathed

## 7. Unflattering

**Synonyms:** Critical, disparaging, unfavorable

**Antonyms:** Flattering, complimentary, favorable

## 8. Cohorts

**Synonyms:** Companions, associates, comrades

**Antonyms:** Adversaries, opponents, enemies

## 9. Fraught

**Synonyms:** Filled, laden, burdened

**Antonyms:** Empty, devoid, unburdened

## 10. Interlocutor

**Synonyms:** Conversationalist, speaker, discussant

**Antonyms:** Listener, mute, observer

