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Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Mandating Government Permission for Use of Public Premises

16 August 2026 ·

POLITY

GS2

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Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Mandating Government Permission for Use of Public Premises

16 August 2026 · 2 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The **Karnataka Cabinet** approved a bill on **August 13, 2026**, mandating prior government permission for organisations to use **government land, buildings, playgrounds, parks and roads**, amid an ongoing dispute over public-space usage.*

What the Bill Provides

Unauthorised use of public premises would be treated as **trespass**, under the proposed **Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026**. A first offence carries imprisonment up to **3 years and/or a fine up to Rs 5 lakh**; a second or subsequent offence carries imprisonment up to **5 years and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh**. Separately, if the violation continues after conviction, an additional fine of up to **Rs 5,000 per day** applies for the continuing non-compliance.

Context

The bill follows a running dispute between the state government and the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** over the use of public grounds for the organisation's activities, though the bill's provisions apply generally to any organisation seeking to use public premises, not to any single group by name.

UPSC Relevance

This raises a classic GS2 tension between a state's power to regulate use of public property and the constitutional freedoms of **assembly and association under Article 19(1)(b) and 19(1)(c)**, both subject to "reasonable restrictions" that courts may test for proportionality. It is also a useful example of centre-state and party-organisation friction shaping state legislative agendas, relevant to **federalism-themed Mains** answers.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**KARNATAKA REGULATION OF USE OF GOVERNMENT PREMISES AND PUBLIC PROPERTY BILL, 2026:**

Cabinet approval: August 13, 2026

Covers: government land, buildings, playgrounds, parks, roads

Violation treated as: trespass

First offence: up to 3 years imprisonment and/or Rs 5 lakh fine

Second/subsequent offence: up to 5 years imprisonment, Rs 10 lakh fine

Continuing non-compliance after conviction: additional fine up to Rs 5,000/day

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Relevant constitutional provisions: Article 19(1)(b) (assembly), Article 19(1)(c) (association), both subject to reasonable restrictions

Sources: The News Minute, Republic World

Source: Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Mandating Government Permission for Use of Public Premises —
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