



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

**VOL: 1**

**September 2023**

**NO: 1**

An Initiative of ISEC to draw your attention to current socio-economic issues pertaining to Karnataka published in different daily newspapers.

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## AGRICULTURE

# Water levels in three major Cauvery basin reservoirs below 10-year average

Cumulative storage capacity in the four reservoirs in the basin is 114.57 tmcft against which the water available now is 62.69 tmcft

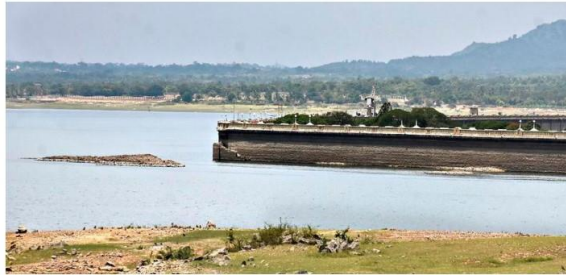
R. Krishna Kumar  
MYSURU

As the State government declares drought in 195 taluks and is locking horns with the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu on release of water, the levels in the Cauvery basin reservoirs continue to plummet, raising concerns over an impending water crisis in the weeks ahead.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), for the week ending September 9, water levels in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), Hemavati, and Kabini reservoirs are less than the average of the last 10 years.

On Thursday, the water level in the KRS was 97.5 ft as against the capacity of 124.8 ft. The level was 124.6 ft on the same day last year.

The storage in the reservoir was 20.93 tmcft as against the gross capacity



The reservoir level at Krishnaraja Sagar is steadily declining, raising concerns over impending water scarcity. M.A. SRIRAM

of 49.45 tmcft. The storage position on the same day last year was 49.2 tmcft.

With respect to the KRS, which is the major source for both irrigation and drinking purpose for millions of people, the water level for the week September 3 to 9 was 17.83 ft less than the average level over the last 10 years, according to the KSNDMC.

Underlining the severity of the shortage is the fact

that the level was 26.1 ft lower when compared with that in the corresponding period last year, as per the KSNDMC data.

On Thursday, the water level in the Hemavati reservoir was 2,897.86 ft against the FRL of 2,922 ft. The reservoir level on the same day last year was 2,921.65 ft.

The water level was 10.78 ft lower than the 10-year average for the week

ending September 9, and was less by 20.13 ft when compared with that in the corresponding period last year. The gross storage capacity of the dam is 37.1 tmcft against which the water available is 18.56 tmcft. The storage on the same day last year was 36.91 tmcft.

The level of the Kabini reservoir, which is another major source of water for drinking and irrigation,

### Cauvery basin reservoirs

Reservoir	Max level	Level on Sept. 14, 2023	Gross storage	Storage on Sept. 14, 2023
KRS	124.8 ft	97.5 ft	49.45 tmcft	20.93 tmcft
Hemavati	2,922 ft	2,897.86 ft	37.1 tmcft	18.56 tmcft
Kabini	2,284 ft	2,276.08 ft	19.52 tmcft	14.92 tmcft
Harangi	2,859 ft	2,858.23 ft	8.5 tmcft	8.29 tmcft

Source: KSNDMC

was also at a 10-year low. The KSNDMC weekly report updated till September 9 indicates that the level was 5.53 ft less than the average level of the last 10 years, and 8.39 feet less when compared to the corresponding period last year.

On September 14, the water level at Kabini was 2,276.08 ft against the FRL of 2,284 ft. Against the gross storage capacity of 19.52 tmcft, water available was 14.92 tmcft. It was 18.87 tmcft on the same day last year.

#### Better in Harangi

It was only in Harangi, a minor dam, that water

level is slightly better. The gross storage capacity of the Harangi reservoir is 8.5 tmcft, and the water available is 8.29 tmcft.

The cumulative storage capacity in the four reservoirs in the Cauvery basin is 114.57 tmcft against which water available was 62.69 tmcft.

But if the dead storage of around 8 tmcft in the reservoirs is excluded, then the quantum is much less and is a pointer to an impending water crisis as the catchment areas do not benefit from the northeast monsoon, and have to wait for the onset of southwest monsoon in June next year.

Source: The Hindu 15-09-2023, Pg No. 10

# Sugarcane farmers seek loan waiver

The Hindu Bureau  
MYSURU

Sugarcane farmers in Karnataka have sought a waiver on agricultural loans in view of drought in the State.

Addressing mediapersons here on Sunday, Kurbur Shanthakumar, president, Karnataka State Sugarcane Cultivators Association, said 14 lakh hectares of land were under sugarcane cultivation last year and it has come down to 8 lakh hectares during the current year. But the prolonged water stress due

to failure of monsoon has affected the standing crops, which were wilting and the yield was expected to decline by 40%, he added.

As a result, the cultivators were in distress and yet there was no relief from the State and the Centre, said Mr. Shanthakumar. "The sugar mills were delaying release of arrears due to the farmers adding to their misery and financial distress," he added.

The State government has already declared that 195 taluks have been affect-

ed by drought and hence it was imperative that the government also announce a loan-waiver, said the association president. He demanded that drought relief to the tune of ₹25,000 per acre for every farmer should be credited to their respective accounts through DBT.

The government also came under flak for delay in announcing the State Advisory Price (SAP) for sugarcane while the Centre was criticised for a marginal increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

Mr. Shanthakumar said

despite many rounds of agitations and talks with the district administration the government was unresponsive and hence the association would stage an indefinite dharna in front of the Vidhana Soudha from October 1, Mr. Shanthakumar added.

"We are giving the government 15 days to announce the SAP and also the arrears of ₹950 crore due to nearly 30 lakh sugarcane farmers, failing which the association members will sit on a dharna in front of Vidhana Soudha," he added.

Source: Times of India dated 18-09-2023, Pg No.13



# Hopes pinned on copious northeast monsoon

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The slightly higher inflow in the KRS dams over the past couple of days would have come as a huge relief to the government which is desperately hoping it rains — and well — across the state. With the southwest monsoon being a washout, the government is banking heavily on a copious northeast monsoon, the secondary rainy season.

The southwest monsoon failure means a meagre kharif harvest. The government is hoping the rabi season would be better and it is buoyed by favourable weather forecasts. While Karnataka saw an overall rain deficit of 27% (against a normal of 506mm) between June and September, acute deficiency in June and August (lowest in 125 years) resulted in severe distress for farmers. The government even declared drought in 195 taluks.

While 84% of the 82.5 lakh hectares sowing target was achieved in the kharif season, food production is expected to be below 60% of the target of 148.2 lakh tonnes. The saving grace was the pre-monsoon

Picture for representation



## SOUTHWEST MONSOON

Normal rainfall: 595 mm

Rain till September 1: 506mm

Sowing target: 82.5 lakh hectares

Achieved: 67.7 lakh hectares

Food production target: 148.2 lakh tonnes

Expected: Below 88 lakh tonnes

## NORTHEAST MONSOON

Normal rainfall: 182mm

Sowing target: 25.4 lakh hectares

Food production target: 13.8 lakh tonnes

Source: GoK

season that recorded a 1% above normal rainfall of 115mm.

However, the northeast monsoon season which begins on October 1 and lasts till the end of December is predicted to be almost normal (182mm) and that has given both farmers and the government reason for hope.

Moreover, based on previous patterns, experts say the northeast monsoon generally is stronger when the southwest monsoon fails. "I hope the monsoon follows

the pattern this year too," said MN Thimme Gowda, head of agro-meteorology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru. He pointed out that in 2019, the northeast monsoon was 50% above normal following a 30% deficit in the southwest season. In 2020, rainfall was almost double the normal during the rabi season, while the kharif season saw a 23% deficit.

Moderate to heavy rain is expected from the second part of

September onwards and dams are expected to be filled due to cyclones, which are normal during the season. Preliminary estimates suggest kharif crops like paddy and sugarcane have failed, while rabi crops like Bengal gram, field beans, safflower, jowar, other millets and pulses are expected to see a good harvest.

"A normal northeast monsoon will benefit farmers in the black soil region," said Putra, director, department of agriculture. "Agricultural activities will revive especially in the 13 districts, or the deep cotton region, in north Karnataka. Farmers may even make up for the 10 lakh unsown hectares in the kharif season."

Anticipating a better season, Putra said the department has stored 5 lakh quintals of Bengal gram seeds as against a normal requirement of 2.5 lakh quintal.

But officials in the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre sounded a word of caution saying the information they have received is not encouraging. "Let us wait for the actual prediction," an official said.

Source: Times of India dated 20-09-2023, Pg No.4



## Poultry farming is agricultural, not commercial activity, says High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The high court has said that poultry farm activity is an agricultural activity and cannot be termed as a commercial activity entitling the panchayat to levy any tax under the provisions of Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act.

The Sondekoppa gram panchayat in Bengaluru north taluk had demanded Rs 1.37 lakh for issuing NOC to enable the petitioner to get an electricity connection on the ground that he would be liable to make pay-

ment of taxes on the property as if it is an industry.

The petitioner K Narasimhamurthy owns 4 acres in Nagasandra village.

He had approached the gram panchayat for issuance of NOC for getting an electricity connection to the building constructed in a portion of the property wherein he intended to conduct poultry farming.

Though Narasimhamurthy paid Rs 59,551, he realised that

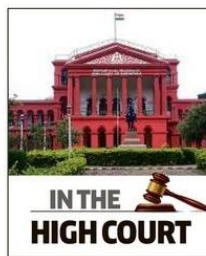
the gram panchayat has no jurisdiction.

He moved the high court, contending that both dairy farming and poultry farming are agricultural activities. On the other hand, the government advocate argued that running a poultry farm is a commercial activity and as such, poultry farm is a commercial

building in terms of Clause A(ii) of Schedule IV attracts tax.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that Schedule IV does not contain any other classification of a poultry farm entitling the panchayat to levy any tax.

Citing E Bhaskar Rao's case of the high court, the court said that poultry farms being run on agricultural land not being a commercial activity, the panchayat would not have any power to levy any tax in terms of Schedule IV. The court directed the panchayat to refund the money collected from the petitioner.



Source: Deccan Herald dated 22-09-2023 page no. 3B

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## ECONOMY

# CM appreciates 19.2% growth rate in collection of taxes

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed Commercial Tax Department officers to take strict action against cases of tax evasion, tax leakage, and tax pilferage in Karnataka.

The Chief Minister chaired a review meeting of the department and appreciated the 19.2% growth rate in the collection of tax



by the department, which is the highest in the country.

**Officers must explore opportunities to detect tax evasion cases by intensive enforcement to exceed the tax collection target.**

**SIDDARAMAIAH,**  
Chief Minister

He said that officers should not be satisfied by this and must explore op-

portunities to detect tax evasion cases by intensive enforcement to exceed the tax collection target.

### Country's average

The country's average tax collection growth rate is only 15%.

The share of the State in the total tax collection of the country is 9.4%. Officials explained to the Chief Minister that the State's tax collection share was more

than in the previous year. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to outdo the given growth target of 24%.

The progress would be reviewed again after two months. He said that by the next meeting, steps should be taken to make the situation more optimistic than now. Officials of the Finance and Commercial Tax departments were present.

Source: The Hindu dated 15-09-2023, Pg No.10

# Why deep pocketed investors shy away from deep tech start-ups

While investments in deep tech start-ups have gone up in the last five years, the pace has been slow unlike in the case of other sectors such as consumer Internet or SaaS start-ups

**Shilpa Elizabeth**  
BENGALURU

**M**ansoor Rahmat Khan, co-founder of Bengaluru-based generative AI start-up Beaton.ai, is currently in San Francisco trying to raise a series A round of funds for his company. He flew to the Bay Area after finding no luck with the early-stage investors in India.

"I tried to raise my series A round in India and spoke to almost every fund in India. But the feedback from everybody was that this looks like a hype cycle," says Mr. Khan.

He is not alone. Despite being the buzzword lately within the start-up ecosystem, founders of several deep-tech start-ups imply that early-stage generalist venture capital (VC) funds in India have been reluctant to invest in deep-tech. While the investments have gone up in the last five years, the pace has been slow unlike in the case of consumer Internet or SaaS start-ups.

Several founders *The Hindu* spoke to point to general risk averseness and a lack of investors from science or research backgrounds in the VC community as some of the reasons. These, combined with a non-availability of patient capital, often leave deep tech startups gasping for breath.

**Risky business**  
Mr. Khan and his team started building the company in 2021 and managed to raise some early seed funds sufficient to keep things going for a while.

"Nobody back then even knew about generative AI. It was difficult to explain it to generalist investors who would invest in typical consumer Internet or enterprise SaaS," he says.

"In the early stage of deep tech, there's nothing

really you can show. You have to put in money to build it," he adds.

To be fair, for private investors profits matter prompting them to look for commercial traction. Also, certain subsectors within the larger deep tech ambit generate more interest than the others; for example, the space-tech currently.

But in general, deep tech start-up investments are seen as a huge risk.

For one they have long gestation periods, unlike other startups. Built from scratch, technology is the differentiator and hence, the moat. The numbers game in terms of revenues and customers follows later. But for the investors that means longer wait times for returns and uncertainty in terms of whether the tech would be able to deliver at all.

**No quality feedback**  
While founders agree that investing in deep tech is a risky proposition, there is very little quality feedback from the investors.

"Even if you are able to show commercial traction, they want to wait and watch. But if you are going to do that, the opportunity will pass. A start-up in the West that may raise 20 or 30 times what we have raised and quickly gets an advantage over what we worked on for years," says Mr. Khan. Beaton.ai crossed half a million users within six months of launch.

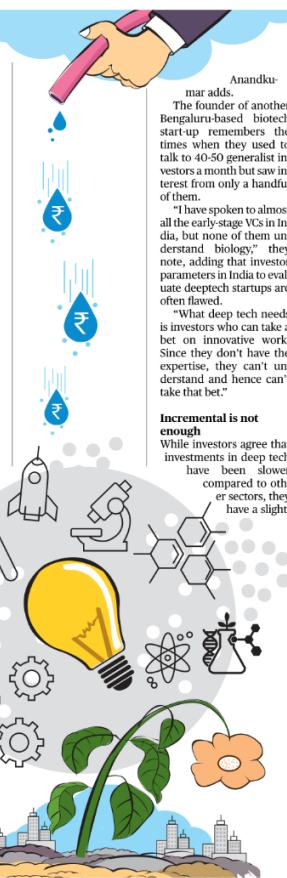
According to him factors like a smaller acquisi-

tion market in India making the exit prospects bleak for investors and earlier experiences of burning fingers by investing in hoax markets have made investors much more risk averse. Bengaluru-based biopharmaceutical start-up Bugworks Research has raised 90 percent of its funds so far from outside India.

"Nobody wants to fund a 10-15 year moon shot journey like ours," says Dr. Anand Anandkumar, co-founder at Bugworks. According to him many deep tech start-ups get through early stages by virtue of grants and angel funding. As they reach the stage where institutional investors are required to step in, fund raising becomes next to impossible.

### Understanding the science

"You are looking at something like a decade-long gestation period when it comes to deep science. Nobody has that kind of patient capital available in India. Another reason is that they don't have subject matter experts in their investment team, which would have helped with risk amortization," Dr.



Anandkumar adds.

The founder of another Bengaluru-based biotech start-up remembers the times when they used to talk to 40-50 generalist investors a month but saw interest from only a handful of them.

"I have spoken to almost all the early-stage VCs in India, but none of them understand 'biology,'" they note, adding that investor parameters in India to evaluate deep tech startups are often flawed.

### Incremental is not enough

While investors agree that investments in deep tech have been slower compared to other sectors, they have a slight-

ly different story to tell.

Given the high risk and longer gestation periods associated with deep tech start-ups, much higher returns are expected from them than the usual industry standards. However, as much as deep tech founders excel in developing life-changing technologies, the same cannot be said when it comes to figuring out a business model, says several investors.

Pranav Koshal, fellow at Kalaari Capital, points out that deep tech start-ups are often market creators, and the investor therefore has to spend a lot of time with the founders understanding the core technology and its potential, the future course, the market that could be created, and the impact it can have.

"If you are undertaking that journey, the end of that journey needs to have a much higher impact than incremental shifts from the current industry standards. If it's just marginally better than what is in the industry today the entire effort you put in will not be rewarded to the same degree," he says.

Arpit Agarwal, a director at Blume Ventures, notes that a deep tech company has to win not because it is deep tech, but because it is a better investment opportunity.

"If deep tech is not going to get me better than average returns which are available in other sectors at that point of time, then deep tech will not qualify," he says.

"In some cases, I'll force myself and make exceptions which is how deep tech investments in India have happened from generalist funds so far. It is not because companies are not good, or technology is not great, or we can't understand the science, or founders are not great. Our assessment is that deep tech is not delivering the same returns as some of the oth-

er sectors as of now."

3one4 Capital is one of the investors at Bugworks Research. Anurag Ramadasan, partner at 3one4 is a big believer in the defensibility of deep tech start-ups.

### High defensibility

"We truly think deep tech brings in a lot more defensibility than a typical SaaS product which is arguably easier to copy," he says.

"The challenge is that in the universe of businesses, a SaaS product is very well understood and the path to building a business out of a SaaS product is relatively easier. Which means there is a lower risk in backing a SaaS company. Whereas in deep tech start-ups while the defensibility is higher, the execution challenges are also high."

According to him, yet another challenge is that the deep tech entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country is in an early stage.

"Very often entrepreneurs are researchers who come up with a specific technology but haven't put enough thought into what the business journey will look like. This is where even for VCs the barrier to investing in deep tech companies is higher. People think VCs struggle in evaluating a deep tech business. Deep tech is hard to evaluate, but it is doable. How do we take this technology to the market and build a business out of it, that is where the larger complexity lies," he says.

### Losing out?

The reasons may differ, but there seems to be consensus across the startup spectrum that deep tech startups are seeing relatively lesser funding. But what does that eventually mean for the Indian startup ecosystem?

Founders feel it will force them to shift base to foreign countries.

"Increasingly compa-

nies will start changing their headquarters in the hope of connecting to capital in those countries," says Dr. Anandkumar of Bugworks. "Imagine a company from an Indian town doing amazing work that is important for our country. When these companies list abroad, all their IPs move there. Then suddenly your national asset is not yours anymore."

**Matter of time**  
Investors, however, think it's only a matter of time before the ecosystem matures and funds start flowing in faster. Mr. Agarwal of Blume Ventures notes that larger funds are now looking at deep tech.

"Higher margins require stronger technology understanding, technology depth, or technology differentiation. So, if we do achieve the end goal of higher margins deep tech is a must. Therefore, a trickle of money is now flowing into deep tech ventures. There is an understanding that one has to look at deeper tech and that you can't just get away by investing into business re-engineering," he says.

While researchers becoming part of the VC community has not become a trend yet, Mr. Agarwal feels that over the course of time, as tech becomes deep enough, generalist funds will start hiring PhD scholars. Mr. Koshal of Kalaari Capital notes that they regularly consult the academia when it comes to investing in deep tech startups.

"I think the trend is positive," says Mr. Ramadasan of 3one4.

"No one is doing as many deep tech deals as they do SaaS deals. But over the last few years deep tech investments have grown. Do I like for it to be faster? Yes. But we are seeing more maturity in the deep tech start-up ecosystem. It's a steep learning curve."

Source: The Hindu dated 15-09-2023, Pg No.11



# Tata to invest ₹200cr to set up semiconductor unit in K'taka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Tata is planning to invest Rs 200 crore and offer 155 new jobs for a semiconductor testing and packing unit at Narasapura in Kolar district, about 70km from here.

With Wistron's iPhone manufacturing unit in Kolar being taken over by Tata, it is likely to set up an assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP) plant there, according to a state industries department official. ATMP plays a major role in the semiconductor industry's ecosystem. Once a chip is printed, it must be tested and packaged before it can be shipped to manufacturers. The planned investment by Tata for its semiconductor unit is in sync with the Karnataka government's initiatives to shore up industrial development in the state.

On Friday, the state-level single-window clearance committee (SLSWCC), headed by industries and infrastructure development minister MB Patil, cleared 91 industrial investment proposals worth Rs 7,660 crore, with the potential to generate 18,146 jobs.

Maruti Suzuki India, South West Mining, Tata Semiconductor, Krypton (India) Solutions, and Aequs Consumer are among the major firms from which investment proposals have been approved by the government to further the cause of industrial development in the state.

Major investment proposals

## OTHER BIG PROPOSALS APPROVED



Industries	Location	Investment	Jobs
Gurudev BioRefineries & Allied Industries	Tadavalaga post, Indi taluk, Vijayapura district	₹489 crore	255
Devashree Ispat	Halwarti village, Koppal taluk and district	₹470 crore	800
Integrated Solar Power	Mindahalli Industrial Area, Kolar district	₹442 crore	720
Shashi Alloys	Bhairanayakanahalli village, Nayakanahatti hobli, Chitradurga district	₹380 crore	400
SFS Group India	Kanagala Industrial Area, Belagavi district	₹250 crore	844
Mysore Petro Chemicals	Deosugur, Raichur district	₹240 crore	157
Lam Research India	CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru	₹236 crore	1,724

approved during SLSWCC's meeting included setting up of Pratibha Patil Sugar Industries in Vijayapura district with an investment of Rs 490 crore and establishment of Aequs Consumer Unit 3 in Dharwad with an outlay of Rs 456 crore.

Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Private Limited will be coming to Kolar with an investment of Rs 200 crore and offering 155 new jobs; Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has set its sights on Nelamangala in Bengaluru Rural district with an in-

vestment of Rs 138 crore; South West Mining Limited will have a set-up at Musinayakanahalli and Torangallu in Sandur taluk of Ballari district with an investment of Rs 411 crore, offering jobs to 65 people, to name a few. The government has also approved 26 projects involving more than Rs 50 crore of investment and with the potential to create 13,742 jobs.

Of the total 91 proposals shown the green light, 57 are valued between Rs 15 crore and Rs 50 crore, promising a job potential of 4,404.

**Source:** Times of India dated 17-09-2023, Pg No.3

# Fresh ray of hope for investors who lost money in IMA scam

**Competent authority likely to repay 55K investors Rs 70 cr by Oct**

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**housands of investors who lost their hard-earned money in the IMA Ponzi scam four years ago could get some of it back as early as October. Government authorities are preparing to disburse nearly Rs 70 crore.

IMA, a so-called Halal investment company, went bust in June 2019 after its founder Mohammed Mansoor Khan fled to Dubai. The Bengaluru-headquartered company owed its 63,000 investors Rs 2,600 crore. Many influential people, including senior politicians and bureaucrats, were allegedly involved in the scam.

The state government set up a special officer and competent authority to recover investors' money. The authority has seized IMA's movable

## Refund saga

■ 63,000 investors filed claims for Rs 2,600 cr.

■ Claims were reduced to Rs 1,421 cr after deducting the money investors had received from IMA.

■ Competent authority has auctioned all of IMA's movable assets and fully repaid 6,800 small investors, whose claims totalled Rs 19.62 cr.

■ It will now pay the 55,000 investors Rs 69.46 cr.

■ It can get another Rs 350-375 cr by auctioning IMA's immovable assets.

## Kingpin out on bail

■ IMA founder Mohammed Mansoor Khan has been released on bail, officials say.

and immovable assets valued at Rs 450 crore. It has so far settled the claims of 6,800 investors whose dues were less than Rs 50,000 by paying them Rs 19.62 crore. It is set to repay another Rs 69.46 crore. The money was generated from the auction of IMA's movable assets such as jewellery, cars and electronic devices.

During a hearing before the 91st Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge Sridhar Gopalakrishna Bhat on September 19, the competent authority presented a mathematical formula for disbursing Rs 69.46 crore to over 55,000 depositors.

"We will follow the equitable principle of money disbursement. All depositors will be covered, irrespective of the size of their investment," Amlan Aditya Biswas, the competent authority, told DH.

According to the special public prosecutor, investors have been categorised into the least affected and the most affected. An investor who has received 90% of the money will be considered the least affected. Similarly, an investor who hasn't received anything will be the most affected. "The most affected will get more than the least affected," the SPP said.

The court will pronounce its order on October 3. "Based on the court order, we will be able to disburse the money to all investors in 15 days, by the end of October," a source said. The authority has verified the KYC documents of the claimants and sent them SMSs, the source added.

The authority expects to receive another Rs 350-375 crore by auctioning the company's immovable assets. However, the process will take time because those assets have also been attached by the Directorate of Enforcement.

The authority will move a fresh application before the ED court for permission to auction IMA's immovable assets once charges are framed, the SPP added.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad said the CBI and the EDI had "failed" to prosecute the mighty and recover investors' money from them because many switched political loyalties.

Meanwhile, Karnataka's Department of School Education and Literacy has agreed to withdraw a court case pertaining to VK Obaidullah School, Shivajinagar, and return Rs 12-13 crore to the competent authority, according to Arshad.

IMA had "adopted" the government-run school by spending investors' money. While the government took the school back after the scam surfaced, it declined to return the money to the competent authority. It has changed its stance now.

**Source:** Deccan Herald dated 22-09-2023 page no. 4

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## EDUCATION

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಕೆಪಿಎಸ್; ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಬಾರದ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ, ಪಿಯು

# ಶಾಲೆಯೊಂದು ಮೂರು ಬಾಗಿಲು

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮಕ್ಕಳು	2,86,771	ಪೂರ್ವ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ	20,902	ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ	96,768	ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ	99,144	ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜು	69,967
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### • ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಯೋಗೇಶ್

ಮಂಡ್ಯ: 'ನನ್ನ ಮಗಳು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡಬೇಕು, ಬರೆಯಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಆಸೆಯಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅದು ಹೆಸರಿಗಷ್ಟೇ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ಶಾಲೆ. ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೇ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಇರುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಬಿಡಿಸಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ...'

-ನಗರದ ಗುತ್ತಲು ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆ (ಕೆಪಿಎಸ್) ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಓದುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಾಲಕಿಯ ಪೋಷಕಿಯೊಬ್ಬರ ಮಾತುಗಳಿವು. ಕೆಪಿಎಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿರುವ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪೋಷಕರೂ ಹೀಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

'ಕೆಪಿಎಸ್ ಆದಮೇಲೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಊರಿನ ಶಾಲೆ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಕನಸಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಹಳೆಯದಾಗಿದ್ದು ಶಿಫಿಲಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿವೆ, ರಿಪೇರಿಯಾಗದ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಜೀವ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿಡಿದು ಕಲಿಯಬೇಕಾದ



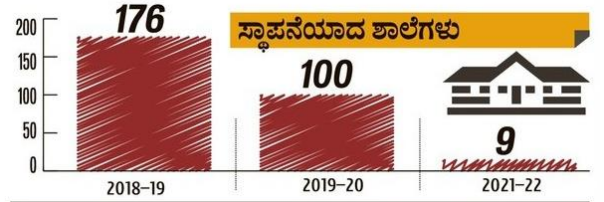
ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಅವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ  
ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿ: 9606038256  
feedback@prajavani.co.in

ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದೆ. ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ, ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು, ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯೂ ಇಲ್ಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಕೊರತೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸುರಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ರಂಗಂಪೇಟ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪೋಷಕ ರೊಬ್ಬರು ಬೇಸರದಿಂದ ನುಡಿಯುತ್ತಾರೆ.

'ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಸಮನ್ವಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹುದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲು-ಕೀಳು ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಹಲವು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗೆ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆ ಯಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಕೆಪಿಎಸ್ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಚಿಂಚೋಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆ ಶಿಫಿಲಾವಸ್ಥೆ ತಲುಪಿದೆ.



ಬಿಚ್ಚಿಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಟಿಯಿಂದ 12ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಷಾ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ

ಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳೂ ಇವೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು-ಪೋಷಕರು ಇದರಿಂದ ಗೊಂದಲ ಕ್ಕೀಡಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

4ನೇ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸೋಡಿ



ಪೂರಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ: ಚಂದ್ರಹಾಸ ಹಿರೇಮಠ  
ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಹೆಗಡೆ, ಮನೋಜಿ ಕುಮಾರ್  
ಗುದ್ದಿ, ಎಂ.ಮಹೇಶ್, ಜಿ.ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್  
ಇಮಾಮ್‌ಹುಸೇನ್ ಗೂರುನವ  
ಮೈಸೂರಿ ಲಿಂಗ



# HC stays MBBS seat allotment in mop-up round to those admitted in earlier rounds

The High Court of Karnataka made it clear that students who have not paid the fees and completed admission would be eligible for consideration for allotment of seats in the mop-up round

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed allotment of seats in the mop-up round for undergraduate medical courses to candidates who have already been admitted to the colleges on allotment of seats in the first and second round of counselling, and those who have paid fees but not reported to the colleges after allotment of seats in the second round, based on UGNEET-2023.

However, the court made it clear that students who have not paid the fees and completed admission would be eligible for consideration for allotment of seats in the mop-up round to fill the remaining vacant UG medical seats.

A Division Bench com-



**FROM THE COURT**

prising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Vijayakumar A. Patil passed the interim order on the petitions filed by 18-year-old Mahendra Reddy C.N. of Chickballapur and 20-year-old Hitashree Y.L. of Mysuru.

The petitioners have questioned the legality of the notification issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on September 14 in allowing

**Petitioners had questioned the legality of the notification issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority on September 14**

even candidates who have already been allotted seats and completed admissions in the earlier two rounds being permitted to participate in the mop-up round.

**Contrary to instructions**

It was complained in the petitions that allowing already admitted candidates to participate in the mop-up round is contrary to the admission instructions issued by the KEA at the time of commencement of the admission process. It was also pointed out on be-

half of the petitioners that the KEA itself, in its earlier circular of September 13 had made it clear that candidates who had already taken admission in any college are not eligible to participate in the mop-up round.

Meanwhile, the KEA told the HC that it had decided to allow candidates, who secured admission in earlier rounds to participate in mop-up round in view of the availability of a large number of vacant seats, 482 seats under the private quota and 37 seats under the government quota.

The KEA, in its September 14 circular had stated that 482 private quota seats and 37 government quota seats had remained vacant owing to non-payment of fees by the candi-

dates to whom the seats were allotted in the second round. Hence, the KEA had said that it was allowing the candidates, who got admitted to the allotted colleges during the earlier two rounds, and also to those who were allotted seats but did not pay fees and reported to the college, to participate in the mop-up round counselling.

**What was prohibited**

However, the Bench observed that the KEA, by its September 14 notification, had attempted to do exactly what is prohibited by the Rule (vi) of sub-rule 4 of Rule 10 of the Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government Seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006.

**Source:** The Hindu dated 21-09-2023, Pg No.9

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# ENVIRONMENT

## Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target

**T**he presidency of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Dubai (November 30-December 12), has called for agreement on a global target of tripling renewable energy capacity from current levels by 2030. This figure appears in the G-20 declaration too, though only as an aspirational goal to be encouraged.

There is an undoubted win-win appeal to the proposal of this easily understandable global target. However, any serious deconstruction of this target should significantly dampen such enthusiasm.

In 2021, the global installed capacity of renewable energy sources (RES) for electricity generation was 3026 Giga Watts (GW), or 39% of the total capacity from all sources. In total electricity generation however, the contribution by RES was only 28%. More than half the RE generation was from hydropower, while solar (13%) and wind (23%) accounted for about 36% of RE generation, that is 10% of generation from all sources.

Tripling RE capacity by 2030 implies a target of about 9000 GW, which is more than the total installed capacity from all sources in 2021, adding about 6000 GW of RE capacity between 2022 and 2030.

Most of this capacity is expected to come from solar and wind, as the time for construction and operationalisation of any hydro plants, will typically exceed the timeline of 2030 being considered. Assuming a capacity utilisation factor of 25% for solar and wind combined – more than is current – this implies the generation of about 13,000 TWh of electricity from RES alone. If growth in global electricity demand is at the pre-COVID-19 decade average of 2.6%, then the target of tripling RE capacity implies 38% of total global electricity production from RES.

### Regionally differentiated energy needs

However, there is no such thing as “global” electricity demand, but only a global aggregate across countries. Electricity demand across countries is highly differentiated, and the rates of growth vary for countries at different stages of development.

Electricity demand is growing far more rapidly in developing countries currently. Electricity consumption between 2010 and 2019 in China and India grew annually at 6.6% and 6.3%,



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At COP28, developing countries should consider the target only if the North commits to equitable absolute targets domestically

respectively, compared to a 0.3% decline in the European Union (EU) and a minimal 0.12% growth in the United States. It is evident that any substantial RE addition in the EU and the U.S. must come from an accelerated phaseout of their fossil fuel use by 2030. Currently, only 21% of the electricity in the U.S., and 37% in the EU comes from RES (including hydro and biomass).

If the U.S. does not phase out its existing fossil fuel capacity, it will need only about 26 GW of new RE capacity to meet additional demand, and its share of the tripling target of an additional 6000 GW by 2030, would be only a measly 0.4%. At the same time, since India would need about 717 GW of RE capacity to meet additional demand, its share of the tripling target would be 12%. On the other hand, if all the fossil fuel-based electricity production of the U.S. and the EU is phased out, they would need to add about 1565 GW and 538 GW of additional RE capacity, respectively (again assuming current rates of electricity demand growth and a capacity utilisation factor (CUF) of 25% for wind and solar combined).

In the second scenario, with a full phase-out of fossil fuel-based capacity, the U.S. and the EU would account for more than a third of the new capacity, closer to their fair share of the burden. This would also allow developing countries a less onerous transition in the energy sector, without the North appropriating even the meagre remaining carbon budget with their still considerable fossil fuel capacity.

### The opaque origin of the global RE target

Unfortunately, the COP28 call for the RE global target comes with a severe lack of transparency as to its origin. What we do know is that the inspiration flows from a report of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) that calls for “total renewable power capacity to more than triple by 2030, compared to 2022 levels, to over 11 TW globally”.

Information available on the IRENA website shows that IRENA's scenario, underlying the proposed COP28 target, is very close to the first, highly inequitable scenario that has been sketched here.

In the IRENA analysis, most of the non-RE capacity to be added by 2030 is in developing regions. By 2030, 80% of power generation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa is to be from RE sources, as compared to only 70% for the EU. The EU and Sub-Saharan Africa are projected to add

about the same amount of RE capacity by 2030, though the non-RE capacity in the EU continues to be more than four times that of Sub-Saharan Africa. China and India are to do much more, with India needing to exceed even the very ambitious 500 GW mark by 2030.

Lack of equity apart, such absolute projections of installed capacity suffer from the fundamental problem of divorcing capacity addition from growth in energy demand. IRENA itself recognises that relative targets are inherently less risky as they are less dependent on demand growth matching expectations. Further, if the entire burden is on developing countries, this enormous increase in RE capacity is not possible without matching non-RE capacity for stability of supply, and the availability of viable storage options that are as yet nowhere near the scale envisaged by such ambitious targets. Finding the resources to build national grids adequate for their development needs at such dizzying levels of scaling up of RE capacity will pose additional challenges, given the inability to reach even the minimal annual target of \$100 billion of climate finance covering all sectors.

### Targets for ‘thee but not for me’

Last but not least, the most vocal proponents of this global target do not have any such a target domestically. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at COP26 that India would increase its ambition to 500GW from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, U.S. President Joe Biden made no such promise or declare any renewable energy target. Nor has the U.S. shown any intent to declare one, apart from a general announcement (not committed under the Paris Agreement) to decarbonise the energy sector by 2035. The EU too has only a relative target, though an ambitious sounding goal of 40% of final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030, but certainly not absolute. For both the U.S. and the EU, these targets are essentially market signals, which the governments will promote, but are not guaranteed by government intervention as in the developing countries.

Developing countries at COP28, especially India, should consider the tripling global RE capacity target only if the North commits to absolute targets domestically, that are equitable and commensurate with their responsibility, in an update of their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

**Source:** The Hindu dated 15-09-2023, Pg No.14



# ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಉಪ್ಪು

ಕ್ರಮಾ ವಿ. ಭಾನುಪ್ರಕಾಶ್

'ಉಪ್ಪಿಗಿಂತ ರುಚಿಯಿಲ್ಲ, ತಾಯಿಗಿಂತ ಬಂಧುವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂಬುದು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತೇ ಇರುವ ಗಾದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪ್ಪೇ ಅಪ್ರಬಂಧುವಾದ ಕಥೆಯುಂಟು ಗೊತ್ತಾ? ಇದು ನಡೆದದ್ದು ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಮಿಶಿಗನ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ರಸಾಯನವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಭೌತವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅನೇಕ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು, ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ನ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಧನವ್ಯಯವಷ್ಟೇ ಎಂಬಂತಾಗಿದೆ ಈಗ. ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಂದರೂ, ಇದನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದಂತಹ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ. ಇನ್ನು ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಬಲ್ಲಂತಹ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಕೂಡ ಅನೇಕ ಬಾರಿ ತಿಪ್ಪರಾಶಿಯ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿಯೇ, ಭೂಮಿಯ ಒಡಲಾಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ನಂತೆ ಉಳಿದುಬಿಡುತ್ತದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸುಟ್ಟು ಆವಾಸಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಷಾನಿಲವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಬಂದು, ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತನ್ನ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲೆಂದೇ, ಅದಷ್ಟೇ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಘಟಕಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದರೂ, ಅವುಗಳಿಂದ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಸಫಲವಾಗುವುದು ಅಚ್ಚಕಷ್ಟೇ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಎರಡು ಕಾರಣಗಳು: ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಾಗಿ, ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ನಿಂದ ತಯಾರಿಸಲಾದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಣ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಜನ ಕಡಿಮೆಯೇ; ಎರಡನೆಯದಾಗಿ, ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಬಾಟಲೆಯನ್ನು ಪೆಂಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಅಲಂಕಾರ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೂದಾನಿಯಾಗಿಸುವ ಮರುಬಳಕೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ; ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಟನ್‌ಗಳಿಗಿಂತಲೇ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬೃಹತ್ ಕುಲುಮೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ಸರಳೀಕರಿಸುವ ಮರುಬಳಕೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. 'ಪೈರೋಲೈಸಿಸ್' ಎಂಬ ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಗ್ಲೇಸ್‌ಮೂಲದ ಈ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕ ಹಾಗೆ 'ಪೈರೋ' ಎಂದರೆ 'ಶಾಖ'ವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ 'ಲೈಸಿಸ್' ಅಂದರೆ ಮುರಿಯುವುದು, ವಿಘಟಿಸಿ ಸರಳೀಕರಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಮೃತಜನಕರಹಿತ ವಾತಾವರಣವಾದ ಈ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕುಲುಮೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಗೆಬಗೆಯ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ನಂತಹ ಪಾಲಿಮರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರಗಿಸಲು, ಸರಳ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು, ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ತಾಪಮಾನ 350 ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಸೆಲ್ಸಿಯಸ್‌ನಿಂದ 1000 ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಸೆಲ್ಸಿಯಸ್‌ವರೆಗೆ; ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಇಂಧನ ಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದಲ್ಲ? ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಕೆಲವು 'ಕ್ಯಾಟಲಿಸ್ಟ್', ಎಂದರೆ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ, ಈ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದಂತಹ ನಿಗದಿತ ತಾಪಮಾನ ತಗ್ಗಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುವ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಯಷ್ಟೆಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಹೌಹಾರಲೇಬೇಕು! ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುವುದು ಚಿನ್ನಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ

ದುಬಾರಿಯಾದ ಪ್ಲಾಟಿನಂನಂತಹ ಲೋಹಗಳು, ವಿವಿಧ ಲೋಹಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಮಿಶ್ರಣಗಳು - ಹೀಗೆ.

ಇಂಥ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅಪಾರ ಇಂಧನದ ಮೇಲೆ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿ, ದೊರೆಯುವ ಸರಳೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಉಪ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯೇ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮರುಬಳಕೆಯ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇವೆ. ಅಂತಹದ್ದೇ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು, ಮಿಶಿಗನ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ರಬ್ಬವಾಯ್ಸ್. ಇವರು ದುಬಾರಿ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕಗಳ ಬದಲು, ಕಡಿಮೆ ಹಣ ಖರ್ಚುಮಾಡಿ ಬಳಸಬಲ್ಲ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕಗಳ ಹುಡುಕಾಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಇವರಿಗೆ ಹೊಳೆದದ್ದು ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಆಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವಿಸುವ ಉಪ್ಪಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ. ನೀರಿಗೆ ಹಾಕಿದಾಗ ಕರಗುವ, ಬೆಂಕಿಗೆ ಹಾಕಿದಾಗ ಸಿಡಿಯುವ ಉಪ್ಪಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಸುಲಭಲಭ್ಯತೆಯ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಬಳಸಿ ನೋಡಲಾಯ್ತು; ಆಗಲೇ ಉಪ್ಪು ಎಂತಹ ಅಪ್ರಬಂಧು ಎಂಬುದು ಮನದಟ್ಟಾಗುವಂತಹ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಬಂದದ್ದು. ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಸರಳೀಕರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ತಾಪಮಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಸಿದ ಉಪ್ಪು, ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಖರ್ಚನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಾಲು ಪಾಲು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಬಂಡವಾಳದ ಉಳಿತಾಯ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಶಾಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಕೆ. ಇವಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೇ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಅನುಕೂಲ ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ಹೀಗೆ 'ಪೈರೋಲೈಸಿಸ್' ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿದಾಗ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಮೇಣದಂತಹ ಘನಪದಾರ್ಥ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಧನಗಳಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಬಲ್ಲ ಕೆಲವು ದ್ರವಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅನಿಲಗಳು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಣದಂತಹ ಘನಪದಾರ್ಥದ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅನಿಲ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ರವಗಳು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಬಹುದಷ್ಟೇ. ಆದರೆ, ಉಪ್ಪನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹೊರಬಂದ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುಪಾಲು, ಇಂಧನವಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಬಲ್ಲ ದ್ರವಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಿಲಗಳೇ ಇವೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ, ರಬ್ಬವಾಯ್ಸ್. ಹೀಗೆ ತಯಾರಾದ ದ್ರವರೂಪೀ ಇಂಧನಗಳ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ರಚನೆ ಕೂಡ ಸರಳವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಡೀಸೆಲ್‌ನಂತೆ ಬಳಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧಕರು.

'ಅಡ್ವಾನ್ಸ್ ಸೈನ್ಸೆಸ್‌ನಿನ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ಸ್' ಎಂಬ ಜರ್ನಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ಈ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯು, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಚಲನ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು ಈ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿಯೇ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ 'ಪಾಲಿಅಲಿಸ್ಟ್' ಎಂಬ ವಿಘಟಿಸಲು ಕಷ್ಟವೆನಿಸುವ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನೂ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಸರಳೀಕರಿಸಿದೆ ಈ ಸರಳ ಉಪ್ಪು. ಉಪಯುಕ್ತವಲ್ಲದ ಮೇಣದಂತಹ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನೂ ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವ ಉಪ್ಪು, ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಭರವಸೆ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕವಾಗಲಿ, ಅದು ಇತರ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳಂತೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳು ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವಾಗ, ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕವು ತಟಸ್ಥವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ವೇಗವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದಷ್ಟೇ ಇದರ ಕೆಲಸ. ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾದ ಮೇಲೆ, ಬಳಸಲು ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕವನ್ನು ಪುನಃ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಿ, ಮುಂದಿನ ಸಲ ಬಳಸಲು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ, ಹೀಗೆ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಲು ಕೂಡ ಅನೇಕ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವು ಅಷ್ಟು ಸರಳವೂ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸಲಾದ ವೇಗವರ್ಧಕವು ಸರಳವಾದ ಉಪ್ಪಲ್ಲವೇ? ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಕೇವಲ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ, ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರಗಿಸಿ, ತೈಲೋತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಂದ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಕು. ಉಪ್ಪುನೀರನ್ನು ಕುದಿಸಿ, ಮರಳಿ ಉಪ್ಪನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಮನುಷ್ಯನಿಗೇನೂ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲವಲ್ಲ! ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯಿಕವಾಗಿ, ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಪರಿಸರೀಯವಾಗಿ - ಹೀಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ಆಯಾಮಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಉಪ್ಪಿನ ಬಳಕೆಯು, ಸಮರ್ಥ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಸಾಬೀತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್-ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಹೊಸದೊಂದು ಭರವಸೆಯಾಯಿತು ಉತ್ತರವನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.





ಪರಿಸರ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರತೆಯಿರದ, ಜನಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವವಿರದ ಆಡಳಿತನೀತಿಯ ಪರಿಣಾಮ

# ಕಡಲ ತಡಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಬರ!



ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ

ಕೇಶವ ಎಚ್. ಕೊರ್ನೇ

**ಮಂಗಳೂರು-** ಕಾರವಾರ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗುವವರು ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮನಸೋಲಿದಿರರು. ಒಂದೆಡೆ, ನೀಲ ಕಡಲು, ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ, ಹಸಿರು ಸಹ್ಯಾದ್ರಿ, ನಡುವೆ ಹರಿದು ನದಿ-ತೋರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಸಿರು ತೋಟಗಳು. ಬರಗಾಲದ ಈ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಂತೂ ಹಸಿರುಮಯ ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಜೀವನ ಬಲುಚಿನ್ನ ಎಂದೂ ಪ್ರವಾಸಿಗರಿಗೆ ತೋರಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ಇವೆಲ್ಲ ಮೇಲ್ದೋಷದ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳು. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಗಿಡಮರಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಸದಾ ಹಸಿರಾಗಿರುವುದು ನಿತ್ಯಹರಿದ್ವರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಾತಾವರಣದ ಅತೀವ ತೇವಾಂಶದಿಂದಾಗಿ.

ನದಿ, ಅಲಿವೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲರಾಶಿಯಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದು ಸಮುದ್ರದಿಂದ ಭೂಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳನುಗ್ಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಉಪ್ಪುನೀರು! ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಈ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪರಿಸರ ಹಾಗೂ ಜನಜೀವನದ ವಾಸ್ತವ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗಲು ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಒಳನಾಗಬೇಕು. ಕಾಡು, ತೋಟ, ಅಲಿವೆ, ಕಡಲಂಚಿನ ನೈಜಸತಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಬೇಕು.

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಿಸಿರುವ ಕರಾವಳಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಶುರಾಮ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯೆಂದು ವರ್ಣಿಸಲು ಕಾರಣವಿದೆ. ತನ್ನ ಸಮೃದ್ಧ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಪರಿಸರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜನಜೀವನವು ಸಾಧಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಾರುವ ರೂಪಕವದು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಪರಿಸರದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮೂರು ದಶಕಗಳಿಂದ ಅದೃಷ್ಟ ಹದಗೆಡುತ್ತಿದೆಯೆಂದರೆ, ಜನರ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಜೀವನಭದ್ರತೆಗೂ ಭಂಗ ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ! ಕಾಡು, ನದಿ, ಕೃಷಿ, ಕಡಲತೀರಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧಿಕ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೂ ಇದರ ಅರಿವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಘಟ್ಟದ ಕಾಡು, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಹರಿದುಬರುವ ನದಿ, ತೋರಗಳ ಕಣಿವೆಗಳು, ಅವುಗಳಂಚಿನ ಹಾಡಿ, ಬೆಟ್ಟಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕೃಷಿ, ಹೈನುಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಪೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಗೋಮಾಳ, ಕುಮ್ಮಿ ಭೂಮಿಗಳು ಅಕ್ರಮ ಬಂದಿಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕ್ಷಾರಿ, ರಬ್ಬರ್ ನೆಡುತೋಪುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಲಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಜಲಾನಯನ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ನಾಶವಾದಂತೆಲ್ಲ ಝರಿ, ತೋರಗಳು ಒಣಗಿ, ನದಿಗಳ ಕೆಳಹರಿವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಇಲ್ಲದಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಹ್ಯಾದ್ರಿಯಿಂದ ಹರಿದು ಕಡಲು ಸೇರುವ ನದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಹಿನೀರು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾದಾಗ, ನದಿಮುಖದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಚರಗಳನ್ನು ಪೊರೆಯುವ ಪೋಷಕಾಂಶಗಳ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗುವುದು ಸಹಜ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಈಗ ಸಮುದ್ರದಲ್ಲೂ ಮೀನುಕ್ಷಾಮ ಮೈದೋಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಣಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಒಳಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಹೊಳೆ, ನದಿಗಳಿಗೂ ಸಮುದ್ರನೀರು ನುಗ್ಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಸಿಹಿನೀರಿನ ಮೂಲಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಬರಿದಾಗುತ್ತ, ಉಳಿದವು ಸವಳಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

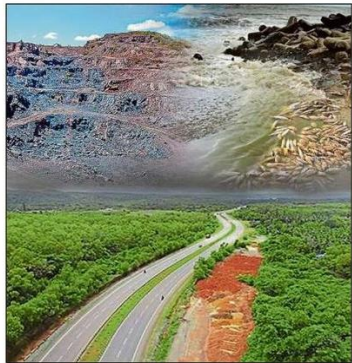
ಕಡಲಂಚಿನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಾದರೂ ಹೇಗಿದೆ? ಕೇದಗೆ, ಸಿರಿಹೊನ್ನೆ, ಸಮುದ್ರಫಲದಂಥ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ

ಸಸ್ಯಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳ ಸಹಜಕಾಡು ಈವರೆಗೆ ಸಮುದ್ರ-ದಂಚನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಸಮುದ್ರದಂಡೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ, ಬಂದರು ಖಾಸಗೀಕರಣ, ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮದ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಾಗುವ ಅವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಭೂಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಹಸಿರುಗೋಡೆಗಳು ಬಲಿಯಾಗಿ, ಕಡಲಕೊರೆತ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮರಳು, ಸಿರಿಕಾ ಹರಳು, ಚಿಪ್ಪುಸುಣ್ಣ, ಗ್ರಾನೈಟ್‌ನಂತಹವುಗಳ ಅಕ್ರಮ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ನದಿಗಳ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನೇ ಧ್ವಂಸಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಬಹುವಿಧದ ಪಾರಿಸರಿಕ ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡುವ ಅಲಿವೆ-ಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಗುಡ್ಡದ ಮಣ್ಣು ತುಂಬಿಸಿ ಮಾರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮಪರಿಸರವನ್ನೇ ಆಧರಿಸುವ ಬೆಳೆ, ಸೀಗಡಿ, ಏಡಿ, ಸಮುದ್ರವಡಿಯಂಥ ಜಲಚರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನಿನ ಸಂಕುಲಗಳು ನಾಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇವನ್ನೇ ಆಶ್ರಯಿಸಿದ ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ ಮೀನುಗಾರರು, ಭತ್ತ, ತರಕಾರಿ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಕೃಷಿಕರು ಕಾಲಡಿಯ ನೆಲವೇ ಕುಸಿದಂತಾಗಿ ಕಂಗೆಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಗರೀಕರಣದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯೋದ್ಯಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಭೂಬಳಕೆ ನೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಸಾಗಿರುವ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಿದು.

ಏಕೆ ಈ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ವಿನಾಶ? ಮೂರು ದಶಕಗಳ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಬೆಳೆವಣಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿದರೆ, ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣಗಳು ತೋರುತ್ತವೆ. ಒಂದು, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸರದ ಸಂರಚನೆಯನ್ನೇ ಧ್ವಂಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು. ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಪರಿಸರ, ಜೀವವೈವಿಧ್ಯ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕುರಿತ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳ ಆಶಯಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಗಾಳಿಗೆ ತೂರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷವೂ ಕಲ್ಲುಬಂಡೆ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸುರಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೊಚ್ಚಿಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಮುದ್ರದಂಚು, ಗುಡ್ಡಗಳನ್ನು ಲಂಬಕೋನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕತ್ತರಿಸುವ ನವ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಗಳು, ಕಾಂಡಾಕಾಡು ಕಡಿದು ಮೇಲೇಳುವ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು, ನದಿ-ಕಣಿವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಛಿದ್ರವಾಗಿಸುವ ಎತ್ತಿನಹೊಳೆ ತರಹದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕೊಳವೆಮಾರ್ಗಗಳು! ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೂ ಈ ಬಗೆಯ ಅವಿವೇಕವೇ.

ಕರಾವಳಿ ದುರವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಾರಣವೆಂದರೆ, ಆಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಮನ್ವಯವೇ ಇರದಿರುವುದು. ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರಾಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಧ್ವನಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರುಡಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಿಸುವ ಶಾಖಾ



ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣದ ವಿಡಂಬನೆಯಲ್ಲವೇ ಇದು? ತಳಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಅಲಿಸುವ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮತೆಯಂತೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಶಾಹಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವತ್ತೋ ಮಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯೊಂದು ತಮ್ಮೊಳಗೆ ಏಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೇಗೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅರಿಯಲು, ಈ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲೂ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರಿಗೆ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ!

ಹೀಗೆ ಜನರ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆಯಿರದೆ ವಿಫಲವಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಾದರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆಯೂ ಕಾಣಬಹುದು. ಗುಡ್ಡಗಳನ್ನು ಛಿದ್ರವಾಗಿಸುವ ಅವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸೇತುವೆಗಳು, ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರದೆಡೆಯೂ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬಂದರುಗಳು, ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡದ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಾಗಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕಗಳು, ಮಲಿನಗೊಂಡ ಬಾವಿ, ಹೊಳೆ, ಕೆರೆಗಳು, ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿರದ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನದಂಥ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು, ನೀರೇ ನಿಲ್ಲದ ಕಿಂಡಿ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು! ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಅನುದಾನವೆಲ್ಲ ಹೀಗೆ ವ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗುವ ಅಥವಾ ಅನರ್ಹರ ಕೈಸೇರುವುದನ್ನು ಮೌನವಾಗಿ ನೋಡುವ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವೊಂದೇ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರದ್ದು.

ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಧಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರತೆ ಸೂತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯಿರದೆ, ಕೃಷಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಉದ್ಯಮ ಎಲ್ಲವುಗಳ ಕ್ಷಮತೆ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪರಿಯಿದು. ಜಲಮೂಲ ಬ್ರಿಟಿ, ಅಂತಜಲ ಕುಸಿದು, ಗದ್ದೆ ತೋಟಗಳು ಪಾಲುಬೀಳುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕೃಷಿ, ಹೈನುಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಕರಕುಶಲದ ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಕರಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಮೂರೂವರೆ ಸಾವಿರ ಮಿಲಿ ಮೀಟರ್‌ಗೂ ಮಿಕ್ಕಿ ಮಳೆ ಬೀಳುವ ಸಮೃದ್ಧ ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಪಟ್ಟಣ, ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು ಇಂದು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೂ ಒದ್ದಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ!

ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈಫಲ್ಯ ತೋರುವ ಒಂದು ತಾಜಾ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕುಮಟಾ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹದಿನಾಲ್ಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲೆಂದು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರದೆಯೇ 'ಜಲಜೀವನ ಮಿಷನ್' ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯೊಂದು ಇದೀಗ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕುಮಟಾ ಪಟ್ಟಣದಿಂದ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಘಟ್ಟದ ತಪ್ಪಲಿನ ಅಘನಾಶಿನಿ ನದಿತ್ಟದ ದೀವಳ್ಳಿವರೆಗೆ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳವೆಮಾರ್ಗ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿಯೂ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕುಮಟಾ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಹಾಗೂ ನದಿಯ ಇಕ್ಕೆಲಗಳ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಬಳಕೆಯ ನೀರನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಘನಾಶಿನಿ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಹೊಸ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನೀರಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಸತ್ಯ ಈಗ ಅರಿವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ!

ತಾನು ಬಳಸುವ ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಜಲಮೂಲ ಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನೂ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳದ 'ಜಲಜೀವನ ಮಿಷನ್' ಹಾಗೂ 'ಮನಮನೆಗೆ ಗಂಗೆ' ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿದ ಅನರ್ಥವಿದು.

ಸಿಹಿನೀರಿನ ಲಭ್ಯತೆಯೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸಮೃದ್ಧ ನಿಸರ್ಗದ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಾಗಿತ್ತು ಕರುನಾಡ ಕರಾವಳಿ. ಅವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕವಲ್ಲದ ಆಡಳಿತನೀತಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇದೀಗ ಬರಡಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾರು ಹೊಣೆ?



## GOVERNANCE

# Book *suo motu* cases on instances of fake news, hate speech, and moral policing, Siddaramaiah tells police

Law and order is directly related to development of the State. Deputy Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police will be held responsible for unchecked crime and organised illegal activities in their jurisdictions: CM

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**C**hief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday ordered the Karnataka police to book *suo motu* cases and take stern action against any instance of spreading fake news, hate speech, and 'moral' policing.

### Vote for change

"People have voted for change and brought us to power. We expect the State police to also deliver the change the people want. Law and order is directly related to the development of the State and we will not tolerate anyone who disturbs peace," he said, speaking after the senior police officers' annual conference in Bengaluru.

"We have zero tolerance towards anybody who takes law into their hands, whoever that is, whatever



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and DG&IGP Alok Mohan, at the senior police officers' conference in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

their religion or party affiliation. We want to ensure there is no communal violence. Action should be taken by registering a voluntary FIR against those who disturb the peace of society," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara reportedly took objection to instances of police officials themselves identifying with Hindutva

right wing and warned officials that the government would not tolerate it.

"Disciplinary action is usually taken against junior officials and not against seniors. We have decided to hold Deputy Commissioners of Police and Superintendents of Police responsible for unchecked crime and organised illegal activities in

their jurisdictions and take action against them," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, adding that in his experience he knew no crime could happen without the knowledge of the jurisdictional officers. He instructed senior officials to not only visit police stations but also be on the ground and patrol the streets regularly.

"The Constitution has

rejected social Darwinism and given equal rights to all. Police should not side with the powerful against hapless common people. The police are often accused of high-handedness when interacting with common people. We won't tolerate that. Any instances of high handedness will be dealt with severely," the Chief Minister said. "I have observed that a few police officers have good relations with anti-social elements. How will people trust the police then?"

### Drive against drugs

Mr. Siddaramaiah said thrust is also on rooting out drug menace completely. "I have asked the officials to launch a special drive against narcotics in the State, particularly Bengaluru. We are also thinking of forming a special team for the same," he said.

**Source:** The Hindu dated 16-09-2023, Pg No.12

# Sex ratio dips in 20 dists; CM orders strict monitoring of scanning centres

## Officials Told To Inspect Them Every 3 Months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Sex ratio, or the number of females per 1,000 males, has declined in 20 Karnataka districts, according to the government data for 2021-2022.

The data, based only on birth registration, paints a worrying picture as it is one of the basic indicators of women's status.

Chikkaballapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi and Bidar districts are the worst hit, with the ratio slumping to a new low, according to the health and family welfare department statistics.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar's home districts, Mysuru and Ramanagara, are among the 20 districts where the number of females has dipped. According to officials, Bengaluru Urban

### DISTRICTS WHERE RATIO HAS DECLINED

NAME	2001	2011	2021	2022
Chikkaballapura	952	953	967	868
Bagalkot	940	935	926	886
Kalaburagi	931	943	954	888
Bidar	941	942	921	898
Raichur	964	950	911	906
Kolar	965	962	958	908
Yadgir	952	951	925	913
Ballari	947	960	925	914
Ramanagara	945	962	927	916
Bengaluru Rural	939	944	967	928
Davanagere	946	948	946	929
Vijayapura	928	931	931	930
Mysuru	962	961	931	930
Tumakuru	949	959	960	936
Dharwad	943	944	953	937
Gadag	952	947	957	937
Hassan	958	973	965	937
Chitradurga	946	947	979	938
Uttara Kannada	946	955	958	939
Kodagu	977	978	981	956

is not on the list because of its floating population.

Diagnostic centres have come under scrutiny as the law prohibits sex determination tests. The CM has directed the health department to take stringent measures to



### DISTS WHICH BUCK THE TREND

Mandya	934	939	871	877
Belagavi	921	934	937	937
Haveri	957	946	933	951
Koppal	953	958	935	952
Chikkamagaluru	959	969	940	956
Shivamogga	956	960	914	958
Dakshina Kannada	956	947	957	966
Udupi	958	958	952	967
Chamarajanagar	964	953	921	974

Source: Health dept; numbers represent females per 1000 males

### TIMES VIEW

The declining sex ratio in 20 districts of Karnataka is a worrying trend. With the advent of modern technology to detect a child's sex before birth, abortions of girl children have led to highly skewed sex ratios. This is happening because of the health department's apathy and the negative mindset of society towards women. Many parents prefer boys over girls, as they believe, economically, they are more viable. The unequal treatment of genders has broad societal consequences beyond individual injustices. In China, for example, the one-child policy has had the unintended consequence of leading to a stark decline in female children. The result is surplus of males. The violent consequences of unequal sex ratios may even translate into civil conflicts.

prevent prenatal sex determination. The state has 3,092 scanning centres.

Siddaramaiah said health department officials had slackened when it came to monitoring of diagnostic centres after the sex ratio

marginally went up. Last year, the authorities had met only 14 per cent of their inspection target.

Siddaramaiah has directed officials to inspect scanning centres every three months for compliance un-

der the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. Health department authorities say the law, enacted in 1994 and amended in 2003, has been an important tool in preventing sex-selective elimination.

According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS5), over the years, the sex ratio in the state has gone up as compared to 2011 census data, showing a clear increase in the female birth ratio. The improvement has been attributed to strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act and Bhagyalakshmi scheme, which provides financial aid to every girl child born in priority households (earlier referred to as below poverty line families).

The Sample Registration System initiated by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India shows Karnataka has not seen encouraging progress in gender ratio, an officer said. As per SRS, the state's sex ratio at birth was 958 in 2011-13. It fell to 916 in 2018-20.

**Source:** Times of India dated 16-09-2023, Pg No.4



# Karnataka has a rich legacy of women's quota in local bodies

Despite strides made in local bodies, representation of women in the Legislative Assembly has remained poor

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**  
BENGALURU

**W**hile the Women's Reservation Bill introduced in Parliament on Tuesday has led to country-wide discussion, Karnataka has had a noteworthy history with regard to reservation for women in politics.

Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, during his tenure as Prime Minister, was the first to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill on September 9, 1996, as the 81st Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Parliament, which proposed to reserve 33% seats in Assemblies and Parliament. "Though the Reservation Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha, it was referred to the joint select committee by the Lok Sabha. A number of political issues stalled the passage of the bill," said MLC K.A. Thippeswamy, a long-time associate of the former Prime Minister. Incidentally, it was during Mr. Gowda's tenure as Chief Minister that wo-



A file photo of a protest demanding, among other things, reservation for women. The current Legislative Assembly, with a strength of 224, has just 10 women members and the 34-member Cabinet has no more than one woman Minister.

men's reservation in Panchayat Raj was provided as per the provisions of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution.

## **Prior to 73rd and 74th amendments**

However, Karnataka had a reservation model for women in local self governments much before the 73rd and 74th amendments in 1992. The State had provided reservation to women in the local bodies even in the Karnataka zilla parishats, taluk panchayat

samitis, and mandal panchayats under Nyaya Panchayats Act, 1983, which had been later carried to Karnataka (Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj) Act, 1993. In fact, Mysuru Princely state provided reservation in its elected bodies. The Committee on Constitutional Reforms, 1939, headed by Dewan Srinivasa Iyengar and famous Kannada writer D.V. Gundappa as its member recommended exclusive reservation of 11 seats to women, including one each to Muslims and

depressed class.

"Karnataka's legislation in the 1980s became a model to the country and in fact our act can be seen as the genesis of the 73rd and 74th amendment. Contribution to reservation went to the Janata government headed by Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde, Rural Development Minister Abdul Nazeer Sab," said former Minister B.K. Chandrashekar, who also took part in the discussions preceding the Rajiv Gandhi government's decision to move the 73rd and 74th amendment. He said that though decisions were based on political calculations after Congress's votes were disturbed in rural areas of Karnataka by the Janata government, the late Prime Minister was "genuinely interested" in women reservation. "In the process, he was convinced about the importance of reservation particularly due to the feudal nature in North Indian states."

However, despite these strides in local bodies, representation of women in

the Karnataka Assembly has remained poor. The current Assembly with a strength of 224 has just 10 women and the 34-member Cabinet has no more than one woman Minister.

## **It is time for more**

Meanwhile, former Minister Rani Satish, who was part of the Mahila Horata Samithi, an apolitical group of women politicians in Karnataka, said, "Over the last three decades, thousands of women have occupied positions in political and administrative spheres due to reservation in local bodies, and it is time that they are given more representation. Financial capabilities currently deter the entry of more women into electoral politics." Another former Minister Motamma, also a member of the Samithi along with Pramila Nesargi and Leeladevi R. Prasad among others, said, "To address the anxieties of men, seat reservation can be rotated. More women are coming into politics now than in the past."

**Source:** The Hindu dated 20-09-2023, Pg No.6

# Karnataka's share of women representation in Assembly lowest among Southern States

In figures

Year	Contestants	Winners	Year	No. of women voters	No. of women who voted	Female polling percentage
2023	185	10	2023	2,63,99,574	1,91,91,137	72.69
2018	219	10	2018	2,49,10,888	1,78,18,310	71.5
2013	176	7	2013	2,13,67,912	1,50,57,361	70.47
2008	104	3	2008	1,98,12,639	1,25,01,931	63.10
2004	101	6	2004	1,89,84,380	1,19,45,017	62.9
1999	62	6	1999	1,68,36,520	1,08,72,538	64.58
1994	117	7	1994	1,51,23,835	99,62,033	65.87
1989	78	10	1989	1,39,85,552	89,60,070	64.07
1985	108	8	1985	1,08,90,046	68,72,429	63.11
1983	34	1	1983	1,00,78,883	61,13,904	60.66
1978	30	8	1978	88,08,540	59,80,287	67.89
1972	20	No winners	1972	73,55,741	41,84,091	56.88
1967	9	5	1967	62,16,001	36,19,414	58.23
1962	30	18	1962	55,13,993	29,11,216	52.80
1957	24	13	1957	Not available		

(Source: Election Commission of India)

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

While the Women's Reservation Bill has been passed in Parliament, a look at the representation of women in the Karnataka Assembly over the years shows a bleak picture.

At 4.5% of the total strength of Assembly, Karnataka's share of women representation is the sixth lowest in the country. In fact, it is the lowest among the Southern States' share of MLAs in their Legislative Assemblies. While Andhra Pradesh has 8%, Kerala follows with 7.9%.

The share of Tamil Nadu and Telangana is almost the same at 5.1% and 5%, respectively, according to data.

## Far better

Women representation appeared to have been far better in the first two elections in 1957 and 1962, with 13 and 18 elected, respectively. Women representation remained in the single digit since 1967, except in 1989, 2018, and 2023 when 10 women were elected each.

Currently, of the 10 in the Assembly, three are from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), four from Congress, two from the JD(S), and one fought as an Independent.

## Rise in women voters

However, the number of women voters has gone up

**Currently, of the 10 women in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, three are from the BJP, four from the Congress, two from the JD(S), and one is an Independent**

significantly. From 55.13 lakh in 1962, the number of women voters touched 2.63 crore this year. The total number of women voters have outnumbered men voters in at least 17 electoral divisions out of the 34 in the State this year.

## Too few winners

On the other hand, while a total of 1,297 women have contested polls from 1967 till 2023, a mere 110 (8.48%) have won. Of these, 74 are from the Congress (the highest), 19 are from Janata Parivar (Janata party, Janata Dal, Janata Dal (Secular), and JD-U), and 13 from the BJP.

Although the number of women contestants has been on the rise over the years, former women elected representatives said the number of candidates fielded by various parties is still not in proportion to the rise in the number of women voters.

## From major parties

In 2018, of the 219 women contestants only 36 were from major political par-

ties (the Congress had fielded 15 women while the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) had given seats to five and six women, respectively). The remaining were from smaller parties and Independents. This time, 12 were from the BJP, Congress nominated 11, and the JD(S) 13.

The highest number of women (17) were nominated by the Aam Aadmi Party, even though they failed to make any mark in the Assembly elections. The rest were Independents.

## 'Have goal, clarity'

Laxmi Hebbalkar, the lone woman in the State Cabinet this time, attributed the poor representation to hesitation and lack of confidence among women, apart from other reasons.

"Most of the time, women feel they cannot take up politics as a career as they have other responsibilities. The perception in society is also that women cannot devote as much time towards politics as men. Although the Women's Reservation Bill is a welcome move, I feel women should not contest just because the seat is reserved for them. Women should be grounded, have a goal, clarity, and vision in politics. All these years, we only demanded reservation but we did not become inevitable on the ground. We should prove our leadership," Ms. Hebbalkar said.



# Onus of ensuring inclusion of all citizens in welfare schemes on govts., say experts

At the Trustworthy digital identity international conference, experts highlighted the need for inclusion being the northstar while designing a universal digital ID system

Shilpa Elizabeth  
BENGALURU

About two weeks ago, in a report prepared for G20 prior to the Leaders' Summit, the World Bank praised the way India harnessed the power of digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar and UPI to improve financial inclusion and delivery of public goods and services.

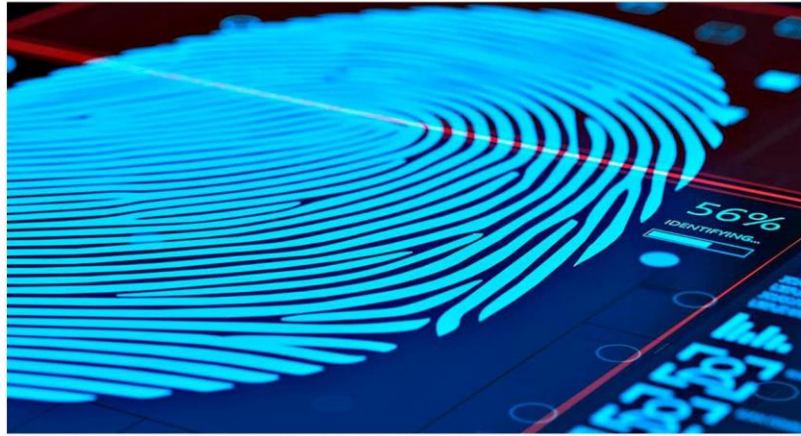
The report which was part of G20's financial inclusion action plan for 2024-2026 shaped under India's presidency also mentioned other digital ID systems such as Singapore's Singpass, Philippines' PhilSys, and UAE's UAE-Pass.

With more than 1.3 billion registered users, Aadhaar is the largest national biometric digital identification programme in the world. Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP), a digital identity platform developed by the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) has been working on a project to provide digital identities similar to Aadhaar in nine countries including the Philippines, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Togolese Republic.

## Not entirely foolproof

While India's digital transformation has achieved huge strides in financial inclusion, the system is not entirely foolproof yet. The twin aims of Aadhaar have been eliminating corruption from the system and inclusion of the underprivileged and weakest sections of society through proof of identity for every citizen.

However, cases of people being excluded from welfare schemes due to failure of authentication or lack of documents like



Cases of people being excluded from welfare schemes due to failure of authentication or lack of documents like Aadhaar still continue. The onus of fixing it always falls on the citizens, and experts have been pointing out how problematic it is. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Aadhaar still continue. The onus of fixing it always falls on the citizens, and experts have been pointing out how problematic it is.

"A person's unique ID is the coming together of their history, the history of a larger administrative system, and various other aspects.

That's why people's vulnerabilities around IDs are also very unique," said Dr. Janaki Srinivasan, Associate Professor, IIIT-B. She was part of a panel on 'Digital divides and inclusion' at the Trustworthy digital identity international conference by IIITB and The Alan Turing Institute.

"The story we often hear is that when people have multiple IDs it is to make wrong use of the available benefits."

"But what we found in our research was that in some cases it was simply a way of coping," said Dr. Janaki, citing the example of women who had to move



The panelists discussing digital identity and data security.

from their native place after marriage.

She noted that it was similar in the case of several migrant workers too. A migrant who has moved to a big city may need an ID to do transactions in his native and another ID for his transactions in the city.

Given the multiple needs and the phase of life

in which people are, they may have completely legitimate reasons for having multiple IDs, Dr. Janaki noted.

"Most of the groups we identify as vulnerable have stitched their life together with so many fragile threads. When a new system comes in it's not so much about the specifics

of that system being bad in any sense, it's just that the system upends what they already know. They are generally not in a position to spend a lot of effort and resources to understand how the new system works. They may find ways around it. But it definitely increases the labour they have to put in to relearn the system, reconfiguring their networks and so on and so forth," she said.

## Humane grievance

BBMP relaunched the 'Fix My Street' app earlier this year allowing citizens to report potholes. Within 15 days of launch, the app saw more than 2,500 complaints being registered. The last few years have seen several central and state government departments rolling out similar apps for grievance redressal.

While apps for grievance redressal may sound excellent in theory, they

get more complicated in real according to experts. Citing a field study done in three states, Sarayu noted that grievance redressal in India has mostly been mediated.

According to Sasikumar Ganesan, Head of Engineering at MOSIP, digital systems have the inherent problem of not being humans. He remembered how his father, whenever faced with a problem regarding his property transactions, would walk up to one of the department staff, tell them his situation, convince them, and get them involved to find a solution.

"The moment it moved online, things changed. Now his only option was to depend on me to fill things out online. Grievance has to be humane, and it is going to be a tough exercise," he said.

Dr. Srinivasan echoed similar sentiments and noted that the state was le-

gally bound to take upon the onus of people being excluded and carry out grievance redressal.

"Fixing where that accountability is and how you take that accountability forward is a very critical priority. It may get better with time. But we cannot totally expect to learn it on the field," she said.

## Inclusion vs security

In June, COVID-19 vaccination data of several Indians was reportedly leaked on a Telegram bot.

The data leaked from the government-funded CoWIN portal included name, gender, birth details, Aadhaar numbers, PAN cards, passport numbers, voter IDs and vaccination centre details as per reports.

Data breaches make citizens extremely vulnerable to scams, manipulation, and exploitation. Reports suggest that Aadhaar related scams have been on the rise in the country.

"There's a huge difference between building an inclusive technology and a technology that prevents fraud and ensures security privacy. Sometimes they are on opposite sides," said Mr. Ganesan, adding that inclusivity has to be the basic principle on which the system works.

He also pointed out how using biometrics for verification can be inclusive and exclusive.

"My father can't remember passwords and asks the security person's help to type in the PIN and withdraw money from the ATM. But when it comes to fingerprint authentication, he is perfectly okay. But I have also seen people standing in queue unable to get their fingerprints authenticated. It's not their fault, yet they are being denied service," he said.

In June, the Odisha High

Court, while hearing a writ petition on the plight of malnourished children from villages in the Jajpur district, had ruled that failure of Aadhaar card, mobile phone, or identity papers of a particular kind were no grounds to exclude people from welfare schemes.

"It is important to keep improving your security layers keeping the north star as inclusion and not the other way around. The day you start doing it the other way around and try to prevent more people from fraud, you are going to exclude more people from this system," Mr. Ganesan said.

## Host of factors

Panelists also pointed out that within the idea of the universality of IDs, the question of whether it was framed as a policy or a right deserved significant consideration, and the question of inclusion had to be framed accordingly.

In the case of women particularly many factors mediated the securing and usage of an ID, said Sarayu Natarajan, founder of Aapli institute.

"How women get out, the cost of taking time off to get an ID - a whole range of such factors determine whether a woman can get out or not in the first place... Thinking through what this identification means conceptually and in what ways you would be viewed by the state and to some extent private entities are also significant questions that mediate the identity," she said.

She also noted that while inclusion into the system was often perceived as a one-time thing, in reality it is a constantly negotiated process.

"Technological shifts and social practices can end up including and excluding people. It is a complex journey," she said.

Source: The Hindu dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.9



# 8.3L saplings planted in 3 months; min seeks audit report on survival

## 87% Planted By RWAs, Corporates

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**Bengaluru:** Rattling off data related to afforestation programmes, the forest department on Thursday claimed a whopping eight lakh saplings were planted in the past three months to increase Bengaluru's green cover. Though elated, forest minister Eshwar Khandre assigned a new job to officials—to conduct an audit of these plants to understand how many have actually survived.

The latest directive by the minister is contrary to what would happen earlier: Numbers related to new saplings were accepted by all without ascertaining where the planting happened and how many survived subsequently. Khandre said: "The mandate was not just to plant saplings, but also nurture them thereafter. Hence, I have ordered officials to do an audit along with geo-tagging to track the plants' condition. Later, random checks will also be done to ensure their health."



**FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE:** Plant saplings are sold at forest department nurseries. It claimed over 4.7 crore saplings were planted across the state in the past three months

### BOOST TO GREEN COVER

District	Saplings planted by forest dept	Saplings sold to citizens	Total
B'luru/BBMP	1,02,848	7,26,767	8,29,615
B'luru Rural	5,78,156	5,44,900	11,23,056
Ramanagara	3,14,084	6,15,290	9,29,374
Kolar	13,90,659	12,06,879	25,97,538
Chikkaballapura	7,07,887	8,85,550	15,93,437

Source: Forest dept

The government had set itself a target of planting five crore saplings across the state. The forest department on Thursday claimed over 4.7 crore saplings were planted in three months. Of them, 8.3

lakh were planted across the city and 11.2 lakh in Bengaluru Rural district, comprising Devanahalli, Hoskote and Nelamangala.

What's more interesting is that 87 per cent of the 8.3

### TIMES VIEW

It is heartening to know that the government has initiated an audit to track the status of saplings that are planted across the state as part of afforestation drives. If planting of saplings is one half of the story, then ensuring their survival through proper nurturing is the other half and any effort to preserve greenery will reach fruition only if both these aspects are pursued in right earnest. It is also commendable that afforestation drives undertaken by individuals and organisations in Bengaluru, in terms of the number of saplings planted, have outshone the forest department's efforts, yet again proving that the community itself can serve as an agent for positive change, well beyond the scope of institutional patronage.

lakh saplings were planted by citizens, Resident Welfare Associations and corporates. The forest department sells saplings of various species to interested citizens.

"Citizens, civic groups and corporates may have planted the saplings on both public and private land across Bengaluru. Regardless of the locations, I have told officials to submit a report on their condition," Khandre added.

Referring to the increased participation of citizens and corporates, a senior forest official said, "Green activism in Bengaluru is something which is unparalleled. This could be due to the fact that citizens here are witnessing changes in climatic conditions much faster than in other parts of the state. Bengaluru has witnessed vagaries of nature like rising temperature, pollution and depletion of groundwater, which has generated more interest in planting of saplings. But we have to wait and see whether the same enthusiasm is shown in nurturing them."

The government had vowed to plant five crore saplings annually over the next five years. Notwithstanding the weak monsoon, the department has achieved over 90 per cent of the target.

**Source:** Times of India dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.2

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

# What city needs: Solid engg solutions to fix 5 pain points

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**Bengaluru:** With its population all set to touch 2.5 crore in the next decade, Bengaluru requires crucial engineering interventions to prevent unscientific urbanisation from taking a toll on its citizens.

### ENGINEERS' DAY

While several long-term plans need to be drawn up for overall development, **TOI's** interaction with Bengalureans (online and offline) suggests the government should start by addressing five pressing issues — potholes, flyovers, drainage problems which come to the fore during rain, parking and pollution and erratic power cuts. This requires a team of top-notch engineers who can plan and deliver.

### TIMES VIEW

It's ironic, but crumbling infrastructure has often brought disrepute to a city celebrated for its technological advancement. Around the same time last year, torrential rain upended lives across all sections of society — images of CEOs riding tractors are hard to forget — putting the spotlight on Bengaluru's inefficient drainage system. While that was an unprecedented disaster, citizens face nightmares on a regular basis, be it in the form of treacherous roads, power outages or flood-prone underpasses. Bengaluru needs technically sound, not stopgap, solutions for infrastructure to keep pace with growth. Only efficient planning and implementation can keep the city's image from nosediving.

TIMES TECHIES: Innovating for world | P15



### POTHoles & PROTRUSIONS

The city has a road network of 13,000km but there is not a single smooth stretch anywhere, including in front of Vidhana Soudha, the seat of power. All roads, including the ones developed under the PM's Smart City project, are dotted with potholes or craters that have been filled but resemble mounds and render the surface uneven. "Why can't civic engineers ensure roads are smooth?" is the common refrain from people across age groups who have ended up with bone fractures or dislocations. Just a few spells of rain are enough for potholes to resurface. Unscientifically filled potholes turn out to be even more dangerous. In the past few years, potholes have become the primary reason for fatal accidents.

### RAIN & DRAINS

When it rains, often it's difficult to distinguish between roads and drains. Collapse of retention walls along stormwater drains and other major drains has many a time resulted in flooding of roads, endangering motorists. Poor planning and unscientific execution of drainage projects have caused damage to the city's infrastructure. Despite several incidents, civic bodies have no clue on why these structures crumble and who should be blamed — contractors or engineers — for the faulty work? Shoulder drains along arterial roads, often clogged with dust and garbage due to lack of periodic maintenance, lead to inundation of streets.

### SHODDY, SLOW FLYOVER WORK

As if the growing vehicular congestion is not enough, incomplete and unscientific flyovers have made commutes more difficult. The under-progress Ejipura flyover worth Rs 300 crore is stuck due to incompetent contractors, bureaucratic delays and legal hurdles. Hebbal flyover, a crucial link between the city centre and north Bengaluru and KIA, is an example of flawed design. Perennially choked, it has seen several safety audits and interventions by multiple engineering teams. Other prominent flyovers have also been in the news in recent years over poor maintenance.



### LACK OF PARKING; VEHICULAR POLLUTION

Bengaluru's mass transit system itself makes for a unique case study for any urban planner. While there are grand plans of building tunnel roads, flyovers and closed loops, lack of parking facilities has hampered efforts to decongest city roads. Namma Metro was initially seen as a quick-fix to Bengaluru's mobility mess, but lack of sufficient parking at Metro stations has kept several commuters away. Inadequate first- and last-mile connectivity options around Metro and bus terminals have contributed to the private vehicle surge, which has in turn worsened the air quality of Bengaluru, making it the 'allergy capital'.



### POWER CUTS DURING RAIN

Rain and power cuts are often synonymous in Bengaluru. A brief bout of rain during any season usually results in outages spanning anywhere from a few hours to an entire day. Despite crores of rupees being spent on maintenance and upgrading electrical installations, power cuts remain a perennial problem. While Bescom attributes this to uprooting of trees, rain-induced glitches and overloading of existing infrastructure, inadequate maintenance due to shortage of engineers is a major issue. Its helpline is flooded with complaints on unplanned outages every time it rains. Though work is on to take overhead cables underground, the slow progress is also adding to the problem.

## INFRA UNDER STRAIN; WE REQUIRE TECHNICAL, NOT ADMINISTRATIVE ENGINEERS

Urban infrastructure in Bengaluru is under tremendous strain due to the humongous load. Unfortunately, it takes time to create efficient infrastructure. Once created with huge investment, any infrastructure — be it a house, road or flyover — requires maintenance. Otherwise, society suffers as it becomes a safety threat. All this can be done only by professional engineers who keep abreast of the latest developments in the sector. We have been pressing for the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Act to regulate unprofessional personnel and ensure better planning and quality in civic infrastructure.

HR Girish, chairperson | INDIAN  
CONCRETE INSTITUTE-BENGALURU CENTRE



Given the challenges and rapid development in the energy sector, we need 'technical' and not 'administrative' engineers on the ground. Ironically, all electrical engineers in the government have been reduced to administrative roles and have lost touch with technology in the sector. They should be relieved from desk work and kept away from management compulsions to focus on core technical issues that affect citizens on a daily basis.

Ramesh Shivanna |  
CHAIRPERSON, ENERGY  
COMMITTEE, FKCCI



Bengaluru has enough engineers to resolve its present-day urban mess. Unfortunately, all of them have been forced to 'manage' infrastructural problems rather than resolve them. Unless we bring in discipline by way of an Act prescribing punishment for violations, engineers will continue to 'manage' as instructed by the system. An engineer should be allowed to work without any interference.

Nagesh Puttaswamy |  
CHAIRPERSON, ASSOCIATION  
OF CONSULTING CIVIL  
ENGINEERS



# ORRCA comes up with framework on Brand Bengaluru

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**  
BENGALURU

The Outer Ring Road Companies' Association (ORRCA) has crafted a framework and set of recommendations concerning the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for Brand Bengaluru. The report emphasises the existing challenges while proposing immediate, short-term, and long-term solutions to address traffic congestion, metro construction, and various other concerns on the stretch.

The ORRCA will soon submit the report to the State government. Manas Das, president of the ORRCA, told *The Hindu*, "The proposed framework and recommendation has been prepared by the ORRCA, highlighting the various challenges faced by the ORR and we have highlighted how we can overcome the issues. The ORR plays a critical role in the city's economic growth, serving as an IT corridor generating employment, improving connectivity, driving real estate development, and providing essential ancillary services."

According to the report, the current challenges that the ORR has been facing include traffic snarls, infrastructure breakdown, lack of last-mile connectivity, inadequate public transportation, limited alternative routes, inconsistent traffic management, lack of pedestrian infrastructure, and impact on productivity. "Already, the

## Outer Ring Road: Key highlights

■ Over 500 companies
■ 9,50,000 employees
■ Revenue generated from the companies: \$32.68 billion (36% of Bengaluru's IT revenue)
■ Space occupied: 100 million sq. ft
<b>Traffic snags and challenges for multinational corporates</b>
■ More than 3-km-long traffic jam during peak hours
■ Peak hour average speed: 4.4 km/hour
■ Revenue loss/year: \$15 billion

Source: ORRCA proposed framework and recommendations

ORRCA is taking initiatives such as traffic and pedestrian management, employees transportation programme, and awareness campaign," Mr. Das added.

The ORRCA has suggested a proposal in its report to declare the 17 km ORR stretch and adjoining areas as separate municipal zones. The report requested the government to effectively manage the traffic during the metro construction and BMRCL to adhere to the completion timeline.

The ORRCA report has stressed the need for implementing a public-private partnership (PPP) model in the ORR to deploy smart technologies and dynamic traffic management solutions and establish PPP arrangements for routine maintenance and repairs of civic amenities.



# B'luru firm inks 3 pacts to boost research in space

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** In a move aimed at advancing Indian life science research in space, Bengaluru headquartered Vellon Space, a space enterprise, has signed multiple agreements.

An MoU with German space biotech firm Yuri will see the latter offer its top-tier bioreactors, which have been deployed over 150 times on the International Space Station (ISS). In return, Vellon Space will contribute with its innovative Star-Lab module, a miniaturised space laboratory. "The synergy between Vellon Space and Yuri presents an invaluable opportunity for Indian biotech firms to advance their research in space," Ajay Kumar, founder & CEO, Vellon Space, said.

Felix Steiner, Space Access Lead at Yuri added that the partnership is poised to unlock the door to groundbreaking discoveries in life science research. In another agreement, Taiwan's HelioX Cosmos and Vellon agreed on the opportunity to cooperate on space-based in-orbit microgravity research for bio and material science research and manufacturing. Under

**An MoU with German space biotech firm Yuri will see the latter offer its top-tier bioreactors, which have been deployed over 150 times on the International Space Station**

the MoU this HelioX and Vellon will promote microgravity research, make provisions to share their respective R&D facilities in India, Taiwan, Japan and Europe. HelioX is already working as a launch service aggregator on orbit bio-chemical experiments, deep space mission consulting service in the global space market.

The firm also signed an MoU with Atgenomix Incorporated (AGTX), Taiwan, for space-based in-orbit microgravity research for bio and material science research and manufacturing.

The cooperation will have a particular focus on the microgravity related creation of meta-data for biotechnology industries, the firm said. Both firms will share their facilities too.

# Vande Bharat to get you from B'luru to Hyd in 8.5 hours; trial run today

## Will Clock Average Speed Of 71 Kmph

Suchith.Kidiyoor  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The new Vande Bharat Express proposed to run between Bengaluru and Hyderabad from September 24 will cover the 610km distance in eight and a half hours flat.

The train, which will be flagged off virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will run at an average speed of 71 kmph. A trial run will be held on Thursday.

As per the tentative schedule, the train will leave Kacheguda in Hyderabad at 5.30am and reach Yeshwantpur around 2pm. In the return direction, it will leave Bengaluru at 2.45pm and reach Hyderabad around 11.15pm.

### Five stoppages

The stoppages are proposed at Mahabubnagar, Kurnool

South Western Railway officials said introduction of Vande Bharat Express on the route will help passengers in a big way. The service will be available on all days except Wednesday. The train is likely to have 16 cars

## TRACKING SCHEDULE

Kacheguda to Yeshwantpur (train no. 20703) Timing	Station	Yeshwantpur to Kacheguda (train no. 20704) Timing (see from below)
5.30am	Kacheguda	11.15pm
7am	Mahabubnagar	9.40pm
8.40am	Kurnool City	7.51 pm
9.30am	Dhone	7.15pm
10.55am	Anantapur	7.15pm
11.30am	Dharmavaram	5.20pm
2pm	Yeshwantpur	2.45pm

City, Anantapur, Dhone and Dharmavaram. The new service will be available on all days except Wednesday.

South Western Railway (SWR) officials said introduction of Vande Bharat on the route will help passen-

gers in a big way as it will reduce travel time and make travel more comfortable. "At present, 20 train services connect Bengaluru and Hyderabad, including superfast, Rajdhani, mail express and others. Most of the trains

take 12 hours to reach Kacheguda from Bengaluru."

Sources said the train is likely to have 16 cars. It will be maintained by South Central Railway (SCR) at Kacheguda after the return journey from Bengaluru.



## 'CHENNAI-B'LURU-MYS TRAIN RUNNING ALMOST FULL'

Two Vande Bharat train services that are operational in Karnataka have been receiving good patronage. A source in SWR said the Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru train is running almost full. "Earlier, the occupancy between Bengaluru and Mysuru was less but now we see increased demand. The recently introduced Vande Bharat train on the Bengaluru-Hubballi-Dharwad route has 60-70% occupancy. It takes six months for new services to stabilise. Patronage in this sector will also increase in the coming days."



# Exploring yet another option to solve Namma Metro's last-mile connectivity issue

Can the soon-to-be-operationalised Metro Mitra app change the public distrust of many such initiatives in the past that eventually failed to deliver?

**Rasheed Kappan**  
BENGALURU

Ubiquitous on Bengaluru's streets, the autorickshaw should have been the most effective last-mile connectivity option. It is a no-brainer, at least on paper. Yet, the lack of an effective price regulatory system has made a mockery of the auto meter, further pushing the city's unsustainable, explosive growth of private vehicles. Can Metro Mitra and other options in the pipeline reverse this decline?

Developed for a mobility partnership with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) and expected to be operationalised soon, Metro Mitra app promises to be a game-changer. But can it change the public distrust of many such initiatives in the past that eventually failed to deliver? Exasperated by the inaccessibility and frequent cancellations by autos attached to aggregator platforms, commuters are desperate for a system that actually works.

## Prepaid in disarray

Pre-paid auto rickshaw stands at many Metro Stations are in disarray. Despite the inflated rate cards, vehicles are often unavailable and the counters are poorly staffed or closed. Alighting the Metro, commuters end up paying hefty fares after a hard bargain. During peak hours, the waiting time for an Uber or Ola can get frustratingly long.

Metro Mitra is different since it is exclusively for Metro users, and the routes are designed to originate from the Stations. The plan is to extend it to all existing stations across the city. To beckon the long-harassed commuters, the app will strictly follow the government's meter fare model with an addi-



A file photo of Prepaid Auto Booth on M.G Road. Inter-modal connectivity has been a big challenge at many of the Metro Phase I stations, and the new app is expected to address the issue.

tional flat fare charge of ₹10. This will cover the pick-up and technology-related expenses.

Inter-modal connectivity has been a big challenge at many of the Metro Phase I stations. Designated BMTC bus bays are a rarity. The new app is expected to address this issue with designated 'Metro Mitra Zones,' created for auto drivers in close proximity to the Metro stations.

## How it works

So, here's how it works: Commuters book the auto ride while buying a Metro ticket from the BMRL app or through its WhatsApp chatbot feature. Once he/she enters the destination

in the app, an estimated fare shows up. Post booking, the commuter receives a one-time password (OTP) with other ride details. The Metro Mitra zone is then assigned to the commuter. The system follows the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) model.

At the heart of the public discontent with the existing ecosystem is driver behavior. But, as Sampath C., General Secretary of the Adarsh Auto Drivers' Union points out, the fault lies also with the driving schools and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs). "After getting his learner's licence, the driver has 30 days to obtain his Driving Licence (DL). During this

period, he should be clearly told that the licence is given for public service and he should go to whichever corner of the city he is hired for," he says.

## Regulatory gap

Sampath notes that none of the RTOs or schools educate the driver about the rules. "He is not told 'Don't take more than three passengers, don't charge one and half times beyond the stipulated time limits.'"

"Without a working knowledge of these basic rules, why should he be issued the DL? They could educate him at the time of renewing license, fitness certificate or permit, but they don't."

The Transport Department has a functioning training programme for drivers of heavy vehicles. "At an RTO on the city's outskirts, they get trained for a full day and only after this are they issued a licence. Why can't they train auto drivers on the same lines? The department collects crores of rupees in penalty. They can get all the drivers in one place, give them food, and conduct awareness drives. I feel about 70% of the problem can be solved this way," says Sampath.

## Professionalism

This is where Metro Mitra could make a big difference, feels independent

mobility consultant Satya Arikutharam, who has been actively involved in developing the new system. "With Metro Mitra, they want to create a new Section 8 company and then run it as a digital cooperative. But they will onboard only drivers who are professionals. Professionals in the sense that the drivers will have to demonstrate professional pride, values, and etiquette so that their customer behavior is proper," he explains.

The beta launch with about 50-60 daily rides has already elicited a positive response from the commuters, notes Satya, "Everybody is surprised to know

that they are coming as per the meter rates. Besides, since the Metro Mitra zones are defined by the drivers themselves, they don't cancel a ride if the trip falls within the zone. This way, last-mile connectivity will become more reliable."

## Ruckus at beta launch

The Metro Mitra holds promise, but a ruckus at its beta launch in Jayanagar recently, has forced the people behind it to dissociate the app from any union. A section of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU), linked to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), had objected to the union being associat-

ed with Metro Mitra. The app platform is to morph into a Section 8 company.

It is learned that the app's functionality will be extended to 25 Metro stations by the end of March 2024. Currently, the beta-launched platform covers parts of R.V. Metro, Jayanagar, Nagasandra, and Hosahalli stations, working under the radar to avoid any conflict.

## Measure of success

Eventually, the success of the system will depend on reliability and sustainability. As things stand, the geographical boundary of the app is determined by the drivers themselves. This limit, called zone, is geo-tagged. So, when a commuter scans, he/she gets options only from that zone.

Since the zone is defined by them, the drivers do not refuse a trip. Once data shows the extent of trips within and outside the zone, drivers could take a decision to expand the radius of their zones to get more rides.

This data-driven, driver-determined approach might just be the answer to the problems faced by Bengaluru's harried auto commuters. Add BMTC bus stops and the transport corporation, and we could be in for a true game-changer.

## Namma Yatri experience

Introduced less than a year ago, the successful Namma Yatri ecosystem gives some hope to the people behind Metro Mitra. Namma Yatri has already crossed 1.03 crore completed trips and recorded over ₹150 crore in driver earnings.

The number of registered users is almost 20 lakh. A driver-centric offering, the app charges no commission unlike the big aggregators that Bengalureans are used to.

**Source:** The Hindu dated 20-09-2023, Pg No.7



# Congestion tax proposed for 9 roads leading into B'luru

## Will Improve Journey Time Of Buses, Delivery Vehicles: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The government has been recommended to levy congestion tax on vehicles entering Bengaluru through nine roads during peak hours to decongest traffic in the bustling city.

This is part of a recent comprehensive report — “Karnataka’s Decade – Roadmap to \$1 Trillion Economy” — prepared by the planning, programme monitoring and statistics department and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry suggesting steps that need to be taken in various sectors.

The recommendations pertain to agriculture and allied sectors, manufacturing, technology, tourism, urban development, startups and Bengaluru development etc.

Addressing concerns related to traffic congestion in the city, the report highlights that imposition of congestion tax would help improve journey time of buses, cars and delivery vehicles. “The objective would be to make users conscious of the cost they impose on one another when they are on the road du-

### Where levy has been proposed

**B**allari Road, Tumakuru Road, Magadi Road, Mysuru Road, Kanakapura Road (in pic), Bannerghatta Road, Hosur Road, Old Madras Road, Old Airport Road



### Create an 8-to-80 Bengaluru

**S**tressing the need for building inclusive infrastructure, the report suggested creating a Bengaluru that embraces the “8-to-80” approach wherein streets could be used independently by people from the age of 8 to 80. “Usage can range from an eight-year-old riding a bike to school to an 80-year-old walking to a shop. Everyone should be able to move about in a safe, convenient and enjoyable manner,” it stated.

ring peak hours,” it said.

At present, 12 million vehicles enter Bengaluru every day. Levying congestion tax could translate into significant revenue for the city. FASTag has been successfully implemented here since 2021. It is proposed that the same mode be used to collect congestion tax for ease and convenience, the report said.

It said congestion fee helps in mopping up revenue, which could be spent on promoting public transport in the city. It would also help in reducing pollution and make city centres more attractive for pedestrians and cyclists.

The report said nearly 1.2 crore citizens waste 60 crore person-hours annually and almost 2.8 lakh litres of fuel per

**“**In the report, impetus has been given to promoting public transport and expansion of Metro network to suburban areas. Three new Metro lines proposed are Old Airport Road – from MG Road to Hope Farm via Marathahalli and Whitefield (IT corridor connectivity), Old Madras Road – from KR Pura to Hoskote (Narsapura industrial area connectivity) and Inner Ring Road loop. Once a good public transport system is in place, people can be disincentivized from using private vehicles by collecting congestion fee in certain zones. Many cities like London, Tokyo and Singapore have done this. Revenue generated from congestion tax can be used to fund fleet expansion of BMTC, improve footpaths, build bus priority lanes, etc.

**RK Misra** | CIVIC EXPERT & CO-AUTHOR OF A CHAPTER ON ‘BENGALURU CITY’ IN THE REPORT



hour in the city due to congestion. The share of private vehicles in Bengaluru surged by 280% between 2007 and 2020 — to 2.1 million to 8 million vehicles. Public transport infrastructure, on the other hand, has a low 48% usage and the city’s public transport system cannot keep pace with substantial increases in transport demand, the report said.

**Source:** Times of India dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.2



# 8 years on, Kempegowda Layout still lacks basic infrastructure

**BDA cites discrepancies between tendered and actual work**

**SNEHA RAMESH**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly eight years since the allotment of sites, the site owners at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) have been struggling to get basic infrastructure to construct houses. The data on the progress of the works at the layout clearly indicates the lack of intent to complete the works.

According to data, exclusively accessed by DH, between July 2022 and July 2023, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) managed to lay only 10.3 km of roads at the layout. While close to 18 km of

drains and 49 culverts were laid in one year, there has been zero progress on the construction of minor bridges and stormwater drains in the layout.

Not just over the last year, work has been stalled for nearly three years now, the site allottees pointed out. "Sites were allotted in 2016 and the BDA awarded tenders for the infrastructure works in 2018. While there was some progress till 2020, the works hit a roadblock after the pandemic. Since 2020, there has been hardly any progress," said A S Suryakiran from the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) Open forum.

While the data showed that



**While close to 18 km of drains and 49 culverts were laid in one year, there has been zero progress on the construction of minor bridges and stormwater drains in the layout.** DH FILE PHOTO

BDA had laid only close to 10 km of roads in a year, Surya Kiran pointed out that they were only mud roads and the BDA is yet to asphalt them.

The site allottees pointed out a number of deficiencies in BDA's management of the layout. From lack of planning to failure in the assessment of work quantity to monitoring, BDA has failed, they said. The allottees have also written to multiple authorities from

Deputy Chief Minister to BDA Commissioner, pointing out a dire need for the appointment of officers. According to the letter, only two Special Land Acquisition officers and one surveyor were put in charge of acquiring close to 1,300 acres for the layout and only five engineers were overseeing the civil works across the 2,697 acres.

Sources in BDA said that there was a variation in the

quantity of work tendered out and what was required on the ground. There have also been allegations that additional payments have been made to the contractors and the authorities are now scrutinising it.

BDA Chairman Rakesh Singh, who acknowledged the delay, said that the internal issues were being resolved. "There are a few internal issues concerning variation quantity and funds. However, they are being resolved. We will make sure that a dedicated team of officials and dedicated funds will be earmarked for the layout to ensure work gathers pace," he told DH.

So far, BDA has missed multiple deadlines set by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and the petition committee of the assembly. In the most recent review, the petition committee has directed the BDA to complete the works within 14 months.

**Source:** Deccan Herald dated 22-09-2023 page no. 2

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## SOCIAL ISSUES

# ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಜಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇತನ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ: ಸಮಿತಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರ ಜಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಸ್ಮರಣಾರ್ಥ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇತನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯು 'ಜಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇತನ' ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಯುವ ಬರಹಗಾರರಿಂದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

ಜಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ನಿಧನರಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷವಾಗಿದೆ. ಯು.ಆರ್.ಅನಂತಮೂರ್ತಿ, ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಣ್ಣ ಬೆಂಬಲದಿಂದ ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ 'ಕಾಗೋಡು ಸತ್ಯಾಗ್ರಹ'ದಂತಹ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. ಚಾರಿತ್ರಿಕ ಆಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಖರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಿಂದ ಈ ಕೃತಿಯು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಕಾಲದ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಜನ ಚಳವಳಿಯ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ದಾಖಲೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಲು 'ಜಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇತನ' ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟು ₹ 80 ಸಾವಿರ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇತನವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ದ ಒಬ್ಬ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗೆ ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂತ ಹಂತವಾಗಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವೇತನ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ

ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯ ವಿಷಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಯನ್ನು ಅ.16ರೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ತಜ್ಞರು, ಲೇಖಕರನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಲಹಾ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಒಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ವೇತನಕ್ಕೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೊಂಡ ಚಾರಿತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಷಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು. ಮಹಿಳೆ, ಕಡೆ ಗಣಿಸ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಲ್ಪ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾತ ವರ್ಗದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪ್ರಾಶಸ್ತ್ಯ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

ಲೇಖಕಿ ಎಚ್.ಎಸ್. ಅನುಪಮಾ, ಬರಹಗಾರ ರಹಮತ್ ತರೀಕೆರೆ, ರಂಗ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ರಘುನಂದನ, ಬರಹಗಾರರಾದ ಎನ್.ಎ.ಎಂ.ಇಸ್ಮಾಯಿಲ್, ಡಿ.ಉಮಾಪತಿ, 'ಖುತುಮಾನ' ಸಹ ಸಂಪಾದಕ ಕುಂಟಾಡಿ ನಿತೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಫಣಿರಾಜ್ ಸಲಹಾ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯೇ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರಲಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯನ್ನು grskksv@gmail.comಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Prajavani dated 16-09-2023, Pg No.3



# ಕೊಡಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ 69 ಹೊಸ ಶಾಸನಗಳು ಹತ್ತಿ

• ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಗಿರೀಶ್

ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ: ಪುರಾತತ್ವ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 69 ಶಾಸನಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಓದುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ 34, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 18 ಹಾಗೂ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 17 ಶಾಸನಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಶಾಸನ ಸಂಪುಟಗಳಾದ 'ಎಪಿಗ್ರಾಫಿಯಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಾ', 'ಇತಿಹಾಸ ದರ್ಶನ' ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಗ್ರಂಥದಲ್ಲೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಿಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಶಾಸನಗಳು 7ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದಿಂದ 18ನೇ ಶತಮಾನ ಗಳವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವು. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ವಿವಿಧ

## ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- 406 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ
- ತುರ್ತು ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ:ಮನವಿ

ಸಂಪುಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಶಾಸನಗಳನ್ನೂ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ಅವುಗಳ ಈಗಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನೂ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2020ರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕ್ಯುರೇಟರ್ ರೇಖಾ ಅವರು ಒಟ್ಟು 406 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪತ್ತೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಾಸನಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಶಿಲಾಯುಗದಿಂದ 19ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದವರೆಗಿನ ಸ್ಮಾರಕಗಳೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿವೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ ರೇಖಾ, 'ಶಾಸನಗಳನ್ನು ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾಂಸ ಎಚ್. ಎಂ.ನಾಗರಾಜರಾವ್ ಅವರು ಓದುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಸನದ ಪಠ್ಯ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗಲಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಅತಿ ಅಪರೂಪವೆನಿಸುವ ಐದು ಶಿಲಾಸಮಾಧಿಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು,



ಶಾಸನದ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕ್ಯುರೇಟರ್ ರೇಖಾ

ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೋರಿಕಲ್ಲು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಮಾಧಿಗಳು ಅಳಿವಿನಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ 175 ಸ್ಮಾರಕಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಕಾಂತೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಐಕೋಳದ ಅರಮನೆಗಳು, ಕಗ್ಗೋಡುವಿನ ಮಹಾವಿಷ್ಣು ದೇಗುಲ, ಕುಂದಚೇರಿಯ ಈಶ್ವರ ದೇಗುಲ, ಸಿಂಗತ್ತೂರಿನ ಮಹಾವಿಷ್ಣು ದೇಗುಲ, ಕೋಕೇರಿಯ ನೀಲ್ಯಾಟು ಸಾರ್ಥವು

ದೇವಾಲಯ, ಬಾವಲಿಯ ಶ್ರೀದುರ್ಗಾ ಭಗವತಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ, ಕುಯ್ಯಂಗೇರಿಯ ಶ್ರೀವಿಷ್ಣು ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ತುರ್ತಾಗಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋರಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಕೊಡಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಕಂಡು ಬರುವ ಕೋಲೆಕಲ್ಲುಗಳು (ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಸ್ಮಾರಕಗಳು ಅಪಾಯದಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿವೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಚಿಕ್ಕಅಳುವಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುರಿದು ಬಿದ್ದಿರುವ ವೀರಗಲ್ಲು

ವೇಳೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿವೆ. ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 246 ಕೋಲೆಕಲ್ಲುಗಳು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದರೆ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 21 ಕೋಲೆಕಲ್ಲುಗಳು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿವೆ. ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ 12 ವೀರಗಲ್ಲುಗಳು, 11 ಸತಿಕಲ್ಲುಗಳು, 5 ಶಿಲಾಶಿಲ್ಪಗಳೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿವೆ. ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ 15 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸ್ಮಾರಕಗಳು ಅಪಾಯದಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿವೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Source: Prajavani dated 17-09-2023, Pg No.2B

## Youths hit streets against IAS officer's transfer from KPSC

Hamsaveni.N  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** When was the last time an IAS officer's transfer triggered a frenzied response from Bengalureans? While it might be impossible for many to recall such a situation in an era where many bureaucrats are known for corrupt practices, something different unfolded on Saturday: Over 1,000 government job aspirants, all in their 20s, stomped the streets demanding the government bring back IAS officer Suralkar Vikas Kishor as Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) secretary.

A 2012-batch officer, Kishor had become a ray of hope for thousands of government job seekers by injecting efficiency and transparency in KPSC, which had become notorious for delaying recruitments and nepotism in recruitments. The government moved him out of KPSC recently allegedly due to opposition from some political leaders and was posted to BBMP.



**ON THE SAME PAGE:** The protesters want the government to bring back Suralkar Vikas Kishor (inset) as KPSC secretary

Youths, under the banner of All Karnataka State Students' Association, took out a rally in Vijaynagar. "This is not a politically mobilised group. All of us have come on our own to protest his transfer," they said.

A protester said: "He was pro-students and pro-poor. He knew that delaying exams would only scuttle our chances of joining government service on grounds of age, hence he ensured that exams were conducted and results declared on time. There was a time when job aspirants were not allowed inside KPSC office,

but he heard each one of us. We started reposing faith in KPSC after he took charge."

Kantha Kumar R, president of All Karnataka State Students Associations, said: "A lot of students have got jobs during his tenure. He used to communicate and update us on X (formerly Twitter) about the developments related to the exam."

From releasing answer keys on the same day of the exam to tracking file movements, Kishor's sincerity towards work made him a sort of hero that the youths looked forward to, many feel.

Source: Times of India dated 17-09-2023, Pg No.2



ಲೇಖಕಿ ಬಿ.ಟಿ. ಲಲಿತಾ ನಾಯ್ಕ ಅಭಿಮತ

# ‘ಅಸ್ಪೃಶ್ಯತೆ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಜೀವಂತ’

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ‘ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಅಸ್ಪೃಶ್ಯತೆ ಜೀವಂತವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಜಾತಿ ಕೇಳುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ಡಲೇಖಕಿ ಬಿ.ಟಿ. ಲಲಿತಾ ನಾಯ್ಕ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾನುವಾರ ವಿಚಾರವಾದಿಗಳ ವೇದಿಕೆ- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ (ವಿವೇಕ) ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ ‘ಇ.ವಿ. ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್ ಅವರ 144ನೇ ಜಯಂತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ’ ಪ್ರದಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿ ಅವರು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

‘ಅಸ್ಪೃಶ್ಯತೆ, ಅನ್ಯಾಯ, ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡುವ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್, ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರದಾನ ಮಾಡುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ಅವರ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಜೀವಂತ ವಾಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಅವರ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು’ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

‘ದೇವರ ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮದ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ವಂಚಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್ ಅವರು ದೇವರನ್ನು ನಿಂದಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಸತ್ಯದ



ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾನುವಾರ ವಿಚಾರವಾದಿ ಮಂಟಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮರಣೋತ್ತರ ವಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದ ‘ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್’ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿ ಪುಷ್ಪವಿಕಾಸಿನಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಡಿಸಿಪಿ ಎಸ್. ಸಿದ್ದರಾಜು, ಲೇಖಕಿ ಬಿ.ಟಿ. ಲಲಿತಾ ನಾಯ್ಕ, ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಬಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಎಂ. ವೆಂಕಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಪಿಳ್ಳರಾಜು ಬೋಸಪ್ಪ ಇದ್ದರು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಹುಡುಕಾಟ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ವಿಚಾರಧಾರೆಗಳು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಪ್ರಚೋದಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅವರ ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬದುಕಿಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದೆ. ಮನುವಾದವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಿ ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ ಪೀಠಿಕೆ ಓದುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಬಾಬಾಸಾಹೇಬ್, ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್ ಅವರ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳಿಗೆ

ಗೌರವಿಸಬೇಕು’ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ವಿಚಾರವಾದಿ ಮಂಟಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮರಣೋತ್ತರ ವಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದ ‘ಪೆರಿಯಾರ್’ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿ ಪುಷ್ಪವಿಕಾಸಿನಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದರು.

ರಿಪಬ್ಲಿಕನ್ ಪಾರ್ಟಿ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾದ (ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಐ) ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಎಂ. ವೆಂಕಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು.



# Sculpted in stone, 3 temples are testimony to K'taka's vibrant architectural heritage

Shrinivasa.M@timesgroup.com

Timeless beauty, dexterous craftsmanship and culturally diverse designs make the Belur, Halebeedu and Somanathpura temples—built during the 12th to 13th centuries—outstanding. These heritage marvels, rooted deep in history and culture, are the best examples of the country's architectural diversity, and have caught the global attention with the Unesco tag now. They were built during the Hoysala dynasty that ruled parts of southern India between the 10th and 14th centuries and contributed immensely to the fields of music, dance, art, and sculpture. Sala was the founder of the dynasty which was in power for over three-and-a-half centuries. These temples are called the Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala.

## CHENNAKESHAHA TEMPLE IN BELUR, Hassan district

Halebeedu and Belur are the twin temple towns in Hassan district. This architectural wonder in Belur town, located 38km from Hassan, is a Vaishnavite temple complex. The structure is surrounded by the remnants of a mud fort and a moat, and pujas are performed every day. Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana was involved in the construction of this temple along with his wife Shantala, who is popularly known as Natarani (dance queen). Rituals are conducted at the kalyani (tank) on the southern side of the fort area even now. This temple has a connection with Mysuru district. Belur was originally called Velapura, and was established as the Hoysala capital by Hoysala ruler Vinayaditya in 1096 CE. In 1116–1117 CE, Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana captured Talakadu on the banks of the Cauvery river in Mysuru. In the same period, he adopted Srivaishnavism. This temple was built during that time. It was originally called Vijayanarayana temple, and later came to be known as Keshava or Chennakeshava temple. The complex has five shrines: the Channakeshava, Kappe Chennigaraya, Vira Narayana, Saumyanayaki, and Ranganayaki/Andal temples.



Pics: TOI



## HOYSALESVARA TEMPLE IN HALEBEEDU, Hassan district

Built in 1121 CE, this temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, stands out for its architectural and sculptural forms among all the Hoysala-era temples. Halebeedu town was originally called Dwarasamudra and was one of the capital cities of the dynasty between the mid-11th century and the mid-14th century. This temple has two Nandi mandapams: Hoysaleswara, the southern part of the temple, and Shantaleswara, the northern part. This temple was sponsored by Ketamalla Dandanayaka, a prominent merchant and general during the Hoysala rule. It was built in honour of king Vishnuvardhana and queen Natarani Shantala. Various tales from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and puranas are depicted on the stone walls of the temple. One of all these, both iconographically and iconologically, is the depiction of the story of Gajendra Moksha.

## KESHAHA TEMPLE IN SOMANATHPURA, Mysuru district

Nestled on the banks of the Cauvery river, which flows within a 1-km radius, this temple in T Narasipura taluk came into existence in 1268 CE. Somanathpura village was also built during the same time. The rare structure was built by Somanatha Dandanayaka with the financial help of Hoysala king Narasimha III. An inscription at the entrance documents its history and this is the last important temple built by the Hoysalas. This temple complex has many other shrines too.



## Will ensure infrastructure & security, says CM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the Unesco decision is a matter of pride for the nation. "The magnificent Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The timeless beauty and intricate details of the Hoysala temples are a testament to India's rich cultural heritage and the exceptional craftsmanship

of our ancestors," he posted on social media platform X.

Earlier, chief minister Siddaramaiah said his government is working to ensure that the tourist sites are provided with infrastructure and protection of international standards.

Tourism minister HK Patil said Belur, Halebeedu, and Somanathpur sites were first

proposed for inclusion in the list in 2014. In 2018, these temples were handed over for restoration and protection to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In 2022, Unesco prepared a report on the three sites and inspected them.

Patil hoped that with the heritage tag, the temples will attract a huge number of tourists from across the world which will boost the tourism sector. "It will be good for the local economy too," he added. TNN

Source: Times of India dated 20-09-2023, Pg No.5

# Dengue cases soar in Sept; daily avg up from 77 to 109

## East, South & Mahadevapura Zones Worst Hit

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**Bengaluru:** Amid erratic rain, the city is seeing a sharp spike in dengue cases this month. While August witnessed 2,374 infections (average of nearly 77 a day), BBMP has recorded 2,182 cases between September 1 and 20 (daily average of 109).

The highest incidence of dengue, according to BBMP special commissioner (health) KV Thrilok Chandra, has been in East, South and Mahadevapura zones — both in August and September. Wardwise hotspots were unavailable for this month as the statistics are said to be fluctuating almost on a daily basis.

Data from the health and family welfare department showed Karnataka has recorded 9,208 dengue cases from

**CLEAN AIR COOLER, DON'T LITTER**

➤ Clear terrace of water puddles once a week

➤ Avoid littering surroundings of your house with bottles, tins, tyres & solid waste


➤ Clean air cooler by removing water at least once a week

➤ Cover your body as much as possible

➤ Those taking afternoon siesta and those who develop dengue fever must use mosquito net

➤ Those with fever should stay hydrated

➤ Use mosquito meshes for doors & windows



Source: Health and family welfare department

January 1 to September 19, of which 5,220 were in BBMP limits alone. The second and third-highest dengue-prevalent districts were Mysuru and Udupi.

Even as the BBMP area accounts for more than half of all the dengue cases in Karnataka this year, recent developments around the positivity rate — those who test positive for dengue compared to the

total number of people tested — are keeping the department optimistic. “The positivity rate has reduced from 43% in August to 13% in September,” said Chandra.

He referred to the robust efforts being made to reduce larvae sources. “We have intensified surveillance, heat-mapped BBMP zones and more teams have been sent to areas of high dengue preva-

lence,” he added.

While BBMP witnessed two dengue-related deaths in August, the state data audit committee is yet to provide a confirmation of the same, said the official, as the state dengue statistics accessed by TOI on Wednesday showed zero dengue deaths.

### Districts with higher prevalence

Besides BBMP, which has seen more than a fourfold increase in dengue cases year on year (1,161 in 2022 and 5,220 so far in 2023), some other districts have also recorded an uptick. They are Kodagu, Bidar, Tumakuru and Chikmagalur.

Commissioner for health and family welfare D Randeep on Wednesday listed out a slew of precautionary measures to curb the prevalence of dengue and chikungunya. “The Aedes aegypti mosquito bites during the day, and the symptoms are seen in five to seven days,” said the communiqué.

**Source:** Times of India dated 20-09-2023, Pg No.3



# Elderly in Bengaluru face growing cancer risk, study finds

NAVYA P K  
BENGALURU, DHNS

One in seven elderly men and one in eight elderly women in Bengaluru are at risk of cancer, with the numbers steeply rising over the years, a study from ICMR's National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR) shows.

Senior citizens already make up the majority of cancer patients. Of all male cancer patients included in Bengaluru's population-based cancer registry (PBCR) between 2012 and 2016, 53.8% were above 60 years. Among female patients, this proportion was 41.6%.

Across India, cancers among the elderly are rising. Though senior citizens are only 11.2% of the population,

they will account for 48.2% of cancer cases by 2025. Breast cancer will make up about a quarter of cases among elderly women, followed by cervical cancer. Among men, the highest cases will be of lung and prostate cancer.

The study, based on an analysis of the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), was published in the journal, Public Health by Elsevier.

## Steep rise since 1984

Analysing Bengaluru's PBCRs between 1984 and 2016, cancer among elderly women rose annually at the rate of 1.7%, and among men at the rate of 1.3%.

Among women in Bengaluru, uterine, lung and breast cancers saw a steep rise over the 32-year period. Uter-

ine cancer rose at an annual rate of 5.8%, lung cancer at 5%, breast cancer at 4.3%, and ovarian cancer at 4.2%. However, cervical cancer declined at the rate of 0.5% per year. After northeastern states which generally have higher cancer rates, Bengaluru has the highest Age-Adjusted Rate (AAR) of cancer incidence among elderly women at 654.1 per lakh of population.

Among elderly men, the increase was highest in prostate and lung cancer, which rose annually at the rate of 3.1% and 2.2%, respectively. Stomach cancers declined at the annual rate of 0.2% though. NCDIR Director Dr Prashant Mathur said, "Bengaluru registry showed a consistent rise of cancer incidence in older adults. Longer duration of exposures to lifestyle-related risk factors would be driving the cancer incidence rates."

The study advocates increasing the age limit of breast cancer screening among women to 70 years, and also preventive screening for certain cancers like lung cancer that have low survival rates.



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# Speeding, negligence, and jumping signal key reasons for accidents at junctions on Hosur Road

In the last three years, 25 major accidents were reported at Konappana Agrahara junction on Hosur Road that has both entry and exit points to NICE Road and the road connecting Electronics City

## ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS

Shreyas H.S.  
BENGALURU

A slight commotion prevailed at NICE Road intersection in Konappana Agrahara Junction on Hosur Main Road on Thursday morning when a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL) bus hit a car. The car was turning left to enter NICE Road when the accident occurred. The traffic police manning the junction said that it is a usual scene every day.

While minor accidents may not go into the records as complaints are not filed, the Bengaluru police's data shows that in the last three years, 25 major accidents were reported at this junction that has both entry and exit points to NICE and road connecting to Electronics City, an



Overspeeding is a major reason for fatal accidents during the night at Veerasandra Junction. SHREYAS H.S.

IT hub. In the case of Thursday's accident, both the BMTCL and car drivers were seemingly at fault for rash and negligent driving. About 500 metres on both sides of the stretch from the junction has been identified as an accident black spot by the Bengaluru City Police, who have also suggested measures to avoid such incidents.

The cause for minor accidents (no injuries) that happen every day on this stretch is speeding, negligence, signal jumping, lack of lane discipline and uneven road, said the police.

A traffic police personnel who man the junction said during morning and evening peak hours, negligence is a major cause. Pe-

ople turning towards Electronics City on Hosur Road cross jump signals, ramming vehicles travelling straight on the stretch. "We record more than a dozen violations just in an hour during peak time," he said, adding that measures taken may not yield much result if discipline is lacking in motorists.

Lakshmi Patel, who

## Hosur Road

### Black spots identified on the stretch

Naganathapura junction, Konappana Agrahara, Veerasandra junction, Electronics City Phase 1, Garvebhavipalya junction, NICE Road intersection

### Accident data between 2020 and 2022

Black spots	No. of accidents				No. of fatal accidents				No. of grievous injuries			
	2020	2021	2022	Total	2020	2021	2022	Total	2020	2021	2022	Total
Naganathapura junction	8	7	4	19	6	2	1	9	2	5	3	10
Konappana Agrahara	14	8	7	29	2	1	1	4	12	7	6	25
Veerasandra junction	6	12	4	22	3	5	2	10	3	7	2	12
Electronics City Phase 1	5	6	4	11	3	0	2	5	2	6	2	10
Garvebhavipalya junction	5	7	4	16	0	3	2	5	5	4	2	11

### Interventions suggested

#### Rumble strips before and after signals

- Naganathapura junction
- Electronics City Phase 1
- Garvebhavipalya junction
- Konappana Agrahara

#### Pedestrian crossing

- Veerasandra junction
- NICE Road intersection

- Speed limit
- Ban on parking, and halting

runs a shop here and travels daily on her two-wheeler, said the at the junction - both near the signal and NICE intersection - some vehicles moving on the extreme right cross from right-to-left to move over to NICE Road, which is a major cause for

accidents. A senior traffic police personnel said while negligence causes accidents during peak hours, speeding is major reason for fatal and major accidents during the night not just in this junction, but also at Naganathapura junction, Veerasandra

junction, Electronics City Phase 1 and Garebhavipalya junction.

In the night hours, owing to less traffic, drivers tend to go fast. The drivers in the wee hours doze off, ending up in fatal accidents.

On the other hand,

some callous individuals enter this road for joy rides and usually speed, the police said.

At the junction where three roads join, many vehicles criss-cross in the night hours jumping the signals. The speeding vehicles coming on Hosur road ram into these vehicles crossing at the junction, they said. At the junction, driver of speeding vehicles cannot control the vehicles and to avoid this, rumble strips should be installed, they added.

Besides these, in the absence of pedestrian crossing at Veerasandra junction, vehicles moving fast on this stretch hit the people crossing the road. The volume of vehicles moving at this junction is such that pedestrians have to wait for long before crossing. Out of frustration, people tend to run at the junction, said Mohammad Sawad, who is regular commuter here.

Source: The Hindu dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.2

## ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲು

# ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ: 115 ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 'ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ (ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ) ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಸಿಗ್ನಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಟಕಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 115 ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ, 'ಲೆಟ್ಸ್ ಕಿಟ್ ಫೌಂಡೇಷನ್' ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಪಿ.ಬಿ. ವರಾಹ ಮತ್ತು ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಎಸ್. ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್ ಅವರಿದ್ದ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ ಗುರುವಾರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿತು.



ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ವೇಳೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಪರ ವಕೀಲರು ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, '2021ರಿಂದ ಈತನಕ 115 ಮಂದಿಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು 99 ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. 144 ಬಂಧನ: 'ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 37 ಪುರುಷರು, 74 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು, 54 ಬಾಲಕರು ಹಾಗೂ 45 ಬಾಲಕಿಯರೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು

## ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಿದೆ?

'ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಸಿಗ್ನಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪೆನ್, ಆಟಕಗಳು, ಇಯರ್ ಬಡ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು ಬಾಲ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 21ನೇ ವಿಧಿಯ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂಬುದು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಕೋರಿಕೆ.

210 ಜನರನ್ನು ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 115 ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ 82 ಪುರುಷರು ಹಾಗೂ 62 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 144 ಮಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮನವಿ: ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ವೇಳೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಪರ ವಕೀಲರು, 'ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾದ ₹ 55.65 ಕೋಟಿ ಸೆಸ್ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ

ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಇದನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪದ ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ, 'ಮುಂದಿನ ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಾರಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಮುಂದೂಡಿತು.

Source: Prajavani dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.4



# Women at wheel of sustainable SWM programme in KGF taluk

Ranganath K | TNN

**Kolar Gold Fields:** Thirty-nine-year-old Asha wakes up at 4am every day, wraps up her domestic chores and gets her two daughters ready for school and college before hitting the road in her Tata Ace vehicle. Asha heads out for door-to-door collection of waste in 14 villages that come under her Kangandalahalli gram panchayat in KGF taluk of Kolar district.

Asha is among the seven women who have been literally put in the driver's seat of an ambitious solid waste management (SWM) programme that seeks to empower women even while finding a sustainable solution to garbage problems in the taluk. While Asha and Pratihbha (from Kyasamballi grama panchayat) have already hit the ground driving their vehicles, the five other trained women are set to start their operations any time this week.

The women have been designa-



**DRIVING AWAY THE STENCH**

ted to drive 'Swacha Vahini' vehicles and steer the door-to-door garbage collection initiative taken up under the National Rural Living Mission (NRLM) in the villages of 16 gram panchayats under KGF taluk panchayat.

"I had a month-long training in not just driving the vehicle but also segregating and recycling waste and handling all kinds of people that I may encounter when I knock on the doors of houses to collect garbage," asserts Asha.

Women, in fact, are being invol-

ved in all the tiers of the SWM programme, which will provide them with a chance to earn a livelihood, said Manjunath Harti, executive officer, taluk panchayat, KGF.

Two helpers trained in segregating waste will be assisting each of the seven drivers. In all, 32 willing members of self-help groups have been provided 30-day training. Initially, the women will be given an honorarium by the respective gram panchayats and later, they will need to collect service charge from each household.

NRLM in-charge Nagaraj said that initially, some women members weren't willing to take up the job of driving vehicles, fearing they may not be able manage it, but counselling sessions were conducted to drive away apprehensions.

Pratihbha, 28, said her husband who works as a private driver encouraged her to take up the challenge. "The NRLM is a boon for rural women as they can earn on their own," she said.

**Source:** Times of India dated 22-09-2023, Pg No.5

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