



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

**VOL: 1**

**October 2023**

**NO: 3**

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

## **CONTENTS**

**[Agriculture](#)**

**[Economy](#)**

**[Education](#)**

**[Health](#)**

**[Urban Affairs](#)**

**[Environment](#)**

**[Decentralisation](#)**

**[Governance](#)**

**[Gender](#)**

**[Social Issues](#)**

## AGRICULTURE

# Southwest monsoon ends, leaves State under spell of drought

Malnad districts experience 39% rain deficiency while there is 27% shortfall in South Interior Karnataka regions; coastal belt and North Interior Karnataka have a cumulative deficiency of 19%

R. Krishna Kumar  
MYSURU

The southwest monsoon season for 2023 "officially" ended on September 30 and the cumulative rainfall in the State from June 1 to September 30 was 642 mm against a normal of 852 mm with the deficiency being 25%.

All the 31 districts received rainfall below the long period average leaving the State under a spell of drought.

### Highest deficiency

Among the different regions, Malnad districts experienced 39% deficiency while there was 27% deficiency in South Interior Karnataka regions. The coastal belt and North Interior Karnataka have a cumulative deficiency of 19% in what is reckoned to be one of the weakest monsoons in recent years.

The 11 districts compris-



The water levels in major reservoirs, including the KRS, are less than that in the corresponding period in the last 10 years. M.A. SIBRAH

ing South Interior Karnataka has received 271 mm of rainfall against a normal of 369 mm and the worst affected among them include Ramanagara, Chitradurga, Davangere, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, and Mandya, as per the rainfall figures updated by

the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

### Numbers don't tell

But these figures don't tell the complete picture of the extent of drought as above normal rain was received during July and it has sta-

tistically helped bridge the deficiency.

The onset of southwest monsoon during June began on a weak note and it did not gain traction till July. The State-wide deficiency for June was 56% as it received only 87 mm of rain against a normal of 199

### Cumulative rainfall (June 1 to Sept. 30)

Region	Normal	Actual
Karnataka	852 mm	642 mm
South Interior Karnataka	369 mm	271 mm
North Interior Karnataka	479 mm	386 mm
Malnad	1,556 mm	956 mm
Coastal	3,101 mm	2,513 mm

Source: KSNDMC

mm. The July downpour helped bridge this gap.

### Abundance in July

The cumulative rainfall in the State for July was 348 mm against a normal of 271 mm and the departure was 28% above normal. The rainfall across all the regions in the State barring the districts of Ramanagara, Kolar, and Chickballapur in south interior Karnataka, received rain that was higher than the long period average. But August and September turned the scenario grim once again forcing the government to declare 195 taluks as drought-affected.

During August, monsoon played truant again and the State received only 60 mm of rain against a normal of 220 mm which is 73% below normal with 29 of the 31 districts coming under "large deficit" category of KSNDMC, which translates to a shortfall of over 60% underlining the gravity of the situation.

### Reservoir levels

This is also evident in the reservoir levels at Linganamakki, Supa, Varahi, KRS, Hemavathi, Tungabhadra, Malaprabha, Alamatti, and Narayanapura dams, which according to KSNDMC are less when

## KRRS plans to stage demonstration in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau  
MYSURU

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha plans to hold a demonstration in Delhi as part of its struggle over the Cauvery dispute.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Saturday, KRRS leader Bada-

galpura Nagendra said a delegation of about 25 to 50 KRRS leaders from Cauvery basin regions will reach Delhi and hold a protest in front of the venue of the next Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee (CWRC) meeting. They are yet to finalise the date of the demonstration.

compared to the corresponding periods of the last 10 years.

The State has 3,673 minor irrigation tanks of which only 30% had storages more than 50% of the capacity while in case of 60% of the tanks the storage was between 30% and 50%. The remaining tanks were dry or had insufficient storage to make a difference to agriculture.

There have been instances when the retreating monsoon coupled with low depression in the seas have created conditions for rains. While such a development will help shore up storage levels in the reservoir, it will make little difference to the farmers whose standing crops withered during the growth and the mature stage due to moisture stress.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Oct. 1, 2023**



### END OF SEASON

# India escapes El Nino jolt with 94% monsoon rain

KALYAN RAY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has escaped the adverse consequences of El Nino in 2023 with the monsoon season ending with more than 94% rainfall, making it one of the rare years when the four-month-long spell ended up with good rainfall despite the threat from the Pacific Ocean.

The worst impact of the El Nino — an unusual warming of the Pacific that plays havoc with the weather systems around the world — was seen in August which experienced a record-breaking 36% deficiency and a break period that continued for three weeks.

With a shortfall of 34% and 27.5% respectively, Kerala and South Interior Karnataka are among the seven meteorological subdivisions that received deficient rainfall. The others are: East Uttar Pradesh (29%), Bihar (23%), Jharkhand (26%), Gangetic West Bengal (23%) and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram



and Tripura (27%).

"This year, the negativity caused by El Nino was minimal. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole helped in good rainfall in September. The season ended with overall rainfall staying closer to the lower side of normal value," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general, India Meteorological Department (IMD).

El Nino is generally associated with a weak summer monsoon in India though it is not a one-to-one relation. In 1997, the monsoon was normal despite being an El Nino year.

The monsoon revived in September due to other climatic factors like the

Indian Ocean Dipole — a temperature sea-saw between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal — and Madden-Julian Oscillation, an ocean storm that begins on the African east coast and travels across the equatorial Indian Ocean in every 30-60 days.

The four-month monsoon season ended with the country recording a 5.6% shortfall even though the deficiency was much greater for the east and northwest (18.5%) and southern peninsula (8%). The rainfall barely slipped into the positive side for northwest India (0.9%) and central India (0.4%).

The IMD chief on Saturday predicted a normal northeast monsoon that showers five meteorological subdivisions in south India — Tamil Nadu, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and South Interior Karnataka — between October and December. The winter monsoon rainfall will be between 88% and 112% of the long-period average of just above 334 mm.

**Continued....**



# India escapes El Nino jolt with 94% monsoon rain

KALYAN RAY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has escaped the adverse consequences of El Nino in 2023 with the monsoon season ending with more than 94% rainfall, making it one of the rare years when the four-month-long spell ended up with good rainfall despite the threat from the Pacific Ocean.

The worst impact of the El Nino — an unusual warming of the Pacific that plays havoc with the weather systems around the world — was seen in August which experienced a record-breaking 36% deficiency and a break period that continued for three weeks.

## Deficient rainfall

With a shortfall of 34% and 27.5% respectively, Kerala and South Interior Karnataka are among the seven meteorological subdivisions that received deficient rainfall. The others are: East Uttar Pradesh (29%), Bihar (23%) Jharkhand (26%), Gangetic West Bengal (23%) and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura (27%).

“This year, the negativity caused



**A commuter at a waterlogged Kerala State Road Transport Corporation station amid heavy rain in Kochi, on Friday. PTI**

by El Nino was minimal. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole helped in good rainfall in September. The season ended with overall rainfall staying closer to the lower side of normal value,” said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general, India Meteorological Department (IMD).

El Nino is generally associated with a weak summer monsoon in India though it is not a one-to-one relation. In 1997,

the monsoon was normal despite being an El Nino year.

The monsoon revived in September due to other climatic factors like the Indian Ocean Dipole — a temperature sea-saw between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal — and Madden-Julian Oscillation, an ocean storm that begins on the African east coast and travels across the equatorial Indian Ocean in every 30-60 days.

The four-month monsoon season ended with the country recording a 5.6% shortfall even though the deficiency was much greater for the east and northwest (18.5%) and southern peninsula (8%). The rainfall barely slipped into the positive side for northwest India (0.9%) and central India (0.4%).

The IMD chief on Saturday predicted a normal northeast monsoon that shows five meteorological subdivisions in south India — Tamil Nadu, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and South Interior Karnataka — between October and December. The winter monsoon rainfall will be between 88% and 112% of the long-period average of just above 334 mm.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3 & 10, Oct. 1, 2023**

# The roller-coaster that was the 2023 monsoon

Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, southern-interior Karnataka and Kerala ended the season with deficient rainfall

## DATA POINT

### The Hindu Data Point

The “official” 2023 Southwest Monsoon season (June to September) has ended, though the withdrawal of the monsoon may continue till mid-October. This monsoon season has been erratic – it started with a severe deficit in the initial days of June, turned surplus in many days of July flooding several northern States, followed by the driest August since 1901, only for record September rains to compensate, leading to a “normal” monsoon.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributes this season to the impact of El Nino and the days of surplus rainfall, especially in September, to the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific, which is linked to below-normal monsoon rainfall in India. The IOD is defined by the difference in sea surface temperatures between the western part of the Indian Ocean (closer to the Arabian Sea) and the eastern part of the Indian Ocean. A positive IOD means that the western part is warmer than average while the eastern part is cooler than average. The positive IOD is associated with above-average monsoon rainfall in India.

Chart 1 shows the cumulative departure (in %) of rainfall from the Long Period Average (LPA) in India this monsoon season. The LPA is the average rainfall received between 1971 and 2020. Departure of -20% or lower points to deficient rainfall, departure of +20% or higher points to surplus rainfall, and anything in between is considered normal. The chart shows how there was a severe deficit in the first two weeks of June, which

was compensated in July, and a severely dry August was later compensated in September, leading to a “normal” monsoon in the end.

The monthly percentage departure of rainfall from the LPA in India was -9% in June, +13% in July, -36% in August, and +13% in September as shown in Chart 2. The chart also shows the region-wise split of the monthly departure as well. For instance, the northwest region received excess rainfall (>+19% departure) in the first two months of the monsoon, though it ran a deficit in August.

Map 3 shows the meteorological sub-division wise percentage departure of rainfall from the LPA in India at the end of the monsoon season. The sub-divisions highlighted – eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, south-interior Karnataka and Kerala – ended with a deficient rainfall. The subdivisions Saurashtra & Kutch, and West Rajasthan ended with a surplus rainfall. The rest of India recorded a normal rainfall (within the +19% and -19% range)

This monsoon season, many weather agencies along with the IMD had predicted a below normal rainfall as it was an El Nino year. Yet, its effects were minimised due to favourable conditions in the Indian Ocean. Moreover, the Indian monsoon season can be impacted by other regional and global atmospheric patterns as well such as the Eurasian snow cover. Chart 4 shows the impact El Nino and La Nina had on the percentage departure of rainfall from the LPA in the southwest monsoons between the 1950s and 2023. La Nina is a climate pattern that describes the periodic cooling of sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific that is associated with surplus rain in India. The chart shows that not all El Nino years result in deficient rainfall and not all La Nina years result in increase, showing that other factors do influence the Indian monsoons.

## A start-stop affair

The data for the charts were sourced from the India Meteorological Department



Chart 1: The chart shows the cumulative departure (in %) of rainfall from the Long Period Average (LPA) in India in the 2023 southwest monsoon season (June to September)

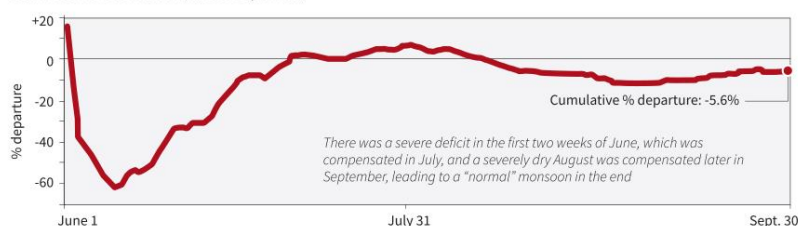


Chart 2: The chart shows the region-wise split of the monthly % departure of rainfall from the LPA in the 2023 monsoon

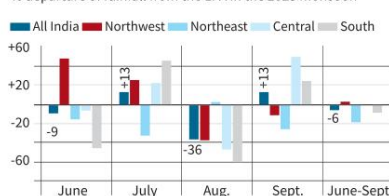
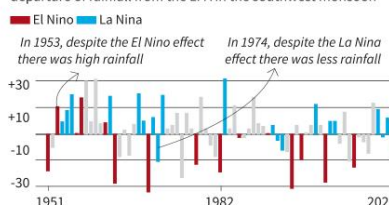
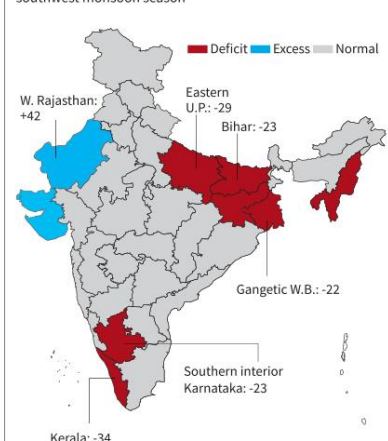


Chart 4: The chart shows El Nino and La Nina impact on the % departure of rainfall from the LPA in the southwest monsoon



Map 3: The map shows the meteorological sub-division wise % departure of rainfall from the LPA at the end of the southwest monsoon season



**Source: The Hindu, p.9, Oct. 5, 2023**



# State facing 'green drought' in several parts with nil or severely reduced yield, says Revenue Minister

Central team urged to understand impact of rainfall deficiency on agriculture rather than looking at standing crops

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**W**ith the Centre's drought review team starting its tour of 13 drought-affected districts in Karnataka, the State government has urged the team to understand the impact of rainfall deficiency on agriculture rather than arriving at a conclusion looking at the standing crops.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told presspersons here that it was "a situation of green drought" in many parts of Karnataka. "Some crops were lost soon after sowing and in other cases, there is standing crop due to intermittent rainfall. However, the yield from the crop has been severely reduced and there is no scope for recovery," he said, after briefing the team of Central officials that will tour districts till Sunday to assess the drought effects.

"We have urged the team for an independent understanding and assessment as it is a different situation. We will meet the team again on Monday after they return from their assessment," said the Minister.

While the State is expecting a compensation of around ₹4,860 crore from the Centre, it has estimated the losses in agriculture to be ₹30,432 crore. The total rainfall deficiency in the State is 28%.

The 10-member inter-ministerial Central team, led by Joint Secretary of Agriculture department



A 10-member inter-ministerial Central team met with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and officials in Bengaluru on Thursday before it began a four-day visit of 13 drought-hit districts in the State.

## Rainfall statistics

- Normal rainfall during southwest monsoon (June 1 to August 31): **691 mm**
- Rainfall received during 2023: **497 mm**
- Rainfall deficit: **28%**
- Of the 31 districts, **20** received deficient rainfall
- Taluk that received rainfall in large excess: **1**
- Taluk that received rainfall in excess: **1**
- Taluks that received normal rainfall: **88**
- Taluks that reported deficient rainfall: **141**
- Taluks that received rainfall in large deficit: **5**
- Out of 195 taluks, **161** come under severely affected by drought and **34** have been declared as being moderately affected by drought
- Total crop loss **41.56 lakh hectares**
- Agricultural land **39.74 lakh ha**
- Horticultural crops **1.82 lakh ha**
- Estimated loss **₹30,432 crore**

Ajit Kumar Sahu, will be touring Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Dharwad, Gadag, Koppal, Ballari, Vijayanagar, Chickballapura, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davangere, and Bengaluru Rural districts till Sunday. Senior government officials and scientists from agricultural universities will also be touring with the team.

Mr. Byre Gowda said that the team has been

comprehensively briefed about the drought situation, farmers' problem, economy, crop losses, and total affected area with the ground report. On certain discrepancies in rainfall data between the State and the IMD, the Minister said: "Karnataka has 6,500 automated telemetric stations installed at every panchayat level that no other State can boast of. It is accurate and reliable

since there is no manual intervention."

Karnataka has also flagged the discrepancy in the number of small and marginal farmers between the State and the Centre. "The Centre has data of 2015. We have highlighted that the numbers have increased due to further fragmentation as families have grown and the average area has also shrunk."

## No delay

In a rebuff to the Opposition parties that the Siddaramaiah-led government had been delaying on drought management, Mr. Byre Gowda said that though there are more than 10 States that have reported rainfall deficiency, Karnataka is the first State to approach the Centre. "The Cabinet approved the drought memorandum on September 22 and submitted the petition online to the Centre on the same day. We have sought ap-

## More taluks could be declared drought-hit

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

While 195 taluks in the State have been declared drought affected, 15 more taluks could be added to the list. "Preliminary assessment show that 15 out of the 41 remaining taluks are also eligible to be declared drought affected as per the Union government's guidelines," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Thursday.

The Cabinet sub-committee will meet on October 9 where a decision on conducting the ground survey again in these taluks would be taken." Further, in 34 taluks declared as moderate drought hit, another survey would be taken up if conditions deteriorate, he added.

pointment with Union Agriculture and Home Ministers, which, however, has not been given yet."

When asked if the State was confident of getting a fair deal from the Centre, Mr. Byre Gowda said: "We are doing our work and we have conformed to all the guidelines set by the Centre. We are hopeful that we will get our fair share. I do not want to politicise the issue that can affect the people."

**Source: The Hindu, p.8, Oct. 6, 2023**



# State files petition before CWMA seeking review of order on water release to T.N.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that Karnataka had filed a petition before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) seeking review of its order on the release of 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu.

CWMA on September 29 had asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu till October 15, though the State government categorically stated that there is not enough storage in its reservoirs.

Mr. Shivakumar, who al-

so holds the Water Resources portfolio, said the government has been making all the preparations to go ahead with the Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the river Cauvery in Kanakapura.

“We have already appealed before CWMA expressing our inability to release even 3,000 cusecs; not sure when it will be taken up. We have also made a proposal regarding the Mekedatu issue and we are making all the legal preparations required for it,” he said at a press conference here.

Asked if the State will also go before the Supreme Court on the issue, he said,

“We will have to go stage by stage, or else it (our petition), will not be entertained in the courts.”

## Standing crops saved

Noting the scarcity of water at reservoirs in the Cauvery basin, despite rains in some areas during the last couple of days, Mr. Shivakumar said the government had managed to save standing crops in the region and hoped for more rains in the days to come.

The Karnataka government has been maintaining that construction of Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the river near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district is the only solu-

tion to resolve the inter-State water dispute during distress years. Tamil Nadu is opposed to this project claiming it to be detrimental to its interest and that of its farmers.

He said 106 tmcft water is required, but there is only 56 tmcft in Cauvery basin reservoirs. Inflow had increased during the last couple of days due to some rains, but it has now come down, he said. The State has declared drought in 195 taluks and “we have requested the Agriculture Department to ensure there is no more fresh cropping, until there is an intimation about enough water,” he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.8, Oct. 6, 2023**

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

# ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಬರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಇಂದಿನಿಂದ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮೂರು ತಂಡಗಳು ಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಗುರುವಾರದಿಂದ (ಅ.5) ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ವಾಸ್ತವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲಿವೆ. ಮೂರು ತಂಡಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 10 ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಿವೆ. ಮೂರು ತಂಡಗಳು ಗುರುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲಿವೆ. ಅ ಬಳಿಕ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವಿವರ ಪಡೆದ ಬಳಿಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಲಿವೆ.



ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ರೈತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಜಂಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಅಜಿತಕುಮಾರ್ ಸಾಹು ಅವರು ಮೊದಲ ತಂಡ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ತಂಡವು ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಬೀಜಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಡಾ.ಜಿ. ಪೂನ್ನುಸಾಮಿ, ವೆಚ್ಚ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ

## ಯಾವ ತಂಡ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೆ?

- ಮೊದಲ ತಂಡ: ಅ.5 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಬರಲಿದ್ದು, ಅ.6 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ. ಅ.7 ರಂದು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ.
- ಎರಡನೇ ತಂಡ: ಅ.6 ರಿಂದ ಗದಗ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು, ಅ.7 ರಂದು ವಿಜಯನಗರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಬರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ.
- ಮೂರನೇ ತಂಡ: ಅ.6 ರಂದು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ. ಅ.7 ರಂದು ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ. ಅ. 8 ರಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬರಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ.

ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಮಹೇಂದ್ರ ಚಂಡೇಲಯ, ನೀತಿ ಅಯೋಗದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಶಿವಚರ್ಣಿ ಮೀನಾ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ವೈ.ಎಸ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ ಅವರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು

ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ ಡಿ.ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಎರಡನೇ ತಂಡ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪಶುಸಂಗೋಪನೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಆರ್. ಥಾಕರೆ, ಗ್ರಾ. ಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಮೋತಿರಾಂ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

## ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತಂಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂದಾಯ, ಕೃಷಿ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಈ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಳೆಯ ವಾಸ್ತವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಹಲವು ಕಡೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಉಂಟಾಗಲಿರುವ ತೀವ್ರ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿ ವಾಸ್ತವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವ ಎನ್.ಚಲುವರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಅವರು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಕಠಿಣೀಕರಣ ಅಮರು ತಂಡದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಅಯೋಗದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಅಶೋಕ್ ಕುಮಾರ್. ವಿ ಮೂರನೇ ತಂಡದ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎಂ.ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿಯ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಕರಣ್ ಚೌಧರಿ, ಅಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಂಗೀತ್

ಕುಮಾರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಕಠಿಣೀಕರಣ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ ಡಾ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರೆಡ್ಡಿ ತಂಡದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೂರೂ ತಂಡಗಳು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅ.8 ಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ವಾಪಸ್ ಬರಲಿವೆ. ಅ.9 ರಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವಿವರಣೆ ಪಡೆದು ದೆಹಲಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಲಿವೆ.

**Source: Prajavani, p. 5, Oct.5, 2023**



# Bescom and KREDL float tender for solarisation of agriculture feeders under PM Kusum Yojana

**Jahnavi T.R.**  
BENGALURU

After not receiving any bids three times, the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL) and Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) have once again called a tender for the solarisation of agriculture feeders in the State to power irrigation pump (IP) sets.

The first of its kind project in the State under Component C (Individual Pump Solarisation) of PM Kusum Yojana will receive 30% subsidy for the solar plants from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

KREDL will solarise agri feeders at substation levels on behalf of Hubballi Electricity Supply Company (Hescom) and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) to provide power to 75,000 IP sets and Bescom will power 2,62,331 IP sets. "The workings of this project will be similar to that of how rooftop solar panels work in residential build-

**'There was no participation by bidders in the earlier tenders as the ceiling tariff was fixed at ₹2.32'**

ings. Throughout the day, the power generated by the solar panels installed in the substation will be used to run the IP sets under that substation," explained a Bescom official.

The total proposed solar capacity for the project is 1,302.31 MW (1,081 by Bescom, 180 by Hescom, and 41.31 by CESC) and a total of 806 agri feeders will be solarised across 248 substations. At a cost of ₹3.5 crore per MW, the total cost of the project is estimated to be ₹4,558.09 crore. The MNRE will provide ₹1.05 crore per MW as subsidy.

The solarised agri feeders are expected to help in efficient power supply while also helping Escoms cut down transmission costs. "We want to see decentralised power generation based on solar energy which is attached to the feeder from which we will

supply power to the IP sets. We would also like to supply this power to the farmers during the day and with local generation, save our transmission charges," said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

The bidders who will get selected for the commissioning of the project would have to work through Renewable Energy Service Company (RES-CO) mode for 25 years and take care of selection of power generators, Build, Own and Operate (BOO), Installation, Maintenance among other things.

According to sources, there was no participation by bidders in the earlier tenders as the ceiling tariff was fixed at ₹2.32 by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). There was no participation even when the tenders were invited without a ceiling tariff. Upon the requests from KREDL and Bescom, on September 6, KERC revised the ceiling tariff to ₹3.17 and thus fresh tenders have been floated now.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Oct. 4, 2023**



# 10-member Central team to visit State's drought-hit districts from today

The Karnataka government has declared drought in 195 out of the 236 taluks in the State owing to deficient rainfall during the southwest monsoon

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

A 10-member inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) led by Ajeet Kumar Sahu, IAS, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, will visit 13 drought-hit districts of Karnataka for a four-day visit from Thursday to assess the drought situation across the State.

The team members, sub-divided into three groups, will visit Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Koppal, Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Davanagere, and Bengaluru Rural districts of Karnataka.

On the final day, the team members would hold talks with senior officials and Ministers concerned in Bengaluru, according to a programme list released by the government.

## In 195 taluks

The State government has declared drought in 195 taluks out of 236 taluks in the State owing to deficit rainfall during the southwest monsoon. As per the Centre's guidelines, Karnataka has 161 taluks suffering from severe drought. Another 34 taluks have



A file photo of a farmer walking in his dried-up field near Yaragatti village in Belagavi district. As per the Centre's guidelines, Karnataka has 161 taluks suffering from severe drought. Another 34 taluks have moderate drought.

moderate drought.

The overall loss caused by drought in the State has been estimated at ₹30,432 crore.

According to the memorandum submitted to the Centre, the total estimated loss caused to agricultural crops is pegged at ₹27,867.17 crore and horticulture crops at ₹2,565.7 crore. The government has decided to seek relief of ₹4,860.13 crore from the Centre.

## Relief from Centre

As per NDRF norms, Karnataka can claim ₹3824.67

crore for agricultural crop loss and ₹206.39 crore for horticultural crop loss.

The government is seeking ₹126.36 crore to set up 624 fodder banks, ₹104.33 crore for 195 cattle centres, ₹25 crore to provide nutritious food, ₹50 crore for fodder-seeds supply, ₹284.4 crore for drinking water supply in rural areas for 180 days and ₹213.98 crore for the same in urban areas.

In August, Karnataka had urged the Union government to bring changes to the Manual for Drought Management 2016 (updat-

ed in 2020) for the declaration of drought by States. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said it is necessary to have different parameters to declare drought in 14 agro-climatic zones in Karnataka in the light of dire situation caused by erratic weather conditions propelled by climate change.

## More work days

Owing to the drought, the government has already proposed to extend the working days of MGNREGA workers from 100 to 150.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Oct.5, 2023**



**ON THIN ICE** Groundwater Level In 95 Of 236 Taluks In K'taka In Critic

# Groundwater table to take a hit due to monsoon failure

Sandeep.Moudgal  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Ignored amid strident protests over the release of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu is the bigger picture of the depleting level of groundwater in Karnataka and across the border. Experts say the situation is only likely to worsen over the next few months as the failed monsoon will see more water being extracted to satiate drinking and agriculture needs.

Experts say this will only lead to further depletion of the groundwater table.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) report of 2022 shows that 49 taluks in Karnataka have been categorised as

## CAUVERY ROW

over exploited, 11 as critical, and 35 as semi-critical. Of these, 25 taluks in the Cauvery basin have been classified as overexploited, including several taluks in Bengaluru Rural and Urban districts, while another five are semi-critical and two are critical.

"Compared to the 2020 assessment, annual groundwater recharge has decreased from 18.2 billion cubic meter (BCM) to 17.7 BCM and annual extractable groundwater resources from 16.4 BCM to 16 BCM," the report states. "This is mainly due to a decrease in recharge due to surface water irrigation and groundwater



**DOWN THE DRAIN:** Experts say the situation is likely to worsen as people extract more water for drinking and agricultural needs

irrigation. There is a marginal increase in the current annual groundwater extraction for all uses from 10.6 to 11.2 BCM during this period. Hence, overall, the stage of groundwater extraction has increased from 64.8% in 2020 to 69.9% in 2022."

In Tamil Nadu, of the 1,166 assessment units (firkas), 360 units (30.9%) have been categorised as over exploited, 78 units (6.7%) as critical, and 231 units (19.8%) as semi-critical. The situation is likely to worsen considering this year's failed monsoon.

"The peninsular region in India has had the driest August in over 100 years and this is bound to hurt recharging of shallow ground levels and dug wells, which help in insulating

deeper water levels," said a representative of the Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, a civil society organisation working on groundwater management.

The representative said that in Karnataka, extraction of water has gone to well over 1,500ft in many locations. This means water that has been stored for over thousands of years is being used up.

"Considering Karnataka's terrain, which is primarily granite, gneisses, and dharwar schists (both high-grade metamorphic rocks) of the Archaean age, it takes centuries to recharge water to those levels, and the persistent failure of the monsoon means we are in a state of crisis," said

the representative.

Ramachandraiah, director, State Groundwater Directorate, endorsed the view while indicating that while drawing of groundwater from borewells cannot be stopped, recharging groundwater tables will take a much longer time.

"However, there is hope in some of government schemes initiated by the minor and major irrigation departments. These include large-scale tank filling exercises. Studies show that areas where these exercises have been initiated, groundwater levels have risen considerably," said Ramachandraiah.

## TIMES VIEW

This distressing situation is largely due to a lack of effective policies to check misuse. It has led to a stiff competition for water and worsening scarcity in already dry regions. Groundwater is found in aquifers in fractures in arid zones. Studies emphasise the urgent need for better management and conservation of these resources. Reports recommend implementing policies to regulate extraction, adopting technology and practices to conserve the water and promoting water-resistant crops like millets and other indigenous rice varieties. The government should urgently adopt these measures.

**Source: The Times of India, p.8, Sept. 30, 2023**

[Back to Contents](#)



AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

**K**ARNATAKA'S first Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) will be set up at Devanahalli. While the country has over 60 RVSF, this will be the first in the state.

In the coming days, all government vehicles that are over 15 years old and ones that do not pass the fitness test will be scrapped at the RVSF.

The state transport department has given approval to Mahindra MSTC Recycling Pvt Ltd to set up the scrapping facility, where the public can scrap old unfit vehicles on voluntary basis. "The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in 2021 launched the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernization Programme aimed at creating an ecosystem for phasing out old unsafe, polluting vehicles, and replacing them with newer, safe and fuel-efficient vehicles," said Transport Commissioner Yogeesh AM.

"The vehicle scrapping policy is win-win for all stakeholders - it creates an ecosystem for phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles from state roads, and to meet this objective, state-of-the-art scrapping and recycling units are needed," he said.

The rule mandates that vehicles can be scrapped only at the RVSF and will not go to local scrap dealers in the unorganised sector, who used to do the job unscientifically, he added. Department officials estimate that nearly 15 lakh vehicles are fit for scrapping in Karnataka.

Experts and citizens point out that the scrapping policy will lead to a rise in corruption, as RTOs are empowered to issue fitness certificates. Under the table dealings will rise and middlemen will increase, they alleged, and demanded that the government should clearly define the process of issuing certificates to ensure transparency.

### Emissions an eco threat

"The world is under severe danger of a climate crisis. India has pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021. This can be achieved only by taking some strict measures such as adopting clean and renewable energy, priority for public transport over private vehicles, and fuel-efficient vehicles with the latest technologies. Hence, scrapping of 15-year-old and unfit vehicles

# END OF ROAD FOR OLD VEHICLES



is a good move," said Akshay Heblikar, director, Eco-Watch.

Sharing details on the different types of gases emitted by vehicles that are harmful to humans and the environment, Heblikar said, "Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is one of the primary constituents of the vehicle's tailpipe emissions. Motor vehicles are estimated to contribute nearly 24 per cent of the world's direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. While these may not pose any immediate health hazard, their increasing build-up catalyses global warming, furthering climate change. Carbon monoxide (CO) affects the body's ability to absorb oxygen. Studies have found that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions fell by 86 per cent during the Covid-19 lockdown due to restrictions on vehicular movement. The transport sector contributes to a third of India's Particulate Matter (PM) pollution."

In addition to reducing emissions, scrap material from old vehicles becomes cheap raw material alternative for the steel industry. Using scrap metal from old vehicles helps create a circular economy and boosts the steel industry, he explained.

Scrapping old and unfit vehicles will certainly help in reducing vehicular emissions that are a threat to the environment. It will also help save a lot of fuel as new vehicles have better technologies and are more fuel-efficient. The cost

and resources of maintaining old vehicles is much higher than new ones, he said.

"Not all old vehicles are 'unfit'. Many vehicles which are well maintained with emissions under control need not be scrapped," Heblikar added.

### Fewer motor vehicles the goal

While the intent of taking unfit and polluting vehicles off the roads is laudable, the goal must be to move towards fewer motor vehicles and a truly green future. Like in France, vehicle owners can be given incentives to get electric bicycles instead of buying new cars, said urban mobility expert Shreya Gadepalli.

"The electric bicycle industry, that has thus far languished in comparison to electric two-wheeler players due to lack of good incentives, will get a strong fillip if such a scheme is instituted. Electric bicycles are a lot greener than electric scooters and cars, and come with added health benefits," she said.

A reliable, comfortable and affordable bus service that can take anyone anywhere they want, whenever they want, is

the need of the hour. This will encourage people to scrap their old vehicles and live car-free lives, she added.

### Assess impact of scrapping vehicles

Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Prof D Rajasekhkar said the primary motive of scrapping vehicles is to encourage buying of new cars and making space for new vehicles to enter the market. "There is no doubt this will stimulate automobile market sales. Along with benefiting the automobile sector, it is expected to deliver economic benefits to the citizens, that include job creation. The government can expect an increase in tax revenue and economic growth," he said.

The scrapping policy will adversely affect the used car market, as the cost of a car will fall drastically close to its age of scrapping, and people will prefer newer ones. For instance, a 10-year-old car that is sold in the second-hand market for Rs 2 lakh might come down to Rs 1 lakh after vehicle scrapping picks up pace.

The impact of scrapping old and unfit vehicles, reduction in pollution and other factors need assessment. Vehicle scrapping is likely to benefit densely populated cities like Bengaluru and districts like Kalaburagi or Kodagu, where people will continue to use their old vehicles.

With the Vehicle Scrappage Policy kicking in, vehicles over 15 years old will have to join the scrap heap at the crushing facility being set up at Devanahalli

All government vehicles that are 15 years old need to be scrapped mandatorily, while there is no compulsion on the public, and choice to scrap private vehicles is 'voluntary'.

Prof D Rajasekhkar, Director, ISEC

People would prefer to sell their vehicles to people in villages instead of scrapping, if the sale fetches them more money than the incentive offered by the Certificate of Deposit, that gives concession on road tax while purchasing a new vehicle.

Yogeesh AM, Transport Commissioner

India is the world's fourth most significant greenhouse gas emitter, contributing almost 8 per cent of all global emissions. It ranks third among countries with the worst air quality. This is mainly because vehicular emissions are not strictly regulated though there are rules.

Akshay Heblikar, environmentalist

While the intent of taking unfit and polluting vehicles off the roads is laudable, the goal must be to move towards fewer motor vehicles and a truly green future.

Shreya Gadepalli, urban mobility expert

Further, scrapping of vehicles is likely to be high in bigger cities where disposable income is

Panic gripped passengers of the Tambaram-Chintadripet local at Guindy station in Chennai on Sunday after smoke erupted from the first coach, around 4.30 pm, as the train pulled into Guindy station. Upon inspection, it was found that the smoke resulted from pressure fluctuations within the braking system, which hindered wheel movement

high and people would opt for new vehicles, Rajasekhkar said.

He said vehicle owners would prefer to sell to people in villages, instead of scrapping, if the sale fetches them more money than the incentive offered (Certificate of Deposit). For instance, if an old vehicle fetches Rs 1 lakh in the second-hand market, and the incentive for the same vehicle is around Rs 10,000, the choice would be to sell it than scrap it.

### Criteria for scrapping vehicles

- Vehicles which have not renewed Certificate of Registration (RC) and which fail the fitness test

- Are 15 years old and above, owned by the govt/PSUs/govt agencies/autonomous councils etc

- Damaged due to fire, riot, natural disaster, accident or any calamity, following which registered owner self-certifies it as scrap

- Manufacturing rejects, test vehicles, prototypes, vehicles damaged during transportation from vehicle original equipment manufacturer to dealers, unsold or unregistered vehicles as may be certified by the vehicle original equipment manufacturer

- Auctioned, impounded or abandoned vehicles by any enforcement agency
- Any other vehicle voluntarily offered to a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility for scrapping by the owner

### Fitness test

All commercial vehicles should mandatorily take up the fitness test at the Automated Testing Station at RTOs every year, when their registration has to be renewed. If the vehicle fails the test, it will be sent for scrapping. For fear that their vehicles will be crushed if they do not pass the fitness test, commercial vehicle owners are likely to invest in higher maintenance, which is expected to keep emissions under control.

All private vehicles must go for re-registration to their RTOs after completing 15 years, and undergo a fitness test. If they clear the test, registration will be renewed for another five years and the same process will have to be repeated every five years.

### Finding your RVSF

According to Karnataka's Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy 2022, initially there should be at least one RVSF centre at

the divisional level. Permission has been granted to Mahindra to set up one centre at Devanahalli. Permission to set up two more centres, in Tumakuru and Koppal, will be granted soon, according to transport officials. People can search for their nearby RVSF on the Vaahan portal.

### Process before scrapping

- Citizens can take vehicles to RVSF, after ensuring there are no police cases, traffic fines or other litigation against them

- RVSF will apply to RTO for de-registration of the vehicle

- Once approved by RTO, vehicle will be scrapped and owner will get a Certificate of Deposit (CoD), followed by a Certificate of Vehicle Scrapping to certify the vehicle is scrapped

### At the RVSF

- Vehicle is scrapped in an eco-friendly process, including hazardous wastes

- Each component, like tyres, glass, plastic, grease, oil, metal etc will be separated and recycled/disposed of

### Using CoD for tax concession

- CoD is the evidence of transfer of ownership of the vehicle

- It is a necessary and sufficient document for the owner to avail incentives and benefits for purchase of a new vehicle, as may be declared from time to time by the government

- Citizens can get a new vehicle registered against submission of CoD. According to the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy of Karnataka 2022, the concession in motor vehicle tax shall be equivalent to 25 per cent of the tax paid on scrapping vehicles in case of non-transport vehicles, and 15 per cent in case of transport vehicles in the state
- This concession shall be available up to 8 years in case of transport vehicles, and up to 15 years in case of non-transport vehicles; unused CoD can be traded

### Scrapping of govt vehicles

There are nearly 15,000 government vehicles that are over 15 years old and should be scrapped. As these vehicles are attached to crucial departments like fire services, police, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, scrapping them in one go will affect regular services. Officials have appealed to MoRTH to allow scrapping of government vehicles in a phased manner, said Yogeesh.



# Dell seeks GoK intervention to overcome import restrictions on SEZ

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Texas-based technology conglomerate Dell sought support from the Karnataka government to overcome import restrictions on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) operations, which it said would enhance cost sustainability and help expand its operations and investments in India.

Dell was putting forth this requirement also on behalf of ESDM (Electronics System Development and Maintenance) ecosystem players and suppliers in the State.

An industry delegation from Karnataka headed by M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries & Infrastructure, met senior Dell officials comprising Michael Dundas of Global Manufacturing Operations and Technology, Alan Richey, Senior Vice-President, Legal, and Tabrez Ahmad, Director, Asia Pacific and Japan, Govt. Af-

fairs and Public Policy, in Texas on Friday.

Dell was considering fresh investment in its research and development (R&D) centre in Bengaluru as part of its business expansion plans, said a statement from the Government of Karnataka on Saturday.

Dell, which has a market capitalisation of \$50 billion, already operates one of its prominent research and development centres in Bengaluru. Globally, the tech major operates 25 manufacturing facilities and 14 of these facilities are focused on R&D activities.

The GOK delegation met officials of New York-based Semiconductor Manufacturing company Global Foundries, which invincd interest in increasing its workforce in Bengaluru by adding 200 skilled workers. Mr. Patil said the State government would help GlobalFoundries establish connections with customers and suppliers in India.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Oct.1, 2023**

# Gross GST revenue growth slowed to 10.2% in Sept.

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

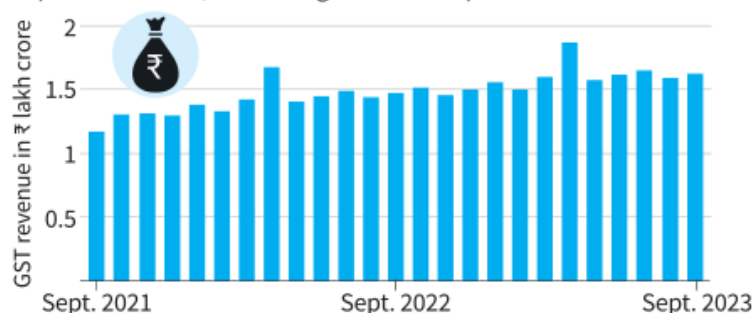
Growth in India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues slowed to a 27-month low of 10.2% in September, from around 10.8% in the previous two months. However, collections improved 2.3% over August revenues to touch ₹1,62,712 crore.

Revenues from domestic transactions, including services imports, were 14% higher than the tax collected from these sources during September 2022. This is the fourth time that the gross GST kitty has crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark in 2023-24, the Finance Ministry said.

GST inflows from goods imports had recovered from two months of contraction to grow 3% in August, but shrank again in September, albeit by a fraction. While the Finance Ministry did not specify the extent of decline in its

## Revenue check

Goods and Services Tax collections rose to ₹1.63 lakh crore in September 2023, 10.2% higher than September 2022



statement, back-of-the-envelope calculations show that GST revenues from goods imports dropped 0.11% from last September.

The last time that GST revenues grew at a slower pace was in June 2021, when collections rose a mere 2% amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenues in that month were based on domestic transactions between June 5 and July 5, since taxpayers were given various relief measures in the form of waivers and re-

duction in interest on delayed filings for firms with an aggregate turnover up to ₹5 crore.

Last month's GST revenues, based on transactions carried out in August, included Central GST (CGST) collections of ₹29,818 crore, State GST (SGST) of ₹37,657 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) of ₹83,623 crore, which included ₹41,145 crore collected on goods imports.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 10**

**Continued....**



# Gross GST revenue growth slowed to 10.2%

GST compensation cess inflows were ₹11,613 crore, including ₹881 crore collected on the import of goods.

“The government has settled ₹33,736 crore to CGST and ₹27,578 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of September, 2023 after regular settlement is ₹63,555 crore for CGST and ₹65,235 crore for the SGST,” the Finance Ministry said.

## Manipur highest, Bihar sees contraction

Revenues in strife-torn Manipur, which recovered from a contraction in August, recorded the highest growth among States in September, rising 47%. GST revenues in Telangana grew 33%, followed by Jammu and Kashmir (32%), Arunachal Pradesh (27%), Tamil Nadu (21%), and Karnataka (20%).

As many as 17 States recorded revenue growth below the national average of 14%, while 12 States reported 14% or higher growth. States seeing a slower uptick included Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana, Odisha, and Jharkhand, with Delhi, Meghalaya, and Assam recording the weakest growth of 2%, followed by West Bengal (3%).

Bihar was the only State to report an actual contraction in GST collections in September, with revenues down 5%. The Union Territories of Lakshadweep, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands also clocked a sharp decline in revenues, which fell 45% and 30% year-on-year, respectively. By contrast, revenues shot up 81% in the Union territory of Ladakh.

## Settling pending dues

A part of the rise in September's revenues could have been spurred by businesses settling pending tax dues since the start of the GST regime in 2017-18, tax experts reckoned.

“With normal period of limitation for the financial year 2017-18 ending on September 30, some of this increased collection could be linked to businesses having settled issues with payment of taxes for the said period,” said Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at KPMG. Revenues from the indirect tax may rise further with the festive season around the corner, he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1&10, Oct. 2, 2023**



# The narrative of development and populism

**I**n September 14, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹50,700 crore in the election-bound State of Madhya Pradesh. This included a petrochemical complex and 10 new industrial projects. He emphasised that this investment would boost the State's development. Just a few days later, on September 18, a major Opposition party announced "guarantees" for the people of Telangana ahead of the Assembly elections. These include ₹2,500 a month financial assistance to women, gas cylinders at ₹500, free travel for women in State transport buses, schemes promising an annual financial assistance of ₹15,000 for farmers, a housing scheme with a piece of land and ₹5 lakh for construction of house for homeless poor, 200 units of free electricity to each poor household, health insurance cover of up to ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh financial assistance to students from a poor background to pursue higher education. Both these announcements in conjunction show that 'development and populism' gain wide circulation before elections and that these two are pitched as poll promises with a call to evaluate the gains emanating with respect to short-term versus long-term benefits. The most common narrative is that development is the long-term ideal and populism is dubbed as myopic, with development-retarding effects.

## The development obsession

There are no two arguments on the need to achieve higher and better development outcomes. However, there exists a need to assess its trajectory and inclusivity to understand the implications for welfare and sustainability. While the need for accelerated development is sold easily as a poll promise, the need to take stock and address unevenness in welfare gains is neither mentioned nor taken up in the post-poll time period. An easy route to make development as an appealing proposition for voters is to define it narrowly in terms of visible physical infrastructure. The advantage of such a narrow definition is that it can be easily showcased and achievements can be quantified. This in turn would give an advantage to the incumbent governments if the scale of physical infrastructure creation is high. The opposing political parties would then be left with three options: promise an even higher scale of infrastructure creation if voted to power; highlight the unsuitability of the created infrastructure and dub it as failure, and/or address welfare of some section of the population that is left out through economic populism.

Equating development to visible mega-infrastructure could, over time, become a dangerous obsession for two reasons. First, the suitability of such projects for the specific geographic location or users is often overstated without realistically assessing long-term



**M. Suresh Babu**

is Professor of Economics at IIT Madras

An easy way to make development an appealing proposition for voters is to define it narrowly in terms of visible physical infrastructure

environmental consequences and its implications on the livelihoods of present and future generations. Second, the mechanisms of financing mega-infrastructure are often on the assumption of exaggerated revenue accruals from multiplier effects and flattened costs without any time and cost over-run. The fiscal burden of such financing modes would start surfacing in the medium term, and addressing it imposes additional costs. Two examples would clarify the above. First, during the period June 24 to July 10, 2023, over 41 landslides, 29 flash floods, and one cloud burst occurred in Himachal Pradesh amid relentless rain. One could call these as events of 'climate crises'. But Himachal Pradesh is an active participant in the race to 'development' through the construction of several highway roads connecting various tourist locations, thereby making the mountain regions fragile and unleashing unplanned urbanisation.

Uttarakhand faced a big disaster in 2013. Rather than learning from it, the government went on to 'rebuild' the State, which was a rebranding of the State with many highway projects. The 'Char Dham Yatra' is hyped as road connectivity that brings millions of people as religious tourists despite the fact that most places have infrastructure for only a few thousand people. These are two of the many recent examples of projecting mega-infrastructure as development symbols, resulting in environmental disasters. The costs of such disasters are not one-time as the easy route of development selected by the policy regimes sets off a spiral of calamities. Second, to assess the fiscal burden, the story of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the apex body for the construction and management of national highways in the country, is revealing. The total debt of the NHAI stood at ₹3,42,801 crore as on March, 2023, up from ₹23,797 crore in 2014. The bulk of the debt, i.e., ₹3.27 trillion, was contracted between 2017-18 and 2021-22. The NHAI's debt servicing cost will cross ₹50,000 crore in FY28 as the money was raised through bonds in 112 tranches; the last of those will mature in 2050. Apart from debt, the NHAI also has contingent liabilities, most of which are from disputed claims that have been filed by contractors and developers. The fiscal implications of financing development lingers in the system, imposing long-term constraints. These two examples given above highlight the perils of the obsession of symbolising mega-infrastructure as icons of development.

## Space for populism

Populism has two dimensions – political and economic. According to Dani Rodrik, noted political economist of the Harvard University, "The distinctive trait of populism is that it claims to represent and speak for 'the people,' which is assumed to be unified by a common interest. This common interest, the 'popular will,' is in turn set

against the 'enemies of the people' – minorities and foreigners (in the case of right-wing populists) or financial elites (in the case of left-wing populists). Since they claim to represent 'the people' at large, populists abhor restraints on the political executive. They see limits on their exercise of power as necessarily undermining the popular will." This is the hallmark of political populism which allows the majority to ride over the rights of the minorities. Economic populists too disfavour restraints on the conduct of economic policy, as restraints, in general, narrow their policy options. However, the economic policy environment tends to prefer rules and restraints because short-term interests might dominate when economic policy is largely shaped by political considerations. Rules and restraints serve the purpose of checking those in power from pursuing short-sighted policies. But, unwavering commitment to rules and restraints may at times serve to advance the interests of narrower groups, enabling them to cement their temporary advantage for reaping long-term benefits. Thus, it emerges that while rules and restraints are vital in checking unbridled growth of political populism, a fine blend of rules with discretion is required to curtail the expansion of economic populism.

## On conventional models

Conventional models of economic growth did not attach much importance to distribution as it was expected to be an inbuilt consequence of growth. These models assumed that the benefits of growth would percolate through the 'trickle-down effect', that is, growth is characterised as a 'high tide that lifts all boats'. In this scheme of things, populist re-distributive policies do not find a place. However, cross-country growth experience shows that the benefits of growth do not trickle down that easily and some sections of the population become 'outliers' in the growth process. Government-led redistribution is needed to reduce the size of such outliers and spread the benefits of growth more evenly. The rationale for economic populism arises in this context.

While economic populism imposes fiscal costs, inappropriate physical infrastructure-led development imposes additional costs, especially environmental costs. These costs might work as a binding constraint on subsequent governments. Poor resilience coupled with an injection of fragility to the environment results in a situation of costs of such 'infrastructure led development' remaining in the system for long. In contrast to narrowly defined and prominently visible megaprojects-led development, not all economic populism hurts. At times it might be the only way to forestall the dangerous obsession with physical infrastructure-led development.

*The views expressed are personal*

**Source: The Hindu, p. 10, Oct. 3, 2023**

# 7th pay panel meets CM, discusses fiscal implications of salary revision

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 7th Pay Commission, under former chief secretary K Sudhakar Rao, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday and discussed fiscal implications of revision salaries of government employees.

Commission members P B Ramamurthy (retired IAS) and former Karnataka State Audit And Accounts Department principal director Srikanth B Vanahalli, as well as member-secretary Hephysiba Rani Korlapati met Siddaramaiah.

The 7th Pay Commission

was constituted in November 2022 and given six months to submit its recommendations. In May this year, the term of the Commission was extended up to November.

“General discussion was held on fiscal implications, but the 7th Pay Commission did not share any indications of their likely recommendations during the meeting with the CM,” a source said.

The implementation of the 7th pay scale for state government employees will lead to a steep increase in salaries and pensions in the coming years.

Depending on the fitment factor, the financial implication of the 7th pay scale will range between Rs 12,000 crore and Rs 18,000 crore for the first year of implementation, according to the Medium Term Fiscal Plan.

The Pay Commission will cover the salary prospects of some six lakh employees.

According to sources, the government may consider granting one more extension for the Commission to submit its report in order to fend off demands from employees who want upgraded pay scales.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 5, Sept. 30, 2023**

## Govt rakes in revenue as property transactions surge

**Big rush as guidance value set to be revised today**

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Property registrations outside Bengaluru saw a big surge from June as people dashed to sub-registrar offices, keeping in mind the Oct 1 deadline when the guidance value will be revised, data ac-

cessed by DH shows.

The rush to register has helped the state government fill up its coffers. The news about the revision in the guidance value grabbed people's attention in June. Sources revealed that the number of property transactions outside Bengaluru was high, indicating an interest among people to invest in agricultural land.

For example, on September 27, sub-registrar offices in Nelamangala (347 properties), Mysuru West (293 properties), Ballari (276 properties), Kalaburagi (274 properties) and Davangere (272 properties)

### Revenue rush

June-September 2022-23

Rs 5,154.93 cr

June-September 2023-24

Rs 6,536.80 cr

April-September 2022-23

Rs 7,999.65 cr

April-September 2023-24

Rs 9,162 cr

(Between September 22 and 30, around Rs 1,000 cr collected)



saw the highest number of property registrations.

This was also the day when the department set a record,

clocking close to Rs 312 crore of revenue on a single day (none of the offices in Bengaluru recorded over 100 transac-

tions on that day).

Senior officials from the department attributed the rise in transactions outside Bengaluru to the revision in guidance value. “In most of the areas in Bengaluru, we have tried to limit the rise in guidance value to 30%,” a senior official explained.

“However, in a few areas outside Bengaluru, there has been huge development since 2019, and we had to increase it by as much as 100%. In such areas, registration charges will go up. Hence, there might be a rush,” an official said.

► **Revenue, Page 7**

**Continued .....**



## Revenue, From Page 3

The 2020 amendment to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, which allows people without agricultural backgrounds to buy farmland, contributed to increased investments in rural areas, officials said.

There has been a steady increase in rural property transactions since the amendment was passed. The government's

announcement in June that it will hike guidance values from October 1 hastened the process. "Earlier, rural property registrations accounted for only 30% of the registrations in the state. Owing to the liberalisation, the number of registrations has increased and rural registrations now contribute close to 50% of the registrations," another senior official said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3 & 7, Oct.1, 2023**



### COVERAGE HITCH

## K'taka guarantees: Six months left, Rs 6,000 cr spent so far

**BHARATH JOSHI**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**H**alfway into the current fiscal, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government has spent nearly Rs 6,000 crore on the 'guarantee' schemes -- just 14% of the funds earmarked for them -- even as authorities face "last mile" challenges in beneficiary coverage.

There is also worry that the government may fall short of revenues needed to meet the fiscal commitment.

This fiscal, the government has set aside Rs 39,815 crore for the five guarantees -- Shakti, Gruha Jyoti, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuva Nidhi -- that helped the Congress storm to power in the Assembly elections.

Estimated to cost Rs 52,000 crore

from the next fiscal, the guarantees have been packaged as welfare economics, especially universal basic income: each household will get an average Rs 4,000-5,000 a month or Rs 48,000 to Rs 60,000 every year, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

Two of the biggest guarantees -- Anna Bhagya and Gruha Lakshmi -- currently count 1.93 crore households as beneficiaries and 44% of them

are in north Karnataka, according to government data analysed by *DH*.

Under Anna Bhagya, every BPL member gets 5 kg rice every month free. Under Gruha Lakshmi, the woman head of a household gets Rs 2,000 every month.

The CM's native Mysuru district is among the top four districts in terms of coverage under Anna Bhagya and Gruha Lakshmi along with Belagavi,

Bengaluru Urban and Tumakuru.

Gruha Jyoti (free electricity) has covered 1.52 crore connections.

Shakti, the free bus travel scheme for women, has seen the highest expenditure at 28%. It was the first guarantee to be launched. In all, 67 crore women have benefited. On average, 62 lakh women benefit daily.

Gruha Lakshmi, the most ambitious scheme with an outlay of Rs 17,500 crore, has seen expenditure of just 11%. Of the 1.15 crore beneficiaries, 90 lakh have received the benefit. Payments for 24 lakh women are pending mostly for banking issues.

Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) L K Atheeq told *DH*. "Beyond one crore viable beneficiaries, we need to clean up the data to identify duplicates. It will take some time."

Guarantee	Outlay	Expenditure	Beneficiaries
Shakti	Rs 2,800 crore	Rs 785.48 crore	67.18 crore women
Gruha Jyoti	Rs 9,000 crore	Rs 1,401.56 crore	1.52 crore connections
Anna Bhagya	Rs 10,265 crore	Rs 1,885.05 crore	1.03 crore households
Gruha Lakshmi	Rs 17,500 crore	Rs 1,896.86 crore	90.44 lakh women
Yuva Nidhi	Rs 250 crore	-	-

Source: Finance Department

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 1, Oct.5, 2023**

# Krypton Solutions may invest ₹832 crore in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Texas-based Krypton Solutions, that offers service design, rapid prototyping and low/medium volume turn-key contract manufacturing services, may invest \$100 million (₹832 crore) in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar to set up Printed Circuit Board (PCB) fabrication units, said a statement from the State government.

M.B. Patil, Minister for Large & Medium Industries & Infrastructure Development, who is leading a business delegation to the U.S., on Monday met officials of Texas Instruments, Krypton Solutions, and ERP Logic (ERPL), a SAP cloud-based solutions firm for exploring increased investments in Karnataka.

The government delegation toured Krypton's 40,000 sq. feet facility while it visited Texas Instruments' 300-mm wafer



M.B. Patil

fab manufacturing site. These two companies are part of the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) industry and already have a sizable presence in the State.

Krypton Solutions has already completed preliminary discussions with the government to invest in Bommasandra for a new PCB facility in Karnataka.

The meeting with Texas Instruments also discussed Research and Development for Analog and Embedded Semiconductors, with a potential exploration in the Whitefield semiconductor park.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Oct. 4, 2023**



# Revenue up but government misses half-yearly tax target

BV.Shivashankar  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The government has fallen short of its half-yearly revenue target — by Rs 11,726 crore—for the fiscal, but officials are confident that they will make up for it in the second half of the year.

Facing the challenge of ensuring funds for both poll guarantee schemes and development work, chief minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the finance portfolio, in his budget in July, set a target—a stiff one—of collecting Rs 1,75,653 crore through tax revenue. The government was expected to mop up at least Rs 87,826 crore by September 30, but revenue-earning departments have cumulatively collected only Rs 76,100 crore.

“Overall, it is a good performance from all departments,” said an official from the finance department. “At this rate, we expect all of them to meet the target, if not exceed it, at the end of the year.”

The commercial taxes department, the highest revenue earning wing, has an annual target of just over Rs 1 lakh crore. It has collected Rs 44,761

crore against the half-yearly target of 50,500 crore. This includes Rs 33,952 crore from GST, Rs 10,159 crore from tax on petrol and diesel and Rs 650 crore from professional tax.

While it has fallen short of the target by Rs 5,739 crore, revenue is up 20% from the same period last year. The growth is among the highest among states and is well over the national average of 11%.

“The trend is encouraging since trade normally goes up in the last two quarters. We are confident of meeting the annual target,” said C Shika, commercial taxes commissioner. The optimism stems from the fact that the festive season is ahead, and 28% GST imposed on gaming is expected to ramp up collections.

The stamps and registration department has collected

Rs 9,614 crore of its annual target of Rs 25,000 crore, logging a shortfall of Rs 2,886 crore but is expected to fare better considering the hike in guidance value.

“Collections are normally low in the first two quarters since there is the month of Ashada and other periods considered inauspicious,” said Mamatha BR, inspector general of registration and commissioner of stamps. “We are intensifying an enforcement drive to curb duty evasion. These steps will fetch us more revenue.”

Liquor sales registered a 4% dip in August and September despite a hike in excise duty. The excise department collected Rs 16,550 crore till Sept 30, while the transport department collected Rs 5,175 crore (target Rs 11,500 cr).



Syed Asif

**WORK WELL DONE:** Priyank Kharge hands out Gandhi Gram and Swachh Survekshan grameen awards on Monday

**Source: The Times of India, p.4, Oct.3, 2023**



# 6 in 10 filing ITR in state have 'zero tax liability'

## It's 7 Out Of 10 At Nat'l Level

**Chethan.Kumar**  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** In Karnataka, nearly six out of 10 people who file income tax returns (ITRs) have 'zero tax liability' compared to the national average of seven out of 10. 'Zero tax liability' relates to cases where the person who files returns has a total taxable income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh.

Over 42.5 lakh people filed ITRs in Karnataka in assessment year 2022-23. Among them, more than 24.6 lakh declared 'zero tax liability', or 'nil returns' as it is known. Nationally, the number of ITRs stands at over 7.4 crore, and over 5.1 crore of them claimed 'zero tax liability'. Total taxable income is arrived at after all eligible deductions from gross total income.

However, an analysis of state-wise data shows that among the big states that occupy the top seven positions so far as the number of people filing returns goes, Karnataka has the least number of people with 'zero tax liability'. The other six states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pra-

### TREND AMONG BIG STATES

State	ITRs filed	ITRs with 'zero tax liability'
Maharashtra	1.1 crore	74.4 lakh
Gujarat	74.5 lakh	59.9 lakh
Uttar Pradesh	71.6 lakh	52.7 lakh
Rajasthan	48.4 lakh	38.1 lakh
Tamil Nadu	45.9 lakh	27.8 lakh
West Bengal	45.5 lakh	32.8 lakh
Karnataka	42.5 lakh	24.6 lakh
All India	7.4 crore	5.1 crore



Source: I-T department & ministry of finance | All figures rounded off

desh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu — have more than 60% of people who file returns not paying taxes.

In Maharashtra, for example, more than 65% of the 1.1 crore people who filed ITR in 2022-23 claimed 'zero tax liability', while in Gujarat it was 80.4% of 74.5 lakh people.

Chartered accountant and tax consultant Vivek Mallya told TOI: "Although such people don't fall under the tax bracket, filing of 'nil returns' builds discipline and also means one is committing to the government that she/he doesn't have an income of more than Rs 2.5 lakh, which is a negative assurance to the government and if it finds any income being hidden, it can take action."

"...In the case of agriculturists, their overall income

is exempted from tax, but the interest portion is taxable. Even there, if the income from interest is less than Rs 2.5 lakh, then they can file 'nil returns'. A majority of ITRs that claimed 'zero tax liability' are expected to be agriculturists," added Mallya.

So, why do people file 'nil returns'? It is one way to communicate to the income tax department that one doesn't have any taxable income for that financial year. Aside from this, it also has advantages. People may not need to scamper last minute to file ITRs while looking to travel abroad as ITRs may be asked for when applying for a visa, passport applications accept ITR as valid proof of address, loan applications require ITR copies as supporting evidence to ascertain eligibility, etc.

**Source: The Times of India, p.6, Oct.4, 2023**

[Back to Contents](#)



## EDUCATION

# State govt. to bring uniformity in UG, PG semester exams

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to bring uniformity in the Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) semester examinations and is planning to conduct semester examinations in all universities across the State at the same time. The main objective of this reform is to facilitate students in taking competitive exams related to employment and higher education.

M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, has instructed the Karnataka State Higher Education Council to conduct a comprehensive study and submit a report in this regard.

### **Why this reform**

Universities across the State conduct semester examinations for undergraduate and postgraduate students over a 90-day schedule. However, there is no uniformity in the examination system. Each university has its own academic schedule with its annual term,

student enrolment, semester examination, and declaration of the result.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a massive disruption in the academic schedule of all the universities. There is a lot of delay in the commencement of classes, conducting examination, and result announcement, leading to problems for students, especially those who wish to take up competitive exams such as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Banking, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), Indian Railways, Police services, as well as the entrance exams for higher education.

When the academic exams and recruitment exams are scheduled at the same time, students inevitably have to miss one of the exams.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Sudhakar said, "Universities conducting semester exams with their own schedule

affects the students who will take other competitive examinations. After COVID-19, there has been a huge delay and chaos in university admissions, commencement of colleges, examinations, and announcement of results. Therefore, we decided to bring uniformity in the academic schedule and semester exams for the UG and PG courses."

He added that the reform is not a one-day or one-month exercise. "It will take at least two or three years to implement it. I have instructed the Karnataka State Higher Education Council to thoroughly study all the matters, including the examination system of all the universities in the State, the examination conducted by the government agencies for various recruitments, exams conducted at the national level and submit a report. Based on the report, uniformity will be implemented in the semester examinations and will apply to all the universities," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Oct. 1, 2023**

# NMC's order on MBBS seat allocation viewed as unfair to southern States

The National Medical Commission's decision that new colleges seeking recognition shall follow the ratio of 100 seats per 10 lakh population will punish States that have performed well in population control and undermine federalism in healthcare, say doctors and education experts

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he National Medical Commission's decision to allow and allocate medical education seats according to the population of a State or Union Territory is turning into a southern States versus the Centre debate on the freedom to provide healthcare and education to people. The order comes into effect from the next academic year.

Some of the States and Union Territories that are likely to be hit by the decision are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Puducherry. They want to appeal against what they claim is discrimination for doing well. In these States, the number of medical seats has exceeded the ratio as recommended by the NMC order. Experts note that apart from these states, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim will be adversely affected.

The NMC notification covers both government and private medical colleges

and was issued last month. It says, "After 2023-24 (which means from the 2024-25 academic year), a letter of permission for starting of new medical colleges shall be issued only for annual intake capacity of 50/100/150 seats [new medical colleges will only have 50-150 seats] provided that medical colleges shall follow the ratio of 100 MBBS seats per 10 lakh population in that State/Union Territory."

## Many concerns

While the commission did not respond to queries about the rationale behind the move, various social media posts on the subject by senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, senior doctors and experts working in the field of education have called this "punishment for good performance, serious encroachment on the powers of the State government and the State legislature". They have also asked why State governments cannot start new medical colleges out of their own funds and for their own students.



**Rationale questioned:** Doctors and experts have termed the move a 'punishment for good performance'. FILE PHOTO

"The Centre and its agencies are undermining federalism," Mr. Chidambaram said in his post while senior officials in the Karnataka government have indicated that they would appeal against the order.

Tamil Nadu has 11,600 seats for a projected population of 7.64 crore as of 2021, according to data provided in the Lok Sabha by the Health Ministry. Karnataka has 11,695 seats (6.76 crore), Andhra Pradesh 6,435 (5.34 crore), Kerala 4,655 (3.54 crore)

and Telangana 8,540 (3.77 crore).

Under the new guidelines, Tamil Nadu should only have around 7,600 seats, Karnataka (6,700), Andhra Pradesh (5,300), Kerala (3,500), and Telangana (3,700).

Also, according to NMC data, Andhra Pradesh had 1,05,799 registered doctors as of June 2022, while Karnataka had 1,34,426, Kerala 42,596, Tamil Nadu 1,48,217 and Telangana 14,999.

The latest order comes at a time when Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

earlier this year met with representatives of over 50 private and charitable hospitals or chains, and urged them to start undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses.

Sudhir Kumar, a neurologist at Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad, said that the country had to look at the overall picture to provide its citizens with doctors and not go State-wise. Additionally, doctors migrate for work across the country.

"Patients also travel. We still don't have an optimum doctor-to-patient ratio. A good number of people who want to become doctors still don't get a seat. We should actually work towards giving the best quality and quantity of medical education and become world leaders in this field," he said.

## Public health

Senior vascular surgeon J. Amalorpavanathan said, "Medical education is closely tied to public health. Hence, States should have the freedom

to decide how many doctors they should produce – for public health, for specialties and super-specialties and for the private sector. Each State can plan accordingly and produce optimum numbers. These can be revised every decade. The NMC must stick to deciding syllabus and recognition."

K.R. Antony, public health consultant, Kochi, said that availability of trained doctors for postings in the vast rural areas of the country cannot be assured by merely opening new medical colleges.

"It will lead to a degeneration of medical education as a profit-oriented commercial activity with a compromise in the quality of education and ethical standards. Such commercial production of doctors only leads to export of Indian doctors for Western countries and not for our under-served areas. Need-based training of doctors and their rational deployment for service to the community in India is the need of the hour," he stated.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Oct.1, 2023**



# Common school syllabus and Board not in child's interest, CBSE tells SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has objected to a plea in the Supreme Court for a uniform Board and school curriculum, saying such a move does not take into account local context, culture and language, besides the power of individual States to frame their own syllabus, curriculum and conduct examinations for their schools.

The Board said the emphasis should be on “flexibility for the emphasis of local resources, culture and ethos”. “A child can better relate to a curriculum that is more closely related to his/her life outside the school. Therefore, multiplicity of curricula and other educational resources is desirable in addition to a core common element,” the CBSE under-



**Context matters:** A child can better relate to curriculum that is more aligned with their life outside school, the CBSE said. FILE PHOTO

scored in its reply.

## **States' power**

The Board said ‘education’ was a subject on the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

A majority of schools are under the jurisdiction of the State governments. It is for the respective State/Union Territory governments to frame syllabus, curriculum and conduct examinations for

their schools, the counter-affidavit said.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), developed by the NCERT as per the mandate of the National Policy on Education, sets the guidelines and direction for the development of syllabi and textbooks at all stages in schools. As a follow-up to the NCF, curriculum, syllabi, textbooks and other supplementary material

are developed by the NCERT. The State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and State Education Boards either adopt or adapt NCERT's model syllabi and textbooks or develop their own based on the NCF, the affidavit explained.

“NCERT prepares model syllabus and textbooks for school education... States and UTs have freedom to either adopt or adapt NCERT textbooks.”

The Board was responding to a writ petition filed by advocate A.K. Upadhyay, who argued that different syllabus and curriculum by the CBSE, ISCE and State Boards was arbitrary and contrary to the Constitution.

It had sought a direction to the Centre to implement a uniform system (common syllabus and common curriculum in the mother tongue) up to Class 12.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Oct.1, 2023**

## Vijayanagara GP Members' Union writes to CM over absenteeism among schoolteachers in the district

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

The Gram Panchayat Members' Union of Vijayanagara district has written a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take appropriate action against government school teachers who are not attending school on time and not conducting classes properly during school hours.

S. Lakshman, president of the union, who wrote the letter on September 12, said, “Teachers in govern-

ment schools are not providing quality education to children. Biometric attendance system should be made mandatory for teachers in government schools.”

“Despite restrictions on using mobile phones during school hours by the Department of School Education and Literacy, teachers are constantly talking on mobile phones, using internet and engaging in social media during school hours and teaching time,” the union has alleged.

Due to the negligence of teachers, children walk out of the school during the school hours, they added.

Stating that this is affecting the quality of education in government schools, the union has sought biometric attendance system for government school teachers apart from monthly tests, as well as assessing the performance of teachers on the basis of results.

The headmaster of a government high school in Mandya acknowledged

that this is a problem elsewhere too. “It is true that many teachers are irregular to the classes and engaging in other activities instead of teaching students,” he said.

## **Biometric attendance**

Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of School Development and Monitoring Committee echoed similar opinions. “There are also reports in some schools that regular teachers are absenting themselves and handing over classes to

guest teachers. Even though teachers are doing such unethical things, the department officials are not initiating action against them,” he said.

“We urge the Principal Secretary and Commissioner of the department to ensure that the officials regularly inspect the schools and take strict action against the guilty teachers. In addition, measures will be taken by SDMC to compulsorily visit schools, including in rural areas.”

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Oct. 4, 2023**

[Back to Contents](#)

## Health

# Evaluation of 7,635 BMTC employees shows over 40% vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases

BMTC had, in September last year, entered into a memorandum of understanding with Jayadeva institute to get cardiac evaluation done for all its employees aged above 45

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

An analysis of 7,635 Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) employees aged between 45-60 years evaluated at the State-run Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in the last eleven months has revealed that over 40% of them were vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases. Besides, 5.5% of them had an established heart disease.

The BMTC had in September last year, entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jayadeva Institute to get cardiac evaluation done for all its employees aged above 45.

"We have so far evaluated 7,635 employees in batches of 60 three days every week. The analysis has revealed that 37% of the evaluated employees



BMTC employees undergoing counselling and stress management sessions at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in Bengaluru.

had diabetes, 40% had high blood pressure, 62% were obese, 30% had high cholesterol levels, and 25% had a history of alcohol consumption. Over 70% of the evaluated employees are non-vegetarians. Smoking

history is being underestimated because many are reluctant to reveal this addiction," institute director C.N. Manjunath told *The Hindu* on Friday. September 29 is observed as World Heart Day.

For the cardiac evaluation, the employees underwent a master health check-up including ECG, chest X-ray, ECHO, treadmill, blood investigations such as hemogram, Liver Function test, renal func-

tion test, lipid profile, and blood sugar test. "Another 2,500 employees are left, and we plan to cover them in the next few months," Dr. Manjunath said.

### Vulnerability

Dr. Manjunath said with nearly 40% of them having diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, the risk of them developing cardiovascular diseases in the future is high. "Mandatory periodic and annual health checks are essential for these employees to ensure early intervention. Proper and early risk factor and lifestyle management is the key to prevent cardiovascular problems," the doctor said.

Attributing the findings to their stressful lifestyle, the doctor said most of the employees had not got themselves tested before and were surprised by the diagnosis of diabetes and

high blood pressure.

"Due to the nature of their work, their stress levels are high. They have no time to exercise, and their eating habits are erratic due to continuous driving, overwork, and night duties. Most of all, they are exposed to pollution all through their work (both from the engine and atmosphere). Air pollution is an emerging risk factor for cardiovascular diseases," Dr. Manjunath explained.

### Employees well-being

Asserting that BMTC had set a trend by caring for its employees, the doctor said the BMTC employees' health analysis should become a reference study for the government.

"Based on this, the government should take a policy decision to ensure employees aged above 45 years from all departments get an annual health check

and cardiac evaluation," he said. As the non-communicable disease (NCD) burden is high, there is a need to detect NCDs in early stages for timely intervention. This will help reduce complications in future. "Untreated hypertension leads to heart failure, heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure. One should not take it lightly. Besides, stress management and counselling at all workplaces is very essential," the doctor added.

**INSTITUTE OF LIVER AND BILIARY SCIENCES**  
"CARDIAC" FACULTY  
(ILBS)  
Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences  
autonomous super-specialty

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, sept. 30, 2023**



# AB-Ark: State tops in treating most women beneficiaries

While the national average of women beneficiaries under the scheme is 48%, Karnataka's coverage is 55%, the highest in the country among large States

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

Since its inception in 2018 till August, 2023, Karnataka has treated 35 lakh women (55%) of the total 63.17 lakh beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-Ark) health scheme. This is the highest in the country and Karnataka has been presented with the Gender Equity in service delivery (among large States) award by the National Health Authority recently.

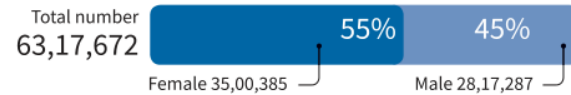
An analysis of data collated by Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), the nodal agency that implements the State's health schemes, revealed that caesarean delivery, conventional tubectomy, acute febrile illness, acute gastroenteritis with moderate dehydration and severe anaemia are the top five ailments/ procedures that women sought treatment for.

## Far above average

While the national average of women beneficiaries under the scheme is 48%, Karnataka's coverage is 55%, the highest in the country among large States.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the figures indicate that the services are provided to beneficiaries without any gender disparity. "We have

## AB-Ark beneficiaries



Women beneficiaries			
TOP FIVE DISTRICTS		BOTTOM FIVE DISTRICTS	
1. Koppal: 1,09,636	65%	1. Dakshina Kannada: 1,06,523	47%
2. Raichur: 78,840	64%	2. Mysuru: 1,85,845	48%
3. Kalaburagi: 1,64,276	62%	3. Bengaluru Urban: 2,80,671	50%
4. Yadgir: 55,243	61%	4. Udupi: 64,142	51%
5. Vijayanagara: 49,192	60%	5. Bengaluru Rural: 59,772	52%
5. Ballari: 1,04,520	60%		

Data from 2018 till August 2023; Source: Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust



also been recognised for the highest percentage of utilisation in public hospitals (among large States). Besides, with 3,472 (government 2,942 and private 530) hospitals, Karnataka also has the highest number of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCPs) under the scheme among large States.

"Karnataka is the only State with a nearly equal contribution from the public and private sectors, demonstrating the effectiveness of the State's public health system," the Commissioner told *The Hindu*.

The recognition awards were presented during the two-day Arogya Manthan in New Delhi on September 25.

## North Karnataka

Since inception, 55.98 lakh cases have been treated in government hospitals and

7.19 lakh cases in private facilities. The highest number of female beneficiaries under the scheme are from the backward districts of North Karnataka - Koppal, Raichur, Kalaburgi, Yadgir and Vijayanagara, where the access to private facilities is limited.

Districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Bengaluru Urban, Udupi, and Bengaluru Rural have the least women beneficiaries under the scheme as these districts have a large network of private hospitals.

## Scheme utilisation

The State has also been appreciated for full utilisation of allocated funds. Over the years, the scheme utilisation has increased steadily.

"The central share is 36% and the State contributes 64% of the share for inclusion of all BPL families of non-Socio Economic

and Caste Census database and APL families. From 67,776 beneficiaries in 2018, the number has gone up to 21,94,061 in 2022-2023.

This year till August, the number of beneficiaries has already touched 13,38,567. In total, 63.17 lakh cases have been treated under the scheme in the last five years," the commissioner said.

SAST Executive Director Vinoth Priya said the State has made several efforts to encourage public facilities in providing services such as ring fencing mechanism (no direct walk in to private hospitals except for 171 emergency procedures), online referral system through government facilities, involving Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide simple service packages and deemed empanelment of government facilities.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Oct. 1, 2023**



# ಭಾರತ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂಬುದು ಎಷ್ಟು ಸತ್ಯ?

• ಜಯಸಿಂಹ ಆರ್.

**‘ಭಾರತ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ’** ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಅವರು ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಸೋಮವಾರಕ್ಕೆ (2023ರ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 2ಕ್ಕೆ) ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಾದವು. ಆದರೆ, ವಾಸ್ತವದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿಗಳು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಸ್ವಯಂಘೋಷಣೆಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಭಾರತವನ್ನು ‘ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶ’ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸ್ವಯಂಘೋಷಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತವಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೆಯೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ‘ಭಾರತವು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶ’ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಬಿಟ್ಟಿತು.

ಈ ಘೋಷಣೆಯು ಕಾಗದದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಇದೆ, ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗದ ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯು ಈಚೆಗೆ ಸುಮ್ಮನಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರದಿಂದ ಕೆಲವೇ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಈ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ವಸತಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶ. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಕಲುಷಿತಗೊಂಡು 260ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನ ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು ಮತ್ತು ಹಲವು ಜನರು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು. ಅನಂತರ ಈ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮರೋಪಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ದುರ್ಘಟನೆಯು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿದ ಸಂಗತಿಯೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು.

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರಸಭೆಯು 17ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 735 ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಸ್ಥಳಾಭಾವದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ‘ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸ್ಥಳದ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ. ಮನೆ ಕಿರಿದಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯ ವೇಳೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಆಲೋಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ’ ಎಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದಿವ್ಯ ಪ್ರಭು ಜಿ.ಆರ್.ಜಿ. ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವೂ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಇದು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದರೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2018ರ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 28ರಂದು ಇಡೀ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯನ್ನು ‘ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶ’ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 32,110 ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಹೊಂದಿವೆ. 35 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತವಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳೇ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿಯು ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ 17ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗದೇ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಗ್ರಾಮ/ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ/ನಗರಸಭೆ/ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು/ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ/ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಪರಮ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆಧಾರ: ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ-ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ-ನಗರ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಪಿಎಚ್. ಡಿಎಸ್, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ವಾಹಿರ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ: 2019-20ರ ವರದಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ

## 61,524 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗಿಲ್ಲ ಇನ್ನೂ ‘ಒಡಿಎಫ್’ ಗರಿ

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ‘ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ-ಒಡಿಎಫ್’ ಎಂದು ಸ್ವಯಂಘೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಇಡೀ ಭಾರತವೇ ‘ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದೇಶ’ ಎಂದು 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಒಂದನೇ ಹಂತದ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ-ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ‘ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ-ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌’ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 2022ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 31ರವರೆಗಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ 61 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು, 7 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 24 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ‘ಒಡಿಎಫ್’ ಸ್ಥಾನ ದೊರೆತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಇದೇ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, ‘2019-20ರ ಅಂತ್ಯದ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮನೆಗಳೂ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದವು’ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದೇ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು, ತನ್ನದೇ ಒಂದೇ ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ವ್ಯತಿರಿಕ್ತವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ.

**735** ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**6.62** ಲಕ್ಷ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**2.69** ಲಕ್ಷ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**711** ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಮಿಷನ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು

**6.01** ಲಕ್ಷ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಮಿಷನ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು

**2.62** ಲಕ್ಷ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**24** ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಇರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**61,524** ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**7,172** ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ



ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆಯ ಆವಾಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಅಗತ್ಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾವಂದಾಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೇ ಮೇನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ (ಎಡಚಿತ್ರ). ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ನಗರದ ವಾರ್ಡ್ 9ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಹೀಗಿತ್ತು -ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು

1. ಆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇರಬೇಕು.
2. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ, ಆ

ಮನೆಯಿಂದ 500 ಮೀಟರ್ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವಿರಬೇಕು.

3. ಆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರೂ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ



## ಗಣನೀಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿ

2014ರ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಯೋಜನೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 11 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2014ರಲ್ಲಿ, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 38.7ರಷ್ಟಿತ್ತು. 2019-20ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 100ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಅನಂತರ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾದ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಈಗ ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತವೆ.



## ಎಲ್ಲಾ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗಳ ಫೋಟೋ ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ

ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಮಿಷನ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಡ್ರಾಶೋಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಹೀಗೆ ಚಿತ್ರವನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ- ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದಾದ್ಯಂತ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 88 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರವನ್ನು ಈವರೆಗೆ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

**11.38** ಕೋಟಿ

ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ- ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

**10.50** ಕೋಟಿ

ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿತ್ರ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. ಅವುಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ

ಹೋಗಬಾರದು

4. ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವವರಿಗೆ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕು.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪರಮ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡೇರಿಸುವಂಥದ್ದರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ನಗರಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಇದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. 500 ಮೀಟರ್ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಂದಿ ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವವರಿಗೆ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕವಾಡಿಗರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಬೇರೆ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಗರದ ಹೊರವಲಯದ ಹಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೇ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದೆ.

ಇದು ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಒಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬೇರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ದೇಶದ ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, ಹೀಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಇಡೀ ದೇಶವನ್ನು ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ, ಶೌಚ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ, ಮನಃಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುವ ‘ಬಯಲು ಬಹಿರ್ದೇನೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಪ್ರಸ್ತ’ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.



# 36% of state's dengue cases this year reported in Sept alone

**BBMP area accounts for 56% of the total numbers**

NAVYA P K  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has recorded the maximum number of dengue cases in September, with 3,735 (36%) of the total 10,260 cases that have been reported between January and September by the health department.

Considering weekly data, the week from September 4 to 10 saw the highest dengue cases (over 2,000) reported this year.

On September 7, Health and Family Welfare Minister

Dinesh Gundu Rao held a meeting to discuss the situation. This was followed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's instructions to officials. Though cases have declined since September 10, they remain relatively high with over 600 cases reported in the following two weeks.

The BBMP area is the biggest contributor to the cases, making up 5,756 (56%) of the state's total cases from January to September 29. This is nearly five times the cases BBMP reported in the corresponding period last year.



A file photo of a worker carrying out fogging to check spread of vector-borne diseases. DH PHOTO

But for the rest of Karnataka, the cases reported this year are lower than reported in the corresponding period last year.

Udupi, the district reporting the second highest number of cases, has only one-tenth the cases that BBMP has, at 590. Next comes Mysuru with 486 cases this year. All other

districts have fewer than 300 cases.

Unlike the BBMP, most districts have seen a decline in dengue cases this year compared to 2022. Only Udupi, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Bidar districts have seen an increase.

A health official at the

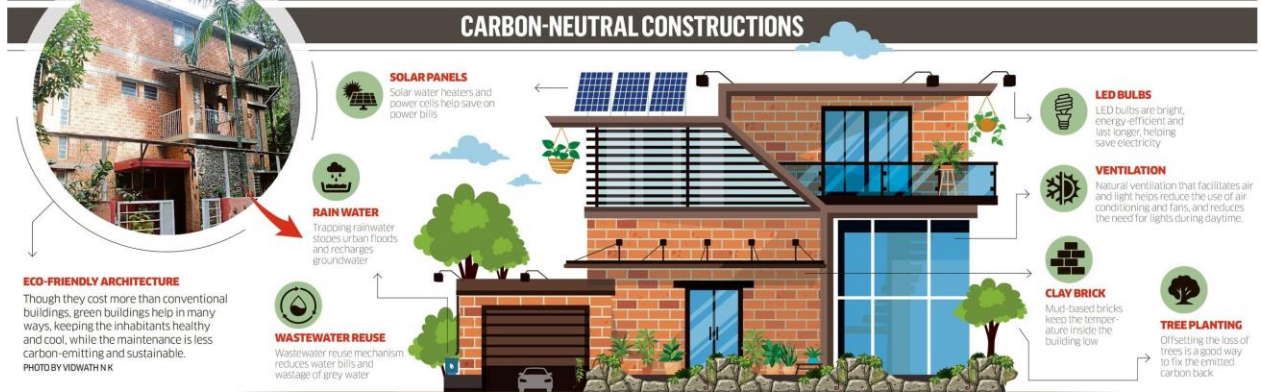
BBMP attributes the city's high numbers to its better reporting mechanism.

"There are around 350 private hospitals and labs reporting dengue cases from BBMP, whereas some districts have only 4-5 reporting units. Another reason is that Bengaluru has a population of one crore, so the cases will also be higher," he says.

Shortage of community health workers like ASHAs for source reduction activities, constant movement of people which makes tracking of mosquito bite sites difficult, and waterlogging in construction sites are other challenges, he says. "In September, we were recording as many as 200 daily cases at one point, but now daily cases have come down to around 120. Cases are expected to be high in October also."

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 5, Oct.3, 2023**

[Back to Contents](#)



## Namma city needs a green push

Cement, glass and steel facades can be replaced by sustainable materials and methods to reduce the city's carbon emission

BENGALURU, DHNS

A recent study by the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) showed that residents of Bengaluru were well aware of green building practices, but cost prevented many of them from going for it. The study suggested policy interventions to promote sustainable construction of homes and offices.

What is a green building or construction? Sustainable buildings have demonstrated reduced energy and water consumption and completely eliminate construction and operational waste through recycling. As opposed to this, research says modern buildings are estimated to consume 25 to 30% of total energy and up to 30% of fresh water. They generate approximately 40% of total waste.

Bengaluru has grown from under 220 sqkm to 8000 sqkm and beyond, with the built environment in the city increasing every day, adding concrete while reducing green cover. Temperature rise and heat islands are the natural effects of increased urbanisation.

"Bengaluru has morphed from a garden city to a realm of chaos and anxiety. Along with lifestyle choices of the 21st century and overconsumption, built practices and pressure from real estate also contributed to it," says Yashaswini Sharma, a city-based architect.

"Today's built practices are influenced by mass-produced materials, which create characterless glass and steel facades unrelated to the region and its history, straining the city's depleting resources and infrastructure," she adds.

"Traditional built practices were sustainable and organic. As a result, the spaces had regulated temperatures, which remained cool in summer and resulted in buildings that stood the test of time for over a century. It was also a closed loop system which didn't add construction debris to landfill," adds Yashaswini.

**'Lack of skilled labour'**  
"We went from lime-based, mud-based construction to cement-based construction. Cement as a commodity has become competitive, so prices of conventional structures have reduced," says Deepak V

Punam, a PhD scholar at ISEC and a construction professional, explaining why the cost of constructing green buildings is often higher than conventional ones. "Conventional and sustainable buildings have a 25-30% price difference. We do not find people skilled in following the old lime-based construction methods. Today's labour force is unskilled, and it is one of the factors pushing costs up," he adds.

"Sustainable concepts are artistic, and skills are a requirement. In green buildings, we do not do plastering. Anomalies in solid blocks can be rectified by plastering, painting, etc., but not in sustainable buildings," says Deepak, adding that efforts to train labourers do not work out due to the unorganised nature of the sector and adamant mindsets.

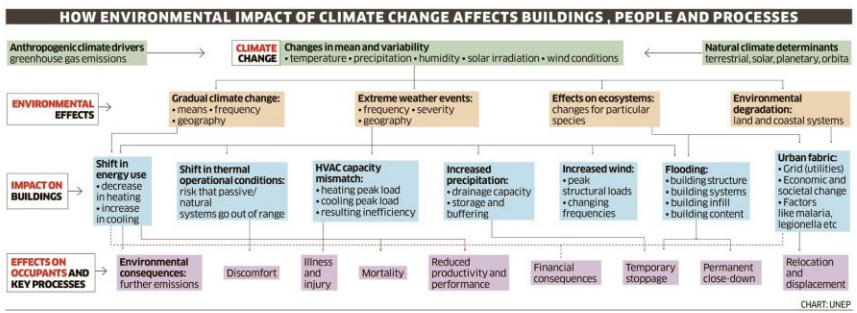
"The new generation has to venture into this using it as a business opportunity; only then can we see better days," says Deepak.

**Leaving a low carbon footprint**  
"Some builders stick brick cladding to give solid block walls an earthy, rustic look. This cannot be called a green building. A green building has documented proof of carbon emission reduction in the construction and maintenance phases," he adds.

Everything used in construction, be it cement, mud or wood, leaves a carbon footprint in production and transport logistics. For example, using imported brick for doors is a high-carbon footprint affair due to ship-based transport, time and energy, while procuring local teak reduces carbon footprint as transport takes less time and energy. Similarly, using local granite stones helps reduce the footprint further.

"People go for imported high-carbon footprint items for prestige and beauty. Unnecessary lighting, placing granites on walls etc. are the practices that make buildings non-green," says Deepak.

He explains that construction and demolition (C&D) waste can be reused while building new buildings. "Any non-load-bearing structure and flooring in a building can use C&D waste aggregates. In regular concrete, C&D waste can be used up to 30%, resulting in the same strength. If it is strong enough, wood can be reused by polishing it," he adds.



### IGBC rating: Bengaluru stands 5th

The building and construction sector is a major contributor to global warming, with:

- 25–40% of global energy consumption
- 30–40% of solid waste generation
- 30–40% of global greenhouse gas emissions

Ratings and certifications are tools to evaluate performance in terms of energy efficiency, water use, etc., as tangible benefits.

Each rating caters to a different building type and the guidelines differ to address the best suitable green features and implementations.

Indian Green Building Code (IGBC) instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) is one of the green building rating systems that dominates the market. It has guidelines for net-zero water, waste, energy and carbon buildings and 31 rating systems to address almost all sectors—residential, commercial, transit, logistics, data centres etc.

Bengaluru has around 723 projects of various kinds with green ratings by the IGBC, covering around 806.14 million sqft of built environment.

About 252 projects measuring 117.37 million sqft are already certified.

Can the city improve further? "Yes, there are lots of opportunities. Hardly 5-6% of the built environment is currently being developed with green compliance and achieves certification," says Sidhesh Kumar Mishra, Executive Officer, CII-IGBC, who also looks after the Bengaluru market.

Bengaluru is among the top five cities in IGBC's list of green compliance. With suitable government policies and incentives, it could achieve the top position easily and quickly, feel IGBC officials.

The interest in getting green ratings among Bengaluru-based corporates is very good. "However, it is not enough. It is necessary to encourage other players, developers etc., to get green ratings," he adds.

### 'The government must come up with policy'

Burhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's building bylaw guidelines (2017) mention provisions for green buildings and sustainability, some mandatory and others optional. The mandatory provisions include waste segregation, organic waste management, C&D waste management, energy efficiency measures, solar and rainwater harvesting installations and wastewater treatment measures, depending on the plot size and building size.

Optional guidelines aim to achieve better green ratings for the new and existing buildings. People and businesses aiming can incorporate the additional provisions to avail of government incentives. These include greening measures, such as compensatory afforestation and having at least one tree in every 80 sqm of land, leaving more than 20% of the open spaces unpaved, wastewater reuse, solar water heaters and

energy systems, zero waste systems etc.

The optional provisions advocate the use of sustainable building materials such as factory-made prefabricated and recycled components with green benefits, panels, hollow slabs, hollow blocks, fly ash bricks, fly ash concrete, gypsum-based walling and roofing panels, particle wood, use of bamboo and rapidly growing plantation timbers and local materials etc.

This aims to conserve materials and water, reuse industrial/agricultural byproducts, reduce air conditioning requirements, environmental benefits, low transportation costs and time, and reduce carbon footprint.

The Karnataka government is said to be ready with a state policy for green buildings but has yet to sign off on it.

"The government should

bring out the green credit market and tax rebates to motivate people to go green. Solar is a hit today due to subsidies and incentives. Similarly, the government should encourage other green practices," says Deepak.

"The government has yet to frame a directive for sustainable buildings. Currently, LEED certification defines what material is green and what is not. It's not so much about the end product but about the process. There is still a long way to go," says Yashaswini.

Sidhesh Kumar Mishra thinks government incentives can help more constructions go green. "Around 12 Indian states have already encouraged green building construction, in terms of incentives such as additional floor area ratio and rebate in property tax," he says, adding that the Karnataka government should also head in the same direction.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Sept. 30, 2023



# Big projects upstage ward work in BBMP payment priority shift

Admits initial allocation 'unnecessary'

NAVEEN MENEZES,  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has granted permission to the BBMP to change its long-standing practice of paying contractors based on the first-come first-served principle.

Instead of adhering to seniority, which is rooted in the principle of natural justice, payments for large projects like stormwater drain remodelling and major road asphalt work will now be prioritised over ward-level projects.

This shift is seen as an acknowledgment by the new government that the ward works, amounting to Rs 3,661 crore and initiated before the recent assembly polls, were unnecessary. These works were part of the Rs 8,000-crore allocation made by the state government last year, with a significant portion going to road asphaltting, white-topping, and rajakaluve remodelling.

On September 19, the Urban

Development Department (UDD) issued an order, establishing a priority percentage for releasing payments among various BBMP verticals, ranging from 30% to 2%, a departure from the conventional seniority-based billing system.

The UDD order comes just when the civic body is about to release Rs 675 crore to the contractors and follows a letter from BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath to prioritise segments that have a "higher effect if the works are not expedited as per priority".

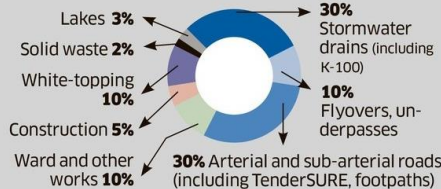
Girinath, in his letter, requested the government to make partial payments of work bills, stating that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has not submitted its report in a month's time as directed by the government.

Girinath told *DH* that the payment under a new system will be followed on a temporary basis due to the pendency of the inquiry. "After the SIT submits the report, we will go back to the old system," he said. He also



Payments for large projects like road asphalt work will now be prioritised over ward-level projects.. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

## PERCENTAGE ALLOCATION FOR EACH DEPT



stressed that projects such as flyovers, concrete drains are prioritised as they are large and most needed.

When the state government allocated substantial funds for ward works ahead of the assembly polls, *DH* reported

on July 9 that the BBMP was squandering the Rs 3,661-crore grant from government on minor works. "Ward works are minor in nature and there were complaints," he said, justifying the lesser allocation for these works.

KT Manjunath, president, BBMP Working Contractors' Association, criticised the government for violating its own rules and questioned why the funds were allocated if the ward works were deemed unnecessary.

A senior official said violating the seniority list is the same as opening the Pandora's box.

"The new order only shows the government has a list of favourite contractors," the official said.

"This diversionary method to break the queue system may compromise the quality of works as it will give leeway to the officers to further extort contractors by promising early payments."

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3A, Sept. 30, 2023**

# How public transport could rescue ORR commuters from traffic hell

**Purple Line extension to Whitefield lacks connection to Baiyappanahalli, resulting in dependency on feeder buses**

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**he massive gridlock commuters faced along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) on September 27 has not only drawn criticism but also reignited a long-standing discussion about expanding public transport and encouraging more people to adopt it.

Earlier this year, the much-awaited KR Pura-Whitefield extension of the Purple Line was opened to the public. But a missing link between KR Pura and Baiyappanahalli meant commuters had to rely on feeder buses between the stations. Oftentimes, these buses were infrequent and already packed with commuters, making it a very cumbersome mode of transport.

However, the link between the two stations is finally set to open in the first few days of October and there is a widespread hope that the completed line will not just help employees and residents in the far east of the city easily reach destinations to their west, but also reduce the traffic burden on the ORR.

BMRC Managing Director Anjum Parwez earlier told *DH* that they expect the Purple Line ridership to rise by 75,000 once both links (Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura and Kengeri-Challaghatta) open. The metro's average daily rider-



**At least 25 feeder buses are required from metro stations to the five tech parks located along the ORR every 2.5 minutes from 8 am to 10 am and from 5 pm to 7 pm.** DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

ship in September was 6.30 lakh.

## Campaign leads the way

To make this possible, the Personal 2 Public campaign launched by B.PAC and WRI India has been encouraging people to shift from their personal vehicles to public transport at least twice a week.

The campaign has identified nearly 3,75,000 employees owning 1,91,000 private cars in the top five tech parks along the ORR, spaced out between 2.6 km to nearly 10 km from the KR Pura metro station.

To reduce the number of these cars and encourage the use of the metro, it has recommended running 25 feeder buses from the metro station to each of these tech parks every 2.5 minutes from 8 am to 10 am and from 5 pm to 7 pm.

The campaign has also suggested potential feeder bus routes between Garudacharpalya and Seetharam-

palya metro stations via Marathahalli and Brookefield; Kundalahalli and Sri Sathya Sai Hospital stations via ITPL Main Road; from and to Vydehi Hospital through Varthur and Whitefield; and from and to ITPL through Whitefield and Immedihalli Khane.

Currently, the BMTC runs 15 feeder buses between Baiyappanahalli and KR Pura stations every day, ferrying 8,000-10,000 people. The cost per kilometre (CPKM) is Rs 80 while the earning per kilometre (EPKM) is Rs 70.

"Rs 70 is a very good EPKM," a senior BMTC official said.

Once the Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura metro link opens, the BMTC will stop the feeder bus services on this route and divert them to the ORR in a bid to connect more people to this metro line.

Two routes are under consideration. One is the KR Pura metro station to the same point, spanning a route length of

15-16 km. The second route under consideration is from KR Pura to Silk Board Junction, along the ORR, with AC feeder buses for employees of tech parks.

## Impact on Vajra

The BMTC is evaluating the potential impact on its Vajra (Volvo air-conditioned bus services) that ply to various destinations in and around Whitefield.

"We are closely observing the situation and will take a call depending upon the situation," G T Prabhakar Reddi, Deputy Chief Traffic Manager, BMTC, told *DH*.

M N Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the true impact of the complete line and the shift from personal vehicles to metro or other modes of public transport can be ascertained after at least a month of metro operations.

"It all depends on how many people shift to the metro and how getting to the metro is made accessible for them. So the impact is yet to be seen but of course, we expect the traffic to reduce along Old Madras Road and in and around KR Pura," he said.

Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East), was also unsure about the impact of the metro on traffic along the ORR.

"I expect this to really help IT employees and residents in and around Whitefield but I am not so sure about how it will impact traffic on the ORR. I suppose the average commute time on the ITPL Main Road and other roads around it might come down by 10-15%," he said.

He added that the traffic police might conduct a scientific study to understand the traffic impact of the metro in a few weeks if needed, but the focus of his personnel is to ensure that, private vehicles or not, traffic movement occurs faster and without a hitch.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Oct. 1, 2023**



# Treating wastewater may help ensure city's water security

**Lack of guidelines also proving to be an obstacle**

**SNEHA RAMESH**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**W**ith water crises looming over the city, experts say that wastewater should be made available for tertiary purposes like construction and horticulture.

Despite the huge potential, poor standards, and lack of clear guidelines for commercial use have been hindering the city's ability to utilise wastewater.

Analysis by a private research centre, WELL Labs, reveals that the city produces nearly 2,000 MLD of wastewater. Of this, only 655 MLD or just 32% is being reused.

"The use of treated water is the way ahead," insisted V Ramprasad, co-founder and convener of the NGO, Friends

"Bengaluru cannot fully depend on Cauvery. To ensure we have groundwater to fall back on, we must prevent groundwater exploitation and use treated water for construction and horticulture purposes," he added.

He highlighted numerous occasions when borewell water would be used in construction sites, severely depleting water levels. "Residents moving to homes constructed using borewells would lose water security," he explained.

Of the 2,000 MLD, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) treats nearly 1,240 MLD. But it hasn't been able to get many to buy the treated water.

"We have been trying to encourage the use of treated water. It is cost-effective and can



The sewage treatment plant at Sarakki. DH FILE PHOTO

## AT A GLANCE

Total wastewater generated: 2,000 MLD  
Treated in centralised STPs: 1,240 MLD  
Treated in decentralised STPs: 615 MLD  
Untreated: 145 MLD

## Outflow

Gardening: 13 MLD  
Toilet flush: 125 MLD  
Lakes: 1,192 MLD  
Agriculture and industries: 530 MLD  
(Source: WELL Labs)

Talks are on to get more industries on board," a senior BWSB official said.

At the same time, nearly 30% of the wastewater treated at decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) set up at apartment complexes and commercial establishments is mostly let into lakes in the absence of clear guidelines on selling treated water.

"There is a great potential to use water from decentralised STPs," pointed out Shreya Nath, managing partner, Urban Water Programme, WELL Labs.

"For example, in earth excavation and other construction activities, freshwater is being

pressant. We could reduce dependency heavily if we use treated water for such purposes," Nath said.

Vikram Rai, general secretary of Bangalore Apartment Federation, said that apartment societies were to reusing and selling treated water, but were held back by the absence of clear guidelines.

"We are working closely with the BBMP to see if we can supply water to its parks for horticulture purposes. It is seasonal," he said.

"The other option is to use treated water. We need a clear guideline for its commercial use in apartment complexes to come forward," Rai added.

A lake activist was concerned about water treatment at STPs set up by the BWSSB. "The construction industry and the public need to be educated about the benefits of treated water meeting standards," he said, citing recent incidents of lake pollution caused by water re-

rently, we supply treated water to the airport, the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Oct. 2, 2023**

## ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಸಭೆ • ಐ.ಟಿ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರ ಜತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಸೂಚನೆ

# 'ಟೆಕ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್'ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಕಳೆದ ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿವಾರಿಸಲು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಮಿಷನರ್ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಧವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮಹಾನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಅಲೋಕ್ ಮೋಹನ್ ಕೆಲವು ಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹೊರವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಪಲ್‌ಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಐಟಿ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರ ಜತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ, ಕೆಲ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಲಹೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

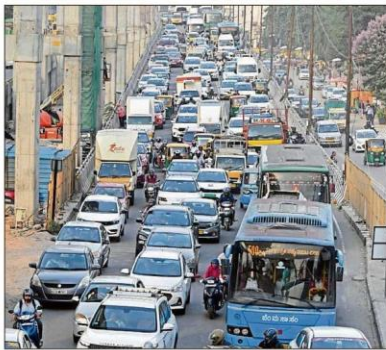
ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜನರು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ

## '40 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಪಡಿಸಿ'

ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ದಿವ್ಯಾ ಕಡೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು 60 ದಿನಗಳ ಬದಲಿಗೆ 40 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ನಗರದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಡಿಪಿಐಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗಳ ರಾಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವೈಖರಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಐಟಿ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಜತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕು. ಏಕೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಐಟಿ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅರಂಭ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ವಿಷಯ ಅಲ್ಲಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಈ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

"ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಬರುವ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗೂ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರಿಮಿ ಕುರಿತು ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ



ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಬಂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ರಾಫಿಕ್ ಜಾಮ್

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೂ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರಿಮಿ ಕುರಿತು ತರಬೇತಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೇಕೆಂದು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೈಬರ್ ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಎಂದು

ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ದೂರು ದಾಖಲು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ: 'ಯಾರೇ ತಾನೇ ದೂರು ನೀಡಲು ಬಂದರೂ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಎಫ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹಿಂದೇಬಿ ಸಲಹೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ತಾಣ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ

## ಮತ್ತೆ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ: ಜನರಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ

ನಗರದ ಹಲವು ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಧವಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದಿಂದಲೂ ಮತ್ತೆ ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂತು. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಐಟಿ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯಿಂದ ಜನರು ಹೇರಾಹಾರದರು.

ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಬಂಕ್‌ನ ಸರ್ಜಾಪುರದ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಸಾಲುಗಟ್ಟಿ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದವು. ವಾಹನಗಳು ಮಂದಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ಅಂಬುಲೆನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಗರದ ಹೃದಯ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲೂ ಮತ್ತೆ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂತು.

ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರಾಜಭವನ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಲುಕ್ಯ ವೃತ್ತ, ರೇಸ್‌ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್ ವೃತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲು ಸಾಲು ವಾಹನಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ, ಮೆಟ್ರೋನಲ್ಲೂ ಅದೇ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಕಂಡುಬಂತು.

ರಿಚ್‌ಮಂಡ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ರೆಡ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೆಟ್ರೋ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಪರೀತ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂತು. ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಚಾಲಕರು ಹೇರಾಹಾರದರು. ಕಳೆದ ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ತೀವ್ರಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಚಾಲಕರು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಡಿಹರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮನಗೂ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ತಲುಪಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಅಕ್ಕಲೇ ಹೊರಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ (ಸಿಡಿ) ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಸಂಚಾರದ ದಾಖಲೆವರಗಲು ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಇತ್ತು.

ಬಾರದಿದ್ದರೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಯಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ರಾಣಿಗಳ ವರ್ಗವಣಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ರೌಡಿ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ' ಕಡಿಮಾಡಿ, ರಾಮಸ್ಥಾನ ಗುಪ್ತಾ, ಸಂಚಾರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜಂಟಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಯುಕ್ತ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಅನುಚೇಕ್ ಇದ್ದರು.

ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಮಿಷನರ್ ಬಿ.ದಯಾನಂದ, ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಯುಕ್ತರಾದ ಸತೀಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ರಮೇಶ್ ಗುಪ್ತಾ, ಸಂಚಾರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜಂಟಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಯುಕ್ತ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಅನುಚೇಕ್ ಇದ್ದರು.

**Source: Prajavani, p. 3B, Oct. 5, 2023.**



# Citizen energy backed by govt. support key to a more liveable city

Incremental changes in local neighbourhood, coupled with being law-abiding citizens can help us build a better Bengaluru



## My City My Take

V. Ravichandrar

**S**øren Kierkegaard once wrote, "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." To which one might add in the Bengaluru context, "and in the moment" given the myriad hurdles as we traverse the City.

We have a constitutional defect at birth with the city being referred to as a local body instead of a well-defined third tier of city government. The 74th Constitutional amendment has been weak and ineffective and it's necessary to rethink our governance and administration arrangements given that we are effectively a vassal of the State Government.

If outcomes are to be achieved and accountability fixed, we will need a mix of deep decentralization at the area sabha/ward level and appropriate centralization at the apex level of the greater city where the multiple silo agencies work together for common outcomes. Unless this is done, we are doomed to flounder with band-aid fixes for problems of the day. Recommendations exist, but do we have the political will and the administrative firmness needed to make it happen?

### Need vulnerability planning framework

Our Master plans since 1995 have spectacularly failed us. We need guiding principles and flexibility with dynamic planning. Primarily we need to switch over to a vulnerabil-

ity planning framework.

Currently, we think in terms of protection when it comes to the poor. Instead, we need to proactively plan for the vulnerable across sectors and automatically the rest will be taken care of.

Under a vulnerability lens, the pedestrians would be the most at risk on our streets; the dwellings in low-lying areas from flooding; people next to storm water drains, landfills, and far away from public health centres are most vulnerable on the health front; the slum dwellers on housing and so on.

Taking housing as an example, as areas of the city gentrify, it is imperative to think in terms of social rental housing for the vulnerable daily workers in well-to-do areas as we think about Transit Oriented Development plans.

### Existing models demand change

Moving onto guiding principles, on mobility the principle must be to move people over moving vehicles.

Consequently, there is no cure for faster movement for individuals sans public transport on scale. For some strange reason, one has never in two decades seen the politico-bureaucratic class embrace bus transport as a key element of the solution set.

On the garbage management front, "what happens in Vegas needs to stay in Vegas"; The current model of transporting and disposing the waste of a 12-million-people city to distant villages/quarries is plain stupid and morally wrong. Segregation coupled with decentralized processing is imperative.

The Cauvery is in the news again as is the case in distress years. Experts have shown that through a mix of rainwater harvesting, recharging aquifers,



A file photo of Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi being flooded near K.R. Circle, after heavy rain.

provisioning wells, wastewater treatment, etc. it's possible to be self-sufficient on water.

But we prefer the expensive option of Cauvery and other new sources. Flooding poses an existential risk to Bengaluru and with increasing concretization and building in low-lying areas, it will only get worse. Point fixes will never address the flooding issue - a watershed management view is necessary but nothing in our plans indicate that we get it and that we respect nature's contours.

### Soft power appeal

Kempegowda's first base was Yelahanka. Today, next to it we have BIAPPA, an alphabet soup airport region, which together with Yelahanka is an area expanse bigger than BBMP of 712 sq km. We have the chance to guide the development of a good twin ci-

ty based on a regional structural plan that respects nature's gradients and nature, sound guiding principles, and a strategic spatial plan meshed with community inputs. Are we up to grabbing the moment and cementing a legacy?

It's in the public spaces that a city comes alive. Till recently the city was characterized by shrinking public spaces - for instance there have been no large parks on the scale of Lalbagh and Cubbon Park.

Chowdiah, Ranga Shankara, and Jagriti were pioneers of building cultural spaces but it was not scaled city-wide for over a decade. While Bengaluru's 'hard' infrastructure is a veritable mess, there are promising local developments on the 'soft' infrastructure representing arts, culture, public spaces, conversations, et al.

We have recent addi-



'Hoovina Karaga' being carried by a priest outside the Dharmarayaswamy temple.



Garbage trucks on the way to the landfill at Mittaganahalli quarry pit, in north Bengaluru.

tions of privately enabled, public-purpose institutions in the Bangalore International Centre, Indian Music Experience, Museum of Art & Photography, and an upcoming Bengaluru Science Gallery. Cubbon Reads, an initiative started by two individuals, has gone viral in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Marquee events like the Karaga, Bangalore Literature Festival, Attakkalari Dance Biennale, and Design Week are lending their heft to developing Bengaluru's soft power appeal while providing options for local residents. This December, the ten-day Unbox BLR festival of festivals promises to make Bengaluru a go-to destination every December in the decades to come.

### For a more liveable city

Brand Bengaluru is the current mantra. It takes a beating when it meets the

daily reality of the city's failed infrastructure and "Trevorberates" globally with the bad news when a famous comic's event is called off for a private mess up. But we can be better.

It begins with each of us, residents of the city, we all love.

Small incremental changes in our local neighbourhood, coupled with being law-abiding citizens in public backed by the implementation of the rule of law can help us build a more liveable city.

Over the years one has been amazed by the energy and positivity among common citizens to make the place better. That needs to be met supportively by the Government and if it learns how to be an enabler, Bengaluru can only get better.

V. Ravichandrar is a civic evangelist. He is honorary director at the Bangalore International Centre.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Oct. 4, 2023**



# To carpool or not to carpool in Bengaluru? that is the question

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's clarification that there is no ban for now on carpooling aggregators has not cleared the confusion on where the law stands on the issue

Rasheed Kappan  
BENGALURU

**D**riven by giant strides in AI and other technologies, carpooling has turned smarter and seamless, with a huge potential to marry comfort with commerce. But trapped in a twister of high taxes, yellow board registrations, permit issues and intense competition, taxi drivers see this as an existential threat to their business. Is there a middle path?

News in a section of the media carpooling is "banned" in Bengaluru last week triggered a massive outcry. Commuters who had adopted the system, both informally and through aggregator apps to smartly outwit the city's notorious commute chaos, were outraged. The State transport department's ban was dubbed 'kneejerk,' thoughtless and unilateral.

## Only temporary relief

But, has Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's clarification that there is no ban for now and it would eventually be applied only to white board vehicles cleared the confusion? The relief is only temporary and the raging debate has put the spotlight on the need for urgent systemic changes. The question is: Can old rules be tweaked to let both traditional taxis and new age carpooling apps coexist and thrive?

The time might be ripe for a policy shift with the focus on the big elephant in the room: Yellow boards. But before addressing that, a query: Why are taxi operators feeling so threatened by the new carpooling apps?

"We have no issue with the informal carpooling system that involves friends, family and neigh-



A file photo of traffic at Silk board junction and Metro rail work in progress in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

bours. Our demand is that carpooling aggregators, who use AI and other tech to discover and connect commuters, should be brought under a regulatory mechanism," says Radhakrishna Holla, General Secretary of the Bengaluru Tour Taxi Owners Association.

## Cash transactions

The aggregator apps, he says, are not NGOs or charitable trusts. "They use privately-owned vehicles, even cash is paid online. Once they do that, it becomes a business. Offering free service and turning it into a business are different. Cash transactions, one rupee or a thousand rupees, make it a business. The vehicles used too should then be commercial, with yellow boards," he explains.

Once the carpooling platforms are regulated, safety systems such as SOS, owner and passenger data collection, verification of owner vehicle documents will come into picture. As Mr. Radhakrishna puts it, "Vehicle Location Tracking, panic buttons, passenger accident safety, GST for payment and a whole lot of



A group of regular carpoolers in Bengaluru. They have been using the carpooling app to hop onto shared cars en route to their offices.

rules that are now mandated for taxis will be applied to their cars too. There are at least 25 rules to comply with."

On the other hand, Sathya Sankaran from Citizens for Sustainability (CiFoS) argues that yellow boards vehicles have outlived their utility. "They are causing more harm than good. The carpooling controversy in Bengaluru brought out our inability to rethink the rules when faced with behaviour that run contrary to those rules," he contends.

The aggregators essentially help people discover carpooling passengers through an app. But the

main bone of contention is about a charge being levied for passenger discovery and payments between the driver and car-poolers. Rules framed under the Motor Vehicles Act permit only vehicles registered as commercial vehicles displaying a yellow number plate to operate for any kind of money exchange.

## 'Inherently unfair'

Mr. Sathya's point is this: The rules have not stopped last-mile food and grocery delivery services to operate with white board private vehicles. Delivery agents are also now riding electric vehicles with green plates, but there are no

yellow board system. What is the point of a yellow board for the passenger? I sit in a car, and am not bothered about the colour of the board. I have to trust the driver. So do a KYC (Know Your Customer) on him," he says.

However, taxi operators are not convinced. They argue that their passenger safety is ensured through integrated systems such as Vehicle Location Tracking and Panic Button. Says an operator, "In employee transport, all staffers go in one vehicle with a separate permit. But in carpooled vehicles, if a male passenger kidnaps a female co-passenger, there is no way to track. A driver might say he is going to Electronic City but would cross Hosur checkpoint and become untraceable."

## Decoupling the driver

So decouple the vehicle from the driver, suggests Mr. Sathya. "Passenger safety is not the function of the car, but the driver's. If you want to do a KYC on the (carpooling) driver, do it. But do it through a seamless online process, no standing in any office. Do it as professionally as passport registrations."

Yellow board taxis have to certify and do constant checks on the driver to prevent untoward incidents. Yet this has not been a fool-proof system. In many cases, the vehicle driver and owner are different. The recently launched Metro Mitra Auto service could be a model, where passengers scan a QR code to get the driver's credentials. Tech platforms that enable passenger discovery could be asked to do a KYC on the carpooling drivers and prominently display the details both on the app and on the vehicle, like auto rickshaws.

Carpooling, with its potential to reduce use of multiple cars, has often been cited as one of the means to sustainable mobility. But does this automatically translate to traffic decongestion?

Taxi operators do not think so. They argue that the potential to rake in profits without regulation will beckon more car owners to take out their vehicles to carpool. Even employees would see benefit in getting out of their office buses and using carpooling as a side business.

Not everyone sees it this way. Having carpooled for years with the app, Quick Ride, Whitefield resident Pravir Bagrodia sees it as a "boon" for office-goers. "Without an app, I could carpool occasionally with a colleague. But the apps multiply the ability to carpool. I have used the app to complete 1,400 rides so far," he says.

Besides, in a city with grossly inadequate rail, Metro and bus connectivity is inadequate, carpooling is the right alternative, feels Mr. Bagrodia. "It is any day better than single-passenger cars. Pooling reduces congestion and pollution, and saves precious fuel and forex. Taxis and autos are either not available or charges range from ₹15 to ₹30 per km. They cannot meet the demand from office goers during peak hours," he adds.

## Apartment-level adoptions

Vikram Rai from the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) has also seen the benefits at close quarters, and is clear that any ban would be like throwing the baby with the bathwater. He says, "I know of large apartments having introduced some form of informal processes to facilitate carpooling in different directions where people

are headed to. Some have even created spaces in the common area, marking spots for people going in these directions to assemble and take a pooled car." Carpooling, he says, is part of the 'Personal to public' campaign to boost public transport. "The concerns around commercial implications, whether white board vehicles are behaving like yellow boards can all be addressed. Banning would be counter intuitive in a scenario with so much traffic. Some bit of minimum compliance could be built around the system with a structure, framework and guidelines," suggest Vikram.

## Question government

But urban mobility analyst Ashwin Mahesh has a completely different take on the whole issue. Carpooling, according to him, is not the point here. "The question to the government should not be if carpooling is legal or illegal. It should be about what they are doing to reduce vehicle numbers on the road. That should be the starting point. Carpooling should be a derivative of that larger question," he explains.

Is there a government strategy to reduce vehicles? "Let the minister make it clear. Also, since the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) bill has been passed, carpooling - clearly part of land transport - should be the domain of that Authority. BMLTA can put together a proper white paper on a carpooling policy. But they are not doing anything, they are just responding to each thing as it comes up. They don't have a road network development plan, a pedestrianisation plan or a public transport plan," says Mr. Mahesh.

**Source: The Hindu, p.9, Oct. 6, 2023**



# Canine terror: 1.6L bitten in state this year, but no rabies deaths in B'luru

## Two Fatalities Reported In Other Districts

Mini.Thomas@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Dog bite cases have risen sharply in Karnataka this year. The state has seen an average of 596 dog bites daily in the first nine months of the year. This figure accounts for over 34% and 37% increase compared to 2022 (445 cases daily) and 2021 (436 daily), respectively.

In the first nine months of 2023, Karnataka saw more cases than it witnessed during all of 2021 and 2022. The state registered 1,62,883 dog bite cases from January to September this year, according to health department data accessed by TOI. In comparison, 2022 saw 1,62,624 dog bites and 2021 witnessed 1,59,247 cases.

Burhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) areas, which usually figure among districts reporting the highest cases, saw 15,285 dog bites in the first nine months of 2023, with a daily average of 56, according to civic body data. The numbers were lower than in 2022 when 22,090 dog bites (60 per day) were reported, but more than in 2021



Photo for representation

**DANGER ALERT:** In the first nine months of 2023, Karnataka saw more cases of dog bites than it did in all of 2021 and 2022

“Rabies is a deadly viral infection spread by the saliva of infected animals (cats, dogs, bats, monkeys, etc). It's 100% fatal but preventable when the person bitten takes appropriate vaccination within 24 to 72 hours. Wash the wound gently with soap and running water before seeking medical help. If the wound is bleeding, apply compression

**Dr Malarvizhi Sanjeevi |**

HOD & CONSULTANT, EMERGENCY MEDICINE, GLENAGLES HOSPITALS, KENGERI

### Cases within BBMP zones

January	2,468
February	1,857
March	1,609
April	1,398
May	1,756
June	1,452
July	1,475
August	1,597
September	1,673

Source: BBMP | \* Data for 2023

which saw 13,520 dog bites (37 per day).

However, the number of deaths due to rabies has dipped. While two confirmed deaths due to rabies have been reported in Karnataka this year, the count stood at 15 last year. There have been no deaths due to rabies in Bengaluru this year. The corresponding number for 2022 was four.

Doctors say that in India, dogs, both pets and strays, are the commonest animals im-

plicated in the transmission of rabies. As the viral disease is incurable and 100% fatal, they say prevention is absolutely necessary.

“If there is even one drop of blood, it needs wound wash with detergent soap and water; besides rabies immunoglobulin or rabies monoclonal antibodies injected into the bite site along with five doses of anti-rabies vaccine. If it is just a scratch without bleeding, then wound

wash with soap and water and five doses of vaccine are enough,” explained Dr DH Ashwath Narayana, immediate past president, Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (AP-CRI), and professor of community medicine, KIMS, Bengaluru.

According to doctors, soap is a stronger agent compared to some popular antiseptic liquids and strong carbolic soaps such as cloth/ vessel

### TIMES VIEW

As cases of dog bite see an alarming rise in the state, it's time for all stakeholders to adopt a more proactive approach towards tackling this issue, and that involves us citizens. While it is the responsibility of the civic authorities to keep local health centres well-stocked with anti-rabies vaccines, it is also the duty of every citizen to stay alert and report any incident of dog bite to the health authorities at the earliest, so that prompt and effective medical care can be initiated. It is indeed heartening that according to one survey, 70% of stray dogs in Bengaluru have received at least one dose of anti-rabies vaccine. Let there be no let-up in that drive.

detergent bars destroy the virus. “The first step is thorough washing of the wound with soap and water. Antiseptics may be used thereafter. Also, it's very important that substances such as coffee powder, tree sap, lime, etc., aren't applied as they may promote entry of the virus into the nerve because of their corrosive chemical effect,” said Dr Preteesh Rohan Kiran, associate professor, department of community health, St John's Medical College.

Health commissioner D Randeep said some dog bites may not have been reported. “The person or his or her caretaker must have ignored it. They might have washed the wound and felt that was enough and the dog would have turned out to be rabid.”

### 70% strays vaccinated

As per a survey conducted by the Veterinary College, Hebbal, over 70% of street dogs in Bengaluru have antibodies in them, which indicate they have received at least one dose of anti-rabies vaccine. Experts say that if 70% of the dogs are vaccinated, the spread of the virus can be contained. “No rabies deaths have been reported within BBMP limits in recent times,” said KV Trilok Chandra, special commissioner, health, BBMP.

**Source: The Times of India, p.2, Oct. 6, 2023**

[Back to Contents](#)



## Environment

### Capturing the rains

India needs all-weather insurance  
against vagaries of global climate

**F**or the first time since 2018, India has reported a deficit monsoon. From June to September this year, India received 82 cm of rainfall, nearly 6% lower than the 89 cm that is considered 'normal'. Beginning April, there were enough indications that the monsoon would be subdued with an El Niño on the horizon. This cyclical warming of the central and eastern Pacific ocean usually corresponds to a decline in rainfall over India, particularly the north-west. Between 2019 and 2022, the Indian monsoon was significantly impacted by the converse phenomenon - a cooling La Niña - that sometimes is associated with above normal rainfall. By those metrics, the expectations of a normal monsoon in 2023 were muted. However, the experience of the monsoon this year was far from the ordinary. About 9% of the country received 'excess' rainfall with 18% getting 'deficient' and the rest of the country, 'normal' rainfall. While on one hand, August - the second-most important monsoon month - posted a third less than its normal, several States in north India, which were expecting minimal rainfall, were deluged following multiple episodes of record rainfall. July, for instance, saw exceptionally heavy rainfall in Chandigarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, resulting in floods and landslides. Several cities were left grappling with serious flooding over several days. Cloudbursts were reported in Himachal Pradesh in August. It is worthwhile to note here that these episodes of intense rain were due to so-called western disturbances that are extra tropical storms from the Mediterranean region and normally not expected to play a major part in the monsoon. Thus, these are fingerprints of the wide-ranging impacts of anthropogenic warming.

At the other end of the spectrum were drought-like conditions in Maharashtra. Extreme water stress was also reported out of Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Karnataka, where in the case of Karnataka, matters came to a head with neighbouring Tamil Nadu over the sharing of water from the Cauvery river. The India Meteorological Department has also forecast a 'normal' north-east monsoon from October to December and 'normal to above-normal rainfall' over large parts of north-west India and south peninsular India. The signs are there of increased rains in several parts of south India. The spatial and temporal variance of the monsoon reiterates the need to invest in more resilient infrastructure that can be an all-weather insurance against the increasingly unpredictable vagaries of the global climate. The pattern in recent years is to improve forecast models that are better able to warn of significant changes in weather a week or two ahead than having approaches that fail to capture the dynamics of the Indian monsoon. More money and expertise should be directed towards this.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Oct. 3, 2023**

# State notifies 5.7k acres as forest in just 120 days

Niranjan.Kaggere  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** In stark contrast to the growing nationwide trend of diverting forest land for non-forest use, Karnataka, over the past few months, has been adding to its existing forest area.

The department has notified a staggering 5,729 acres as a reserve forest in a span of about 120 days — a record of sorts. Several senior forest officials revealed that this is the first time in recent years that such a feat has been accomplished and attributed it to the new administrative setup at the secretariat level.

Documents from the forest, environment and ecology secretariat revealed the department approved 29 proposals between June and September, clawing back about 40% of the 5,000 hectares of forests that were diverted for non-forest purposes from 2008-2023.

Senior officials said any land parcel can be notified as a reserve forest under section 4 of the Karnataka Forest Act 1963, but the process of notification must go through several hoops as mandated under the Act.

“For example, a forest settlement officer must investigate if any person has any right over the land or its produce and must determine the existence, nature, and extent

of these rights. Subsequently, a proposal must be forwarded to the state government for official notification,” an official said.

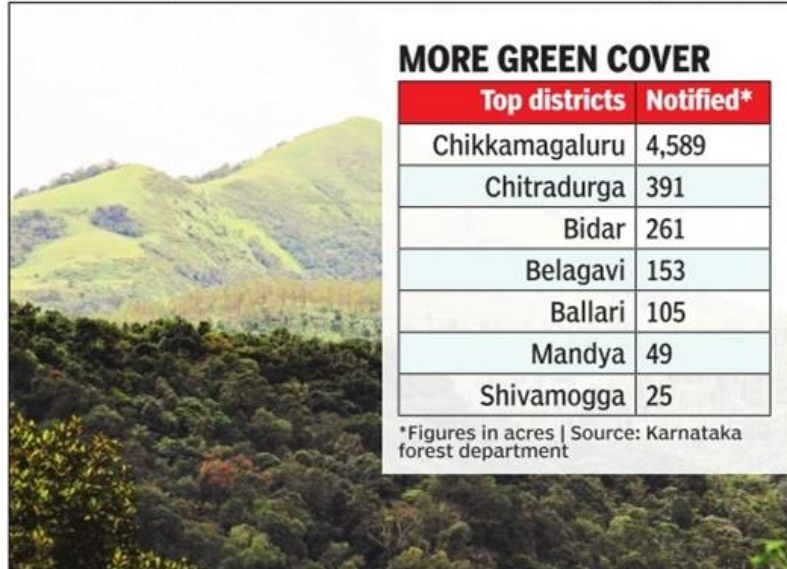
Asked if all the 29 proposals were fresh ones, the official said, “It is a continuous process. But all these years it would have been either stuck with the settlement officer or would have been held up at the secretariat. This is the first time that all proposals that were sent — at various times — to the secretariat have been approved and cleared by the forest minister on a fast-track basis. This has motivated us to work at the same speed.”

Forest minister Eshwar B Khandre said the aim is to protect the state’s existing 22% of forest cover and to increase it to more than 30%.

“We have seen the vagaries

of climate change and increasing incidents of human-animal conflicts,” Khandre said. “All of us have the responsibility of addressing these issues by expanding our forest cover. Chief minister Siddaramaiah said the same thing last week and asked our department officials to work towards increasing forest cover to 33%. Ever since I took over the reins, we have collectively ensured eviction of encroachment on more than 2,000 acres of forest land. Similarly, thanks to the efforts of our officials, we have been able to notify more than 5,700 acres of reserve forest.”

Demonstrating that charity must begin at home, Khandre has kickstarted the process by notifying 261 acres of land as reserve forest in his home district of Bidar.



**Source: The Times of India p.4, Oct. 4, 2023.**

[Back to Contents](#)



## Decentralisation

# Allocation of funds in State gram panchayats influenced by the elite, says World Bank research paper

'Funding is least representative of the needs of women and the Scheduled Castes, a clear indication of an elite bias'

**Nagesh Prabhu**  
BENGALURU

**T**hough the Karnataka government has taken many legislative measures to decentralise powers to rural local bodies during the last three decades, fund allocations in gram panchayats (GPs) are most influenced by the elite, according to a research paper of the World Bank. Men and 'upper' caste individuals in GPs ensure that their preferences are represented better in allocation of funds, it said.

"Funding is least representative of the needs of women and Scheduled Castes and this is a clear indication of an elite bias in funding allocations in elected GPs of Karnataka," said the report.

However, interestingly, women and people of Scheduled Caste communities see their preferences in GPs slightly better represented in elected GPs than their counterparts in administrator-led GPs, said the research paper "The added value of local democracy evidence from a natural experiment in India" (2023) authored by Abhish-ek Arora, Siddharth George, Vijayendra Rao, and M.R. Sharan.

## CM cautions people to be wary of 'Godse worshippers'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed disappointment over some people now openly endorsing Nathuram Godse, who shot Mahatma Gandhi in broad daylight, and cautioned citizens to be wary of such individuals.

Speaking at an award ceremony held by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Gandhi, perhaps the only man in the world who showed the world that freedom can be achieved through non-violence, was brutally shot by Godse. It is unfortunate that in independent India, there are now people who worship him. We should be wary of such people."

The research brought together a set of administrative dataset-budgetary allocations from 6,000 villages, more than a million public works projects, local bureaucratic attendance, welfare benefits,



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presenting the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Award to Garaga Kshetriya Seva Sangha, received by Basavaprabhu Hoskeri (second from left) and his team, at a function organised by the Karnataka Information and Public Information Department in Bengaluru on Monday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Mr. Siddaramaiah after recalling Gandhi's apartheid journey in South Africa and freedom struggle in India said he believed that a nation can only be developed if women are empowered. This thought of Gandhi inspired the Con-

gress government to launch Shakti and Gruha Lakshmi schemes, he said.

The Mahatma Gandhi Seva Award was given to Garaga Kshetriya Seva Sangha, the authorised weavers of the national flag.

pation in decision-making, and induce more effort by local bureaucrats. "Appointed administrators, on the other hand, are often outsiders," the study said.

The study elaborated this with the example of the surge in demand for NREGA work after the COVID-19 induced lockdown was lifted in the State. The study noted that GPs with elected leaders saw 15% more person-days under the job scheme. Researchers also found that elected members are likelier to engage with citizens on a continuous basis, holding more village meetings for taking decisions. "We find that elected leaders hold more general body and standing committee meetings which are likely to see greater public participation and delegation of tasks, respectively," the researchers pointed out.

On the other hand, administrators in GPs help overcome "home bias" and they get familiar with village matters by engaging with citizens and local bureaucrats in participatory forums. Before polls, the government appointed administrators in some GPs. They found that local bureaucrat attendance was higher by 10% in GPs led by elected leaders.

and a primary survey of over 11,810 households to estimate the impacts of local democracy in Karnataka.

The study indicated that local democracy outperformed appointed administrator regimes. Elected

leaders allocate funds more in line with citizen preferences and respond faster to citizens' acute needs. This is because elected leaders reside in the villages they govern, allow greater citizen partici-

**Source: The Hindu, Page 3., Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.**

# Karnataka Cabinet approves 33% quota for OBCs in ULB elections

Panel headed by former judge K. Bhakthavatsala recommended political representation for OBCs in urban local bodies

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he State Cabinet on Thursday accepted three recommendations, including providing reservation of 33% of the total seats in favour of OBCs in urban local body (ULB) elections, made by a commission headed by former judge K. Bhakthavatsala to study suitable political representation for other backward classes (OBCs) in ULB elections.

However, it rejected recommendations on the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 30 months in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the re-classifi-



H.K. Patil

cation of “backward classes”.

The Cabinet accepted the recommendation of providing reservation of 33% of total seats in favour of OBCs in ULB elections. The aggregate reservation of seats in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes, and the backward classes should not exceed 50% of the total seats in ULBs, said Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil after the Cabinet meeting.

#### 44% of population

Noting that 44.4% of the total population in Karnataka belonged to OBCs (including minorities), the commission in its report said that “the State in its wisdom and authority” had adopted the castes listed as OBCs for the purpose of education and employment, for purpose of political reservation on the ground that they were socially and politically backward in the State.

The panel submitted the report to the previous BJP government on July 21, 2022.

However, the High Court of Karnataka sought clarity on the authenticity of the data used in the report. Following which, the commission submitted the supplementary report. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accepted the supplementary report, sources in the government said.

It also accepted the recommendation on bringing all ULBs election wings under the control of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

The Cabinet rejected two recommendations. It turned down a suggestion on amendment to Section 10 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (KMC) Act, 1976, regarding the term of office of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 30 months.

The Cabinet also rejected the recommendation that “the State government may review the re-classification of ‘backward classes’ Category-A and B into two more categories of ‘backward classes’ for the purpose of effective reservation in favour of OBCs including minorities, before the next local body election that will be held in the year 2027 or 2028.”

**Source: The Hindu, P.11., Oct. 6, 2023.**

[Back to Contents](#)



# Governance

## Retribution for the south, accolade for the north

In Indian federal democracy, a State's relative population size gains political and economic significance. The strong linguistic identities and regional renaissances in political and social spheres propelled the southern States to scale greater heights in all spheres of development. In sharp contrast to the northern States, population control has been achieved in the southern States through social development and economic growth. In the federal political system, changes in population geography have a lasting impact on the political and economic geography.

### Delimitation and political representation

Article 81 of the Indian Constitution stipulates that Lok Sabha constituencies in the country should be equal by the size of population. Based on the 1971 Census, the number of Lok Sabha constituencies for States was determined and frozen for the next 25 years through the 42nd Amendment Act 1976. In 2001, through the 84th Amendment Act, the freeze on the number of constituencies for each State was further prolonged until the first Census after 2026.

The population growth rates differ between the non-Hindi speaking southern States and the Hindi-speaking northern States. Between 1971 and 2011, the proportion of the population of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh increased from 44% to 48.2%, whereas the proportion of population of the five southern States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana) declined from 24.9% to 21.1%. If equal size of Lok Sabha constituencies by population is enforced today as in the population projections of 2023, the five southern States will lose 23 seats, while the northern States will gain 37. In other words, the proportion of political representation of northern States will increase by 6.81% and that of southern States will decline by 4.24%.

The problem of balancing the political representation of sub-central units that have lower populations arises in all federations. For instance, Canada has been consistently increasing the proportion of representation in the national Parliament for the less populous provinces. The attempt to equalise the size of constituencies by population is based on the dictum, "One Person, One Vote". In a 'First-Past-the-Post' election system, along with a multi-party contest, voters know that only one of the contestants shall win, that is, the winner takes all. Often, winners are elected even with less than one-third of the votes polled. If we calculate the proportion of votes secured by the winner in a constituency, it may



**S. Raja Sethu Durai**

is Professor of Economics, University of Hyderabad



**R. Srinivasan**

is Member, State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu

The five southern States have effectively controlled their population and should not be penalised through reduced political representation

be less than one-fifth of registered voters or even one-sixth of the total population of the constituency. A targeted vote gathering by a candidate should help to secure a win in this system. To give a perspective, from the 2019 election numbers, we can see that a Member of Parliament from the northern States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh represent around 18 lakh registered electors, while the five southern State Member of Parliament represents 16 lakh registered electors. But in both these two groups of States, it requires only 12 lakh voters to elect a Member of Parliament. The real meaning of 'one person, one vote' is lost in this system. Hence, equating constituencies by the size of the population is not essential.

When family planning and population control are the stated policies of the national and regional governments in India, States that have implemented these policies and effectively controlled their population should not be penalised through reduced political representation in subsequent periods. Population control happens not only due to the implementation of family planning programmes but also because of the social change that is engineered by the leaders in the society. Population control in the southern States is a classic example of this feat. Therefore, reducing the proportional representation of southern States in the national Parliament is not only a disincentive for these States but also an incentive for others not to take population control and social change as public policy seriously. So, continuing with the freeze on the distribution of seats among States as they were in 1971 till the population stabilises in all States is the only way out.

### Role of population in fiscal transfers

Once in five years the Union government constitutes a Finance Commission to recommend, among other things, the share of each State in the assigned tax revenue of the Union government. Every Finance Commission recommends a formula for the horizontal distribution of the Union government's tax revenue among the States. Population and per capita income of a State are considered to be two important indicators that are always included in the distribution formula with larger weights.

Population of a State is a measure of demand for public expenditure. Therefore, it is an important variable in the distribution formula. The first Finance Commission decided a State's share based on its population size. The successive

Finance Commissions reduced the weight assigned to the population in the distribution formula while including other variables. The Union government, in its terms of reference to the Eighth Finance Commission (1984-89), stipulated to use only the 1971 population in the distribution instead of the 1981 population. This practice continued thereafter till the Thirteenth Finance Commission (2010-15). In terms of reference for the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Union government stipulated that apart from taking the 1971 population, the Commission may also consider demographic changes since 1971, wherever the population is to be used. Thus, for the first time, the established practice of rewarding the southern States for controlling the population was replaced by awarding the populous States. The terms of reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission openly declared taking the 2011 population in the distribution formula. With this, the southern States lost the advantage of getting some financial rewards for population control. Therefore, the southern States have already started facing reduced financial transfers from the Union government as a reward for controlling population growth.

There is another factor that consistently brings in the current population in the distribution formula – the per capita income of a State. The per capita income of a State is considered as a proxy for its ability to raise its own revenue. The higher the per capita income of a State, the lower its share in the Union tax revenue. Lower per capita income of a State may be due to higher population for a given Gross State Domestic Product. Therefore, the higher the current population of a State, the higher its share in the Union tax revenue. It is important to note that usually the per capita income is assigned larger weight in the distribution formula favouring the northern States. The combined share of the five southern States in the Union government's tax revenue from 2000-05 to 2021-26 declined from 21.1% to 15.8%. On the contrary, the combined share of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh increased from 51.5% to 53.2%.

Using the current population for delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies by equalising population and in the distribution formula for assignment of Union government tax revenue to States is clear retribution for the population control efforts of the southern States and a transparent accolade for the higher growth rate of population in the northern States.

*The views expressed are personal*

**Source: The Hindu, P.10., Oct. 5, 2023.**

[Back to Contents](#)

## Govt to monitor states for Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme

**To rank districts over maternal health of new mothers, education of girl children**

AMRITA MADHUKALYA  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**T**o monitor the performance of states for the Modi government's flagship scheme for the girls—Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao—the

women & child development ministry is bringing in the district-level monitoring score cards to come up with a ranking system of the states.

The ministry will rank them across a range of parameters that include the maternal

health of new mothers, the education of girl children and capacity building by the district officials.

Districts were earlier awarded as per their sex ratio rankings, but with the new ranking system, a three tier system will be made. At the national level, an apex committee headed by the WCD Secretary will look at the implementation of the scheme. Committees will also be formed in states to look at the implementation, while dis-

tricts will have a Mission Shakti Committee headed by the district collector.

The apex committee will meet once a year and review the implementation of the scheme in the states, while the state committees will meet twice a year to look at the implementation across districts. Mission Shakti Committees in the districts will meet every quarter.

Districts will also have to come up with a dedicated ac-

tion plan and a comprehensive web-based reporting system will be developed and put in place by the ministry to enable real-time monitoring of Mission Shakti, the section of the ministry which looks at women empowerment schemes. The web-enabled monitoring system will be back-ended by a portal which will monitor the programme on parameters such as establishment of service delivery structures, information about the network

of institutions available, services being provided, human resources, financial resources and beneficiaries.

Ministry officials said the district scorecard will evaluate the district on its sex ratio and on maternal parameters such as neonatal mortality, infant mortality rate, registrations of birth per 1,000 people, and institutional delivery, among a host of other parameters.

Complaints raised under the PCPNDT Act, events con-

ducted for the awareness of menstrual health, enrolment of girls in primary schools, the number of toilets for girls in schools, and capacity-building measures such as awareness camps, training of women's groups, etc.

The government also allocates over Rs 40 lakh for 169 districts across the country with a sex ratio below 918. In Karnataka, Mandya, Kolar, Ramnagara and Chikballapur districts receive the grant.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Oct. 2, 2023.**



# The cost of 'honour': Intercaste couples pay with their lives

ANITHA PAILOOR  
KOLAR, DHNS

**A vicious blend of casteist and patriarchal systems continues to claim the lives of young people as legal protections and investigation mechanisms lag behind**

**W**e feel sorry for Keerthi's family but I do not think her father's act was wrong," Janakamma (name changed) echoes the sentiment of a majority of the privileged caste residents of Bodgurki village in Kolar district, which saw an honourless killing three months ago.

Janakamma is referring to the murder of 20-year-old Keerthi who was strangled by her father Krishnamurthy, a plumber from the Golla community, after she fell in love with 23-year-old Gangadhar from the Madiga community. After hearing the news, Gangadhar died by suicide the next day.

The chilling deaths do not seem to have shaken the conscience of the village.

Honourless killing, commonly referred to as 'honour killing', is a heinous act of crime against a family member or outsider. The crime is generally committed by members of privileged communities when a girl is in a marital or premarital relationship with a person from a marginalised caste. This extreme form of violence, reported largely in rural areas and small towns, emanates from patriarchal traditions and caste prejudice



Kolar's Bodgurki village witnessed an honourless killing in June. The victim's lover died by suicide soon after. In pic, his mother mourns beside his photo.  
DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

### INSIGHT

entrenched in society.

In Bodgurki, the Gollas, an Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, is privileged (38% of the population). The Madigas, on the other hand, are the most oppressed of the Dalit communities. They do not wield any economic, social or political power in the village despite forming nearly 40% of the population.

The divide between these communities is so vast that Janakamma recalls another incident from a year ago, when Gowthami from the Golla community married Pushparaj from the Madiga community. "I have heard people saying 'Why are they still alive, even after their daughter brought shame to the family by marrying someone who is at the lowest end of the caste hierarchy?' No parent should face that situation," she told *DH*.

"Keerthi's parents lost their daughter but have their dignity intact," the mother of a 19-year-old said, even as her daughter frowned disapprovingly.

Feeling alienated, Gowthami and Pushparaj had to leave the village permanently and settle down in a town. The only other instance of an intercaste marriage in the village was 15 years ago — between Venkatesh from the Madiga community and Veni from the Golla community. They have not been able to return to the village since.

► Honourless killings, Page 2

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Oct. 1, 2023**



# Support systems lacking

## Honourless killings from Page 1

The latest instance turned tragic when the couple, who kept their relationship under wraps, was spotted by Keerthi's relatives. The discovery resulted in the immediate house arrest of Keerthi, explains Gangadhar's sister-in-law Aruna.

Keerthi and Gangadhar lived on adjacent roads. "We realised that they were in love the day before Gangadhar's death. Keerthi rushed to our house pleading for help on that day. We were in shock while her mother dragged her away, using casteist slurs. We did not realise that Keerthi was at death's door..." she says. Keerthi's father was arrested after he confessed to the murder.

### Gender

A fact-finding report on the Bodgurki deaths exposes just how heavily gender weighs in on these matters. While members of Gangadhar's family are seeking justice for the death of their son, asserting that his suicide was abetted by members of Keerthi's family, no one has come forward to speak on behalf of Keerthi, seeking justice for her brutal murder.

Vasanthamma is one of the few residents in the village who recognises this. "Her mother cannot even mourn her death. In this village, love and relationships are buried under the misconceived notions of family pride and honour," she says.

"It was wrong on Keerthi's part to go against the wishes of her father and family, but her father had no right to kill her," says Vasanthamma, a member of the Madiga community.

### Vigilante justice

Ideas of purity and caste and gender prejudices persist because villagers have built informal systems to keep these notions alive. In Bodgurki, villagers have constituted an informal forum called the 'nyaya panchayat', wherein civil and criminal disputes are mediated.

"Harmony has been restored in the village. In fact, there has been a sense of camaraderie amongst various communities historically," says BV Parthasarathy, a gram panchayat member from the village. He belongs to the Golla community. "But differences crop up when people cross caste boundaries," he says.

Nine centuries after Basavanna advocated for intercaste marriages with the vision of a casteless society, nine decades after Dr Ambedkar said, "I am convinced that the real remedy is inter-marriage," and eight decades after Mahatma Gandhi officiated an intercaste marriage in Belagavi, perhaps the first in his presence—youths live continue to be at stake for looking beyond caste in their choice of partners.

Women across castes and men from deprived communities, particularly Dalits, bear the brunt of society's inability to break free from the grip of 'honour' and 'shame' derived from caste at birth.

Three cases of honourless killings were reported in Karnataka between June and August—two from Kolar and one from Tumakuru. In every instance, the families, particularly fathers, killed their daughters for choosing Dalit men as partners.

In another suspected case of honourless killing in Kolar, a boy was allegedly murdered after a member of the girl's family witnessed them engaged in a conversation. Here, the perpetrators of violence allegedly belonged to the Holeya community, a Dalit caste, and the victim belonged to the Madiga community.

Of these four cases, police say, only two can be categorised as 'honour killings'. The other two are recorded as murders due to insufficient evidence.

In Kolar's Totli, for instance, a man from the Vokkaliga community killed his 19-year-old daughter and rushed to bury

her body with the help of his brothers. When DH visited the village, residents revealed that the family had a conflict over the girl's association with a Dalit boy from a neighbouring village. The issue, according to Lokesh, an inspector in Kolar, is that the case could not be considered an 'honour' killing as apart from rumours in the village, no one had come forward to give a statement about the relationship. The father and his accomplices have been arrested in connection with the murder.

### A sharp rise

As many as eight cases have been reported in Karnataka in the past 15 months, resulting in the death of nine young people (six female and three male). This is a sharp rise compared to one death recorded in 2021, according to a report by the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB). But for one case in Bagalkot, all victims were between the ages of 17 and 25.

"We see a lot of intercaste marriages in the age group of 19 to 23. This is the age when youngsters want to explore life and are sexually curious. Rural areas and small towns do not allow that kind of space or anonymity for youngsters. Forget dating, customs still do not allow individuals from different genders to strike up a personal conversation," says KR Disha, a researcher at IIT-Bombay. She has been studying intercaste marriages in Karnataka.

The result of this kind of atmosphere is that, even before the young couple decides whether to continue a relationship, they are forced to make a decision or face the consequences. "That is why a majority of the victims of honourless killings are from this age group," she says.

Contrary to the historical pattern of men (from oppressed communities) being killed, we can see a growing number of women (from privileged communities) becoming targets in these honourless killings.

"This change can be traced back to the enactment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The emergence of Dalit movements also provided protection to Dalit men, making it difficult for privileged castes to target them. Consequently, families end up killing their own daughters," says Mallige, a human rights activist based out of Mandya. She advocates for similar legal provisions and grassroots movements for the protection of women.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, India witnessed 530 honourless killings since 2015. This was included as a crime category only after 2014. While Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana top the chart in terms of officially recorded honourless killings, recent incidents have put the focus on Karnataka.

### Legal framework

Like in the Totli murder, evidence for honourless killings can be hard to come by—as family members are likely to conceal their intentions. Activists say that honourless killing is more prevalent in the country than the recorded data reveals. In Karnataka, an analysis of such killings reported in newspapers, and those recorded in SCRB, indicates that the actual numbers are higher than officially recorded.

Efforts to cover up the act, evident in more recent cases, also result in underreporting. For instance, in Tumakuru, the crime came to light a few days after the murder, when villagers grew suspicious and alerted the police.

In Ballari, the father allegedly pushed his minor daughter into the canal and said that she died by suicide. In Bagalkot, family members allegedly killed a girl and her partner and filed a missing complaint.

"We do not have a mechanism to report honourless killings. Also, the current legal and criminal investigation provisions do not have a separate category for the same. A ground survey is a prerequisite to know the gravity of the situation. Simultaneous

## In pursuit of 'honour'

The United Nations Population Fund estimates that as many as **5,000** women are killed annually for reasons of 'honour'.

Due to underreporting, other estimates project the number is close to **20,000**.

More than **530** honourless killings have been reported in India since 2015. Since June of last year, 8 suspected cases of honourless killings have been reported in Karnataka alone.

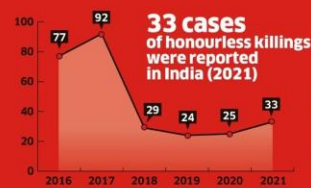
### Jharkhand has witnessed the highest number of honourless killings since 2017

State	2017-21
Jharkhand	62
Punjab	23
Maharashtra	19
Uttar Pradesh	16
Haryana	14
Madhya Pradesh	10
Himachal Pradesh	9
Gujarat	6
Andhra Pradesh	5
Kerala	4
Rajasthan	4
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Tamil Nadu	3
Telangana	3
Uttarakhand	3
Bihar	2
Chhattisgarh	1
Goa	1
Karnataka	1
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Odisha	1
Assam	0
Manipur	0
Nagaland	0
Sikkim	0
Tripura	0
West Bengal	0

### “

The current legal framework is strong enough to address 'honour killing' violence. 'Honour killing' is not as institutionalised in Karnataka as it is in Haryana and other North Indian states by Khap Panchayats. Hence, the current legal framework is robust enough. Promoting intercaste marriages is a vital step toward dismantling caste-based discrimination and promoting social harmony in our state.

**Siddaramaiah**, Chief Minister, Karnataka



### RECENT CASES IN KARNATAKA

- Aug 2023**  
Father kills his 19-year-old daughter and buries the body in Totli in Kolar district allegedly because she was in love with a boy from a different caste.
- July 2023**  
In Kolar, a boy from the Madiga community was killed after he was seen with a girl from the Holeya community. The family of the girl allegedly killed the boy and dumped the body in a farm pond.
- June 2023**  
Man kills his 20-year-old daughter, Keerthi, for falling in love with Gangadhar, a youth belonging to Dalit community, at Bodgurki village near Bangarpet town in Kolar.
- June 2023**  
In Tumakuru, the father, brother and uncle of a 17-year-old girl kill her and cremate the body allegedly because she was in love with a boy from a Scheduled Caste.
- Dec 2022**  
In Bagalkot, a 34-year-old man belonging to the Jain community was allegedly killed by his father-in-law who is from a privileged caste.
- Oct 2022**  
In Ballari, a father allegedly kills his minor daughter by pushing her into a canal as she was in love with a boy from a different caste.
- Oct 2022**  
In Bagalkot, a minor girl and her lover were allegedly murdered and their bodies dumped into the Krishna river.
- June 2022**  
A minor girl, aged 17, was killed by her father in Periyapatna in Mysuru district as she was in love with a Dalit boy.

ly, the government should push for a legal framework to address this crime. Sensitisation of the police is also imperative," says human rights advocate Maitreyi Krishnan.

Apart from insufficiency in the law, Justice H N Nagamohan Das says, social movements that support intercaste marriages are lacking in the current times. "Honourless killing is a complex issue that has social, economic and political layers. We can tackle this only through an active collaboration between society and government departments," he says.

### Caste hegemony

In fact, "honour-based violence is stark when the privileged community involved is aggressive due to the social, political and economic power it holds," says V L Narasimhamurthy, an English professor in Bengaluru.

He cites a recent marriage in Doddaballapur where both families—SC and OBC—made peace with the couple in four months. "This is because even though the girl's family is high up in the caste hierarchy, their population and economic status matched that of the male partner," he says.

Narasimhamurthy and his wife Kavya are still waiting for the approval of Kavya's parents four years after their wedding. In 2019, their efforts to unite, with the parents' consent, turned violent. "Elders like Devanur Mahadeva, Ravivarma Kumar and B Shripad Bhat were present to speak to my parents and convince them. But my father was in no mood to listen," narates Kavya. She belongs to a Scheduled Tribe while Narasimhamurthy is from a Scheduled Caste.

"The general notion is that there is little difference between SCs and STs as both come under the reserved category. But the reality is different. Our community is powerful in the Tumakuru and Chitradurga belt," she says.

Her father was angry with her for choosing a man from a caste perceived to be lower in the caste hierarchy.

Kavya was under house arrest for 15 days, after which she was able to convince her father to take her to a predetermined location to meet with Narasimhamurthy and others. The meeting turned ugly.

Narasimhamurthy and Kavya had to leave abruptly. Kavya remains regretful for the pain she feels she has caused to her parents and her brother. Her subsequent attempts to speak to her family over the phone have failed.

Witnessing her father's anger, her well-wishers have advised her against going to the village until he invites her.

She also shares the predicament of a friend from her caste who married a man from the Vokkaliga community, which has a higher social, economic and political status. "Both families opposed the marriage initially. Her parents came to terms with them in a couple of months. However, her partner's family does not allow her into the house and they have not accepted her even after a year," Kavya says.

While his wife is not invited, he chooses to attend family events. In several cases, the support and stand of the male partner have been shown to have a positive correlation with familial acceptance.

In other cases, Koppal-based social worker Virupama says, women from oppressed communities are even made to live away from their partner or forced to file for a divorce by the privileged caste family.

While living away from both villages has helped Kavya and Narasimhamurthy forge a strong bond, stable income has also contributed to their successful marriage. Narasimhamurthy was 32 years old and Kavya was a 26-year-old at the time of their marriage.

While there are government schemes that provide financial support to intercaste couples (that involve Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribe communities), recent data shows a drop in the number of takers.

Apart from a lack of awareness, administrative hurdles might be a reason for this decline, says Ravi Bhagi from Ramanagara, who has facilitated around 50 intercaste marriages over the last two decades. Isolated efforts like that of his team are bright spots in a society which forces intercaste couples to either flee their hometowns, cut bonds with their families or face death.

Ultimately families are failing to, "accept the truth or reality that their children can make their own choices to marry outside their caste or religion," says Manjula Pradeep, a human rights advocate.

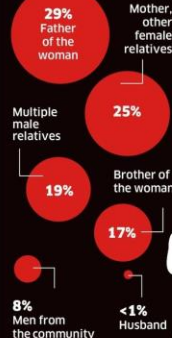
### Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: [insight@deccanherald.co.in](mailto:insight@deccanherald.co.in)

## INDIA'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Honourless killings are largely tried under the Indian Penal Code—Sections 107-11 (abetting murder), 120A and 120B, 299-304 (murder and culpable homicide), and 307-308 (attempt to murder) and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The National Crime Records Bureau has noted that due to the lack of proper definitions, crimes like honourless killings may be excluded from final reports.
- Several Bills have been proposed to curb honourless killings in the country, but none have come into force yet.
- A Report by the Law Commission in 2012 proposed a draft Bill with provisions for inter-caste couples to seek protection. It was subsequently passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 2019, but awaits the Governor's assent.
- Specific legislation is needed to address honourless killings. These laws can provide for the protection of couples marrying outside their religion, caste, or community.
- Measures need to be taken to address the harassment, intimidation, kidnapping, coercion, confinement and assault that couples typically endure before the issue is escalated to a killing.
- New legislation would aid data collection and better reporting.

## PERPETRATORS OF HONOURLESS KILLINGS



Source: Oxford Human Rights Hub, Centre for Law and Policy Research, 'For the Sake of Family and Tradition: Honour Killings in India and Pakistan', news reports.

COMPILED BY SWEETHRITHI K D/GRAPHIC: SANKAR GANESH T



# Caste census: Report expected in Nov. but unlikely to be publicised before LS polls

Organisations of Veerashaivas and Vokkaligas, the dominant communities opposed to the census report, to meet to decide on course of action

Sharath S. Srivatsa  
BENGALURU

**A**mid clamour to publicise the Socio-Economic and Education Survey (popularly called Caste Census) conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes in 2015-2016, dominant caste groups are coming together to oppose the report, which is likely to be submitted in November this year. The report, even if submitted in November, according to government sources, is unlikely to be made public before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Commission Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde, whose tenure is set to end in November, told *The Hindu* that the commission will submit the report by November end, and that the final work on the report is currently under way. "All the data is ready and the preparation of a report/synopsis is currently being done. The report will be submitted at the end of November," he said.

## Mounting pressure

Pressure is mounting on the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government to accept the census report after the Bihar government publicised similar data. The Congress is demand-



A file photo of members of backward classes communities seeking the release of the caste census report in Gadag. After the Bihar government publicised its caste survey data, the pressure is mounting on the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government to accept the census report.

ing a similar nation-wide exercise.

However, while a top government source said that it is unlikely that the report will be published before the Parliamentary polls, the two dominant land owning caste groups – Lingayats/Veerashaivas and Vokkaligas whose population according to the leaked data is pegged at 14% and 11%, respectively – are opposed to it. The commission, then led by H. Kantharaj, had conducted the survey in 2015-16. The two communities claim that their numbers are far higher than what the leaked data from the report indicated.

The government had

spent ₹162 crore on the census exercise. Mr. Siddaramaiah himself on multiple occasions before and soon after Assembly elections announced that his government will accept the report. While the report was ready around the end of Mr. Siddaramaiah's previous tenure in 2018, three Chief Ministers since then – H.D. Kumaraswamy, B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai – had stayed away from accepting the report that is likely to churn political alignments in the State.

Bringing pressure on the government, senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad, who is learnt to be disgruntled after being ig-

nored for the Cabinet berth, on Tuesday said, "Our leader Rahul Gandhi has raised voice on the injustice meted out to Backward Classes. Karnataka – like Bihar – should show the heart to release the census report that is ready."

## Joint meeting shortly

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of representatives from Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha and Vokkaliga Misalathi (Reservation) Horata Samithi, backed by the four seers of the community and Vokkaliga Sangha, is set to meet shortly. The government is also under pressure from legislators and Ministers from the two

dominant communities to not act on the report as it could undermine the pivotal places the communities have held in Karnataka's politics.

Veerashaiva Mahasabha Secretary H.M. Renuka Prasanna said that the meeting of Central and State committee office-bearers in Davangere on October 6 will discuss the census issue. "The Mahasabha and the Vokkaliga Horata Samithi had held three joint meetings in 2016 after which a joint memorandum had been submitted to the government against the census. How can the community numbers go down in 2015 in comparison with data collected by Chinnappa Reddy and Havanur Commissions," he asked.

Echoing similar sentiments, Horata Samithi president G.N. Srikantaiah said that they had written to the government to reject the report. "The enumerators did not go door to door. The census has tried to divide the community by counting people under 45 different sub-castes. We are not opposed to a new census if done scientifically," he said. The samithi has been demanding that the legislators and Ministers from the community speak up against the report, he added.

**Report will be released 'when time comes': Ministers**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MYSURU

Welcoming the release of the findings of the caste survey by the Bihar government, Minister for Backward Classes Shivaraj Tangadagi and Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa said the caste census data conducted in Karnataka too will be released at an appropriate time.

Fielding reporters' queries in Mysuru on Tuesday, Mr. Tangadagi said a survey had been carried out to gather information about the social, educational and economic status of people during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's previous tenure at the helm of affairs in the State. "It (caste census report) will be released when the time comes," he said responding to queries from reporters. When asked if there was any pressure on the government against releasing the report on the survey because of its contents, Mr. Tangadagi said, "Nobody has seen the report. So, why will there be opposition or pressure against the report?"

**Source: The Hindu, P.6., Oct. 4, 2023.**

# ಜಾತಿಗಣತಿ ಅಜ್ಞಾತವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆ?

ಕಾಂತರಾಜ ಆಯೋಗದ ವರದಿಯೋ, ಹಾಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ವರದಿಯೋ ಎಂಬ ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆ

• ರಾಜೀಶ್ ರೈ ಚಟ್ಟ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿಯ (ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ) ವರದಿ ಈಗಲಾದರೂ ಅಜ್ಞಾತವಾಸ ದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬರಲಿದೆಯೇ ಎಂಬ ತುರುಸಿನ ಚರ್ಚೆ ಶುರುವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಹಾರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಜಾತಿಗಣತಿ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಚರ್ಚೆ ಈಗ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಕಾವು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ತಕ್ಷಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ, ಅತಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಜಾತಿ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಗಳು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪಾಲು ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಜಾತಿಗಳ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳು ಒತ್ತಡ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದು ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಇಕ್ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೆ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹಿಡಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧವಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

6ನೇ ಪ್ರುಟ ನೋಡಿ

## ವಿರೋಧದ ವಾದವೇನು?

- ಜಾತಿ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಜಾತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯ ಕೈತಪ್ಪುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ
- ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದರೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಜಾತಿ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳಿಂದ ಒತ್ತಡ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ
- ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವಂಚಿತವಾದ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪಾಲು ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆತಂಕ

## ಪರ ವಾದವೇನು?

- ಹಿಂದುಳಿದಿರುವಿಕೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಾತಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ
- ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ 'ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ'ಗಳ ಮರು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ ಸಾಧ್ಯ
- ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ವಂಚಿತ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಅಳತೆಗೋಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನೀಡಬಹುದು

- 2011ರ ಜನಗಣತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 6.30 ಕೋಟಿ
- 6 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರನ್ನು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ
- ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 99, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 84ರಷ್ಟು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ
- ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟಜಾತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 101, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದಲ್ಲಿ 51 ಜಾತಿಗಳಿವೆ
- ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ 816 ಇತರ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪಜಾತಿಗಳು ನೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1,351 ಜಾತಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತು 55 ಮಾನದಂಡ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ

## 'ನವೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ'

'ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ನವೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದೊಳಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಅವಧಿಯೂ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ಮುಗಿಯಲಿದೆ. ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರು ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು.



ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರರ ಜತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಅವರು, 'ಬಿಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ ಜಾತಿ ಜನಗಣತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವರದಿ ಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಯಾರ ಒತ್ತಡವೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ' ಎಂದರು.

## 'ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ ವರದಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ'



'ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಆಯೋಗವು ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ನಮಗೆ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ವರದಿ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದರು.

'ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ

ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸರ್ವೆಗೆ ನಾನೇ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದೆ. ವರದಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮುನ್ನ ನಮ್ಮ ಅವಧಿ ಮುಗಿಯಿತು. ನಂತರ ಬಂದ ಸಮಿಶ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವರದಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಅದು ಹಾಗೇ ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ವರದಿ ನೀಡುವುದು ಆಯೋಗದ ಈಗಿನ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ಅವರ ಕೆಲಸ. ಅವರು ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನೇಮಿಸಿದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದೊಂದು ತೊಡಕಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

Continued ...



# ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಅಜ್ಞಾತವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆ?

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ತಮ್ಮ ಅವಧಿ (ನ. 26) ಮುಗಿಯುವುದರೊಳಗೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಯೋಗದ ಹಾಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕೆ. ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕಾಂತರಾಜ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಯಥಾಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಿದೆಯೇ? ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಆಯೋಗ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಿದೆಯೇ ಎಂಬ ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆ ಮೂಡಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟರಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿವೆ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಏನು ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಆಗಿದ್ದಾಗ (2013-2018) ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ವರದಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ₹158.47 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿದೆ. ವರದಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ಜೆಡಿಎಸ್-ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸಮ್ಮಿಶ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಜಾತಿಗಣತಿ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ವರದಿಗೆ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಆಯೋಗದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಆಯೋಗದ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಹಿ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ವರದಿಯ

ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಭಾಗವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗಗಳ ಮರು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣದ ವರದಿಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸಹಿ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದರೂ, 'ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮುದ್ರೆ' (ಅಂದಿನ ಆಯೋಗದ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಹಿ) ಬಿದ್ದಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನಂತರ ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕಾಂತರಾಜ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಯಥಾಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಈ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದೆ.

ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಹಿಂದಿನ ಆಯೋಗ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ವರದಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಐವರು ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಭೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಪ್ರವರ್ಗಗಳ ಮರು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ, ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಬೇಕಾದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಹಾಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ತಜ್ಞರು ಬುಧವಾರ (ಅ.4) ಮತ್ತೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ, ಕಾಂತರಾಜ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಅವಧಿಯ ಆಯೋಗದ ಕೆಲವು ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷಾ ವರದಿಯ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೂಲಗಳು 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.1 &6, Oct. 4, 2023

[Back to Contents](#)