



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

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AGRICULTURE

Drought takes its toll on the yield of city's favourite bean

Farmers are doubting if even 5% of avarekai crop they have grown can be harvested this year; trouble began for them from the sowing season itself as germination did not take place properly

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The drought situation in Karnataka has taken its toll on the seasonal favourite avarekai too, leaving farmers doubting if even 5% yield can be harvested this year. Avarekai, usually hits the market around the winter season and the demand peaks during the festival of Sankranti in January. As the southwest monsoon was deficient, the rain-dependent crop has withered away in the growing regions around Bengaluru.

Trouble began for farmers from the sowing season itself as germination did not take place properly. Plants that managed to get past that stage struggled with leafing and bean formation. "Most farmers could not sow the seeds as there was no rain. Some took up sowing on small patches in their fields and



Farmers say that with no regional supply of avarekai, the crop coming from Andhra Pradesh might dominate the markets in Bengaluru this time. FILE PHOTO

even those plants wilted in the heat," explained Anjaneya Reddy, a farmer representative from Kolar district.

In Magadi taluk

Similarly, in Magadi taluk – a hub for avarekai and from where many vegetables coming to Bengaluru are grown – farmers claimed that the entire crop has been destroyed.

Chennathimmaiah, a farmer from the region, said, "The crops have died without rain. No farmer in the entire taluk has had any luck with avarekai in the last three years. We spend close to ₹50,000 on cultivating each acre and this time I spent around ₹2 lakh and I have no hopes of recovering any money." He added that farmers are expecting Chief Minister Sid-

daramaiah to provide them relief of ₹25,000 per acre.

No misty weather

Raita sangha leader Mallikarjun Kunnur said avarekai growers across the State had been affected by the unfavourable weather conditions this year. "By October, there should be light rain and a chill in the air for avarekai crop to grow well. This time, the weather is similar to that of summer in March and without that dew and misty weather, it has been a difficult time for avarekai farmers," Mr. Kunnur said.

The farmers also pointed out that with no regional supply of avarekai to the markets, the crop coming from Andhra Pradesh might dominate the markets in Bengaluru, leading to a steep hike in the price. "It might go anywhere from ₹60 to ₹100 a kg," they said.

Source: The Hindu, p.2, Oct. 30, 2023

Onion price skyrockets as arrivals drop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Not just avarekai, but several other crops, especially onions, have also been affected by drought in the State. As severe crop loss has been reported from Chitradurga, the major onion-growing belt in the State, the prices of onions have skyrocketed in the market. Onion is being sold at over ₹60 a kg in the retail market of the city for a week now.

“During this time of the year, in a normal year, the Yeshwantpur APMC yard would receive over 1,000 loads of onions from Chalakere in Chitradurga every day. But there has been widespread crop damage due to drought and the arrivals are less than 100 loads a day, which is less than 10% than usual. This has pushed up the price of onions,” said Ravi Kumar of Bangalore Potato and Onion Traders’ Association. He said even supply from Maharashtra had reduced also a trickle when compared with previous years.

However, the quality of

onions available now in the market has improved many folds when compared with that of those arriving in the previous month. “The new onions are red and are of very good quality. For over a month now, the only available onions were old onions, with their skin peeled out,” Ravi Kumar said. The old ‘peeled out’ onions are still available in the market for lower prices.

Based on a prediction in July-August that the price of onions will skyrocket this season, the Union government is implementing several measures to keep it in check, including one on Saturday. The Union government has fixed a minimum export price for onions at \$800 per tonne till December 31. This is a non-competitive price and will discourage exports, industry insiders said.

“This move may lead to farmers dumping the crop they are holding in the market, which may bring a correction in the prices soon,” a senior procurement officer with a chain grocery store in the city, said.

Source: The Hindu, p.2, Oct. 30, 2023

Cauvery woes: Erratic distribution of rainfall a major concern in Kodagu

Planters in the district fear that uneven distribution during different months of the monsoon this year may result in loss of coffee and pepper crops to the tune of ₹850 crore

DROUGHT AND DISTRESS

B.S. Satish Kumar
MADIKERI

It is not just deficit monsoon that is worrying farmers in Kodagu, which is the main catchment area and place of origin of river Cauvery. This hilly district in Karnataka, which accounts for about 36% of India's coffee production besides the country's best quality pepper, is concerned over uneven distribution of rainfall. The planters here fear that uneven distribution during different months of the monsoon this year may result in loss of coffee and pepper crop to the tune of ₹850 crore.

Bose Mandanna, former vice-chairman of Coffee Board and an expert on Kodagu's climate, says the loss of ₹850 crore is a very conservative estimate arrived at by considering 25% loss in coffee yield, accounting for ₹750 crore, and 20% in pepper yield amounting to ₹100 crore.

He observes that coffee requires 60 to 80 inches of evenly distributed rain in a year. But of late, the rainfall has not been evenly distributed in various months in Kodagu.

"It remains dry when we need rain, and it rains when it should be dry," he says.

Showers of various kind

"We need blossom showers in February-March for Robusta variety of coffee, and in March-April for Arabica variety of coffee. If it rains during this time, then there is nearly 80% of assurance of good crop yield. After 20 days to a month later, we need backing showers. Later, when the fruits develop, we need further rains," he explains.

Such consistency in rain pattern, which was regular for centuries, is not being seen now due to the impact of climate change. The situation has been particularly bad this year, he notes.

Referring to the cumulative deficit of 42% rainfall



Bose Mandanna, former member of Coffee Board of India and an expert on coffee industry as well as Kodagu ecosystem, at his coffee estate in Kodagu district. K. MURALI KUMAR

Biodiversity expert calls for collating rainfall data from farmers

B.S. Satish Kumar
MADIKERI

Expressing concern over the change in rainfall pattern and temperature in Kodagu, an expert well versed with the hilly district's ecosystem has suggested that the government should ask research centres to collate rainfall data from farmers' rain gauges to study the impact of climate change on the district's ecosystem as well as catchment area of river Cauvery.

"Kodagu has a practice of almost all the farmers keeping rain gauges in their estates and maintaining daily rainfall data for several decades. The government should ask reputed research centres to get such data from farmers to assess the impact of climate change," says C.G. Kushalappa, former dean of College of Forestry, Ponnampet and

in Southwest Monsoon in Kodagu this year, he says, "It has created multiple problems of high temperature and lack of moisture.



The rainfall measuring instrument. K. MURALI KUMAR

an expert on Kodagu's ecosystem.

"The need of the hour is to study and understand the patterns related to impact of climate change on different areas of Kodagu through micro-level data," he says.

This is because the impact of climate change varies in different areas within the small district.

Analysis of rainfall data from 110 farmers had showed a pattern of rainfall going below 50% of average two times once in 12 years.

Coffee requires temperatures below 35 degrees Celsius. While generally the temperatures are going up as an impact of climate



Pepper grown at a coffee estate in Kodagu district. K. MURALI KUMAR

change, the increase in temperature can be clearly felt this year due to deficit monsoon that has reduced moisture."

No more springs

He points out that springs, which are an integral part of the district's ecosystem, have not come to life at all this year, as the area did not receive rain as expected during June, July and August.

"Springs actually replenish river Cauvery river and its tributaries. But absence of springs has affected flow in Cauvery this time. Also, from agricultural perspective, whatever water we have now will dry up as soon as rains end because there is no continuous water supply in the form of springs. Though there are some rains now, they will not help in recharging groundwater," he points out.

He says, "Climate change has made the weather system completely unpredictable. The farmer, who depends on the traditional and time tested calendar of events for agricultural operations, is caught off guard.

"Earlier, the annual rainfall in Kodagu would vary from 40 inches to 250 inches, depending upon the location. But now there are areas which are witnessing heavy rains while other areas remain dry." Kodagu district president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Manu Somaiiah says this would only increase the burden of loan and push farmers towards selling their land. Such a trend would further affect the Kodagu ecosystem by increasing commercialisation.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Oct. 30, 2023

Govt inks pact with ICRISAT for new drought-resistant crops

'New varieties will be validated by VRDC-Dharwad, agri varsities'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Seed Corporation Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on Monday to introduce drought-resistant varieties of crops in the state for the next three years.

The agreement was inked in the presence of Agriculture Minister N Chaluvaryaswamy.

"The KSSCL supplies on an average 3.5 lakh quintals of seeds of different crop varieties annually. With this MoU, the KSSCL looks to strength-

en its product portfolio by introducing new improved varieties in sorghum, groundnut, chickpea, pigeon pea, bajra, and minor millets for the benefit of the state farmers," a statement released by the Agriculture minister's office explained.

The statement added that these new varieties will be validated by Varietal Research and Development Center (VRDC), KSSC, Dharwad and in collaboration with the state agricultural universities for identification and release of varieties in different crops.

"During the three-year agreement period, drought and disease resistant cultivars will be introduced on fast track mode to benefit the farmers of the state which in turn helps to increase the average productivity of these crops in the state," the statement explained.

In a related development, Cheluvaryaswamy met a 13-member delegation of the

KSSCL STATEMENT

During the three-year agreement period, drought and disease resistant cultivars will be introduced on fast track mode to benefit the farmers of the state which in turn helps to increase the average productivity of these crops in the state.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to organise Namma Rajya Namma Krishi Sammelana - to give boost in promoting agro-based industries across the state.

The Agriculture minister assured that the state government would encourage local industrialists to set up agro-based industries instead of depending on other countries.

The minister assured that the state government would come out with a policy on the lines of Andhra Pradesh to

allow private industrialists to import better quality seeds from foreign countries. "With Bengaluru emerging on a global map, the state can also set up Regional Plant Quarantine centers on the lines of Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi to facilitate importing seeds from outside by simplifying import regulations," the minister stated.

He also added that the state government would come out with a policy on lines of Maharashtra to enable sugar farmers to use sugarcane harvesting equipment in the state.

"The Agriculture department has procured about 150 sugarcane harvesting equipment under the farm mechanization scheme. However, none of the farmers came forward to register due to substantial rise in the registration cost. Farmers have sought the government's intervention to reduce the registration cost," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Oct. 31, 2023

ನಿತ್ಯ 2,600 ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ಶಿಫಾರಸು

ಕಾವೇರಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಆಘಾತ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 15ರವರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ 2,600 ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್ (ಒಟ್ಟು 3.5 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ) ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ವಿನಿತ್ ಗುಪ್ತ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಸಮಿತಿಯ 89ನೇ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವಾದಕ್ಕೆ ಮನ್ನಣೆ ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸಭೆ ಬುಧವಾರ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳದ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಹರಿವು ಶೂನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಈ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 58.95 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ ನೀರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಇಂತಹ

ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ				
ಜಲಾಶಯ	ಜಲಾಶಯದ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ (ಟಿಎಂಸಿ)	ಈಗಿರುವ ನೀರು (ಟಿಎಂಸಿ)	ಒಳಹರಿವು (ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್)	ಹೊರಹರಿವು (ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್)
ಹಾರಂಗಿ	8.50	5.82	139	1700
ಹೇಮಾವತಿ	37.10	17.43	315	5970
ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್	49.45	22.41	531	567
ಕಬಿನಿ	19.52	13.29	196	300



ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳದಲ್ಲಿ 51

ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ ನೀರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಬೇಕಾದಷ್ಟು ನೀರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿದೆ. ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಹರಿಸಲು ನೀರೇ ಇಲ್ಲ **ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್** ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ

ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಕಮ ಮಳೆಯಾದರೆ ನೀರು ಬಿಡುವ

ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಲೋಚನೆ ನಡೆಸಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದರು.

‘ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 110.80 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ ನೀರು ಇತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 51ರಷ್ಟು ನೀರಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಸಹ ಈ ನೀರು ಸಾಲದು’ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

5ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

Continued...

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಆಘಾತ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎನ್‌ಎಂಡಿಎಂಸಿ ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ನಾಲ್ಕು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಹರಿವು ಶೂನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಹೊರಹರಿವಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 6,737 ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್.

ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, 'ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಸಲ ನೆಪ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಈವರೆಗೆ 130 ಟೀಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿಯಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, 60 ಟೀಎಂಸಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನೀರು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ 13 ಸಾವಿರ ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್ (ಒಟ್ಟು 16.90 ಟೀಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ) ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಕೋರಿದರು.

ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಸಮಿತಿಯು, ಬಿಳಿಗುಂಡ್ಲು ಮಾಪನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ 2,600 ಕ್ಯೂಸೆಕ್ ನೀರು ಹರಿವು ಖಾತರಿಪಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿತು.

Source: Prajavani, Oct. 31, 2023

Crisis looms as K'taka records 62% rainfall deficit in October

5-year-low in B'luru as ground water levels plunge

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

After the state recorded a poor monsoon, all hopes were on the northeast monsoons to bring some relief. However, in October, Karnataka recorded a 62% deficit in rainfall, indicating that the state may face a huge water crisis in the coming days.

According to scientists from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), of the three months of northeast monsoon (October, November and December), heavy rains were ex-

pected in October but that has failed. Data showed only two districts — Kodagu and Mysuru — received normal rainfall as expected for the month.

Ballari was the most affected in the state since it received no rainfall in October, recording a 100% deficit. While most of the Northern Karnataka districts recorded over 90% deficit, Vijayanagara, Koppal, Raichur and Gadag recorded a 99% deficit.

The predictions for November also seem to be gloomy with the IMD indicating that most of the districts will re-



The predictions for November also seem to be gloomy with the IMD indicating that most of the districts will receive less than average rainfall. DH FILE PHOTO

ceive less than average rainfall. "Except for a few districts in south interior Karnataka, most other districts will receive less than average rainfall. Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Mysuru and Belagavi might receive close to normal

rainfall," said A Prasad, senior scientist at IMD Bengaluru.

A few districts will receive heavy rainfall from next week and a yellow alert has been issued for Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan for November 4 and November 5.

The coastal districts might also receive moderate rainfall starting next week, the officials said.

Owing to the lack of rain, temperature across the state might also go up by as much as two degrees Celsius.

This October, Bengaluru received close to 96 mm of rainfall, a 48% deficit as compared to the normal average for the city. This is the lowest rainfall received in October over the last five years. Bengaluru also recorded a 21% deficit in monsoon rains, leaving most of the borewells dry even as the groundwater levels plunged.

As is the prediction for most other districts, Bengaluru will yet again receive less than expected rains in November. The maximum temperature which is expected to hover around 27.4 degrees Celsius might go up to 28 degrees Celsius, the IMD officials said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3C, Nov. 1, 2023

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Decentralisation

Common database of civic bodies to check property tax leakage

The database, which is being created, is also expected to provide automated facilities to citizens

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Many citizens in Bengaluru recently received messages from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to link their RR numbers and PID in one of its portals, leaving them confused. It has to be noted that the linking is a part of the creation of a new united database of property IDs (PIDs), and power and water connection IDs to address the leakage in property tax collection. After a recent High Court order, the E-governance Department along with the Urban Development Department is creating this common database.

The database, along with the regulation of property tax, is also expected to help automate many facilities for citizens. The Urban Development Department will engage with the



The E-governance Department and the Urban Development Department are involved in the project.

agencies which will help municipalities implement this programme.

“It is a big task, and it will take some time. Many facilities provided to property owners can be automated with the same database,” said Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department.

He added, “In the urban administration, many things are missing from major radars, especially in Bengaluru. There are a large number of properties which have not been ac-

counted for under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) or the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). Every property should have some identification number from the civic body it falls under as it will provide them a totality of how much tax should be paid.”

Speaking about the integration of PID, and water and power connection IDs, Mr. Singh said that it would be difficult for people to escape from the radar of Escoms as it is not easy to forge electricity connec-

tions. “For proper identification of properties, we need common property IDs, which would also be essential to provide all services in a relatively seamless and uniform manner,” he added.

The BBMP also has its own roadmap to tackle the challenges that come with property tax collection, Chief Civic Commissioner of Bengaluru Tushar Giri Nath said. “Sometimes at the time of collection, the PID will not match with the property as there will be more than one Bescom ID number. Due to this, our officers would have to do more groundwork,” Mr. Giri Nath said. While taking measures for integration with other civic bodies, the BBMP is also referring to the Urban Property Ownership Records drone survey which was conducted by the Revenue Department to identify properties.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Oct. 29, 2023

Staff shortage, financial dependency plague local governance

Most Indian cities lack transparency and do not publish accessible civic and financial data

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

An annual survey of Indian cities shows that a majority of local governments are financially dependent on their State governments. They also have limited control over who to hire and how to distribute work. The report found that only Assam empowers its city governments to collect all key taxes. Except five States – Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Meghalaya, and Rajasthan – all the others have to get approval from the State before borrowing money.

The report, Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2023, was published by the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, a non-profit institution.

Table 1 shows this asymmetry of power across four city categories – megacities (>4 million (mn) population), large cities (1-4 mn), medium cities (0.5 mn-1 mn), small cities (<0.5 mn). It shows that while megacities have more of a say over their finances, their mayors do not have a five-year tenure and are not directly elected. On the other hand, more mayors in smaller cities have a five-year tenure and are directly elected, but lack a say on the city's finances.

The report also shows that mayors and councils have limited power in staff appointments and promotions. For instance, only a handful of States have empowered their city governments to appoint municipal commissioners. In fact, no city has complete power over its staff. Cities especially lack control over their senior management teams who are deputed directly by State governments, which makes it tough to initiate disciplinary proceedings against them if needed. The report says because of this, they are not able to build a "strong organisation or exact accountability" from the workers.

The report also speaks of the lack of transparency in publishing

cities' civic information which citizens can access easily. Only 11 of the 35 States/Union Territories have enacted the Public Disclosure Law that mandates publishing of key civic data. As shown in **Chart 2**, one capital city in India publishes its internal audit report and two publish annual reports. Eleven of them publish their minutes of meeting and 17 make available their decision making process.

More important is financial transparency, where the city has to make available its overall budget, budget for each ward, and financial statements every quarter and also annually. Data show that no city publishes a quarterly financial audited statement. As shown in **Table 3**, only 28% of them disseminate their annual audited financial statements. The number goes down further to 17% if only the mega cities are considered. While bigger cities do publish their city budgets, smaller cities lag there with just 40%-65% of them publishing that information. Worrisomely none of the mega, large, and medium capital cities publish their internal audit information.

Due to poor control over appointment of staff, the local governments suffer from high levels of unfilled posts. Data show that 35% of posts in India's municipal corporations are vacant. The vacancy progressively worsens with 41% posts being vacant among municipalities and 58% being vacant in town panchayats (**Chart 4**).

A comparison with other metropolises such as New York, London and Johannesburg shows that such a crippling shortage of staff is limited to Indian cities. **Chart 5** shows the number of city staff per one lakh population. There are 5,906 city workers in New York and 2,936 in London for every one lakh population compared to just 317 in Bengaluru, 586 in Hyderabad, and 938 in Mumbai. Cities such as New York also been empowered to impose taxes, approve their own budget, invest and borrow without approval.

Limitless cities, limited power

The charts and tables were sourced from the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) 2023 published by Janaagraha, a Bengaluru-based non-profit



City lights: A view of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation building, ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

Table 1 | The table shows asymmetry of mayor/council powers across various city categories

Percentage of cities...	Mega	Large	Medium	Small	Total
with a five-year mayoral tenure	38%	68%	67%	84%	83%
with a directly elected Mayor	0%	39%	33%	36%	36%
that can approve the city budget	75%	34%	40%	11%	12%
that can borrow without the prior sanction of the State	13%	16%	12%	15%	15%
that can invest without the prior sanction of the State	75%	63%	40%	42%	42%
that have complete power over their staff	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
that can levy all key taxes	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%
Average no. of functions devolved by law (number)	11	8	13	11	9
Total population (in mn)	57.84	57.88	28.93	173.9	318.5

Mega cities (>4 million population), large cities (1-4 million), medium cities (5,00,000-1 million), small cities (<5,00,000)

Table 3 | The table shows the asymmetry of financial transparency in the capital cities of India. Figures denote % of capital cities

Type of data	Mega	Large	Medium	Small	Total
Annual audited financial statement	17%	50%	29%	23%	28%
Quarterly audited financial statement	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
City budget	100%	100%	57%	38%	66%
Ward budget	17%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Internal audit	0%	0%	0%	8%	3%

Chart 2 | The chart shows the availability of civic data in capital cities



Chart 4 | The chart shows the vacancy (in %) in local governance

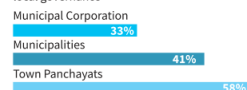
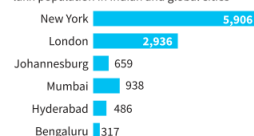


Chart 5 | The chart shows municipal staff per lakh population in Indian and global cities



Source: The Hindu, p.13, Nov. 1, 2023

Urban local bodies to get new 3,081 public toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission

The Bench on Thursday recalled its earlier order of imposing a cost of ₹5 lakh for failing to respond to a PIL, as the government has come out with positive response to the petition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that 3,081 new public toilets, 2,725 new public urinals, and 1,223 new public e-toilets at various tourist destinations would be constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission in the 310 urban local bodies across the State, and 600 of these public toilets would be constructed in Bengaluru city. For construction of these public toilet blocks, the estimated cost is ₹37.22 crores and for the construction of urinal blocks the estimated cost is ₹8.72 crores and for or e-toilets it is ₹30.58 crores, it has been stated in the affidavit filed by Ajay Nagabhushan M.N., Secretary, Urban Development Department. The estimated cost for constructing 600 toilets would be ₹9 crore with each toilet costing around ₹1.5 lakh, the affidavit stated.

The affidavit was filed before a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit during the hearing of a PIL petition filed by Letzkit Foundation, Bengaluru, which had raised issues related to lack of sufficient number of public toilets and maintenance of existing toilets in Bengaluru city. During earlier hearing, the Bench had imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the State



government for failing to respond to the PIL for the last three years and even for a specific direction issued by the court on August 8 to file response within three weeks. However, the Bench on Thursday recalled its earlier order of imposing the cost as the government has come out with positive response to the petition and placed its action plan for construct-

ing toilets not only in Bengaluru city but in various urban local bodies across the State. Also, it has been stated in the affidavit that that as per 2011 census, excluding BBMP, Karnataka's urban population is 1,57,84,378. The projected population for the year 2026 is 2,01,27,666 and floating population will be five percent of the projected population, which is about 10 lakhs. Based on this, the State has to provide one closet/toilet seat for 250 persons. All municipal corporations have been directed to formulate a comprehensive scheme for the construction of toilets/for women walking on the streets and create a committee for this purpose as per the court's August 8 direction, it has been stated in the affidavit.

Source: The Hindu, p.3, Nov. 3, 2023

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KIADB eyes Rs 4k cr in dues in 4 months, industries question cost escalation

Entrepreneurs want relaxation for small industries facing Covid effect

SHRUTHI H M SASTRY
BENGALURU, DHNS

A city-based entrepreneur was in for a rude shock recently when the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) asked him to cover land escalation cost amounting to Rs 2 crore, for an industrial plot allotted to him in 2008 at Rs 57 lakh per acre.

This is how it unfolded: In 2008, he was allotted an industrial plot at Dobbsspet at Rs 57 lakh per acre, five years after which he was required to pay additional amount to cover escalated land price.

With the plot being entangled in disputes with local farmers over inadequate government compensation for land, it was only in April 2022 that the entrepreneur finally got the lease-cum-sale deed.

By then, the price of the plot had escalated to Rs 1.37 crore. In July this year, the Board sent another notice for him to pay Rs 61.14 lakh more, with the total cost of the plot adding up to nearly Rs 2 crore, leaving the entrepreneur flummoxed.

Seeking justice

The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) has now written to the KIADB seeking justice for the entrepreneur.

KASSIA president Shashidhara Shetty told *DH* this is but one of the several such cases.

Entrepreneurs are at a loss to pay such exorbitant sums as they cannot repeatedly raise bank loans, he says.



“

Lands are acquired for industries to generate revenue for the state. As long as the industry is operational within the stipulated time, the government's goal should not be escalation of price, but generation of investment

— R V Deshpande,
former minister

Notices issued

Following a recent review meeting where it was found that the KIADB had to get Rs 4,248 crore in dues for plots allotted to 5,932 industries over the years, the Board has begun issuing notices with a target to collect all dues within four months.

As much as 50% of the pending dues pertain to the difference amount arising from escalation of land prices, according to KIADB officials.

The remaining half of the dues include cases where people have paid only 30% of the initial amount for a plot without paying the rest, which they are required to



“

The Board has to generate its own revenue and does not receive funds from the government. As such, we are required to pass on all the costs to industries.

— M B Patil,
Industries minister

within 90 days.

Tentative price

The government allots plots to industrialists at a tentative price. The project is expected to start within three years of land allotment, upon which the government gives lease-cum-sale deed to the industrialist.

At that point, an additional cost including land escalation price and infrastructure charges are levied. Within 10 years, the project must be completed and sale deed obtained.

“The Board has to generate its own revenue and does not receive funds from the

government. As such, we are required to pass on all the costs to industries,” Industries Minister M B Patil says, urging industries to pay dues at the earliest.

A 2018 government order caps this price escalation to 20% of the tentative amount collected from industries.

The order notes that the escalated prices are over a 100% in several cases. The KIADB must also declare the final price within two years of issuing the lease-cum-sale deed, the order stated, noting that prices are increased several years after land allotment.

Industrialists say KIADB is flouting this norm. Even though the ceiling is applicable retrospectively for projects, the KIADB has failed to extend the benefits.

Other lands

As a result of such exorbitant costs, 96% of the entrepreneurs operate from private estates and revenue land without approaching KIADB, Shetty says.

Industrialists who spoke to *DH* explain that much time and money is wasted as these plots are tied up in litigations with farmers.

Industrialist and former president of FKCCI Sampath Raman said the problem has grown more complex post-Covid as industries are still reeling under losses.

“The government must act against willful defaulters, but extend time for dues for those who have a genuine problem,” he urges.

The government must incorporate the projected land cost at the time of plot allotment, KASSIA general secretary Nagaraju Sopines.

Former industries minister R V Deshpande points out that the government must not speculate about land prices.

“Lands are acquired for industries to generate revenue for the state. As long as the industry is operational within the stipulated time, the government's goal should not be escalation of price, but generation of investment,” he says.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Oct. 29, 2023

More work does not necessarily translate into more productivity

12

GST collection hits 2nd highest mark on festive demand surge

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Monthly revenue collection from Goods and Services Tax (GST) surged by 13% year-on-year to Rs 1.72 lakh crore in October, the second highest ever, indicating strong momentum in the economy and improved compliance, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The highest ever GST collection was recorded in April 2023, at Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

The average gross monthly GST collection in the current financial year till October stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore, which is 11% higher when compared with the same period's average of last year. In September 2023, the GST revenue collection stood at Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

"The sales push towards the end of September quarter, coupled with higher consum-

Manufacturing PMI at 8-month low

India's manufacturing activities growth declined to an eight-month low in October due to slower demands and high cost pressure that also hit hiring activities and business confidence, an industry survey by S&P Global showed.

Details on Page 12

er demand due to festivals may have contributed to the increase as well," said Pratik Jain, Partner at PwC India.

According to data released by the Union Finance Ministry, the gross GST revenue collected in October stood at Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

► **GST, Page 5**

Continued....

GST collection hits 2nd highest mark on festive demand surge

GST, from Page 1

Of this, Rs 30,062 crore is Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Rs 38,171 crore is State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), Rs 91,315 crore is Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and Rs 12,456 crore is cess.

“GST collections recorded a meaningful sequential uptick to a higher than anticipated Rs 1.72 lakh crore in October 2023, benefiting from quarter-end adjustments related to transactions in the previous month as well as the overall momentum in the economy,” said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.

With this, the pace of year-on-year growth jumped to a 10-month high in October 2023, which is encouraging. At present, we project the CGST collections to mildly exceed the FY 2023-24 budget

estimate, she added.

The government has settled Rs 42,873 crore to CGST and Rs 36,614 crore to SGST from IGST, the Union finance ministry said in a statement.

The total revenue of the Centre and the states in October 2023 after regular settlement is Rs 72,934 crore for CGST and Rs 74,785 crore for SGST. Pre-settlement SGST in Karnataka in the April-October period of the current financial year rose to Rs 23,400 crore from Rs 20,165 crore recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year, registering year-on-year growth of 16%. Post-settlement of state share from IGST, Karnataka received Rs Rs 42,657 crore in revenue in the October period of the current fiscal from Rs 37,924 crore recorded in the corresponding period of 2022-23, registering a growth of 12%.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&5, Nov 2, 2023

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EDUCATION

54,600 students enrol in engg courses; 4k more than last year

No. Of Vacant Govt Quota Seats Falls From 14k To 10k

SruthySusan.Ullas
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Bengaluru: At least 54,659 students have taken admission to undergraduate engineering courses (government quota seats) in government and private colleges this year, an increase of over 4,000 from last year's 50,272.

Admissions to the courses closed in the state on Monday. Around 64,000 government engineering seats were available in the state this year, according to data with Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The number of vacant government quota seats has fallen from around 14,000 last year to 10,000 this year, said Ramya S, executive director, KEA. This year, 50,272 students were admitted till October 10, which was the first cutoff date for admissions as per All India Council for Technical Education. KEA returned around 10,000 unfilled seats to colleges.

When the last date was extended to October 30, KEA requested the colleges to return the seats. About 200 were returned. While allowing students to directly approach private colleges for admissions in the final round, KEA filled 50 government college seats at its end. Admissions done by the colleges have not



Interestingly, the 60 seats in top private colleges in Bengaluru that were suspected to be part of the seat-blocking scam did not return to KEA in the final round. They were filled by the colleges themselves

been included in the final count given by KEA.

Vice-chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) S Vidyashankar said the increase is because of the rise in the number of students passing out of schools and PU colleges. "After Covid-19, the number of students passing out of PU colleges has gone up. Additionally, our engineering programmes have been updated and are attracting more students now," he said.

Over 2 lakh students were eligible for engineering admissions this year.

Ali Khwaja, founder of Banjara Academy, said the increase in admissions could be because computer science and its allied programmes are being sought after. "Career choices are like a swinging pendulum — a course becomes popular and everyone goes for it. And then it loses po-

pularity. Programmes like computer science, artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science are in vogue now. Colleges too have increased seats in these courses. While other engineering streams have suffered, CS and allied programmes have attracted a large number of takers," he said.

Interestingly, the 60 seats in top private colleges in Bengaluru that were suspected to be part of the seat-blocking scam did not return to KEA in the final round. They were filled by the colleges themselves.

Higher education minister MC Sudhakar had pointed out that around 60 seats in four top colleges had been unfilled and returned to the institutes. That the seats from the most sought-after streams and colleges were unfilled had raised doubts of seat blocking, he had admitted.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Nov 2, 2023

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Environment

Use of CNG gaining momentum in Bengaluru, says GAIL Gas

GAIL Gas currently sells 1.9 lakh kg of CNG a day and has over 100 stations in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru already has over 51,000 registered Compressed Natural Gas vehicles, and the use of CNG as an intercity fuel has been gaining momentum here, said GAIL Gas Ltd. on Wednesday.

GAIL Gas currently sells 1.9 lakh kg of CNG a day in the city, driven by the tourist corridor involving Mysuru, Hosur, Tumakuru, Ramanagar, Hyderabad and Dakshina Kannada (GAIL Gas).

The oil PSU, which currently has over 100 CNG stations network in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, said it has plans to expand its CNG network in the city by adding another 200 CNG stations.

It already laid 2,000 km of pipeline network across the city to make CNG available in Lalbagh, K.R. Puram, Koramangala, J.P. Nagar, K.H. Road, Vijaynagar, Thanisandra, Mysore Road, Attibele,



A GAIL Gas CNG station on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Yelahanka, HSR Layout, Whitefield, Sarjapur, Banashankari, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Peenya, Hoskote, Airport Road, Bagalur, Nelamangla, Tumkur Road, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Jigni, and Bommasandra, said the company.

GAIL Gas Ltd launched a two-month CNG Promotional Scheme in Bengaluru to make journeys more

cost-effective, environment-friendly and rewarding, said the oil PSU in a communique on Wednesday.

The CNG Promotional Scheme was designed to incentivise the use of clean and efficient Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for commercial vehicles. This initiative would encourage the adoption of the fuel by offering significant advantages to both new and retrofitted

commercial vehicles, said Hirdesh Kumar, CGM (CGD) and officer in charge, Bengaluru.

At the current prices of petrol and diesel in Bengaluru, CNG cars offer around 40% and 25% savings as compared to its petrol and diesel variant respectively.

Further, CNG passenger autos offer savings of around 55% as compared to their Petrol Variant, claimed the PSU.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov 3,, 2023

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Health

Major health problems seeing spike post Covid: Docs

More heart disease, stroke cases, say B'loru doctors, call for detailed study

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Doctors in Bengaluru are seeing an increase in cases of people with heart diseases, stroke and other major medical conditions following the pandemic, prompting medical professionals to call for a detailed study into the matter.

The development comes against the backdrop of a recent survey done by LocalCircles, a community social media platform.

In the survey, close to 72% of the 11,480

respondents from across 322 districts in the country said that at least one of their close contacts had witnessed severe medical conditions (brain stroke, cardiac arrest, heart attack, cancer acceleration) in the last three and a half years that were marked by immense physical and emotional suffering.

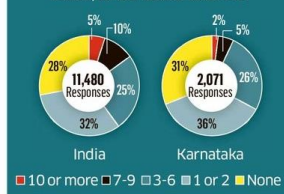
"There is definitely an increase in the number of patients presenting with stroke symptoms, heart disease, brain stroke and seizures. We cannot accurately relate it to the pandemic," said Dr Poonam Chandrashekar Awatara, consultant (neurology).

Dr Poonam said during the initial days of the pandemic, there were more patients with "blood clots either in brain arteries or heart arteries", which helped them to "draw out" a connection.

"Now, we will have to look at the severity of the Covid infection and other factors. This has to be studied in depth," said Dr Poonam.

Talking point of the survey

How many people do you have in your close social network (family, extended family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, etc.) who have had medical conditions like brain stroke, cardiac arrest, heart attack, cancer acceleration etc?



According to doctors, along with heart diseases, the number of cases involving neurological weakness, seizures and brain strokes has also gone up.

While the pandemic may or may not have a hand in triggering these conditions, doctors pointed out that lifestyle changes such as work from home coupled with increased stress and anxiety may have been a major cause of heart disease in youngsters.

"After the pandemic, we have noticed more young people facing heart problems, diabetes, high cholesterol, and high BP," Dr Sreekanth B Shetty, senior consultant and head of interventional cardiology. "These issues were not as common before the pandemic. We are not sure if this is a lasting change or just due to the lifestyle change. There has also been a small increase in heart attacks among young patients after Covid-19, and more young people are dealing with obesity, diabetes, high cholesterol and high BP."

Dr Awatara added that an increase in stress owing to pandemic-induced financial losses and other personal blows might have had an impact on physical health.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Oct. 28, 2023

State objects to NMC guidelines on capping medical seats

'This order will adversely impact healthcare in South India, including Karnataka. This is an arbitrary decision taken by the Union government without consulting stakeholders'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to file its objections to recent guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC) fixing the number of medical seats in a State in proportion to its population. The NMC has fixed a ratio of 100 undergraduate medical seats to the population of every million.

If the new guidelines were to come into force, it would be a long time before the State could open any new medical college – government or private. Given that the State's population is estimated to be 6.73 crore, it can have 6,700 undergraduate medical seats as per these norms. However, the State already has 11,745 medical seats.

This will essentially



The National Medical Commission has fixed a ratio of 100 UG medical seats to the population of every million.

mean a freeze on the addition of new medical seats in most south Indian States, even as many north Indian States – where the ratio of medical seats to population is far lower than what has been prescribed – will get to add most of the new medical colleges in the near future. Apart from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu has also voiced its objections to the new guidelines.

"This order will adverse-

ly impact healthcare in South India, including Karnataka. This is an arbitrary decision taken by the Union government without consulting any stakeholders. Therefore, we are not going to abide by these guidelines and we will file our objections soon. We are committed to our 'One district, one medical college' policy and we will start new government medical colleges in every district soon," said Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

However, the NMC has defended its decision.

"Various courts had made observations on the crowding of medical colleges in certain regions. For example, recently, in the case of K. Vasudevan vs. State of Tamil Nadu and others, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court cautioned the NMC against crowding of medical colleg-

es...Taking these aspects into consideration, and with an objective of providing the right teaching environment to medical students and improving the overall quality of education, the provision of limiting undergraduate seats in each State to 100 per million population has been included in the recently notified Minimum Standards Requirements guidelines 2023," the NMC said in a statement recently.

"It is expected that this will reduce regional disparities in the availability of healthcare professionals and will go a long way in ensuring effective quality of education. With this ratio, there will still be potential for the addition of about 40,000 MBBS seats in the country if the medical colleges are evenly distributed," it said, defending the move.

Source: The Hindu, p.3, Oct. 30, 2023

20% of young heart-attack patients had no conventional risks: Study

Mini.Thomas@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Of the 5,500 young heart-attack patients admitted to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research (SJICSR) in Bengaluru between 2014 and 2020, about 20% did not have any of the conventional risk factors.

This was among the interesting findings of an ongoing study which analysed data from heart patients aged between 18 and 45 years and admitted at Jayadeva hospital. Titled the Premature Heart Attack Study, the analysis showed that about 8% of the heart-attack patients were young women under 45 years of age. The increasing burden of cardiovascular disease among women in the city is worrying, Dr CN Manjunath, senior cardiologist and director,



@JAYADEVA HOSP

SJICSR told TOI. Three decades ago, the incidence of heart disease among women was much lower. The vascular protective effect of hormones in women seems to be fading away, he added.

So, what has led to the rise in cardiovascular disease among those considered to be 'immune' to it? A risk factor analysis done by researchers at the hospital showed

that both acute and chronic stressors are responsible for the increase in incidence of cardiovascular diseases. Chronic stress could be one of the reasons that has led to rise in cardiovascular disease, particularly among women, said Dr Manjunath.

"When somebody is under constant stress, it increases heart rate and blood pressure. Chronic stress results in the release of stress

hormones into the blood stream. Excessive release of catecholamines could lead to shrinkage of the arteries that supply oxygen to the heart muscles. In such cases, the individual can suffer a heart attack or a heart failure. This is known as takotsubo cardiomyopathy (broken heart syndrome). It is a well-established entity," explained Dr Manjunath.

Among the other unconventional risk factors contributing to a rise in heart diseases are air pollution, polycystic ovary disease, pre-diabetes, fatty liver disease, hormonal imbalances, drug abuse and changes in diet.

About 51% of the cohort studied were smokers, 20% had high blood pressure and diabetes, 30% had high cholesterol and 17% had a strong family history of premature heart attacks.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Oct. 30, 2023

Health ATMs a shot in the arm for rural diagnostics

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

Kalaburagi's 'health ATMs', which were introduced to meet the heavy demand for affordable healthcare, are receiving a good response.

Thousands of people have undergone health tests with the help of 25 machines installed in the villages of Jewargi, Chittapur, Aland, Chincholi, Sedam, Afzalpur taluks and Kalaburagi city. Over 200 people used the facility in a month at one location alone.

The machines were launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav last month in a first-of-its-kind effort in the state.

Like an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in banks, the health ATMs have touch-screen kiosk hardware designed for health-related information. The ATMs allow both invasive and non-invasive blood tests along with blood pressure, diabetes and haemoglobin tests. The machines have provisions for heart check-ups, blood and glucose levels, oxygen saturation level tests and even HIV tests. In total, they can conduct over 50 tests and a person can undergo all basic tests within 20-30 minutes.

The machines are installed near select government hospitals or primary healthcare

centres. All the tests conducted by these machines are not self-administered and require the assistance of a nurse and a lab technician attached to the government medical facility. Oxygen tests, blood pressure and obesity tests can be self-administered.

"Health ATMs is a good concept as it helps the poor to undergo check-ups free of cost. More such machines should be installed in remote areas," said Madevi Sasaragaon, a resident of Kalagi town.

The medical staff who are operating the ATMs are facing extra workload in the absence of dedicated staff to operate the machines. At some places, health officials have deployed final-year MBBS graduates from Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) to operate the machines.

"More than 200 people underwent tests at the government hospital in Manikeshwari colony in Kalaburagi last month. We have to operate the machine besides catering to the healthcare needs of a 60,000-strong population in five municipal wards," said Pavitra Patil, hospital lab technician. District health officer Dr Rajashekhar Mali said the ATMs have received an overwhelming response. "We will increase the number of machines if the department gets more funds," he said.



A health ATM in Kalaburagi.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Oct. 31, 2023

K'taka on high alert after Zika virus found in mosquito sample

Chikkaballapur/Bengaluru: Karnataka is on a high alert after Zika virus was detected in a mosquito sample collected from Chikkaballapur district, **report Ranganath K & Mini P Thomas.** The sample was collected from Talakayalabetta village in Sidlaghatta taluk on September 25.

This is the first time that Zika virus has been detected in Karnataka. As thousands of people travel daily to Bengaluru and other places from Chikkaballapur, they have been advised to follow certain precautionary measures.

Health department officials said mosquitoes, people with fever and pregnant women from 68 places from across the state have been randomly tested for Zika virus infections over the past couple of months.

38 samples collected from dist for testing

► **Continued from page 1**

According to the state health department, a 30-year-old man from Dibburahalli, a 38-year-old woman from Talakayalabetta and a 50-year-old woman from Bachchanahalli were detected with fever. Their blood samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for confirmation.

Zika virus is transmitted

by the Aedes mosquito. Symptoms include rashes, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise and headache. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific treatment available for this infection.

Following detection of the virus, preventive measures are being taken by Karnataka health department in Talakayalabetta, Venkatapura, Dibburahalli, Bacchanahalli and Vaddahalli that fall within

a five-kilometre radius of Talakayalabetta, said Dr SS Mahesh Kumar, district health Officer, Chikkaballapur. So far, 38 blood samples have been collected from the district for testing, of which 31 are from pregnant women, the health official said. "Steps are being taken to collect samples from two other pregnant women who have gone to their native villages," he added.

Full report: toi.in

Source: The Times of India, p.1&6, Nov 3, 2023

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Trapped in a **binary** system, **trans** people denied basic rights

In addition to welfare, a rights-based approach is required to enable progress and build sustainable livelihoods, families and futures for the trans community

VARSHA GOWDA
BENGALURU, DHNS

On the hollow eve of 47-year-old Janasya's* death, her closest friends, those she considered family, were forced to contend once again with statements that questioned the core of their existence and gender identities.

"Her parents kept referring to her as their 'son'. They quickly performed the funeral, before any questions arose," says Uma P, a Bengaluru-based transgender rights activist and founder of Jeeva, an NGO.

It was clear that Janasya's family did not recognise Janasya's perception of herself. Yet, without question, it was to them that the house that she had carefully saved to build in Bengaluru went.

"For most transgender people, even if we are on good terms with our families, inheritance is out of the question. We are abandoned in our childhoods, with no education or financial resources, but we cannot return to our families hoping that we will get financial support or what is rightfully ours," says Uma.

Like inheritance, access to education, economic opportunity, dignity and justice have been severely impeded for generations of transgender people across India. To date, there is no accurate picture of the population of gender minorities in the country. The last census, conducted in 2011, put that number at 4.88 lakh transgender people in India, but NGOs estimate that a more accurate figure would be 4 to 5 times that.

As a result, trans people have been living on the margins even after years of documented political and social struggle.

There was hope that the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (TPPRA) would be a realisation



At 43%, Karnataka has the highest number of pending applications for Transgender Certificate and Identity Documents.

INSIGHT

of this struggle and would bring progress in rights to self-determination, prohibit discrimination and put in place welfare measures and more importantly, obligations for both state and non-state actors.

The material legal advancement that the 2019 Act provided was welcomed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in an advisory circulated in September this year. However, it recognised that even after the Act has been passed, "transgender persons continue to grapple with discrimination in multiple facets of life. This discrimination manifests in various forms such as employment disparities, limited access to healthcare, and exclusion from social circles."

Similarly, gender and sexual minorities have found the TPPRA

to be severely lacking, and hardly implemented.

Document change

A particularly sore point was the Act's move to mandate legal gender recognition—the process by which trans people can change their documents to reflect their identity. According to Madhumitha, a Mysuru-based trans woman, this process exposed them to the red-tapism around bodily autonomy.

"I have been living and identifying as a trans woman for more than 20 years. All my identification documents—including my voter ID and Aadhar card—identify me as female," she says.

Madhumitha's passport was the only pending document that needed to be updated. "I was told I needed a transgender certificate and identity card (TGID) to carry out the change. I was one of the first few from my community to apply in Mysuru district," she says.

After the TPPRA was brought into effect, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the National Portal for Transgender Persons, through which trans persons could apply to acquire an ID based on their self-perceived identity.

In reality, self-perception is not enough, as the application process also requires a self-attested affidavit declaring their gender identity, a place of residence, and a government ID. This bundle of documents is then sent for the approval of a district magistrate, who has jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence.

A major contention for the community has been the requirement to furnish a permanent address, which specifies that the applicant must have spent a full year of residence in the area under the magistrate's jurisdiction.

► Transgender rights, Page 2

Continued...

Egg supply to anganwadis stops as prices spike

BENGALURU, DHNS: Eggs have gone off the menu at over 65,000 anganwadi centres in the state, hitting the nutrition programme meant for children and pregnant women.

The Karnataka Cooperative Poultry Federation, which is authorised to supply eggs

in most of the taluks, has discontinued the supply, citing high prices and communicated its decision to officials.

Speaking to *DH*, DK Kantaraj, President of the Federation, said they were facing “losses” due to high egg prices and rising transportation costs.

“We have communicated the same to officials concerned and requested for revision of rates. As there was no positive response, the supply has been stopped for more than a month,” said Kantaraj.

According to Kantaraj, tenderers ended up paying at least Rs 1 to Rs 1.25 per egg from their pockets.

“The price of one egg varies from Rs 6.50 to Rs 7. As

per the tender, we were receiving Rs 5.75 to Rs 5.80,” Kantaraj said, adding they were “unable to bear the loss”.

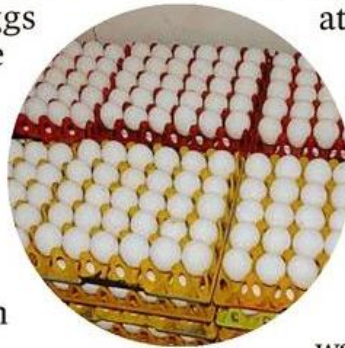
An anganwadi worker from Ramanagara district told *DH* that there are oral instructions from higher officials to purchase eggs at the local level.

“There is no clarity on payment to us. How can we proceed when there is no official order,” the anganwadi worker asked.

Under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), which seeks to improve the nutrition status of children, the government supplies eggs twice a week to children (0-6 years) and five days a week to moderately underweight children in five backward districts — Raichur, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Koppal and Yadgir.

For pregnant women, eggs are supplied for six days a week.

Officials from the Department of women and Child Development were unavailable for comment.



Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Oct. 29, 2023

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Centre rejects Karnataka's contention on rewards for taking in migrants

ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has dismissed Karnataka's arguments that it should be rewarded by the Sixteenth Finance Commission (16th FC) for intaking migrants from northern states. Top sources in the Union government told *DH* that such a request does not hold ground in a federal structure like India where free movement of labour, goods and capital should be encouraged.

The Centre is set to make public the terms of reference (responsibilities) and the composition of the 16th FC by the last week of November, with all states and Union Territories having submitted their inputs, the officials confirmed.

As *DH* earlier reported, in a written communication in August, the Karnataka government had said it wants its economic development and urbanisation to be taken into account while deciding its share of central tax revenues and various grants, given the fact that it receives a lot of workforce from less-developed states, and the income that economic migrants earn also helps their home states.

Making a claim

- Karnataka had said it wants its economic development, urbanisation to be taken into account while deciding the state's share of central tax revenues

- All southern states have told FinMin that they should be rewarded for the progress made in various economic and social indicators

- Finance Commission to have two years to prepare report for devolution of funds for 2026-27 to 2030-31

Centre is said to have argued that K'taka's request for being rewarded has no ground in a federal structure where free movement of labour, goods and capital should be encouraged

"This argument does not hold. Firstly, a lot of the demand and consumption in the state would come from the economic migrants themselves. Second, people in North Karnataka may prefer to move to Mumbai over Bengaluru. What if Maharashtra starts raising the same point?" said a senior official.

It is learnt that in their communication to the Union Finance Ministry, southern states have asked that they be rewarded for the progress they have made.

► **Finance Commission, Page 7**

Continued...

Finance Commission, from Page 1

The states are learnt to have cited various economic and social indicators like per capita income, urbanisation, job creation, contribution to central taxes, mortality, life expectancy, healthcare, literacy levels and others.

"These issues have been raised during the tenures of previous finance commissions, and have been brought up again," the official quoted above said. However, if it is still unclear if states like Tamil Nadu and Telangana have raised a similar point, to Karnataka, on intaking of migrants.

The 16th FC will be given two years to come up with its report

on devolution of the divisible tax pool between the Centre and the states, the official said. This will be for five financial years - 2026-27 to 2030-31.

The divisible pool consists of all the central direct and indirect taxes, including income and corporate taxes, goods and service tax, customs and excise duties, but excludes cesses and surcharges, which the Centre need not share with states. For the five-year period, the 16th FC will also decide various grants and rewards to states.

"As is the norm, the 16th FC will visit every state and meet their political leadership. The southern states can raise their concerns when these meetings happen," said a second official, when asked on whether the

south's concerns were taken into account while drafting the terms of reference.

The demands by southern states have accompanied the work of the past few finance commissions. This is part of a larger political narrative where many southern and western states feel that they are in effect subsidising poorer northern and eastern states.

When the Fifteenth Finance Commission (15th FC) was framing its recommendations to the Centre, the southern states had written to then the finance minister Arun Jaitley asking that they be rewarded through additional financial awards for the work they have done in various economic and social indicators.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 &7, Oct. 28, 2023

Number of voters in State up by 2.9 lakh

Draft electoral roll published; special drives to be conducted for two days each in November and December to include young voters, persons from vulnerable groups, and others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission on Friday published the 2024 draft electoral roll for Karnataka with a total electorate of 5,33,77,162 voters, which is an increase of 2,91,596 voters since the election roll was published ahead of the elections to the Legislative Assembly.

The final electoral roll will be published on January 5, 2024, after the completion of special summary revision of the roll with respect to the qualifying date of January 1, 2024.

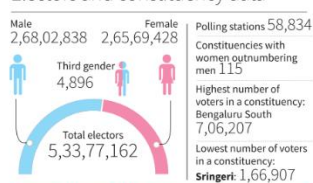
The 2024 draft electoral roll includes 2,68,02,838 male voters, 2,65,69,428 female voters, and 4,896 other voters. In comparison with the 2023 draft electoral roll, the number has increased by 25,23,317 electors.

The draft roll of 2024 has 13,45,707 young voters (18-19 years), 4,896 third gender voters, 3,056 overseas voters, 5,66,777 voters with disabilities, 11,76,093 voters who are above 80 years, and 47,172 service electors.

Highest and lowest

Of the 224 assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters with 7,06,207 and Sringeri has the lowest number of voters with 1,66,907.

Electors and constituency data



Forms, claims and objections

- Form 6:** Application for new voters
- Form 7:** Objection to proposed inclusion/deletion of names
- Form 8:** For shifting of residence/ correction of entries in existing electoral roll/ replacement of EPIC/ marking of PwD
- Electoral rolls available at <https://eeo.karnataka.gov.in/en>
- Period for submission of claims and objections: Till December 9, 2023
- Disposal of claims and objections: December 26, 2023
- Special drives for registration of young voters, persons from vulnerable groups and others to be held at polling booths on November 18 and 19; December 2 and 3
- Publication of final electoral rolls: January 5, 2024

The number of polling stations in Karnataka now stands at 58,834, a net increase of 552 after 845 polling stations were added and 292 polling stations were merged.

Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meena, told presspersons here on Friday that people had time till December 9 to file their claims and objections, and that the disposal of claims and objections would be completed by December 26. "Special drives on November 18 and 19,

and December 2 and 3 at respective polling booths will be held to enrol young voters, vulnerable persons, and those who have missed the enrolment," he said.

The Election Commission has also made 6,02,199 additions and approved 3,89,353 deletions since the election rolls of 2023 were published.

In all, 18,88,243 applications were received for addition, deletion, and correction of which 16,31,547 applications were ap-

proved while 1,71,964 applications were rejected. As many as 6,39,995 cases of correction were approved.

The number of young voters (18-19 years) had gone up from 11,71,558 in the election roll to 13,45,707 in the 2024 draft roll. In contrast, the number of electors above 80 years had declined from 12,15,920 in the election roll to 11,76,093 in the draft roll. The number of electors with disabilities had marginally declined from 5,71,288 in the election roll to 5,66,777 in the draft roll. The number of the third gender voters had also declined from 4,927 to 4,896.

Mr. Meena said that while the gender ratio as per the 2011 census was 973, the gender ratio as per the electoral roll was 991. The gender ratio in the draft electoral roll of 2023 was 986. The gender ratio was positive in 115 constituencies where female voters outnumbered males. The highest gender ratio was in Mangaluru City South at 1,092 while the lowest was in Mahadevapura at 859.

The elector population ratio that was 68.02% as per the 2011 census was now 69.21% in the 2024 draft rolls. While the highest EP ratio was in Channarayana constituency with 93.95%, the lowest - 47.45% - was in BTM



Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meena (left), addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday. Additional Chief Electoral Officer M. Kurma Rao is also seen. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bogus voter ID case: EC awaiting police report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission was awaiting a report from the police on their action against a computer centre at Hebbal here, where voter identification card was being printed.

Mr. Meena said that only the EC was authorised to give the voter ID.

"The police have found

various government IDs being printed at the computer centre. Even voter ID was being printed. However, these are bogus voter ID cards and they (numbers) are not in the electoral rolls. They cannot be used in polls," he said.

Mr. Meena pointed out that they were planning to invoke the provisions under the Representation of People Act.

know movement of people in Bengaluru. Since the census had not taken place since 2011, it is only a guess work based on the projected population figure. We have done house-to-house survey twice already."

Bengaluru has 97.9 lakh voters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The draft of voters' list released by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has put the total number of voters in the city at 97,90,499. The list was put out as part of preparations for Lok Sabha polls.

Special Commissioner (Elections), BBMP, Ramachandran R. said that in the draft 86,062 names have been deleted and the last date to submit objections is December 9. The final voter list will be released on January 5.

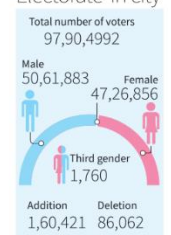
The deletions have been done over deaths, people shifting out of the city, duplicate entries, and other reasons, he said.

28 constituencies

According to the draft, of the total voters, 50,61,883 are male and 47,26,856 are female voters and 1,760 others. A total of 1,60,421 voters were added during the last year. The list pertains to 28 assembly constituencies coming under the BBMP.

Mr. Ramachandran said special revision work of the

Electorate in city



voter list can be verified by the general public on voters.eci.gov.in or can be enquired on toll-free number 1950.

For changes

For any correction, the voters can apply on the website by filling out forms or visiting offices physically.

The officer further said currently there are about 8,982 polling booths and this time there has been an increase of 367 booths.

He informed that there will be special voters registration campaign on November 18, 19, and December 2 and 3 at ward offices.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Oct. 28, 2023

Bengaluru must strengthen its core before expanding

Govt must bank on prudent planning, not political ambitions and personal interests, to grow Brand Bengaluru

A RAVINDRA

The recent statement of Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar that Kanakapura, now a part of Ramanagara district, would soon become part of Bengaluru Urban and the state government was planning to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South has raised many eyebrows, stirring the pot as it were. Former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, during whose tenure Ramanagara was carved out as a separate district, was quick to react by observing that nobody could alter Ramanagara district. The verbal duel between the two Vokkaliga leaders has only added fuel to the fire.

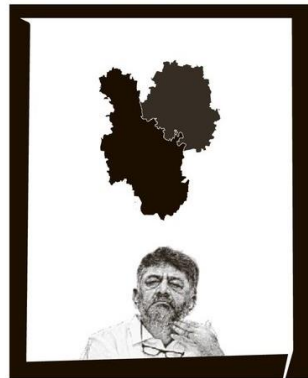
The unplanned and unrestricted growth of Karnataka's capital city has impacted the city and its people in diverse ways. Problems like traffic congestion, pollution, waste disposal, and the state of infrastructure are too well known to bear repetition. What is not generally that well known is the planning framework and the planning process and their importance in the orderly growth of a city.

Every state is governed by a Town and Country Planning Act. The Karnataka Act came into force in 1961 and mandates the preparation of a master plan, which is expected to guide the spatial development of a city. It prescribes the land use pattern, which is classified into different uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, open spaces, and so on. It also contains the zoning regulations on the basis of which construction is regulated. The first master plan for Bengaluru was prepared in 1984, then known as the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), which was revised in 1995. Subsequently, the Master Plan (2015) was prepared, which came into force in 2007 and continues to be in force. The Master Plan (2031) submitted to the government about four years ago has yet to get approval.

The Master Plan for Bengaluru is prepared by the BDA, which is also the statutory planning authority, and is applicable to what is called the metropolitan area of Bengaluru, extending over 1,200 sq km, coinciding with the jurisdiction of the BDA. It is important to take note of the fact that there is a separate planning body, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), that covers Bengaluru Urban, Rural, and Ramanagara districts with an area of 8,500 sq km and includes Kanakapura,

Ramanagara, Channarayana, Hoskote, and other towns in the region. A draft Structure Plan (2031) has been prepared for the metropolitan region, which is like a perspective plan that has earmarked areas for development, green zones, forest areas, and broad lines for growth and environmental protection. Unfortunately, it has not received the necessary attention of the authorities concerned and is lying with successive governments without approval.

Although BMRDA was set up in 1985 with the laudable intention "to plan, coordinate, and supervise the orderly development" of the areas within the BMR, it has never been able to perform its functions effectively, despite the fact



that the chief minister is the chairman and the urban development minister is the vice chairman of its Board of Directors. This is because, in reality, BMRDA is overshadowed by BDA, which is not only the planning authority for the city but has been engaged in acquiring land and selling sites. Though meant for siteless people, it has kind of turned into a real estate activity, with considerable benefit to vested interests within and outside government. In my own experience, I have found that no CM takes an interest in BMRDA, and board meetings hardly take place. The fundamental problem lies in urban planning being ignored by political leaders who evince more interest in controlling urban land, with its high value, particularly in metropolitan areas.

The solution lies in urban governance reforms. The Kasturirangan Committees set up to examine the issues in the Bengaluru metropolitan region recommended divesting BDA of its planning function, vesting it in the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), a constitutional body, and making BMRDA the technical planning wing to assist the MPC. As the MPC is headed by the CM with the UD Minister as vice chair, the right thing for Shivakumar, as Minister for Bengaluru Development, to do would be to take up the matter of reforms required in the metropolitan re-

gion and deliberate on issues relating to reorganisation, if any, in the MPC. Major decisions, such as making Kanakapura, 60 km away from Bengaluru, part of the city, cannot be taken at the whims and fancies of individuals, even if they happen to be ministers. Former CM Kumaraswamy and DyCM Shivakumar cannot treat Ramanagara or Kanakapura as their personal fiefdoms.

Let us look at the experience elsewhere. Across countries, regional planning is becoming important in governing megacities. Tokyo, which is the largest metropolitan region in the world with a population of over 37 million and spread over an area of 13,452 sq km, is governed by a metropolitan government at the apex level, prefectures at the regional level, and municipalities at the local level. The Greater London Authority, with the Mayor as its head, is in charge of the London Plan and Transport, while the municipal functions are performed by 32 boroughs. The New York Region includes three states with a population of 23 million, covers 13,999 square miles, and has 31 counties and 782 municipalities. The National Capital Region in India includes the Union Territory of Delhi and parts of the neighbouring states of Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP, with an area of 55,083 sq km and a population of over 70 million. What is common among all these huge metropolitan regions is that at the apex level, they are responsible only for planning and some macro-level functions like transport that extend across the region, while local functions are performed by the municipalities.

In India, the Constitution envisages that MPCs prepare a draft development plan for the metropolitan area while municipalities discharge all local functions. For Bengaluru, in the first place, the MPC must be activated and strengthened, and a well-thought-out development plan, including a spatial plan, must be put in place. All smaller cities or towns in the metropolitan region—Kanakapura, Ramanagara, or Hoskote—must continue to perform local municipal functions. Large infrastructure projects extending across the region, like arterial roads, water supply from a common source (not distribution), transport, metro rail, etc., can be planned and monitored by MPC.

Shri Shivakumarji, first take charge of planning and policymaking for Bengaluru city and region, and then think of making Kanakapura part of Bengaluru South or building corridor roads or the highest revolving tower after examining their utility and financial viability. Perhaps you will have second thoughts and begin providing proper basic facilities first and making the city livable and citizen-friendly—a revised Brand Bengaluru.

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Oct. 30, 2023

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ 'ಅರಣ್ಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ' ಮಾದರಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

• ಚಂದ್ರಹಾಸ ಹಿರೇಮಠಲಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಅವ್ಯಾಹತವಾಗಿ ಕಬಳಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣ ಹಾಕಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರಿಗೆ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಬಳಿಕದಾರರಿಗೂ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕುರಿತು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಲು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಈಶ್ವರ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭೈರೇಗೌಡ ಅವರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಕಬಳಿಕೆ ತಡೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-1963 ಹಾಗೂ 1980ರಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು

ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ

62.72 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ

14.27 ಲಕ್ಷ ಎಕರೆ

ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಭೂಮಿ

ರೂಪಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಲು ಸಮಿತಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಕಬಳಿಸಿದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ, ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಕಿರು ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಪರಿಭಾವಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯಗಳ (ಡೀಮ್ ಫಾರಸ್ಟ್)



ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತಡೆಗೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮಾದರಿ

ಕಾನೂನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ರೂಪುರೇಷೆ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ರಹೀಲ ಖಾನ್ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ

ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ, ದಂಡದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂತಹ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಕಬಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಕಡಿವಾಣ ಹಾಕಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

6ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ 'ಅರಣ್ಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ' ಮಾದರಿ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನು ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಕುರಿತು ಎ.ಟಿ. ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲ ಜಂಟಿ ಸಮಿತಿ 2007ರಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿ. ಬಾಲಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯಂನ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಪಡೆಯು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉದ್ದಗಲಕ್ಕೂ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಎಕರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನು ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಯಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆಹಚ್ಚಿತ್ತು. 2011ರಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಜಂಟಿ ಸದನ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆಗಳ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನಂತೆ ಭೂಕಬಳಿಕೆ ನಿಷೇಧ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿ, ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡಿ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷವಷ್ಟೇ ಮತ್ತೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತಂದು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಹೊರಗಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗದ ವರದಿ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಕೃಷಿ, ಬಾನುವಾರುಗಳ ಜೀವನಾಡಿಯಾದ ಗೋಮಾಳ ಸೇರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಹೊಸ ನೀತಿ ರೂಪಿಸಲು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಿನ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಆರ್. ಅಶೋಕ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು, ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ಬಾಲ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಗಂಡಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ದಾಖಲೆ ತಿದ್ದಿ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ವಂಚನೆ ಎಸಗುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಪರಾಧ ಹೊರತಾದ ಭೂ ಕಬಳಿಕೆ ತಡೆಗೆ ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಂದಾಯ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಭೂ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ನೀಡಲು 1990-92ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಫಾರಂ 50 ಅಡಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ಫಾರಂ 53 ಅಡಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ

ಬಗರ್‌ಹುಕುಂ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು

ನಮೂನೆ	ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾದ ಅರ್ಜಿ
50	10,89,268
53	10,98,397
57	8,02,198

ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 50 ಹಾಗೂ 53ರಲ್ಲಿ 20 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಮೊದಲ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 30ರಷ್ಟು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥವಾದರೆ, ಎರಡನೇ ಅವಕಾಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 10ರಷ್ಟು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗದ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಭೂಮಿ 9.97 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ

191 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಭೂ ಪ್ರದೇಶ

65% ಕೃಷಿ ಜಮೀನು

20% ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ

7% ಜನವಸತಿ

8% ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಭೂಮಿ

ಎಕರೆ ಇದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸದೇ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಮಾಡಲು ಈಗಿರುವ ಭೂ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಕಾನೂನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ.

2005 ಜನವರಿ 1ಕ್ಕೂ ಮೊದಲು ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಭೂರಹಿತರು, ಸಣ್ಣ ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಕ್ರಮ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭೂಕಂದಾಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1964 ರ ಕಲಂ 94 ಎ(4) ಅಡಿ

ನಮೂನೆ 57ರ ಅಡಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು 2018ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, 8,57,640 ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಷ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಸಾಗುವಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ನೀಡಿದಂತಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. 25 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಮನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗುಡಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವವರು ನಮೂನೆ 94 ಸಿ (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ) ಮತ್ತು 94 ಸಿಐ (ನಗರ) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಕ್ಕುಪತ್ರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲೇರಿದೆ. ಬಗರ್‌ಹುಕುಂ ಅಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಗೊಳಿಸಿದರೆ ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಭೂಮಿ ದೊರಕದಂತಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Prajavani, Oct. 30, 2023

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Social Issues

CM: Committed to accept, implement caste census report

Tells caste-based bodies to focus on nurturing rural talents

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said his government was committed to accept the caste census report in November or December and implement its recommendations.

The caste-wise socio-economic survey report, popularly known as caste census report, was commissioned in 2015 by the previous Congress government.

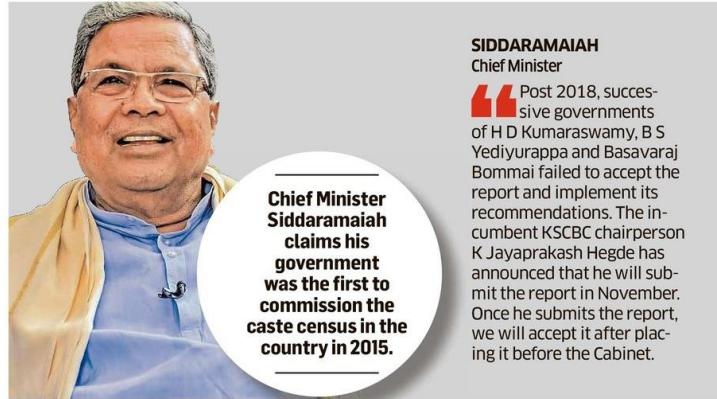
The survey work was completed in 2018, towards the end of Siddaramaiah's first tenure as chief minister.

He was speaking to reporters after the 'Prerana Samarabha' organised by Kalidasa Health and Education Trust and Ahilva Foundation here.

Siddaramaiah said his government was the first to commission the caste census in the country, under H Kantharaju, who was the chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC), to know the exact socio-economic status of each caste.

"Post 2018, successive governments of H D Kumaraswamy, B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai failed to accept the report and implement its recommendations. The incumbent KSCBC chairperson K Jayaprakash Hegde has announced that he will submit the report in November. Once he submits the report, we will accept it after placing it before the Cabinet," he said.

Earlier, the chief minister



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claims his government was the first to commission the caste census in the country in 2015.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

Post 2018, successive governments of H D Kumaraswamy, B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai failed to accept the report and implement its recommendations. The incumbent KSCBC chairperson K Jayaprakash Hegde has announced that he will submit the report in November. Once he submits the report, we will accept it after placing it before the Cabinet.

distributed scholarships to medical students from backward classes. "No one is born intelligent and everyone can become intelligent, if they get equal opportunities," Siddaramaiah said.

He said prior to the arrival of the British, education was prohibited for Shudra communities and even girls of upper castes were not given educa-

tion. "It was Dr BR Ambedkar who gave the right to education to the Shudra community and girls," he said.

He appealed to caste-based organisations to refrain from focusing on establishing medical colleges alone.

"Instead, these organisations must strive to establish paramedical colleges, ITIs and hostels in order to nurture

rural talents. Establishing and maintaining medical colleges is a very expensive proposition. Even if the caste-based organisations set up these institutes, they will not be able to offer free medical seats to their own community members. Hence, these organisations must focus on building institutes that can nurture rural talents," the CM said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Oct. 30, 2023

Karnataka had to efface itself to become a territorial reality first

Mysore Name Was Retained To Placate Unification Opponents

S Shyam Prasad

Bengaluru: On August 21, 1973, the Parliament of India enacted the Mysore State (Alteration of Name) Act, a document less than two pages long. Section 3 of the Act said: "As from the appointed day, the State of Mysore shall be known as the State of Karnataka."

The Act marked the culmination of the nearly 80-year-old aspiration to create a unified Kannada-speaking territory named Karnataka. Seventeen years earlier in 1956, the States Reorganisation Act had amalgamated the Kannada-speaking regions into a new state which was named Mysore.

Mysore, the former

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princely state, was only one of the 22 different administrative units in which Kannadigas were spread across, if only the largest among them. All movements for a linguistically unified Kannada state were carried out in the name of Karnataka. The Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha in 1890, which was one of the earliest torchbearers of a unified Kannada-speaking territorial entity, and the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) in its report in 1955 referred to the proposed new state as 'Karnataka'.

But why then did the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 announce the 'Formation of a new Mysore State' begs an answer. The blame lies with some of the then Congress politicians of Mysore state (pre-unification) and the 'royalists' that included litterateurs, merchants and influential citizens of the former princely state.

The States Reorganisation Bill which redrew the boundaries of 15 states and seven Union Territories was



Chief minister Devaraj Urs unveils the name of Karnataka on November 1, 1973, when Vishaala Mysuru was renamed



On November 1, 1956, then Maharaja of Mysore Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar takes the salute as Mysore state is born

placed before Parliament on March 16, 1956. It was then sent to all the states for their opinions. The discussion on this in the Mysore assembly shows that retaining the name 'Mysore' for the unified state was to placate those opposed to the unification.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SATISFACTION

The first Partition committee of 1949 allotted Bellary district to Mysore without the latter even asking for it. The Andhra State Act of 1953 officially transferred it and four legislators joined the Mysore assembly. The debate in Mysore was whether Bellary would be a "Rs 30-lakh drain" on Mysore budget or the Tungabhadra Dam would make the district self-sufficient soon.

In 1955, Mysore chief

minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah had forestalled his partymen, who were opposed to the unification, from even appearing before the SRC. Two years later, even his law and education minister was opposing the unification and seeking the formation of 'Two Karnatakas'.

M Linganna, an independent legislator, raised the issue of legal logjam of amending every legislation with the word 'Karnataka'. The CM dismissed it as a problem requiring 'five minutes' to solve by passing a single amendment act. Between conciliating those opposed to the unification on caste, sentimental, economic and historical questions, the name 'Karnataka' was sacrificed. Hanumanthaiah himself proposed the retention

THE ROOT OF KARNATAKA

Linguists have analysed the origin of the name 'Karnataka', which appears to have evolved from two constituent parts. The second part, 'nata', is commonly understood to signify 'country'. However, there remains some disagreement regarding the root of the first half of the name.

MM Kalburgi, as outlined in his work 'Marga', proposes several potential origins. If the root is traced back to 'karidu', the name 'Karnataka' could be interpreted as 'black country'. Conversely, if derived from 'karu', it might connote 'high country' or 'large country'. Interestingly, both 'Karnataka' and 'Kannada' are believed to have their foundations in these roots.

Kalburgi further contends that 'Karidunata' or 'KaruNata' served as a toponym that was subsequently embraced to refer to the people as 'Karidunataka' or 'KaruNataka'. Over time, this evolved into 'Karnataka' as the name of the region. Another variation stemming from the same roots, 'KaridunaDa' or 'KaruNaDa' eventually transformed into the term 'Kannada' for the language.

of 'Mysore' as the name for the new state as a 'psychological satisfaction'. Even for those politicians in Mysore in favour of the name 'Karnataka', the issue was of lesser significance in the overall debate.

The question of the name was of bigger consequence to litterateurs and writers who fought this issue outside the political arena. Ironically, Devaraj Urs, who had declared in those debates that "linguistic province is not an issue that concerns most people" and "only intelligent merchant class is enthusiastic about this," was the chief minister who ultimately renamed Mysore as Karnataka in 1973.

PART 2 ► Unified state idea: Writers were prime movers

Writers were prime movers of idea to create unified Kannada-speaking state

S Shyam Prasad

Bengaluru: A well-known anecdote from the Karnataka unification movement revolves around Rashtrakavi Kuvempu. During an event held at Maharaja College in 1949, Kuvempu, who was a professor then, passionately advocated the unification of Karnataka. He asserted that without that, not only Karnataka but the entire nation would face obstacles in development and welfare.

Kuvempu's words reached then education minister, DH Chandrasekhariya, who promptly issued a notice to him. The notice cited concerns about Kuvempu, a public servant, delving into political matters. While it remains unclear whether Kuvempu replied to the noti-

TIMES Special

ce, on May 2 of the same year, he published his iconic poem, Akhanda Karnataka.

In this stirring poem, Kuvempu criticised the "political drama" and emphasised that a "united Karnataka" was the heartfelt desire of the people.

He envisioned Nrupatunga as emperor, Pampa as chief minister, and revered Kannada poets such as Ranna, Basaveshwara, Sarvajna and others as members of a permanent cabinet in his poetic imagination.

Kuvempu's journey continued as he rose to become the college principal and later assumed the role of vice-chancellor of Mysore Uni-

Kannadigas were under 22 administrative units pre-1947

1. Mysore State
2. Madras State
3. Mumbai State
4. Hyderabad State
5. Kodagu State
6. Kolhapur State
7. Sangli State
8. Miraj Senior and Lakshmeshwar
9. Miraj Junior
10. Kurundvad Senior
11. Kurundvad Junior
12. Jamkhandi State
13. Mudhol State
14. Jath State
15. Akkalkot State
16. Ramadurga State
17. Aundh State
18. Sandur State
19. Savanur State
20. Bangalore Cantonment
21. Belagavi Cantonment
22. Ballari Cantonment



KARNATAKA'S PRIDE: Rashtrakavi Kuvempu with litterateur Da Ra Bendre. (Below-L to R) Aluru Venkata Rao, DV Gundappa and Shivarama Karanth



Kuvempu in his poem emphasised that a "united Karnataka" was the heartfelt desire of the people. He envisioned Nrupatunga as the emperor, Pampa as chief minister, and revered Kannada poets such as Ranna, Basaveshwara, Sarvajna and others as members of a permanent cabinet

versity. However, not every writer could navigate the political backlash unscathed. Playwright Sriranga (Adya Rangacharya) chose to resign as professor from Karnataka College, Dharwad, as his involvement in Karnataka unification stirred too much controversy and opposition.

Writers played a pivotal role in advocating the creation of a unified Kannada-speaking state long before it became a reality. Aluru Venkata Rao, affectionately called Kannada Kula Purohita, championed this cause as

early as 1903 in the journal Vagbhushana. In 1917, he authored an influential and passionately written history of Karnataka, highlighting the importance of Karnataka (Karnataka-ness) and serving as a source to rekindle the pride of Kannadigas in their shared history. In his message on November 1, 1956, as the new state came into existence, Rao said: "May the Karnataka State, which is mistakenly named 'Mysore' thrive with good health and prosperity." However, it's worth noting that not all writers were in favour

of this unification.

In the realm of politics, Congress, which played a prominent role in the freedom movement, eventually embraced the idea of linguistic states. In 1924, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee was established. Nevertheless, in 1937, Mysore Pradesh Congress Committee came into existence, giving rise to the concept of 'Two Karnatakas'.

In between these years, the annual Kannada Sahitya Sammelana was held in many places outside Old Mysore like Mangaluru

(Madras State), Belagavi (Bombay State) and Madikeri (Coorg State), where several writers demanded political unification.

Strangely, some authors like Shivarama Karanth who were initially opposed to unification had become its strong votaries by the 1950s, while those who spoke for it earlier had begun to support 'Two Karnatakas'. Among the Two-Karnataka supporters in later years, the most prominent was DV Gundappa. However, the impetus provided by the writings of eminent litterateurs like Da Ra Bendre, BMShri, AN Krishna Rao, Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar, Ti Ta Sharma and many others kept the lamp of unification burning.

In a case of poetic justice, it was Sriranga who presided over the 38th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana on December 25, 1955 in Raichur, that immediately preceded the Parliament introducing the bill on reorganisation of states. During his address, he eloquently stated, "Whether we call it Karnataka, a name in use since the time of the Mahabharata, or the more recent Mysore, it remains the heritage of Kannadigas. Political boundaries may have their limits, but this land belongs to us. The responsibility of writers who ardently desired and strived for unification, in the pursuit of culture, literature and life, has now grown even more significant."

PART 3 ► 17 years of struggle marked Mysore State's makeover to Karnataka

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Oct. 31, 2023

Karnataka, a name dating back millennia

The etymological and historical roots of the word 'Karnataka' have been a matter of debate among scholars, who date the name to the BCE

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The State being named Karnataka, signifying the Kannada speaking region, was a dream from the times of the unification struggle that bore fruit only in 1973. Historians and linguistic scholars date the name "Karnataka", or its earlier forms as referring to this region, to the Before Common Era (BCE). It was used



not only as a name for this region, but also to describe the language spoken here. Both Karnataka and Kannada, have common etymology, scholars opine. "One of the earlier references is in the Sanskrit Mahabharata (6th century BCE) while listing out various janapadas. It's referred to as 'Karnaataaha' in Sabha Parva and 'Karnatikaaha' in Bhishma Parva. References to the word have been noted by scholars in Shudraka's Mricchakatika (4th century CE), Varahamihira's Kathasaritsagara (6th century CE) as well," said Kannada scholar and linguist Purushothama Bilimale.

Etymology of the word
Another Kannada scholar



Schoolchildren performing in the backdrop of the Indian flag and Kannada flag, during the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Basavaraj Kalgudi said the word was a compound word of 'Kar' or 'Kal' and 'Nadu' or 'Natu'.

"While *Nadu* or *Natu* means a region, *Kar* and *Kal* mean black and water, respectively. To this the suffix 'ka' is added. So the word probably describes the attributes of this region as a land of black soil or a land of abundant water. If we analyse literary sources, including inscriptions, most of them where the word *Karnata* or *Karnataka* is used are from Central and North Karnataka of today. This is the region which has black cotton soil and is a fertile land of many rivers. Meanwhile, Mysore region was probably called *Mahishanadu* or

Eramai Nadu, as it is mentioned in medieval Tamil poetry. This region was probably called so because of the prevalence of wild buffaloes in the region," he said.

Historical use

However, historians argue that during several phases in history, land encompassing the present day Karnataka and many regions beyond the modern State's boundaries were included in empires whose identities were linked to Kannada or Karnataka.

Devara Konda Reddy, president, Karnataka Itihasa Academy, said Kavirajamarga describes the boundaries of 'Kannada Nadu' as "kaveriyindamaa goda-

variavaramirda naadadaa kannadodal bhaavisida janapadam." Immadi Pulikesi had expanded the empire till river Narmada, further up north to Godavari.

The Vijayanagara Empire, which was in fact called *Karnataka Samrajya*, had river Krishna as its northern boundary but went down south further beyond today's modern State boundaries.

Karnataka Samrajya

Historian Vasundhara Filiozat has argued that what we now know as the Vijayanagara Empire was in fact called the 'Karnataka Samrajya'. Ms. Filiozat said Vijayanagara was the name of the capital, while

several contemporary epigraphic and literary sources clearly say the empire was called Karnataka Samrajya. For instance, an inscription from Srishailam praises King Harihara II of the empire as "Karnā rāja lakṣmī karāvatasa" (the ornament in the ears of Karnata Rāja Lakshmi). The inscription dates back to CE 1405. Another Jain inscription in Kuppaturu in Soraba taluk, Shivamogga district, from CE 1408 mentions 'Karnatakadesam'.

In another Jain inscription from Bhatkal dating back to CE 1430, the then king Devaraya II is described among other adjectives as "Karāadesada mahārājadhāni Vijāyanagarada puravarādhisvara", clearly indicating Vijayanagar was the capital while empire was called "Karnatadesa" or "Karnataka Samrajya."

These, she said, were only a few examples and there were several contemporary sources indicating the same.

This is significant as the 14th-17th century empire played an emotional role during the State's unification struggle, as is evident from the writings of noted writer and unification activist Aluru Venkata Rao, who describes the fall of the empire as the fall of the Kannada world, as he says this was the last time that all the Kannada speaking regions were under one rule, pushing for its reunification again as the linguistic state of Karnataka.

Plaque marking renaming of State missing for decades

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs unveiled a granite plaque with the new name for the State "Karnataka" along with a map at Kanteerava Stadium on November 1, 1973, to mark the historic event. As we celebrate the golden jubilee of the day, the commemoration stone that Urs unveiled is said to be lost.

Sources in the government said that no one has a clue as to what happened to the stone and where it was relocated to from Kanteerava Stadium. A senior official from the Department of Youth and Sports said many presently working in the department were not even aware that the commemoration stone was laid at Kanteerava Stadium. "Kanteerava Stadium, which was opened before the country attained independence, underwent a major renovation in the mid-1990s to host the National Games in 1997. Maybe, the stone was lost during this renovation," the official speculated.

History enthusiast Suresh Moona said: "The government should launch a probe, speak to officers who were working during those times and try to track down the plaque."

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Nov. 1, 2023

ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು
ಒಂದಾಗಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು
ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ನಾಡು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವಾಗಬೇಕು
ಎಂಬ ಆಗ್ರಹ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ವಿಲೇವರಣೆಗೂ
ಮೊದಲಿನಿಂದಲೂ
ಇತ್ತು. ಅದರೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವನ್ನು
ಹೇಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕು,
ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು
ಹೇಗಿರಬೇಕು, ಅದು
ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದ
ಹಾದಿ ಯಾವುದು
ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡದ
ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳು ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ
ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಲೇ
ಇದ್ದರು

ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು, ನುಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕಾದ ಬಗೆ...

• ಜಯಸಿಂಹ ಆರ್.

ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು ಹೇಗಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಅದನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಲೋಕ ಸದಾಕಾಲ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಭಾರತ ಎಂಬ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆಯ ಒಳಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು ಎಂಬುದು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯವಾದವಾಗಿ ರೂಪುಗೊಂಡಿತ್ತು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡದ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರು ದಾಖಲಿಸುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡತನ, ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎಂಬುದು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ತಾನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಲೇ, ಉಪಭಾಷೆಗಳು-ಉಪಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅನ್ಯಭಾಷೆಯೊಂದಿಗಿನ ಸಮರಸವನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಾಗಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಕನ್ನಡದ ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳ ನಿಲುವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳು, ತಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೀಯ ಭಾಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ಇದನ್ನು ಪದೇ-ಪದೇ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯವಾದದ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆಯ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ಆಯಾ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಳಿತವಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಈ ಭಾಷಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಡಿ.ಆರ್.ನಾಗರಾಜ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ 'ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪ' ಲೇಖನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆಯ ಭಿನ್ನ ಸ್ವರೂಪಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕನ್ನಡಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿಲಾಸೇಶವಾಗಿ ಹೋರಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು 'ಆತಂಕಕೇಂದ್ರಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆ' ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದರ ಜತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ವದೈವಿಯೆಂದಲೂ ಸ್ವಾಗತವಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಲೂರು ವೆಂಕಟರಾಯರ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು 'ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆ' ಎಂದು ಕರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಲೂರು ವೆಂಕಟರಾಯರು ತಮ್ಮ 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕತ್ವದ ವಿಕಾಸ' ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಕನ್ನಡಕ್ಕಿಂತ ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿರುವುದು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಾವು ಮರೆಬಿಡಬೇಕು. ಮತ್ತು ಉಪಭಾಷೆಗರನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ನೆರೆಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರನ್ನೂ ಮರೆಬಿಡಬೇಕು-ಎಂಬುದು ಅಖಂಡ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೆನಪಿನಲ್ಲಿಡತಕ್ಕ ಮಾತು' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನೇ ಡಿ.ಆರ್.ನಾಗರಾಜ ಅವರು 'ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯತೆ' ಎಂದು ಕರೆದದ್ದು, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷಗಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು, ಕನ್ನಡದ ಹಲವು ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೂ ಇದನ್ನೇ. ಅಂತಹ ಭಾಷಣಗಳ ಆಯ್ದ ಭಾಗಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿವೆ.

ಭಾಷೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ರೀತಿ



ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳಾದ ನಾವೇ ಇಂದು ಕೃತಕ ಭಾಷೆಯೊಂದನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಜೀವಂತ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಬ್ದಸಂಪತ್ತು, ಅರ್ಥಸಂಪತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಇದು ಕನ್ನಡಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಪಚಾರ ಹೊರತು ಉಪಚಾರವಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಜನಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿನ ನೂರಾರು ವೃತ್ತಿ, ವಿಚಾರ ಸರಣಿ, ನಂಬಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಬ್ದಸಂಪತ್ತನ್ನು ಭಾಷಾಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಹೊಣೆ ನಮ್ಮದು.

ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಘಂಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಹೊಣೆಯೂ ನಮ್ಮದು. ನಾವು ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂತೋಷಕರವನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು, ಜನರು ಬಳಸುವ ನಿತ್ಯೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಶಬ್ದಗಳನ್ನೂ, ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನೂ, ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ-ನಮ್ಮ ಶಬ್ದಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಇಮ್ಮಡಿಸಿತ್ತು; ಮುಮ್ಮಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಿಂದ ಅನೇಕ ಹೊಸ ಶಬ್ದಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಅನಾವಶ್ಯಕವಾದಿತ್ತು. ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡದೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಜನಗಳ ಭಾಷಾ ಪ್ರವಾಹವು ತನ್ನ ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಹಿಡಿದು ತಾನಾಗಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದನ್ನಾರೂ ತಡೆಯಲಾರದು.

ವಿವರಾಜು ಕಾರಂತ, 1955ರ ಮೈಸೂರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

ಆದಾನ ಪ್ರದಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳು

ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದದ್ದೆಂದರೆ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಸಾಧನೆಯನ್ನೂ, ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟತೆಯನ್ನೂ, ಉತ್ಕೃಷ್ಟತೆಯನ್ನೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಶ್ಚಿಮಾತ್ಯ ವಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುವ ಕೆಲಸ. ಗಡಿಗಳಾಚೆಯ ಸೋದರ ಭಾಷಾಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು, ಕಲಾವಿದರನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮವರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಬಹುಭಾಷಿಕ ಪರಿಸರದ ನಡುವೆ ಬದುಕುವ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಈ ಬಗೆಯ ಭಾಷಾಬಾಂಧವ್ಯಗಳ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಿಯೇ ಬೆಳೆಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ವಿವರದತ್ತ, 1992ರ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ



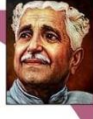
ಆದರ್ಶದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ...

ನಾವಿಂದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕೀಕೃತ ಅಖಂಡ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನೋತ್ಸವದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಗಳಾಗಲು ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಾವು ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಭಾಗ್ಯಶಾಲಿಗಳಲ್ಲವೇ? ಧನ್ಯರಲ್ಲವೇ?

ಹೌದು, ಅದರ ಏಕೆ ಧನ್ಯರು? ಏನು ಧನ್ಯತೆ? ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನರೂಪವಾದ ಯಾವ ಪುರುಷಾರ್ಥ ದೊರೆತೊಂದಿದೆ? ಅಥವಾ ಅಂತಹ ಪುರುಷಾರ್ಥ ಸಾಧನೆಗೆ ಹಾದಿಯಾದರೂ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗಿದೆಯೇ?

ಕನ್ನಡ ಜನರ ಆಶೋತ್ತರ ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಅಭ್ಯುದಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾದ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಚೌಕಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಿದೆ. ನವಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಆ ಚೌಕಟ್ಟಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಆದರ್ಶದ 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ'ವನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ನೆರೆಯ ಸೋದರ ಭಾಷಾಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಗಳೊಡನೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಹೃದಯ ಪರಿಚಯದ ಮೃತ್ತಿ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ರಂಗವಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನಾಗಬೇಕು. ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತೀಯವಾದ ಯಾವ ಮಹೋದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿಯು ಪ್ರೇರಿತವಾಗಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತವಾಗಿದೆಯೋ ಅದರ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾಗಬೇಕು.

ಕುವೆಂಪು, 1975ರೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ



ಭಾಷಾ ಸಾಮರಸ್ಯ

ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ಈ ಭಾಷಾವಾರು ಪ್ರಾಂತ ರಚನೆಯಾದದ್ದು ತಪ್ಪಾಯಿತೇನೋ ಎನ್ನುವ ವಿಚಾರ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಸುಳಿದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ

ಒಂದು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯುಂಟಾಗಲು ಮೂಲ ಕಾರಣ ಭಾಷಾ ದುರಭಿಮಾನ; ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮನೋಭಾವದ ಕೊರತೆ. ಈ ಭಾಷಾ ಪ್ರಾಂತಗಳ ರಥವನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾದ ದಾರಿಗೆ ತಿರುಗಿಸಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಮರಾಠಿಯ ನನ್ನ ಬಂಧುಗಳಿಗೂ ಅನೇಕ ಸಲ ಈ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಭಾಷಣ ಬರಹಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ಮರಾಠಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಮಂದಿರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಮಾತನಾಡಿ ಈ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿದಾಗ, 'ನೀವು ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ನಾವು ಕೇಳಲು ಸಿದ್ಧರು' ಎಂದು ಕೂಗಿದ್ದುಂಟು. ಪ್ರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ,



ಮರಾಠಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಾನು ಕಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಮರಾಠಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯೋಬ್ಬನು ಬಂದು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದಾಗ, 'ಮರಾಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಬಹುದು' ಎನ್ನುವ ಮಾತನ್ನು ನಾನು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕೇಳಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದೆನು. ಭಾಷೆಯು ಪಟ್ಟಭದ್ರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಜನರ ಕೈಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಾಗ, ಒಂದು ಮಾರಕ ಅಸ್ತ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರ ಅದೇ ಭಾಷೆ, ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳ ಸೃಜನಶೀಲತೆಯಿಂದ ಜನ-ಜನರನ್ನು ಒಂದುಗೂಡಿಸುವ, ಹೃದಯ-ಹೃದಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಸೆಯುವ ಭಾವನೇತುವೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಜಯದೇವತಾಯಿ ಲಿಗಾಡೆ

1974ರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

Source: Prajavani, Nov.1, 2023

'A stereotypical Kannadiga image that submerges the numerous other worlds of Karnataka hasn't emerged yet'

The book asks that India cares for the best of its moral inheritance while keeping itself open to everything from anywhere and not close in on itself in an insular way, says Chandan Gowda

INTERVIEW

**Chandan
Gowda**

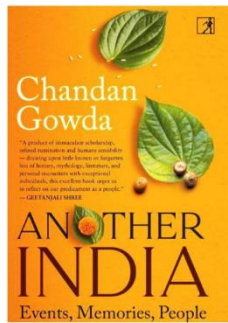
Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Dcities that get chastised by people, anthropomorphic animals and syncretic cultures, tales that almost transform Sir M. Visvesvaraya into a modern myth, Kuvempu's disagreements with Nehru... *Another India* by Chandan Gowda is a collection of essays that gently nudges the reader to take notice of the rich cultural vision we have inherited but often fail to see. The book speaks through folklore, historical anecdotes and episodes from the lives of prominent personalities, with the idea of revealing the complexities and progressiveness ingrained in these tales from the past and could provide answers to the questions of the present.

In a conversation with *The Hindu*, Mr. Gowda talks about the many worlds that make up Karnataka, limitations of the modern ideas of progress and the answers from the many subcultures to the jingoistic narratives of today.

'Another India' starts with an essay on how Karnataka is a land of many worlds, but there is an absence of a 'generic Kannada identity' unlike in the case of communities from other states like Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab or Gujarat. Why is this the case?

The essay on 'A People Without a Stereotype' was trying to say that a stereotype or an image of a Kannadiga doesn't exist at a national or global level. That is partly to do with the fact that the people of this state haven't really gone out



Another India by Chandan Gowda.

much or done things that have generated talk about them from others. The biggest literary figures in Karnataka haven't been translated.

There is indeed a repertoire of icons, dynasties and tourist places that connote the state of Karnataka. But what I'm trying to show in the essay is the fact that an image of a Kannadiga hasn't emerged to submerge the numerous cultural worlds that make up Karnataka. I feel that is something to feel pleased about.

There are official memories of Kannada history and culture handed down through textbooks and popular culture. And then there are cultural worlds outside these that appear in the essays and the stories in *Another India*. Talking about these was not only to make local readers alert to the very many layers that make up a static phrase like "Kannada culture", but to be able to recognize them as living currents in the present, an awareness of which lends depth and texture to the somewhat thin political and moral imaginations seen in public discussions. I also felt that this was of

getting the non-Kannada speakers moving into the city to become curious about Karnataka and of provoking them into doing similar kinds of looking around within their own cultural histories.

The book is a collection of essays and stories on a range of topics. So, what was the overarching idea when you put them together as a book?

One of the ideas behind the book was to share a confident scepticism about the modern vision. This can be an affirmative and not a negative attitude. That is why I held myself from offering commentaries that directly indicted modernity.

Take the chapters titled 'Tales of Modern Mythology' and 'Of Hustling and Other Seductions', which share several myths and anecdotes about Sir M. Visvesvaraya. All of them lay bare a fascination for the achievements of the industrial West and for the idea that development could help us attain those - this cultural pathology has only grown in power in the present.

The modern vision can



A file photo of Karaga festival in Bengaluru.



Chandan Gowda

do several things. It puts city life as the preferred way of life of the present and the future and relegates rural life as a form of life that is sure to die someday. This stance then makes possible cultural indifference towards rural society as well as justifies policy neglect in terms of not caring enough for the livelihood of people in rural areas. The essay, 'The Secure Selves of the Past', shows individuals relating to each other freely without letting religious identity set limits on their capacity for identifying with one another.

Policy experts constantly talk about skilling the youth from rural areas and make them part of the service industry in cities. But do they realise that when they do that, they are despoiling them first? It's not as

if rural youth are without skills. Agricultural skills are valuable and are not easily acquired, but our policy people are literate about this fact.

One of the things that makes it easy for the modern mind to not take rural minds seriously is to not recognise the value of the creativity that emerges from those spaces. The section, 'The Words of the People', retells stories from rural communities that show extraordinary moral sophistication. I wanted to question the rural-urban binary that the modern world has designed in favour of urban life and culture and ask that they both belong in our imaginations of our present and our future.

Overcoming the social science and literature divide is another aim of *Another India*. The research methods of social scientists limit their curiosity about where they could be looking while carrying out their work. A concern of the book is to restore the dignity of thought to "folk tales" and community memories that don't proclaim themselves as thought, but are actually offering refined reflections on major

questions. Democratizing our knowledges through an engagement with these texts is also a means of making them open to the wider participation of people.

How do the essays and stories in the book hold a mirror against modernity?

Many of the essays and stories in the book hold out pictures of our cultural life which should make it tough to subscribe to simplified views of our cultural realities. Many of these stories take place in remote points of time, but they are contemporary and show great aesthetic and moral creativity.

Many of the right-wing orthodox views are as modern as secular viewpoints. Their vision of religion and history is a colonial one. India in ancient and medieval times was a complex cultural world. We know of the Sanskrit imagination but texts in non-Sanskrit languages show great creativity too.

Brahmin culture was no doubt powerful, but the other communities did not simply stay passive or submissive - in spheres of

worldly power as well as that of ritual and moral imagination. So, one of the aims of the book was to go beyond the binaries of modern-traditional, secular-religious and oral-written that modern discussions routinely work with and help ourselves see these worlds of dissent and creativity.

In the section titled 'Some Ideas' you talk about Ambedkar's ideal of *Maitri*, Kuvempu's vision of *Vishvamanava*, Lohia's *Samata* and so on. Did you feel there was a need for these ideas to be heard louder in today's times?

Be it Kuvempu or Ambedkar or Lohia, they have reached out to a moral conversation in the past that they found helpful for offering a response to modern situations.

Kuvempu elaborates his ideal of *vishvamanava* through an engagement with Vedantic thought. His model of the Mantra Mangalya wedding or the plays he wrote, like *Jalagana* and *Shudra Tapasvi*, were all enactments of the *vishvamanava* ideal in modern times.

Ambedkar's ideal of *maitri* which he elaborates on from Buddhist philosophy in his later years signals a shift in his thinking on social liberation. He asks that hatred and enmity be given up towards all, including one's oppressor, and that respect for all life, including plant and animal life, be cultivated. Lohia found the idea of 'samata' (spiritual equanimity) valuable for having an independent relationship with the present. Marxism will point to the future as the time of revolutionary emancipation and liberal thought will also say that we are moving towards progress in the future. And, revivalists will talk about historical wounds which need to be remedied in the present.

For Lohia, individuals need to act morally in the present without using the past or the future as grounds for justifying their actions in the present. He was an atheist but took a deep interest in Indian epics for thinking political and aesthetic values in the present.

So, what is *Another India*?

Another India asks that India cares for the best of its moral inheritance while keeping itself open to everything from anywhere and not close in on itself in an insular way, and become jingoistic about itself. We need to have a sense of seriousness about how we care for ourselves as a civilization in the midst of so many transformations. The book profiles several extraordinary Indians who exemplify this seriousness in very different ways.

When the British tried to undermine the cultural confidence of Indians by saying that India was not a nation and that it was culturally backward since it lacked modern science and technology, a modern democracy, etc, one response - which drives the Hindu right-wing imagination - was to insist incorrectly that India had all these things in the past and that it could become a nation with one religion again. On the other hand, Gandhi refused to accept the British claims as valid and argued that a civilization was an issue of morality and not of material achievements. India ought to evolve, he held, as a society where the state and the economy were decentralized, where religious communities co-existed with heart-unity (*gadhavuna*), where unjust practices were reformed continuously. The question of who we are as a country in modern times continues to be an unsettled question. *Another India* is an effort to visit this question.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov. 1, 2023

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An automated plan approval system is in the works, aiming to reduce corruption and speed up construction, but architects feel it may be unfair to them

Simplifying building plan approval in Bengaluru

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

As per Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar's instructions, officials of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) are busy developing a new system to curb violations in smaller houses built on plots measuring less than 50X60 feet, while reducing red-tapism and corruption in the plan approval process — Automated Plan Approval system.

The proposal is not new. In 2019, the then-BBMP commissioner B H Anilkumar floated the idea of architects uploading the plan and BBMP officials giving approvals after checking it online, without people visiting the BBMP office. The construction can begin without spot inspection, and responsibility for violations will be on the architects.

This proposal is now back on the table. In the current system, spot inspection is mandatory before granting approval, which leads to delays sometimes when officials are busy with other work. It also leads to violations. Today, BBMP limits is full of buildings that violate bylaws.

Rules remain on paper

BBMP has always been aware of the problem. An order dated July 2, 2022, mandated that BBMP assistant engi-

neers mark the building plinth line in the presence of the property owners for approved plans and document it using GPS coordinates and photos. The aim was to figure out the buildings that violated the approved plans.

Officials were asked to inspect the works regularly to ensure the construction was according to the plan. The violators would be asked to stop the work, and the officials who failed to inspect constructions or mark plinth lines would be fined.

Once the construction is over, the BBMP issues the occupancy certificate to the building. Many violations happen after this is issued. Such violations were to be monitored by townplanning engineers or assistant engineers.

Sometimes, buildings are constructed without plan approval. Revenue officials were asked to provide details of unauthorised constructions to BBMP assistant executive engineers who were authorised to take action.

However, in practice, BBMP officials often could not mark plinth lines. As violations continued amid BBMP's staff crunch, a year later, in July 2023, the BBMP again issued another order making ward engineers responsible for monitoring illegal constructions and reporting them to assistant executive engineers or joint directors.

The order noted that illegal struc-

tures continued despite all notifications and attempts to fix responsibility on officials. It also formed zonal-level task forces to demolish unauthorised constructions and set timelines for officers to take action.

'Architects responsible'

A senior official from BBMP's town-planning department says it is too early to reveal more about the new system, and clarity will emerge in another two weeks. "The proposed system will help citizens get plan approvals easily and will fix accountability on empanelled architects who upload the plans to ensure the constructions are built according to the approved plan," he says.

The official agrees that it takes time to fix the system. In the existing system, empanelled architects upload the plans and get them sanctioned. However, the building is built according to a separate working plan — different from the approved plan — according to the preferences of the building owner or architect's imagination.

In other cases, architects are not involved in the construction at all. Civil contractors take it over, and violations can happen at this stage. This is why the BBMP now wants to fix accountability on architects, not just building owners, in case of violations.

'Good idea with many possibilities'

Deepak Punam, an architect, says that the proposed system of automated plan sanction is a good move which will increase transparency, helping both the government and the property owners.

"Property owners can apply online without any visit to BBMP because the new system will not have multiple approval officers, like in Sakala, 'self-conversion of agriculture land' and Kaveri 2 schemes," he says.

Implementation of the system is critical; if the application procedure through the app or website is too technical, then interference of agents will happen, he says.

"In the current manual plan sanction system, sites measuring less than 30X40 do not need any plans. Including them in the new system would be a bit challenging. However, I feel all properties, irrespective of measurement, must be included," he adds.

In case multiple owners fight legally over a particular property, currently, the interested parties inform BBMP to stop plan approval. "If this is not addressed in the new system, it would create more legal challenges," he explains.

"The new system should be able to track deviation by adding real-time and GPS-enabled photos of the property during application.

If an old building needs to be demolished, the quantity of construction and demolition waste can be calculated, and disposal can be tracked," he says.

Building owners declare a lesser area of property to reduce property tax. Once the building is completed, for issuing of occupancy certificate, uploading of real-time and GPS-enabled photos should be mandated, which can help track extra constructions and declared area could be crosschecked, he adds.

If the plan is not approved, a digital track of the application can be used by owners to take legal steps. According to him, using residential buildings for commercial activities can also be tracked with digitisation.

Deepak says the idea has many other benefits too. The data can be shared with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited and others to avoid sharing wrong information with these departments while getting service. Implementation of rainwater harvesting etc. can easily be tracked.

A system to review constructions every two years can help track extra floor constructions. He adds that existing buildings with offline plan sanction can also be brought under scanner using real-time and GPS-enabled photos.

Only registered architects should design buildings. Real-time monitoring should be done to track violations. In case of violations, the owners should be held responsible, not the architects, says Yashaswini.

For smaller buildings, the BBMP officials check for master plan bylaws and approve the plan. The problem happens when bylaws are not obeyed. "The point of the bylaw is that there can be a healthy building and clearance around it," she explains.

She adds that the situation now is that violators are more than non-violators. Applying for retrofitting instead of a new plan is another way to circumvent the approval process.

"The current plan approval process and documents have many good things, but people do not follow them. Schemes like Akrama Sakrama (regularisation of unauthorised constructions) should not exist. Once people know there is an option to regularise it later, they will violate it," she says.

Why do violations happen?

Shantharam, a BBMP-empanelled engineer, explains the flaws that lead to violations. "If we take a 30X40 site, for example, the setback will be 12% from the roadside, measuring about 5 feet. The other three sides will have an 8% setback, measuring upto 3.25 ft. Thus, in a site measuring 1200 sqft area, one will be able to build a floor of 740 sqft legally. It is difficult to accommodate a two-bed-room-hall-kitchen house in this area. It makes people unhappy as real estate is at a premium in Bengaluru," he says.

He says the setback should be reduced to about 2.5 feet on each side of the building, which will reduce the number of violations.

The city is growing vertically. Therefore, the floor area ratio (FAR) given to properties can be increased so that people can build more in less space. In a 1200 sqft space, at the rate of the current FAR of 1.75, one can build only 2,100 sqft. This is less. If the FAR can be raised to 2-2.5, it will help people get more value out of the land, he says.

'Unfair on architects'

There is also the problem of brokers who "facilitate" the plan approval process. The official says that going to them is unwarranted as the BBMP website has all the details and tutorials on how to get plan approval. "Citizens can upload plan details online, which are inspected, and approvals are given soon. No need to go to any middleman," he says.

"Currently and in the proposed system, architects should upload the plan. But how many architects design individual houses? People don't come to architects as they feel their fee is high and don't want to spend on design. They spend only on execution, which civil contractors do," says Yashaswini Sharma, an architect based in Bengaluru.



DH FILE PHOTO/PUSHKARV

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Oct. 28, 2023

7 years on, has govt's Udan scheme made flying easier?

74% of the flight operators have exited and only 174 of the 774 routes awarded with the aim of improving air connectivity are operational, finds **Richa Gandhi**

The Centre launched its Udan (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme in October 2016 to improve air connectivity for tier-2 and tier-3 cities. It covers route lengths of 200-800km, with no lower limit for hilly, remote, island and security-sensitive regions.

To make the new routes viable, operators are offered funding and concessions for 3 years. A levy of Rs 5,000 per domestic flight has been charged since September 2017 to generate funds for the scheme. This levy goes to the Regional Air Connectivity Fund Trust, which distributes the money to operators for their routes under Udan.

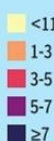
So, how successful is the Udan scheme after 7 years?

TIMES Special

Most Airports In Uttarakhand, Gujarat

State-wise operational regional connectivity scheme (RCS) airports, in September 2023

While Uttarakhand has 9 such airports, Gujarat has 8. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka follow with 6 each.

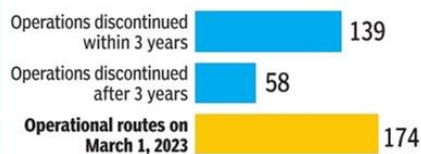
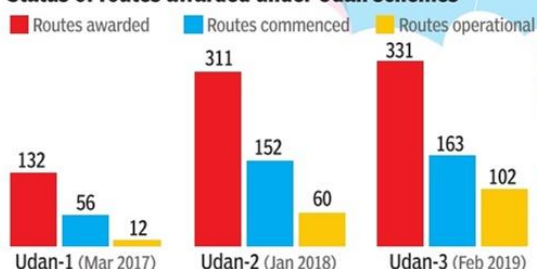


Source: Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Only 23% Of Routes Operational

A CAG audit report published in August shows the scheme is limping. Less than a quarter of the routes awarded so far were operational in March this year. More than half (53%) of the routes that commenced operations have shut down. In fact, 139 of the 371 routes closed within the three-year funding period.

Status of routes awarded under Udan schemes

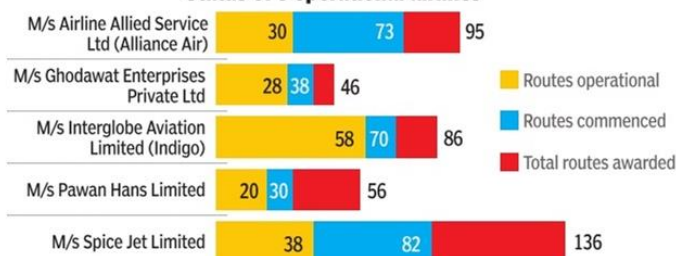


Source: CAG audit report

9 Of 19 Operators Never Flew

Altogether 19 flight operators were awarded routes under the 3 Udan schemes. Today, only 5 of them are in business. However, 9 operators never commenced flights on their routes. This is partly because the smaller players struggle with the stringent compliance and operational requirements. Also, the bigger airlines that already have the resources to operate in remote areas have received substantial funding over the past 3 years, giving them an unfair advantage.

Status of 5 operational airlines



Source: The Times of India, p.6, Oct. 29, 2023

BBMP stirs the pot: Bengaluru eateries feel the heat in fire safety sweep

More than 50% of bars, restaurants inspected by Palike issued closure orders

NAVEEN MENEZES &
UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA
BENGALURU, DHNS

For the first time, the civic body has issued notices to every second bar or restaurant it inspected since the fire mishap that was reported in Koramangala's Mudpipe Cafe on October 18. Of the 1,333 establishments audited in the last ten days, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has shuttered 60 restaurants, including rooftop bars. Another 600 establishments face the threat of closure for not providing adequate fire safety measures.

During the audit, the civic body found that at least 200 bars and restaurants were running without the trade license, a majority in eastern parts of Bengaluru including Mahadevapura. Other than hygiene, the BBMP's health officials have been primarily scanning establishments operating on the rooftop and those without the fire extinguishers.

Dr Thirlok Chandra, BBMP's special commissioner (health) said they have been shutting down establishments that do not have the trade license without giving them any opportunity to contest. "Wherever we have issued notices, they get a chance to comply with the rules and run the business without any fear," he said, adding that rooftop bars that do not have permission will also be shut.

The last such city-wide audit of bars and restaurants was initiated late in 2017 after the Kamala Mills fire tragedy in Mumbai killed over 20 people. In Bengaluru, the BBMP had served notices to many rooftop establishments for setting up kitchens, with combustible substances, on the terrace.

No clarity

The ongoing drive is, however, marred with ambiguity as health officials in different zones are following different standards while assessing the bars and restaurants which have always faced unnecessary harassment from the law-enforcement agencies. For instance: A large number of establishments inspected by health officials in East, South, Bommanahalli and Yela-

Zone	Approvals given	No of trades inspected	No of notices issued	No of trades closed
Bommanahalli	101	131	85	3
Dasarahalli	34	73	30	0
East	222	290	155	25
Mahadevapura	161	249	60	5
RR Nagar	75	82	50	6
South	248	221	124	8
West	167	185	33	13
Yelahanka	110	102	66	0
Total	1,118	1,333	603	60

What the fire dept says

Kamal Pant, Director General of Police and Director General, Fire and Emergency Services, spoke to DH about the challenges faced by the department to keep violations in check.

"We don't have the manpower to conduct surveys on what buildings are flouting the NOC regulations; it is a tall order because we hardly have 40 offices in Bengaluru. It will serve very little purpose to go on such a drive now," he said.

"Big builders that have several high-rise and

mid-rise buildings in the city have much to lose if they don't comply with necessary regulations, unlike smaller builders. Because the builders invest huge sums of money into their construction projects, they tend to take necessary safety measures to avoid dangerous consequences. A lot of these smaller builders can get away with this, but they are not under our purview," Pant said.

It is very utopian, he said, to expect that all buildings are checked

hanka have been slapped with notices as against other zones.

What can also be noted is that not a single bar and restaurant has been closed in Dasarahalli and Yelahanka. Only the East and West zones (see table) have shuttered more than a dozen establishments as compared to other places.

As per the Karnataka Fire Force Act 1964, which was amended in 2023, a non-objection certificate from the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services department is needed only for high-rise buildings that are 21 meters or above in height. During the ongoing drive, many restaurants that are operating in buildings that are less than three floors have been served with notices for not obtaining permission from the fire department.

A restaurant owner in East Bengaluru, who was served with notice for not having fire safety measures, said that he is running his restaurant on the ground floor of a two-storey building and permission

from the fire department was not needed.

"In the name of inspection, some health officers run a racket of looting money from the restaurateurs. For us, the safety of our employees and guests is paramount. Does BBMP have fire safety equipment in any of its buildings? He wondered.

He said fire accidents happen anywhere, be it in buses, open places etc but urged the authorities not to harass businesses that are contributing over Rs 100 crore a day just in taxes besides creating employment for many.

There is also ambiguity surrounding the legality of operating on the rooftop. While health officials of some zones say such establishments are illegal, a few other zones have insisted that it is allowed as long as they do not have a kitchen on the terrace. Of the 60 establishments which were shut in the last ten days, almost half of them are rooftop bars and restaurants, officials said.



BBMP officials shut down non-compliant eateries while scrutinising fire safety measures and licence compliance in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

before, during, and after construction, and from time to time.

"It is simply not possible to keep checking what everyone is doing in their

buildings after permissions are given. Whether it is a high-rise building or not, the operator should take the onus of following the right safety protocols."

BBMP's Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said there is confusion on the legality of rooftop establishments but we are not shutting them down.

"We are not closing the rooftop bars and restaurants as long as they have put in place adequate fire safety measures in place. Rooftop establishments are required for the city and they are very popular," he said.

The National Restaurants Association of India, Bengaluru chapter has, however, been silent during the ongoing inspection.

PC Rao, president of Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association said he has received complaints from many members that they were served with notices unnecessarily. "We are in the process of gathering feedback from many members including the copy of notices. The association plans to meet the chief commissioner and the ministers to inform what is happening on the ground," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Oct. 29, 2023

Palike allocates Rs 35 cr to maintain 174 lakes, 15 STPs

Rs 10 lakh to develop app to monitor lake upkeep activities

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BBMP has earmarked Rs 35 crore for the maintenance of 174 lakes and 15 sewage treatment plants (STPs) in 2023-24.

It appears that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has not made judicious use of its resources as some of the lakes identified for maintenance this fiscal year are either undergoing rejuvenation work or were recently developed.

Official data suggests that the BBMP has allocated more grants for lakes situated in the outskirts of Bengaluru as the waterbodies, located in the central business districts (CBD) areas, have already received a facelift in the past. Mahadevapura has received

a major share of allocation, which is Rs 9 crore for the upkeep of 53 lakes.

The action plan also includes 42 lakes of Bommanahalli, 33 lakes of RR Nagar and 24 lakes of Yelahanka. The Rs 35 crore has been predominantly earmarked for the maintenance of the waterbodies.

In some lakes like Doddabommasandra, Kogiul, Yelahanka, Dasarahalli, Kacharakana halli, and Kaggadasapura, the BBMP has set aside grants for fencing and repairing the walkways.

In all, there are a total of 202 lakes under the custody of the BBMP. Of these, 19 are dead as they have lost all characteristics of a lake due to encroachments, and 27 lakes are in dire straits owing to lack of funds for rejuvenation work. A sum

of Rs 10 lakh has been set aside for developing a mobile application to monitor lake maintenance activities.

Constituencies such as Bommanahalli, Padmanabhanagar, Yeshwantpur, Yelahanka, CV Raman Nagar, and Shantinagar have the highest of over 60 parks each.

Constituencies with the least number of parks are Chamarajpet (10), Gandhinagar (21), KR Puram (21), Chickpet (22),

of Rs 10 lakh has been set aside for developing a mobile application to monitor lake maintenance activities.

Repeat funding

Amid several lakes needing funds for restoration and rejuvenation, money has been

Rs 15 crore to maintain 1,240 parks

The BBMP has also sanctioned a grant of Rs 15 crore for the annual maintenance of 1,240 neighborhood parks across the city.

Constituencies such as Bommanahalli, Padmanabhanagar, Yeshwantpur, Yelahanka, CV Raman Nagar, and Shantinagar have the highest of over 60 parks each.

Constituencies with the least number of parks are Chamarajpet (10), Gandhinagar (21), KR Puram (21), Chickpet (22),



Despite spending crores, the BBMP has given Rs 46 lakh for fencing and another Rs 45 lakh for the upkeep of Ulsoor lake, even as other lakes are dying due to lack of funds. FILE

Pulakeshinagar (22), and Mahadevapura (23).

Last week, the civic body urged volunteers to supervise the maintenance of both the

lakes and the parks.

October 30 had been declared the last date to confirm participation, the civic authority has said.

allocated to maintain lakes in good condition. Technically, the civic body is not supposed to take up maintenance work at a lake that was developed recently as they come under the defect liability period (DLP).

Some of these lakes are: Ulsoor (Rs 90 lakh), Kaggada-

dasapura (Rs 13.35 lakh), Mallathahalli (Rs 28 lakh), Srigandadhkaval (Rs 17 lakh), Begur (Rs 45 lakh), Yelahanka and Chikkabettahalli (Rs 47 lakh).

Just last year, the state government had funded the development of these lakes.

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

Land prices rise on the back of B'luru name tag

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K Sunil Prasad

Ramanagara/Kanakapura: When Ramesh Sippy's blockbuster 'Sholay' was shot among the now-famous granite hills of Ramanagara in 1975, land rates stood at a mere Rs 50 per square foot. Rates began to climb when the local MLA, a certain HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S), became chief minister in 2006. The obvious hope then was that the chief minister would spur rapid development in the district.

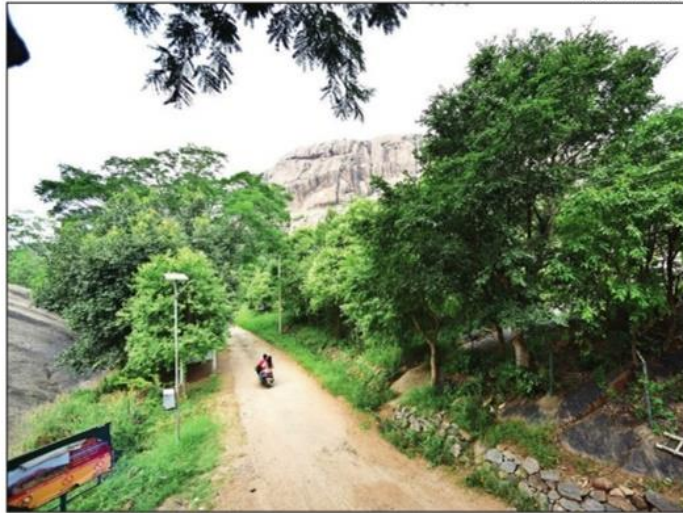
RENAMING RAMANAGARA

Land rates did jump to Rs 1,000-1,500sqft, but then it stagnated after Kumaraswamy's government fell. The graph picked up again after Kumaraswamy promised to shift RGUHS to the district during his second term as chief minister in 2019.

Now, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar's proposal to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South or Nava Bengaluru, has seen the cost of land climb again. Realtors say it has spiked between 20% and a staggering 50% since the announcement – a matter of four days.

The biggest impact is in Kanakapura, the taluk closest to Bengaluru City and the home constituency of Shivakumar, also president of the state Congress unit. Site values stand at anywhere between Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000sqft, depending on infrastructure.

"We expect it to rise further to between Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000sqft if it is renamed Bengaluru South or Nava Bengaluru," said L Kishore,



CASHING IN: Over the past couple of days, owners of properties are demanding anywhere between Rs 4,500 to Rs 8,000 per square foot

who owns a significant chunk of property in the heart of the town.

One reason for this optimism is a gas pipeline is being laid across the district and the highway is being widened. Real estate agents say there has been a substantial increase in the number of phone calls enquiring about land prices. Most enquiries over the past three days have come from people in Bengaluru.

"Previously, in places like Basavaeshwaranagar, a purely residential area, and MG Road, a commercial hub, land rates were anywhere between Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,500sqft. Now, in the past 72 hours, owners of these properties are demanding anywhere between Rs 4,500 to Rs 8,000sqft," said Gopalaiah, who runs a real estate agency in the town.

Quoting an example of a 30x40 site in Shivanahalli GP, Gopalaiah said owners are demanding Rs 40 lakh for a

site that was available for Rs 18 lakh only last week. "Most people who call say they are locals who have shifted to Bengaluru for work," he said. "They now want to invest in Kanakapura and Harohalli."

Another reason for a likely boom in land prices in Kanakapura and Magadi is that local Congress functionaries and MLAs are piling pressure on the government to extend the Namma Metro rail. "We have already submitted a proposal to the government and spoken with Shivakumar to extend Metro rail services to Kanakapura and Magadi," said former minister and Congress leader PGR Scindia.

Scindia said the renaming exercise will give a much-needed boost to the district which has been long seeking infrastructure development. On the downside though, those who are willing to sell their properties now may never be able later to build/buy their own homes in the district.

Source: The Times of India, p.4, Oct. 30, 2023

Luxury home sales in Bengaluru record 142% increase this year

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Bengaluru: Sales of luxury homes, priced more than Rs 1.5 crore, saw a 142% jump in Bengaluru in the first nine months of this calendar year. A record 9,220 luxury homes were sold in the city between January and September this year, up from 3,810 homes sold in the same period in 2022, according to data from Anarock, a property consultation firm, on luxury home sales in seven cities, including Bengaluru.

About 84,400 units were sold till the end of September in the seven cities. Among the big cities, Hyderabad saw a more significant jump, 260%, while Chennai saw a 143% increase. More mature markets like Mumbai (MMR) and NCR saw more stable growth.

According to data, nearly

HYD LEADS TABLE WITH 260% GROWTH



Cities	2023 (9 months)	2022 (9 months)	% of increase
Hyderabad	13,630	3,790	260
Pune	6,850	2,350	191
Chennai	3,300	1,370	143
Bengaluru	9,220	3,810	142
NCR	13,630	6,210	119
Mumbai	36,130	20,820	74
Kolkata	1,610	950	69
Total	84,400	39,300	115

Luxury housing units sold in top 7 cities | Source: Anarock Reaserach

3.5 lakh housing units were sold in these seven cities in the first nine months of 2023 and of them 24%, or approximately 84,400 units, were luxury homes priced more than Rs 1.5 crore. Bengaluru saw around 47,100 units sold across all budget categories in the first nine months of 2023, of which the share of luxury dwellings stood at 20%.

Multiple real estate agents and a few real estate firms **TOI** spoke with said spacious homes were preferred by many after their work-from-home experience during the Covid-19 pandemic, while increasing rental cost pushes individuals to buy homes rather than living in rental accommodation.

► Before Covid-19, P 2

Continued...

Kishore Jain, chairman of Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), Bengaluru, said there is a great demand for luxury homes in Bengaluru due to multiple reasons. Before Covid-19, people would prefer 2BHK homes, but now the trend has changed and all spacious and luxurious homes available with builders have been sold, whereas there are not many takers for 2BHK homes.

"After Covid-19, the public realised the importance of owning a home. They preferred to have all facilities in the home, including work-from-home facility, gardening to home theatre. So, there is a demand for luxury homes and an increase in the sale of such homes," said Jain.

Property tech firm NoBroker's half-yearly report also revealed that there is a growing trend in Bengaluru and Chennai to seek larger living spaces, with a striking 27% looking for more expansive homes.

Demand for 3 BHK units is consistently beating demand for 2 BHK units. "With home loan EMIs getting close to rental rates, 65% of tenants are considering buying a property this year, reflecting an optimistic view of real estate market stability and growth...", the NoBroker report stated.

Source: The Times of India, p.1&2, Oct. 30, 2023

B'luru logs highest number of deaths due to speeding in 2022

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bengaluru recorded the highest number of deaths in 2022 due to speeding of vehicles among cities with a population of over a million in the country.

The IT city reported 711 deaths due to speeding, followed by Jaipur with 683 deaths. Delhi stood third with 648 deaths, as per the report 'Road accidents in India - 2022' prepared by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The highest number of accidents on account of speeding was reported by Indore (4,338) followed by Bengaluru (3,528), while the least number of accidents was reported by Pune among cities with a million-plus population.

Both road accidents and fatalities have been increasing in Bengaluru in the last few years. In 2018, the city witnessed 686 road accident deaths while it was 772 in 2022, says the report.

In 2022, Bengaluru was in the fourth position with 3,822 accidents while it was in the fifth position with

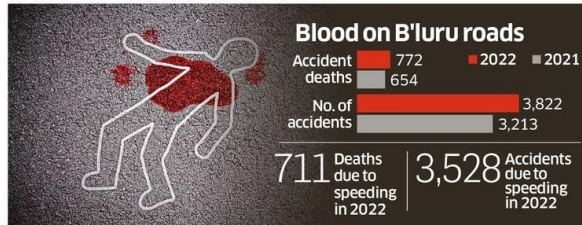
3,213 accidents in 2021. Deaths due to road accidents also increased in Bengaluru as it witnessed 772 deaths in 2022 while it was 654 in 2021.

Chennai achieved the maximum reduction in the number of accident deaths, reporting 491 deaths in 2022 as compared to 998 deaths in 2021, followed by Ghaziabad and Ludhiana.

Two-wheelers were responsible for maximum road accident deaths in big cities. Delhi recorded the maximum deaths in the two-wheeler category (551) followed by Bengaluru (416) last year, while Jamshedpur reported the least number of deaths (11) among million-plus cities last year.

In the country, a total of 74,897 two-wheeler riders lost their lives in 2022, accounting for 44% of the total 1,68,491 deaths in road accidents.

As per the report, the number of road accidents in India went up by an alarming 12% to over 4.6 lakh in 2022, resulting in the death of 19 people every hour. It showed that 53 road accidents take place every hour in the country. The victims largely constituted young people in productive age groups.



Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Nov 2, 2023

Civic body identifies 4 new quarries in north, east B'luru to dump waste

Ignores objections; temporary move, say officials

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS



The landfill in Mittaganahalli.
DH FILE PHOTO

All the garbage-laden trucks will soon start moving towards the north and eastern parts of Bengaluru as the civic body has identified four new quarries, two in Byatarayanapura and the other in Mahadevapura assembly constituency, to dump the city's garbage.

The move that goes against several court orders has been seen as temporary until the government identifies 400 acres of land to set up a waste tech park that could process the waste instead of being a mere dumping ground.

In all, the civic body is planning to create four quarries —

Baiyappanahalli and Bagalur (Byatarayanapura) and Mitaganahalli and Kannur (Mahadevapura) — three of which are closer to places where garbage is already being dumped daily.

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) will spend close to Rs 120 crore to set up the four landfills.

Several courts, including the National Green Tribunal (NGT), have opposed creating landfills to dump garbage since it is unscientific and has huge environmental costs. They put the health of villagers at risk for the problems the city creates.

Rs 24 crore for biomining legacy waste at Mavallipura

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has set aside Rs 23.90 crore for biomining legacy waste at Mavallipura, where waste was dumped for several years until the villagers started protesting in a big way.

Interestingly, the civic body had invested Rs 12 crore just last year to shift 1.13 lakh tonne of waste

from Mavallipura to Mitaganahalli. In 2019, the BBMP had roped in government-owned Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Enterprise (KRIDL) to shift around 60,000 tonne of waste.

There is, however, no clarity about the exact volume of waste available at the Mavallipura dumpyard, which is about 20 km from Bengaluru.

Out of the 4,500-tonne waste generated by the city daily, 3,000 tonne goes to the landfill, while 1,500 tonne is sent for waste processing.

The BSWML is also not focusing on running the seven waste processing plants to their full capacity due to opposition from local residents.

But a senior official main-

tained that landfills are only stopgap arrangements until the new facility becomes functional to process and incinerate waste scientifically.

He cited the recent government order to the revenue department to identify 100 acres of land in four directions to create tech parks for waste management.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Nov 2, 2023

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