



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

VOL: 1

November 2023

NO: 8

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

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AGRICULTURE

'New-age tech essential to curb volatility of tomato price

Spoorthi Niranjana
BENGALURU

Production of tomatoes is not a challenge. What is lacking in our country is post-harvest management, said Ashok Dalwai, CEO of National Rainfed Area Authority (Central Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare), on Friday

while delivering the keynote address at the two-day conference on 'Tomato: Problems, perspectives, plant breeding solutions'.

The conference was organised by the Foundation for Advanced Training in Plant Breeding, in collaboration with the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, and held at

GKVK in Bengaluru.

Dr. Dalwai linked the tomato price volatility to an imbalanced relation between tomato supply and demand and suggested the integration of value system and product diversification into the supply chain to benefit farmers. He also highlighted that the farmers' share in the consumer's ru-

pee is only 33% and drew attention to the need for inclusiveness from the perspective of farmers. Talking to *The Hindu*, he speculated that accurate estimation of the market demand, backed by real-time data gathered through new-age tech would help forecast prices, thus, curbing its volatility.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Nov. 4, 2023

Cauvery Authority ratifies CWRC's decision on release of water to T.N.

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee had asked Karnataka to release 2,600 cusecs to Tamil Nadu till November 23; T.N. had sought the release of 13,000 cusecs, factoring in the backlog

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Friday approved the decision of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to ask Karnataka to release 2,600 cubic feet per second (cusecs) to Tamil Nadu till November 23.

The ratification meant that the upper riparian State would have to release 5.17 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) in the next three weeks. When the CWRC took the decision earlier this week, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, also in charge of the Water Resources portfolio, said the



The ratification meant that Karnataka would have to release 5.17 tmcft in the next three weeks. FILE PHOTO

State did not have any water to release. As on date, the four reservoirs of Karnataka had a combined storage of 56 tmcft, according to a post on the social media handle of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster

Monitoring Centre.

Friday's meeting, held in New Delhi and attended physically by representatives of the two principal riparian States, lasted two hours, CWMA chairman Saumitra Kumar Halder

told *The Hindu*. Officials of the Kerala and Puducherry governments were present virtually.

Tamil Nadu had sought the release of 13,000 cusecs, factoring in the backlog.

Mekedatu project

Karnataka wanted the CWMA to discuss and clear its ₹ 9,000-crore Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project. But "this was opposed by us," said an official of the Tamil Nadu government.

Mr. Halder said that as it was an emergency meeting, "there was no discussion" on the Mekedatu project. However, the subject would be taken up at a regular meeting, he added.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov. 4, 2023

Glut in state's flower production robs farmers of festive bonanza

Minimal Rain Damage Results In High Yield

Hamsaveni.N@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: With Deepavali round the corner, markets are flooded with flowers. But floriculturists are not exactly smiling. They say the demand is not commensurate with the abundant supply, which means prices have dropped.

Farmers and flower traders in KR Market expressed their anguish over having to suffer 50-60% losses this festive season when compared to same time last year.

According to data from the department of horticulture, the four major flower-producing districts of Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural have seen a 13.2% increase in output this year.



INCREASE IN CULTIVATION (in hectares)

Chikkaballapur	3,998	5,602
Kolar	3,470	4,183
B'uru Rural	2,895	3,636
B'uru Urban	1,630	2,069
2021-2022		2022-2023

Source: Horticulture department

LITTLE JOY: Flower vendors across markets (KR Market in pic) see hopes wilting as supply outstrips demand

These four districts are said to contribute 50% of the state's flower production. The officials feel that due to increase in production and

less rainfall this year, the yield has been good and quality flowers are reaching the markets in huge quantities. However, due to supply overtaking demand, prices have crashed.

KB Dundi, additional director, department of horticulture (fruits and flowers), said: "Last year, there was an increase in the demand for flowers, but not supply as the yield was not that great. The prices went up and farmers made good profit. Considering the trend in 2022, a lot of farmers in these four districts shifted to flower cultivation and hence production went up."

Quality of produce has been good: Farmer

GM Divakar, president of Flowers Association City Market and a farmer himself, told TOI that this year has been very tough for cut flower cultivators.

"I have been in this field for 40 years. This year's Ganesh Chaturthi sales was the worst ever for our flower farmers. This time as we had less rain, the damage to flowers has been minimal and quality good. Currently, a

chrysanthemum (sevanthige) bag weighing 25-35kg is priced at around Rs 100. It should at least be Rs 400 to Rs 500. There are no hopes of prices increasing drastically this Deepavali..."

Somanna R, who works at the flower auction in KR Market, said that during last year's Dasara and Deepavali, they saw great business and farmers earned good profits. "But this year, there are barely any chances of a price rise. Bengaluru and surrounding areas mostly grow chrysanthemums and roses. We can expect prices of roses to go up in another two-three days, but there is no such hope for chrysanthemums."

Supply from Krishnagiri and Hosur in Tamil Nadu and Anantpur and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh are adding to the already high stock of flowers in the state.

Source: Time of India, p.5, Nov. 8, 2023

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ಬರ ನೆರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮೌನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ತಲ್ಲಣ

ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ತಂಡ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರೂ ಸೇರದ ಸಭೆ | ಜನರ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ಕೇಂದ್ರದತ್ತ ತಿರುಗಿಸಲು ಸಿಎಂ ಕಸರತ್ತು

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಬರಗಾಲದಂತಹ ಗಂಭೀರ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಕೆರೆರೆಲ್ಲಾ ಒತ್ತಾಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 'ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವೈರಾಘ್ಯ' ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನಿದೆ.

ಉನ್ನತ ಮೂಲವೊಂದರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ತಂಡದ ವರದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೈಗೆ ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವ ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯೇ ಸೇರಿಲ್ಲ. ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸಮಿತಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನ ನಂತರ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನೆರವು ಯಾಚನೆ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತಟಸ್ಥವಾಗಿರುವ ಭಾವನೆ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆ, ಶುಷ್ಕ ವಾತಾವರಣ, ನದಿಗಳ ಹರಿವು, ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಬರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಿರುವ ಎರಡು ಹಂತದ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ 236 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 223 ಬರ ಪೀಡಿತ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ತಗ್ಗಿದೆ: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೊದಲ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾದ ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿತು. ವಸ್ತುಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತಂಡದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ದೇಶದ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿದ ನಂತರ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆ ಗೋಡಿದರೆ ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿಯಾಗುವ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದವನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರೊಬ್ಬರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರೊಬ್ಬರು ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಸಿರು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿಂದ ಎಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಒಗ್ಗೂಡುವ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತಂದವನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ತಗ್ಗಿರುವುದು ನಿರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೊದಲ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಜಾಲಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಭಿಮಾನವು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಗ್ಗಲು ಮುಗಿಯಿತು? ಎಂಬ ಸಂಶಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ.

17,910 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ: ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಗಮನಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ತಂಡದ ಸಲಹೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಕೋರಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಚಿವರವರು ದೇಶದ ಹೋಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ ವಸ್ತುಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 33,710 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 17,910 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯುಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಒತ್ತಡ ತಂತ್ರ, ಉಳಿದು ಸಂಕಟ: ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟದಿಂದ ರೈತರು ತತ್ತರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೃಷಿ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಆರಿಸಿ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ನೆರವಿಗೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ ಯುದ್ಧೋದ್ಧಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾಣಲು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿವೆ. ಇದು ಸಾಲದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಬರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿದ್ದು, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು, ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷಗಳ ಒತ್ತಡದತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಉಳಿದು ಸಂಕಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿಸಿದೆ. ಜಾಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಾಲು ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿಗಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ, ಬಾಕಿ ಬೀಳೆ



ತೆಲಂಗಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಶಿಫ್ಟ್!

ನಾಡಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಬರಗಾಲದ ಬವಣೆಯು ಚಿಂತೆಯಾದರೆ ಅದೇಕೆ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನೆರೆಯ ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗೆ ಬಿನ್ನಸ್ ಕುರುವಾಗಿದೆ. 10 ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ 48 ಶಾಸಕರಿಗೆ ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಶಿಫ್ಟ್ ಆಗಲಿದೆ. ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮೀಟಿಸಿ, ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಗಮನಿಸಿ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪಾವತಿ, ಬಾಬಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮುಂದುವರೆಸಿಕೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕರಿಸಲು ಎದುರಿಸಿ ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒತ್ತಡದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿಂದ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪಾರಾಗಲು ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಅಡಿ 324 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಔದ್ಯಮಿಕ ಹಂತಿಕೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಕಸರತ್ತು: ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಹವಾಲು, ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾದ ಜನರ ಸಿಟ್ಟು, ರೋಷಾವೇಷ ಭುಗಿಲಿತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಿಡಿಹಾರುವುದು ಸಹಜ. ಈ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಬುಧ್ಧಿ ವಿಕ್ಷಿಪಣಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಜಿಡಿಎಸ್‌ಗೆ ಕೊಂಕು: ನಾಡಿನ ಬರಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆಗೆ 'ರೈತ ಸಾಂತ್ವನ ಯಾತ್ರೆ' ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಗಿತಿಸಿವೆ. ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಯ ನಂತರ ಅವರು ಕೊಡುವ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಜತೆ ಮೈತ್ರಿ ಎಫ್.ಡಿ.ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನಾಯಕರನ್ನು ದೂರವಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೊದಲ ಮಾಜಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಎಫ್. ಡಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಜತೆ ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು



ಜಿಡಿಎಸ್ ನಾಯಕರು ಬರ ಯಾತ್ರೆಯ ಅನುಭವ ಕೇಂದ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೊದಲ ಅವರ ಮಾಜಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಎಫ್.ಡಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಜತೆ ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. | ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಕಸರತ್ತು



ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಜತೆ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕೆಲ್ಲ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಲಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯೀಯ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಬರ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಮಾಡೋಣ ಎಂದು ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಹಾಕಿತು. | ಜಿ.ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವ



ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನೆರವು ಕೋರಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಹೋಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬುಧ್ಧಿ ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಮೊತ್ತ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಕೋರಿದ್ದು, ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸ್ಪಂದನೆಯಿಲ್ಲ. | ಕೃಷ್ಣಭೈರೇಗೌಡ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ

ಪರೋಕ್ಷವಾಗಿ ಕೊಂಕು ನುಡಿದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸೌಕಾರ್ಯ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಬಲಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವನ್ನು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ದೊರಕಿಸಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು ಋಣಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲು ನಮ್ಮ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸರ್ವಪಕ್ಷಗಳ ನಿಯೋಗ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯಲು ಸಿದ್ಧವಿದೆ. ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿ ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನಾಯಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾದರೂ, ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ನಾಯಕರು ಕೂಡಾ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನಾಯಕರನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ಇಟ್ಟು ಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಫ್.ಡಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿವಹಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು 'ನೆರವು ಕೋರಿಕೆ' ಚಿಂದು ಜಿಡಿಎಸ್ ಅಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ತಳ್ಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.4, Nov. 6, 2023

ನಮ್ಮ ನೀರಿನ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ; ನಾವು ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇವೆ - ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 'ನಮಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ನಾವು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇವೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನಾವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ದೆಹಲಿಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಸರಕಾರ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ 89ನೇ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಚಾರ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಸಭೆಯ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮುಂದೆ ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಯೋಜನೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ಮಾಡಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದರು.



ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ನದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜೋಡಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಇರಿಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾನು ಉತ್ತರಿಸಲು ಹೋಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ಅವರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಂತರಿಕ ವಿಚಾರ. ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಸಹ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ನೀರನ್ನಾಗಿಸುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ನಮಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತೊಂದರೆ ನೀಡಬಾರದು.

- ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ

- ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಾದವೇನು?**
- ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಜಲಾಶಯದ ನೀರನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
 - ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಿಂದ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
 - ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಬಡಬೇಕಿರುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ನಾವು ಬಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.
 - ಸಮುದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ.

ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಿದೆ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಉಪಯೋಗವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಹರಿದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ ನೀಡುವ ವೇಳೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕಾಲದಲ್ಲೂ 300-400 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಬಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನವರು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಗೆ ಒಳಹರಿದು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನಿಂತೇ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭವನ್ನು ಮನದಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕುಡಿನೀರಿನ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸುವ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದ ಅವರು, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೊದಲ ಆದ್ಯತೆ.

ವಿವಾದಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ 'ಅಸ್ತಿ' ಬಳಕೆ ಕಾವೇರಿ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬುದ್ಧಿವಂತ ನಡೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರ, ಕಾವೇರಿಯ ತನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿನ ನೀರನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ 'ಲೆಕ್ಕಾ' ಕೊಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

2018ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣ ಸಮಿತಿ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ 18 ಟಿಎಂಸಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ 18 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಇದ್ದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿಬಾರಿ ನೀರು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಾದವಾದಾಗ, 18 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಉಳಿದ ನೀರಿನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟು, ಬಳಕೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ಸೂತ್ರ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಿತರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಹೊಸ ಅಸ್ತ್ರ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಅವರು ಏನಾದರೂ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಲಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನಾವೇಕೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನೇ ಈಗ ಪಾಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನೀಡಿದ ಆದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಜೀವ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾವೇರಿ ಜಲಾನಯನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಾದರೂ ಇಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ

ಈ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ಬಾರಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಿಡುವಂತೆ ಕೇಳುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ. ಇಷ್ಟು ದಿನ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಒಳಹರಿದು ಹೊರಹರಿದನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಹಾಕಿ ನೀರು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದೀಗ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯ ನೀರನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿಟ್ಟು ಬಳಕೆ, ಉಳಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಎನ್ನುವ ವಾದ ಮಂಡಿಸುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಈ ವಾದವನ್ನು ಕಾವೇರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಂಡಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಒಪ್ಪದೇ ಇರಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವವನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಬಹುದು.

ನೀರನ್ನು ನಾವು ಮೀಸಲಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದರು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ, ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ 20 ವರ್ಷವನ್ನು ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆನೇಕಲ್, ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಡಲೇಬೇಕು. ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಕ್ಕೂ ನೀರು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹರಿಸುವುದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲು ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಖಾತೆಯನ್ನೂ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್, ಮೇಕೆದಾಟು ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಮ್ಮೇಳ ಮುಂದಿನ ವಾರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಸಮಯ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಬಹುದು. ನಾವು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರೀತಿಯ ತಯಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಮಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಬೇಕು? ಎಷ್ಟು ಉಳಿತಾಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ? ಸಮುದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಹರಿದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ? ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಮಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸುಪ್ರೀಂಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರವೇ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸರಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳಿಗೆ 24 ಟಿಎಂಸಿಯನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟು ಸಂತರ ಉಳಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿದೆ ಎಂದು.

ಈ ಮೊದಲು ನಾನು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವನಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಹೆಚ್ಚುಕಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವುದು ಬೇಡ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಸಂತರದ ಸರಕಾರದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸು ಹಾಕಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರವೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ, ನೀರು ಕೊಡಲೇಬೇಕಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವೆಂದು ರಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು.

Source: Vishwavani, p.10, Nov. 9, 2023

Untimely rain to lower coffee output by 10-15% this yr: Assn

Planters Of Arabica Variety Highly Worried

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Chikkamagaluru: Unseasonal rain and prolonged cloudy conditions have left Karnataka's coffee planters staring at a crisis.

The untimely rain coinciding with the harvest in several parts of Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts has resulted in both largescale dropping of ripened berries and splitting of unplucked fruits. Preliminary estimation, post monsoon, by Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA) has revealed that the state could witness a 10-15% slump in coffee production contrary to the post-blossom estimates at the start of the year.

Ahead of their annual meet, the association members told **TOI** that the current rainy conditions and overcast sky have already left planters of Arabica variety of coffee stressed. "The entire year has been problematic, especially for Arabica planters. From the early onset of flowering due to extended rain at the beginning of the year to prolonged dry spells due to deficient monsoon mid-year, the plants have suffered much stress. Further, 50-55% of the entire season's rainfall in just one week of July has caused even more damage to the crop. Just as planters were hoping to recover their production costs, the current spell of rain has spoiled the show," explained Mahesh Shashidhar, chairperson of KPA.

"The post-bloom estimates for the whole of India was about 3.7 lakh MT and for Karnataka, nearly 2.7 lakh MT (71.3% of India's production). Given the prevailing conditions across

POWER CUTS, HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS ADD TO LOSSES

The coffee plantation industry in Karnataka is hit by erratic power supply and rising incidents of human-animal conflicts, particularly elephants and bison. "In 2022-23, there were 12 human casualties. This almost doubled between April and August 2023, with the death of 23 people. While these incidents create panic among labourers, the animals also damage vast swathes of crops," said KPA president Mahesh Shashidhar. Non-availability of three-phase power has also contributed to the losses, especially this year, given the dry weather.



Pics: Niranjan Kaggere

BITTER EXPERIENCE: (Above) Rotten berries and split fruits at an estate in Mallandur, Chikkamagaluru; (inset) berries spoiled due to untimely rain

Rain hits traffic on B'luru-S'mogga highway

Chikkamagaluru/ Shivamogga: Heavy rain lashed Chikkamagaluru district on Thursday, even as parts of Shivamogga district witnessed downpour on Wednesday night.

Traffic on the busy Bengaluru-Shivamogga highway was severely affected as rain pounded Kadur in Chikkamagaluru district in the morning, police said.

Showers, which started on Wednesday evening, continued till Thursday morning in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga cities. Due to waterlogging at Basaveshwara Circle at Kadur, vehi-



Basaveshwara Circle, Kadur, was inundated following a downpour

ular movement was hit. Bikes parked on roadsides were washed away. Vehicles were stuck for two hours as the junction was inundated. The road was cleared for

traffic later. More than 15 coconut trees were uprooted at Devanuru and Kurubarahalli while roofs of the houses were damaged due to strong wind. **TNN**

coffee-growing districts, these estimates may fall short by 10-15% and Arabica cultivators will be the worst hit," pointed out Shashidhar, a planter from Chikkamagaluru.

Srinath Gowda, a planter from Kabbinahalli in Chikkamagaluru, said: "Harvest this year has begun a month in advance due to early blossoming. But due to rain, the berries are falling off. In some cases, the berries are split, absorbing a lot of moisture and resulting in poor bean quality."

P Kurian Raphael, head of R&D, at Tata Coffee Limited,

said that when berries split due to rain, moisture seeps into the fruit and affects the outer shell of the bean, resulting in low weight and poor cup scoring.

Acknowledging the drop in quality, Shashidhar said, "In an ideal condition, 600-700 berries of Arabica yield one kg of bean. But now, due to poor quality, a kilogram of bean may require 1,100-1,200 berries."

Salman Basheer, a planter from Hassan and member of the executive committee of KPA, said: "In some estates, the berries are turning black due to fungus. Due to rain, it's diffi-

cult for labourers to pick the fallen cherries, resulting in their fermentation."

Further, the coffee sector is likely to be hit due to a bumper crop in Brazil. "As per the International Coffee Organisation, coffee prices have been declining month-on-month since April 2023. Price of Robusta, which was on the higher side compared to previous years, is showing a declining trend since June 2023, as Brazil is heading for a big crop. This is expected to affect coffee pricing in a big way," said Shashidhar.

Source: Time of India, p.6, Nov. 10, 2023

Cabinet approval for Krishi Bhagya in 106 rain-fed taluks, hi-tech harvester hubs in 100 locations across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to implement the Krishi Bhagya scheme in the current financial year in 106 rain-fed taluks by spending ₹100 crore and set up 100 hi-tech harvester hubs across the State.

Briefing decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Minister H.K. Patil said the Krishi Bhagya scheme would be implemented in 106 taluks of 24 districts. About 152 farm ponds would be created in each taluk under the scheme. The previous Congress government (2013-18) launched the scheme.

Hi-tech harvester hubs would be established in 100 locations to provide hi-tech farm machines for harvesting crops to farm-



Law and Parliamentary Minister H.K. Patil

ers on rent. The scheme would strengthen the Krishi Yantra Dhare scheme launched during the previous tenure of Mr. Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister. Each hub would cost ₹1 crore. The government implemented Krishi Yantra Dhare for mechanised farming, under PPP mode, to provide facilities to farmers to use appropriate farm machineries at the required time on hire basis through custom hire service centres.

The Cabinet decided to

Legislature session in Belagavi from December 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The winter session of the State Legislature will be held at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi from December 4. The State Cabinet has decided to hold the session for 10 days in the border district.

implement the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-II in five taluks - Badami, Nippani, Mandya, Channarayana, and Sirsi - by spending ₹38.12 crore. The cost would be shared by the Centre and State on 60:40 ratio. The project

Change in birth, death registration norms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cabinet has decided to change the Karnataka Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1999, for the benefit of the public. Under the existing rule, any birth or death which has not been registered within one year of its occurrence, should be registered only on an order of a Magistrate of the first class or a Presidency Magistrate under section 13(3) and on payment of a late fee of ₹10.

aimed to increase the watershed area, Mr. Patil said.

Under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, the State has been divided into 10 clus-

The new rule has scrapped the powers given to the Magistrate and empowered the Assistant Commissioner to issue an order for registration of birth and death.

The fee has been increased from ₹10 to ₹500 for delay in the registration for more than a year. The fee increased from ₹2 to ₹100 in case of delay between 21 and 30 days.

The fee has been increased from ₹5 to ₹200 in case of delay from 30 days to one year.

ters and different insurance companies given different clusters for crop insurance. The government is expected to incur

expenses of ₹900 crore for paying the premium of the crop insurance. Six insurance companies - Reliance Insurance, Bajaj Allianz, Agricultural Insurance, SBI General Insurance, Universal Sampo General Insurance, and Future General Insurance companies have been allocated different clusters, Mr. Patil said.

The Cabinet authorised the Chief Minister to select the next Chief Secretary of State. As the incumbent Vandita Sharma is retiring on November 31, Rajneesh Goel is expected to be next head of the State bureaucracy, on seniority basis.

A sum of ₹18 crore was approved for holding a conference on Constitution and national integration in Bengaluru. The Social Welfare Department headed by H.C. Mahadevappa will conduct the conference on November 26.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov. 10, 2023

How research and advanced technology helped India boost raw silk production

Mysuru-based Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute disseminates technologies developed in the laboratory, leading to increased production of bivoltine cocoons

Laigh A. Khan
MYSURU

Though India is the world's leading consumer of silk, production of the lustrous and shiny fibre spun out of silkworms has consistently fallen short of the growing demand in the country.

But, statistics available from the Central Silk Board (CSB) show that raw silk production in India has recorded a significant increase during the last 10 years - up from 23,678 tonnes during 2012-13 to 36,582 metric tonnes during 2022-23.

Reasons for surge in production of silk
Scientists at Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSRTI) in Mysuru, which is pioneering research in tropical sericulture, pointed out that India has managed to increase raw silk output by almost 13,000 tonnes during the last decade, bringing down its reliability on imports from China, on account of two main reasons - high yielding variety of mulberry plants and superior quality bivoltine cocoon breeds.

While the first reason was the adoption of high yielding variety of mulberry plants, whose leaves are the sole food for mulberry silkworms, the second reason is the substantial shift from rearing inferior quality multivoltine cocoons to the production of bivoltine cocoons, a hybrid variety that is high yielding and superior in quality.

CSRTI scientists, including its Director Dr. Gandhi Doss and Dr. M.K. Raghunath, recalled that local varieties of mulberry plants were yielding no more than 18 tonnes per hectare per year. After persistent research aimed at developing high-yielding mulberry varieties, a major breakthrough in leaf productivity and quality was achieved in 1997 when the institute came out with a new mulberry variety Victory-1 (V1). This variety has a yield potential of 60 metric tonnes per hectare per year. It has revolutionised silk productivity by covering up to 90% of mulberry gardens in southern Indian States over the last 25 years, the scientists pointed out.

The total area under mulberry plantations



Bivoltine silk production increased from 2,559 tonnes in 2012-13 to 5,874 metric tonnes in 2017-18 before recording 8,904 tonnes in 2022-23. M.A. SRIRAM

across India was 2.53 lakh hectares during 2022-23, up from 2.24 lakh hectares during 2017-18. Farmers have progressively uprooted the low-yielding mulberry variety and replaced them with the high-yielding variety V1.

The second major reason for the spike in raw silk production is the increase in the rearing of superior quality bivoltine cocoons suitable to India's temperate climate.

India sought help from Japan
Much of the raw silk produced in India comes from the yellowish-coloured multivoltine cocoons while the high-quality silk used to manufacture the sought-after Indian saris was woven out of bivoltine silk imported from China.

Government of India had requested the government of Japan to provide technical assistance for bivoltine silk production in the



Women engaged in collecting the silk from cocoons.

nineties, paving the way for start of a Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) project for promotion and popularizing of bivoltine technology in India.

Over the last two decades, personnel from the CSRTI along with officials from the Department of Sericulture have been engaged in disseminating the technologies developed in the laboratory, leading to increased production of bivoltine cocoons by the farmers.

Bivoltine silk production increased from 2,559 metric tonnes in 2012-13 to 5,874 tonnes in 2017-18 before recording 8,904 tonnes in 2022-23. Though multivoltine silk still accounted for 27,654 tonnes in 2022-23, the quantum increase in bivoltine silk production will not only help meet the country's demand for superior quality silk required for manufacture of sarees and garments, it will also bring down India's

dependence on silk imported from China.

Improved breed

With bivoltine cocoons, a reeler needs only 6 kg of cocoons to produce one kg of raw silk against the 13 to 15 kg of cocoons that were required earlier. "This is possible due to the improved silkworm breed, mulberry variety and rearing technologies," said CSRTI scientist Dr. K. B. Chandrashekar.

Also, the individual cocoon filament length has increased from 600-800 metres to 1,000 to 1,200 metres, thereby reducing the cost of production of silk fabric.

Apart from high-yielding variety of mulberry plant and production of superior quality bivoltine cocoons, the other interventions by CSRTI that helped boost raw silk production in India include the shift from leaf feeding to shoot feeding, besides pest control measures and use of disinfectants.

"Earlier, mulberry leaves were plucked and fed to the silkworms. Now, the entire shoot of mulberry is fed, thereby saving labour and time," pointed out CSRTI scientist Dr. Bala Saraswathi S.

What is in pipeline

To further boost silk production, CSRTI is looking forward to release of disease-resistant and temperature tolerant breeds, which are still in the pipeline. The optimum temperature required in the rearing house for a silkworm to give its maximum output is anywhere between 24 to 26 degree centigrade.

"The new breeds will tolerate plus or minus two degrees, and offer better survival rate," said Dr. Chandrashekar. CSRTI-Mysuru has been pursuing research aimed at enhancing production and productivity of silk in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Kerala, besides Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, through its extension network comprising Regional Sericulture Research Stations and Research Extension Centres. The institute has also imparted training to more than 53,000 people, including farmers and 800 foreign nationals, in various aspects of sericulture technology, said Dr. Gandhi Doss.

Source: The Hindu, p.11, Nov. 10, 2023

Can tobacco farmers shift to sericulture?

According to CSRTI scientist C.M. Babu, sericulture is considered to be one of the most profitable agricultural activities

Laiqah A. Khan
MYSURU

Amid the clamour for shifting from tobacco crop to other crops in view of the serious health hazards tobacco consumption poses, sericulture has been mooted as a viable alternative.

But, scientists are Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSRTI) in Mysuru were guarded at the prospect. For, the soil on which tobacco has been cultivated would contain toxic elements and cannot be straightaway used for growing mulberry, whose leaves are the only source of food for the silkworms, pointed out Dr. R. Bhagya, a scientist at CSRTI, who leads the extension activities of the Institute.

However, a senior scientist at CSRTI Dr. K.B. Chandrashekar pointed out that a shift from tobacco to mulberry can happen only after the tobacco contaminants and toxicity in the soil is removed by growing crops like maize for a year or two.

Tobacco crop renders the soil toxic. "We cannot grow mulberry on the same soil as the silkworms will not accept the mulberry leaves grown directly on soil that had been used to cultivate tobacco. The silkworms may not spin a cocoon," the scientists cautioned.

As silkworms are considered to be very



The improved variety of mulberry plant V1. in Ramanagara. M. A. SRIRAM

sensitive, a high degree of caution is recommended.

It is not just soil on which tobacco crop has been grown. Even the soil on which ginger had been cultivated is similarly not advisable for cultivation of mulberry straightaway," according to a scientist.

CSRTI Director Dr. Gandhi Doss, however, said the Institute was ready to support any



Silkworms feeding on mulberry leaves in Ramanagara.

Government move to introduce sericulture in the tobacco-growing areas of the State along with the Government of Karnataka's Department of Sericulture.

A host of farmers growing various crops including horticultural crops visit CSRTI to explore the options of shifting to sericulture. Among them tobacco farmers too make inquiries and they are suitably advised, said Dr. Bhagya.

According to CSRTI scientist C.M. Babu, sericulture is considered to be one of the most profitable agricultural activities. Apart from the Government subsidies sericulturists are entitled to, they can grow a crop almost every month. While the silkworm larval duration is 24 to 26 days, the cocoons are marketed on the seventh day.

"In one acre of mulberry garden, a farmer can harvest annually between 800 to 1,000 kgs of cocoons if he adopts all the recommendations given by our Institute," said Dr. Babu. A kg of bivoltine hybrid cocoons fetched a maximum price of ₹600 minimum price of ₹311 and an average of ₹526 at the cocoon market in Ramanagaram on October 31. A scientist also pointed out that the prices of cocoons had breached the ₹1,000 per kg about two years ago.

Despite the seasonal fluctuations in prices, cocoon prices are considered to be more stable than other agricultural commodities, Dr. Babu added.

Source: The Hindu, p.11, Nov. 10, 2023

India's water situation is alarming

Warnings have been issued in the past about depletion of ground water in India and in the world, but the latest warnings have a sense of alarm, or even doom, about them. A United Nations report, released recently, has said that some areas in the Indo-Gangetic basin have already passed the groundwater depletion tipping point and the entire north-western region of the country is likely to experience critically low groundwater availability by 2025. According to the 'Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023', prepared by a team of experts, the world is approaching six environmental tipping points: accelerating species extinctions, groundwater depletion, mountain glacier melting, space debris, unbearable heat, and an uninsurable future. Each of these tipping points is critical for the earth's future, and coming to a head together, they would precipitate a combined disaster that would be most difficult to cope with. Such tipping points have changed the history of the earth and living beings.

India is the world's largest user of groundwater and uses more of it than the US and China combined, though the country is not as rich in water resources as these countries.

Most groundwater extractions are used for agriculture, when above-ground water sources are insufficient. Aquifers have had an important role in the country but they are under stress. Many studies and reports have pointed this out. Borewells and tubewells have boosted agricultural production in the country in the wake of the Green Revolution. But the unsustainable use of water may lead to the destruction of that farming model. Most of the borewells in Punjab are overexploited. Unscientific and excessive extraction of water takes place for industrial and drinking water purposes also. Leakage and wastage of water add to the problem. There are schemes and projects for conservation of water, including rainwater harvesting, but they have not been adopted widely in the country.

The government launched the Rs 6,000-crore Atal Bhujal Yojana in 78 water-stressed districts, including 14 districts in Karnataka, in 2020 for a five-year period to promote sustainable groundwater management by communities. It is claimed that there has been progress and that the best performance was seen in Karnataka. Even if the claims are true, the programme touches only a fringe of the problem. Over 70% of the water used in the country is from ground water sources. It is necessary to create better awareness of the need to conserve the resource. There is the need for action plans to reduce the use of water, eliminate wastage, and improve conservation. Climate change will aggravate the situation in the coming years. It is now time to start counting the drops of water, used and saved.

**A UN report
has highlighted
the perils of
continuing to
overexploit
groundwater
sources**

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov.10, 2023

‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ರೈತರ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ

• ಬಸವರಾಜ ಹವಾಲ್ದಾರ್

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ: ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆ, ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ‘ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಏಕೀಕೃತ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ’ (ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್) ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಬೇಕು. ಗುರುತಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಂದಿ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದಿಂದ ವಂಚಿತರಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2.12 ಕೋಟಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿವೆ (ಫ್ಲಾಟ್). ‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ 1.30 ಕೋಟಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಶೇ 79.78ರಷ್ಟು ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಶೇ 42.46 ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ 82 ಲಕ್ಷ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ.

ಒಬ್ಬ ರೈತನಿಗೆ ಐದು ಎಕರೆವರೆಗೆ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಐದು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ರೈತರು, ಎರಡು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಒಂದು ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೀಡಿ ‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಮೂರು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಹೊರತು ಉಳಿದ ಮೂರು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.



ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ

ರೈತ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಪಶುಸಂಗೋಪನೆ, ರೇಷ್ಮೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಬಳಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪಹಣಿ, ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಪಾಸ್‌ಬುಕ್, ಒಂದು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ, ಜಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ (ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಗಡದವರು) ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದರೆ, ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ದೊರೆಯುವ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ

‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂ ವಿವರ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಗುರುತಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಪಡೆದರೆ ಕೃಷಿ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ, ರೇಷ್ಮೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಬೀಜ, ರಸಗೊಬ್ಬರ, ಕೃಷಿ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣ, ಹಸಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಖರೀದಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಸದ್ವಿಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನೆ, ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳಿಗೂ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಹೊಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ದೊರೆಯಲಿದ್ದು, ಅದನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿದ ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ, ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳು ಸಾಲವನ್ನೂ ಇದೇ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀಡಲಿವೆ. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಡಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೂ ಬೇಕಾಗಲಿದೆ.

‘ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ರೈತ ತಾವು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇದೇ ಆಧಾರ’ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕೃಷಿ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ, ರೇಷ್ಮೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸಾಲ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇದೇ ಆಧಾರ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಣ ಕಳ್ಳೇನ್ಹವರ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

‘ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ವಿವರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು	ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	61.73
ಗದಗ	79.78	ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	60.02
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	76.87	ಮಂಡ್ಯ	59.49
ಹಾವೇರಿ	75.44	ರಾಯಚೂರು	58.51
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ	71.41	ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	58.28
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	71.29	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ	58.08
ಧಾರವಾಡ	70.79	ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	57.80
ವಿಜಯಪುರ	70.30	ಕೋಲಾರ	57.43
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	68.86	ಕೊಡಗು	56.19
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	67.92	ತುಮಕೂರು	55.98
ಬೀದರ	67.73	ಮೈಸೂರು	54.46
ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ	65.96	ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	53.58
ಹಾಸನ	65.87	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ	49.35
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	65.73	ರಾಮನಗರ	48.91
ವಿಜಯನಗರ	64.59	ಉಡುಪಿ	48.41
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ	63.09	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ	42.56

‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ (ಶೇ 76.87) ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಶೀಘ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಕೆ.ಎಂ. ಚಾನಕಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಿಗದಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೂರುಗಳಿವೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ನಿವಾರಿಸಲು ‘ಫ್ರೂಟ್ಸ್’ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಿದೆ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ

ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರ ಭೂ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಶೇ 61.34ರಷ್ಟು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆಗದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು.

‘ಎಲ್ಲ ಹೊಲಗಳ ನೋಂದಣಿ

ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಲವಾರು ರೈತರು ಒಂದೇ ಹೊಲ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡ, ಬೀಳಗಿಯ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಬಳಗಾನೂರ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.2, Nov.10, 2023

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Decentralisation

105 ULBs have registered for EPR

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Around 105 urban local bodies (ULBs), including town municipal councils (TMCs), in the State have registered for Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Sources said they considered registration after Uttar Pradesh (UP) ULBs went for the same and made a profit.

According to an official in the Directorate of Municipal Council (DMC), Kalaburagi and Belagavi, which have proximity to cement factories, can



105 ULBs registering with the CPCB is a massive fleet in terms of revenue generation as well as strengthening plastic waste management

AN OFFICIAL

make the best use of it, while Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is also aiming to earn good revenue. The city municipal councils (CMCs) in Kalaburagi and Belagavi can give plastic to cement factories.

Under the EPR, the civic administration will first generate data on different kinds of plastics, including recyclable and non-recyclable after collection, and update the same with CPCB. The pollution control board gives a certificate to the CMCs. On the other hand, the brand owners who produce plastic waste get certificates and these certificates can be traded online.

This means the CMCs can now collect a fee from the brand owners for collection, segregation and processing of plastic waste. An official told *The Hindu* that 105 ULBs regis-

tering with the CPCB is a massive fleet in terms of revenue generation as well as strengthening plastic waste management. Essentially, recycling will be streamlined with government bodies actively participating in the system along with other stakeholders like plastic generating companies. In Bengaluru, there are large companies involved in packaging.

While in Bengaluru, Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) will play a key role in collection from the source, in other cities and towns, waste collectors and segregators will be involved in the system.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 4, 2023

BSWML registers for EPR; move may fetch good revenue

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited has registered for Extended Producers Responsibility with the CPCB under which it can impose fees on companies for processing plastic and e-waste

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

After a long struggle, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), a company which is operating under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), has finally registered for Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR). The implementation of EPR is likely to fetch revenue up to ₹100 crore annually.

The BSWML has registered for EPR with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under which it can now impose fees on companies for processing plastic and e-waste. The waste collected will be processed/recycled at the waste-to-energy plant at Bidadi.

The plant will soon be operational in Bidadi in Ramanagara district.

The BSWML has been working to implement the policy for the last one and a half years, which was al-



The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited has been working to implement the policy for the last one and a half years, which was allegedly being scuttled by some private lobbies. FILE PHOTO

legedly being scuttled by some private lobbies.

According to a senior BSWML official, currently, EPR is being claimed by some private processing companies and the BBMP has not so far tapped into the revenue potential. Many local bodies in the Uttar Pradesh have implemented EPR and are earning revenue.

The EPR policy was first brought in the country in 2016 under Plastic Waste

Management Rules, 2016, according to which it is the responsibility of producers, importers and brand-owners to ensure processing of their plastic packaging waste through recycling, re-use or end of life disposal (such as co-processing/ waste-to-energy /plastic to-oil/ road making/ industrial-composting).

In the absence of processing units in large companies which generate

plastic waste, the brand-owners hand over the waste to processing units and pay a fee.

With BSWML foraying into the avenue, the Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) will collect waste and send the same to the processing unit.

An official, talking to *The Hindu*, said while it is estimated that ₹80 to ₹100 crore can be mopped up from this venture, the solid waste management company has expenditure of collection and processing. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited will only know how much profit it can make after implementing the same on the ground.

This is also a first step towards making this company an independent body like Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). After this, the company will devise a system to collect monthly fees from citizens for collecting waste from their homes, officials said.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 4, 2023

BBMP starts property digitization in 4 wards

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: To put a full stop to property tax evasion and boost collections, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started digitization of over 40 lakh properties in the city.

According to senior officials from BBMP's revenue department, they have already started digitization of property documents in four wards — Kodigehalli, CV Raman Nagar, Horamavu, and Arakere — and will complete it for all the wards within three months.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar had recently expressed unhappiness over property tax collection in BBMP limits and said that his government would introduce 'Nanna Swathu' (My Property), which envisages digitization of all properties. Following Shivakumar's instructions, BBMP's revenue officials duly started the process.

"Revenue officials are scanning all the documents related to each property to digitize them. The digitization of documents will put out the exact details of the property online to avoid misrepresentations," an of-

ficer explained.

The civic agency is hoping the move will help see an increase in tax collection. At present, BBMP collects property tax of Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 4,000 crore a year.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told reporters on Monday that revenue officials are sending reminders to tax defaulters, who will have to pay a penalty if they fail to pay up before November 30.

BBMP special commissioner (revenue) Munish Moudgil said property tax is the primary source of re-

venue for the corporation and property owners should pay their taxes promptly.

"The BBMP is sending SMS and letters/notices to individuals with details of property tax dues. Citizens can use the online link <https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in> for easy payment of property tax," Moudgil pointed out.

Call Palike for queries

Citizens can call BBMP's helpline (1533) if they have any questions. Giri Nath said revenue officials have been deployed at the help desk to clear any doubts regarding property tax issues.



Source: Time of India, p.3, Nov. 7, 2023

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ: ₹3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ • ಕಳೆದ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ದಾಖಲೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ 'ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನೋಟಿಸ್'

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿದೆ. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧಿಸುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ 'ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನೋಟಿಸ್' ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಅ.31ರ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ 64.50ರಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿರುವ ಗುರಿಯಂತೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ₹1,619 ಕೋಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ₹372 ಕೋಟಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಗುರಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜನವರಿ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ₹2,890 ಕೋಟಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿಯ ಗಡಿ ತಲುಪಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ದಾಖಲೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ₹1500 ಕೋಟಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬಾಕಿ ಇದೆ.

ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್‌ಗೆ ಒಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಸಂದೇಶ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ವಲಯ	ಗುರಿ	ಸಂಗ್ರಹ	ಬಾಕಿ
(₹ ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) 2023ರ ಅ.31ರಂತೆ			
ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ	501	316.44	184.56
ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ	164	83.55	80.45
ಪೂರ್ವ	764	532.9	231.1
ಮಹದೇವಪುರ	1238	809.33	428.67
ಆರ್.ಆರ್. ನಗರ	345	200.33	144.67
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	627	436.19	190.81
ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	493	302.29	190.71
ಯಿಲಹಂಕ	429	260.66	168.34
ಒಟ್ಟು	4561	2941.69	1619.31

ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

₹2,800 ಕೋಟಿ 2020-21

₹3,110 ಕೋಟಿ 2021-22

₹3,340.86 ಕೋಟಿ 2022-23

ಆದರೆ, ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಪದೇಪದೇ ಮೊಬೈಲ್‌ಗೆ ಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲೂ ವಲಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

'ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಆದಾಯದ ಮೂಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ

ಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್ ಸಂದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಪತ್ರಗಳು/ ನೋಟೀಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಕಂದಾಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಮುನೀಶ್ ಮೌದ್ಲಿಲ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಲಿಂಕ್ <https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in> ಅನ್ನು ಬಳಸಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದರೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 1533 ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಆರಂಭ

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಭೌತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸುವಂತೆ 'ಡಿಮಾಂಡ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್' ನೀಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ನ.1ರಿಂದಲೇ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸ್ವಯಂ ಘೋಷಿತ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸಗಳಿವೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ಭೌತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಅದರ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಲಯವಾರು ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗುವ ಈ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನೇ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

'ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಮರುನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ ಅದು ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಲಾಗಿನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. 'ಡಿಮಾಂಡ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್' ನಲ್ಲಿರುವುದು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಗೊಂದಲ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ವಾಗ್ವಾದಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿವೆ' ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕ (ಆರ್‌ಐ) ಹಾಗೂ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು (ಟಿಐ) ದಿನ ತಲಾ 25 ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ವಾಸ್ತವದ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಗುರಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರು ಸಾವಿರ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವ್ಯತ್ಯವನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅದನ್ನು ಆರ್‌ಐ ಮತ್ತು ಟಿಐ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಪರಿಷತ್ ಚುನಾವಣೆ, ಲೋಕಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗೆ ಮತದಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ ಕೆಲಸ, ಆಸ್ತಿ-ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರಾತ್ರಿ 10ರವರೆಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಕಂದಾಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಅಳಲು ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.3, Nov. 7, 2023

Delimitation completed but elections unlikely this year

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Bengaluru: Zilla and taluk panchayat elections are likely to be held only after the Lok Sabha polls next year as drought — and politics over it — has forced the government to dial back on plans to conduct these elections this year.

One big technical hurdle to these polls was resolved on Wednesday with AR Kamble, who heads the Panchayat Raj Delimitation Commission, submitting his report to the government on Wednesday.

ZP & TP POLLS

“We have finalised the constituencies, and the government will take steps to notify it,” said Kamble. Some 1,118 ZP constituencies and 3,671 TP seats were finalised across 236 taluks in 31 districts.

Priyank Kharge, minister for rural development and panchayat raj, will meet Kamble on Thursday or Friday to discuss the report. The government will then issue a final notification on the issue.

With this out of the way, Congress could still push for early polls, but sources suggest the government is wary of reversals because of drought. The government was initially keen on holding these polls — and elec-



ACROSS PARTY LINES: Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya called on DK Shivakumar at the deputy CM's home on Wednesday

tions to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) as well — as early as December since it wanted to ride on the warm reception to its poll guarantees.

But Congress has been put on the backfoot with BJP and JD(S) upping the ante over drought and forming teams to tour districts and “study” the distress of farmers. Naseer Ahmed, political secretary to chief minister Siddaramaiah, also pointed out: “There are still legal issues to be addressed.”

These include reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). After the Supreme Court decreed that reservation for OBCs should be justified with empirical data obtained through a survey conducted by a dedicated com-

mission, the state government appointed a two-member panel led by Justice K Bhaktavatsala to study political backwardness of OBCs. Although the government has accepted the commission's report, it remains to be seen whether it will pass muster in the apex court.

‘Ready to hold polls’

“While the government is ready to hold elections, we need to wait for the court's opinion on this,” said transport minister Ramalinga Reddy, who is also KPCC working president in charge of local body elections.

There is also a case pending in the Karnataka high court over BBMP delimitation. A case related to ZP-TP delimitation and reservation is also pending in the high court. While the Supreme Court is yet to list the case, the high court is expected to hear these petitions in the third week of November.

Even if courts dispose of these cases, there are other procedures to be completed. Once a final notification on delimitation is issued, revision of electoral rolls will begin. This will take about a month. “Both politically and technically, it is impractical to expect local body elections to be held before the Lok Sabha elections,” said a Congress functionary.

Source: Time of India, p.6, Nov. 9, 2023

ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚೆ **ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಕಲೆಕ್ಷನ್‌ಗೆ ಬಿ ಬಾತೆ**

■ ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಹರ್ವಿಕೋಟೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕ್ಷೋಡಿಗರಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಮೂಲೋಪಾಯ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಇತರ ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಶಕ್ತಿ ವೃದ್ಧಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕಿಂತ ತೆರಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ದೊರಕುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಡೆ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ

ವಿ ವಿ ಶೇಷ

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು

- 1 ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ
- 10 ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
- 61 ನಗರಸಭೆ
- 124 ಪುರಸಭೆ
- 115 ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
- 4 ಸೂಚಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು

ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಮಾದರಿಯನ್ನು ಇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೂ ವಿವರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 64 ಮತ್ತು 73ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತತತ್ವದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ವಿಧಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಖಾಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯು 2020 ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎ ಖಾತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿ ಖಾತೆ ಎಂಬ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಇದೆ. ಅಕ್ರಮ-ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಸುತ್ತೀಂಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗುವ ತನಕ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮಾಡಲಿರುವಂತಹ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಫೈಟಿ 3**

ಏನಿದು ಎ-ಬಿ ಖಾತೆ?

ಎ ಖಾತೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳು ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳುರುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬಿ ಖಾತೆಯ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳು ಅನಧಿಕೃತ. ಆದರೆ, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕು. ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ರೆಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದೇ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನೇ ಹೊಸ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ತರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.



- » ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಸಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ
- » ಅಧಿಕೃತಕ್ಕಿಂತ 13.78 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳು
- » ಮುಂದಿನ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ
- » ಮೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ
- » ಈಗ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು 1338 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು

ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ, ಅಮ್ಮತ್, ಅಮ್ಮತ್-2 ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಜಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾಲು 1,600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಭರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಮ್ಮತ್-2ಕ್ಕೆ 1,100 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆ ಕಿಯುಐಡಿಎಫ್‌ನಿಂದ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ 3,255 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಮರುಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ 500 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ತೆರಿಗೆಯೇ ವಸೂಲಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ಎಷ್ಟಾಗುತ್ತದೆ?

ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 1,300 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಸ್ವಯಂ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಫೋರಮ್, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಯುಕಿಎ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ತಂದರೂ ಉಪಯೋಗವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳ ಮಾರ್ಗನೂಬಿ ಬಿಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗ್ಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ 10.3 ರಿಂದ 5 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನಬೇಕೆಂಬ ನಿಯಮವಿದೆ.



ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕ್ಷೋಡಿಗರಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ

ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ.

|| ರಹೀಂಖಾನ್ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಸಚಿವ

ಮುಂದಿನ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡನೆ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ಇನ್ನೊಂದರಂತೆ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಅಂತಿಮ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ. ಆ ನಂತರ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟಕ್ಕೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ಚಳಿಗಾಲದ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿಗಳು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ECONOMY

Cases mount as CGIT has remained headless for 3 years

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT), which hears individual and collective cases of industrial disputes, has remained headless in Karnataka for nearly three years now. This has resulted in the piling up of cases. It is estimated that over 600 industrial disputes and around 800 provident fund (PF) cases are pending with the tribunal.

Taking note of the vacancy of the presiding officer of the tribunal that has brought the activities to a standstill, the High Court of Karnataka recently warned the Central government that it would have to impose a cost of ₹10 lakh if there is no positive action on the appointment of the presiding officers to the CGIT in Bengaluru within the next three weeks.

Based on PIL plea

Based on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by the Industrial Law Practitioners Forum, the order was issued by the High Court's Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna Dixit on October 25.

Among others, the CGIT hears collective disputes on wages, the charter of demand and bonus while individual cases include termination and dismissal. The post of the presiding officer has remained vacant since the previous presiding officer Justice Ratnakala demitted office on January 25, 2021. While there was an effort to appoint a presiding officer in August 2022, the selected candidate – a retired district judge – backed out after receiving the appointment order. In fact, the forum had written to the Union Mi-



A file photo of employees of an defunct company protesting in Raichur. It is estimated that over 600 industrial disputes and around 800 provident fund cases are pending with the Central Government Industrial Tribunal in Bengaluru.

HC intervention not the first time

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This is not the first time that the High Court has intervened in the matter of the appointment of the presiding officer to the CGIT, Bengaluru. Since 2001, the vacant period till a new ap-

pointment has been made has been about one year.

The Industrial Law Practitioners Forum has in the past filed PIL petitions in 2009, 2015, and 2018 seeking judicial intervention for the appointment of presiding officer.

nistry of Labour and Employment as early as December 2020 to initiate the process of appointment. The forum's request to extend services of Justice Ratnakala till a new presiding officer was appointed was also not met with.

"The cases in the CGIT has piled up and old cases have not been disposed of for nearly the last three years. This is especially true of the industrial disputes. The presiding officer of the Hyderabad tribunal, who is in charge of Bengaluru, has been able to dispose of some PF cases," forum secretary Murlidhara told *The Hindu*. He said: "Though cases can be filed now it is of no use. There has been no argument or recording of evidence. In fact, under provisions of law, industrial disputes have to be disposed of within six months from the date of reference."

He pointed out that while some PF matters

can be appealed in the High Court, industrial disputes cannot be taken to the High Court. "Only employees of public sector undertaking and government institutions have the option of approaching the High Court. The rest of the cases have to go to the tribunal, which is now headless," said K.B. Narayanswamy, who argued before the High Court.

The CGIT in Bengaluru has been functioning since January 1987, and till 2017, it was dealing only with industrial disputes raised by workmen or unions. In 2017, the presiding officer was also designated as the appellate authority under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. "This has increased the workload in the tribunal. That is why in the interest of speedy justice, the tribunal has to function continuously," Mr. Muralidhara added.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 5, 2023

How is **Karnataka** faring with clean **energy**?

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

As he does every year, Govindaiah M R, a farmer from Bommanalli in Chamarajanagar district, had sown paddy on his 15 acres of land, trusting that the Suvarnavathi river, a tributary of the Cauvery, would provide irrigation.

The rains never did come and the region grew arid with each passing day. Govindaiah then turned to employing his irrigation pump set to draw water from his borewell. But those plans too came to a halt due to erratic power supply.

INSIGHT

“Farmers of our village and surrounding ones staged a protest, pleading for 10 hours of three-phase power supply. But even officers seem helpless due to power shortage. They suggested we opt for solar-powered pump sets under various government schemes. But it is difficult for us to immediately shift over to solar pump sets as we cannot afford the initial investment,” says Govindaiah. He had thought that intermittent power supply was a thing of the past. After all, Karnataka has been an energy-surplus state for the past five years.

Yet, industrialists and farmers alike have been reeling as a result of the power shortage this year. Researcher Bhargavi Rao of Environmental Support Group cites the example of Tumakuru: “In spite of having one of the world’s largest solar power parks,



Wind energy accounts for 15% of Karnataka’s power supply. In pic, windmills in Chitradurga.

DH PHOTO/V CHANDRAPPA

several parts of the district do not receive electricity even during the day.”

Karnataka is among the country’s top five states in power generation. The state meets 52% of its power needs from renewable sources like solar, wind, hybrid (solar-wind), biofuel and mini hydro projects.

Currently, the state gets 12% of its power requirement from its 24 hydropower stations, 2% from the Kaiga nuclear power plant, and 34% from the three thermal power plants.

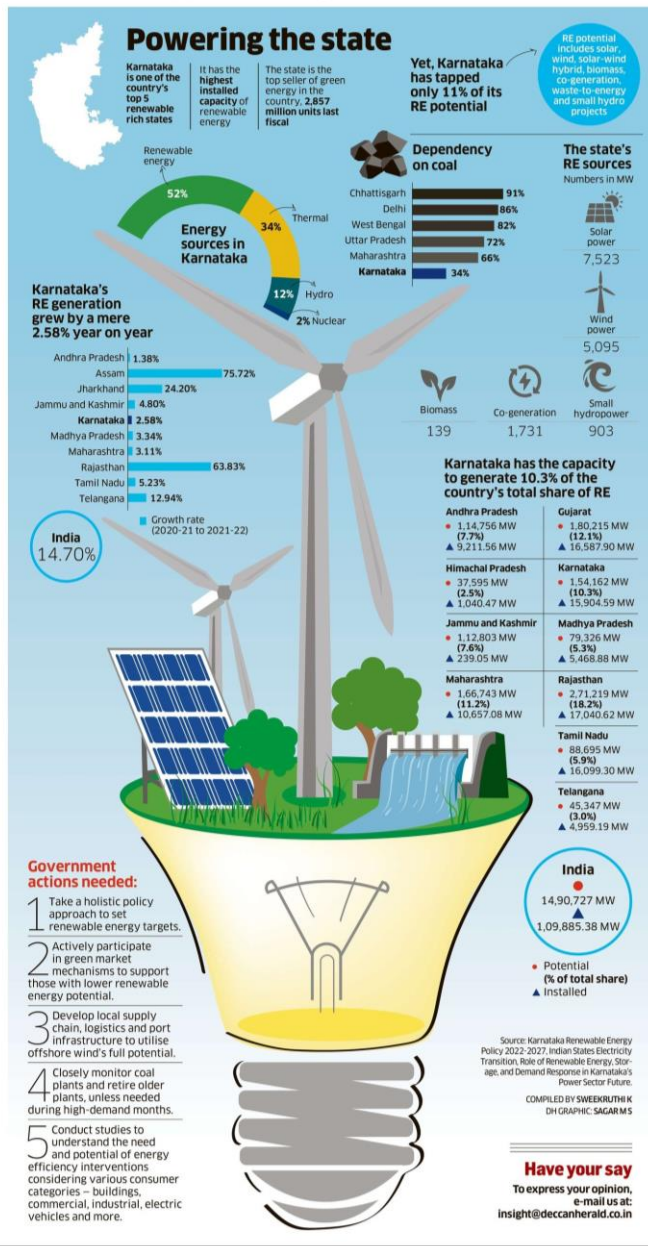
Until 2018, Karnataka was leading in enhancing its RE infrastructure to bring down its dependency on thermal power plants.

► **Power generation, Page 2**

Continued...

Power generation, from Page 1

A major challenge with regard to solar power cells and battery storage is disposal. HariKrishna, K V, a research scientist with the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (C-STEP), says that India has, so far, not come up with a policy for solar panel disposal. The shelf life of these panels is just 25 years, and soon the country will have a heap of panels to address.



There is a need for such interim hybrid solutions until a complete transition to renewable energy is possible, explains Subramanyam Pulipaka of the National Solar Energy Federation of India. "By better utilisation of available land through the hybrid way of generation, we can make renewable energy more reliable," he says.

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State pumps in Rs 500 crore to ramp up mofussil bus fleet

NWKRTC to buy 375 vehicles by next March

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

For the first time in over four years, the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) is buying hundreds of diesel buses that will run in mofussil areas, where passengers routinely complain about poor services.

The NWKRTC, which covers six districts of Kittur Karnataka, invited tenders on Friday for supplying 375 new BS-4 fully built buses at a cost of Rs 150 crore.

The state government is giving the four RTCs Rs 500 crore as special grants for buying new buses. The RTCs are planning to buy 5,675 buses.

The NWKRTC expects to get all 375 buses by March 2024, according to its Managing Di-

rector S Bharath.

"We'll complete the tender process in the next 10-15 days and then evaluate the bids. We hope to place the purchase order by the end of November. The buses will come in batches, with the last scheduled for March," he told *DH*.

The buses will be run in rural areas of all six districts (Belagavi, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag and Uttara Kannada), he added.

Even before the Congress government launched the free bus travel scheme for women in June this year, the cash-strapped NWKRTC faced an acute shortage of buses. It had last purchased new buses in 2019.

The corporation had to get 100 old buses from the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL). It also put on hold a plan to phase



The state government is giving the four RTCs Rs 500 crore as special grants for buying new buses. *DH* FILE PHOTO

out buses that were 15 years or older.

The free travel scheme made the situation dire. The NWKRTC's daily average ridership has soared from 17 lakh to about 25 lakh.

Bharath hoped that the new buses would help ease the situation.

"We will be able to phase out old vehicles and run new ones in their place," he said.

According to him, any decision about phasing out old buses will be taken after evaluating two things: is it still economical to run them or they are better off in the scrap yard?

This apart, the NWKRTC will shortly call tenders for 250 new diesel buses for mofussil services and 100 buses for city services, another official said.

With the new purchase plan in place, the corporation is also slowly phasing out old-age buses. It has already removed 40 of them and will take out 50 more, the official added. Buses taken from the BMTCL are also being phased out, he said.

Additionally, the operator is working to refurbish 100 buses to extend their lifespan, the official said.

The 375 buses will cost Rs 40

Fleet facts

■ Current fleet: 4,800

■ Corporation to buy 725 new diesel buses - 625 for mofussil routes and 100 for city services - in the next year.

■ It will also lease 350 e-buses (200 for mofussil routes, 100 for Hubballi-Dharwad city services and 50 for Belagavi city services).

■ There is also a plan to lease 100 e-buses that will run only between Hubballi and Dharwad.

■ The Hubballi-based corporation will buy 4 Ambaari Utsav (multi-axle Volvo) buses and 20 Pallakki (non-AC) buses. The proposal will be placed before the cabinet next week.

lakh each and have some new features, including cameras, panic buttons and fire detection systems, the official said.

The NWKRTC earns Rs 45 per kilometre from a diesel bus deployed on mofussil routes and Rs 73 per kilometre from a city bus.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Nov 6, 2023

Electricity situation back to normal, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the average demand for power has increased by 43% in 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the electricity situation in Karnataka has returned to normal after supply to outside the State was prohibited. A decision has been taken to supply power for seven hours to IP sets of farmers.

“Power consumption has increased by 43% in 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Demand in October was 15,978 MW,” he said after a review meeting of the Energy Department.

Power consumption in agriculture sector had seen an increase in the range of 55% to 119%. The increase in power consumption in other sectors ranges from 9% to 14%. “The higher demand and consumption is due to deficient rainfall, usage of irrigation pumpsets before the normal time, and post-Covid-19 economic growth,” the Chief Minister said. After the last review meeting of the

State govt. to waive arrears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday announced that ₹389.96 crore pending arrears from Bhagya Jyothi, Kuteera Jyothi and Amrutha Jyothi will be waived off to ensure that those people also get the benefits of Gruha Jyothi scheme. He said that while 18 units had been fixed for the three schemes, it had been hiked to 40 units during his earlier tenure. Now the free quota has been fixed to 58 units for the beneficiaries and brought under Gruha Jyothi.

department, power generation in Raichur and Ballari thermal plants had increased while the State simultaneously purchased power from Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. “Whatever we get now, we will return it to them after June,” he said. He also said that the government was not pur-

chasing power from the private parties.

“By invoking Section 11 that prohibits supply of power to other States (from Karnataka), the State is getting to utilise the power generated here. So, the power position in the State has stabilised. The nodal officers are constantly observing the power position in the State,” he said.

Meanwhile, power generation has increased by 2,500 MW to 3,000 MW as thermal units have started generating more. And as sugarcane crushing season had commenced, about 450 MW is being generated through co-generation.

To farmers

Stating that the Escoms will supply five to seven hours of power, depending on the needs of farmers in the State, Mr. Siddaramaiah estimated that to supply seven hours of power constantly to IP sets, Karnataka would require about 600 MW/hour or about 14 million units per day. “It is estimated that about ₹1,500 crore is needed, which will be raised through grants, savings and re-allocation,” he said.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov.7, 2023

State gets Rs 2,660 crore from Centre as tax devolution

► **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Union government on Tuesday released tax devolution to states amounting to Rs 72,961.21 crore, including Rs 2,660.88 crore to Karnataka.

“In view of the upcoming festive season, the Union government has authorised the release of tax devolution of Rs 72,961.21 crore to state governments for the month of November 2023, on 7th November instead of the usual date 10th November,” said a statement from the Ministry of Finance.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Nov. 8, 2023

Building workers' registrations with board see fourfold jump in three years

The steep increase, both government and central trade unions acknowledge, was mainly due to bogus registrations during BJP government's tenure

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In three years, the registration of construction workers with the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board has seen a nearly a fourfold increase, a large number of them said to be bogus registrations to avail of facilities.

While the board's membership in 13 years between 2007 and 2019 was 9.5 lakh, the numbers drastically increased by 36.91 lakh between 2020 and 2023. Currently, the membership is pegged at 46.42 lakh. While 7.94 lakh registrations took place in 2020, the registrations increased by 12.86 lakh in 2021 and 11.95 lakh in 2022. So far in 2023, 4.14 lakh people have registered.

Lax verification

The steep increase, both government and central trade unions acknowledge, was mainly due to bogus registrations during the BJP government's tenure when the pre-registration verification remained lax.



In 2020, only Shivamogga had registration exceeding a lakh. After online registration was introduced, 22 districts have more than one lakh registrations. FILE PHOTO

The extent of the increase is such that while in 2020 only Shivamogga had registration exceeding a lakh, after online registration was introduced, 22 districts have more than one lakh registrations. Haveri, the home district of the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, saw a steep increase – from 44,911 in July 2020 to 2.86 lakh in April 2023.

"Membership, which was confined to the construction workers, became attractive to others too as the quantum of financial assistance for various programmes increased. The start of the online registration process in 2019 increased opportunities for

non-construction workers to register with fake documents," K. Mahantesh, general secretary of the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Federation, told *The Hindu*.

By July last year, when the total registrations were 37.75 lakh, as many as 27.39 lakh registrations had come from the Seva Sindhu portal alone. While manual registration accounted for just 3.5 lakh, the registration on the Karmika portal was about 6.86 lakh. "Despite many petitions seeking an investigation into fake registration through Seva Sindhu, the government turned a blind eye," Mr. Mahantesh said.

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board

■ Total number of construction workers registered: 46.42 lakh		■ Registrations between 2007 and 2019: 9.5 lakh		■ Registrations between 2020 and 2023: 36.91 lakh	
2020	2021	2022	2023		
7.94 lakh	12.86 lakh	11.95 lakh	4.14 lakh		
Annual cess collected by the board: Around ₹1,000 crore			Current board corpus: Around ₹7,000 crore		

Distress during the COVID-19 pandemic added to more registrations. While the BJP government's efforts to utilise the board's money for pandemic control failed, about ₹1,970 crore was utilised for COVID-19 assistance by the board. "The DBT transfers to beneficiaries made it attractive and big money was available with the board. Cards have been issued rampantly across the State. More than 36 lakh cards were issued during the BJP government's tenure. For example, in Haveri, there are nearly 2.9 lakh cards whereas there are only 2.5 lakh households," a senior Labour Department source said.

Meanwhile, Labour Minister Santhosh Lad acknowledged the problem of bogus cards and said that the renewal had now been made stringent. "The renewal is being done on app and online mode. However, the worker has to provide details about the construction site, the name of the supervisor, and the name of building owner, among others, that can be verified."

However, urging the government to stop the registration of members from the Seva Sindhu portal, Mr. Mahantesh said, "Unless the verification process is stringent, bogus registration cannot be stopped. Online registration should

Bid to collect more cess

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Efforts will be made to increase the quantum of cess collected annually by the Karnataka Construction Workers and Other Building Workers Board. Labour Minister Santhosh Lad said, "Of the ₹1,000 crore collected annually, cess collected from government works account for about ₹800 crore while it is about ₹200 crore from private constructions." He said that in the coming days, all building constructions across the State will be geo-mapped and reconciled that it was expected to bring in more cess. Mr. Lad also said that an estimated ₹1,500 crore had to come from the Centre since it had not given the State the cess it had collected since 2008.

be done at the Labour Department offices and by central trade unions."

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov.9, 2023

Drought pushes up demand for MGNREGS work

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

People in rural Karnataka are queueing up for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as more than 200 taluks are reeling under drought.

The rural job scheme has helped cushion the impact of drought while officials said that by providing employment, it has managed to reduce migration to an extent.

Karnataka has already reached around 10-crore person days against the total target of 13 crore assigned to the state this financial year, driven by the huge demand in several districts of North Karnataka, which have surpassed the target in generating person days.

This has prompted the state government to seek an increase in allocation (from 13 crore to 18 crore person days) to meet the demand.

Data compiled by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has revealed that 9.4 crore (95.44%) person days have been generated in the last seven months against 8.7 crore (88.82%)

generated during the corresponding period last year. This shows an increase of person days by around 70 lakh.

Gadag district stood on top, generating 32.80 lakh person days against the target of 24.19 lakh till October, the highest among the 31 districts in the state. This means the district is using up the working days meant for the remaining months of the financial year.

Ballari, Koppal, Raichur, Vijayanagara, Bagalkot and Chitradurga achieved 100% performance, reaching the target of person days assigned.

Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada stood last and there was poor response to the scheme in Bengaluru, which achieved 62.33% of the target.

Sadashiva Hydra, a daily-wage labourer from Honnalkiranagi in Kalaburagi taluk, who has been working under the MGNREGS, said more than 850 landless labourers and marginal farmers from the village are employed under the scheme.

Stressing the need to increase the number of days per family from 100 to 150, he adds that jobs should be given to farmers to undertake work in their own farm land.

“Farmlabourers are finding it difficult to get jobs in surrounding villages as most of the people are using machinery on their fields. Therefore, they are managing to run their family using the wage of Rs 316 per day paid to them under the scheme. More people in the village are opting to work here instead of migrating in search of employment,” he said.

Raichur Zilla Panchayat (ZP) MGNREGS project director Prakash said the “scheme has reduced migration to a great extent”.

“But we have pending dues of Rs 2.3 crore to be paid to workers and most of them have exhausted their quota of 100 days. The government should provide 50 more days of work to each household in the wake of drought.”

According to Raichur ZP CEO Pandve Rahul Tukaram, the demand for MGNREGS work will increase further from December, when there will be little to no agricultural activity.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge pointed out that the Centre has to pay Rs 720 crore in outstanding wages to Karnataka under the scheme.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Nov. 4, 2023

Around 9.6 lakh children of construction workers to receive subsidy



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ministers Santosh Lad and K.H. Muniyappa, and Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti at an event in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 9.6 lakh children of building and other construction workers are set to receive subsidies released through welfare funds in the State.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who inaugurated a programme organised by the Labour Department to provide educational assis-

tance for 2022-2023 to the children of building and other construction workers here on Thursday, said children should make use of the scheme for education. "Inequality can be eradicated through education," he said.

Second largest

"Those receiving subsidies are all children of unorganised workers. Over 83% of

workers are unorganised even today. Apart from the farming community, the second largest community in the country is the labour class. In fact, the working class generates wealth in the country and the rest enjoy the benefits," he said.

'Vested interests'

The Chief Minister said: "These people with vested

interests are opponents of social justice. They are against the Shudra community coming up economically and educationally. Therefore, we should oppose those who divide society in the name of caste and religion. We have implemented the guarantee schemes that benefit all castes and religions with the concept of universal basic income."

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov.10, 2023

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EDUCATION

State's education policy will be based on data and not assumptions: Thorat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Education Policy will be based on data and facts, and not on assumptions and presumptions, said Sukhadeo Thorat, chairman of the commission set up to frame the policy.

Speaking at a press conference at The Karnataka Higher Education Council on Friday, he said: "We will first study the entire school and higher education system, which will help us identify its strengths and weaknesses." He said the commission will use "all possible existing data" including All India Survey of School and Higher Education reports, National Sample Survey (NSS) data on school and higher education and National Assessment and Accreditation Council data."

"We will study the status of education attainment in the State, how it can be im-



Sukhadeo Thorat, chairman of the commission set up to frame an education policy for Karnataka, addressing the media on Friday.

proved at the aggregate level as well as in various groups. We will also study access to school and higher education, look into the governance structure and the financing. We will identify the issues and make suggestions in the report," Mr. Thorat explained, adding that skill and employability will also be looked into.

"Our mandate is to take a review of the earlier policies including National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and there will be deliberation and discussion," he said. Mr. Thorat said that the commission will have interactions with all stakeholders like associations of Vice-Chancellors, former Vice-Chancellors, college teachers,

students, school and college managements, and civil society and NGOs engaged in the education sector.

Nine working groups

"The government has given six months' time to submit the report. Therefore, we formed nine working groups on various themes. There is one group which will work on the status of enrolment and projection, other groups will look towards quality of education, equity and inclusion, and so on. All these groups will simultaneously work," he said.

He said SEP will be futuristic and will give a medium-term and long-term policy for Karnataka school and higher education. "It will be very comprehensive. Our policy will be similar to Radhakrishna Commission and Kothari Commission reports," said Mr. Thorat.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Nov. 4, 2023

SEP committee to review previous education policies

BENGALURU, DHNS

The committee constituted to draft the State Education Policy (SEP) will review all the previous education policies in the state, both at the school and higher education sector, before drafting the policy.

The committee, headed by former chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Sukhdeo Thorat, had its first meeting for two days in Bengaluru and formed nine sub-committees/working groups to study various issues related to education in Karnataka and submit the report.

'Nine working groups'

Addressing a news conference in Bengaluru on Friday, Thorat said, "The state government has given us the mandate to draft the policy. We will review the present status of school and higher education. Our recommen-

dations will be based on data, survey and research and we have formed nine working groups for this purpose."

He further stated that the committee will look at the education attainment in the state.

"The Commission will look into the aspects like enrollment, access, governance structure, financing and funding, expenditure, quality education, distance and online education, faculty and also value education," he explained.

Aiming to submit the report by the end of February 2024, Thorat said that if necessary the Commission will seek extension from the government.

"Our report will be based on data and facts and not on assumptions and presumptions," he added.

The Commission will also have division-wise consultations at four divisions and consult all the stakeholders

to get their feedback on the policy.

"We will go for extensive study and research. We will have interaction with all the stakeholders. The report what we submit will be futuristic with comprehensive suggestions for the development of the state," Thorat added.

Thorat, who had earlier appreciated some of the aspects of the National Education Policy (NEP), while taking part in one of the seminars organised in Bengaluru a few months ago, refused to comment anything on it. When asked, he said, "My individual opinion doesn't matter at this stage."

It can be recalled that, Thorat had appreciated the Multiple Entry and Exit option provided in the National Education Policy and even suggested the government the same could be considered while framing the State Education Policy.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov. 4, 2023

Civil & mechanical engg intake drops by 2.6k

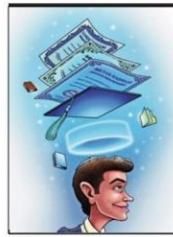
Sruthy Susan.Ullas
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: With several engineering colleges in Karnataka reducing their intake for civil and mechanical engineering, the number of seats

DEMAND ELSEWHERE

in these streams fell by 2,670 this academic year (2023-24).

As per Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), most of these seats have been converted into computer science and allied programmes such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data



DECREASED & REDISTRIBUTED

Civil engineering	
Intake in 2022-23	9,642
Intake in 2023-24	8,232
Reduction in seats	1,410
Mechanical engineering	
Intake in 2022-23	9,747
Intake in 2023-24	8,487
Reduction in seats	1,260

Source: VTU

sciences which are much more in demand.

"While we don't have the exact number of conversions, we believe almost all these seats have been converted into computer science and its allied programmes. This has be-

en possible as AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) made it smoother to make these conversions this year," said S Vidyashankar, vice-chancellor of VTU.

According to data provided by VTU, civil engineering

in the state reduced by 1,410 seats, while in mechanical engineering, the drop was 1,260.

"Many colleges had been getting zero admissions in these branches. They waited for 2-3 years, and when things were not getting better, they converted their seats to the branches in demand. To maintain civil and mechanical branches is costly. According to me, it is only a temporary phenomenon. It is not possible for these branches to go away. When the demand returns, these colleges will also revert to these streams," said KN Subramanya, principal of RV College of Engineering.

Ali Khwaja, founder-director of Banjara Academy, agreed. "Career choices keep swinging like a pendulum. When one course is in vogue, everyone flocks towards that. Now everyone is moving towards computer science. It is natural colleges want to increase their intake for these programmes."

The state government had written to AICTE to control the boom of CS and allied programmes in the state. However, AICTE chairman TG Sitaram had said the council doesn't intend to curb it but will facilitate what is in demand among students.

Source: Time of India, p.2, Nov. 5, 2023

Needed: A mentor for schools

Karnataka needs an authority to address the needs and challenges of school education

H A RANGANATH

"A child without education is like a bird without wings," goes a Tibetan proverb. The wings start developing at home and then expand in schools. Schools are the places where children are exposed to the outside world for the first time. They are like 'incubation centres' that prepare them for the future. The 'Right to Education' policy sends a clear message that school education is not a luxury but a necessity for a healthy society and for each individual. The proposed 'Council for School Education' has to evolve strategies to address the following issues, for effective implementation of this policy.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has categorised the children of age group 3 to 18 years into four groups with a 5+3+3+4 structure, based on the research findings on the learning abilities of children. This covers the stages from anganwadi/pre-school to secondary education of twelfth grade. The recently published National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School Education 2023 outlines the educational framework and guidelines for school education in India. NCF 2023 contains updated approaches to teaching and learning, subject-wise curricular guidelines, cross-cutting themes, and strategies to promote holistic development and quality education. The schools are expected to adopt the guidelines of NCF. The Ministry of Education (Ed Monitor, October 18, 2023) has plans to create a 'One Nation, One Student ID' called 'Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry' (APAAR) for every student from pre-primary to higher education, starting from next year. The scheme aims to provide a centralised system for tracking academic performance and achievements. Some states and Union Territories have already initiated steps to implement it.

Students/parents have a wide choice of diverse institutions to start their school journey, which are governed by different boards. For example, SSLC and PUC Karnataka, CBSE Delhi, ICSE Delhi, International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE, exams by University of Cambridge, UK), International Baccalaureate (IB, Switzerland), National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Delhi, etc. These boards have different visions and philosophies on school education, which are reflected in their curriculum as well as pedagogy.

School education is a huge sector that involves a large number of schools and students. According to an edu-

cation ministry report, the enrolment of students in Karnataka's government schools reached 54,45,989 in 2021-2022, up from 50,31,606 in the previous year. The overall enrolment, from pre-primary classes to Class 12 in both government and private schools, was 1.2 crore, up from 1.1 crore in 2020-21.

Students who complete their education from different types of schools may have different levels of competence, abilities and potential. After finishing Class 12, they have to pursue higher education. To get admission to the higher education programme of their choice, students have to clear national-level entrance tests relevant to their career. Some of these tests are JEE Main, JEE Advanced, BITSAT, VITEEE, NEET, CLAT, AILET, LSAT, NDA and NA, Indian Army TES, IMU CET, ICAR AIEEA, NIFT, AIEED, NID DAT, UCEED, etc. Apart from these, there are also state-level tests like CET, and exams of private universities. The success of a student depends on the quality of training they receive at school.

The competition for admission is intense, and there is a perception that schools are not able to prepare students for competitive national examinations. As a result, a parallel profession of unregulated 'tuition houses' has emerged. The teaching and learning that should take place exclusively in schools is gradually taken over by a 'tuition prominent phase' that leads to privatisation and commercialisation of education at all levels. A strategy is required to overcome this exploitation.

The above picture gives a brief overview of the vastness, complexity, challenges and heterogeneity of school education in Karnataka. If one looks at the national level, the domain of 'School Education' is huge and complex, and it overtakes the overall size of all types of higher education put together. The biggest challenge is to provide a satisfactory academic ambience—with well-trained and adequate number of teachers; infrastructural ambience—with supporting material for teaching and learning, and physical ambience—with classrooms and space for extra-curricular activities, in all schools.

To address the requirements and challenges of school education and to do justice to the aspirations of students and parents, the system needs overarching bodies. Similar bodies have already been conceived for higher education. The author suggests the creation of 'Karnataka State Council for School Education' and 'National Commission for School Education' at the national level. These bodies would have the responsibility of mentoring schools to equip children to succeed in higher education.

(The writer is former director of INAAC and former VC of Bangalore University)

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(The writer is former director of NAAC and former VC of Bangalore University)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 6, 2023

State must chart its own course

Karnataka should leverage the deficiencies of NEP 2020 while formulating its own education policy

SNEHA PRIYA YANAPPA

In the federal structure of India, has the Government of Karnataka (GoK) re-asserted its status by withdrawing its support for the Centre-idealised National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) and by laying the foundation for its own State Education Policy? Of particular interest is the statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) while criticising the NEP: "A uniform education system cannot be established in a country like India with a multicultural and pluralistic society."

The GoK should adhere to this perspective when establishing the Committee for drafting Karnataka's State Education Policy. The committee should reflect Karnataka's own multicultural and pluralistic values. A diverse committee, with the expertise to cater to the pluralistic and diverse needs of students, can formulate an education policy that is equitable, inclusive, child-centred, and pragmatic. Additionally, the GoK should leverage the deficiencies in the NEP to further reinforce the rights enshrined in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE Act).

While the RTE Act does not extend free and compulsory education to Early Childhood Education (ECE), it is crucial to focus on it as it plays a pivotal role in unlocking the rich brain development potential of children, providing a vital foundation for lifelong learning, growth, and development. Offering ECE is a means to promote equity and social justice, inclusive economic growth, and sustainable development. In India, major challenges facing ECE include the lack of regulation, uniformity, and formalisation. The Gujarat HC has recently held that parents forcing children aged below three years to attend preschools are committing an illegal act. While underscoring the critical need for proper care and stimulation during the early years of a child, the HC highlighted the lack of quality ECE for millions of young children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is astonishing that a high court had to interpret the RTE Act, which barely mentions ECE, to determine the 'legal' age of admission to ECE. Such concerns arise due to the lack of a clear legal framework for formalising and regulating ECE in states.

Through its State Education Policy, Karnataka can formalise and regulate ECE, providing definitive implementation guidelines. It should stress

the need for substantial state investment in ECE, utilising the existing Anganwadi infrastructure, and offering teacher training and support to Anganwadi staff for effective educational delivery. The Anganwadi system primarily focuses on caregiving rather than education, and strengthening it can ensure all young children access quality ECE, aligning with the goal of universalising ECE. In contrast, the NEP emphasises ECE but lacks clear guidelines to make it free and compulsory for all, especially disadvantaged children. Karnataka can align its education policy with budgetary allocations to achieve this universalization target.

The NEP 2020 aims to create a stress-free environment for students taking board exams, proposing the option of an improvement exam. Karnataka's existing system of one exam and one supplementary exam has imposed significant stress on students, who see it as a do-or-die situation. In Karnataka, if a student passes class 12 but is not satisfied with the marks obtained, he or she can choose to retake the exam. However, the marks from the supplementary exam are considered final, disregarding the previous scores, making this decision risky. While the NEP and National Curriculum Framework suggest a best-of-two board exam option, Karnataka has taken a more progressive step by introducing a three-board examination system for students in classes 10 and 12 starting from the academic year 2023-2024. This educational reform aims to reduce stress and cater to different learning paces and styles. Under this system, students have three opportunities to improve their scores, with the best score from the three exams considered for the final marks card. This approach departs from the NEP's and the National Curriculum Framework's two-board examination systems.

Karnataka's decision to withdraw support for the NEP 2020 and develop its State Education Policy underscores the state's commitment to creating a progressive education policy that addresses the unique needs of its diverse student population. Additionally, the state can lead the way in formalising and regulating ECE, filling a critical gap in India's education landscape. In order to distinguish itself from the NEP 2020, the GoK must ensure that the drafting process itself is consultative and participatory in nature by providing ample space for the citizenry to give their two cents on the various aspects of the policy. Finally, Karnataka's innovative three-board examination system reflects its dedication to providing a less stressful, student-centric approach to assessments, setting a precedent for education reform in the country.

(The writer is a senior resident fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 7, 2023

Union comes out against decision to cut down scholarship to children of construction workers

Minister points to massive rise in number of bogus cards and says the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board received 13 lakh applications for scholarship alone this time

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The distribution of student scholarships to children of construction workers by the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board has become a bone of contention with the board cutting the scholarship by about 75% in most cases.

While the workers' union is up in arms against the decision, the State government has insisted that it is in line with the prevailing scholarships given by various government departments. Of the 13 lakh applications received for scholarship for 2022-23, 7 lakh beneficiaries have been identified as eligible

Annual scholarship

Course	Existing	Revised
B.E./B.Tech	₹50,000	₹10,000
Degree	₹25,000	₹6,000
PG	₹35,000	₹10,000
Diploma	₹20,000	₹4,600
BSc (Nursing)	₹40,000	₹10,000
MBBS	₹60,000	₹11,000
Central courses	Full fee	₹11,000
Classes 1 to 5	₹5,000	₹1,100
Classes 6 & 7	₹8,000	₹1,250
Class 8	₹8,000	₹1,350
Classes 9 & 10	₹12,000	₹3,000
PU	₹15,000	₹4,600



FILE PHOTO

that would cost the board roughly ₹200 crore.

The order issued on October 30 has led to the unions announcing a strike from November 28 in Ben-

galuru. There are about 44 lakh registered cardholders and the board collects about ₹1,000 crore annually as cess. The current corpus of the board is about

₹7,000 crore.

"The revision has been unilateral and arbitrary. The scholarship that has seen an upward revision since 2007 has for the first

time been cut drastically," K. Mahantesh, general secretary of Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Federation, told *The Hindu*.

He said that the previous revision that came around the pandemic time has to be seen in the light of distress among construction workers, who saw employment avenues dwindling due to demonetisation, GST introduction and COVID-19.

From 3 lakh to 13 lakh

However, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said that while the maximum applications received annually for all the schemes did not exceed three lakh in the past, the board received 13 lakh applications for scholar-

ship alone this time. "This is due to rampant bogus cards that were created for ineligible people during the three-year BJP rule. The number of cardholders reached 45 lakh. We have found professors and landlords having construction worker cards."

He also said scholarship should be uniform across departments.

"The amount was raised unscientifically. It has to be on a par with scholarships given in other departments."

The board after verification has identified 7 lakh beneficiaries and weeded out 6 lakh applications.

The Minister said that the annual cess collection that is around ₹1,000 crore should also be consi-

dered. "On an average if ₹10,000 each is given to 7 lakh students, it would be about ₹700 crore. There are 14 programmes that are run by the board. How can we manage them?" he asked. Mr. Lad also pointed out that government infrastructure is available for primary, secondary and high school education free of cost.

Acknowledging the menace of bogus cardholders, Mr. Mahantesh said that the government has to develop a mechanism to ensure genuine beneficiaries receive the scholarship.

He said, "Genuine workers did not create bogus card problem. Our fear is many will miss out in the process as construction work is seasonal in many

cases. For example, in Kodagu, people work in both construction sites as well as plantations. As per law, worker should have worked for three months in a year at a construction site."

Distress among workers
Mr. Mahantesh said that the numbers have also increased due to distress among construction workers and inefficient disbursement of scholarship for backward classes during BJP regime.

On the argument of free education in government schools, Mr. Mahantesh said that in many cases parents try to send their children to private schools as government schools lack facilities.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 7, 2023

Govt-appointed sub-group to probe efficacy of 4-yr degree programme

Sruthy Susan Ullas
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Bengaluru: The committee appointed by the Karnataka government to draft an alternative education policy for the state has formed a sub-committee to probe the efficacy of the four-year honours programme mooted under the National Education Policy (NEP).

The sub-committee is expected to submit an interim report before the draft of the

PLAN BY FEB-END

- SEP sub-committee to first **assess challenges** in offering four-year UG programme
- Based on teacher inputs, sub-group will come up with **alternative policy proposal**
- Committee instructed to **submit policy proposal** by end of **February 2024**

State Education Policy (SEP) is prepared. The SEP committee has been instructed to

submit the policy proposal by the end of February 2024.

"There ought to be a decision on this before the next academic year begins, so that colleges know what they are in for," an official from the state education department said.

The Karnataka government had earlier scrapped the NEP and promised to bring in a new education policy for Karnataka.

► **'Not enough infra', P 6**

Continued..

Colleges say not enough infrastructure, resources

► Continued from P1

The four-year undergraduate programme was introduced in public and private universities as part of NEP in 2021, which offered an exit option after three years of undergraduate study.

The new policy came under severe criticism as colleges said they neither had the required infrastructure nor the resources to execute the new programme. They

also complained they were left with very little time to implement it.

According to sources, instead of beginning with a prescription, the sub-committee will first try to understand what the challenges are, based on teacher inputs, and only then will it come up with an alternative policy proposal.

Academics in the city have welcomed the commission's decision to urgently look into the issue of the four-year degree

programme. "The dilemma regarding the four-year programme is costing us dearly. The first batch under the new NEP programme is already in its third year. So, a decision must be taken immediately," a college principal said.

"Also, the government needs to tell us whether we need to prepare for the next batch. It requires planning for faculty, infrastructure, and other resources," he added.

Source: Time of India p. 1&6 , Nov. 10, 2023

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Environment

Centenarian Thimmakka plans another plantation drive near Bengaluru

Jahnvi T.R.
BENGALURU

Days after undergoing cardiac surgery, centenarian Saalumara Thimmakka, living up to the prefix to her name which means 'avenue of trees', is planning to plant 100 Banyan saplings along the 5-kilometre stretch between Hukkal and Kudur, in Magadi taluk of Ramanagara district.

This is the same stretch where Ms. Thimmakka, along with her husband, planted around 400 Banyan saplings decades ago. Having not been formally educated, she worked as a daily wage labourer back then.



According to the records available with Forest Department, around 380 trees were planted by Saalumara Thimmakka on the stretch decades ago. FILE PHOTO

The couple, who did not have children, decided to plant trees as their legacy.

She is said to have planted over 8,000 trees, apart from the ones on this

stretch, and has turned into an influential voice on fostering the environment.

With some of the trees having fallen in the last few years, Thimmakka wants to replace them with new saplings

She was honoured with the Padma Shri for her efforts in 2019, among several other awards.

With some of the trees she planted decades back having fallen in the last few years, Ms. Thimmakka wants to replace them with new saplings. "I will go and plant new Banyan saplings there. They are already ready in our nursery. I would have done it earlier if not for my health issues. As soon as I feel better, I

will take it up," Ms. Thimmakka told *The Hindu*.

She also wants to extend the plantation drive beyond the stretch where she had initially planted.

According to the records available with the Forest Department, around 380 trees were planted by Ms. Thimmakka on the stretch.

As of today, the stretch has 291 trees. Forest Department officials said that some trees were uprooted due to natural causes.

"They are all old trees and do not require any maintenance. Over the years, owing to weather conditions, some trees were uprooted. A few were weakened by pest attack.

Eventually, such trees did not survive," a senior official from the Ramanagara sub-division of the Forest Department said.

However, Ms. Thimmakka's foster son Umesh B.N. had a different story. He alleged that the government had not done enough to maintain Ms. Thimmakka's trees. "We know of instances when trees were intentionally cut down. The Forest Department is hasty in its actions. If anyone randomly complains, they cut down trees without investigation," he alleged.

A Forest Department official said, "We have protected all the trees Ms. Thimmakka planted along the stretch. We will look af-

ter the saplings that she intends to plant now as well."

Ms. Thimmakka has fought often for the protection of the trees. In 2019, when there was a proposal to widen the stretch of road on which she had planted trees, she appealed to then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy that the government instead widen an alternative road to avoid felling her trees. The government did not axe any of the trees she planted.

"Her heritage should be rightly recognised the way some sites are declared as heritage sites. No damage should come to them even in the years to come," Mr. Umesh said.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov 5,, 2023

Why Mumbai is getting a choking feeling like Delhi

A Combination Of Local & Global Factors Is Increasing Pollution In The Financial Capital That, Until A Few Years Ago, Had Good Air Despite Its Hectic Pace Of Life And Round-The-Clock Activity

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When levels of carcinogenic pollutants in Delhi's air started breaching the 300-mark on a daily basis around four winters ago, Mumbaikars were unconcerned because they believed their proximity to the sea would forever prevent such a situation. But for the last couple of years, the benevolent sea breeze seems unable to 'sweep out' the unhealthy mix of dust and particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) hanging over Mumbai.

The city has witnessed one of its most polluted Octobers, with the air quality index (AQI) rising way above 300 in some of the western suburbs. For a couple of days, Mumbai's particulate levels were higher than those in Delhi – one of the most polluted cities in the world. People with sen-

TIMES Special

sitive airways now need to rush to their doctors to update their medicine doses; a paediatric hospital said the number of children coming in with respiratory complaints has shot up by 30% in a month.

"The biggest change on the pollution front in Mumbai is the timing of the smog," said Dr Dilip Boralkar, former member secretary of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). While smog would usually lift by 9am to 9.30am, it now lingers till 11am or beyond on some days. "We don't need air monitors and AQI readings to know that air pollution levels in Mumbai are worsening. The smog tells the whole story," he said.

Too Much Construction At Once

What has brought about this change in Mumbai's pollution story? In the absence of any concrete studies/findings, the jury is still out. There are, of course, the usual suspects.

For one, ongoing construction that's estimated to cover five times the area of



HOW MUCH PM2.5 ARE YOU BREATHING?

Mumbai's PM2.5 level is far lower than those of Delhi and Lucknow, but it has steadily inched up over the past three years. The rise has been sharper in Pune. On the other hand, Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Kolkata saw PM2.5 levels dip in 2022

City	2019	2020	2021	2022
Delhi	98.6	84.1	96.4	92.6
Lucknow	90.3	86.2	86.0	64.7
Jaipur	50.5	43.8	56.6	54.2
Ahmedabad	59	49	55.1	53.3
Pune	35.7	39.7	42.2	51.1
Kolkata	59.8	46.6	59	50.2
Mumbai	45.3	41.3	46.4	46.7
Hyderabad	39	34.7	39.4	42.4
Bhopal	44.6	39.1	42.6	40.5
Bengaluru	32.6	27.5	29	31.5
Chennai	34.6	26.5	25.2	25.3

Nariman Point, Mumbai's landmark commercial area. Green activists also blame the metro construction which has for the last five or more years reduced busy roads, including Dr D N Road that runs along the city's famed Art Deco precincts, to almost half their original width. Then there is vehicular pollution from Mumbai's 12 lakh private cars – the city has the highest car density in the country with 600 cars per kilometre of road.

"Our roads have been halved, vehicles crawl as a result and take double the time to reach their destination, spewing more particulate matter into the air," said pulmonologist Dr Sanjeev Mehta.

Climate Change Plays A Role

Climate change is another factor: In 2022, experts traced the high levels of particulate matter in the city to La Nina, a climate pattern in which an abnormal drop in surface temperature over the Pacific Ocean severely affected the speed of coastal winds around Mumbai. With barely any wind blowing from the Arabian Sea, pollutants couldn't be dispersed. While there is no La Nina this year, air pollution is worsening. This, say experts, is in part due to the October heat and the delayed retreat of the monsoons.

Ozone Levels Are Rising

Dr Boralkar, who has been studying air pollution in Mumbai for over four de-

CADES, believes photochemical reactions have become a major contributor to air pollution and smog in the past three years. These reactions are triggered by heat: "could be the spark in the car engine needed to burn the fuel". When nitrogen oxides are present, a photochemical reaction can lead to the creation of free radicals of oxygen. "These free oxygen radicals immediately combine with normal oxygen molecules and create ozone, an abrasive and corrosive gas," said Dr Boralkar.

Harish Phuleria, associate professor from IIT Bombay's Environmental Science and Engineering Department, said a combination of outdoor pollution caused by vehicular and construction activity and "some meteorological phenomenon" is at play. "We need to conduct studies that can pinpoint the reasons. We also need to understand if the rising air pollution problems occur across Mumbai or are restricted to certain pockets," said Dr Phuleria.

Highrises May Act As Curtain

Experts are also considering whether highrises act as an impediment to sea breeze activity. "Highrises could be creating localised wind patterns that prevent the sea breeze from acting like it previously did," said an academician who didn't want to be named. Dr Phuleria, however, said wind patterns caused by tall buildings wouldn't be big enough to cause meteorological changes for the entire city.

Scientists want to study the contribution of other pollutants as well, including wood burning in bakeries and crematoria, cooking in homes, restaurants and streetside stalls, as well as burning of waste in the open.

Meanwhile, the overall AQI reading for the city continues to be unhealthy at 160 even as global sister cities such as coastal New York and London have "good" readings under 30.

Source: Time of India, Nov. 8, 2023

BBMP to appoint engineers for every ward for disaster management purpose

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the downpour on Monday night, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Administrator, Rakesh Singh, on Tuesday, instructed the zonal commissioners to appoint an engineer for each ward for disaster management.

With the rain expected to continue for the next few days, Mr. Singh said that the appointed engineers should take care of problems like potholes, solid waste management, repair work of pedestrian paths among other things in their respective wards.

“Precautionary measures should be undertaken wherever Namma Metro, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) work is going on (in view of the rain). The officers should also direct the departments concerned to complete the work soon and if there are any problems, then temporary solutions should be figured out for now and permanent solutions should be worked out la-

ter,” Mr. Singh said in a meeting on Tuesday.

He also instructed the officials of Bangalore Development Authority to open the sluice gates of Bellandur and Varthur lakes in view of Mahadevapura zone receiving extensive rainfall. Chief Civic Commissioner, BBMP, Tushar Giri Nath, among a slew of instructions for rain preparedness, also told the officials to ensure that shoulder drains were clean to avoid waterlogging of roads. He also stressed upon arrangements of water pumps in inundated areas, desilting of drains and rajakaluves and closing of potholes with cold mix (in rainy season) as a priority. According to the India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru city received 71.2 mm rainfall between Monday night and Tuesday morning, which left several houses and roads inundated in many parts of the city.

The rainfall continued even on Tuesday with many areas in East and West Bengaluru receiving light to moderate rainfall by evening. Due to the rainfall in peak hours, minor traf-

fic snarls were reported in Kalyan Nagar, Kasturinagar, Varthur, J.C. Road, Minerva Circle and parts of Tumakuru Road. Otherwise, slow moving traffic was reported in several parts of the city throughout the day due to traffic diversions and flooded roads and underpasses.

On Tuesday, up until 8 p.m., Hagadru in Mahadevapura zone received 20 mm rainfall while Sampangiramanagar in East zone received 19.5 mm rainfall followed by Banaswadi in the same zone receiving 18 mm rainfall, according to the Varuna Mitra dashboard of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre. “There was an intense trough from Arabian Sea stretching till Kerala, South Interior Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to which Bengaluru received heavy rains on Monday. Although it weakened on Tuesday, gusty winds filled with moisture originating from Bay of Bengal are blowing from the east and northeastern directions due to which rainfall occurred. It will eventually reduce in two days,” said A. Prasad, scientist at IMD.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov 8,, 2023

Though not the sole source of heavy metal contamination in vegetables, the water sent to neighbouring districts must be treated better

Bengaluru's treated sewage water

BOON OR BANE?

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

A report by the Environmental Management Policy and Research Institute (EMPRI) on heavy metal contamination among vegetables sold in Bengaluru warned that farmers should not be allowed by law to grow greens and vegetables using drainage and effluent waters.

Since most vegetables and greens come to Bengaluru from neighbouring districts of Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru Rural, the attention has turned to the project that pumps secondary-treated sewage water to these districts.

There are two such treated sewage supply projects, from the Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley and Hebbal-Nagawara Valley. Water goes to Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru Rural districts. The Minor Irrigation Department looks after the project. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) treats the water, and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is supposed to monitor the quality.

Started in 2018, the KC Valley project pumps water to 145 tanks in Kolar and Chikkaballapur. Krishna M, Assistant Executive Engineer associated with the project, says the Minor Irrigation Department takes daily reports from an accredited lab and pumps water only if it fits enough. There is no daily checking of treated water for heavy metals.

Venkatesh, a farmer living near Keddatt tank, cites unbearable stench, increased levels of sodium in groundwater, increased mosquitoes, diseases affecting tomato crops, increased use of pesticides and decreased shelflife of crops as some problems. He adds that he cannot grow root vegetables such as potatoes and carrots nowadays.

Many farmers attribute some issues to fake seeds and pesticides various companies sell. Venkataramappa, secretary of the dairy producers union in Lakshminagar, says the borewells are 800-1000 feet deep, and the water table has improved. He says tertiary water treatment will help farmers.

Households in the KC Valley wastewater belt depend on groundwater, which is now recharged through treated water. Shivappa Arivu, a professor at the Government College for Boys, Kolar, says the district, with no water source, suffered from acute drought ten years ago. However, treated water has also brought pollution, allergies and illnesses to people, he adds.

"We need water, but it should be treated well. Wastewater reuse is good, but the government must pay attention to fixing the problems," he says, seeking tertiary water treatment.

'All is well': Study

A writ petition is on regarding the KC Valley project, filed in 2018, seeking to ensure that polluted industrial and chemical effluents and contaminated water are not supplied to tanks of Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru Rural districts.

As per the court directions, a study sponsored by the Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department and conducted by the Centre for

The Contamination Cycle

Small industry sewage (paint, textile, fabrication, idol-making units, plastic)
Contaminants: Heavy metals, plastic

Domestic sewage (Fecal matter, medical discharges, household dust, microplastics, cleaning products and cosmetics)
Contaminants: Organic matter, microbial contaminants, chemical contaminants, heavy metals

Vegetables, greens (sold back to Bengaluru): Heavy metals; Lower resistance to pests; Increased pesticide usage

Secondary treatment: removes Organic matter, suspended solids and some microbial contaminants. Unfit for direct irrigation or drinking.

Borewell next to the tank: Recharged with tank water; used for irrigation and consumption of humans and cattle

DH GRAPHIC AND ILLUSTRATION:
DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science in 2020 evaluated the socio-economic impact of the KC Valley project through a survey.

It found that the heavy metals in KC Valley's treated water and raw sewage met the Indian drinking water standards. It concluded that there will be no serious threat to human health because of it.

The study highlights the positive impact of the project through increased fruit and vegetable yield, milk production and real estate value. It notes no direct adverse effects of groundwater recharge.

Yet, it asks for further studies on public health and establishing a proper monitoring system awareness and

training programme for farmers about selecting crop patterns, fertiliser use, and irrigation techniques.

Scientists from the Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, declined to comment. A scientist told *DH* that the treated wastewater is safe and has no heavy metals beyond the limits.

Sewage and heavy metals

Officials feel domestic sewage may not have industrial waste and heavy metals as it is carried through closed conduits of BWSSB. However, the research indicates the contrary. A 2023 study showed high levels of lead, iron, nickel, cadmium, arsenic, chromium, and copper in the wastewater of Delhi, Mumbai, Kol-

kata, and Chennai.

Many researches done in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Hyderabad show the presence of heavy metals in cosmetics, skin care products and hygiene products, which ultimately join sewage. Lead, mercury and arsenic were shown to exceed the limits.

"Nobody is against wastewater reuse. Standard operating procedures should be there to stop the outflow when the parameters are breached. When the project was being done, nobody thought about operational inefficiencies. A small amount of biological pollution can multiply into a larger public health issue. Who is going to monitor this?" asks Nirmala

Tanks: Water with nutrients and contaminants (if pollutants exceed limits, it becomes smelly, mosquitoes breed, and even fish die)

Gowda. What happens when the parameters go out of limits? A BWSSB official told *DH* that the agencies contracted with maintaining STPs fix the quality by doing the needful.

Many sources of heavy metals

The industrial and domestic sewage in all the small towns in all the districts that receive treated water from Bengaluru is untreated, which ultimately joins tanks and groundwater. Old leaking borewell metal casings can also lead to contaminated groundwater.

Water from deep groundwater aquifers and alluvial soils may contain heavy metals. A study from Nepal shows elevated concentrations of heavy metals in water drawn from wells ranging from 276 to 1,000 feet.

The Minor Irrigation Department has put up boards banning the direct use of water. However, in many areas, farmers use the secondary treated water directly from canals.

Untreated wastewater from Belandur and Varthur lakes flowing to Tamilnadu is also used for irrigation which can lead to contaminated vegetables.

'Discussions on over tertiary treatment'

The office of N S Boseraju, Minister of Minor Irrigation, sent responses to *DH*'s questions related to heavy metal contamination while promising to take up tertiary treatment of sewage water for wastewater reuse projects.

What short-term and long-term action is the Minor Irrigation Department taking to address the problem?

Many studies have been done regarding the quality of secondary-treated water. Even the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given instructions to monitor the quality of the treated water. We are strictly adhering to those guidelines. The heavy metals are not visible in the household sewage water. No data or study shows that the contamination of vegetables and milk or groundwater occurs because of the treated water. In some cases, local body governments (municipalities/panchayats) are not treating sewage, which is entering the tanks directly. Some farmers use the water meant for groundwater recharge directly for agriculture.

Contamination of treated water in the tanks should be stopped. I, as a minister, have written a letter to district-in-charge ministers and district commissioners to stop directing untreated sewage water to tanks and to ask local bodies to take the necessary steps to treat it. Studies (socio-economic and scientific) are going on regularly to monitor the impacts of the treated water. A socio-economic survey conducted by ISEC Bengaluru shows economic growth, and groundwater levels have risen. We intend to coordinate and collaborate with multiple departments, as well as raise public awareness. The government will surely take up tertiary water treatment and ensure that this project continues to benefit future generations.

Is the secondary-treated water across all STPs and all pump houses being monitored and treated for heavy metal contamination? If not, what's the plan?

BWSSB does the water treatment, and the Minor Irrigation Department does the supply work. BWSSB only uses household sewage water, so heavy metal contamination is minimal or zero. IIS research has confirmed the same. After the treatment, we will receive it only if the water meets the specified parameters. The Minor Irrigation Department also checks the quality of treated water on a set of parameters. A committee led by IIS scientists assesses water quality regularly as per NGT guidelines. We have directed officials to ensure the water quality meets the necessary standards.

What is stopping the government from going for tertiary treatment? Is it money?

The government of Karnataka is the people's government, and we are doing what the people demand. People are happy with the positive impacts of secondary treatment of water. We are not against tertiary treatment. The decision will be taken at a higher level, and discussions are on. Money is not an issue.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Nov. 4, 2023

Rejuvenating degrading eco-systems is my top priority: Eshwar Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS

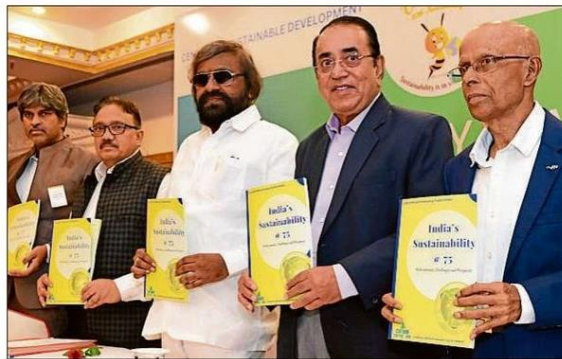
The growth of Bengaluru has been so striking and spectacular that we have gone from being one of the best cities to live in — to the city with endless problems,” said Eshwar B Khandre, Minister of Forest and Environment.

He was speaking at the Sustainability Leadership Summit organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development, headed by A Ravindra, the former Chief Secretary of the Government of Karnataka.

“Endless traffic, depleting groundwater, and increasing pollution – these are just a snapshot of the myriad problems we face as Bengalureans today,” he remarked.

Khandre added, “When I was sworn in as a minister, I made it a priority to understand and address the processes leading to environmental degradation and to explore ways to rejuvenate our ecosystems throughout the state.”

Khandre outlined the specific challenges Bengaluru faces: unregulated and illegal construction, inadequate water sewerage and sanitation



Forest minister Eshwar B Khandre, along with other dignitaries, unveils the Bengaluru Declaration, a framework designed to accelerate actions towards sustainable development goals. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

systems, encroachment of forest areas, pollution, draining of lakes, the proliferation of non-compliant highly polluting industries, deforestation, depleting groundwater levels, improper waste handling, and vehicular pollution.

He further noted that the ministry has initiated immediate actions to combat these persistent issues. “We have directed immediate attention toward effective waste management, lake rejuvenation, afforestation, reclamation of encroached forest lands,

management of polluting industries, policies for vehicular pollution control, air quality improvement, and the introduction of carbon-neutral vehicle transportation,” Khandre stated.

Ravindra praised Minister Khandre’s dedication to making Bengaluru sustainable. However, he offered critical observations on the government’s current development initiatives, saying, “While Khandre is trying to make Bengaluru a sustainable city, others seem to be working

‘Devanahalli could be developed into tourist spot’

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister of Forests and Environment, Eshwar B Khandre, directed the authorities to develop the forest area near Devanahalli into a tourist spot and conserve it.

The area houses tamarind trees that are more than 400 years old. During the 54th meeting of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board on Saturday, he opined that since the tamarind grove was located close to the Kempegowda International Airport, if trees were preserved and developed, the area would become a tourist destination.

Companies that produce products using the flora and

other biodiversity in the state must register with the Karnataka Biodiversity Board. As most of the companies were yet to register with the board, the meeting decided to extend the registration deadline by 60 days.

Khandre further suggested inviting fresh applications for annual awards given by the board and increasing the award amount from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000.

He also asked the board officials to organise programmes to create awareness among locals about the rare and endangered plant species available locally at the district level.

towards making it the most unlivable one.”

The event was also attended by Javed Akthar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests, Karnataka; M R Sreenivasa Murthy, retired IAS officer and current Chief Executive of the Gokula Education

Foundation (Medical); and Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, GoK.

During the summit, the dignitaries unveiled the Bengaluru Declaration, a framework designed to accelerate actions towards sustainable development goals in the state.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.II, Nov. 5, 2023

ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ಗೆ ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಸಸ್ಯಜನ್ಯ ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲ ಪರಿಸರನೈಹಿ ಕ್ಯಾರಿಬ್ಯಾಗ್ | ಡಿಆರ್‌ಡಿಒದಿಂದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ

■ ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಪಾದೂರು ಉರುಪಿ

ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಡಿಆರ್‌ಡಿಒ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ಗೆ ಪರ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಜೈವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಳೆಯುವ ಸಸ್ಯಜನ್ಯ ಪಾಲಿ ಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಟಿಕ್ ಆಸಿಡ್ ಪಾಲಿಮರ್ (ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ) ಚೀಲಗಳ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಚಿಂತನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಬಳಸಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ ಕೈಚೀಲ, ದಿಸಸಿ ಚೀಲಗಳಿಂದ ಪರಿಸರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾನಿ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2016ರಡಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಕ್ಯಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್ ಬಳಕೆ ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲಗಳು ಮೇಲ್ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಕವರ್‌ಸಂತೆಯೇ ಕಾಣುವುದರಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಅಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಈ ಚೀಲಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೂ ಅನುಮತಿ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

■ ಗುಜರಾತ್, ತೆಲಂಗಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ

ಅಂಗಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೆ ದಂಡವನ್ನೂ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಪರಿಸರ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರಲು ಕೀಳುದರಲ್ಲಿ

ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಹಾಲಿನಂತಾಗುವ ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲ: ಪಾಲಿ ಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಟಿಕ್ ಆಸಿಡ್ ಚೀಲ 6 ತಿಂಗಳು ಬಾಳಿಕೆ ಬರಲಿದೆ. ನಂತರ ಇದು ಇಷ್ಟಲ್ಲೇ ಕರಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮೆಕ್ಯೆಪೋಳದ ಸಾರದಿಂದ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಈ ಕೈಚೀಲವನ್ನು ದನಗಳು ತಿಂದರೂ, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪೆಟ್ರೋ ಕೆಮಿಕಲ್ ದೇಹಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾನಿಕಾರಕ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಚೀಲಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಅರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಿಥಿಲೀನ್ ಡೈಕ್ಲೋರೈಡ್ ದ್ರಾವಣಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಚೀಲಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿದರೆ 5 ನಿಮಿಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲಿನಂತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದೇ ದ್ರಾವಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಚೀಲ ಹಾಕಿದರೆ ಕರಗದೆ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಿಐಪಿಇಪಿ (ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಆಂಡ್ ಟೆಕ್ನಾಲಜಿ) ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಈ ಕೈಚೀಲ ಜೈವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಳೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಗುಜರಾತ್ ಮತ್ತು ತೆಲಂಗಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು ಡಿಆರ್‌ಡಿಒನಿಂದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಚೀಲಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಚೀಲ ತುಂಬ ದುಬಾರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಚೀಲ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಗೆ 180 ರೂ.ಇದ್ದರೆ ಈ ಚೀಲಗಳಿಗೆ 200 ರೂ. ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಚೀಲಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹೊರೆಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.



ಜೈವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಳೆಯುವ ಸಸ್ಯಜನ್ಯ ಪಾಲಿ ಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಟಿಕ್ ಆಸಿಡ್ ಪಾಲಿಮರ್‌ನಿಂದ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ ಕೈಚೀಲಗಳು.

ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆಗೆ ಜೈವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಳೆಯುವ ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಜೈವಿಕವಾಗಿ ವಿಘಟನೀಯವಾದ ಸಸ್ಯಜನ್ಯ ಪಾಲಿ ಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಟಿಕ್ ಆಸಿಡ್ ಪಾಲಿಮರ್ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಸ್ವಾಗತಾರ್ಹ. ಇವುಗಳಿಂದ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ ಕ್ಯಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಿ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

! ಈಶ್ವರ ಖಂಡ್ರೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಜೀವಿಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಸಚಿವ

ಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಚೀಲಗಳು 180 ದಿನದೊಳಗೆ ಗೊಬ್ಬರವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವರದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ. ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಚೀಲಗಳ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಬಹುದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ. ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸುವುದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ.

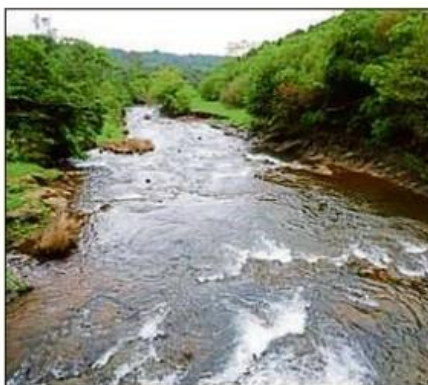
! ಡಾ.ಪಂಪ್ರತೇಶ್‌ವರ ರಾವ್ ಅಯುರೋದ ಔಷಧ ಮಳಿಗೆ, ಉರುಪಿ

Centre's nod sought to divert forest land for Mahadayi project

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the National Wildlife Board seeking approval for the diversion of 26.92 hectares of forest land to the Mahadayi project.

In the proposal, Karnataka has said that a total of 10.68 hectares of land, out of 26.92 hectares of forest land, falls under the Tiger Corridor of Kali and Sahyadri Tiger Reserve designated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. This land is required for the construction of a diversion weir, jackwell-cum-pump house, electrical substation, pipeline and powerline in Kankumbi Chorle,



Parvade and other villages of Khanapur taluk in Belagavi district under Kalasa Nala Diversion Scheme, the state has said.

Recently, the Karnataka State Board of Wildlife, headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, decided to recommend the proposal to the Standing Committee of the National

Board of Wildlife seeking permission to divert forest land for non-forestry purposes. The State Board also decided that sufficient funds would be made available to implement the site-specific wildlife mitigation plan.

Last year, the state government submitted a revised proposal about the Mahadayi project to the Central Water Commission. It involved the diversion of Mahadayi river water through Kalasa and Banduri Nala to meet the drinking water needs of areas in Belagavi and Hubballi-Dharwad region. The project subsequently received approval from the Central Water Commission.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, Nov. 10, 2023

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Zika: 888 houses in 5 villages of containment zone in Chickballapur under surveillance

Serum samples of 30 pregnant women sent for tests; Health Department submits report on the surveillance measures undertaken

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department, which is closely monitoring the situation in Chickballapur after a mosquito pool in Thalakayalbetta village of the district was found to be positive for Zika, has sent serum samples of 30 pregnant women from five villages in the containment zone to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), here, for testing.

As many as 888 houses with a population of 4,282 in the containment zone are under intense surveillance, officials said.

Mosquito samples collected from Thalakayalbetta village in the jurisdiction of Dibburahalli Primary Health Centre (PHC) during routine surveillance were found to be carrying the Zika virus.

Report to Centre

On Friday, the department submitted a detailed report on the surveillance measures undertaken to the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) under the Union Health Ministry.

In the report addressed to Kalpana Baruah, Senior Consultant and former Additional Director and Scientist 'V' at NCVBDC, the State Joint Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, said that intensified vector control measures were being initiated in the containment zone. Apart from the



The potential mosquito breeding sites have been noticed in cement tanks and barrels in the containment zone. FILE PHOTO

30 serum samples of pregnant women, four samples of those who reported with fever had also been sent for tests. The four include a nine-year-old boy, who has also recovered.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said reports were expected in a week. "The potential Aedes breeding sites have been noticed in cement tanks and barrels in the containment zone," he said.

"Aedes larval survey, source reduction activity, and fever surveillance are being conducted in the containment zone on a daily basis. An additional nine teams from neighbouring PHCs are being deployed for surveillance," he said.

IEC sessions

"While indoor space spraying with Pyrethrum (2%) is being done in the affected

village, information, education and communication (IEC) sessions are being conducted in the five villages of the containment zone. The situation is being closely monitored by the State programme division and necessary technical support is provided to the district," the Commissioner added.

Awareness activities

Chickballapur District Health Officer S.S. Mahesh said awareness activities had been taken up in the zone.

"The situation is under control and there is no need to panic. All the four persons who had reported fever have recovered and are doing fine. Although the 30 pregnant women in the area are doing fine, we have sent their serum samples for tests to rule out any infection," he added.

City also under the grip of other viral ailments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Zika scare has further raised concerns about rampant mosquito breeding, Bengaluru has also been under the grip of other viral ailments such as fever, upper respiratory tract infections, and seasonal influenza for the last two-three months.

Rise in dengue cases

Dengue, which is also spread through the bite of Aedes aegypti mosquito, has been on a steady rise with the State reporting 12,626 cases and nine deaths this year.

Of these, 6,599 cases and four deaths are from Bengaluru alone. The number of dengue cases shot up from around 5,000 in July to 12,626 as of November 2, according to data from the State Health Department.

Drop in platelet

Doctors said they are seeing at least 10 to 15 patients with lower and upper respiratory tract infections, viral fever, and other related ailments apart from seven to eight dengue cases daily.

Most of them are reporting complaints of sore throat, fever, runny nose,

cough, allergic bronchitis, asthma, and middle ear infections.

A drastic drop in platelet count is seen in those who report dengue symptoms, doctors said.

Children affected

Chikkanarasa Reddy, professor of paediatrics at Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, said he is seeing over 70 children every day at the hospital with high grade fever, cold, cough, vomiting and diarrhea.

"The trend has been the same since the last three months," he said.

Respiratory virus

Parimala V. Thirumalesh, senior consultant (Neonatology and Paediatrics) at Aster CMI Hospital, said there has been a considerable rise in Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, and influenza cases over the past two months.

While the number of influenza cases has increased by 50%, over 12 RSV cases are reported every week, he said.

"The risk of viral infections is high among toddlers and school-going

children, premature babies, babies with congenital heart and/or lung disease, and those with low immunity. Senior citizens and adults with heart-related illnesses, asthma, and leukemia are also at high risk," the doctor said.

Prevalent over months

Subrata Das, Senior Consultant (Internal Medicine and Diabetology) at Sakra World Hospital, said there he has been noticing a surge in Influenza A and Influenza B viral infections.

Additionally, symptoms resembling viral diarrhea, such as those caused by the rotavirus, have become more prevalent over the past two-three months, he said.

"These infections typically manifest with fever and body pain lasting two-three days, followed by cold and cough persisting for around three-four weeks after the fever subsides," he said.

Most viral infections subside on their own within seven days, however in severe cases, the infection may last longer necessitating hospitalisation.

People should consult their physician if symptoms persist for over a week, the doctors added.

Source: The Hindu, p.5, Nov. 4, 2023

Importance of sustainable public health highlighted

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Doctors, who participated in the seventh all-India conference of the Medical Service Centre - a national-level socio-medical voluntary organisation - on Saturday, underlined the importance of sustainable public health in preventing the spread of newly identified infectious diseases.

Making a presentation on “Emerging and Re-emerging Viral Infections” at the conference, K.R. Raveendra, Professor of Medicine at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said a majority of emerging and re-emerging infections are vector-borne.

“The cross-border spread of infectious diseases,

an upsurge in newly identified infections along with the emergence of known infections in new geographic areas, serve as compelling reminders of the importance of ensuring strong and sustainable clinical and public health. Along with this, laboratory capacity and collaborations at local, national and international levels are also vital,” he said.

Inaugurating the conference, M.V. Nadakarni, visiting professor at the Indian Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) and former vice-chancellor of Gulbarga University, said that India ranks 132 among 198 countries as per the Human Development Index 2022. It fell by two ranks in a year during COVID-19.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov. 5, 2023

Scrapping compulsory rural service for med students: Govt upbeat, experts cheer

Financial reasons dictated decision, but may prove a blessing in disguise

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The decision to promulgate an ordinance to end the compulsory one-year rural service for medical students by restricting it to the number of vacancies in the government will not impact healthcare services in the countryside, authorities argue, even as experts hailed the move.

The ordinance will amend the Karnataka Compulsory Service by Candidates Completed the Medical Courses Act, 2012.

Under this law, all MBBS, postgraduate degree holders and super-specialty graduates must serve one year compulsorily in government healthcare institutions in rural areas.

MBBS students are paid a monthly salary of Rs 62,666, MD/MS students get around Rs 70,000 and super-specialty students receive Rs 72,800.

At present, medical students who do not take up compulsory rural service are fined Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.

Prima facie, the government's decision is based on financial considerations.

There are 6,766 MBBS and PG medical students who have registered for rural service in the 2023-24 academic year. Accommodating all of them would cost the exchequer Rs 290.4 crore.

Less posts, more students

According to government data, in 2023-24, 3,251 MBBS students have registered for rural service whereas there are 1,897 posts vacant. To accommodate the rest, the government has to create an additional 1,354 posts, causing a financial burden of Rs 101.82 crore.

Also, for the 2023-24 academic year, 3,515 PG

CN MANJUNATH
Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute
of Cardiovascular Sciences



those from outside Karnataka

“As the available vacancies are less than the students graduating every year, the no-objection certificates were unnecessarily held back for several doctors, causing a lot of inconvenience to them, especially

end, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences director Dr C N Manjunath said.

“As the available vacancies are less than the students graduating every year, the no-objection certificates were unnecessarily held back for several doctors, causing a lot of inconvenience to them, especially those from outside Karnataka,” he said.

Manjunath said the policy (law) was good when there was an acute shortage of doctors.

“The decision taken by the government is good both for the state and the doctors,” he said.

No. of colleges

When the Act came in 2012, the number of government medical colleges in the state was 12.

“Now, we have medical colleges in almost every district. Every year, around 10,000 students graduate, but there are only around 3,000 posts vacant,” a senior official in the department of medical education said.

According to senior oncologist Dr Vishal Rao, there is a need for specialist doctors and the government should create an atmosphere where healthcare professionals go to rural areas without them being coerced.

Will the new policy create a shortage of doctors? Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) vice-chancellor Dr MK Ramesh says no.

“The District Residency Programme of the National Medical Commission will address the shortage of doctors, if any,” he said. He explained that under this programme, postgraduate medical students studying 4th, 5th and 6th semesters will be compulsorily posted in districts.

Specialist doctors

“Under this, hospitals will get specialist doctors. This will be peripheral posting. In case of shortage, they can even go to other states and serve,” he added.

Over the years, it is said that some students preferred to pay penalty, instead of serving in rural areas.

Between 2011-12 and 2018-19, the total penalty imposed was Rs 260 crore. A majority of the students have not paid yet, officials said.

SHARAN PRAKASH PATIL
Medical Education Minister



“We are making it flexible by removing the compulsion. We're not withdrawing the law completely.

students have registered against 1,270 vacant posts. This will require creating an additional 2,245 posts at a cost of Rs 188.58 crore.

According to the government, if all MBBS, PG and super-specialty students who graduate every year enter compulsory rural service, the government has to spend Rs 844 crore towards salaries.

Govt colleges/govt-quota seats

If only students in government colleges are considered, the burden will come down to Rs 300 crore. Sources say there are plans to restrict rural service to only those students in government colleges or government-quota seats in private institutions.

“We are making it flexible by removing the compulsion. We're not withdrawing the law completely,” Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil told *DH*.

According to Patil, the number of doctors showing interest to work with the government sector has increased in the last few years.

The government's move will prevent doctors from having to wait for a posting for months on

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 5, 2023

About 21,000 new cases are registered in Kidwai every year

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

About 21,000 new cases are registered every year at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, out of which over 50% are diagnosed as cancer cases. Overall, the premier cancer care centre in the State sees a footfall of around 3.6 lakh patients per annum.

This includes new and follow up cases.

Cancer awareness

The institute is organising a cancer awareness and detection camp in a tribal area of Bandipur on Tuesday to mark national cancer awareness day observed on November 7.

Kidwai director V. Lokesh said early intervention is most important in cancer care as the chance of survival is higher if diagnosed early.

“Unfortunately, most come to treatment institutes in an advanced stage, hence creating awareness among the public plays an important role in cancer prevention,” he said.

Of around 14 lakh new cancer cases that are reported annually in the country, an estimated 87,500 new cases are from Karnataka. Among males, lung cancer continues to be the most predominant site of cancer constituting 9.6% of the total male cancers followed by cancers of the stomach and prostate (6.8%), esophagus (5.5%) and mouth (5.1%).

Breast cancer

Vijay C.R., Associate Professor in the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Kidwai said among females, cancer of the breast is the most common cancer constituting 30% of the total female

cancers followed by cancer of the cervix (11%), ovary (7.2%), mouth (4.3%) and corpus uteri (4.2%).

Risk factors

Pointing out that tobacco usage contributes to the occurrence of more than one-third of cancers, Dr. Lokesh said in males it is found to have the highest age-adjusted rate per lakh population compared to the female population (that is 46 and 24). Other probable risk factors include diet, pollution, excessive alcohol consumption, lack of physical activity, occupational hazards and infections, he said.

“Most of the cancer patients seen at Kidwai are from the lower socio-economic strata with rural backgrounds, illiteracy and who have limited access to health facilities,” he said.

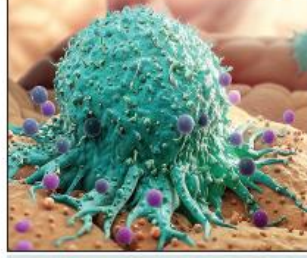
Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov. 7, 2023

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.1ರಷ್ಟು ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಮಾರಣಾಂತಿಕ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ, ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಶೇ.1 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಆತಂಕ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ನೆ. 7ರಂದು ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ದಿನ ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಪತ್ತೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತಹ ಅರಿವಿನ ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದು ಈ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇದರ ಮಧ್ಯೆಯೇ ಈ ಆತಂಕಕಾರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದ್ಯ 2.3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಸಕ್ರಿಯ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿದ್ದು, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 87,500 ಸಾವಿರ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ದೃಢಪಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕಳೆದ 10 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 840 ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ರೋಗಿಗಳು ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರಗಳ ವೈಕಿ ಶ್ವಾಸಕೋಶದ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಶೇ.9.6ರಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಗಳು ಶೇ. 6.8, ಅನ್ನನಾಳ ಶೇ. 5.5 ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಯಿ



ಕಾರಣಗಳೇನು?

- ಕುಂಠಿತಗೊಂಡ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ಶಿಬಿರ, ಜಾಗೃತಿ
- ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಳಂಬ, ಬೆಷಧ ಕೊರತೆ
- ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವಿಲ್ಲ
- ಬೆಲ್ಟಾ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಘಟಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕುಂಠಿತ

ಉ.ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

ಕಿಡ್ನಾಯಿ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಗಂಭಿರ ಸಂದ್ಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಸುಮಾರು 21,000 ಹೊಸ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 10,000 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾದ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 3.6 ಲಕ್ಷ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಫಲತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ತಂಬಾಕು ಸೇವನೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾರಣಾಂತಿಕ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ಗೆ ಜನರು ತುತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜನರು ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ರೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳ ಗಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆಘಾತಕಾರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹೊರ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ತುರ್ತು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ತಜ್ಞರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಶೇ. 5.1ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸ್ವನ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಡುಬರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 30 ಸ್ವನ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ವೈಕಿ ಮೂರನೇ ಒಂದು ಭಾಗಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ತಂಬಾಕು ಸೇವನೆಯೇ

ಕಾರಣ ಎಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಆತಂಕದ ಸಂಗತಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಜರಾತ್‌ನಂತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 85,968 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದವು. 2021ರಲ್ಲಿ 88,126 ಮತ್ತು 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 90,349 ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.9, Nov. 7, 2023

Containing Zika virus: Centre writes to States asking them to strengthen entomological surveillance

Last month, samples collected from a mosquito pool at Thalakayalbetta village, in the jurisdiction of Dibburahalli Primary Health Centre in Chickballapur district, during routine surveillance were found to be carrying the Zika virus

Afshan Yasmeen
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Even as Karnataka is awaiting reports of the Chickballapur mosquito pool samples that were found to be positive for Zika virus, the Centre has written to all States, including Karnataka, asking them to strengthen entomological surveillance and intensify vector control activities.

The letter – written by Union Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant to Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all States on November 6 – referred to the recent detection of Zika Virus Disease (ZVD) cases in Kerala and Maharashtra.

“In addition, the virus has also been detected in mosquito pool samples from Chickballapur district of Karnataka. It is important to strengthen entomological surveillance and intensify vector control activities with a focus on areas with high vector density in order to prevent Zika virus transmission,” the



A file photo of a BBMP employee carrying out a fumigation drive in Bengaluru.

official said in the letter.

Last month, samples collected from a mosquito pool in Thalakayalbetta village in the jurisdiction of Dibburahalli Primary Health Centre (PHC) during routine surveillance were found to be carrying the Zika virus.

The Health Department, which is closely monitoring the situation in the district, has sent serum

samples of 30 pregnant women and four persons who had been treated for fever from five villages in the containment zone to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), for testing and reports are awaited.

Dengue, chikungunya

“I am sure that an action plan and requisite logistics for vector management focusing on dengue and chi-

kungunya is in place with the States. The same needs to be implemented for Zika and to be intensified in the areas from where either human case and mosquito pools are found positive,” the letter stated.

While a vast majority of the cases of ZVD are either asymptomatic or present with mild symptoms that are self-limiting in nature, WHO data from other

countries suggests that Zika virus infection among pregnant women may result in microcephaly in the newborn in a minor proportion.

In addition, Zika virus infection can also cause Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis, particularly in adults and older children, the letter pointed out.

Avoid panic

“While these complications have not been reported so far from India, there is a need to be vigilant, particularly as the mosquito vector for ZVD is the same that transmits dengue and chikungunya and is found in large parts of the country. Equally important is the need to avoid any kind of panic in the general public by disseminating correct information. Like dengue and chikungunya, there is no specific drug or vaccine for ZVD as well. Therefore, it is important to strengthen surveillance,” the letter stated.

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Nov. 8, 2023

Government of Karnataka and C-CAMP co-host round table to develop road map for innovative healthcare solutions

One key approach discussed at the round table was deployment of new healthcare innovations in public health facilities in all districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) held a Health Roundtable with various CSR and Philanthropic organizations to explore partnerships and funding opportunities for strengthening public health systems.

One key approach discussed at the roundtable was the deployment of new healthcare innovations in public health facilities in all districts. The meeting at Bengaluru was chaired by the Karnataka Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao.

According to a release by C-CAMP, the roundtable follows the formation of a strategic alliance between the Department of Health and Family Welfare and C-CAMP that aims to boost the state's public healthcare delivery



During the round table, Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao underlined the significance of affordability, accessibility, quality, and scale in any augmentation effort for public health systems.

through the implementation of indigenous innovations.

Officials from the Health Department including D. Randeep, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare, and Dr. Naveen Bhat, National Health Mission Director, participated. Also present were several industry heads and high-level

officials from corporate organisations and philanthropies such as USAID, Infosys Foundation, ACT Capital Foundation, PATH, UNICEF, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Biocon Foundation, AstraZeneca, Cipla, HCL Foundation and Cognizant Foundation among others.

During the roundtable,

Gundu Rao underlined the significance of affordability, accessibility, quality and scale in any augmentation effort for public health systems.

"Our aim is to make Karnataka a model state for healthcare that can be replicated by other states. Karnataka being the land of innovation and technology gives us a

The round table follows the formation of a strategic alliance between the Department of Health and Family Welfare and C-CAMP

perfect opportunity to achieve this milestone. I believe, we can achieve this only through like-minded collaborations and partnerships," he said.

"The public-private partnership will enable us to mobilise funds to upgrade our healthcare facilities and also help us explore innovative technologies and modern practices, which can make our public healthcare more affordable and accessible."

"We are looking forward to ideas and are working towards a results-oriented approach and having a measurable impact," he further added.

Gundu Rao also noted that to reduce procedural challenges in last mile healthcare delivery, the government has brought in partners like C-CAMP to specifically address

challenges in maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis, eye health, and others.

C-CAMP Director-CEO Dr Taslimarif Saied said, "Our objective for today's Roundtable is to work on a roadmap for the next 3-5 years for the deployment of innovative, indigenous health solutions emerging from Karnataka by facilitating partnerships between Government of Karnataka, C-CAMP and CSR and philanthropic organizations."

He further said, "Such a PPP model will be pathbreaking for new technology adoption in the public health system, not only in Karnataka but nationally too. This is aimed to address some critical public health challenges, largely in semi-urban and rural populations."

"The pilot and scale-up programmes enabled by these projects will also hugely benefit deep science based entrepreneurial ventures based in Karnataka as the biotech capital of India."

Source: The Hindu, p.10, Nov. 10, 2023

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸೋಂಕು

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಘೆ, ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮುನಿರವರ ಮುಂಗಾರಿನ ನಡುವೆಯೇ ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಸರಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ರೋಗಕಾರಕ ಈಡಿಸ್ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಘೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಜನರು 10,000 ಜ್ವರ ಬಾಧೆಯಿಂದ ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಡೆಂಘೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 10 ಸಾವಿರ ಗಡಿ ಸಮೀಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಸೋಂಕಿತರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಒಂದು ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತಿರದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಈವರೆಗೆ 68 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಡೆಂಘೆ ತಂಕಿತರ ರಕ್ತದ ಮಾದರಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 9,559 ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಸೋಂಕು ದೃಢಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ 22 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ತಂಕಿತರ ರಕ್ತದ ಮಾದರಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು,



982 ಮಂದಿ ರೋಗದಿಂದ ಬಳಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಡಿಸ್ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳ ಕಡಿತದಿಂದ ಹರಡುವ ಡೆಂಘೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ರೋಗವು ವೈರಾಣು ಸೋಂಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಡಿಸ್ ಹಗಲು ಹೊತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚ್ಚುವ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ, ಇದರಿಂದ ಹರಡುವ ರೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ದೊರೆಯದಿದ್ದರೆ ರೋಗ ಉಲ್ಬಣಗೊಂಡು, ಮಾರಣಾಂತಿಕವಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳಿವೆ.

☎ ಪುಟ 2B

ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಘೆ ಆತಂಕ?

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ 5,511 ಸೋಂಕಿತರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೈಸೂರು (454), ಉಡುಪಿ (429), ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ (232), ಕಲಬುರಗಿ (219), ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ (210), ವಿಜಯಪುರ (188), ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ (167), ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ (154), ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ (152), ಹಾಸನ (145), ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು (143), ತುಮಕೂರು (136), ಕೊಡಗು (119) ಧಾರವಾಡ (115), ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ (113), ಮಂಡ್ಯ (108), ಕೋಲಾರ 106 ಡೆಂಘೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ.

ಉಚಿತ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ

ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಜ್ವರವಿದ್ದರೂ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ದೊರೆಯಲಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ರಕ್ತಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು

- ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಚ್ಚಬೇಕು. ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಮನೆಯ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗದಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೀರು ನಿಲ್ಲದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರವಹಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಏರ್ ಕೂಲರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ನೀರನ್ನು ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಬದಲಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಕಚ್ಚದಂತೆ ಮೈತುಂಬಾ ಬಟ್ಟೆ ಧರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮಲಗುವಾಗ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಹಲ್ಲದ ತಪ್ಪದೇ ಬಳಸಬೇಕು.
- ಜ್ವರಸೀದಿತರು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಧವಾಹಾರ ಸೇವಿಸಬೇಕು, ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ಪಡೆಯಿರಿ.

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Source: Vijayavani, p.3, Nov. 10, 2023

ಡೆಂಘೆ, ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಡೆಂಘೆ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು: ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ವಿಪರೀತ ಜ್ವರ, ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಡ್ಡೆಗಳ ಹಿಂಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋವು, ತೀವ್ರ ತಲೆನೋವು, ಮೈ-ಕೈ ಮತ್ತು ಕೀಲು ನೋವು, ವಾಕರಿಕೆ, ವಾಂತಿ ಇವುಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ನೋವು, ಬಾಯಿ, ಮೂಗು ಮತ್ತು ವಸಡುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತಸ್ರಾವ, ಚರ್ಮದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೆಂಪು ಗುಳ್ಳೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ರಕ್ತಸ್ರಾವದ ಗುರುತು, ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಣ್ಣದ ಮಲ ವಿಸರ್ಜನೆ, ವಿಪರೀತ ಬಾಯಾರಿಕೆ, ತಣ್ಣನೆಯ ಬಿಳಿಬಿದ ಚರ್ಮ, ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ ತಪ್ಪುವುದು, ರಕ್ತದ ಒತ್ತಡ, ನಾಡಿ ಬಡಿತದ ಕುಸಿತ ಡೆಂಘೆ ರೋಗದ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು.



ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು: ಇದು ಸಹ ಈಡಿಸ್ ಜಾತಿಯ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಕಚ್ಚುವುದರಿಂದ ಬರಲಿದ್ದು, ಒಬ್ಬರಿಂದ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಹರಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೂ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದು ಮಾರಣಾಂತಿಕವಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಯಾತನೆಯಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಜ್ವರ, ಕೀಲುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ನೋವು ಮತ್ತು ಊತ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ರೋಗ ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಕಂಡುಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ವೈದ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

ಈಡಿಸ್ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ತಾಣ: ಈಡಿಸ್ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳು ನೀರು ತುಂಬಿದ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ತೊಟ್ಟಿಗಳು, ಬ್ಯಾರಲ್, ಡ್ರಮ್, ಹೂ ಕುಂಡಗಳ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ತಟ್ಟೆ, ಏರ್ ಕೂಲರ್, ರೆಫ್ರಿಜರೇಟರ್‌ನ ಡಿಫ್ರಾಸ್ಟ್ ಟ್ರೇಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮನೆಯ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಾಡಿದ ಒಡೆದ ಬಾಟಲಿ,

ಟೈರು, ಎಳನೀರಿನ ಚಿಪ್ಪು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾದ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈಡಿಸ್ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ.

ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.40ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂರನೇ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈಡಿಸ್ ಲಾರ್ವಾ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಲಾರ್ವಾ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ತಾಣ ನಾಶಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ವಾರು ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿ ರೋಗ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಗದ ಕುರಿತು ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಡಿ. ರಂದೀಪ್ ಸುತೋಲೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರೋಗ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಜೋಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ರಿಗೂ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Plans to build economy around flagship guarantees

K'taka govt looks to take chit fund biz to next level

DH EXCLUSIVE

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

With women receiving cash benefits under the flagship guarantees, the state government has sensed an opportunity to scale up its fledgling chit funds business that will soon get an app.

This is one way the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government wants to build an economy around the guarantees, which are giving every household an estimated Rs 4,000-5,000 financial assistance per month.

Under Gruha Lakshmi, 93 lakh women are getting Rs 2,000 every month. Women are also saving money with Shakti, the free bus travel scheme. The plan is to get these women to start saving.

For this, authorities have zeroed in on the chit fund business run by the Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL),



which has a turnover of Rs 305 crore and a low subscriber base of 22,000.

This pales in comparison to Kerala, where the state-run chit fund business is worth a mammoth Rs 27,000 crore.

Popular among low income groups, salaried and self-employed individuals, a chit fund involves members agreeing to deposit a predetermined amount of money for a specific period.

Members take turns to receive the entire pool of funds.

"MSIL has agreed to give a fillip to its chit fund business in the backdrop of women receiving cash under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme," said Additional Chief Secretary

(Finance) LK Atheeq, who has held meetings to discuss creating a ripple effect for the guarantees.

MSIL managing director Manoj Kumar told *DH* that the chit fund business has the potential of becoming a Rs 10,000-crore venture.

"Our chit funds business is almost localised to a few urban districts," Kumar said. "We haven't penetrated into rural areas. Now, with each household receiving benefits every month, money can be saved."

The MD said "returns are quite decent (13% to 15%) depending on the group" and added that money will be assured as MSIL is a government agency.

Kumar is creating an "institutional mechanism" to accelerate the chit funds business. "We're looking at having a mobile app that citizens can use to not only enrol, but also check the progress of their chit fund," he said, adding that software development is underway.

► **Chit fund, Page 5**

Continued...

Govt looks to vault chit fund biz to next level

Chit fund, from Page 1

As in the case of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), the government will appoint 'Savings Sakhis' as agents who will get incentives for every enrolment for the chit funds business.

Uma Mahadevan, Additional Chief Secretary (Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood), who is involved in the effort to create guarantees-based spin-offs, said women can put the Gruha Lakshmi money into small savings for children's education, set up a business or medical emergencies.

"Women should quickly get into the habit of savings," she said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 5, Nov. 6, 2023

Guarantee spin-off: Govt plans mini supermarkets for women SHGs

Political empowerment prog for women on the cards

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is setting up kiosks and mini supermarkets where women-led self-help groups (SHGs) can sell their goods and create a place for themselves in the rural economy.

This is in line with the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's plan to build an economy around the guarantees under which households, especially women, are receiving cash benefits. As part of this, the government is looking to scale up the chit fund business run by the Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL) on

the back of women receiving Rs 2,000 per month under Gruha Lakshmi.

"A lot of cash transfers are happening and money is reaching the poor. Women SHGs can provide goods and services for local consumption," Additional Chief Secretary (Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood) Uma Mahadevan told *DH*.

The government will set up work sheds for SHGs that can serve as a "space of their own" where they can display their products, Mahadevan said.

"There are already Halli Santes - village marts - that

we're identifying so that outlets can be provided," she said.

The government wants to also set up 200 kiosks for women SHGs at the panchayat level. "They will be tiny spaces where day-to-day items and snacks can be sold," Mahadevan said. "SHGs deserve a space in the rural economy," she added.

According to Mahadevan, there are 3.4 lakh SHGs with 10-15 members each. "There are more than 35 lakh (three million) members in these SHGs," she said. "They are also federated with panchayat-level federations."

Further, the government is

planning "political empowerment" of women panchayat members.

"We're taking up a big training programme for women panchayat members so that they can travel to different places and follow up on claims of services," Mahadevan said, referring to Gruha Lakshmi and Shakti (free bus travel) schemes.

The government had conducted a "large online orientation programme" for SHGs on the five guarantees in August.

"Karnataka is one of the pioneers in SHGs as a vehicle for women empowerment," Mahadevan said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov. 7, 2023

26 lakh women yet to get Gruha Lakshmi aid for September

Name mismatch in Aadhaar, bank passbook among reasons cited

VARSHA GOWDA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme, which provides monthly financial aid of Rs 2,000 to women heads of the family, a part of the ambitious five guarantees, is yet to reach a significant portion of its target population.

To date, 88% of 1.2 crore beneficiaries have received the amount for the first month after the scheme was launched. However, at least 7.5% of women have complained that they have not received even the first month's instalment. Since September, 26 lakh women, or 21% of total beneficiaries have not received the amount. Officials

cite a mismatch in name in the Aadhaar card and bank passbook, failure to link the Aadhaar card and wrong address as the reason behind the same.

"The scheme is helpful in providing some relief after prices of basic commodities went up. I have to pay Rs 200 if I want to buy a kg of dal," says Vasantha, a resident of Hassan city. However, the monthly disbursement of financial aid has been patchy at best. "I received money the first month and after that for the next two months I didn't get it," she says. While she has received the pending amount this month, her neighbour has not been fortunate.

Mani, who applied in a batch among other women from her neighbourhood in Hassan



To date, 88% of 1.2 crore beneficiaries have received the amount for the first month after the scheme was launched.

recounts, "Several other women and I have not received the amount since the first month even though I was told when I registered that there was no issue with my application," she says. In Yadgir, Gowri Hukkeri, an activist, estimates that about a quarter of women who applied for the Gruha Lakshmi programme are yet to receive at least a month's worth or more of the financial aid.

"Officials have asked women with a mismatch in name

between Aadhaar and bank passbook to come back to rectify the error. Others have problems with linking their bank accounts with the Aadhaar card," she says. However, it is not clear when the women are expected to come back to register. While these are some of the reasons that officials generally quote, Deepa R, a resident of Haveri district explains that beneficiaries' concerns can be dismissed on the grounds that they would eventually receive

the financial aid. "I do not know what the problem with my application is. I stopped receiving money after the first month. When I approached the district administration, they told me that my name was in the third list, and the money would reach me in fifteen days," she says.

Activists say that such dismissals can confuse beneficiaries who might need to intervene to correct spelling errors in names or addresses and link problems with government ID.

Additionally, Gowri explains that in some cases, women heads of the family were receiving 10 kg of rice under the An-nabhagya scheme. "However, the same women have stopped receiving amount under the Gruhalakshmi scheme," she says. To resolve these problems, State Women and Child Development Department Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar, says, "I have directed the officials to go door to door with the cooperation of Anganwadi workers and settle the problems in registration."

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov. 8, 2023

40 yrs after ban, Devadasis still shackled to system

Vijayanagara has 71 such women in the 18-36 age group

**ANITHA PAILOOR
HOSAPETE, DHNS**

Four decades after the Devadasi system was banned in Karnataka, young girls and women are still 'dedicated to god' in Vijayanagara district, which has the highest number of survivors of this regressive system

as per government data.

An ongoing survey by Mission Vijaya Vanite, a help desk set up by Vijayanagara district administration for Devadasis, has listed 71 women in the age group of 18 to 36. Most of them belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC), mainly Madiga community. "Many hesitate to come out as Devadasis fearing punitive action despite their deplorable condition," says Manjula Malgi, district coordinator, Mission Vijaya Vanite. Take the case of Saritha*.

The 21-year-old came to know she will be dedicated as a Devadasi a day before the ritual was held in 2022. Now, she is four



Ganga, a Devadasi in Vijayanagara district, wants to apply for Bhagyalakshmi bond. DH PHOTO/ANITHA PAILOOR

Who are Devadasis?

- Devadasis are young girls 'dedicated to god'
- They are not allowed to marry. They stay alone or with parents and make a living on their own
- Regressive system pushes women into sexual slavery
- Their partners, generally married men, occasionally visit them but they remain anonymous and take no responsibility

months pregnant. She finds it hard to work in the fields as a labourer but has no other means of survival. She is un-

sure if she will be covered under the schemes for pregnant women as she cannot mention the name of the child's father.

It took her several sleepless nights and a lot of courage to come out as a Devadasi.

► **Devadasi, Page 4**

Devadasi, from Page 1

She hopes this will help her get food at the local anganwadi.

Saritha belongs to the Madiga community and is one of the recent survivors of the exploitative Devadasi system banned in the state in 1984.

"I did not come out as a Devadasi until I conceived. It might cause problems for us as it is against the law," she says.

"The person who was in a relationship with me stopped coming to the house and answering my calls after I informed him about the pregnancy. After all, he is someone else's husband and has a family to look after," she says.

She was told that her parents had decided to dedicate her when she was young, but she knows this was an arrangement to look after her ailing father. "I am the youngest and all my elder sisters are married," she says.

After Saritha, her 19-year-old cousin was dedicated months ago. The sentiment

of doing something for "the wellbeing of family and society" is still being used to push women into a lifetime of sexual slavery in this district. Physical or mental disabilities or preventing misfortune are other reasons cited by the perpetrators to push girls into the Devadasi system.

"The women gain the strength to come out years after their dedication, generally during their pregnancy," says Usha, a taluk coordinator of Mission Vijaya Vanite. She is the daughter of a Devadasi woman.

Manjula explains how and why the regressive system persists despite governmental and social initiatives. "It requires generational support for Devadasi families to come out of the practice. While the government has come up with rehabilitation programmes, the lack of awareness on both sides (government and community) and problems in implementation have resulted in these schemes falling short," she says.

The last survey of Devadasis was done in the state

in 2008 and the list has not been updated since.

Those who are left out or came out as Devadasis after that are not included in the list. Some of the families who are included in the list are not getting due benefits.

"In 2019, we sent a list of Devadasis who are left out and a decision is yet to be made," says Sudha M Chidri, project officer, Devadasi Rehabilitation Project, undivided Ballari district.

In another case, Ganga is not able to get a Bhagyalakshmi bond for her child as she cannot mention her partner's name. At the same time, her name has not been included in the government's Devadasi registry as she was initiated into the practice after the previous survey.

Shweta Sanjeevkumar, deputy director, Women and Child Development Department, Hospet, says that the process is on to include single mothers in the list for the Bhagyalakshmi and other schemes.

(*Name changed to protect identity)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 4, Nov. 9, 2023

Gruha Lakshmi money will be credited in a fortnight: Min

Says govt will fix all the glitches soon

BENGALURU, DHNS

At a time when numerous complaints have emerged about beneficiaries not getting regular payment under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, one of the five guarantees of the Congress government, the government will fix all the glitches within the next fortnight, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar assured.

Speaking to media persons here, after taking part in a training programme for the Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), who are co-ordinating implementation of the scheme, Hebbalkar said money was reaching 95 per cent of the beneficiaries, but with the rest, there were technical problems such as absence of Aadhaar seeding with

the bank accounts or non-updation of the e-Kyc details.

As on date, 1.16 crore beneficiaries have enrolled for the scheme. According to officials, Aadhaar seeding has not been completed with respect to 3.5 lakh beneficiaries.

While in several instances, beneficiaries have received money only one for one month, the government will soon credit the pending amount to them, the minister assured. "Those who have registered within August 15 and have not got money after the initial payment, will get three months' amount soon. Those who have registered later, will get arrears depending on when they have registered," she explained.

In August, there were 1.08 crore beneficiaries, who got the Gruha Lakshmi certificate. In September, this went up to 1.14 crore, and in October, it further went up to 1.16 crore beneficiaries.

Giving further details, Hebbalkar said the government had credited Rs 2,169 crore to beneficiaries in August. As

many as 97 percent beneficiaries received it but 5 lakh people did not get the money because of technical problems. In September, Rs 2,288 crore was released for 1.14 crore beneficiaries. However, only 82% of beneficiaries received the money. As many as 12 lakh families were left out owing to either technical glitches or because of e-KYC problems. The money that the government has released is in the bank and will reach the beneficiaries as soon as the technical problems are resolved, she said.

In October the government has released Rs 2,400 crore towards 1.16 crore beneficiaries and at present, the government is fixing glitches pertaining to accounts of 7.9 lakh beneficiaries.

"We are getting Aadhaar numbers linked to bank accounts and we are getting accounts opened through post offices. Each day, we are resolving issues pertaining to three districts. Within a fortnight, all beneficiaries will receive money," the minister added.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Nov. 9, 2023

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Governance

Proportional representation could mitigate delimitation's effects

Until 2022, the Democrats effectively had the same number of senators as the Republicans, but Democratic senators represented 56.5% of the country's population—13 percentage points more than the population represented by the same number of Republican parliamentarians in the US Senate.

Malapportionment has consequences for the fiscal position of states as well. Research in various countries, including Japan and the US, has consistently shown that a greater number of parliamentarians per capita is associated with more government benefits from the Centre. From this perspective, delimitation that maintains a consistent level of parliamentarians or legislators per capita is seen as the most equitable.

In India too, political scientist Rikhi Bhuvnani has argued that a greater number of legislators per capita is related to economic development, but this relationship is largely contingent on those legislators being in the governing coalition.

The Indian case

But who can be in the governing coalition, and how does it impact fiscal support from the Centre for Indian states? In the US, the same parties (Republicans and Democrats)

contest and win elections from every state, but India is far more culturally and politically diverse. South India, for instance, is characterised by a completely different set of parties as compared to the North, where the Congress and BJP still largely compete in head-to-head contests. In the Indian context, delimitation is not a simple case of empowering citizens, it also strengthens certain political parties over others.

In order to be precise about this argument, it is useful to look at some numbers. Milan Vaishnav and Jamie Hinton undertook an analysis of the numerical consequences of delimitation from the 2026 population projections. Recently, the government has stated that the number of Lok Sabha seats will increase in proportion to the overall population increase since 2011, which projects an increase in Lok Sabha seats from 543 to about 753. Using population projections for 2026 provided by Vaishnav and Hinton, and the target number of 753 overall seats, we can calculate the number of seats allotted to each state.

I estimate that the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala would go from their current 101 Lok Sabha seats to 107 seats (just a 6% increase) in the

new larger Lok Sabha after delimitation. With Karnataka, the number of seats in these southern states is projected to rise from the current 129 to 143, an 11% rise.

In the 2019 national election, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) helmed by the BJP won just 5 of these 101 seats. In contrast, the largest gainers under delimitation would be the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, which would go from their current 174 seats to 284 seats (a 63% increase) in the new larger Lok Sabha. The NDA won 156 of these 174 seats, an impressive strike rate of 90%, in the 2019 election. At these strike rates, the NDA would receive 255 seats just from these 4 states after delimitation—much of the way to the new majority mark of 377 seats.

Since 2014, we have seen extraordinary political and fiscal centralisation in India. And the BJP openly campaigns on a platform of 'double engine sarkar' in state elections—an explicit promise of political patronage and party bias in fiscal transfers from the Centre. The concerns around delimitation for the South are not just about losing a few parliamentarians. Rather, there is the very real possibility that the fact that the South has a different political culture—along with better development

outcomes and lower fertility rates—than the North, will result in the systematic loss of fiscal support from the Centre.

Already we see the marginalisation of prime ministerial aspirants who are not from Hindi-speaking backgrounds. Even the opposition coalition I.N.D.I.A. has, at various times, suggested Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal or Rahul Gandhi as potential prime ministers. This Hindi-speaking bias is sure to intensify after delimitation. In fact, the biggest gainer under delimitation would be the state of Uttar Pradesh, growing from 80 seats today to 109 seats (a 36% increase). Given that delimitation will be based on the first Census conducted in 2026, it is plausible that the delayed Census could be used to enforce a new Lok Sabha by 2029, and certainly by 2034. It is no secret that this would be a boon to Yogi Adityanath's prime ministerial ambitions. For this reason, it is important to move the question of delimitation from its abstract theoretical principles to a more careful consideration of its implications for fiscal support from the Centre in the Indian context as well as the political leadership of the country. There is no doubt that delimitation will result in a reallocation of parliamentarians towards the more populous Hindi-speaking states, where the BJP

has built a strong base of support. It also means that even if the BJP has to form a coalition with regional actors (like those in the South) in future elections, the relative bargaining power of these regional actors will be much lower due to the importance of the large Hindi-speaking states to the BJP.

A way forward?

A delimitation process cannot be wished away; it is certain to happen. We must seek solutions to minimise inequitable outcomes across different regions of India.

The BJP's landslide victories in the last two national elections are, in some part, driven by the electoral system in India, where the first-past-the-post electoral system of choosing a single member of parliament from a constituency results in a mismatch between vote share and seat share. In particular, the BJP won 282 seats (52% of seats) on a 31% vote share in 2014, and 303 seats (56% of seats) on a 37% vote share in 2019. Moving to a proportional representation system, where vote shares and seat shares match, would almost certainly result in more diverse ruling coalitions with greater regional representation.

But electoral systems are hard to change. At a minimum, discretionary

spending and fiscal transfers need to conform to a "federal means test" which adheres to the principles of federalism. In theory, the Rajya Sabha should be an avenue for a federal means test like the US Senate, but, in practice, the awkward system for allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha blunts this purpose. Rajya Sabha MPs are not directly elected by citizens and their number is related to the state's overall population—not to mention that there is no domicile requirement for them.

The need for a federal means test has already been recognised; this is why, for instance, the GST Council only gives the Centre one-third weight in voting outcomes, with the remaining two-third weight coming from representatives selected by state governments. Similar committees or processes can be instituted for certain fiscal transfers from the Centre to attenuate the fiscal impacts of delimitation.

Greater regional representation in fiscal decisions from the Centre would go a long way towards achieving more equitable outcomes, and decrease the heat on an increasingly contentious debate around delimitation.

(The author is Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi)

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

Step-motherly treatment by Centre, says Siddaramaiah

'PM unable to digest successful roll-out of guarantees'

MYSURU, DHNS:

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday alleged that the union government had been meting out step-motherly treatment to Karnataka.

Speaking to media persons at Mysuru airport, he said, "The prime minister and the union ministers are not giving time to meet our ministers. Our ministers had to return after waiting for three days in Delhi. This shows the negligence of the

Centre and its step-motherly treatment".

"The prime minister is not able to tolerate Congress coming to power in the state. Hence, he has been neglecting the drought issue. I have instructed the district-in-charge ministers to assess the drought situation in every taluk and submit a report within November 15. The compensation works have started. The state government has released Rs 900 crore initially, and later Rs 324 crore," Siddaramaiah said.

In all, the state has suffered loss to the tune of Rs 33,000 crore due to drought this year.

"As per the guidelines, we have sought relief amounting to Rs 17,900 crore from the Centre. But not a single rupee has been released," Siddaramaiah said.

maiah said.

Siddaramaiah said he had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in this regard.

'Seek funds'

"What are the BJP leaders doing here by touring the state? If they are really concerned about the farmers, they should speak to the union ministers in Delhi and urge them to release funds".

Commenting on Modi's poll guarantees, Siddaramaiah said, "He has been criticising the guarantees of the Congress government. If he guarantees something during the elections to the five states, then it is for the poor. If we do the same, it is bankruptcy. Whatever he says, we are always in favour of the poor".

Source: Deccan Herald, p., Nov. 6, 2023

7th pay panel's term extended till next Mar

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Monday extended the term of the 7th Pay Commission till March 2024, essentially buying more time and fending off demands from employees for an up-graded salary structure amid a financial crunch due to the implementation of the five guarantees.

The 7th Pay Commission, under former chief secretary K Sudhakar Rao, is now expected to submit its report to the government before March 15, 2024, according to an order issued by the Finance Department. The term of the Commission was to end on November 18.

The Commission was constituted in November 2022 when the BJP was in power and had six months to submit its recommendations. In

May this year, the term of the Commission was extended up to November 18.

The pay commission would cover the salary prospects of some six lakh employees.

The implementation of 7th pay scale for state government employees would lead to a steep increase in salaries and pensions in the coming years. Depending on the fitment factor, the financial implication of the 7th pay scale would range between Rs 12,000 crore and Rs 18,000 crore for the first year of implementation, according to the Medium Term Fiscal Plan. The Commission has P B Ramamurthy (retired IAS) and former Karnataka State Audit And Accounts Department principal director Srikanth B Vanahalli as members. IAS officer Hephsiba Rani Korlapati is the member-secretary.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Nov. 7, 2023

ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಕಲಿಕೆ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಹಾಯಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಕತ್ತರಿ

• ಶ್ರೀಕಾಂತ ಕಲ್ಮನವರ ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು: ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ 'ಕಲಿಕೆ ಭಾಗ್ಯ' ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿತ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹5 ಸಾವಿರದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹60 ಸಾವಿರ ತನಕ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಈಗ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹1,100 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹11 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅ.30ರಂದು ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ, ಅಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದಂತೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾನೂನು (1996), ಸೆಸ್ ಕಾನೂನು ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾನೂನು ಬಾರಿಯಾಗಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಬಳಿಕ (2006ರಲ್ಲಿ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸವಲತ್ತು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಸೆಸ್ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ಯ ₹10,263 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ₹3,559 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ₹6,700 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಯಲಿದೆ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕೂಡ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದ್ದು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಲ್ಲದವರೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ

ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಮೊತ್ತ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ವಿವರ(₹ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)		
ತರಗತಿ	ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಮೊತ್ತ
100ದ4ನೇ ತರಗತಿ	5,000	1,100
500ದ8ನೇ ತರಗತಿ	8,000	1,250
900ದ10ನೇ ತರಗತಿ	12,000	3,000
ಪ್ರಥಮ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ವಿಯುಸಿ	15,000	4,600
ಪದವಿ	25,000	6,000
ಬಿ.ಇ, ಬಿ.ಟೆಕ್	50,000	10,000
ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ	35,000	10,000
ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್, ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ, ಐಟಿಐ	20,000	4,600
ಬಿಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್, ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್	40,000	10,000
ಬಿ.ಇಡಿ	35,000	6,000
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ	60,000	11,000
ಎಲ್ಎಲ್ಬಿ, ಎಲ್ಎಲ್ಎಂ	30,000	10,000
ಡಿ.ಇಡಿ	25,000	4,600
ಪಿಎಚ್‌ಡಿ, ಎಂ.ಫಿಲ್	25,000	11,000



ಇದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ₹3,559 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ₹6,700 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಯಲಿದೆ.

ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ನೀಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಆದೇಶವು 2022-23ರಿಂದಲೇ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. **ಡಿ.ಧಾರಣಿ** ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪ ಇದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ವೇತನ ಚೀಟಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹಾಜರಾತಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಎಂಬ ನಿಯಮವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳ ಮಹಾಪೂರ

ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕೋರಿ 11 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. 'ಕೋವಿಡ್ ದಿನಗಳಿಗೂ ಮೊದಲು ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕೋರಿ 3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವಿನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಜೀವನಾವಶ್ಯಕ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಿದವು. ಅದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪಡೆಯುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿ ಈಗ 4.5 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವರು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ರಲ್ಲದವರೂ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. 'ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ 14 ಲಕ್ಷ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳುಳ್ಳ

7 ಲಕ್ಷ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು. **₹500 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಜೆಟ್:** 'ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಬಜೆಟ್ ₹500 ಕೋಟಿ ಇದೆ. ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕೋರಿ ಮೊದಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 3 ಲಕ್ಷದವರೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ 11 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಧನದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿತಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಡಿ.ಧಾರಣಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು. 'ಪಿಂಚಣಿ, ಮದುವೆ ಸಹಾಯಧನ, ಸಾವಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ, ಆಸ್ತಿ ತ್ಯಜ ಸೇರಿ ಇತರ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹಣದಲ್ಲೇ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಸರಿದೂಗಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಇದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

ಆದೇಶ ವಾಪಸ್ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಒತ್ತಾಯ

'ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಿಧ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪತ್ರ ಚಳವಳಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ವಾಪಸ್ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಫೆಡರೇಶನ್ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಕೆ. ಮಹಾಂತೇಶ್ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದರು. ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಎದುರು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಅವಧಿ ಹೋರಾಟ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಅವರು 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಬಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದೆ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ವೇತನ ಚೀಟಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿಂದ ತರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ. ಈ ನಡುವೆ ಈಗ 'ಕಲಿಕೆ ಭಾಗ್ಯ' ಯೋಜನೆ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ನಿಧಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಹೊರಟಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ. '10 ಸಾವಿರ ಲಾಭಿಪಾಠಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ₹30 ಕೋಟಿ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲೂ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅನುಕೂಲವೇ ಹೊರತು ಸಲಕರಣೆ

ನೀಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಏನೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಇಲ್ಲ' ಎಂಬುದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಫೆಡರೇಶನ್ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂತೋಷ್ ಲಾಡ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಅವರು ಕರೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ.

Source: Prajavani, p. 6, Nov. 8, 2023

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Social Issues

Teaching Kannada in educational institutions remains a challenge

Private schools affiliated to Central boards (CBSE, CISCE) and following NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second language

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

While the State is celebrating 50 years of being named Karnataka, the implementation of teaching Kannada as a compulsory language continues to be a challenge. From legal hurdles to reservations of parents and schools, there are obstacles galore for Kannada to be taught as a compulsory language in all schools.

Amidst all this, the Karnataka government is ready to frame regulations for the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which was passed by both Houses during the previous BJP government's tenure. An expert committee has been constituted headed by Kannada and Culture Minister Shivraj S.



From legal hurdles to reservations from parents and schools, there are obstacles galore for Kannada to be taught as a compulsory language in all schools. FILE PHOTO

Thangadagi. "Our committee has already held three meetings and discussed how to formulate appropriate regulations according to the Act. The work of drafting the rules is in progress. After the rules are finalised, we will discuss with the Chief Minister and appropriate action will be taken to implement it," he told to

The Hindu.

What is in the new act?

Many of the provisions that existed in the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, will continue to apply in the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022. According to the 2015 Act, "All students studying in classes I to X in all schools

in the State will learn Kannada as first or second language in a phased manner." Along with this, provision for teaching the Kannada language in higher, technical and professional education and reservation in higher, technical and professional education for Kannada medium students have also been added in the new Act. After a major setback due to the Supreme Court's judgement against the Language Policy 1994, in which either the mother tongue of the student or Kannada was made a compulsory medium of instruction in all primary schools in 2014, the State government brought the Kannada Language Learning Act in 2015. This

Act came into effect from the academic year 2016-17. However, private schools affiliated with the Central boards (CBSE, CISCE) and following NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second language.

The government has made provision to teach Kannada as a second or third language in the rules of the Karnataka Language Act and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Issue of No Objection Certificate and Control) Rules, 2022.

It is only a provisional rule that these schools have used to teach Kannada as a third language.

Meanwhile, around 20 parents moved the High Court and questioned

making of Kannada a compulsory language from classes I to X even in CBSE, CISCE schools in August, 2023. V.P. Niranjanaradhya, a development educationist, said negligence to teach Kannada as a first or second language in private schools of the central curriculum despite the government order is "inexcusable." "They misused the NOC rules and are teaching Kannada as a third language, which is a violation of the Act. The responsibility of the government and the officials of the education department has led to this," he said.

Ray of hope

Amidst of all these developments, there is a ray of hope. To promote multilingual school education, the Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE) has allowed schools to offer education in a regional language from pre-primary to class 12 recently. This initiative has been taken in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP). Meanwhile, in 2015, the State government amended the Right to Education Act-2009 (RTE) and the Bill was passed in both houses of the State legislature to make either the mother tongue of the student or Kannada the compulsory medium of instruction in all primary schools. The Bill was forwarded to the President of India in 2017 with the approval of the governor. However, the Union Ministry of Education, which is supposed to send this bill to the President of India with a recommendation, has not taken any action so far.



Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov. 7, 2023

Caste census report faces Vokkaliga pushback

Sangha's resolution against survey leaves CM in tight spot

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Vokkaliga community preparing to flex its muscles against the government's plan to accept the caste census report, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could run into a challenge from his deputy D K Shivakumar, who has emerged as the community's icon.

On Thursday, the Vokkaliga Sangha hosted a brainstorming meeting that was attended by

the community's leaders across party lines. Shivakumar, the deputy CM, has endorsed the resolution adopted in the meeting that the government should reject the "unscientific" caste census report. The Socio-Economic Survey, popularly known as the 'caste census', is likely to be submitted to Siddaramaiah this month or early December by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

It was Siddaramaiah who commissioned the caste census

during his first term at a cost of Rs 170 crore. It was the first such exercise since 1931. At the time, he argued that accurate caste numbers would help the government design welfare programmes. The census was carried out when H Kantharaj headed the Commission.

However, the survey results were not made public fearing political backlash, especially after some leaked findings indicated that Lingayats and Vokkaligas were not the dominant castes, contrary to popular belief. "There are flaws in the report," Adichunchanagiri Mutt pontiff Nirmalanandana Swami said. "The Kantharaj report is already several years old. Based on feedback during visits across the state and our own survey, we know that the

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

How long can we keep these reports (on caste census & internal quota for SCs) under wraps? Public money was spent on preparing both reports. There are calls for the reports to be tabled in the Assembly.

survey is unscientific. The survey wasn't properly done," he said. "Such surveys happen once in a decade. If such an unscientific report becomes public, then it'll deal a big blow to a big community," he said.

Vokkaligas, according to the seer, account for 16% of the state's population. Even the Lingayats, the other dominant

community, are not comfortable with the caste census.

Home Minister G Parameshwara maintained that the report should be made public. He even said that the Justice A J Sadashiva Commission's report on internal reservation for SCs should be out. "How long can we keep these reports under wraps? Public money was spent on preparing both reports. There are calls for the reports to be tabled in the Assembly," he said.

Nirmalanandana Swami also revived the demand for a hike in the Vokkaliga reservation from 4% to 12%. "The previous government increased it to 6%, which has been stayed by the Supreme Court. The stay must be vacated as soon as possible," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3C, Nov. 4, 2023

Internal quota among Dalits: Govt may not act beyond tabling report

A delicate matter that backfired on previous BJP govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

In what could be a new flash-point for the Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing pressure to act on the Justice A J Sadashiva Commission's recommendation on internal reservation among Dalits.

This is seen as a delicate matter that backfired on the previ-

ous BJP government.

The demand to introduce internal reservation is being led by SC (Left) leaders of the Congress. On Monday, Food & Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa called for state-wide protests.

The SC (Right), Lambanis and Bhovis - touchable Dalits - are not in favour of the Sadashiva Commission's report. They

fear that their prospects would be hit going by the "unscientific" report.

Given the sensitivity, it is likely that the government will stop at tabling the report in the legislature, sources said.

On Tuesday, Home Minister G Parameshwara, an SC (Right), said he had asked Siddaramaiah to table the Sadashiva Commission's report in the upcoming Belagavi session of the legislature. "There was an SC/ST convention in Chitradurga where a 10-point declaration was adopted, which included tabling the report," he said, adding that everyone will have to come on to the same page.

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa, also SC (Right), said the government will have to check legalities. "It's a decades-old agitation and the Sadashiva Commission was appointed to protect the interests of SCs," he said.

"But the previous government rejected the report. Can we revive a rejected report? Also, the Supreme Court has constituted a 7-judge bench to hear the matter. So, this needs discussion," he said, urging the untouchables to stay united.

The Sadashiva Commission submitted its report in 2012. It recommended internal reservation of 6% for SC (Left), 5% for SC (Right), 3% for touch-

ables and 1% for other SCs.

Between 2013 and 2018, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress was accused of sitting on the report angering the SC (Left) who argue that most of the reservation benefits are taken by the SC (Right).

Just before the 2023 Assembly polls, the Basavaraj Bommai-led government "rejected" the Sadashiva Commission report. Using a different methodology, it decided to recommend to the union government internal reservation of 6% for SC (Left), 5.5% for SC (Right), 4.5% for touchables and 1% for others, which led to protests by Lambanis, who feared that they would lose out.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 5, Nov. 8, 2023

Make it public, say Dalits; Veerashaiva meet for binning it

Rival camps set to dig in heels over caste census report

BENGALURU, DHNS

Setting the stage for a confrontation, federations representing Dalits, tribals and other backward classes (OBC) on Wednesday demanded that the findings of a caste census, kept under wraps amid opposition from the dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, be made public.

Last week, Vokkaliga leaders, including Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, held a meeting where a resolution was passed urging the government to “reject” the caste census.

On Thursday, a meeting of the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha is expected to take a similar stand while pressing for a fresh survey.

After Bihar chose to release its caste census data, triggering a political earthquake, pressure is mounting on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to release the findings of a similar Socio-Economic Survey he commissioned during his first term in office. The survey was done at a cost of Rs 170 crore.

However, its results have not been made public fearing political backlash, especially after some leaked findings indicated that Vokkaligas and Lingayats were not the dominant castes, contrary to popular belief.

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes is expected to submit it to the CM this month.

Accusing the Vokkaligas and Lingayats of trying to block



ROW over report

■ After Bihar released caste census data, pressure on CM Siddaramaiah to release findings of survey

■ Last week, Vokkaliga leaders, including DyCM D K Shivakumar, pass resolution demanding rejection of caste census

■ Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes is expected to submit report to Siddaramaiah this month

CM Siddaramaiah had commissioned a Socio-Economic Survey during his first term in office but the results have not been made public fearing political backlash

the caste census from coming out, leaders of the Karnataka State Backward Castes Federation and the Karnataka Marginalised Communities Federation threatened hold agitations.

“We are not insisting on implementing it. But the government must receive it and lay it in the Assembly for a discussion,” Yennegere Venkaramaiah, convener of the backward castes federation, said.

“Some leaders from dominant communities, who are also a part of the government, are trying to stop the report from coming out. We are ready for a conflict. This Congress government came to power because of the support from marginalised communities,”

K M Ramachandrappa from the marginalised communities’ federation said.

“Power and wealth are controlled by two dominant communities. This is why they are opposing the report which will provide a clear picture on caste-wise population and details on their educational, social and economic status. That will put an end to all confusion,” Ramachandrappa said.

The Mahasabha, which represents Lingayats, is likely to seek an Aadhaar-based survey. “We have no trust in the report. A resolution is expected seeking a fresh survey,” a source said.

Leaders cutting across party lines are expected at the Mahasabha meeting.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 1, Nov. 9, 2023

The search for a standard Kannada dialect

Rajendra Chenni traces the evolution of the various dialectal forms of Kannada in the state

A mention has been made in *Kavirajamarga*, the ninth century Kannada work of poetics about the many 'tongues' of Kannada, which were 'numerous enough to put the many headed Vasuki to despair'. One of the unstated objectives of the work was to formulate the features of a standard literary-poetic dialect, which would eschew the excesses and improprieties of language use. Though in listing up the poetic errors, Kavirajamarga stays close to the Sanskrit models, in the examples it cites it refers to a number of non-standard dialectal uses which testify to the presence of the many dialects of Kannada, so graphically described in the metaphor.

It is also evident that the writer of the work was aware of the hierarchisation among the many dialects of Kannada and the recognition of one as the prestige dialect. He identifies this as the 'learned Kannada' spoken around the geographical area surrounding Koppala (today's Koppal) and Okunda and Kisuvolalu (near today's Badami-Pattadakallu). Interestingly, these areas are part of today's north Karnataka and were historically associated with the so-called Kannada royal dynasties of the past.



Adikavi Pampa

'Chaste' Kannada
Pampa, the 10th-century poet known as Adikavi (the first poet, arch poet), also refers to the same geographical area as the home of chaste Kannada. It is clear that the dialectal boundaries of the prestige dialect, which was also the literary dialect of mainstream Kannada literature, were well-marked by the time the first great literary works were written by the turn of the first millennium.

A study of the stone inscriptions of the time also supports the view that the prestige dialect had been accorded the place of standard dialect too. There are substantial similarities between the literary works and the inscriptions in terms of the standard dialect used. Scholars have also established the fact that many of the well-known poets also doubled as scribes of the inscriptions, which also accounts for the standard use of language. However, it would be extremely difficult to establish evidence for the use of the standard dialect in official administration throughout various historical periods.

The major difficulty is the shifting of the boundaries and the constant change of the ruling dynasties which came from different linguistic backgrounds. The situation later became very complicated with the arrival of the Muslim dynasties and the conquest of many areas by the Marathi-speaking rulers. This meant that the language of administration was at least partly Persian and Marathi and most importantly created an 'official jargon' with words of Persian and Marathi origin.



Badami in Bagalkot district, historically associated with the Kannada dynasties of the past. PHOTO BY SRIKUMAR MENON

This was true of the 'legalese' too. These features have survived even today despite the heavy bureaucratic efforts made by the Karnataka government to create glossaries of official Kannada. The official and legal registers of Kannada continue to display a very heavy legacy of Persian and Marathi administrative pasts.

Dialectal diversity

These facts support the surmise that while a prestige-standard literary dialect emerged in Kannada as early as 9th century AD, it is doubtful whether a standard dialect for official communication evolved at all. Records of the colonial period show

extreme dialectal diversity across the various regions.

Even during the halcyon days of Unification and the Renaissance of Kannada literature, the official register used in the Bombay Presidency area continued to be an extraordinary mixture of dialectal Kannada and Marathi jargon. The matter was also complicated by the non-standardisation of spelling and printing fonts for a long time.

In fact, a number of missionary scholars and colonial administrator-scholars participated in a lively debate on reforming the Kannada alphabet itself, which is not phonemic. Interestingly this debate continues even till today.

Cultural politics

With the onset of the Navodaya, the educated dialect of the Mysore region became the standard Kannada dialect and this had much to do with the cultural politics associated with the Unification Movement. However, it was in the coastal region around Mangalore that the Christian missionaries established the first Kannada press and published the first Kannada journal (though there is some dispute about the latter). The spoken language of everyday communication in the coastal region is Tulu and the region has always been a classic case of 'diaglossia'.

Despite a rich folk tradition, until recently, Tulu did not have a literary tradition and a script of its own. Kannada seems to have been the language of the literati - even the spoken Kannada dialect of the region is closer to the written form of the standard Kannada dialect; perhaps because in this region it was predominantly used for formal and literary communication. It is also possible that the missionaries had to depend heavily on the written form of Kannada for their work of translation of the biblical and religious texts.

All these factors seemed to have contributed to the fact that the dialect and the register used in the journals and magazines published from Mangalore were in the literary Kannada dialect in contrast to the journals published from the Bombay presidency area. It was only when the centre of gravity shifted to the Mysore region and when the native middle-class elite was able to establish its cultural hegemony that the dialect spoken in the Mysore region firmly and authoritatively took its position as the standard modern Kannada dialect.

(Excerpts taken from 'State Matters: Kannada Sub-Nationalism and State Formation' by Rajendra Chenni, published by Manipal Universal Press)



A copy of 'Mangalore Samachara', the first Kannada newspaper.



Kavirajamarga manuscript.

DH PHOTO



Halmidi inscription, the oldest-known Kannada inscription.

DH PHOTO BY B H SHIVAKUMAR

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 13, Nov. 9, 2023

After Vokkaligara Sangha, Veerashaiva Mahasabha too demands fresh caste census

Survey is eight years old and riddled with errors, says Congress MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shortly after Vokkaligara Sangha, the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha has also taken objection to the Socio-Economic and Education Survey, popularly called caste census, and demanded that the State government not accept its report. The Veerashaiva body has demanded that the entire exercise be redone.

The survey was conducted in 2015 during the previous tenure of the Congress.

These demands come even as Chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes K. Jayaprakash Hegde has said he would submit the report before his tenure ends on November 26, and



Shamanur Shivashankarappa

the Congress has been battling for a nation-wide caste census. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also recently said that his government was committed to accepting the caste census report.

Shamanur Shivashankarappa, senior-most Congress legislator and president of the mahasabha, issued a statement on Thursday saying the caste census report was not “ex-

haustive” and said to be “riddled with errors.”

“There are several complaints that the enumerators of this survey did not visit many households, which has reportedly led to undercount of the community. The survey is eight years old and riddled with errors. So we demand that the survey be conducted again in a transparent way, using the latest technology, enumerating every household,” the statement said.

Vokkaliga meeting

Vokkaligara Sangha and prominent Vokkaliga seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami had also recently taken a similar stand, arguing there was a reported undercount of Vokkaligas and demanded that the government reject the survey report and reconduct the

caste census.

Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, the two dominant land-owning communities who claim to be among the largest communities of the State numerically, have reportedly been found in the caste census to be fewer in numbers than assumed. The census reportedly shows Dalit communities and Muslims to be the largest in the State. The land-owning communities fear the changed caste arithmetic will lead to diminishing their hold over State politics.

However, the report has not been made public officially, though parts of it were leaked earlier. Presently, all claims on the findings of the survey are in the realm of speculation.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, Nov. 10, 2023

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Urban Affairs

Reliability key to making public transportation a success, says study

If commuters know that a bus always reaches on time at a particular stop on a route every day, there is a reliability boost, even if the frequency of buses is low on that route, says a research finding

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Is solving Bengaluru's congestion crisis an intractable puzzle, tougher than rocket science? Not really. Every sustainable mobility expert will point at one clear solution, screaming out for attention and financial out-reach: Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc) buses. Double their numbers, make them reliable, comfortable, accessible, and watch a dramatic decongestion.

Now, for any government genuinely keen on resolving the issue, this should be a low-hanging fruit. For years, multiple governments were told how to tackle the public transport problem smartly with technology, multi-agency coordination and focused funding. The latest is a research booklet centred on BMTc planning and operations, developed by the Indian Institute of Science's Centre for Infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning (CISTUP).

Reliability

A key finding by the CISTUP team is reliability. If commuters know that a bus always reaches on time at a particular stop on a route every day, there is a reliability boost. Even if the frequency of BMTc buses is low on that route, ridership of that "predictable" bus will increase.

This is precisely what the research team means when it states: "On medium to high-frequency routes, BMTc will gain more ridership and passenger kilometres by increasing service reliability than increasing service frequency." The team now wants to devise a method



A large number of women working in garment units wait to travel on BMTc buses at Muthurayanagar cross bus stop on Mysuru Road.

to forecast bus ridership changes with improvements in last-mile connectivity, price changes, metro expansion and pricing of other commute modes.

The BMTc, as its Managing Director Sathyavathi G. put it, might have tied up with IISc to devise implementable solutions. But the big task is to follow through. As mobility activist Sathya Sankaran asks, "How is BMTc implementing the findings in different routes? Take each of the suggestions and implement them on one chosen route."

For instance, the research says the Bus Priority Lane has led to a 4-28% improvement. So make it work.

If the BMTc app is not performing well as the study indicates, think about

making it better."

Open data, innovate

He says there is a lot of capacity in research institutions such as CISTUP to take BMTc to the next well. "But, in the last decade, the BMTc has not innovated much. They tried an app, but it could have been done in so many different ways. They could have allowed many others interested in building that app, giving their data to be used. Even now, their data is closed and is shared only with these institutions," he explains.

"Unlike politicians and bureaucrats, the power of the bus is well understood by the scientific community. Capital investment and infrastructure needs for buses are minimal. Bus routes can be dynamically

Metro or suburban trains cannot be successful without the bus playing a vital role as a first and last-mile solution

adjusted based on demand, and overall return on investment is considerably higher for bus than any other form of mass transport," notes Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

However, he points out, "There is a stigma attached to buses in our society. It is seen as a poor person's transport and not meant for those who 'made it' in life. Changing perceptions about buses is critical for saving our cities from collapsing under their own weight as the number of

personal vehicles is exploding year after year." Metro or suburban trains cannot be successful without the bus playing a vital role as a first and last-mile solution.

"Thanks to the stupendous success of the Shakti scheme, the Karnataka government is finally acknowledging the need for more buses and staff. BMTc must (consider all these recommendations by CISTUP) modernise their operations, open up data to enable innovation and integrate with other modes of transport and engage citizens in a constructive manner," Srinivas says.

Metro can coexist

A debatable finding of the CISTUP report is this: "Bus routes with high overlap with metro lines lose riders

to metro." The question is not about the solution offered, that "feeder services and routes with some overlap with Metro lines can help both BMTc and Metro." The key issues are affordability and access, as Shaheen Shasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike points out.

"There are two things with the metro," she explains. "One, the metro is more expensive than the bus. Second, for short-distance trips, it is also too much of an effort to get into and out of the Metro system and walk a long way to the platform. It is not as simple as walking to the bus stop. Metro is not going to be a solution for everyone."

Shaheen's point is this: "Even on routes where the metro and the BMTc coex-

ist, there is still a case to continue the bus service routes. There is a difference in the people using it both in terms of social strata and travel distance. Both need to be continued, they don't overlap or substitute each other."

Last-mile options

Connecting the last mile from home/workplace to the bus stop is a critical issue, irrespective of the commuter's social strata. The report highlights this point as well. But Shaheen offers another perspective: "Many walk to cover the last mile. If it is too much, they are also forced to take the auto. So even if they can't afford it, they have to spend as they have to get to work or school."

No city-wide comprehensive study has been conducted to understand how widespread the problem is.

"But generally, it is an across-the-board issue. People have to walk for 2-3 km, particularly in many areas in the periphery. The problem is there even in inner areas such as L.B. Shastri Nagar, Kasavanahalli, Jail Road on the Sarjapur Roadside," she says.

The last-mile issue only gets worse in areas that branch out of the Outer Ring Road (ORR). BMTc has adequate service along the road, but it thins out considerably farther away. There is a clear data gap on how patchy the services are. "BMTc does not have a full-scale feeder concept right now. Only a detailed study can tell whether it should go for a hub-and-spoke model, a trunk-feeder network or a mix of these in different areas. The sampling has to represent all parts of the city served by BMTc."

Bus bunching is another

issue highlighted by the CISTUP report. This occurs when two or more buses, originally scheduled with proper headway, end up running on the same route simultaneously. This happens typically due to one bus being unable to adhere to its schedule. "This uncertainty in transit time leads to delayed arrivals at stops, longer passenger wait times and overcrowded buses," the report states.

To address this issue, bus-holding is the most commonly adopted methodology. Under this method, the arrival of buses at control points is delayed. The duration of the bus wait is regulated based on the position of other buses and current traffic conditions. The CISTUP team used recurrent neural networks to boost the accuracy of Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) predictions of the buses.

The team's experiments on BMTc route 276 showed that the application of Machine Learning (ML) methods enhances ETA predictions, and bus-holding can prove effective in reducing bus-bunching.

Pilot programme

To scale up, CISTUP has proposed to conduct comprehensive pilot programmes on a single route for several weeks to quantify the benefits and investigate their impact on ridership. Sathya Sankaran reiterates that BMTc should give them the bus to see ridership patterns. "How else will you innovate if you don't participate? They should be telling, take the route and show us how it is done. The routes should be available for experimentation. Across the world, that is how it works," he says.

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Nov. 7, 2023

Metro impact: 50% riders use BMTC for max 4km

Suchith.Kidiyoor
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: There was an assumption that Bengalureans use buses operated by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) for long-distance travel as it still remains the city's largest public transport carrier. But a recent analysis by the corporation indicates that more than 50% of the passengers use buses to travel just 4km, while 80% travel 10km or less.

Officials say the expansion of Namma Metro network in the city is influencing

TRAVEL PATTERNS

the travel pattern of citizens. Incidentally, after the entire Purple Line from Challaghatta to Kadugodi (Whitefield) became operational, the average distance travelled in Namma Metro is close to 13km and the average ticket price purchased is Rs 35. Before the opening of the entire line, the average travel distance was 10km.

Vishwanath KR, chief traffic manager (operations) of BMTC, said, "As the Metro is operationalizing new stretches, people are relying on it for long-distance travel and using city buses for short-distance travel. Considering the trend, we too are changing the operations of our services. We're augmenting services that run parallel to Metro corridors. Focus is on running feeder services so that both public transports complement each other. We're also exploring the feasibility

BUS UTILITY FACES STAFF CHALLENGE

One of the big challenges that BMTC is facing is shortage of bus crew. During pre-Covid times, the corporation had 33,292 employees; now it is down to 29,457. Delay in recruitment of bus crew for years has impacted the optimum utilization of the bus fleet.

Recently, the state government gave the green signal to hire new employees. Though the corporation has a fleet size of 6,500 buses, it is running schedules of 5,600 buses. Once new drivers and conductors are recruited, BMTC would be able to run at least 6,200 buses. The transport utility plans to run at least 300 buses as Metro feeders.



IN SYNC: An official says the focus is on running feeder services so that BMTC & Namma Metro complement each other

PASSENGERS ON BMTC RIDE

Stage	Fare	Percentage of passengers
1	5	25.3
2	10	26.1
3	15	13.3
4	20	9
5	20	6.4
6	20	5.1
7	20	4.3
8	25	2.6
9	25	1.8
10	25	1.4
11	25	1.3

<4%
travel beyond
stage 11 to
stage 36

Source: BMTC

of running buses on new routes and on routes that need more schedules."

The stage-wise (a stage is roughly a distance of 2km) passenger count indicates that 25.3% pay Rs 5 to travel a distance of up to 2km, while 26.1% pay Rs 10 to travel up to 4km. It costs Rs 15 to travel up to 6km and 13.3% of passengers do so. BMTC operates buses from stage 2 to stage 36 (2km to 72 km). The fare ranges from Rs 5 to Rs 30.

"Our analysis indicates that close to 90% of our passengers travel a maximum distance of 14km by paying Rs

20 ticket fare. The proportion of people buying tickets priced beyond Rs 25 is about 10%," said the official.

Asked whether increased Metro ridership is eating into BMTC's business, the official said there has been no significant impact. He said city buses carry 43 lakh passengers daily, including bus pass-holders, and there is a scope to increase ridership by augmenting resources. Namma Metro has an operational network of 73km and its daily ridership has crossed the 7.5-lakh mark after the entire Purple Line was opened.

Source: Time of India, p.2, Nov. 7, 2023

Govt order gives go-ahead for BWSSB to use 24 tmc ft for B'luru

Water body gets 6 tmc ft of unutilised quota from Cauvery

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government has issued an official order directing Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board to utilise a total of 24 tmc ft of Cauvery water annually to meet drinking water needs of Bengaluru and surrounding areas, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said here on Wednesday.

In 2018, the Supreme Court, which modified the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal final award, allocated a total 33 tmc ft of water to Karnataka for drinking water purposes, including an additional 4.75 tmc ft for Bengaluru city.

Out of 33 tmc ft, it was considered that Bengaluru and

surrounding areas would require 24 tmc feet of water annually.

At present, only 18 tmc ft of water is being utilised annually for Bengaluru city by BWSSB, Shivakumar told reporters here.

The Water Resources department, on Tuesday, issued an order allocating the unutilised 6 tmc ft of water from Cauvery basin to BWSSB.

With this, BWSSB can utilise 24 tmc ft to provide drinking water to Bengaluru city.

The BWSSB should take steps to create infrastructure to utilise the entire 24 tmc ft, he said.

Shivakumar, who also holds water resources portfolio, held a meeting with the state's legal team in Delhi.

"Water should be made available to surrounding areas, including Anekal, Harohalli and Bengaluru North," he said.

When asked if TN would raise objections to the use of 24 tmc ft for Bengaluru, he said, "Drinking water is our first pri-

ority. Why should we give up our right? We are following the 2018 Supreme Court order."

When asked about his reaction to TN's proposal for linking rivers, he said Karnataka will not comment on it unless concrete proposals are made.

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Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3, Nov. 9, 2023

In the pipeline: A 287-km rail network encircling Bengaluru

Suchith.Kidiyoor
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Bengaluru: If everything goes as planned by South Western Railway (SWR), a 287-km-long circular rail network will come up on the outskirts of the Karnataka capital. The project is expected to ensure robust local train services, reduce pressure on existing rail networks and complement Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) and Namma Metro.

SWR general manager Sanjeev Kishore told **TOI** that based on SWR's proposal, the ministry of railways has given consent for conducting the Final Location Survey (FLS) for the double-line circular rail network.



GREEN SIGNAL FOR SURVEY

The proposed network around Bengaluru city connects Nidvanda, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Malur, Heelalige, Solur and Nidvanda with an aim to augment Bengaluru's rail capacity and decongest bottlenecks in its existing railway network, keeping in mind future requirements, Kishore said.

The Rs 7.2-crore FLS will be done to survey the alignment, mapping of stations including yard plans, terminal facilities, land requirements and civil structures

such as bridges and others.

The SWR maintains that the proposed network will provide comfortable and economic train services that will complement the suburban rail network as well as Metro rail system of the city.

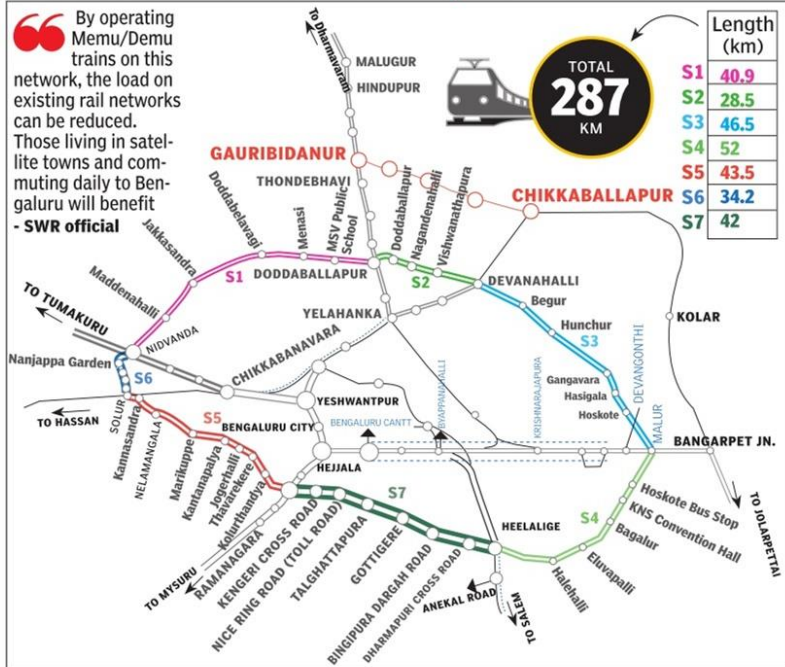
"The network links important town points such as Devanahalli located close to Kempegowda International Airport, Heelalige, which is near various industrial areas and satellite towns such as Doddaballapur, Hoskote and others. The network will ease saturation on the existing network.

By operating Memu/Demu trains on this network, the load on the existing rail networks which handle long-distance trains can be reduced. People living in satellite towns and commuting daily to Bengaluru will benefit from the circular network," said an SWR official.

The official said dedicated trains will be operated in both directions on the entire 287-km line.

Giving an example of how the proposed network helps, the official said: "The movement of trains from Salem line towards Mysuru line and vice-versa is to be done via the busy Byappanahalli-Bengaluru Cantonment-Bengaluru city section. Due to se-

EXPANDING NETWORK, TOWN BY TOWN



vere congestion experienced within the city, trains (including express trains) are detained for want of a path. In the existing arrangement, goods trains can be moved only during late-night hours, when the passenger services are lean. This creates a situation, where goods trains are

forced to be regulated outside the city area, wasting the loco hours and utilisation of excess crew. To overcome this, it is proposed to connect Hejjala with Heelalige through a peripheral line."

In the city limits, the line capacity utilisation goes up to 110% during peak hours. The

KRIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited) is implementing 148 suburban rail networks and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has plans to operationalise Namma Metro of 175km by 2025 and expand it to 314km by 2040.

Source: Time of India, p.7, Nov. 9, 2023

Focus on metro phases, fast-track them

One more hurdle in the rolling out of Bengaluru's much-delayed metro rail project has now been cleared with the finance department granting permission to start pre-construction work on two lines. With this, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will be able to commence work on land acquisition and shifting of utilities. Since obtaining various statutory clearances from the Centre is a time-consuming process, BMRCL had similarly sought pre-approval for two lines under Phase 2 from Silk Board to K R Pura and from K R Pura to Kempegowda International Airport. According to BMRCL, Phase 3A will link Hebbal to JP Nagar III Phase and Hosahalli to Kadabagere covering, in all, 43 km. Phase 3B will link Sarjapur to Hebbal, a distance of 36 km. BMRCL generally requires more than two years to complete works such as taking possession of the land, shifting utilities, and seeking approvals to cut trees. Now, with the finance department's approval, these activities can begin immediately even without the Centre's sanction, thus saving crucial time.

Compared to other metro rail projects in the country, Bengaluru's has been losing time. The foundation stone for Namma Metro was laid in June 2006 and Phase I became operational in 2011. Bengaluru currently has an operational line of less than 74 km. While Delhi Metro, construction on which began in 1998, has more than 217 km of route length, Chennai (54 km), Mumbai (47 km), Ahmedabad (38 km), all of which started later than Bengaluru, seem to be proceeding faster. Several factors have led to Namma Metro work proceeding slower than desired. This includes defaults by contractors and, in some instances, poor planning. For instance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated a stretch between K R Pura and Whitefield, but the link connecting K R Pura to Bayappanahalli was missing at the time. Thus, commuters travelling on the Purple Line had to alight at Bayappanahalli and take a feeder bus to K R Pura to resume their journey to Whitefield. While it may be harsh to repeat the often expressed view that Namma Metro seems to lack a commonsensical approach, it may be necessary to fix accountability on BMRCL officials for certain failures.

While at times the BMRCL has functioned without a full-time Managing Director, its current head Anjum Parvez also holds concurrent charge as Commissioner in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department. The head of Namma Metro must be allowed to focus fully on the metro project and deliver it on time. Unless each phase of the metro is completed on time, it will lose its utility even when complete as people would have resorted to buying new vehicles in the interim.

**There should
be no more
delays in
giving nods
and under-
taking works**

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 6, Nov. 9, 2023

A leap in connectivity, but challenges remain

As Bengaluru's metro network completes 12 years of operation, **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** takes an overview of the project's journey, highlighting the successes and issues faced by BMRL



The inaugural run of Namma Metro train from M.G. Road to Baiyappanahalli in October 2011. (Right) The crowd of commuters at the Kempegowda metro station last month. BHAGYA PRAKASH K. AND SUDHAKARA JAIN

Operational lines	
Purple Line	43.49 km
Green Line	30.32 km
Total	73.81 Km

Average daily footfall: Top 10 stations	
(October 9 to November 2, 2023)	
1 Kempegowda	40,591
2 M.G. Road	22,235
3 Indiranagar	21,565
4 Baiyappanahalli	19,084
5 Sampige Road	18,391
6 Nagasandra	18,218
7 Banashankari	17,124
8 Chickpet	16,766
9 Cubbon Park	15,514
10 Jayanagar	15,261

GRAPHIC: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Source: BMRL



Ridership		
Year	Number of operational days	Average number of passengers a day
FY 2011-12	164	25,401
FY 2012-13	365	18,182
FY 2013-14	365	19,879
FY 2014-15	365	31,490
FY 2015-16	366	45,930
FY 2016-17	365	1,48,369
FY 2017-18	365	3,53,221
FY 2018-19	365	4,51,899
FY 2019-20	356	4,89,380
FY 2020-21	206	95,841
FY 2021-22	305	2,25,445
FY 2022-23	203	4,77,644
FY 2023 (end of Oct.)	214	6,01,432

Namratha Upadhyaya started her career as a business analyst at a private IT firm near Trinity Circle in 2011. Presently, she is Assistant Vice President-Risk and Compliance with the same company. Throughout her 12-year career, she has consistently travelled from Baiyappanahalli to Trinity Circle office on the Namma Metro. Her career milestone, she says, coincides with the 12th anniversary of the metro's launch in the city, and she has an emotional connection with the rail network. "I have been using it for the past 12 years. It is a lifeline for thousands of commuters like me. Seeing the entire Purple Line open is fulfilling. Though there have been multiple delays, seamless east-west connectivity is a significant achievement for the metro authority and Bengalurens," she said.

Increased ridership

The average daily passenger ridership of the Yellow Line when it started in 2011 was 25,401. It's now 6,01,432. The opening of the entire stretch has resulted in not only an increased number of passengers but also a reduction in traffic volume along the metro stretches, especially by 12% to 14% on Old Madras Road.

The Namma Metro project envisioned almost two decades before its launch, marked a significant leap in Bengaluru's transport infrastructure. It was on October 20, 2011, that the first stretch (Reach I) between Baiyappanahalli and M.G. Road was opened.

On the 12th anniversary of Namma Metro last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the entire 43.49 km stretch of the Purple Line from Challaghatta in the west to Whitefield in the east. Today, it's India's second-longest operational network, covering 73.81 km, after the Delhi Metro. It's also South India's first underground metro network.

A BMRL official told *The Hindu*, "When the metro work began, many people protested against tree cutting. However, they are now among the metro commuters. As the city expands, we require vital infrastructure like the metro for seamless connectivity, benefiting all commuters."

Completed and ongoing projects

Phase I of the project is complete, spanning over 42.3 km with 40 stations. It has two corridors: East-West (Purple Line) of 18.1 km and 17 stations, and North-South (Green Line) of 24.2 km with 24

When the metro work began, many people protested against tree cutting. However, they are now among the metro commuters. As the city expands, we require vital infrastructure like the metro for seamless connectivity, benefiting all commuters.

BMRL OFFICIAL



The inaugural train running on the K.R. Puram - Whitefield stretch after it was opened on March 25. K. MURALI KUMAR

stations. Both intersect at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda station (Majestic), an underground interchange station. Phase I was commissioned in stages from 2011, and the entire project was dedicated to the nation in June 2017.

In Phase 2, an eastern extension of 15.81 km with 13 stations, a western extension of 9.58 km with seven stations, and a southern extension of 6.12 km with five stations have been opened to the public. With this, the total operational length is 74 km.

Ongoing metro projects – the northern extension of 3.14 km with three stations and the new Reach 5 line (R.V. Road - Bommanahalli - Yellow Line), with a length of 19.15 km and 15 stations – are slated to be commissioned by April 2024. Also, the new line Reach 6 (Kaleenahalli - Nagawara - Pink Line), covering 21.26 km with 17 stations, is scheduled for commissioning by March 2025, according to B.L. Yashwanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer of BMRL.

"The complete Phase 2 spans 75.06 km with 61 stations (49 elevated and 12 underground). With the completion of Phase 2 by 2025, the cumulative operational network will reach 117 km," he added.

Phase 2A and 2B, the Outer Ring Road (ORR) - Airport Metro corridor, will cover 58.19 km with 30 stations. It is expected to be completed by June 2026, expanding the city's operational metro network to 176 km.

Delays and missed deadlines

However, there have been numerous delays and missed deadlines, which have inconvenienced the public for several years. Srinivas Alavilli, a public transport advocate in Bengaluru, said Namma Metro had misplaced its priorities. Constructing flyovers in places like Electronics City

or the airport road before the metro rail raises questions, he said. According to him, metro construction should have been prioritised in these areas.

BMRL officials attributed the delays to challenges in getting land from private individuals, the Forest Department, etc. An official told *The Hindu*, "PIL petitions filed against the BMRL regarding felling of trees have also slowed our work."

Expansion plans of metro

The Karnataka government has approved the construction of 317 km of metro lines under the Comprehensive Mobility Plan by 2031. A Detailed Project Report for Phase 3, covering 45 km at an estimated cost of ₹15,611 crore, has been submitted to the Government of India for approval. "A DPR for Phase 3A, from Sarjapura to Hebbal, spanning 37 km, is also under preparation. Feasibility studies will be undertaken for the remaining 60 km in due course," Mr. Chavan said.

Phase 3 comprises two elevated corridors – one from J.P. Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura along the Outer Ring Road (covering 12.5 km) and another from Hosahalli to Kadahgeri along Magadi Road (spanning 32.15 km). This will include 31 stations, and the deadline is 2028.

Cost incurred

According to BMRL, Phase I was constructed at a cost of ₹14,133.17 crore. With contributions of the Union and the State governments as equity and subordinate debts, nearly 45% of the amount is through senior debts from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), French agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as pass-through assistance and also from Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Karnataka

Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation, and bonds.

"Phase 2 of the project is estimated to cost ₹30,695 crore, with a nearly similar pattern of government funding, and the remaining funding through senior debts from AFD, EIB (the European Investment Bank), AIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), and JICA, as pass-through assistance. Phase 2A and 2B, the ORR-Airport Metro corridor, is estimated to cost ₹14,788. The funding pattern is nearly similar. A part from the governments, and the remaining from senior debts from JICA and ADB as pass-through assistance," Mr. Chavan explained.

Last-mile connectivity issues

While the metro has now become the first choice of commute for lakhs of people, the first and last-mile connectivity remains a major issue. Experts say it's important to resolve this to realise the full potential of the metro network.

In collaboration with the World Resources Institute, the Bangalore Political Action Committee initiated the #Personal2Public campaign to discourage people from taking their personal vehicles. As part of this, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation introduced feeder bus services to connect prominent tech corridors, such as the one on Outer Ring Road, with metro stations. Supplementing the services of apps like Uber, Ola, Rapido, and Namma Yatri is the Metro Mitra app, a collaborative initiative between the BMRL and the Autorickshaw Drivers Union to address the last-mile connectivity problem.

Overcrowding of metro coaches

With the metro network expanding, another problem is the overcrowding of the six-coach trains. During peak hours, long queues at metro stations and commuters unable to board the crowded coaches have become a common sight. This is despite trains running at three-minute intervals during peak hours.

Metro train service frequency on the Whitefield (Kadugodi) - Pattandur Agrahara section is 10 minutes, and on the Pattandur Agrahara - Mysuru Road section is five minutes. During morning peak hours, the frequency on the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station - Majestic - M.G. Road section is three minutes, and between Mysuru Road and Challaghatta is 10 minutes. Commuters want the frequency to be increased.

BMRL officials said the frequency can be increased only after they get new coaches. Currently, BMRL operates a total of 57 trains, with 33 serving the Purple Line and 24 allocated to the Green Line. A BMRL official said, "The frequency of trains will be increased according to demand, and efficient crowd management strategies will be implemented at the stations. The primary solution to reduce overcrowding is to add more train coaches."

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Nov. 10, 2023

24 TMC water allocation for city hindered by BWSSB delays

Officials concede B'loru is under-prepared

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's order to ensure 24 TMC of water to Bengaluru has come as a relief to residents who were worried about the drinking water supply given the drought situation the state is facing. However, Bengaluru might not be able to make complete use of this allocation since the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been dragging its feet on improving the water supply infrastructure.

At present, the infrastructure set up by the BWSSB enables the city to utilise only close to 19 TMC a year. Senior BWSSB officials revealed to *DH* that the city was under-prepared to put to use the complete allocation.

"We will have to come up with new projects to upgrade infrastructure and use the additional share of water available to us," the official said.

The Board's major project in recent years—the Cauvery Stage V project, taken up to quench the thirst of the 110 villages in the city's periphery would enable the city to receive an additional



Cauvery Stage V project

The Cauvery Stage V project was expected to provide an additional 775 MLD of water. The project was approved back in 2016. It has been delayed by over a year. The delay is attributed to pandemic-induced lockdowns and administrative issues. According to officials, 85% of the project work is complete. The water supply from the project is planned to start by February or March 2024.

775 MLD. However, the project has hit multiple roadblocks and has been delayed by over a year.

"There is an additional allocation of water specifically for 110 villages. However, we have not been able to utilise it since the project has not been completed," yet another official said.

Though the project was approved back in 2016, the residents of these villages are left waiting even to this day. Given

that the groundwater levels in the city have plunged owing to the poor rains, the BWSSB's failure to utilise its allocation to the best has irked the citizens who now have to depend on water tankers. "The government may have promised to reserve water for the city. But that will not reach any of our houses since the BWSSB has failed to keep up with the deadlines. They have been promising one date after the other but none of them have helped," said Kochu Sankar, president, Trinity Enclave Residents' Welfare Association in North Bengaluru.

Senior BWSSB officials attributed the delay to the pandemic-induced lockdowns and a few administrative hiccups.

"Owing to the pandemic, there was a severe labour crunch and lack of industrial oxygen. Hence, we had to approve two extensions to the project date. Later, we had to change the alignment of a major pipeline near Kanakapura, and the approval from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) delayed the process," a BWSSB official said.

According to the official, 85% of the work on the project is now complete and they plan to start the water supply by February or March 2024.

Given that water supply projects are time-consuming and labour-intensive, the citizens opined that the BWSSB should have a long-term plan for the city.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Nov. 10, 2023

Special team formed to crack down on digging of illegal borewells

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Minor Irrigation Ministry has formed a special team to prevent the digging of illegal borewells in the city. According to an order passed by the Director of Groundwater Directorate, the special team will work under the leadership of G Jayanna, Deputy Director at the Groundwater Directorate and H M Nagaraj, a senior geologist with the department.

The team has been directed to conduct random checks and surprise raids to crack down on illegal borewells in the city. Additionally, the department has also sought support from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSB) to keep a check on the illegal borewells coming up in the city.

Given that the poor monsoons have pushed down the groundwater levels, the need to prevent the exploitation of groundwater using illegal borewells has gained significance. "It has become imperative to stop digging of illegal borewells, especially in Bangalore Urban District in order to stop the depletion of groundwater table," Minister for Minor Irrigation, N S Boseraju said.

Following the complaints by the Whitefield ward committee, the ministry had recently asked the Groundwater Directorate to investigate the complaints and submit a report to the department.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Nov. 10, 2023

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