



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

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# Drought relief: Farmers told to update land details by Nov-end

**FRUITS data key to avoid misuse of relief aid, says minister**

BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**he state government has asked the farmers to update their land details by the end of this month as those who have under-reported the size of their plots could lose out on drought compensation.

Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Friday said this while addressing a news conference in Bengaluru after a meeting with deputy commissioners and tahsildars. "The drought compensation will be directly transferred to the beneficiaries' account based on the documents available on FRUITS (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System). Several farmers have under-reported the size of their plot while creating the FRUITS ID manually. Now, we have given 15 days time to make corrections," said the minister.

The minister added that a campaign will be launched at the office of deputy commissioner, tahsildar, Agriculture



**The drought compensation will be directly transferred to the beneficiaries' account.**

## Revenue courts told to clear pendency

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Friday instructed the officials for the speedy disposal of pending cases at AC court and DC courts. "All the cases pending for the last 8-9 years should be cleared within 90 days and we have given clear instructions to officials regarding this," he said.

Minister even mentioned that 1,000-plus

pending cases at the AC courts will be delegated to the equivalent officers for quicker disposal. There are over 43,929 cases pending at AC courts across the state.

Meanwhile, to avoid delay in disposal of files, the minister has instructed to maintain e-Filing. The e-Filing should be implemented by December end at all the tahsildar offices.

95% of farmers have created FRUITS ID, only 62% plot size is available on our database. Once the system is ready we can make payments in the next 2-3 days," explained the minister.

Meanwhile, the minister said that utilising FRUITS data to pay compensation is mainly to avoid fund misappropriation. "Misappropriations were reported while distributing drought or any other natural calamities compensation in the previous year. There were cases where officials transferred the amount to their relatives' account as the data was recorded manually. Following all these we have decided to utilise FRUITS data," minister mentioned.

The minister, however, said that the state is waiting for the decision from the Centre to disburse drought compensation.

Expressing disappointment over the Union Agriculture minister not responding to the requests seeking appointment, the minister said that he had written 10 letters since September requesting for appointment to brief about the drought situation in Karnataka. "We have even said that, ready to meet anywhere in India, but not getting any response," he said.

and Horticulture departments for this purpose. "Though

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov.11, 2023**



# Brace for another milk price hike early next year

## KMF urges minister to increase prices of milk, milk powder

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Nandini Milk price in the state could go up early next year, which will be the second hike since July. Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh on Friday did not rule out a hike.

In July, milk price was hiked by Rs 3 per litre.

Addressing a news conference after meeting with officials and representatives of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), the minister said that the government may consider the proposal submitted by KMF to increase the price in January.

"Compared to Nandini

milk price in other states and products from other states, the milk price is less in Karnataka. The milk price in our state is Rs 42 per litre (toned milk), and in neighboring states it is between Rs 48 and Rs 51," he said.

Minister stated that even KMF had discussed this in the meeting and demanded a price hike citing the loss. "There is pressure on the government from both farmers and milk federations to hike the milk price. Though there is no proposal before the government right now, we will look into it in January," stated Venkatesh.

Minister even said that, though there was a demand



**Karnataka Milk Federation has urged the government to increase the price of the milk powder supplied under Ksheera Bhagya scheme.** DH FILE PHOTO

to increase the price by Rs 5 per litre, the government had considered to hike it by Rs 3.

Venkatesh displayed a price list of milk at various states and also the comparison of price hikes by Amul and Nandini in the past. As explained by the minister, the price of Amul milk has been revised and increased by Rs 12 in the last 10 months and Nandini by Rs 3.

Meanwhile, in the meeting, the KMF authorities have submitted a memorandum to the minister requesting to increase the price of the milk powder which is supplied under Ksheera Bhagya scheme.

Currently the government is paying Rs 348.32+ GST per kilo of milk powder and the Federation demanded to revise it to Rs 400+GST. KMF

**K VENKATESH**

Minister, Animal Husbandry

Compared to Nandini milk price in other states and products from other states, the milk price is less in Karnataka. The milk price in our state is Rs 42 per litre (toned milk), and in neighboring states it is between Rs 48 and Rs 51.

also requested the government to consider price revision at least once in six months by 5%. The minister said that the government has decided to buy maize from the milk producers union to help the farmers by adding Rs 160 per quintal. "The procurement centre will be operative from November 13 and we will be paying Rs 2,250 per quintal to farmers. Our aim is to buy one lakh metric tonnes of maize from farmers in a year," explained the minister.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov.11, 2023**

# KMF to procure maize at ₹2,250 per quintal

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh on Friday said that the government will procure maize directly from farmers through the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) at a cost of ₹2,250 per quintal.

The process of procurement would commence from November 13.

## **Register on FRUITS**

For procurement of maize, farmers can go to the nearest milk union and register their names on the FRUITS portal of the Agriculture Department. About one lakh tonnes of maize would be procured by providing additional incentive of ₹16 per quintal (total ₹2,250), he said.

## **On milk price hike**

The Minister said there was no proposal before the government to hike milk prices. However, compared to other States, milk prices are low in Karnataka, he claimed.

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



ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ರೈತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನವೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ 15 ದಿನ ಅಭಿಯಾನ

# ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆಗೆ ಮುನ್ನ ದಾಖಲೆ ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಣ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಬೆಳಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವ್ಯವಹಾರ ತಡೆಯುವ ಮತ್ತು ಸರಿಯಾದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ತಲುಪಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ರೈತರ ಡೇಟಾವನ್ನು ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಿನ 15 ದಿನ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ವಿಕಾಸಸೌಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಿಭಾಗದ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನಾ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಣ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಶೇ.95 ರೈತರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಐದಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅವರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಮೂಹಿಸಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಎಲ್ಲ ರೈತರ ಭೂಮಿಯ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣವನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಬೇಕು. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೈತರಿಗೂ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕವಾಗಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ತಲುಪಲು ಸಹಕರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪ ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರುಗಳು ಬಂದಿವೆ. ತಳಮಟ್ಟದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಗಳ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಹಣ ಹಾಕಿದ ಹತ್ಯಾರ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಇದ್ದು, ತನಿಖೆಯೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

**ದಾಖಲೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿ ಅರ್ಹ:** ಬೆಳಿ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಆಗಿದೆ. ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರ, ಆಧಾರ್, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪಿಎಂ ಕಿಸಾನ್ ನೇರಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯವರು ಇದೇ ಡೇಟಾ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಯುವಲ್ ಎಂಟ್ರಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರ್ಹವಾಗಿದೆ. ಶೇ.95 ರೈತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದ್ದು, ಶೇ.62 ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ರೈತರ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಡಿಸಿಗಳು ಅಭಿಯಾನ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೇಟಾ ಬೇಸ್ ಅಪ್ಡೇಟ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.



## ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮದ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ

ತಹಸೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ತಕರಾರು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜನವರಿ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಕರಣ 90 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಕಾನೂನು ಇದ್ದರೂ 5 ವರ್ಷದಷ್ಟು ಹಳೆಯ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳೂ ಈವರೆಗೆ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಆಗದಿರಲು ಏನು ಕಾರಣ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು.

**ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಿ:** ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂದ 24 ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಆ ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನಿಧವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಹಾಗೂ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆದು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳಾದ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಕಟಾರಿಯಾ, ವಿ.ರತ್ನಿ ಮಹೇಶ್, ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಸುನೀಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗದ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಅದಿತ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ನಾಸ್, ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದರು.

## ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದಲೇ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಗರ್ ಹುಕುಂ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದಲೇ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರ ಮಾಡಿ ಭೂಮಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ನಮೂನೆ 50, 53, 57ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅಕ್ರಮ-ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಚೀಟಿ ನೀಡಲು ಕೋರಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಜನ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂದಿನ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ 100 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಗರ್ ಹುಕುಂ ಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಮುಂದಿನ 8 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಅರ್ಜಿಯೂ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸದಂತೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೀಘ್ರ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಚೀಟಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು. ಒಂದೇ ಆಧಾರ್ ಬಳಸಿ

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**ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಗರ್ ಹುಕುಂ ಸಮಿತಿ**

25ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಕಿದ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯೂ ಇದೆ. ಸಾಗುವಳಿಯೇ ಮಾಡದವರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಹದಿನೈದು ವರ್ಷದ ಸ್ಯಾಟ್‌ಲೈಟ್ ಮ್ಯಾಪ್ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯವರು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಲಿ ಎಂದರು. ಮೊದಲು ಕುಟುಂಬದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಎಕರೆ ಜಾಗ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 4.38 ಎಕರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಇರಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಗರ ಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಹಕ್ಕು ಕೊಡಲು ಬರಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಪೇಪರ್ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಚೀಟಿ ಜತೆ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ದಾಖಲೆ ತಿರುಚಲು ಆಗಲ್ಲ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರ ಮಾಡಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೋಡಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸೈಜ್ ಮಾಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಜಾಗ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಜನವರಿ ಒಳಗಡೆ 1800 ಕಡೆ ಕಂದಾಯ ಗ್ರಾಮವಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಿ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.



# Flower prices in local markets remain high despite wholesale rates crashing

‘There has been a glut of flowers ever since Gowri-Ganesha festival and this has led to a steep crash in the wholesale prices’

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**O**n the eve of Deepavali festivities, even as the prices of flowers crashed in the wholesale markets of the city, they continued to remain moderately high in the local markets in residential pockets of the city.

G.M. Divakar, president of the K.R. Market Flower Merchants' Association, said there has been a glut of flowers in the market ever since the Gowri-Ganesha festival and this has led to a steep crash in the prices.

“Chrysanthemum is being sold at as low as ₹20-₹30 a kg, while there is some demand for marigolds, used mostly by commercial establishments during Deepavali. Marigold is being sold at around ₹70 a kg. Two days ago, the



**Festival staples:** Flowers and fruits being sold at Gandhi Bazaar in Bengaluru on the eve of Deepavali.  
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.



price of chrysanthemum had come down to as low as ₹10 a kg. The traders are devastated,” he said.

However, a visit to any local market in the city does not reflect the same. Many retail vendors have hiked prices, even compared to a week ago, making a windfall in the process. A vendor in the HAL Market, Das, said it was on-

ly during festivals that they make some money, as there is demand and people do buy whatever the price. Narayanaswamy, a flower seller at the market, said: “We see some profit during festivals. I usually make around ₹10,000 a month

but right now I will make close to ₹50,000”.



Chrysanthemum, available in K.R. Market for ₹20-₹30 a kg, was being sold at anywhere between ₹80 and ₹200 in retail markets on Saturday evening. Marigolds, which costs around ₹70 a

kg in K. R. Market, was being sold at ₹200 in retail markets.

However, the prices of fruits, another staple during the festival season, have seen a marginal increase over the past week even at wholesale markets. Yelakki bananas, which were being sold at ₹90 a kg, now cost around ₹120-₹130 and the price of oranges has gone up from ₹80 to over ₹100 a kg now. The price of custard apples has also shot up to ₹140 a kg.

“During festivals, it's a must to buy flowers and fruits so I do not mind paying more, although, usually I try to buy most of the items a week before since they are significantly cheaper. Most of the shopping I do now is for last-minute needs,” said Revathy M., a shopper and resident of Jeevan Bima Nagar.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 12, 2023**

## Siddaramaiah inaugurates Yaragol dam

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday inaugurated the Yaragol dam, built to ensure supply of water to Kolar, Bangarpet, and Malur taluks of Kolar district.

The dam has been built near Yaragol village in Bangarpet taluk as part of a project worth ₹308.46 crore.

The new dam has been constructed to provide wa-

ter from Markandeya reservoir to Kolar, Bangarpet and Malur towns as well as 45 villages of the three taluks.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also launched and inaugurated various other development projects, worth ₹2,197 crore in Kolar district.

Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa, K.H. Muniyappa, Member of Parliament Muniswamy, and MLAs K.Y. Nanje Gowda and S.N. Narayanaswamy were present on the occasion.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Yaragol dam in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 12, 2023**



# We will complete Yettinahole and supply water: CM

**BANGARPET**  
(KOLAR DISTRICT), DHNS

The Congress government in the state will complete Yettinahole irrigation project and supply water to Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Chikkaballapur and Kolar districts, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

Speaking after inaugurating Yaragol dam in Yaragol village of Bangarpet taluk on Saturday, the chief minister said that water could have been supplied from the project by this time if the works were carried out in the last five years. Yaragol dam

supplies water to Kolar, Bangarpet, Malur and 45 villages in the region.

"It is being alleged that all the money is being diverted to guarantees and no development work is being taken by the government. Today, we have launched works worth Rs 2,263 crore. The outlay for Yettinahole project has been increased to Rs 23,000 crore," Siddaramaiah said.

The chief minister said that 965 acres of land have been taken back from Bemi in Kolar Gold Fields and a new industrial township will come on the said land.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Yaragol reservoir in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district on Saturday.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 12, 2023**

## A tale of thriving in drought: The jowar diversity block

**Anandateertha Pyati covers efforts in Belagavi district to grow native varieties of kharif jowar, which are more resilient to climate change**

I had seen these jowar varieties long ago, during my childhood, and now I am seeing them here again," says Hanumantappa, an elderly farmer from Marakumbi village in Belagavi district. "We must at least conserve these indigenous varieties in our fields," he adds. Hanumantappa is only one of the many who take delight in looking at the panicles of desi varieties of jowar growing in the fields of Praveen Hebballi, a young farmer from Betasuru village of Savadatti taluk in Belagavi district. He has grown 44 varieties of jowar during the kharif season in one-and-a-half acres of land. The crop is now ready to harvest.

For Praveen, conservation of indigenous varieties involves a lot more than just growing crops. His efforts were instrumental in ensuring that black foxtail millet, once a rare variety, is now available easily to farmers.

He was inspired by the many seed savers in Karnataka. He visited the fields of Shankar Langati and Syed Ghani Khan who have been conserving hundreds of desi paddy varieties. After learning about the techniques of conservation, Praveen started to grow indigenous crops.

Four years ago, he grew 15 varieties of foxtail millets in his field. He selected good-quality seeds and distributed them to interested farmers. For this effort, he was recognised as the 'Pioneer Millet Farmer' by the Indian Institute of Millet



Praveen Hebballi, who has grown 44 varieties of jowar in the kharif season; students visiting Hebballi's field in Belagavi district.

Research (IIMR), Hyderabad.

### Focus on jowar

Like other millets, jowar or sorghum is central to the local cuisine. In fact, jowar is considered the staple food of North Karnataka. Locals, especially those from the farming community, consume jowar in various forms. This crop grows well with less water, and even in barren land.

The cultivation of native varieties of jowar and other grains is a strategy employed by farmers, to adapt to climate

change. 'Sahaja Samrudha', an organic farmers association, began working with the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network, to start a project aimed at cultivating jowar using the rainfed method. When this activity of searching for and conserving rainfed kharif jowar was initiated in Karnataka, Sahaja Samrudha selected Praveen to implement the efforts.

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, and the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad, offered

indigenous varieties of seeds to support the initiative. Farmers from various states also sent seeds.

Due to insufficient rains this kharif season, there was a concern that the crops would dry up. "But surprisingly, the plants grew well and sprouted panicles accordingly. This proves the resilience of indigenous varieties in the context of the climate change crisis," says Bhagyashree, convenor of RRA Network, who is researching traditional varieties systematically in this area.

Out of 58 varieties, 44 germinated and grew. The characteristics of each variety were unique. Some varieties stood up to 12 feet and others were only four feet in height. The panicles were also appealing to the eye.

### Versatility of varieties

G Krishna Prasad, director of Sahaja Samrudha explains the uses of different varieties: 'Sakkari mukri' is used to prepare sweet dishes and 'aralu jola' is perfect for popcorn. 'Nandyal jowar' is well-suited to make dry roti and 'Jharkhand jowar' is best for high yields.

Praveen has taken measures to protect the genetic purity of each variety. "Out of 44 varieties, some are long duration crops which have now started yielding, after four months of sowing. Some of the jowar varieties started yielding within two-and-a-half months. Since jowar is predominantly self-pollinated, it should be handled carefully. So, I covered the panicles with paper bags to maintain genetic purity," Praveen says, explaining his methods of seed conservation.

Recently, a Participatory Varietal Selection workshop was organised at Praveen's field, where experienced farmers were invited to discuss various issues relating to kharif jowar cultivation. At the end of the workshop, many farmers showed interest in growing jowar and requested seeds.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.12, Nov. 16, 2023**

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## Decentralisation

# BBMP elections unlikely until after Lok Sabha polls

Senior Congress Minister says that while delimitation exercise has been completed, the government is still pondering on drafting reservation for the other backward classes

**Shreyas H.S.**  
BENGALURU

**C**ivic polls to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which has been functioning without an elected body for over three years now, may not happen before the Lok Sabha elections. Congress leaders had promised of holding polls for the civic body in December.

A senior Congress Minister from Bengaluru said that while delimitation exercise was completed, the government is still pondering on drafting reservation for the other backward classes (OBCs).

"Elections in December now looks unrealistic as the government is unsure how to formulate OBC reservation matrix. The election for the BBMP may happen after the completion of Lok Sabha polls," the Minister said.

For the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, the government has population data but for the OBC it is unavailable. Preparing reservation matrix based on randomisation may not be accepted by the community leaders, the Minister claimed. However, OBC reservation matrix has always been done based on



The term of the previous elected body of the BBMP ended in September 2020. FILE PHOTO

random selection for decades now.

Former Congress councillors slamming the government's stand said the MLAs from Bengaluru in the party do not want an elected body in the BBMP as they do not want councillors at the helm of affairs in the city. "This is no different to the attitude of BJP MLAs when they were in power. The BJP started employing delay tactics and the Congress is continuing the same. The term of the previous elected body ended in September 2020," said a former councillor from Congress.

The previous BJP government carried out delimitation exercise increasing the number of wards from 198 to 243. The Congress government after

coming to power withdrew previous delimitation notification and issued fresh notification decreasing total number of wards to 225. The government has issued the final notification of the delimitation.

The reservation matrix done by the previous BJP government was challenged in the High Court and the court set aside the matrix in September 2022 citing that Supreme Court (SC) guidelines were not followed. The Bhaktavatsala committee that was tasked with examining the political underrepresentation of backward communities, has now submitted its report and the incumbent Congress government has recently accepted three recommendations out of five made by the committee.

While former councillors, cutting across party lines, have been pressing hard for early civic polls, MLAs are not ready, sources said. "Congress leaders are arguing with former councillors pressing for polls that result of BBMP polls will have an impact on Lok Sabha polls. They argue that it is better to hold civic polls after parliamentary polls," a senior Congress leader said, adding confusion on OBC reservation matrix was only a delay tactic.

However, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who is also chairman of a Congress internal committee on civic polls, and who had announced that the party was committed to hold BBMP polls by December 2023, said they were preparing for elections and they will put full efforts to hold civic polls as soon as possible. "We have completed delimitation and soon we will ready reservation soon," he said.

Rakesh Singh, Administrator of the BBMP and Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, said "the draft of the reservation matrix is ready but we are in consultation with the legal team on whether this can be notified in the present format."

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Nov. 17, 2023**

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## ECONOMY

# Karnataka expects revised EV policy to attract ₹50,000 crore investments

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

In a bid to create a robust electric vehicles (EV) ecosystem in Karnataka, the Karnataka government on Friday unveiled a revised draft EV policy (2023-28), which aims to attract ₹50,000 crore investment while creating job opportunities for one lakh people.

### **Pioneering force**

“This proposed policy aims to transform Karnataka into a pioneering force in the field of electric mobility, embracing sustainable practices and equitable growth while fostering innovation and creating a robust ecosystem for EVs throughout the State,” said M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure

Development.

The Minister said the government would soon convene a joint meeting of the Ministers of finance, energy, transport, and urban development to iron out common issues before launching the final E-mobility policy.

### **Model cities**

Responding to EV industry recommendations, Mr. Patil said that the government would develop model EV cities across the State to promote EV adoption. These model cities would be developed in Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Mysuru among others.

The State was in discussion with the National Highway Authority of India to set up electric vehicle charging stations on either side of the highway at ten

major toll booths along the national highway between Bengaluru and Pune, he further said.

### **KHIR City near Bengaluru**

The Karnataka government has decided to set up a Knowledge, Healthcare, Innovation and Research City on the outskirts of Bengaluru at an investment outlay of ₹40,000 crore.

The new investment region would be spread over 2,000 acres within 60 km from Bengaluru and developed in a phased manner and the project would generate over 80,000 new jobs, said a statement from the government.

Besides attracting investments, the city project was aimed at contributing at least ₹1 lakh crore to the State GDP, said Mr. Patil.

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



# Draft EV policy looks to generate 1 lakh jobs over 5 years

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Friday unveiled a revised draft EV policy which aims to attract Rs 50,000 crore in investments and create one lakh jobs in the e-mobility sector over the next five years.

This came during a round-table discussion on the revised E-mobility policy with representatives of various vehicle manufacturing and motor companies at the Vidhana Soudha in the city on Friday.

M B Patil, minister for large and medium industries and infrastructure development, said that the government would develop model EV cities in Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Mysuru to promote EV adoption.

The government is also in talks with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to set up EV charging stations on both sides of the road at ten major toll booths along

the Bengaluru-Pune national highway, he added.

Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka, said that the government has identified Gauribidanur in Chikkaballapur and Chikkamalligewad in Dharwad as potential locations to create large EV clusters. The land in both locations has been acquired and is available for investors, she said.

These clusters would have ready-to-occupy land parcels, plug and play incubation facilities, testing labs, and homologation facilities, among other services.

The proposed draft has also increased the capital subsidy to 30% from the existing 15% for private operators to set up EV testing-cum-certification facilities. The increased coverage will provide incentives to include cell components, battery recycling facilities and

testing infrastructure.

The government has also offered 25 to 30% capital subsidy for micro enterprises and 20 to 25% subsidy for small enterprises.

The draft proposes a rental subsidy to include reimbursement of 30% of rent - or a maximum of Rs 5 per square feet per month - for three years, on rental properties above 10,000 square feet.

The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) will play a key role to reduce skill development costs by 40% and bring down training tenure by two to four months, the draft said.

"This proposed policy aims to transform Karnataka into a pioneering force in the field of electric mobility, embracing sustainable practices and equitable growth while fostering innovation and creating a robust ecosystem for EVs throughout the State," Patil said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Nov. 11, 2023**



# State eyes investment of Rs 40,000 crore through KHIR city

BENGALURU, DHNS

**E**yeing a potential investment of Rs 40,000 crore and creation of one lakh jobs over the next five years, the state government on Friday set the ball rolling for a Knowledge, Healthcare, Innovation and Research (KHIR) city, by holding consultative meetings with various stakeholders.

The new investment region is expected to come up within

60 km of the city. Land is being finalised for it, Large and Medium Industries minister M B Patil said.

Patil told reporters here after the meet that the city had the potential to contribute to 4-5% of the GDP. It will be implemented in two phases with 1,000 acres of land being identified for each phase.

Patil said it will be a one-of-a-kind space in the country which will focus on knowledge

development, innovation, skill development and manufacturing across various domains. This will include healthcare, information technology, life sciences and pure sciences, he explained.

According to Patil, the state is looking to establish this city on the lines of Singapore's Biopolis Cluster and Japan's Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster.

► **KHIR, Page 5**

## **KHIR, from Page 1**

IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, who was also part of the meeting, further gave insight into the idea of the city and its purpose: "It will focus on academia, then skill development which will in turn enable research and development. It will also focus on innovation by making space for startups and will even include manufacturing, to complete the loop."

One of the goals through this city was to make healthcare affordable and accessible in the country, he added.

Industry representatives including Kris Gopalakrishnan, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Dr C N Manjunath, Gitanjali Kirloskar, Prashant Prakash, Nitin Kamath, Dr Deepak Venugopalan and Dr L S Shashidhar were among those present.

Among the suggestions given to the government, Dr Shetty pointed out how there was a shortage of 50-70 million healthcare workers in the country. A paramedical university is the urgent need. This is because it is the nurses and other staff that take care of the patient and not the doctors, he observed.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 5, Nov.11, 2023**



# ಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ

ಎಲ್ಲರ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆಗೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೋದ್ಯಮ ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣವಾಗಬೇಕು



ಮುನ್ನೋಟ

• ಮಾಲಿನಿ ಎಲ್. ತಂತ್ರಿ/ಸಿ. ನಳಿನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್

ಇತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಸಶಕ್ತವಾದಂಥ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಅಡಿಪಾಯದ ಕುರಿತು ಆಲೋಚಿಸುವ ಬಹಳ ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಮೊದಲೇ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ದಾರ್ಶನಿಕ ನೀತಿ ನಿರೂಪಕರು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಶಕ್ತವಾದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಅಡಿಪಾಯವನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದರು. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹಲವು ನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನೀತಿಯೊಂದನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಮೊದಲ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ. 1983ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇಂಥದೊಂದು ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ರಫ್ತು ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ನೀತಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ವೈಮಾನಿಕ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿದ್ದು, 2013-2023ರ ವರೆಗಿನ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವೈಮಾನಿಕ ನೀತಿ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, 2012ರ ಔಷಧೀಯ ನೀತಿ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು... ಹೀಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಉದಾಹರಿಸಬಹುದು. 2015-2020ವರೆಗಿನ ನವೋದ್ಯಮ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಕೂಡ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವೇ ಆಗಿದೆ. ನವೋದ್ಯಮ ನೀತಿಯ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನವೋದ್ಯಮಗಳು ಇರುವ ಎರಡನೇ ರಾಜ್ಯವೆನಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ರಫ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ₹41,678 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ವಿದೇಶಿ ನೇರ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ

ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಹೋಲಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೇ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತ.

ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಸಶಕ್ತ ನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ದೇಶದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಮೂರು ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ದಕ್ಕಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜಿಡಿಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಂದರೆ ಶೇ 21ರಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಗುಜರಾತ್ (ಶೇ 42), ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು (ಶೇ 33), ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ (ಶೇ 28) ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ (ಶೇ 27) ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಕಡಿಮೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ ನಿಜ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಂಥ ಏರಿಕೆಯು ಕೆಲವೇ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಏಕರೂಪದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರಿತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯು ಅಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

2022-23ರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ 78.24 ಲಕ್ಷ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳಿವೆ. ನಂತರದ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ (2.99 ಲಕ್ಷ), ತುಮಕೂರು (2.28 ಲಕ್ಷ), ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ (2.08 ಲಕ್ಷ) ಮತ್ತು ಹಾಸನ (2.07 ಲಕ್ಷ) ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಕ್ಷದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳು ಇರುವಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ 40,162 ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳಿವೆ. ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಅತಿಯಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ.

ರಫ್ತು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಗೆ ಬೇವು ತುಂಬಬಲ್ಲದು. ಆದರೆ, ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ರಫ್ತು ಸಿದ್ಧತಾ ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕ-2022ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇಲ್ಲ. ದೇಶದ ಒಟ್ಟು ರಫ್ತಿಗೆ 680 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ. ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 100 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ದೇಶದ ಒಟ್ಟು ರಫ್ತು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂದರೆ, ಶೇ 87ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ 100 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ

ಕೇವಲ ಆರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಗುಜರಾತ್‌ನ 14 ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ 12 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿವೆ.

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನೀತಿ, ಉದ್ಯಮಸ್ನೇಹಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ, ರಫ್ತು ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ಮತ್ತು ರಫ್ತು ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಎಂಬ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನೀತಿ ನಿರೂಪಣೆ, ಉದ್ಯಮಸ್ನೇಹಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರಫ್ತು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ರಫ್ತು ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 9ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಈ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದಾದರೆ, ಅಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ಸವಾಲನ್ನು ಮೀರಲೇಬೇಕಿದೆ. ನೀತಿ ನಿರೂಪಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಜಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಆಗುವ ಪರಿಣಾಮದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಅಂತರವಿದೆ.

ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲೇಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಈ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿನ 25 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸವಾಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಅದ್ವೈತಗಳನ್ನು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು: ಉದ್ಯಮಸ್ನೇಹಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕತೆ. ಎರಡು: ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಅಸಮಾನತೆ ಮೀರುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ.

**ವಿನಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ:** ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಮ ವಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸಾಂಸ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಏಕರೂಪದ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸುವ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವಾರು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದೆ. ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಸ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅದನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿಗಳು ವಿದೇಶಿ ಬಂಡವಾಳವನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದೇ ಹೊರತು, ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕತೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರ

ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯು ಅಂತಹ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕತೆ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ನೆರವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಯೋಜಿತ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಲಸೆ: ಯಾವುದೇ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದರ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾದ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಸಾಧಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಚೀನಾದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವಲಯ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಎಸ್‌ಇಝುಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮೊದಲು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ವಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಇರಬೇಕಾದ ಕೌಶಲದ ಮಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಎಂಥದ್ದು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ಕೌಶಲಭರಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಝುಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

**ಕಲಿಕಾವೃತ್ತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಬಲಪಡಿಸುವಿಕೆ:** ಕಲಿಕಾವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಸಾಫಲ್ಯತೆಯ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಬಹಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ. ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕೌಶಲಭರಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಯುವಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೌಶಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸಮಗ್ರ ಕಲಿಕಾವೃತ್ತಿ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದೆ. ಕೌಶಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಮ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಏಕದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಹಾಗಾದರೆ, ಮುಂದಿನ 25 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏನು ಮಾಡಬಹುದು? ಉತ್ತರ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರಫ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯು ಪರಿಸರದ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಕಾಳಜಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಲೇಖಕ: ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ, ಐಐಐಕ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಲೇಖಕ: ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ, ಪಿಇಎಸ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಶಕ್ತ ನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ದೇಶದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಮೂರು ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ದಕ್ಕಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜಿಡಿಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಂದರೆ ಶೇ 21ರಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಗುಜರಾತ್, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಕಡಿಮೆ





# No shortage of sand, claim officials from Mines dept

MANGALURU, DHNS

Officials from the Mines and Geology Department on Friday clarified that there is no shortage of sand in the district, adding that 25 sand blocks were identified in non-CRZ areas.

Contracts for extractions in 24 blocks are active. There was a restriction on the extraction of sand from June to October 15. However, during the monsoon period, 1,02,467 metric tonnes of sand was available in the stockyard of the sand block contract areas.

Sofar, 27,023 metric tonnes of sand have been supplied for construction works. About 75,444 metric tonne is still available in the stockyard.

To ensure that there was no hindrance to the supply of sand for development works, contractors have been given time for 30 days under the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Act.

Further, 16 M sand units are functioning in the district. These units produce 3,36,400 metric tonnes of M sand annually. From April till October, 72,183 metric tonnes of M sand were supplied to various development works in the district, said the Mines and Geology department deputy director.

As per the notification of the Ministry of Forest and Environment on November 8, 2011, the nine sand blocks were identified in Nethravathi and Phalguni rivers

in the CRZ areas. About 3,00,965 metric tonnes of sand is available in the nine sand blocks identified in CRZ areas.

The proposal for the extraction of sand in CRZ areas has been sent to the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KSCZMA) for approval. The approval is awaited from KSCZMA.

The contractors from non-CRZ area in their appeal on August 30 have appealed for relaxation of rules under the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Act. They said that as there is a shortage of demand for sand from non-CRZ areas, the ban on inter-district transportation of sand should be lifted, said the deputy director.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5A, Nov.12, 2023**

## Economic boom for the top 10%, slowdown for the rest

SHAKSHI JAIN AND  
ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY  
BENGALURU / NEW DELHI, DHNS

While sales in premium and luxury segments in various sectors are growing consistently, spending in affordable categories has been stagnant or on the decline

In its latest monthly economic report in October, the Ministry of Finance had said that India's growth prospects remain 'robust', primarily on the back of strong private demand and consumption. The official gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for the current financial year (FY24) is at around 6.5%. Most independent agencies also project a similar figure. This would once again make India the world's fastest-growing major economy.

### INSIGHT

There is credible data to show a boom in demand. Goods and Services Tax collection for October was the second-highest ever and most car makers saw record sales in the same month. Infrastructure spending by states and the Centre is at an all-time high, and private sector capital formation is also picking up.

However, further examination shows that there are still some weaknesses in the demand story, in that most of it is driven by those in the



Motorcycle sales were down in the first half of the current financial year. In pic, a worker cleans a motorcycle at a showroom in Kolkata. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

upper middle-income bracket and above. While not uniform across the country, the financial year so far has seen undercurrents of slowdown in rural India, and even in some sections of salaried classes in urban areas.

Recovery since the Covid-19 pandemic has been 'K-shaped'. The number of millionaires in India is expected to double by 2026, and its

luxury market is expected to triple in size by 2030. However, consumption and wages in rural markets are stagnant. Even urban incomes have not kept pace with inflation.

"India's GDP is growing well but it is all going to the top. We must correct this. The World Inequality Report 2022 shows that India has 'one of the most extreme increases in income

and wealth inequality observed in the world," India's former Chief Economic Advisor Kaushik Basu said on X on Friday.

The World Inequality Report 2022 calls India one of the most 'unequal countries' in the world, a phenomenon which has been exacerbated especially since the Covid-19 pandemic.

► **Wealth inequality, Page 2**

**Continued..**



# Slow recovery of rural demand

## Wealth inequality from P1

The income gap between the rich and the poor has been increasing. As per the report, the top 10% of India's wage earners currently have an income that is 20 times more than the bottom 50%.

The report states that while the top 1% holds 22% of the total national income, only 13% rests with the bottom 50%. And it is the top 10% of wage earners, holding about 57% of the country's income, who seem to be driving demand and consumption.

### Entry-level woes

Two segments where the demand disparity is most evident are the automotive and real estate sectors.

Passenger cars sales are booming, and the current financial year is on track to be the best ever for four-wheelers, with sales volume expected to comfortably cross 4 million units. However, these sales are being driven by SUVs, and by cars priced around Rs 10 lakh and above.

As per data by research and credit ratings agency ICRA Ltd, the all-time high for passenger cars was reached in the financial year which ended March 31, 2023 (FY23), at 3.9 million units. That will be surpassed this year. The previous high of 3.4 million units was in FY19.

For two-wheelers as well, FY19 was a record high, with the sale of 21.2 million units. However, that pre-pandemic record is yet to be breached. Sales in FY23 were 15.9 million units, a deficit of 5.3 million units from the all-time high, ICRA data shows.

In fact, in the first half of the current financial year (April-September) or H1FY24, car sales were up 7% year-on-year, while motorcycle sales were down 1% for the same period. The worst impact has been on the entry-level motorcycle segment (75-100 cc), a surefire indicator that rural customers have been holding back on purchasing decisions.

Even for cars, the boom hides the painfully slow sales of entry-level hatchback cars. In H1FY24, entry-level car sales actually fell by 41%, as per ICRA.

"Prices of cars have risen over the past few years across categories due to stricter regulations, increased input costs, and states increasing road taxes. However, income levels among salaried classes may not have kept pace with the increase in prices," said Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director, marketing and sales, Maruti Suzuki.

Speaking with *DH* at the south Delhi headquarters of the country's largest car maker, Srivastava said that while the cost of meeting increasingly tougher safety and emission norms is the same across car categories, the price increase would be felt more in cars costing below Rs 10 lakh.

"The customer looking for entry-level cars will be more price conscious, and their spending decisions will be determined by factors such as inflation more than those buying premium cars," he said.

In fact, major automakers are all targeting that middle-income customers, the ones looking to graduate from two-wheelers to cars, have been impacted by the rise in inflation and the effect it has had on their household budgets.

"We do not see the entry-level car market picking up any time soon. The paying customer prefers bigger, more premium vehicles, and that also leads to greater margins per car, for companies," said a representative of one of Maruti Suzuki's biggest rivals, who did not wish to be named.

Late last month, RCBhargava, chairman of Maruti Suzuki, said that overall small car demand comes back, the overall growth of the industry will remain slow.

As recently as July, headline retail inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.44%, as a deficient monsoon wreaked havoc on food prices. Though inflation is now within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target band, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday that India remains vulnerable to recurring and overlapping food price shocks.

### Industries on similar crossroads

The real estate sector, which is the second-largest employment generator in India,

## THE RISE AND FALL

### K-shaped recovery?

A 'K-shaped' recovery curve occurs when various parts of the economy recover at different rates. Several experts point out that luxury and premium segments are witnessing a boom while discretionary spending on fast-moving consumer goods is seeing a slowdown in India. This notion has been dismissed by SBI economists, who say the pandemic was a 'leveler' that reduced inequalities, but is still under debate.

### An example: Big-screen buys

Until recently, 80% of sales in the smart TV segment were composed of 32 and 40 inch TVs.

However, recent quarters witnessed a 40% decline in the demand for 32-inch TVs.

India's luxury vehicle market saw 50% more sales in 2022 compared to the previous year.

India's luxury market is expected to triple in size and grow to \$200 bn by 2030.

Consumption in rural markets fell by about 3% in 2022.

Two-wheeler sales, a key gauge of rural demand, have fallen below pre-Covid levels.

Sales of apparel and textiles fell by 10% in Q1 of 2023.

Sales of ACs and refrigerators fell by about 10% in June 2023.

Growth in the fast-moving consumer goods sector (FMCG) saw a decline of 2% in 2022.

This was accompanied by a 300% increase in the demand for premium 55-inch and 65-inch TVs.

### Inequality outlook as of 2021

	Avg wealth share of total	Avg income share of total
Bottom 50%	5.9%	13.1%
Middle 40%	29.5%	29.7%
Top 10%	64.6%	57.1%
Top 1%	33%	21.7%

seen is that products at economical prices are reducing, while medium and premium products are growing. For the first time we are seeing the premium category also growing," said Nilesh Gupta, director of Vijay Sales, an electronics retailer. He attested to a higher growth rate in the premium and super-premium product categories, as entry-level prices by most brands in the white goods (large electrical appliances) industry surged simultaneously.

Even for essential daily use items, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies are feeling the pinch. For its July-September quarter, FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever posted slightly lower consolidated net profit compared to the same period last year.

Rohit Jawa, chief executive officer and managing director of the company, said that part of the reason for what he called a 'chal-

lenging environment" was subdued rural demand. HUL's product portfolio includes daily-use brands such as Kissan, Rin, Vim, Surf Excel, Horlicks, Lux, Lifebuoy, Closeup and others.

In an interview with *DH* in September, Nestle India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan had said that inflationary pressures this year would lead to consumers being more careful about their spending choices this festive season. Nestle reported a much better July-September quarter, primarily because 80% of its business is urban-focused.

"Rural demand has been stable, but the pace of growth has definitely come down. And I look to the future with cautious optimism, because if the impact on agriculture from El Nino and other global factors is really minimal, then we could be into a period of relatively more modest inflation. But if not, then clearly both availability and price will become constraints for the industry," Narayanan had said, adding that people are looking more carefully at discretionary spending in an environment of higher inflation.

### Festive cheer?

After a relatively dry August, September brought some relief. However, the monsoon ended this year 6% below normal, and

its distribution was highly uneven. In some districts, the rainfall deficit was as high as 60%. Karnataka has been one of the worst-hit states this year, in terms of drought-like weather conditions.

Conversely, this also means that in districts where rainfall was normal or close to normal, rural spending has picked up.

"When one looks at the overall picture, monsoon was slightly deficient. However, some districts saw better rainfall than others, and in some districts, crop output was impacted severely by lack of rain. So, one cannot say that there is a blanket demand slowdown across rural India. It differs from region to region," a top central government official told *DH*.

"FMCG and two-wheeler companies may have seen a slow pickup in sales from some regions, but not all. It may be wrong to say that there is no lack of demand from rural India, but it would also be wrong to say that there is no demand," the official said, on the condition of anonymity.

The festive season started late this year, as the traditional month of Shraddh (Pitru Paksha) — when new purchases are rare in Hindu households — continued till mid-October. But companies are increasingly becoming optimistic.

"We see double-digit growth in India this year. In spite of a short summer, we are see-

ing a boost from rural India, especially as the festive season has begun in full swing," said a representative from another FMCG behemoth, Coca-Cola India. Apart from the festive season, the company is also betting big on the ongoing Cricket World Cup.

Earlier this week, Amazon said it had witnessed a record 110 crore customer visits and 40 lakh new customers making their first purchase during its month-long Great Indian Festival, which ended on November 10.

After weak rural demand due to uneven monsoon, FMCG and two-wheeler companies now expect rural, urban middle and low-income demand to improve gradually but steadily.

Corporates are cautiously optimistic about these segments of the population going into the calendar year 2024. They all hope that while demand from the top 10% continues to boom, other parts of the income demographic will also hit their stride and increase their purchases, as India continues its post-pandemic recovery.

### Have your say

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

The affluent segment in India accounts for 70% of retail deposits and 50-60% of overall online spends.

The number of millionaires in India is projected to grow by 105% by 2026.

Sales of consumer goods and home appliances priced above Rs 1,50,000 is growing.

India's luxury vehicle market saw 50% more sales in 2022 compared to the previous year.

India's luxury market is expected to triple in size and grow to \$200 bn by 2030.

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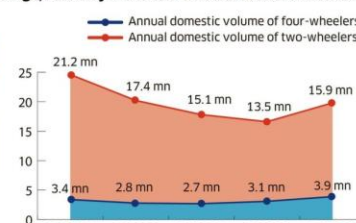
Growth in the fast-moving consumer goods sector (FMCG) saw a decline of 2% in 2022.

This was accompanied by a 300% increase in the demand for premium 55-inch and 65-inch TVs.

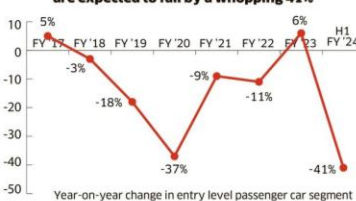
Volume growth fell drastically in the FMCG sector in 2021-22



While demand for passenger vehicles is currently seeing an all-time high, recovery in the two-wheeler sector is uncertain



In 2024, entry-level passenger car sales are expected to fall by a whopping 41%



### REAL ESTATE SECTOR

The luxury segment has grown significantly in its share in real estate across cities

City	Total launched units	Affordable (Below Rs 80 lakh)	Mid (Rs 80 lakh to 1.5 crore)	Luxury (Rs 1.5 crore and above)
Bengaluru	39,838	64%	26%	9%
Chennai	14,507	64%	23%	14%
Hyderabad	49,988	57%	31%	12%
Kolkata	11,615	33%	50%	17%
National Capital Region	30,157	20%	26%	53%
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	1,16,901	76%	17%	7%
Total	3,28,394	77%	9%	13%

COMPILED BY SHAKSHI JAIN AND SWEERUTHI KH. GRAPHIC T SANKAR GANESH

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, Nov.12, 2023



# Lack of raw materials, high cost affect biofuel production

## Manufacturers: Streamline supply chain, infuse funds

PAVAN KUMAR H  
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The poor supply of raw materials and lack of infrastructure to process biofuel in the state has defeated the very purpose of formulating a biofuel policy in Karnataka (2009). In 2016, the Union government considered Karnataka's policy as a base model to formulate its policy for the country.

However, the neglect by successive state governments and poor allocation of funds for research work, strengthening of procurement chain, and infrastructure to produce the biofuel, have meant that the state is currently not even able to produce 10% of its total capacity.

At present Karnataka has three major private biofuel manufacturing units in Tumakuru, Bengaluru, and Bagalkot. The installed capacity of these units is one lakh litres per day. However, there have hardly been a few days in the last many years where

the units have generated more than 15,000 litres of biofuel per day.

This apart the state government has set up four biofuel parks in Dharwad, Hassan, Kalaburagi, and Bengaluru and 34 Bioenergy Research Information and Demonstration Centres (BRIDC) in every district to create awareness among farmers, entrepreneurs, and those who wish to conduct research. However, according to sources the majority of these BRIDCs have not produced even a single litre of biofuel in the last 7 to 10 months.

Take for example the Biopark at the University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad, which has generated only four litres of biodiesel in the last seven months. "We need at least four to five kg of Honge seeds (Pongamia Pinnata) to generate one litre of biodiesel. However, due to lack of supply of raw materials, the machines are lying idle," said H Y Patil.

Biofuels are ecologically important in reducing carbon



The state government has set up four biofuel parks in Dharwad, Hassan, Kalaburagi, and Bengaluru.

DR BABU SAJJAN, Promoter

No doubt there is a great demand for biofuel in India. However, neither biofuel manufacturers nor farmers consider it as lucrative as the cost of producing one litre of biofuel is more than the sales price. To produce one litre of biofuel, the manufacturers spend Rs 140 to Rs 180; whereas diesel is sold for Rs 88 a litre in the market. Why would anyone venture in a loss-making business?

footprints, as they hardly emit greenhouse gases during combustion. They also help farmers in increasing their revenue through this allied cultivation. The non-edible oil seed plants also help in improving the moisture content in the fields. Taking all these into consideration the union government had formulated a policy of blending nearly 25% of biofuels in fossil fuels by 2030. The country also

achieved its target of blending 10% of biofuel in petrol and diesel by 2020. However, a majority of this biofuel was generated by ethanol, a byproduct of sugarcane, a water-guzzling crop.

### Unorganised sector

Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board manager Dayananda G N says the government has been making efforts to increase the produc-

tion of raw materials and processing of biofuel. "However, as the sector is unorganised, we are not able to complete the supply chain," he said. The board has planted over 9 crore tree-borne oilseeds such as amroora, surahonne, hippe, neem, simarouba and 11 other species of plants on barren lands, degraded lands, farm bunds, and other places across the state; yet the units are not getting raw materials.

Manjunath H N Devaiyya, Manager at S N Entrepreneurs, Tumakuru, said his unit has a capacity to generate 20,000 litres of biofuel per day. However, currently, they are producing 3,000 litres of biofuel per week. "As we are not getting raw materials from Karnataka we are procuring used cooking oil from other states."

Shantanu, a biofuel manufacturer at Bagalkot, said biofuel production can become profitable if we produce in bulk. There is a need for policy change at the state government level to ensure that used cooking oil is supplied to such units instead of soap and glycerin that can survive on other raw materials.

They requested the government to invest in research work, modernisation of units, and streamlining of the supply chain.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Nov 14, 2023**

# Industries wary of 3-year power tariff plan in state

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission's proposal to roll out multi-year tariff (MYT) to ensure 'tariff certainty' for consumers has met with stiff opposition from industries and commercial establishments, reports **Niranjan Kaggere**.

KERC's draft guidelines on MYT, notified last month, proposes tariff revisions for the next three years in advance. According to the notification, the move is meant to ensure transparency in the tariff determination process and keep consumers informed about any tariff changes well in ad-

## **'REVISE RULES'**

- KERC's MYT scheme **proposes transparency in tariff determination process**
- **FKCCI says K'taka** planning to implement it **without any comprehensive study**
- **Asks KERC to re-evaluate and revise** some of the draft regulations to align with the provisions of the Electricity Act

vance. However, industry associations have raised their concern over some of the proposed MYT parameters.

► **'Plan may burden', P 4**

**Continued...**



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# ‘New tariff plan may burden stakeholders’

► **Continued from page 1**

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI) said: “Even as many states are yet to adopt MYT, Karnataka is moving towards it without any comprehensive study. The MYT concept, based on certainty over tariff, is a boon. However, given the Centre’s directives and subsidy programmes run by the state, MYT will be a burden on the stakeholders.”

In view of the volatility in fuel and power purchase cost adjustments (FPPCA) that are passed on to the customers, certainty over future tariffs is only a mirage. “If the draft regulations are enacted without due consideration, it may turn out to be detrimental to consumers. The commission should revise some regulations to align with the provisions of the Electricity Act,” FKCCI further said.

An official from the energy department, said: “KERC determines tariff every year based on the petition filed by Escoms. But with MYT, the likely tariff for the next three years, considered to be a control period, will be determined at the beginning of three

years. This will help business establishments and industries plan their consumption.”

MG Prabhakar, adviser to the Energy Committee of FKCCI, said: “Escoms are saddling us with FPPCA in keeping with the Centre’s directive. These FPPCA charges are so volatile that they keep changing every month. This being the case, where is the certainty on tariffs? The move is based on procedural formalities and does not provide any comprehensive review of the control period. If there are operational inefficiencies due to variations in supply costs, both industries as well as consumers could be affected under MYT.”

The FKCCI has also highlighted the likely influence of subsidy programmes on the tariff. The payment of subsidy by the government under various schemes, including IP sets (37% energy consumption), is in accordance with the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission Regulations of 2008. But, the MYT guidelines do not take note of this. If the government fails to pay the subsidy on time, Escoms will have to borrow from external agencies and consumers will end up paying, it added.



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**Source: Times of India, p. 1 & 4, Nov 14, 2023**

# Sharavathi hydel station clocks lowest generation in last 5 years

## It's way behind target of 4,800 MU for this year

NRUPATHUNGA S K  
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

The Sharavathi Generating Station (SGS) has witnessed the lowest production of electricity in the last five years, thanks to the deficit rainfall in the Malnad region this year.

This has also led to a reduced water level in Linganamakki dam of Sagar taluk in the district, which feeds water to SGS.

The Linganamakki dam too has its own hydropower gener-

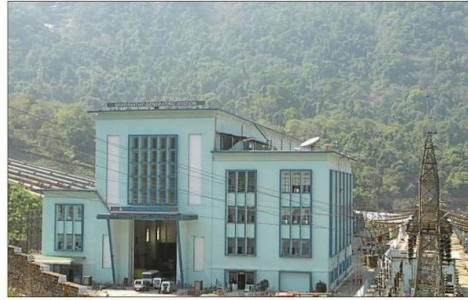
ating station.

Sources in SGS said that the station, having 10 units, is unlikely to achieve the target of power generation this year.

Of the target of 4,800 MU (million units of power), SGS has generated only 2,369.64 MU from April to November 15.

The plant had generated 3,112.49 MU till November 15 last year. SGS accounts for 23% of the power generated in the state.

According to officials of the



The Sharavathi generation station near Kargal in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district.

Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, SGS had generated 5,220.73 MU in 2022-23, the highest quantum in the five years since 2018-19, followed by 5,130.37 MU in 2019-20, 4,990.15 MU in 2021-22,

4,774.69 MU in 2018-19 and 4,583.24 MU in 2020-21.

Presently, the dam has around 68.205 tmc ft water, with which 2,098.62 MU of power can be generated. But that will not be sufficient

for SGS to achieve the target for this year. Hydropower is cost effective and the generating stations are durable compared to other sources of energy.

Sharavathi generating station chief engineer Udaya Naik N told *DH* that the dam reached maximum level of 1,819 feet only thrice in the last 10 years: 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2019-20.

Among solar, thermal and other sources of energy, hydro-power costs the lowest. The power generation cost per MU in SGS is 45 paise. The cost of generating one MU of power varies from one plant to the other. So, the government gives primary importance to hydro power generation. But the deficit rainfall has proved to be a matter of concern.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Nov 17, 2023**



## JSW Infra wins bid to develop Rs 4,119 crore port in Karnataka

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** JSW Infrastructure, November 16, said it won an order worth Rs 4,119 crore for the development of Keni greenfield port in Karnataka. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,119 crore with an initial capacity of 30 million tonne per annum (MTPA), the company said in a press release.

The initial capacity of the all-weather, deep-water greenfield port is 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), the company said in a release.

JSW Infrastructure, Adani Ports, Navayuga Engineering and Vishwa Samudra were the four companies that showed interest during the pre-bid stage while bids were submitted by Adani Ports and JSW.

“We will start working to develop the Keni Port as an integral part of the State’s maritime infrastructure & trade gateway. Once developed, the Keni port is expected to crucially address the rising import and export trade momentum of the region,” said Arun Maheshwari, company’s managing director and chief executive officer.

The project was awarded by the Karnataka Maritime Board.

JSW Infrastructure currently operates a total of nine state port concessions on the west and east coasts of India with an overall capacity of

close to 153 MTPA, which it aims to double (300 MTPA) by 2030, the ports arm of Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Group said in the statement.

As per the Karnataka Maritime Perspective Plan, the state has a hinterland potential of 44 MTPA of cargo which is expected to increase to 117 MTPA by 2035, providing ample opportunities for more ports and port infrastructure to come up. The port at Keni is located between two major ports - Mormugao in the north and New Mangalore Port in the south. The hinterland provides cargo of coal and coke that are used for steel, cement and power plants. Rail connectivity to the port will be on the southern side, connected with the existing Konkan line. The proposed rail connection will have a length of 8 km.

The Keni port will be equipped to handle cape-size vessels -- bulk carriers that are largely used for the transport of coal, ores, and other commodity raw materials, the company said adding that it will be built to serve the industries in the area covering Bellary, Hosapete, Hubballi, Kalaburagi and South Maharashtra.

The contract is JSW Infrastructure’s first major one since it debuted on the stock market on October 3.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 11, Nov 17, 2023**

# State Vs State Fights, On Taxes

*Short-term migrants in rich states spend their wages in poorer home states, boosting the latter's GST collections. Rich states attracting migration say finance commission must note this 'cross subsidy'*

Narendar Pani



It will be interesting to see just how sensitive the 16th finance commission, which is in the process of being set up, will be to structural changes in the Indian economy. Indian governments have tended to turn a blind eye to several new dimensions of the economy, including widespread short-term migration from rural and urban areas. This has resulted in some unpleasant surprises to policy makers, especially the migrant crisis that resulted from the Covid lockdown. If the next finance commission ignores the interaction between short-term migration and the GST regime, it could distort the distribution of tax proceeds to states.

When allocating tax proceeds across states, it has been the practice of finance commissions to rely quite heavily on Gross State Domestic Products (GSDP). This approach has its roots in the view that states can be treated as largely autonomous economic entities, with some having consistently higher GSDPs, others remaining laggards. Economic justice would then demand that the finance commission allocate tax proceeds in such a way that the rich states subsidise the poor. This approach has simplicity but ignores a peculiarity of India's economic transformation.

As has happened through history in the process of development, there's been a shift in the composition of India's GDP away from agriculture. Development theorists expect this shift to be accompanied by movement of labour away from agriculture, and, from rural to urban areas. Brazil and China have followed this pattern and seen substantial levels of urbanisation.

India, though, has not followed this pattern in entirety. Decline in the share of workers in agriculture hasn't been met with a movement into urban areas to the same degree. High cost of living in metropolises has prevented workers quitting agriculture from migrating permanently into cities. Rural workers thus are left with the unenviable task of earning in cities while continuing to maintain families in their villages. They do so by taking up short-term work in the city while continuing to retain their village households.

A consequence is that workers spend very little of their wages in cities and send home much of their earnings. It was the sense that their villages were home

that made hundreds of thousands walk back, some for over 1,000 km, to their villages during the Covid lockdown. Their preference for their village homes is also reflected in their expenditure patterns. The major share of their earnings is spent in their villages. To this end, they're willing to live in conditions worse than what they're used to in their villages.

The preference for spending in their villages rather than the city was evident in a survey conducted by the National Institute of Advanced Studies of short-term

being carried out, to some degree, by job opportunities in the higher GSDP states. This tendency is accentuated by the growing emphasis on GST.

Being an indirect tax on commodities, GST collections are determined by the location where the commodities are bought. To the extent that workers spend their income in their villages, it is the lower GSDP states that benefit from GST collections. There is also the direct effect of workers' expenditure in their villages on trade income in those states.

There is thus an informal cross subsidy already at work before the finance commission steps into the picture. This has led some high GSDP states to demand that finance commissions take into account jobs these states provide to workers from low GSDP states.

Arriving at appropriate indicators of short-term migration will be difficult given the paucity of data. Census data on migration, cited in the 15th finance commission report, uses a definition of migration that doesn't capture short-term migration. Appropriate data absent, there may be some difficulty in arriving at exact numbers of short-term migrants working in each state. But this is a limitation the finance commission should be able to overcome, if need be, by collecting necessary data.

This data would need to recognise that migrant workers typically form identity-based networks in their villages. They then bargain with employers

across different states to find the best opportunities for their workers' group. The jobs they finally undertake can thus shift state to state. While the specific migrants employed in a state can change quite rapidly, overall levels of employment of short-term migrants would be an indicator of opportunities the state offers.

It is possible to make a distinction between short-term migrants from the same state and those from other states. This would be a significant consideration in states like Karnataka with substantial regional inequalities within.

Two additional elements then demand prominence to determine the share of states in tax proceeds. Employment provided to short-term migrants from *outside* the state would address the fact of high-growth states providing jobs for low-growth states. Employment provided to short-term migrants from *within* the state would dovetail into a larger case for providing employment a more prominent place in determining distribution of tax proceeds.

*The writer is dean of social sciences, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru*



**High cost of living in metropolises has prevented workers quitting agriculture from migrating permanently into cities. They are left with the unenviable task of continuing to maintain families in their villages**

migrants working in Bengaluru's construction industry. There is also evidence that some use their city earnings to influence power equations in the village.

The earnings and expenditure pattern of short-term migrants has an informal effect on inter-state finances. Workers earn their livelihoods in states with high GSDPs but spend a major part of their income in their villages in states with much lower GSDPs. The task of improving living conditions of rural workers and their families in the lower GSDP states is thus

**Source: Times of India, p. 12, Nov 17, 2023**

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# EDUCATION

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಎಲ್ಲಕ್ಕೂ ಸಜ್ಜುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸೀಮಾತೀತವಾದ ಕಲಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ

## ಬೇಕಿದೆ ಸ್ವಂತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ

ಸಮ

ಎಲ್ಲರ ಒಳಗೊ



• ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ ಬಿಳಿಮಲೆ

2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿರುವ ಹೊಸ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯು ಮುಂದಿನ 2040ರವರೆಗೂ ತನ್ನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ, ಬೇರಾವ ರಾಜ್ಯವೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ನಡುವೆ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೊಸ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಇಡಿಯಾಗಿ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಿ, ತನ್ನದೇ ಆದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ, ಸಮಿತಿಯನ್ನೂ ರಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳು ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಗೊಂದಲ ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಅಯಾಮಗಳು.

ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಯಾಮಗಳು: 1990ರ ದಶಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭಗೊಂಡ ಜಾಗತೀಕರಣ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಕರಣವನ್ನು ಏಕರೂಪಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣವು ಬೋರಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನೇ ಅಮೂಲಗ್ರಾಹಿ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿವೆ.

ಖಾಸಗೀಕರಣ, ವ್ಯಾಪಾರೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ರೀತಿ-ನೀತಿಗಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವನ್ನು ಲಾಗಾಯ್ತಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಹಾವರಾತಿ, ದೇಶೀಯ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದೇಶೀ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಅವಳಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಿನಿಮಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿವೆ. ವಿದೇಶಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿವೆ. 'ವಿದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಸೆಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ' (SAP - Study Abroad Program) ಎಂಬ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ದೇಶ ವಿದೇಶಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಓಡಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಿತ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ, ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಅವಧಿ, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ವಿಧಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಗುಣಾಂಕಗಳ ಹಂಚುವಿಕೆಯು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕಾರಗೊಂಡು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕೌಶಲಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಸಿ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಡುವುದು ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ವಿದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಲಿಸಿಕೊಡುವುದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ನಂಬಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಅರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿರುವ ಜನರ ಆದ್ಯತೆಗಳು ಇವತ್ತು ಅಮೂಲಗ್ರಾಹಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಭಾಷೆ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಗಳನ್ನು 'ಅನುತ್ಪಾದಕ' ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಇವತ್ತಿನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವು ಯಾವುದೇ ದೇಶದ ಗಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿ ಉಳಿಯದೆ, 'ಸೀಮಾತೀತ'ವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಥ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ಬೌದ್ಧಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೌತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಜ್ಜುಗೊಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ್ದು ಬಹಳ ಅಗತ್ಯ. ಒಂದೋ ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅದು ವಿರೋಧಿಸಬೇಕು ಅಥವಾ ಹೊಸ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅದು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣ ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು, ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಕೆಲವನ್ನು ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಬೋಧನಾಂಗವನ್ನು ಸಶಕ್ತಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್‌ಗಳು ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕವಾಗಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಏನೂ ಮಾಡದೆ 'ದುಡ್ಡಿ' ಎಂದು ಕುಳಿತರೆ ಮುಂದಿನ 25 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು ಅನಾಥರಾಗುವುದಂತೂ ಖಂಡಿತಾ.

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಅಯಾಮಗಳು: ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಜಾಗತೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅನೇಕ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತವಾಗಿರುವ ಭಾಷಾ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮದ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೊಸ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯು ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಶಿಫಾರಸು 4.11ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಡೇ ಪಕ್ಷ ಐದನೆಯ ತರಗತಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂದೆ ಎಂಟನೆಯ ತರಗತಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಮುಂದೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ಮನೆ ಭಾಷೆ/ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಭಾಷೆ/ ಮಾತೃ ಭಾಷೆ/ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಭಾಷೆ/ ಅಗರಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇದನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ?

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಮಾಡಲು

1984ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟಿನ ಐವರು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರ ಸೇರವು ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ ವಿಧಿ 19(1)(ಎ), 19(1)(ಬಿ), 21(ಎ), 26, 29, 30 ಮತ್ತು 250ಎಗಳನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು 2015ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಸಂವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸೂಕ್ತ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತಂದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮವನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮುಂದಾಳತ್ವ ವಹಿಸಿದರೆ ದೇಶದ ಇತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹಿಂದಿಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ: ಗೃಹಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ 'ಹಿಂದಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮಿತಿ'ಯು ಮಾಡಿದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳು ಪಾಲಿವೆಂಟಿಗೂ ಹೋಗಬೇಕಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಪತಿಕೆ ಅಂಕಿತ ಬಿದ್ದರೆ ಅದು ಕಾನೂನಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದಿಯು ಕಳೆದ 40 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 66% ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದೆ. ಉಳಿದೆಲ್ಲ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಶೇಕಡಾ 8-9ರ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಅತಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಎಂದರೆ ಶೇಕಡಾ 3.62 ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಗಮನಿಸಿ, ಎಲ್ಲ ಭಾಷೆಗಳೂ ಒಂದೇ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಚಳವಳಿ ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕು.

ತ್ರಿಭಾಷಾ ಸೂತ್ರದ ಹೊರೆ: ಹೊಸ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯು ತ್ರಿಭಾಷಾ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಲು ಕರೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಅದನ್ನು 1968ರಿಂದಲೂ ಅನುಸರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ದ್ವಿಭಾಷಾ ನೀತಿಗೆ ಅಂಟಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡುಗಳಿಗಾದ ಅಂಚು ನಷ್ಟಗಳೇನು ಎಂಬ ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ತ್ರಿಭಾಷಾ ಸೂತ್ರದ

ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಭಾರತೀಯರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ಒಂದು ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ಕಲಿಯಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ಕಲಿತೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗೆ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಬೇಡವಾದ ತ್ರಿಭಾಷಾ ನೀತಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಏಕೆ ಬೇಕು? ಎಂಬುದರ ಕುರಿತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಯೋಚಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಇತರ ಸುಮಾರು 72 ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಭಾಷಾವಾರು ಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯಗಳ ರಚನೆಯಾದಾಗ ಪ್ರಭಾವೀ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೇನೋ ಮಹತ್ವ ಬಂದಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಅತ್ಯಲ್ಪದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಣ್ಣ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ತೀವ್ರ ಉಪೇಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾದವು. ಸಣ್ಣ ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅನೇಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಭಾಷೆಗಳೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿವೆ. ಆದ್ದು ಪ್ರದೇಶವು ತೆಲುಗು ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಉರ್ದುವನ್ನು,

ಬಿಹಾರವು ಬಿಹಾರಿ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾವನ್ನು (ಬಂಗಾಳಿ), ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳವು ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಉರ್ದು, ಪಂಜಾಬಿ, ನೇಪಾಲಿ, ಒರಿಯಾ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಭಾಷೆಗಳೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಇತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮನ್ನಣೆ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆಗಳ ಬೆಳಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನದೇ ಆದ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ನೀತಿಯೊಂದನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ.



ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನೀತಿಯೊಂದನ್ನು 1983ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇಂಥದೊಂದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ವೈಮಾನಿಕ ಉದ್ಯಮ ದ್ದು 2013-2023ರ ವರೆಗಿನ ನೀತಿ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, 2012 ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು... ಹೀಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹೇ ಹರಿಸಬಹುದು. 2015-2020: ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಕ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವೇ ಆಗಿದೆ. ನವೋದ್ಯಮ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಅ ಇರುವ ಎರಡನೇ ರಾಜ್ಯವೆನಿಸಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ವಿದೇಶಿ ನೇರ ಬಾ

ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯಾ ಹೋಲಿಕೆಯ ಇಷ್ಟೋ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮೂರು : ಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕೋ ಅಂದರೆ ಶೇ (ಶೇ 42), 33), ಮಹಾ ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಕಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಏರಿಕೆ ಕೆಲವೇ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಅಸಮ: ದೇ



ನೇ ತುಮಕೂ ಮತ್ತು ಹಾ ಲಕ್ಷದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಅದೇ ರಷ್ಟು ಉತ್ತೇಜನವು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಆಯೋಗದ ರಷ್ಟು ಸಿದ್ಧತಾ ಸೂಚಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇಲ್ಲ. ದೇಶದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 100 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ದೇಶ ಅಂದರೆ, ಶೇ 87ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊಡುಗೆ

ಲೇಖಕ: ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ, ಜವಾಹರ ಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರೂ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

Source: Prajavani, Nov.11, 2023



# Is govt's move to make Kannada medium of instruction timed out?

**Fmr A-G sees a way out, cites 1993 SC verdict upholding govt order**

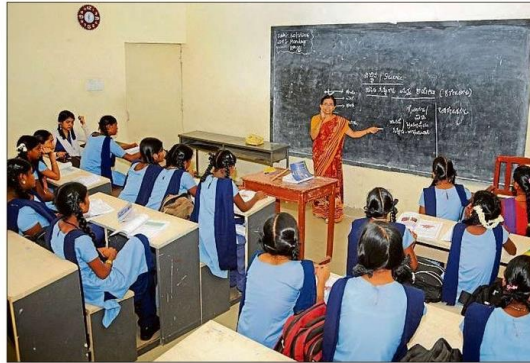
**RASHMI BELUR**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**O**n Rajyotsava, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government would continue efforts to make Kannada the medium of instruction in school education, which appears to be virtually impossible, according to experts.

In his Rajyotsava speech, Siddaramaiah even criticised the judiciary for not supporting the government's efforts to have children learn in Kannada.

In a landmark 2014 judgement, the Supreme Court struck down Karnataka's plea to have Kannada as the medium of instruction in elementary education. This was a two decades-old legal battle. Desperate, the government - then headed by Siddaramaiah - amended the RTE Act mandating Kannada to be the medium, which was sent for Presidential assent.

The government also brought in the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, which requires "all



**In a landmark 2014 judgement, the Supreme Court struck down Karnataka's plea to have Kannada as the medium of instruction in elementary education.**

schools" to teach Kannada as a compulsory subject - either as first language or second language - from Classes 1 to 10 in a phased manner. This, too, has been challenged by schools.

Officials say there are no ways left. "The Supreme Court has said that choosing the medium of instruction is the fundamental right of the parents," an official said, pointing out that this was a judgement by a Constitutional bench.

Interestingly, the state govern-

ment itself ended up introducing English as the medium in government schools. "At Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), we are offering English as the medium. Because there was demand, more English-medium KPS were started," the official said.

With KPS - the government's flagship public education model - offering bilingual education, in Kannada and English, the government has morally lost the right to fight for Kannada as the medium, the official rued.



There are ways in the Constitutional bench judgement. The government can make a new law using those ways and by also referring to previous judgments, especially the one by then Chief Justice M N Venkatachaliah and Justice S Mohan, which upheld the government's decision on language policy.

**Ravivarma Kumar,**  
ex-Advocate General

In 1981, a committee headed by Dr V K Gokak recommended Kannada as the medium of instruction, following which the government issued an order that got challenged in court. In 1993, it looked as if the issue was settled when a Supreme Court bench of then Chief Justice M N Venkatachaliah and Justice S Mohan upheld the order.

In 1994, the government introduced a language policy that insisted schools provide education in Kannada or mother tongue. This was

struck down by the High Court in 2008. The government moved the Supreme Court, which delivered the verdict in 2014 when Siddaramaiah was the CM.

"The CM's comment is clearly a contempt of court," D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said.

Senior advocate G R Mohan, who fought the language policy case on behalf of private schools, said there is no provision for the government to insist on Kannada.

But former Advocate General Ravivarma Kumar believes that it is not a dead-end.

"There are ways in the Constitutional bench judgement. The government can make a new law using those ways and by also referring to previous judgments, especially the one by then Chief Justice M N Venkatachaliah and Justice S Mohan, which upheld the government's decision on language policy," he said.

The situation is similar when it comes to higher education. The government's attempt to make Kannada a compulsory subject in undergraduate and postgraduate courses was challenged by private colleges although it was done as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) that bats for regional languages. This was stayed by the court.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 12, 2023**



# Revisit KSU Act to revamp our varsities

The government must amend the Karnataka State Universities Act to strengthen the higher education ecosystem

P S JAYARAMU

There is a lot of discussion in the state about the need for reinventing higher education. While it is true that the responsibility of bringing about qualitative changes remains largely with the academicians, the changes also need to be anchored broadly within the framework of the legislation prevailing in the state, i.e., the Karnataka State Universities (KSU) Act, 2000. The Act was passed when the Congress was in power. Hence, the present government may not think in terms of replacing it totally. It may at best bring about some changes through amendments. Here is an attempt to suggest some changes in the Act which has 14 chapters dealing with issues like the establishment and incorporation of universities, key officers of the university, authorities of the university like the Syndicate and the Academic Council, boards like the Board of Studies, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Board, Finance and Accounts, Affiliation of Colleges, etc.

It is impossible to cover all the aspects contained in the Act but it is imperative to highlight the areas where the law needs amendments so as to improve the functioning of public universities and strengthen the higher education ecosystem.

First, there is a need to create the office of pro-vice chancellor in the university's organisational structure. This would require amending the existing Act. While there are arguments both in favour and against creating such a position on the grounds that it may result in an additional power centre, I am of the opinion that the position be created and the holder of the office — an educational administrator — be entrusted with the task of ensuring coordination in the field of administration, freeing up the vice chancellor to focus entirely on academic matters to provide leadership for promoting quality in teaching and research in the university and affiliated colleges. The vice chancellor should also be in charge of raising resources from different quarters, including guiding the faculty to bring prestigious projects, as universities are short of funds and are being asked to raise resources on their own from as many sources as possible including alumni and industry.

The selection and appointment of VCs is a crucial process that requires extraordinary care. The government is likely to continue with the existing procedures outlined

in the Act but it is also imperative that governmental interference and the role of 'extraneous considerations' be kept out in the appointment of vice chancellors. The search committees that are constituted for this purpose must consist of men and women of integrity and vision, who can resist pressures and recommend the most deserving candidates based on merit and social justice.

The Syndicate is the highest decision-making body in the university system. Though the existing practice of the government and the chancellor nominating members of the Syndicate may continue, it is necessary to bring in persons with expertise in the field of higher education, industry and civil society. The practice of nominating politicians belonging to the ruling party must be stopped. The chancellor, too, should appoint educational administrators of high integrity as his/her nominees, who can contribute positively to the university's vision and mission.

When it comes to the Boards of Studies, whose main function is to prepare the curriculum, there is a need for greater interaction between the postgraduate departments, and affiliated and autonomous colleges including industry representatives. Representation must be ensured either by formally making them members or by co-opting them as special invitees. In any case, curriculum design and development should reflect quality with adequate opportunities for skilling, reskilling and upskilling of the students.

The system of affiliation of colleges will continue in all probability, though the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 calls for its gradual phasing out. Here, the VCs need to ensure that the committees are composed of academicians with an industry representative, if needed, to evaluate the preparedness of colleges to run courses with optimum facilities for the benefit of students. Colleges that secure an A+ grade from the accreditation agency NAAC can be subjected to the affiliation exercise once in five years only.

Chapter 12 of the KSU Act deals with the University Review Commission. However, this provision is largely ignored or neglected in practice. Universities must be mandatorily subjected to review once in five years. The highest standards of transparency must be maintained in the constitution of the commission and its functioning. The report of the commission must be made public and accessible to all the stakeholders.

It is hoped that the government would give priority to amending the Act to ensure the effective and optimal functioning of our public universities.

*(The writer is former dean, Faculty of Arts, Bangalore University)*

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 13, 2023**



# Mother tongue first

Kannada medium in schools should happen. Not only is it possible, but it is also imperative for strengthening inclusive education

GURUMURTHY KASINATHAN

Imagine you joined a course without knowing that the instructions were in Russian. You would understand nothing. In a poignant scene from the Hindi movie, *Tuare Zameen Par*, the parents of Ishaan, who is dyslexic, are asked to read Chinese and learn. They struggle and fail. This is what happens to thousands of Indian children who are enrolled in English-medium schools, though they do not hear English at home. Many lose interest, and a significant number drop out.

Educators stress the importance of using the mother tongue in the early years of education, asserting that teaching in an unfamiliar language hinders learning. A recent study by the Gyan Vigyan Samiti in Jharkhand found that students speaking tribal languages struggle in Hindi-medium government schools. Conversely, when Odisha changed the medium of instruction in government schools, in districts with large tribal populations, from Odiya (the state language) to Saora and other tribal languages, it significantly improved student learning. The National Education Policy 2020 recommends the mother tongue as a medium of instruction. Yet Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah courted controversy when he recently batted for Kannada-medium schools. Of course, 'Kannada medium' should connote mother tongue education for all Kannadigas. This implies schools offering instruction in Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Konkani, and Tulu, languages spoken in numerous Kannadiga homes. And languages like Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, and Marwari are spoken by migrant communities.

Educators opine that English (or any 'second language') can be more easily learned once the child is comfortably learning through the home language, as the home language can serve as a bridge to support 'second language' learning. This is why a second language is usually recommended to be introduced after a few years of formal schooling.

## Pedagogical-political conflict

However, parents, viewing English as crucial for socio-economic mobility, prefer English-medium schools. Government schools, mostly offering Kannada-medium education, see declining enrolments, while private schools promote English as the me-

dium of their instruction. Mandating Kannada in government schools might not solve the problem, as parents may opt for 'English medium' schools wherever possible. English-medium private schools will continue to proliferate, and children in such schools who have little or no support for English at home will suffer. They are unlikely to learn English, and what's worse, they are unlikely to learn other subjects as well.

Yet what Siddaramaiah wants, as recommended by educators, is not impossible. A child can learn English as a language while studying other subjects in her mother tongue. English proficiency does not necessitate English-medium instruction. Schools in Germany, Chi-



na, or Russia teach only in their home language in the primary grades. While Kannada should be the medium of instruction, it is essential to strengthen teaching English as a second language in all government schools. Kerala introduced the E-Language Lab (ELL) English language programme during the 2022-23 academic year. The ELL provides ample digital resources—picture story books, audio stories, and videos—for an 'immersive' environment in English. 'Listening' is the first step in language learning, but the learner usually has only 'textbooks' for learning a language. A textbook can only be read; 'reading' is a skill that needs emphasis after acquiring basic language competencies through listening. Students found the ELL stories engaging and often listened to them on their own. This facilitated interest-driven self-learning of English, reducing inhibition. ELL has been effective in strengthening the English competencies of children in government and aided schools, potentially reversing the move of children from government to private schools. The programme shows that digital technologies can be used for creating, sharing, storing, and using audio-visual resources to create an effective 'listening rich' environment in schools. (The study of the Kerala ELL programme was conducted by IT for Change along with the Regional Institute of Education, South India.)

Yet this would not be adequate. Karnataka must invest significantly in government schools, meeting the basic requirements outlined in the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009. An Annexure in the RTE specifies physical infrastructure, including adequate classrooms, toilets, drinking water, a compound wall, and a playground, as well as sufficient teachers (one teacher for 30 students). While the RTE made education a fundamental right for children, Karnataka's compliance is at a dismal 23.6% (the Ministry of Education's response to the question in Lok Sabha in 2021), with a severe shortage of teachers. Kerala's relatively better education system is due to state legislation that made the 'teacher to student ratio' 30:1 a school-level mandate; other states compute this ratio at a state level, which leads to teacher shortages in larger schools. Also, *ad hoc* or guest teacher recruitment cannot ensure quality education. School maintenance and development budgets are pathetically inadequate. A primary school with even 100 students would need more than Rs 1 lakh every year; current allocations average less than Rs 10,000. The government's thinking that poor people can do with poorly resourced (government) schools is inherently iniquitous.

Secondly, the government must close down private schools that do not comply with RTE and are unlikely to. Most schools that depend wholly on parent fees cannot meet RTE norms. The small percentage of elite schools, where parents cover all expenses, should comply with the 25% admission of children from marginalised sections to provide diverse learning contexts to students.

Thirdly, a society-wide programme for building a more informed discussion on the aims and principles of education is absolutely necessary. For most people, education is merely a means to employment and economic mobility. However, education is the primary vehicle for building a better society, which makes curriculum a complex political question. Hence, the government needs to continuously organise open public discussions (in and outside panchayats and on social media) on topics such as home language education, language learning, the role of digital technologies, secular education, constitutional morality, the role of community in education, etc. to evolve a shared and rational understanding and build political will for progressive education. Such reconciliation of pedagogical and political perspectives would be essential for a healthy education system. Promoting the medium of instruction in the mother tongue would also protect and promote the linguistic diversity and cultural wealth of our country.

(The writer is a teacher educator, and director of IT for Change.)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Nov. 16, 2023



# 'Caste'less NEP can't achieve equity

KARAMALA AREESH KUMAR  
AND PRAJWAL T V

Social reformers like Jotiba Phule and Ambedkar believed that education was the only means to overcome untouchability and caste discrimination. Caste, a social stratification system unique to India, remains a significant factor in educational access and opportunities. Reservations for students and faculty in academic institutions play a vital role in the socio-economic and cultural upliftment of the majority population under the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). Caste-based discrimination in educational institutions has denied opportunities and access to education for many students from marginalised and Dalit communities. While the debate on reservations in education is long-standing, it is considered the minimum necessary for affirmative action towards the SEDGs. In this context, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 failed to mention caste and reservation provisions in the document. Despite its focus on quality, skill, and job-oriented education, the NEP received criticism from state governments, educationalists, and marginalised and disabled communities. The absence of explicit references to "caste" in the policy document raises concerns about whether the NEP adequately addresses discrimination, social bias, and historical disadvantages affecting students from marginalised caste backgrounds. It also appears to downplay the significance of reservations, as it does not explicitly mention the continuation or enhancement of reservation quotas in academic institutions, a move that could have serious implications for students seeking access to quality education. The policy's silence on this matter raises concerns about its commitment to ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all, as it claims in its introduction.

While the policy highlights the importance of diversity, it lacks specific provisions, timeframes, and strategies to address the challenges faced by minority students. Issues such as cultural sensitivity and the representation of various linguistic and religious identities in syllabi become crucial for creating a truly inclusive and just society. The NEP also prioritises skill-based

education but fails to address the history of tribes, castes, and the division of Indian society based on the Varna system, which denied Dalits the right to education for centuries.

The concept of multiple entry and exit points in higher education, allowing students to leave and re-enter degree programmes, inadvertently affects marginalised communities, who often face financial and social pressures and are susceptible to dropping out at these entry-exit points altogether.

Private agencies and profit-oriented organisations are dominating the Indian education system, which has resulted in shutting down public schools and educational institutions. The privatisation of education severely affected marginalised community students, and NEP does not provide a specific roadmap in which privatisation would not lead to a two-tiered education system where quality education becomes a privilege for the few who can afford it, leaving the majority of Dalit students and others disadvantaged.

While the NEP 2020 presents a vision for the future of education in India, it falls short in addressing the complex issue of caste. The policy's lack of explicit references to caste, reservations, fellowships for Dalits, and strategies to mitigate dropout rates among marginalised students raises concerns about its commitment to providing quality education and building an equitable and just society, the core focus of NEP. The education system has the potential to be a powerful tool for social change, but it can only achieve this if it confronts and dismantles the barriers that caste continues to impose on access.

Due to political differences and misunderstandings, only a few state governments, including Karnataka, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, implemented NEP-2020. However, the Congress government in Karnataka decided to scrap the NEP and announced a State Education Policy instead. The governments at the state and Centre should prioritise Dalits, backward classes, the disabled, Muslims, and other marginalised groups in their education policies to provide better and quality education to all.

*(Kumar is head, and Prajwal TV is a research scholar, Dept. of International Relations, Peace & Public Policy, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)*

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, Nov. 16, 2023**

# Cap on medical seats: State govt. demands permanent rollback of guidelines

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

The State government has opposed the National Medical Commission's (NMC) decision to defer guidelines for cap on medical seats in the States by a year and has demanded that the policy be rolled back permanently.

NMC in August earlier this year notified guidelines which capped the medical seats in a State at 100 seats per 10 lakh population. In a public notification issued on November 15, NMC has said the implementation of these guidelines was deferred by a year and they will now come into force from the academic year 2025-26.

As per these guidelines, it would be a long time before the State could add even a single medical seat. In proportion to the 6.73 crore estimated population of the State, medical seats in the State should be capped at 6,700 seats, when the State already had 11,745 medical seats.

## **'No authority'**

"The NMC has no authority to issue these guidelines. It is highly objectionable. And we will not agree to its implementation ever, so there is no point in it being deferred. We demand that the guidelines be rolled back per-



Several States, which have more seats than the cap that was sought to be imposed and had further plans to expand medical education, have opposed the guidelines vehemently. FILE PHOTO

## **National Medical Commission in August notified guidelines capping the medical seats in a State at 100 seats per 10 lakh population**

manently. The Government of Karnataka will write to the NMC and the Union government taking strong objection to the decision of just deferring the unfair guidelines and not rolling them back," said Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

Several States, especially South Indian States, which have more seats than the cap that was sought to be imposed and

had further plans to expand medical education in their States, including Karnataka, had opposed the guidelines vehemently.

The NMC notification on November 15 said: "A decision has been taken by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB), National Medical Commission that the 'Objective' clause under Chapter-1 of "Guidelines for Under Graduate Courses under Establishment of New Medical Institutions, Starting of New Medical Courses, Increase of Seats for Existing Courses & Assessment and Rating Regulations-2023", shall be implemented from academic year 2025-26".

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 17, 2023**

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## Environment

# Bioresource-based firms told to register by January 6

**CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**D**ays after Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre's intervention, the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has invited companies using the biological resources in the state to register themselves as per the law by January 6.

The Biological Diversity Act came into force two decades ago and the detailed guidelines to implement its features were issued in 2014, the Board has struggled to enforce the rules aimed at conserving the biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of commercial use of biological resources.

Under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) rules, the traders extracting herbs, plants and other biological resources have to pay 1% to 3% of the pur-

chase price while companies manufacturing products have to pay 3% to 5% of the purchase price. The companies using bio resources for commercial use also had the option of paying the benefit sharing of 0.1% to 0.5% based on the turnover from the annual gross ex-factory sales after the taxes. Besides sharing of benefits, the rules seek to check over exploitation of resources.

However, the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) that had to be set up at every local body which were instrumental to enforce the ABS rules were not formed for years. When the Board finally started enforcing the rules, the traders and companies took the legal route to block the efforts.

"Last year alone, we filed cases against 30 companies for failing to comply with the ABS rules. About 20 of them have

already got a stay from the High Court of Karnataka. Now, the legal battle will determine how far we can be effective in implementing the rules. We are now creating awareness among the companies to encourage them to register as bio resource users, which will pave the way for easy management of biodiversity," a senior official said.

Last week, Khandre instructed the Board to give one more opportunity to the companies. "Registration is mandatory. However, considering that many have not done it yet, give them a time of 60 days to comply," he said.

The Board will look into the applications for ex-post-facto approvals and conduct a hearing to understand if the applicant had a reasonable justification for the delay. Those who fail to apply will face action as per the rule, a notification said.

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**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Nov. 11, 2023**



ಎಗ್ಗಿಲ್ಲದೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಬಳಕೆ; ಬದಲಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ ಮನೋಭಾವ: ಬೇಕಿದೆ ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿ

# ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನೆಗಿಲ್ಲ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ

ಅನುವರ್ತಕ ತಾಜ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಸೂಚಕದಲ್ಲಿ (ಎಂಡಬ್ಲ್ಯುಎ) ಮೊದಲ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದೇಶಗಳು

99.8% ಮೊಜಾಂಬಿಕ್

99.4% ನೈಜೀರಿಯಾ

98.9% ಕೀನಿಯಾ

98.55% ಭಾರತ

• ಜಿ.ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ: ಆ ಕೆಫೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರು ಬೇಕಾದರೂ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ಬಿರಿಯುವಷ್ಟು ಊಟ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹಣ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ 1 ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಾಜ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಸಾಕು!

ಈ ಅಪರೂಪದ ಕೆಫೆ ಇರುವುದು ಛತ್ತೀಸ್‌ಗಢದ ಅಂಬಿಕಾಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ. ದೇಶದ ಮೊದಲ 'ಗಾರ್ಬೆಜ್ ಕೆಫೆ' ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಇದರದ್ದು. ಅಂಬಿಕಾಪುರ ನಗರಸಭೆಯು 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದ ಈ ಕೆಫೆ, ನಿಗದಿತರು ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂದಿ ಆಯುವವರ ಹಸಿವು ನೀಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಾಜ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿ ತರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮುಕ್ತ ನಗರದ ಕನಸನ್ನೂ ನನಸಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ನಗರಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ 40ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅಂಬಿಕಾಪುರ ಈಗ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೇರಿದೆ.

ಅಸ್ಥಾನ ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಗುವಾಹಟಿಯ 'ಅಕ್ಷರ' ಶಾಲೆಯದ್ದೂ ಇಂತಹದ್ದೇ ಒಂದು ಕೌತುಕದ ಕಥೆ ಇದೆ. ಬಡವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀಡುವ ಸದುದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಶುರುವಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಬರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಶುಲ್ಕದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಾಜ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ! ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕೂಡ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಹಾಕಿದೆ. 'ಕಸದಿಂದ ರಸ' ಎಂಬ ತತ್ವದಡಿ ಮರುಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ಗೆ ಹೊಸ ರೂಪ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅವು 'ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಟೈಲ್' ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊದಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ತುದಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ



ಏಕ ಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ತೊಡೆದುಹಾಕಲು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಕೆರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಂಟಿ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ ಈಶ್ವರ ಬಂಡೆ, ಪರಿವರ ಸಚಿವ

ಇಂತಹ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವು ಮನಸ್ಸುಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ನಡುವೆ ಇವೆ. ಹುಡುಕುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದರೆ ನೂರಾರು ಸೂರ್ತಿದಾಯಕ ಕಥೆಗಳು ನಮ್ಮೆದುರು ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಾದರೂ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಾಜ್ ಪಡೆಂಬೂತವಾಗಿ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ.

ದಿನಸಿ ಅಂಗಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಕೆ ಕಾಲು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇತರ ದವಸ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಗದದ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲವೊಂದಿತ್ತು. ಅದು ಕ್ರಮೇಣ ಮರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ, ನಗರ, ಮಹಾನಗರ... ಹೀಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆಯೂ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮಾರಾಟ ಅವ್ಯಾಹತವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

2011ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು 40 ಮೈಕ್ರಾನ್‌ಗಿಂತಲೂ ತೆಳುವಾದ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಷೇಧ ಹೇರಿತ್ತು. ಶಾಂಪೂ ಬಾಟಲೆಗಳು, ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಬಾವುಟ ಹೀಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 19 ಬಗೆಯ ಏಕಬಳಕೆಯ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನೂ ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಇಷ್ಟಾದರೂ ದಿನಸಿ, ಹೂವು, ತರಕಾರಿ, ಮಾಂಸ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಅಂಗಡಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಬೇಕರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಬಳಕೆ ನಿಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

6ನೇ | ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹಲಸೂರು ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಾಜ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ದೃಶ್ಯ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಚಿತ್ರ: ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್

## ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಜಾಣ ಕುರುಡು

'ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್' ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಯಾರು ಮಾಲೀಕರು, ನೋಟಿಸ್ ನೀಡಿದ ಮೇಲೂ ಹಿಂಬಾಗಿಲಿನಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವವರಾರು ಎಂಬ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಯಾರೂ ಕ್ರಿಮಿನಲ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ 'ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ' ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಫನತಾಜ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ತಜ್ಞ ರಾಮಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ದೂರಿದರು.

'ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್', ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಏಕಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯನ್ನೇ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಕಾನೂನು 2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರೂ ಏಳು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಪರಿಸರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಯಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ತಯಾರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದ್ದೇ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೂ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿ,

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಅದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕೊಡುವ ಒಂದು ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ನಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕ್ರಿಮಿನಲ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇಂತಹ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವೂ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು.

'ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್' ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರಾಟದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದರೆ ಅದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ. ಅದನ್ನೇ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು 'ವಸೂಲಿ' ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಸುಮ್ಮನಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಬಳಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಜ್‌ದಿಂದ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಗಂಭೀರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದೆಲ್ಲದಕ್ಕೂ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರರಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಮೊದಲು ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮವಾದರೆ, ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲೇ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು' ಎಂದರು.

Continued...



**20.9** ಕೆ.ಜೆ  
ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ  
ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ  
ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್‌ನ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ

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# Deepavali: Marginal dip in air pollution levels this year

We had created awareness in Bengaluru to protect it from becoming a gas chamber like Delhi, says Minister

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

When compared with the previous year, some parts of Bengaluru saw a marginal dip in the air pollution levels during the three days of Deepavali (November 12-14), according to the data from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

The data showed that the average Air Quality Index (AQI) in the KSPCB station of Jayanagara on the first day of Deepavali was 214 this year whereas it was 254 in the previous year.

On the second day, it was 312 (very poor category) in 2022 whereas this year, it was 248 (poor category). The average AQI for the three days was 234 against the previous year's 257.

Similarly, at the Kavika station the AQI levels were under the very poor category (301 - 400) on all three days whereas this year, on the first day, it was just 171 which falls under the moderate category. The AQI levels on the other two days were 212 and 252, respectively.

A similar pattern was also noticed in the Silk Board station. However, when

Comparison of AQI during Deepavali

Station	Average AQI in 2022	Average AQI in 2023
City railway station	105	113
Saneguruvannahalli	92	94
Hebbal	156	172
Jayanagar	257	234
Kavika	313	212
NIMHANS	101	171
Silk Board	263	224
Peenya	--	111

Source - KSPCB

compared with the pre-Deepavali numbers, there was a definite spike in all stations. On November 5, this year, the AQI at Jayanagara was 43, at Kavika it was 42 and at Silk Board station, it was just 35, the data showed.

In all the other stations in Bengaluru and most stations across the State, there was an increase in the AQI levels when compared to the previous year.

## Noise pollution

"Across the State, including Bengaluru, there have been some variations in air quality because of Deepavali firecrackers. But the noise pollution levels have come down. We had created awareness in Bengaluru to protect it from becoming a gas chamber like Delhi. However, the pollution

levels were not as low as we had expected," said Eshwar Khandre, Forest and Ecology Minister.

## Other cities

However, when compared to other cities in the country, Bengaluru performed better in terms of pollution this year according to a report released by National Clean Air Programme tracker. The tracker analysed PM 2.5 levels in 11 capital cities on the day before Deepavali (November 11), the day of Deepavali (November 12) and the day after Deepavali (November 13) based on the data from the Central Pollution Control Board.

According to it, Bengaluru recorded lower PM 2.5 averages this year when compared to 2022 on all three days.

## 'Monitors not suited for hyperlocal hotspots'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The air pollution monitoring stations of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) in Bengaluru are located in areas like city railway station, Hebbal, Peenya, and NIMHANS where there are not many residences.

Since the bursting of firecrackers takes place mostly in residential areas, experts believe that

these monitoring stations might not be able to capture the pollution levels accurately.

"As it is a cost intensive equipment and process, they (KSPCB) cannot cover every residential neighbourhood where firecrackers are blasted. Hence, these monitors might not be best suited to capture hyper local hotspots of pollution," said R. Subramanian, Sector Head - Air Quality at CSTEP.

## 324 cases filed for violation of firecracker norms

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

During Deepavali, the police have filed 324 cases in connection with selling crackers without obtaining licence and bursting crackers beyond permitted time frame in the city.

The police have filed 19

burst crackers. The cases were filed between November 10 and 14.

## Enforcing rules

A press note said the police have been vigilant to enforce the rules in order to avoid firecracker related tragedies in the city.

The government

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Nov 16, 2023**



# Action plan to help make city carbon neutral by 2050

DKS reviews draft, suggests minor changes

BENGALURU, DHNS

After Mumbai and Chennai, Bengaluru is drafting its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), which is designed to serve as a blueprint for the city to become carbon neutral by 2050.

The plan, comprising a total of 269 actions, was finalised at a meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday.

Bengaluru is the co-lead of the Global Air Quality Network for the C40 Cities global network, comprising nearly 100 mayors from the world's leading cities who have come together to confront the climate crisis. Other Indian cities are Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Ahmedabad.

## BBMP's role

On Wednesday, Shivakumar, also the Bengaluru Development Minister, reviewed the draft action plan and is said to have suggested some minor changes. The plan is likely to be

launched in a couple of weeks as two other cities have already launched the programme. Out of 269 actions, the BBMP will be the 'primary' responsible agency for about 143 actions.

The World Resource Institute (WRI), a global consultant, came up with 269 actions across seven sectors such as stationary energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste management, air quality, water, urban planning, greening & biodiversity as well as disaster management. The draft was reportedly finalised after consulting different departments and non-profit organisations.

The objective of the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan, officials said, is aimed at mitigating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the city and building resilience against climate change-induced hazards.

As a part of the programme, WRI has prepared a city-level GHG inventory for 2019 (base year), analysed climate data of 30 years, and studied extensive geospatial data to assess hazards, vulnerabilities and risks.

Some of the climate and environmental hazards identified for Bengaluru are urban heat, urban flooding, droughts, thunderstorms and lightning as well as air pollution. Among the actions include institution-



## B'luru's climate resilience blueprint

### Environmental hazards

- Urban heat
- Urban flooding
- Droughts
- Thunderstorms and lightning
- Air pollution

### Recommended actions

- Establishing institutional mechanisms and capacities
- Developing resilient infrastructure
- Enhancing data systems
- Securing finance mechanisms
- Strengthening governance and regulatory frameworks

al mechanisms and capacity, infrastructure, data systems, finance, governance and regulatory mechanisms etc.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Nov. 16, 2023**

# ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟಾಕಿಯಿಂದ ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರವೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಲಿನ | ಮಾಹಿತಿ  
ನೀಡಿದ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಪಟಾಕಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಶಬ್ದ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಹಬ್ಬ ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಪಟಾಕಿ ಸುಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ನ.12ರಿಂದ ನ.14ರವರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಜಯನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಎಕ್ಸೂಫ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಬೀದರ್, ತುಮಕೂರು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ನಂತರ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿವೆ. ಮಡಿಕೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಕ್ಸೂಫ ಮೌಲ್ಯ 49 ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗಾಳಿ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಈ ಬಾರಿ ದೀಪಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಗಿಂತ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳಿಂದ ಶಬ್ದ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿತ್ತು. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷದ ದೀಪಾವಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಬ್ದ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯವು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಿರಿಕಿರಿ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಶಬ್ದ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಉಂಟಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ರಾಮನಗರ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಮೈಸೂರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಬೀದರ್, ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಬ್ದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ಇತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕೆಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಸಿರಾಡಲು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಾದ ಗಾಳಿ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ಗಾಳಿ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ

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ತೃಪ್ತಿಕರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೊಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 49ರಿಂದ 268ರವರೆಗೆ ವಾಯು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷದ ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಕ್ಸೂಫ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಆಗಿರುವುದು ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದ ಜಯನಗರ, ಸಿಲ್ಕ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಕವಿಕಾ, ಜಿಗಣಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮಾನ್ಸ್, ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಳಿಯ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿತವಾಗಿದೆ.

**Source: Vishwavani, Nov 16, 2023**

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# Door-to-door health screening under Gruha Arogya likely by Jan

## Scheme awaits approval by the State Cabinet

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA  
BENGALURU, DHNS

People aged 30 years and above in Karnataka will soon be able to avail of door-to-door screening and testing for non-communicable diseases as the state government is all set to roll out the 'Gruha Arogya' scheme.

While the scheme awaits approval by the Cabinet, the Health department officials expect the first phase of screenings and drug procurement to begin by January next year in eight districts, including Ramanagara and Dakshina Kannada.

Funded by the National Health Mission (NHM), the

scheme will enable teams of two to four people, including a community health officer (CHO), ASHA workers, and primary healthcare officers, to conduct door-to-door screening of and raise awareness about hypertension, diabetes, and cervical, breast and mouth cancers.

Once the scheme is approved, the Health and Family Welfare department will procure the necessary medication and testing equipment with the state's grant worth Rs 69.15 crore and the 15th Finance Commission's grant worth Rs 13.27 crore, respectively.

Over approximately 16 weeks, these teams from each Health and Welfare Centre (HWC) will



The scheme is funded by the National Health Mission.

visit 20 homes each on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, covering nearly 1,000 homes under each HWC in the time period.

For instance, if the officers detect the possibility of cancer among residents, they will be referred to the nearest community health centre or taluk hospital for confirmation and further course of treatment. Similarly, people with suspected cases of diabetes and hypertension will receive teleconsultation from doctors, and if confirmed, medi-

cation for three months.

The CHOs will update any positive cases on the NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) portal with their ABHA IDs to create a database of people with these diseases and help them access the necessary medicines. They will also put up colour-coded Gruha Arogya stickers outside homes, which will also indicate the health status of the residents.

All the health officers will be trained in phases, beginning

## Divisions

■ Eight districts across four divisions to be covered in the first phase:

■ Ramanagara and Tumakuru in the Bengaluru division

■ Belagavi and Gadag in the Belagavi division

■ Ballari and Yadgir in the Kalaburagi division

■ Dakshina Kannada and Mysuru in the Mysuru division

with the state-level trainings in December, said an official.

At the state-level, the district health and family welfare officers, district survey officers, programme co-ordinators, and other officers will be trained under the supervision of the NHM campaign director. Subsequently, all the taluk medical officers, CHOs, primary healthcare officers and other personnel will be trained.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Nov. 11, 2023**

# K'taka to roll out action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance

BENGALURU, DHNS

**A**fter a five-year delay, Karnataka may finally have an action plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Friday, directed the officials to develop a plan that would focus on chalking out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR in Karnataka.

"We should develop a detailed state action plan that is not merely restricted to listing priorities and objectives but also sets out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR in Karnataka. All stakeholders should step up efforts to raise public awareness on this global menace," he said.

AMR occurs when pathogens change over time and stop responding to medicines, making infections harder to treat.

"Overexposing pathogens to antimicrobial drugs due to abuse or misuse enables the

pathogens acquire resistance against the drug. As a result, we have been witnessing an increasing number of bacterial and viral infections – such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, and salmonellosis – which are resistant to antimicrobial drugs, thereby making it harder to treat them," a statement by the health department said.

No new classes of antibiotics have come on the market for more than 25 years and without effective antimicrobials, the success of modern medicine in treating infections would be at an increased risk.

"The cost of AMR to the economy is significant, causing unprecedented numbers of AMR-related death and disability, creating prolonged illness, longer hospital stays, and increasing the need for more expensive medicines and financial challenges for those impacted," the statement said.

Considering these factors

and given that the UN has declared AMR as one of the top ten global public health threats humanity is facing, Rao urged the public not to consume antibiotics unless prescribed by a doctor.



**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Nov. 11, 2023**



# 59% of women detected with breast cancer after its spread

## Diagnosed At Localised Stage In Only 30% Of Indian Women

DurgeshNandan.Jha  
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**New Delhi:** Only 30% women in India get diagnosed with breast cancer when the disease is still localised or, to put it simply, confined to the breast.

Most women (59%) get diagnosed when the disease has already spread outside the breast to nearby structures or lymph nodes.

Worse, there are still 11% of women who are diagnosed with cancer that has spread to distant parts of the body such as the lungs, liver or bones.

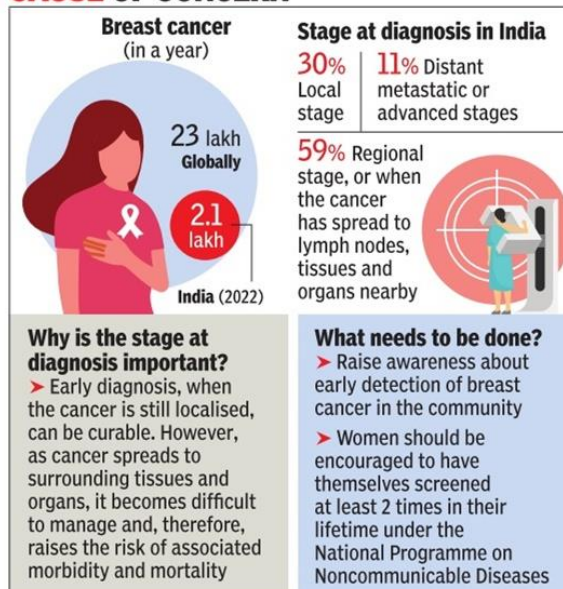
These are some of the findings of a new study published in the journal JAMA Oncology that quantifies for the first time the global partition of stage at diagnosis of breast cancer in women across 81 countries worldwide.

The study, a collaborative international effort that was led by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, investigated the stage at which more than 20 lakh women were diagnosed with breast cancer, over the past three decades and across different countries and world regions.

For India, the data from 28 population based cancer registries was included in the analysis coordinated by the ICMR-NCDIR, Bengaluru.

"Advanced stage of breast

### CAUSE OF CONCERN



cancer was present in higher proportions in older age groups of women, than middle aged and young women," Dr Prashant Mathur, director of ICMR-NCDIR told TOI.

In comparison, less than 10% of the women with breast cancer in most of the countries in North America, Europe, and Oceania were diagnosed with distant metastatic disease. In sub-Saharan African countries, however, up to 30% women were diagnosed

with late-stage distant metastatic tumours.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer type worldwide and the leading cause of death from cancer in women. Early detection and timely diagnosis increase the chances for curative treatment and lead to better survival outcomes, according to the IARC. Dr Abhishek Shankar, assistant professor, radiation oncology at AIIMS, the five-year survival rate for women diag-

nosed with breast cancer confined to breast (local disease) is 95-100 whereas for regional and distant metastatic disease it reduced to 80-85% and 25-30% respectively.

"Breast cancer starts with a lump in the breast and it can spread to other quadrants as the size of the lump increases. It can reach the regional axillary lymph node (small lumps of tissue) which is the first drainage area along with the other lymph nodes of the body. It can also spread to other organs like lung, liver, brain and bone through blood circulation," he explained.

Dr Harshad Joshi, senior gastroenterologist at Nana-vati Max hospital said, "I recently saw a patient, a 58-year-old woman, who came with jaundice and ascites (accumulation of fluid in the abdomen), prima facie it looked like liver disease with complication. When we investigated further, we found the patient had a large breast mass with spread to liver. When we questioned about breast mass, she mentioned she ignored it feeling it's just some lump, even though there was blood discharge from breast - she just ignored it." He added that had the woman taken early steps, she was easily treatable and here now she's stage 4 breast cancer — amenable to only palliative care.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.9, Nov. 11, 2023**



# 'e-management system to weed out corruption in healthcare'

In just about six months since he took over as Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao has his hands full. He has rolled out several new schemes like Gruha Arogya that entails door-to-door health screening, besides taking up comprehensive review of the existing schemes to streamline implementation. He is also pushing for rehauling the '108' ambulance system and introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance efficiency of public healthcare system, besides putting together an e-management system to weed out corruption.

In an exclusive interview with Nina C George of DH, Dinesh spells out his vision for strengthening the healthcare system. Excerpts:

**You launched the Platform for Research, Integrated Surveillance and Management of Health (PRISM-H)**

**for disease surveillance in Karnataka. How robust is this system in helping to monitor and predict spread of disease ahead of time?**  
We want to study and understand how effectively this system can forewarn about or predict outbreak of diseases. So far, the feedback has been positive and it is said to be a good tracking system. At present, this has been developed to track dengue or any other vector-borne diseases. It was specifically developed during the period when the cases were increasing. It will be extended to track other diseases, depending on how good a predictive analysis it offers.

**You had mentioned that cases of medical negligence will be taken seriously and a system will be put in place to assess staff performance. How far has this progressed?**  
We are in the process of de-

veloping an e-management system which will help us analyse how doctors and paramedical staff are performing. The tenders have gone for approval. This robust system will be rolled out in a year's time and it will help us achieve efficiency in health system. We will have information on how each hospital and healthcare system is faring, how many surgeries each doctor has performed, in addition to in-patient and out-patient analysis. This will help weed out corruption and provide good healthcare.

**How well prepared is Karnataka under your government to address outbreaks like Covid in future?**  
We are well prepared because the control rooms and protocols are already in place. We have enough equipment, in terms of oxygen cylinders, ICU beds, ventilators and almost all district hospitals have good basic



Dinesh Gundu Rao.

infrastructure. There are regular reviews of vaccinations and updates on districts that are falling behind and why. Efforts are on to bring down maternal mortality and infant mortality rates.

**Your new scheme Gruha Arogya intends to offer health check-ups at the doorsteps of villagers through mobile units having medical professionals and diagnostic equipment. How is it progressing?**

The first stage of Gruha Arogya will roll out in eight districts. It will, in phases, cover in all districts by end of next year. This scheme will offer door-to-door health-care. Cases of hypertension, diabetes or anything that can be detected through oral examination are covered under this scheme. Those affected will be given free treatment. We will procure medicines and give it to people through a package system. The idea is to first control diabetes and hypertension, the root causes for almost all ailments. Eventually, we will extend this to cover detection of breast and cervical cancer.

**How is the enrolment of private hospitals in Yashaswini health scheme that seeks to provide assistance to farmers and weaker sections going on? The initial response was poor.**  
Karnataka is at the forefront of states that have got private

hospitals empaneled under this scheme. The problem right now is the non-revision of charges for various procedures over the last five years as per Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme. Representatives of private hospitals have been asking us to revise these rates because they find it difficult to bear the cost. We will soon put up a proposal to increase the rates.

**The tenders for '108' ambulances have not been floated yet and the promise of smooth ambulance connectivity remains on paper. Why?**  
Karnataka was an exemplary state in operating '108' ambulances when it was first launched in 2008. But over the years, we have fallen behind because things have not been done with due diligence and different players have tried to scuttle the tendering process, with the tenders be-

ing passed without scrutiny. We have put in place a technical committee which will look into bringing in transparency in the tender process. It will also do a comparative analysis of how ambulances are operating in four or five states. We will use these findings to revive our system efficiently.

**You have been pushing for bringing in AI into the healthcare system. Tell us about it?**  
AI is the way forward. This government will push for AI, telemedicine, tele-ICUs and AI-enabled screenings. Every district hospital will soon have digital x-rays. Only AI can help us do mass screenings, detection and prevention of diseases. We are also working with different entities such as Centre for Cellular And Molecular Platforms. Will take expert advice to see how AI can be taken to grassroots level.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov. 13, 2023

## ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸಾವು: ಆರ್‌ಟಿಬಿ ಅಡಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

# 4 ವರ್ಷ: 6,810 ಮಕ್ಕಳ 'ಅಸಹಜ ಸಾವು'

• ಕೆ.ನರಸಿಂಹಮೂರ್ತಿ

ಮೈಸೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (2019-2022) 6,810 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ.

ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಯಿ-ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ, ಕೃಷಿ ಹೊಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದು ಸಾವು ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳೂ ಸೇರಿವೆ.

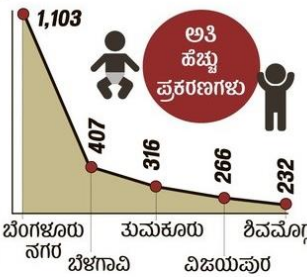
ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಎರಡು, ಮೂರನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಷ್ಟು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ, ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 406 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ.

ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಒಡನಾಡಿ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಪರಾಧ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ವಿಭಾಗವು ಈ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

**ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು**  
• ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಾವಿನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು  
• ನಡೆಯದ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ

ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ಇದ್ದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇತ್ತು. ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಬೀದರ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಹಾಸನ, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಕೊಡಗು, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಉತ್ತರಕನ್ನಡ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮೂರಂಕಿಯಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 100 ದಾಟಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 200 ದಾಟಿದೆ.



ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಸಹಜ ಸಾವು	
2019	1,574
2020	1,534
2021	1,728
2022	1,974

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಗದಗ, ಕೆಜಿಎಸ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ವಿಜಯನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ನಗರ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಎರಡಂಕಿಯಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ

ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ ಒಡನಾಡಿ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಲ್ಲೊಬ್ಬರಾದ ಎಂ.ಎಲ್. ಪರಶುರಾಂ, 'ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಸಹಜ ಸಾವಿನ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಗಾಬರಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಸುವಂತಿವೆ. ಬಡತನ, ಅಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕತೆ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿತಿ ಮೀರಿದ ಬಡ್ತಿ ದಂಧೆ, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಪೋನ್ ಗಿಳು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣಗಳು. ಈ ಸಾವುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಆಯೋಗ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಗಮನಹರಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದರು.

'ಸಾವಿನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ತಲಸ್ಕರ್ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ, ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ ಸದ್ಯದ ತುರ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ಅಸಹಜ ಸಾವುಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕುರಿತು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳೂ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತಾಗಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, Nov. 14, 2023

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# 2.95 lakh applications seeking ration cards pending in state

## Eligible families waiting to avail of guarantee benefits

**VARSHA GOWDA**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Eager to access the benefits of the Anna Bhagya and Gruha Lakshmi schemes, thousands of eligible families in the state have been waiting to apply for ration cards. Unfortunately, the application process was closed before the elections as 2.95 lakh pending applications were pending since March 2023. Officials say applications have been pending the approval of the government.

Shashi Kumar, a resident of Karadi village, Bagalkot district, for instance, applied for a ration card just before the election. The Anna Bhagya scheme, he thought, would mitigate food expenses for his family of three. At the time, the cost of gas, vegetables and food grains had increased exponentially.

"I was told that the application is rejected. I was not given a reason. Officials told me to come back in two months," he says. Two months later, he was told that applications for

new ration cards were closed. "I have been waiting since," he says.

Virupama, a Koppal-based grassroots activist, explains that the procedure to get a ration card has slowed down over the past two years.

"Other volunteers and I are actively intervening in at least 10 such cases where people have been trying to get a ration card," she says. In many of these cases, Virupama says applications are rejected without cause and applicants are left guessing, adding or subtracting from their documents, hoping that the attempt would be successful.

"I understand that there is reason for caution on the part of officials in issuing new applications due to misuse. There are several instances that I have witnessed where even landowners get BPL ration cards in their wives' names, but because of this overt suspicion poor people are also suffering," she says. The solution, in her opinion, is to conduct spot checks to determine the size of a household, living conditions



It is not clear when people will be allowed to file fresh applications for ration cards. DH FILE PHOTO

### VIRUPAMA, Activist

I understand that there is reason for caution on the part of officials in issuing new applications due to misuse. There are several instances that I have witnessed where even landowners get BPL ration cards in their wives' names, but because of this overt suspicion poor people are also suffering.

and need for a ration card.

In Yadgir district, another family of four has been similarly trying to apply for a ration card. Thimmeswamy (name changed) was a migrant working in Goa. After years of trying to make ends meet through seasonal work, he finally settled down in Yadgir.

"We do not have land. My wife and I work as agricultural labourers. The schemes that have been put in place are ben-

efitting our neighbours, but we are not in luck," he says. Thimmeswamy applied for a ration card this time last year, he has followed up every other month since to no avail.

### Changes and modifications

Another complaint, as Vasantha, a domestic worker from Hassan city, narrates is the inordinate delays in carrying out corrections in the ration cards.

"My children have grown up and left my house. I am not able to remove them from my ration card. I have even been removed from the BPL category as their incomes are counted as well," she says.

From October she has been trying to remove the names of her son and daughter, who are now married and have families of their own. "I reached when I was told to come to the food office in my district. They processed only 20 applications. However, before my turn came, the computer operators told me that there was a server issue and turned me back," she says.

Kanaga Valli M, Commissioner of the Food and Civil Supplies Department, explains that since there was a huge demand to avail of the Anna Bhagya and direct benefit transfer schemes, the number of applications for changes in ration cards increased from 53,000 in August and September combined to 1.8 lakh in October. "We had some server issues initially because of the load, but have overcome it and have processed 1.3 lakh applications in October," she says.

Additionally, the processing of pending applications for new ration cards began last week, she clarifies. It is not clear, however, when people will be allowed to file fresh applications for ration cards.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Nov. 13, 2023**





ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿದ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಯೋಜನೆ

# ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಬಸ್ಸೇ ಇಲ್ಲ

• ಮನೋಜಕುಮಾರ್ ಗುಡಿ, ಶ್ರೀಕಾಂತ್ ಕಲ್ಪವೃಕ್ಷ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್.

ಮುಖೇಯರಿಗ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ದರವನ್ನು ಉಚಿತ ಮಾಡಿದ 'ಶಕ್ತಿ' ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಜಾರಿಯಾದ ಬಳಿಕ 11 ರಂದು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷವು ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಐದು ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೂ ಒಂದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮುಖೇಯರಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರಿ ಏರಿಕೆ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಐದು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನೇ ಕುಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಗೂ ಮೊದಲು, ಸುಮಾರು 84.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿತ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಈಗ ದಿನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 1.06 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ, ಶೇ 5.5 ರಷ್ಟು ಮುಖೇಯರು ಇದ್ದರೆ, ಶೇ 4.5 ರಷ್ಟು ಪುರುಷರು ಸೇರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪುರುಷರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಮುಖೇಯರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸ್ ಅನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಬಹುದು:

• ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ, ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ತಾಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವ ಕಸಗಿ 'ಶಕ್ತಿ' ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸಮೇತ ಜನರು ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪುರುಷರ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೂ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

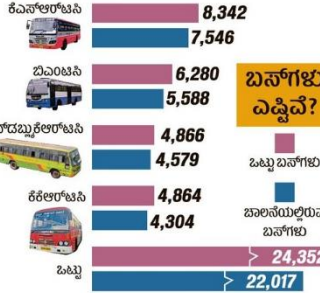
• ಒಂದೆರಡು ಕಿಲೋಮೀಟರ್ ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡೇ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ಬೀದಿಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿ ಮುಖೇಯರು ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗಾರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಮುಖೇಯರು ದ್ವಿಚಕ್ರ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ: ಬಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಒಟ್ಟು

ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 30 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿದೆ ನಿಜ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬಸ್ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಏರಿಕೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಸುಮಾರು 3,000 ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮ (ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಬಿಎಂಟಿಸಿ), ವಾಯವ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮ (ಎಸ್‌ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು.ಕೆಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ) ಹಾಗೂ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮದಲ್ಲಿ (ಕೆಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ) 24,352 ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ 22,017 ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಸಂಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಷ್ಟು ಬಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಒಡಿಸದೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ನಿತ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಂದ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿಗಳು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಟು ಸಿಗದೇ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಪಡಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾಸಿಕ ಬಸ್ ಪಾಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದವರಿಗೂ ಸಿಟುಗಳು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 620 ಹೊಸ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸೇವೆಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ವಾಯವ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಎಲ್ಲ 4,500 ಬಸ್‌ಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ದಿನ ಭರ್ತಿವಾಗಿ ಸಂಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಸರಮಾಲೆ: ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದಂತೆ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯದ ಕೊರತೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಶೌಚಾಲಯ, ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ಆಸನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಅಸ್ತವ್ಯಸ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಸ್ ಹತ್ತುವಾಗ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆಯು ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕೆಲವರು ಕೆಸಿಗಲ್ಲತನ, ಚಿನ್ನಾಭರಣ ಕಳ್ಳತನವೂ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



## 'ನಗುವ ಗಂಡಸರು'

ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ಅತಿಶ್ರದ್ಧೆ ಚಲಿಸುವುದೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದಷ್ಟು ಜನರಿದ್ದರು. ಮುಖೇಯರಿಗೆ ಟಿಕೆಟ್ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ 'ಅವಳು ಅಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು, ಟಿಕೆಟ್ ಕೊಡದಿದ್ದರೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತೆ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಕೇವಲವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. ಸುತ್ತಲಿದ್ದ ಗಂಡಸರು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ನಕ್ಕರು. ಒಂದು ಕಡೆಯಿಂದ ನಿಲ್ಲಲೂ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದಷ್ಟು ನೂಕುನುಗ್ಗಲು, ಎನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ಇಂಥ ಗೇಲಿ ಮಾತುಗಳು ಭಾರತ ಕೆ., ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರು, ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ

## ಬಸ್ಸಿಲ್ಲದ ಗೋಳು

'ಸರಗುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಲು ಸಾಲು ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಬಸ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯಾ ಇದ್ದೀನಿ. 30 ರಿಂದ 4 ಬಸ್‌ಗಳು ಬಂದುಹೋದವು. ಆದರೆ, ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಭರ್ತಿ. ಬಸ್ ಹತ್ತಲು ನೂಕುನುಗ್ಗಲು ಬೇರೆ. 10 ವರ್ಷದ ಮಗನನ್ನು ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೇಗೆ ಹತ್ತಲಿ...' -ಇದು ಸರಗುಂದದ ಸಹೀಶ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆರಿ ಅವರ ಮಾತು.

'ನಾನು ನಿತ್ಯ ಗುಲಬರ್ಗಾ ವಿ.ವಿ.ಗೆ ಬೇರಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಹೋಗುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈ ಕುಂದ ಬಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾದರೂ ಸಿಟು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಇಲಿಯುವವರಿಗಂತೆ ಬಸ್ ಹತ್ತುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. 120 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಪ್ರಯಾಸದಾಯಕ ಕೆಲಸ. ನಿತ್ಯ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಬರುವವರಿಗೆ ಕೆಲವು ಸಿಟುಗಳನ್ನಾದರೂ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ನಾಗರತ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟರು.

'ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಬಸ್ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೋರಿಕೆಯ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸ್ ಚಾಲಕರು ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ರಾಯಚೂರು ನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೂರು ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಐಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಒ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಮುಖಂಡ ಆಜೀಶ್ ಜಾಣಿದಾರ್.

'ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರು, ವೃದ್ಧರು ಕೊಂಠರ ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಣ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗಲು ಸಿದ್ಧವೆಂದರೂ ಬೇರೆ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ (ಎಸ್ ಸ್ಪೀಡರ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ) ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದಲ್ಲದೇ, ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬಸ್ ಹತ್ತೋಣವೆಂದರೆ, ಅವು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಲು' ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರೊಬ್ಬರ ದೂರು.

'ನನ್ನ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಿ ಬಿಎಂಟಿಸಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಕೊಡುವಾಗಲೂ, ಈ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಧಗಂಟಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಬಸ್ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. 'ಶಕ್ತಿ' ಯೋಜನೆಯಿಂದ ಬಹಳ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ' ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಬಿಜು ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್. ಭಾಗ್ಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ.

## ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

800 ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ  
921 ಬಿಎಂಟಿಸಿ  
250 ಕೆಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ  
375 ಎನ್‌ಆರ್‌ಟಿಸಿ

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## Governance

# Ragi malt to be given to children from next month as additional supplement

Minister Madhu Bangarappa says Karnataka has decided to upgrade 3,000 schools as Karnataka Public Schools, particularly in rural areas



Ragi malt will be given as an additional supplement along with milk, under Ksheera Bhagya scheme, to students in the morning. FILE PHOTO

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he Karnataka government has decided to give ragi malt as an additional supplement along with milk (in Ksheera Bhagya scheme) to students in the morning in all government and government-aided schools in the State.

“Earlier, we had implemented distribution of ragi malt to schoolchildren in two districts as a pilot project and it is successful. Therefore, we have decided extend this project across the State and it will be launched from December 2023,” said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy on

Thursday. Speaking at a press conference after a meeting with Deputy Directors of the department at Vikasa Soudha, he said, “To attract children towards government schools, we have decided to upgrade 3,000 schools as Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), particularly in rural areas and one school for two gram panchayats across the State in three years. Around 600 school will be upgraded for the next academic year.”

### **Successful model**

“The concept of KPS schools is successful in the State and these schools are popular. Parents have shown interest in admitting their children to those schools. These schools off-

er classes from kindergarten to class 12 in the same compound, along with English-medium sections. We will upgrade the schools with proper infrastructure and all the facilities, including extra curricular activities, through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund,” he added.

Mr. Bangarappa added, “We have plan to collect around ₹2,500 crore of CSR fund for the schools’ development from corporate companies and NGOs. The department is waiting for that fund. Azim Premji University is one of the private sector organisations that have expressed interest in working with us. Efforts are being made to improve class 10 and 12 results,” he explained.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 17, 2023**

## **Energy dept to deploy 'Master Trainers' to implement solar pump scheme**

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Aiming to make the best use of the Central government subsidy available for the installation of solar-powered Irrigation Pumpsets (IP Sets) under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme, the state energy department will soon appoint 'Master Trainers' for every district. The trainers will guide farmers and help them reap the benefits of the scheme.

Pointing out that close to 40% of the power generated in the state is now being used by the traditional IP sets, Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, said that the implementation of the scheme will help both the farmers and the government.

"Solar technology is gaining popularity in rural areas due to easy installation, quick execution and durability. This also benefits the governments by reducing the traditional IP sets. Hence, the government is laying special emphasis on the implementation of the KUSUM B scheme," Gupta said.

He added that the department is looking at selecting vendors to supply these pumpsets. The department, on Thursday, conducted a special training session for close to 150 officials from across the ESCOMs. The training will help officials address, suggest, resolve and clarify doubts about the implementation of the scheme, the department said in a statement.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p 4., Nov. 17, 2023**

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## ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ಮಾಫಿಯಾ: ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 260 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ವ್ಯವಹಾರ! ದಂಧೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಪಾಡಿನ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ | ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪದವೀಧರರಿಂದಲೂ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ನಿರ್ಗತಿಕರು ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಪಾಡಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ಈಗ ದಂಧೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು, ಇದರಿಂದಲೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 260 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ವ್ಯವಹಾರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಡವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅನಾಥ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು, ಅವರಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ಮಂಪರನ ಚುಟ್ಟು ಮದ್ದು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡಲು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರ ಹೊಸದೇನೂ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆದು, ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಮಾತ್ರ, ಗಾಂಜಾ ಸೊಪ್ಪಿನ ಹೊಗೆ, ಮದ್ದು ಕುಡಿಸಿ ಅಥವಾ ಚುಟ್ಟು ಮದ್ದು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಮೆಲಗಿಸಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ದಂಧೆ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಅಂತಿಮ-ಅಂಶಗಳ ಸಮತ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳ, ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ, ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು, ದೆಹಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ದಂಧೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬೀದರ್, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂತಹ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ.

ಅನುಕಂಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದರೆ ಹಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ 30ರಿಂದ 9 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನ ಚಿಕ್ಕವರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕೈ-ಕಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಉಣಸೊಳಿಸುವುದು, ಮೈ ಕೈಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡ ಸುರಿದು ಗಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಅಂಗಾಂಗಗಳನ್ನೇ ಕತ್ತರಿಸಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಗೆ ತೆಕ್ಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೂಡ ವರದಿಯಿಂದಲೂ ಇದೆ.

2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಿರುವ ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರ ಗಣತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, 20,758 ಮಂದಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರನ್ನು ಗೊತ್ತುಗಿತ್ತು. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಡಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ವಾಸ್ತವವಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲೇ 8 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರನ್ನು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ?**

ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನಗರಗಳು, ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಪಾತ್ರೆ, ಉತ್ಸವ, ಪ್ರವಾಸ ತಾಣಗಳು,



### ಮಾನವ ಕಳ್ಳಸಾಗಾಣೆ ಹೇಗೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ?

ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಒಡಿಶಾ, ಬಿಹಾರ್, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳ, ಜಾರ್ಖಂಡ್, ಅಸ್ಸಾಂ, ಅಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ಬಡ ಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಥರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವ ಏಜೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಗಾರ್ಮೆಂಟ್, ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಕೊಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಮನವೊಲಿಸಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ರೈಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆತರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಬಡ ಪಾಲಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಂಪಿಷ್ಟು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಹುಡುಗನುಗಳನ್ನೂ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಏಜೆಂಟರು ತಾವು ಕರೆತಂದ ಹುಡುಗನು ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ದಂಧೆಕೊರರ ಸುಪರ್ದಿಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ಕಮಿಷನ್ ಪಡೆದು ಮಾಯವಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇತ್ತ ದಂಧೆಕೊರರು ಇವರಿಗೆ ವಸತಿ, ಊಟದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಗೆ ಬಿಡುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.

### 169 ಪದವಿ, ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ?

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಹಾರಂಪುರ ನಗರವಾದ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 68 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 169 ಪದವೀಧರರು, ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವೀಧರರು ಮತ್ತು ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರು ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ, ಪದವಿ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಯುವಕರು ಉತ್ತಮ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗದೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹಣ ಗಳಿಸಬಹುದೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿರುವುದು 2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ವೇಳೆ ಬಹಳ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು.

ದೇವಾಲಯ, ಚರ್ಚ್, ಮಸೀದಿ, ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬಸ್, ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹಗಲಿರುಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆಬೇಡಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾದ ಹಣದ ವೈಕಿ ಶೇ. 5 ಮಾತ್ರ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ

ಬೇಡಿದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಪಾಲಾದರೆ, ಉಳಿದ ಹಣ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ದಂಧೆಕೊರರ ಜೀವು ಸೇರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತವೆ.

### ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು

ರಾಜ್ಯ	ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳ	81,234
ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ	65,782
ಅಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ	30,218
ಬಿಹಾರ	29,723
ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ	28,695
ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ	25,853
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ	10,682

### ನಿಮೂಲನೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮವೇನು?

- ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನಾ ನಿಷೇಧ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1975ರ ಅಡಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡುವ 16 ವರ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರರುಷ ಹಾಗೂ 18 ವರ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿ, ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ.
- 6 ವರ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಪಾಲನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಶ್ರಯ.
- ಕಾಣೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆಹಚ್ಚುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 30 ಮಾನವ ಕಳ್ಳಸಾಗಾಣೆ ನಿಷೇಧ ಘಟಕಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ
- ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಉಚಿತ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 1098 ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕಗಳಿಂದ ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ.
- ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಕಳೆದ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸಮಿತಿ ನಿಧಿಗೆ 399.40 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಭಿಕ್ಷುಕರ ಸೇವೆ ಜಮೆ.

**Source: Vishwavani, Nov. 14, 2023**

# Life and times of Kanakadasa

**K Karunakaran** talks about the saint poet's legacy, and the relevance of his lessons even today

**T**he legend and teachings of Kanakadasa, a 16th-century poet and saint reverberate even to this day. In his *keerthanas*, Kanakadasa confronted several superstitious social beliefs and practices. He undertook efforts to bring about reforms in underprivileged communities by persuading them to give up traditional practices and embrace the changing world.

Kanakadasa effectively used his songs, poems and music compositions to convey his philosophy and thoughts, which now constitute an invaluable legacy. He wrote about 240 Carnatic music compositions, including *keerthanas*, *ugabhogas* and devotional songs, besides writing five major literary works.

*Ramadhanya charite* is an allegorical poetic composition on the conflict between the rich and the poor classes, where he uses rice and ragi as an analogy. In all his compositions, the poet used simple Kannada and native metrical forms. His works reveal a perfect mastery of Sanskrit and Kannada literature and show that he was well-versed in contemporary literature. Most of his compositions have the *mudrika* (signature) of "Kagineleyadikeshava".

The saint poet was born in Bada village, Haveri district. His father was a *nayaka* (chieftain) of the Kuruba community. Following the untimely death of his father, Kanakadasa is believed to have become the chieftain.

## A new leaf

After being gravely injured in battle, Kanakadasa dedicated his life to composing *keerthanas*.

This decision prompted him to shift his residence to Kaginele village in Byadagi taluk. Kanakadasa initially worshipped Lord Krishna as Adikeshava at a small shrine in Bada. After moving, he is said to have carried the idol and installed it at the present location, within a new temple in Kaginele Adikeshava. Here, it stands in all its glory to this day. The Adikeshava shrine has a small *mantapa* with a few stone pillars in front and an idol of the deity inside.

A little away from the temple, a shrine known as Kanaka Dasara Gaddige was built above the *samadhi* of the poet in 1842. The shrine houses a statue of Kanakadasa holding the tambura. A conch and the begging bowl, said to have been used by Kanakadasa, are exhibited

here.

A large *sabha bhavana* (auditorium) has been built near the *samadhi* by the Kaginele Development Authority (KDA). In the vicinity is also a beautiful lake called Kanaka's Lake. This is a life-sustaining source of water for many villages in the vicinity.

An excellent garden has come up near the lake, where the poet is believed to have worshipped.

Recognising his legacy, the KDA has developed a beautiful eco-cum-theme park about 2 km from Kanaka's Lake, named Kaginele Kanaka Guru Peetha.

The statue installations in this park, depicting incidents from the saint's life, are the result of a convention of sculptors held in 2015 called Cement Shilpa Kala Shibira. The convention saw the



participation of eminent members of the Karnataka Shilpa Kala Academy and the Kannada and Culture Secretariat.

A tall arched gateway welcomes us to the beautiful park. We enter a road flanked by avenue trees. At the far end, on a raised pedestal, stands a gold-hued statue of Kanakadasa with the string instrument *ekanada* in one hand and a pair of castanets in the other. He has a bag and a blanket thrown over his shoulders.

On the right side of the road, there are beautiful life-size statue installations, made of concrete, covering memorable incidents from the life and times of the poet.

In light of the approaching Kanakadasa Jayanti, it is heartening to note that the KDA has played a major role in developing these heritage sites and in popularising Kanakadasa's thoughts and literary compositions. However, it is also important to understand the moral values that the saint and poet preached in his lifetime, particularly when society has become increasingly fragmented on communal and caste lines.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.12, Nov. 16, 2023**



# Heritage endangered: Mysuru grapples with conservation challenges

The city had 131 notified heritage buildings of varied architectural styles, many of which are crying for greater care and restoration effort

R. Krishna Kumar  
MYSURU

For long known as the cultural capital of Karnataka, with a blend of the traditional and the modern, Mysuru is grappling with challenges that have a negative bearing on its architectural legacy.

The crisis is a lack of serious conservation initiative by the government in the absence of which the future looks grim for Mysuru's heritage structures.

The city had 131 notified heritage buildings at the last count, but conservation specialists say that the number is not less than 500, and an upward revision of the notified list is a must. And therein lies the challenge.

## Funding issues

Funding for conservation was never a priority for any of government. Even the existing 131 notified heritage buildings face financial constraints. Even if there is an annual grant, it goes towards basic maintenance, like in case of a few structures that house government offices. But the available funds do little to meet the cost of major restoration work, which is an imperative for many of the buildings.

"If this is the situation with regard to notified heritage structures, one can imagine the fate of the remaining buildings that meet all criteria of being labelled as a heritage building but will not be declared as such given the financial implications," said Prof. N.S. Rangaraju, who retired from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore.

Longer the delay in notifying and recognizing the heritage value of a structure, wider will be the window of opportunity for land sharks and developers to buy them from the owners and raze them to construct commercial complexes.

## Many architectural styles

Experts aver that the city landscape does not have any one specific style of architecture to the exclusion of others. One finds a tapestry of different styles dotting the skyline. Hence, it is easy to recognize both the Indo-Saracenic and the European Classical interspersed with the colonial-style bungalows, and occasionally the Neo Gothic (St. Philomena's church). These are being swarmed by the more functional, but less aesthetic PWD-designed buildings in the present times.

Though Mysuru's reference can be found in an inscription dated to the 10th century, it denotes a region. But the city as it is known today began to grow only in the last 250 years, and more so after the transfer of the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Mysuru from Srirangapatana to the present location after the 4th Anglo-Mysore war in 1799.

The city came into prominence during the period of the later Wadiyars of whom Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar even established a city improvement trust board for town planning in 1904.

That Mysuru was nothing much to write about till the latter half of the 19th century is evident from the communique of Lewin Benthams Bowring, the Sole Commissioner for Administration of Mysuru from 1862-70. He went on to state that if not for the seat of the sovereign, the city has little importance. But fast forward to the late 19th century, especially after the Rendition in 1881 and the early 20th centuries when public offices were built, as also the imposing Amba Vilas Palace, and Mysuru began to acquire the character of a well-planned city.

While the Mysuru palace is the top tourist attraction and is well-maintained, the Jagannathan palace, which houses the art gallery, underwent extensive restoration during 2018-19. The funds were raised entirely by the Wadiyar family.

But there are heritage structures in the public domain whose conservation is the responsibility of the government and the local authorities.



The Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion on the campus of the University of Mysore.

"More than half of 131 notified heritage buildings require some sort of intervention of which at least 25 need urgent conservation measures," said Prof. Rangaraju who is also the convenor of INTACH Mysuru.

The 25 buildings include the old DC office, whose foundation was laid in 1887 and was inaugurated in 1895. The finial on top of the octagonal dome is peeling off and is in danger. Likewise, the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, Maharaja's College, the Yuvaraja's College, Maharaja's College Hostel, Government Girls School on Lalitha Mahal Road, Vasanth Mahal, which houses the teachers' training institute, Vani Vilas Market are some of the structures that require funding for restoration, said Prof. Rangaraju.

## Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion

Of all the heritage structures, Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion is reckoned to be one of its kind in the city, and has partially collapsed. Constructed in 1904-05 for Jayalakshmi Ammani, who was the eldest daughter of Chamaraja Wadiyar and the sister of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, it is in the Manasagangotri campus of the University of Mysore. It has arched colonnades. The interiors are rich in carving while the façade has Corinthian and Ionic columns.

The palatial mansion was transferred to the varsity by the then maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar to house the PG departments of the then nascent varsity. A major conservation initiative was taken up in 2004 with funding by Infosys Foundation. The heritage building houses the folklore museum with a rich collection of artefacts related to folk history.

But after nearly 20 years, the structure is on the verge of collapse. A portion of the ceiling caved in few years ago rendering the entire structure fragile. Though the University of Mysore has signed an MoU with a private restoration firm, it is not clear whether the project will materialize as the cost has been pegged at ₹29 crore, said Prof. Rangaraju.

The previous BJP government wanted to house the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada in the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion. Though it was perceived that such a move would serve the twin purpose of housing the Kannada study centre and also ensure that the structure is maintained with government funding, there was opposition from a section of the academicians



Jagannathan Palace in Mysuru houses the art gallery. The palace underwent extensive restoration during 2018-19. The funds were raised entirely by the Wadiyar family.



The DC's office in Mysuru.

who were of the view that the management and ownership of such an iconic structure should be vested with the varsity. There are fears that if left unattended the heritage structure could not last long.

Amidst this gloomy scenario and like the proverbial silver lining to the cloud, there is at least one rare example of timely intervention by the authorities. This is with respect to the Silver Jubilee clock tower in the heart of the city.

## Cash-strapped MCC

The tower measuring almost 75 feet was erected to mark the silver jubilee of the reign of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, and was completed in 1927. Experts from the District Heritage Conservation Sub-Committee had time and again warned that the structure was on the verge of collapse due to weakening of the foundation.

After years of cajoling, the cash-strapped

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) agreed to fund the conservation, which will cost ₹41 lakh, and is being taken up by the Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage. The office of the Cauvery Command Area Development Authority (CADA), Ayurvedic College and Hospital building too have taken up some measures that are worth emulating.

But these are rare examples, and there are many buildings that are crying for attention and require immediate intervention, including the office of the Mysuru City Corporation, said Prof. Rangaraju.

"A one-time grant of ₹500 crore is required as per a back-of-the-envelope calculation for the conservation of the notified heritage structures of the city. This should be followed by regular funding for annual maintenance," he added. Even the Mayor sought funding by way of special grants in the budget, but the plea was ignored.

Amidst the prevailing stupor on the heritage conservation front, the Department of Archaeology Museums and Heritage has taken an initiative and submitted a report to the local authorities identifying 11 buildings that need to be prioritized for conservation.

The 11 buildings are Vani Vilas Market, Old DC office, Fire Brigade Building at Saraswathipuram, Maharani's Science College, Government Certified School for Girls, Maharaja's College, Yuvaraja's College, Union Building, Lakshmiapuram Girls School, which now houses the office of the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Government Children's Girls Home, and Maharaja's Sanskrit Patashala.

The cost estimates will be prepared by the Archaeology Department and submitted to the local authorities, but the moot question is whether and when the funding will materialize.

## 2 iconic structures up for demolition

Amidst the general apathy to save the architectural legacy of the city, grounds have been cleared - both administratively and legally - for the demolition of two iconic structures that dominated the cityscape for decades - the Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building, both of which are over 125 years old. There are concerns that if left unchallenged, similar would be the fate of other structures as well, effacing a slice of the city's history and architectural heritage.

**Source: The Hindu, p.8, Nov. 17, 2023**

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# Questions raised over disaster readiness amid Ballari Rd traffic chaos

Experts call for urgent desilting of lakes, clearing of drains



A view of Hebbal Lake. DH FILE PHOTO

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Wednesday's traffic chaos on Ballari Road, following the overflowing of Hebbal Lake due to moderate rains, has prompted concerns about the city's infrastructure and disaster preparedness.

Traffic police data revealed an unusual surge in congestion along the stretch of Ballari Road from Chalukya Junction to the Hebbal flyover's down ramp towards the airport on Wednesday (November 8).

The situation was exacerbated by the breaching of Hebbal Lake, causing water to overflow onto the road.

In all, 378 congestion alerts were reported, as against 76

alerts on a typical Wednesday in September. The congestion covered an extensive 82,720 meters of the road, compared to the usual 17,000 meters on a regular Wednesday.

Peak congestion, indicating heavy traffic, occurred between 5 pm and 8 pm, reaching approximately 9,500 meters.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *DH*: "We observed a delay of about 56 minutes as the vehicles moved extremely slowly, especially towards Hebbal and beyond."

Anucheth also said the lake's water level was very high and water was flowing out rather than into it.

Experts attributed the cha-

os to inadequate planning and attention to infrastructural details.

Prof DNagesh Kumar from the Civil Engineering Department at IISc said that the water-holding capacity of the lakes gradually reduced due to lack of clean outlets and encroachments.

"Lakes need to be desilted and dredged at least once a decade," Kumar said. "Else, we may encounter similar situations in future. We are not ready for that."

Prof Ashish Verma from IISc's Transport Systems Engineering Department said that improper management of stormwater drains, coupled with subpar road design, has caused the situation.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3A, Nov. 11, 2023**



# BBMP has no disaster management plan despite calamities claiming lives in city

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020, mandates formulation of such a plan; official says it will be prepared at the zonal level first

Shreyas H.S.  
BENGALURU

**D**espite the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020, mandating the formulation of a disaster management plan (DMP), the civic body has none so far, even as the city has been reeling under multiple fire accidents, floods, and other disasters.

Section 284 (3) of the BBMP Act states that the corporation should prepare a 'Fire hazard response and mitigation plan' every year as prescribed by the State government and publish the plan in the official gazette. An expert said this is broadly termed as a DMP.

The city in the last two



A file photo of the flooded Outer Ring Road in Bengaluru following heavy rain.

months witnessed as many as four major fire incidents, killing at least 18 people in all, while multiple instances of flooding have been causing inconvenience to the public. The BBMP's actions for mitigating such incidents appear to be *ad hoc* and temporary in nature rather than permanent. On the other hand, the

BBMP has no dedicated disaster management cell despite an order being passed in 2020 by the then Chief Commissioner to set up ward-level disaster management cells.

In October 2022, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had said they would be appointing nine disaster management officers,



A disaster management plan is crucial to mitigate floods, fires, and other tragedies... In the absence of it, such events are bound to recur.

**RAGHU B.V.**,  
a disaster management expert

one for the head office and eight at the zonal level, to coordinate with BBMP officials on disaster management. This has not been done to date.

#### Nodal officer

BBMP Special Commissioner (Projects) K.V. Thirlok Chandra, who has been appointed as nodal officer for Disaster

Management, said the civic body invited applications for the appointment of 10 staffers in August 2023 and soon recruitment process would be completed. Two officers would be appointed for the head office.

Raghu B.V., a disaster management expert, said a DMP is crucial to mitigate floods, fires, and other tragedies such as the collapse of old and under-construction buildings. In the absence of a DMP, such events are bound to recur. Under the DMP the BBMP should undertake a high-risk vulnerability assessment of every block coming under the jurisdiction of the civic body. It is this assessment – done every year – which holds the

key to preventing tragedies. Mr. Raghu said the BBMP did not bother to fill the disaster management coordinator position that became vacant in 2020. In the absence of trained disaster management officials, the DMP cannot be prepared, he added.

#### Zonal officers named

The BBMP has now appointed eight zonal officers and they should coordinate with disaster management officials to draft a DMP at the zonal level. Mr. Trilok Chandra said in the course of time, the DMP would be prepared at the zonal level and soon the BBMP DMP would be readied. "The DMP for Mahadevapura has already been prepared," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Nov. 12, 2023**

## 'Flight traffic to smaller cities soars'

Bengaluru International Airport witnesses a rapid proliferation of travel to domestic destinations since COVID-19, spurred by a demand for travel to smaller cities; the share of non-metro travellers grew from 25% before the pandemic to 58% now

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

**T**he country's third-largest airport in terms of passenger traffic, the Bengaluru International Airport, has seen a rapid proliferation of travel to domestic destinations since COVID-19, spurred by a demand for travel to smaller cities.

Before COVID-19, passengers travelling to metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai accounted for 75% of total passengers, which has now shrunk to 42% as the share

### New destinations

Bengaluru airport sees a sea change in the nature of passenger traffic with the rise of travel to non-metro destinations



■ The airport recorded 28.12 million domestic passengers out of a total 31.91 passengers in FY2022-2023

■ The share of passengers travelling to metropolitan cities has dropped from 75% pre-COVID to just 42% now

■ The number of domestic passengers is now at 105% of the pre-COVID level, but international traffic still lags

of non-metro travellers grew from 25% to 58%, explains the airport's Chief Operating Officer, Satyaki Raghunath in an interview to *The Hindu*. The airport

recorded 28.12 million domestic passengers out of a total 31.91 passengers in the financial year 2022-2023.

The demand from these

travellers during COVID-19, when train travel was no longer a preferred choice for many due to health safety protocols, also often led to airlines opening new routes and later providing more frequencies on them.

"So, we have gone from 54 domestic destinations to 74. We are now connected to Jamnagar (Gujarat), Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Agartala (Tripura), Jharsuguda (Odisha). Five years back you couldn't have imagined that there would be a direct flight to these cities from Bengaluru," says Mr. Raghunath.

The number of domestic passengers at the airport is now at 105% of pre-COVID levels. The number of international passengers last fiscal (3.78 million) though lagged behind the pre-COVID level by around 10% as foreign carriers are yet to restore capacity to the levels seen in 2019-2020 due to supply-chain constraints and the Russia-Ukraine conflict which has closed a part of the European skies. However, by the end of this fiscal the airport is expected to exceed the pre-COVID passenger number of 33 million, the top executive said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.15, Nov. 12, 2023**

# Toll set to be collected on 1st stretch of STRR from today

## Work On 38km Of Ring Road Completed

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**Bengaluru:** The first stretch of the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), a highway that connects major towns around Bengaluru city, will be thrown open for traffic between Doddaballapur bypass and Hoskote. Toll collection on the 34-km stretch will formally commence Friday.

Being built by the National Highways Authority of India, the stretch will link the northern part of Bengaluru with the eastern side and prevent heavy vehicles from being forced to pass through Bengaluru city. The stretch is part of the 80-km-long Dabaspet-Devanahalli-Hoskote route that was taken up in the first phase of the STRR project. NHAI project director KB Jayakumara told **TOI** toll collection will begin at 8am Friday near Nalluru village in Bengaluru Rural district.

"Of the 80-km stretch, we have completed work on 38km between Doddaballapur and Hoskote, and toll will be collected for 34km. The remaining 4-km distance near Hoskote is currently kept out of toll limits as this will be

### DECONGESTING CITY

The primary objective of building STRR is to link 12 towns located around the city and thereby decongest Bengaluru roads. Some prominent towns which will be linked with STRR are Dabaspet, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Sarjapur, Attibele, Anekal, Kanakapura, Ramanagara, and Magadi. The project is estimated to cost Rs 17,000 cr.



**2024 FORECAST:** An NHAI officer said toll collection on the entire 80-km stretch is expected to begin in February next year

TOLL CHARGED ALONG STRETCH	Vehicle category	For single journey	For return journey within a day	For monthly pass for 50 single journeys	For commercial vehicles*
	Car/Jeep/LVM	70	105	2,375	35
	LCV/LGV/Minibus	115	175	3,835	60
	Truck/Bus (2 axles)	240	360	8,040	120
	3-axle commercial vehicle	265	395	8,770	130
	Heavy construction machinery/earthmoving equipment or multi-axle vehicle (4-6 axles)	380	565	12,605	190
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axles)	460	690	15,345	230

Source: NHAI notification | Amount in Rs | \* Registered within district of plaza

linked with the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway and work on the expressway is under progress," Jayakumara explained. He added that the roadwork between Doddaballapur and Dabaspet will be completed by December 2023 and toll collection on the 80-km stretch will begin February 2024.

NHAI officials claimed that after the entire 80-km stretch is made operational, Bengaluru will witness a sharp decline in heavy vehi-

cles entering the city, particularly on Tumakuru Road. "Travellers heading towards Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) via Tumakuru Road and heavy vehicles moving towards Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu or the cargo terminals of KIA will not enter the city, as this traffic will directly hit the STRR stretch towards Devanahalli and Hoskote," an official explained.

NHAI had taken up the project in two packages in

2020. Prior to that, it had terminated a contract as the contractor failed to execute the project. "Because of the Covid pandemic and heavy rainfall in 2021 and 2022, the pace of work was affected. But now we're nearing completion. We've expedited construction of a railway overbridge near Doddaballapur and an underpass near Chikkabelavangala, and this will open up the entire stretch to motorists," an NHAI engineer clarified.

**Source: Time of India, p.2, Nov. 17, 2023**

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