



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



VOL:2

MARCH 2024

NO:11

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



CONTENTS



[Agriculture](#)

[Decentralisation](#)

[Economy](#)

[Education](#)

[Environment](#)

[Health](#)

[Gender](#)

[Governance](#)

[Social Issues](#)

[Urban Affairs](#)

AGRICULTURE

KRRS opposes NOC for field trials of Bt cotton, maize varieties in State

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The State government permitting field trials of Bt cotton and Bt maize varieties has attracted opposition from farmers' organisations with the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (Collective Leadership) and Hasiru Sene urging the government to withdraw the permission.

In a press release, the KRRS and Hasiru Sene, which comprises the former Advocate General Ravivarma Kumar and Chukki Nanjundaswamy, daughter of the farmers' leader late M.D. Nanjundaswamy, as members of its presidential board, alleged that a no objection certificate (NOC) had been granted to Rallies India Ltd. to take up field trials by the State Biotechnology Coordination Committee meeting held on February 23. The company has been given the NOC to take up trials in the University of Agricultural Sciences-Dharwad and the Un-

iversity of Agricultural Sciences-Raichur, the KRRS said.

It pointed out that the private firm would be conducting field trials of MLS 4301 and MLS 2531 transgenic cotton and maize varieties from 2024 to 2026. These two varieties have herbicide and pesticide resistance and it has been claimed that they will increase the yields by 30% to 70%, the KRRS and Hasiru Sene said.

"But it has not been possible for the scientific community at the international level to come to a consensus on transgenic biotechnology. In the last 25 years, international scientists have been expressing concern that the use of genetically modified/transgenic technology in agriculture will have an irreversible negative impact on the health of human beings, animals, birds and environment," the organisations said and prevailed upon the State government to prevent such field trials.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, March. 9, 2024

Sun should become a steadfast ally in agriculture: George

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

“The technological innovations in the solar energy sector will be productive only when they reach the doorsteps of farmers and aid them in agriculture. The country’s development will take place only when there is vast research in agriculture which will help farmers,” said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday after inaugurating the Soura Shakti Mela organised on the GKVK campus for farmers.

The Chief Minister also launched the Soura Mitra app which will help streamline the applications of farmers who wish to install solar-powered pump sets. More than 5,000 farmers participated in the mela which aimed to help them adopt solar energy solutions and become self-



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister of Energy K.J. George at Soura Shakti Mela on GKVK campus in Bengaluru on Saturday.

sufficient and reduce the reliability on conventional electricity for irrigation.

Speaking at the mela, Energy Minister K.J. George said, “In Karnataka, we envision transforming the agricultural landscape where the sun becomes a steadfast ally in powering our fields. Our government is committed to championing initiatives such as the ‘Kusum B’ project, aimed at incentivising the use of

solar-powered pump sets. In a concerted effort to embrace sustainable energy and accelerate the widespread adoption of solar pump sets, the State government has significantly enhanced the subsidy, now standing at an alluring 50%. This move aims to facilitate accessibility for farmers throughout the State.” More than 50 solar power product stalls were set up at the mela.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 10, 2024

Minimum price support, maximum gain for farmers

SIRAJ HUSSAIN & KRITI KHURANA

There are two ways to understand repeated agitations by farmers. One is that workers of all unorganised sectors have low incomes. For instance, artisans and weavers of Moradabad, Bhadohi, Aligarh, Bidar and Bhagalpur are similarly placed. However, they are too disorganised to even highlight their plight.

The second is that farmers face the additional challenge of uncertain climatic conditions and are therefore more vulnerable than other workers in the unorganised sector. In the last few days alone, untimely rains have damaged standing crops in several districts of north India.

The ongoing farmers' protest in Punjab and Haryana is the latest chapter in a series of similar agitations. In March 2023, a large number of farmers marched from Nashik to Mumbai. Punjab farmers are more visible as their operational holdings are larger and, compared to farmers elsewhere, they earn higher income from cultivation. They have the wherewithal to protest. Lastly, the political space presently available to them to mount agitations is not available to farmers in most states.

Farmers in Punjab have seen remunerative incomes due to the assured minimum support price (MSP) regime for wheat and paddy. While it may not have provided high returns, at least they were not subject to huge fluctuations in prices, which was a common experience for farmers growing crops like mustard, chana, fruits and vegetables, soybean, tur, maize and sunflower. Now that water tables are going down in the region, farmers are realising that growing



Farmers as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' protest against the Union government, in Patiala. PTI

paddy may not continue to be a viable option. This situation has created the need to diversify. To protect a similar level of income, they want to assure MSP for other crops.

One of the points of agenda for the committee set up in July 2022, after an agitation by farmers, was to suggest how to make MSP available to farmers by making the system more effective and transparent. The committee has not submitted even an interim report, presumably because of the complexity of the issues involved and a lack of consensus among its members.

The guarantee of MSP

Even though the farmers are demanding higher MSP based on the Swaminathan formula — it does not necessarily mean that they can realise assured prices during the sale of the crop.

There is a lot of fluctuation in prices in wholesale markets.

All India prices may not provide an accurate picture as prices are lower in

states producing surplus crops or are higher in non-producing states.

At the time of peak arrivals of most crops, the prices are at their lowest. Most farmers find themselves compelled to sell their produce during this time to repay their loans and purchase inputs for the next season.

Edible oils

Despite all the talk of the National Mission on Edible Oils, mustard farmers are currently receiving little remuneration for their crops.

At Rs 4,738 per quintal in Rajasthan in February 2024, the wholesale price of mustard is significantly below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 5,650 per quintal.

Similarly, the wholesale prices of chana have mostly remained below the MSP in the last five years. Only, since September 2023, wholesale prices of chana have shown an increasing trend and they are now closer to MSP.

► The hope of MSP, Page 2

Reconstitute the committee on MSP and appoint bipartisan members

Poultry growers have also faced a similar crash in prices even though the demand and supply are better managed due to the dominance of the National Egg Coordination Committee. In January and February 2020, egg prices fell to Rs 340 to 350 per 100 eggs in Namakkal, Delhi and Hyderabad due to fake news on social media linking the consumption of chicken and eggs to the spread of coronavirus.

As a result, poultry demand was destroyed and broiler prices in Delhi crashed to Rs 45 per kg. Many were forced out of business.

Cost of cultivation

One reason why the diversification from paddy is yet to be successful in Punjab could be due to low returns from other crops. If we look at gross returns, paddy gave the highest average gross returns over the cost of cultivation plus family labour for Kharif crops in the triennium ending (TE) 2021-22.

The average gross return of paddy over cultivation cost during the TE 2021-22 was 42.1%. The average gross return for maize, tur, moong, urad and cotton were 42.2%, 56.7%, 25.3%, 27.1% and 30.2% respectively.

During this period, sugarcane gave the highest return of 110%. Sugarcane is the only crop for which sugar mills are mandated by law to pay the price fixed by the government.

For the diversification from paddy to succeed, Punjab farmers have been demanding assured and remunerative returns by demanding a legal guarantee of MSP for all 22 crops for which the Union Government declares MSP.

Way forward

Farmers may be hoping that an agitation on the eve of elections has a better chance of success. The example of reservation for Marathas in Maharashtra would not have been lost on them. On February 20, 2024,

the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council unanimously passed a bill which provides 10% reservation for the Maratha community in education and government jobs. This agitation has been going on since the 1980s and it can be argued that impending elections may have persuaded the state government to enact the reservation law.

However, it is unlikely that the demand of farmers for legal MSP would be accepted even though the announcement of Lok Sabha elections is only weeks away. Even if MSP is made a legal right, there would be practical difficulties in implementing the same as less than a third of agricultural produce is sold in APMCs and there is no record of buyers and sellers in the case of transactions that take place outside the APMCs.

Farmers are paid in cash by village traders who also function as aggregators. It will be next to impossible to change this informal arrangement.



A farmer during the protest to demand MSP at the Punjab-Haryana border. AFP

In the case of agricultural commodities that are imported to meet domestic demand like edible oils and pulses like tur and masoor, the government can easily adjust tariffs to protect MSP. The government would however like

to keep food inflation under check and this challenge prevents it from imposing higher tariffs on imports.

In July 2018, the government decided that MSP in future will provide at least a 50% return on the cost of cultivation.

This was a response to farmers' distress in the preceding years. As a result, the MSP of several crops increased substantially. However, in the absence of assured procurement, the farmers of several producing areas did not realise the same.

Therefore, it may be a good idea for the government to reconstitute the committee on MSP and appoint bipartisan members whose recommendations will be widely accepted across the political spectrum.

If an acceptable mechanism is evolved to share the financial burden between the Union government and the state governments, it may be possible for the states to agree to take more aggressive steps to protect MSP.

A committee headed by a bureaucrat is unlikely to be credible on such contentious and critical issues. (Hussain is a former Union Agriculture Secretary. Khurana is a PhD scholar of economics at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad.)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, March, 10, 2024

ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ನಡೆಯದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ • ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಗಡುವಿಗೆ 20 ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಬಾಕಿ

ಖರೀದಿ ವಿಳಂಬ: ರೈತರು ಕಂಗಾಲು

• ವಿ.ಎಸ್. ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ (ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇಳೆ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಗಡುವು ಮುಗಿಯಲು ಕೇವಲ 20 ದಿನಗಳು ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಯೇ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ರೈತರು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಬಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 5.99 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ರಾಗಿ, 2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಭತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು 3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ 2023ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲೇ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 'ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಏಕೀಕೃತ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ' ಯಲ್ಲಿ (ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಸ್) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 1 ರಿಂದ 31ರವರೆಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆದಿತ್ತು.

6ನೇ ಪ್ರಕಟ ನೋಟ

ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಗಾಗಿ



ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ: ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ವಿವರ		
ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ	ರೈತರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಪ್ರಮಾಣ (ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
ಭತ್ತ	118	3,279
ರಾಗಿ	1,65,418	37,77,878
ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆ	8,089	3,31,049

ಭತ್ತ ಮಾರುವವರಿಲ್ಲ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ (ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಭತ್ತ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. 118 ರೈತರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಕೇವಲ 3,279 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಭತ್ತ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ.

ಬರಗಾಲದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಗಣನೀಯವಾಗಿ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ದರ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ದರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ದರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ರೈತರು ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳತ್ತ ಮುಖ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ದರ (ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ)

ಭತ್ತ (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ)	₹2,183
ಭತ್ತ (ಗ್ರೇಡ್-ಎ)	₹2,203
ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆ (ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್)	₹3,180
ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆ (ಮಾಲ್ಟಿ)	₹3,225
ರಾಗಿ	₹3,846



ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿ ವಿಳಂಬದಿಂದ

ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ರೈತರ ಹಿತರನ್ನು ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಮಾರುವವರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಖರೀದಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಗಡುವು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕು

ಬಡಗಲಪುರ ನಾಗೇಂದ್ರ, ರೈತ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

Continued....

ಖರೀದಿ ವಿಳಂಬ: ರೈತರು ಕಂಗಾಲು

ಬಂದನೇ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ...

2024ರ ಜ.1 ರಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವಿತರಣಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 31ಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಗಡುವು ಮುಗಿಯಲು 20 ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಬಾಕಿ ಇದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು 3 ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮಕ್ಕೆ 16 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳಕ್ಕೆ 9 ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ 6 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತ: ಮೂರೂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ತಮಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾದ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿ.1 ರಿಂದಲೇ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿವೆ. 'ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಸ್' ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ರೈತರ ದತ್ತಾಂಶದ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಳಿ ಬೇಳೆ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿಯನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಜ. 1ರಿಂದ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ.

'ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ-ಯಲ್ಲೇ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ರೈತರು ಖರೀದಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗದೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪದೇ ಪದೇ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋದರೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ದರ ಇದ್ದರೂ ನಾವು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 31ಕ್ಕೆ ಗಡುವು ಮುಗಿಯುವುದರೊಳಗೆ ಖರೀದಿಯೇ ಆಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಗತಿ ಏನು' ಎಂದು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹಲವು ರೈತರು

ಆತಂಕದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

'ಹೊಸ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಿಂದ ವಿಳಂಬ': ಈ ಕುರಿತು 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಯುಕ್ತ ವಾಸೀರಡ್ಡಿ ವಿಜಯ ಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸಾ, 'ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಗಿಸುವ ವಾಹನಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಿಪಿಎಸ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸಂಚಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಗಾ ಇರಿಸುವ ಹೊಸ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅದರ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಜಿಪಿಎಸ್' ಆಧಾರಿತ ನಿಗಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮುಗಿದಿದೆ. ಈ ವಾರದಿಂದಲೇ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ರೈತರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗದಂತೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಗಡುವು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.1-6, Mar.11, 2024

Upset over fall in prices, farmers resort to violence in Byadgi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Reportedly upset over sudden fall in the prices of chilli varieties in the wake of huge arrivals, a mob comprising mainly of farmers resorted to violence at the APMC yard in Byadgi of Haveri district on Monday evening, ransacking and burning down the APMC office and torching few vehicles, including a fire engine that was deployed to extinguish the blaze.

According to the local traders, the trouble started after the e-tender process was completed and the prices of various chilli lots were announced. Even as some farmers were busy getting their chilli lots weighed, a section of the farmers marched to the APMC office alleging that prices had been brought down deliberately.

While Byadgi APMC had registered arrival of over 4 lakh bags of chilli last week, Monday too witnessed huge arrivals. On Monday 3,13,156 bags of chilli arrived at Byadgi APMC. While traders maintained that they had made bids as per the quality of the chilli, the protesting farmers alleged that it had been deliberately brought down.

The protesting farmers, all of a sudden resorted to stone pelting on the APMC office, ransacked the furniture and computers and then torched a vehicle parked outside the office. Few other vehicles on the premises too bore the brunt of their anger. Subsequently the angry mob torched the office also destroying documents and other assets.



Damaged: The APMC office at Byadgi was ransacked and set on fire along with some vehicles on the premises on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The police who were present in negligible number were helpless in controlling the mob. Although a fire engine was deployed to extinguish the fire, the irate mob did not allow the personnel to do their duty. The police personnel and fire brigade personnel who

rushed to the spot were also chased away and the fire engine too was torched. Some of the police personnel too have sustained injuries.

For some time, the premises remained unreachable even for the police as the mob had closed the en-

try points. It was only after a while that additional police force managed to bring the situation under control.

According to Superintendent of Police of Haveri Anshukumar Srivastav, during the protest, which turned violent, some of the police personnel sustained injuries. The situation had been brought under control and the police detained some persons. After the police took control, the market activities started again late in the evening.

Meanwhile, the president of the APMC Merchants' Association Suresh-gouda Patil termed it a black day in the history of Byadgi market. He said that the bids were made based on the quality of the yield. If they felt that the prices had been brought down, they should have held discussion. However it was regrettable that they had resorted to violent protests, he said.

BJP charge

The Opposition BJP alleged that the incident of angry farmers attacking the APMC office and setting the vehicles on fire in Haveri was a direct consequence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's anti-farmer policies and lackadaisical attitude in managing the drought situation.

The Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said, "At least now the Chief Minister should wake up from his deep slumber and provide 'guarantee of drought relief' to Anandatas. Else the day is not far when desperate farmers will set ablaze the CM's residence and Vidhan Soudha."

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, March. 12, 2024

Help farmers adapt to new normal

Reeling under water crisis and climate change, the farm sector needs proactive policies

LENIN BABU

The less-than-normal monsoon in 2023 has left several regions of the country grappling with drought conditions. A recent prediction by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warns of heightened summer heat waves, exacerbating water concerns in rural India. Already, several regions and cities are facing water stress, prompting state departments to explore alternative measures for ensuring drinking water supplies. The Government of Karnataka's recent announcement of the allocation of significant funds for tackling drinking water problems is a positive step. While these measures may provide respite to some extent for habitations and livestock, the farm sector remains the most vulnerable segment.

The farm sector is the real economic driving force of the country, and with a large portion of the population dependent directly or indirectly on it, the country has to move away from knee-jerk measures such as input subsidies or waivers of some taxes here and there.

Agriculture remains the single largest consumer of fresh water in the country, with water use efficiency far from optimal levels. The farm sector may come sooner than later, in direct conflict with other demanding sectors like urban cities and industry. It is not that the farm sector has gone to the point of no return. It requires a few policy changes and proactive initiatives from the state government.

For instance, only 26.5% of the sown area (30,900 km²) of Karnataka is under irrigation, and with limited potential for additional irrigation, the farm sector may remain vulnerable to drought. The only sustainable solution is efficient water use that adopts and adheres to the water policies of both the Government of India and Karnataka to ensure 'every unit of water has to be efficiently utilised.'

Micro-irrigation (drip or sprinkler) is the ideal candidate to ensure high water use efficiency and help in the conservation of water resources, along with improving yield rates and reducing input costs. However, the majority of farmers with marginal and small land holdings may not be able to afford to adopt microirrigation, and state support is vital to ensure higher penetration of microirrigation. Budgetary allocation for subsidies to encourage microirrigation is limited.

The current trend of distribution of these limited funds is through equality (same preference to all districts) and also political interference. Thus, we find that in Karnataka, rainfed, drought-prone districts have received lower allocations than some districts in the Malnadu region. This practice should be changed, wherein equity would be the norm for the allocation of subsidies for microirrigation. In other words, the susceptibility of a region to drought should be the guiding factor for allocations. Thus, more allocation should be made to the water-stressed region of the state to ensure protective irrigation rather than productive irrigation until the large regions of the state or country have better drought-proofing capacities.

On the other hand, changing climate patterns are hanging on Indian agriculture like a sword of Damocles. Indian agriculture is attuned to climate to a great extent, and with climate changing at an alarming speed, even microirrigation may not be effective in resolving the water crisis in decades to come. We need to plan now to keep up with the changing climate, and precision farming offers solutions. However, at present, a small percentage of farmers only adopt precision farming at full scale due to the cost involved in adoption. But some practices of precision farming, such as land leveling, can be encouraged.

The most important stakeholder in making Indian agriculture sustainable and viable is the farmer himself. He is receptive, but at the same time, he is obstinate. Until a couple of decades ago, voluntary agencies had contributed to a great extent to making farmers adopt. But in recent years, the contribution of voluntary agencies has been significantly reduced, and government agencies must make farmers using traditional methods adapt to the new normality. For instance, in cases of delayed monsoons or less-than-normal monsoon rains, the current practice is to advise the farmers to delay the sowing of the *tur* (pigeon pea) at the appropriate time window in the northern Karnataka region.

Alternatively, farmers can be advised to sow the seeds in controlled conditions, for instance, at home, as it would greatly reduce the water demand, and after a few weeks, the seedlings can be transplanted. It would increase the cost slightly but certainly help farmers in terms of yield. However, to bring about such small but paradigm-changing shifts and make farmers more receptive, the government should expand its reach by spending more on agricultural extension activities.

(The writer is an independent researcher)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, March, 14, 2024

‘M’ Means ‘Minimum’

Farmers gathered in Delhi yesterday, again demanding legally guaranteed MSP.
A law per se isn't a problem. Problem is farmers' definition of a good price

C Rangarajan & S Mahendra Dev



C Rangarajan



S Mahendra Dev

Farmers mostly from states around Delhi held a *mahapanchayat* in the capital yesterday to put forth their demands on changes they want in agricultural policy. The core demand is about Minimum Support Price (MSP), the manner in which it's fixed and a legal backing for it.

'remunerative price' and MSP.

Cereals are unique | What we have done with respect to wheat and rice cannot be replicated. A huge marketing structure, including storage facilities, will have to be built. There are alternative ways like limited procurement where private market will continue to have a role so that the two together will stabilise market price at MSP. As of now, besides wheat and rice, there are 21 other crops, including some commercial crops, for which MSPs are officially announced. But there

economic cost of growing a crop.

How MSP works | Presently, the government provides MSP that is equal to 50% above A2+FL. Farmers want MSP to be fixed at 50% above C2. C2 cost is 31% higher than A2+FL for paddy in 2023-24.

In the case of wheat, C2 cost over A2+FL is 46%. A very high margin of 50% over C2 cost will result in GOI becoming the only procurer. Such a situation would become unsustainable.

Economics of MSP demand | When output increases well beyond the market demand at a price remunerative to producers, market prices decline. Therefore, in the absence of an effective price support policy, farmers are faced with a loss of income, depending on how much the price decline is. The farm distress has been partly on account of this situation, as the loss of income is beyond the ability of the small farmers to absorb.

Legal guarantee possible | MSP scheme has been in existence for several decades and it is particularly effective for rice and wheat crops. The legal guarantee for MSP can be introduced. But, there are a few issues that need to be clarified before launching.

Twin benefits of PDS | In the case of wheat and rice, the prescription of MSP has been combined with total procurement of all the grains offered at that price and a public distribution system through which the procured grains are distributed.

Thus, it combines protection to producers with protection to consumers. PDS sale price is far less than the price at which the cereals are procured resulting in a huge subsidy to be borne by central govt. According to GOI's budget, food subsidies this fiscal will amount to a little over ₹2L cr.

Defining legal MSP | In this context, two questions arise. First, do we need to extend such a scheme to all crops? Second, in the context of a legalised MSP, which means that nobody can buy at a price lower than MSP, what should be the precise interpretation? We need to mark a distinction between



is procurement only in some years.

Let's talk about costs | In fixing MSP, we need to consider three types of costs.

- A2: It represents the costs actually incurred by farmers.
- A2+FL: To the cost actually incurred by farmers, GOI assumes a value for the work a farmer's family puts in during a crop cycle.
- C2: C2 is truly comprehensive. It takes A2+FL and adds on an assumed value for interest on the fixed capital used in agricultural operations together with rental value of a farmer's own land. C2 represents the

How to work out legal MSP | A legally binding MSP must have only a small margin of say 10%, if C2 is considered. It should take care of the price uncertainty induced by the markets. Otherwise, we are distorting the words 'minimum' and 'support'.

Don't forget interstate differences | MSP is fixed based on the weighted average cost for all India. However, the cost of production varies across states. The projected A2+FL cost of production for paddy was lowest at ₹864 per quintal in Punjab due to higher yield as compared to all-India cost of ₹1,455 per quintal.

Among top five producers of paddy in the country, which accounted for 52.5% production share of projected states during 2021-22, Punjab has the lowest A2+FL cost of production, while West Bengal has the highest cost of production at ₹1,766 per quintal.

Productivity matters | For the high-cost and low-yield states, legal MSP alone may not help. These states should reduce cost of cultivation and increase yields in order to have higher profit margins over costs. The institutional arrangements to ensure fair and competitive markets are also essential for MSP to play its role in providing a protective price environment for the farmers.

In conclusion, the real issue is not giving legal status to MSP. It can be done. But the most important decision is how we conceive the concepts 'minimum' and 'support' in MSP. The MS Swaminathan Commission recommendation of C2+50% needs some modification.

Rangarajan is former governor, RBI. Dev is former chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

Source: The Times of India, p.10, March. 15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Poll factor, B'luru water crisis may push property tax change to next year

Nithya.Mandyam
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The new property tax regime where the levy is proposed to be calculated based



on guidance value may be implemented only during 2025-26, and not from April 1 this year as announced by deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Monday.

A senior bureaucrat told TOI Lok Sabha polls and drinking water crisis in Bengaluru have left political leaders chary of the potential fallout of the new tax system. "It might hit their votebank," he said.

Another senior BBMP official said the software required for the new system is not

ON GUIDANCE VALUE

- The new property tax has **six categories** and it will be calculated by assigning a certain **percentage of guidance value**
- A senior bureaucrat says implementing the new tax system **"may hit votebank"**
- Another official says that **software is not ready** & BBMP must explain new tax to people

ready yet, another reason for a delayed rollout. "BBMP needs to give more time for people to understand the new property tax system and then educate them on its benefits," the official said. Both officers didn't want to be identified.

► **'Will be a sham', P 2**

Continued..

‘Will be sham to announce new system and defer it in evening’

► Continued from page 1

Asked why the govt was repeatedly saying the new system will be implemented this year, the senior bureaucrat said, “It will be a sham if they announced in the morning that they will implement the system and defer it in the evening.”

According to a BBMP release, the present unit area value property tax system, implemented in 2008, has 18 categories grouped under six zones. Each zone has a different tax rate computed on the basis of then prevailing rental value. The overlapping categories gave discretion to officials and was confusing for citizens, resulting in citizens wrongly declaring their taxes and BBMP losing revenue.

“Guidance values have changed between 2008 and the previous revision in 2016. Today, citizens with lower guidance value are categorized in high tax rate zones and vice-versa. A low guidance value property in high

PROPERTY TAX: NEW MODEL VERSUS OLD

Category	Tax as % of guidance value (in new system)	Avg tax as per old system (in Rs)	Expected avg tax in new system (in Rs)	% rise
Residential	0.075% & 0.15%	4,942	5,274	6.7%
Commercial	0.37%	69,525	74,040	6.5%
Industrial	0.15%	80,550	84,817	5.3%
Star hotel	0.75%	1,21,60,791	1,29,63,392	6.6%
Vacant land	0.03%	1,460	1,580	8.2%
Overall impact of new system				6.5%



tax rate zone (say in A or B zone) ends up paying more tax than high guidance value property in low tax rate zone (say in D, E or F zone),” BBMP said.

The proposed property tax system has six categories — residential, commercial, industrial, star hotels, exempted, and vacant lands.

The property tax will be computed by assigning a cer-

tain percentage of guidance value of the property depending upon their size, built-up area and usage. For example, 0.075-0.15% of guidance value is assigned to residential properties and it works out to be an average property tax of Rs 5,274 per year, which is 6.7% higher than the existing average property tax of Rs 4,942. While the average increase is in the same range for commercial, industrial and star hotels, the increase is as high as 8.2% for vacant lands. The annual increase is capped at 10%.

Source: The Times of India, p.1&2, March. 12, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

ECONOMY

Centre tweaks PM solar 'free electricity' scheme

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Union government has tweaked the new ₹75,000-crore PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (rooftop solar: free electricity scheme). From an initial plan to fully subsidise the installation of 1 kW-3 kW solar systems in one crore households via tie-ups with renewable energy service companies, the scheme will now only contribute up to 60% of the costs, *The Hindu* has learnt.

Households interested in availing the scheme's benefits will have to fork out the balance amount and pay a minimum of ₹20,000 depending on the power capacity of the installed system though this could be defrayed by a low-interest, collateral-free loan.

Only houses with a suitable roof and an existing connection to the grid will be eligible for the scheme and consumers still have to pay for all the net power supplied and consumed

via the grid. "The free component in this, is in the sense, that it will reduce your electricity bill. You will get a payback and that can range from three to seven years. Whatever capital cost [is invested by consumer] will be recovered in three to five years and after that it could mean even income," Bhupinder Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the nodal body coordinating the scheme, told *The Hindu* on Friday.

Through a system of net-metering, any solar power produced in a household and unused will flow back into the grid and will be offset in the household's electricity bill. Depending on consumption patterns, this could even mean consumers earning money, though the general experience, the world over, shows a reduction in bills.

Power Minister R.K. Singh had explained the financing of the scheme differently in an interaction



Currently, a rooftop solar system in India costs nearly ₹50,000 per kW.

with reporters on February 3.

He had said that public sector units, affiliated to the Power Ministry, would be reaching out to "eligible" households and installing the rooftop solar systems for free.

"Sixty per cent of the cost of installation will be subsidised by the Centre. For the rest, [a Central] Public Sector Enterprise will take a loan [from a bank] and will repay from the cost of electricity [used by the household] over and above the 300 units. You as a householder pay nothing," he had said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech had first mentioned the scheme envisaged to generate up to 300 units of free electricity every month.

Mr. Bhalla clarified that the while there would be an "option" for having service companies provide solar installations, the "focus" of the scheme had shifted towards consumers taking loans and getting installations.

The major difference from previous versions of the scheme is a doubling of the subsidy on rooftop solar (from an earlier ₹14,500 per kW) and an anticipated improvement in service delivery. "We have learnt from past mistakes. There are 4,300 vendors and a convenient system for a household to apply online and get it installed," reckoned Mr. Bhalla. "Unlike in the past you don't have to run around to get an installation."

As the scheme is now envisaged, 12 public sector

banks will offer a collateral free loan (1% above the current prevailing RBI repo rate, now 6.5%) to anyone with a viable roof and grid connectivity and wanting to install a rooftop system. A 3 kW-hour system can generate up to 300 units a month, depending on available sunshine and for this a maximum subsidy of up to ₹78,000 will be available.

Currently a rooftop solar system costs about ₹50,000 per kW. A householder can either pay the balance or take a loan. A vendor will appraise the site and then install the system along with an inverter and a smart meter that can switch between grid and solar supply. Operation and maintenance costs up to five years will be factored into the cost.

"We already have 40 lakh registrations and some installations are already under way in Gujarat. We expect to reach the target of one crore houses in three years," he added.

Source: The Hindu, p. 14, March. 9, 2024

Govt clears Wistron, Air India projects; okays 17k-cr investment

Solar panel making unit to come up in Bengaluru Rural

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration on Friday cleared 14 investment proposals worth Rs 17,835.9 crore, which includes projects of Apple iPhone maker Wistron and Air India.

All proposals that were cleared in the 63rd State High Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC), chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, will

create 27,067 jobs, the government said in a statement.

Much of the proposed investments - Rs 10,433.72 crore - will come to Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Ballari and Belagavi districts of north Karnataka.

The biggest project belongs to Wistron Infocomm Manufacturing India Pvt Ltd, which will invest Rs 2,095 crore to generate 21,723 jobs.

The company will set up a smartphone manufacturing

unit at Narsapur Industrial Area in Kolar.

Air India will pump in Rs 1,750 crore for a Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul (MRO) unit at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru for single aisle and wide-body aircraft. This will create 1,200 jobs.

At the Defence & Aerospace Park in Bengaluru Rural, ICT Service Management Solutions (India) Pvt Ltd will set up a manufacturing unit for laptops and electronic equipment with an investment of Rs 1,450 crore creating 2,500 jobs.

STT Global Data Centres India Pvt Ltd is setting up a data centre in Devanahalli costing Rs 1,352.3 crore that will provide 250 jobs.

At Vijayapura, Indian Cane Power Ltd will set up a sugar factory worth Rs 1,078 crore. This will create 309 jobs, the governmentsaid.

The same company will spend an additional Rs 492.29 crore to expand the Alagawadi Bireshwar Sugar factory in Belagavi.

Shri Balaji Sugars and Chemicals Pvt Ltd will enhance the capacity of the Yaragal sugar factory with an investment of Rs 494.75 crore for 1,085 jobs.

Greenko KA01 IREP Pvt Ptd (formerly Greenko Solar Energy Pvt Ltd) will spend Rs 5,948.06 crore to enhance pump storage facility at Belagavi.

RBSSN Ferrous Industries

Ltd will invest Rs 1,620.80 crore on a 130 MW power plant in Ballari.

Bengaluru Rural will get a solar panel manufacturing unit by Emmvee Energy Pvt Ltd (formerly Emmvee Photovoltaic Power Pvt Ltd) at a cost of Rs 676.28 crore.

Ultratech Cement Ltd will take up mining Kalaburagi with an investment of Rs 490.38 crore. In Belagavi, Athani Sugars Ltd will expand its distillery unit (Rs 205.89 crore). At Koppal, Ukem Agre Infra Ltd will expand its sugar factory (Rs 205.89 crore).

Schneider Electric IT Business India Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 78.60 crore on an electronics equipment unit in Bengaluru.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 9, 2024

17,836 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ 27,067 ಹೊಸ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ | ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೇಖಕರು
ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ 27,067 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯು 17,835.9 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದೊರೆತಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ 8220.05 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ 6 ಹೊಸ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 9,615.85 ಕೋಟಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯು 8 ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಇವೆ. ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿತ್ತವಾರ ಸಚಿವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಸೆಂಬ್ಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿ (ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ) 63ನೇ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯು 8 ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆತದ್ದು. ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10,433.72 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಮೊತ್ತದ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಆಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಿಎಂ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೃಹತ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಸಚಿವ ಎಂ.ಬಿ.ಪಾಟೀಲ, ಬಿಜೆ/ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀಯುಕ್ತಾಂತ್ ಜಗೀ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ.ರಮೇಶ್ ಗೋಯಲ್, ಸಿಎಂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯೂ ಆಗಿರುವ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಎಲ್. ಕೆ.ಅಶೋಕ್, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಡಾ.ಎಸ್.ಗೋವಿಂದ್, ಅಯುಕ್ತರಾದ ಗುಂಜಲ್ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಮಿಡ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರು.



ಎಂಟು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಸು

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ ಅಧೀನದ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯು 8 ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾಂಶ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಲಿ., ಆರ್‌ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್ ಫೇರ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿ., ಎಂವಿ ಎನರ್ಜಿ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ. (ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಎಂವಿ ಪೋಟೋ ಪೋಲಿಯಾಕ್ ಪವರ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್), ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಕೀನ್ ಪವರ್ ಲಿ., (ಅಳಗವಾಡಿ ಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಪುರ್ಣಿಮಾ ಫಲಕ), ಗ್ರೀನ್‌ಸ್ಟ್ರೀಮ್ ಐಆರ್‌ಎಡಿ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ (ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಗ್ರೀನ್‌ಸ್ಟ್ರೀಮ್ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಎನರ್ಜಿ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್), ಅಥಲಿ ಪುರ್ಣಿಮಾ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಲಾಕೆಮ್ ಆಗ್ರಿ ಫಾರ್ಮ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್ ಐಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ.ನೊಂದಿಗೆ. ಇವುಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆಯ ಮೊತ್ತವು 9,615.85 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಷ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ

ಕಂಪನಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಸ್ಥಳ	ಹೂಡಿಕೆ (ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.)
ಅಲ್ಪಾಂಶ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಲಿ.	ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ (490.38)
ಆರ್‌ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್ ಫೇರ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್	ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	130 ಮೆ.ವಾಟ್ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಘಟಕ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ (1620.80)
ಎಂವಿ ಎನರ್ಜಿ ಪ್ರೈ. ಲಿ.	ಬೆಂ. ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ	ಸೌರಘಟಕಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ (576.28)
ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಕೀನ್ ಪವರ್ ಲಿ.	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	ಅಳಗವಾಡಿ ಬೀದೇಶ್ವರ ಪುರ್ಣಿಮಾ ಸೌರ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ (492.29.)
ಗ್ರೀನ್‌ಸ್ಟ್ರೀಮ್ ಐಆರ್‌ಎಡಿ ಪ್ರೈ. ಲಿ.	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	ಬಲ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಂಗಾರದ (ಪಂಪ್‌ಡ್ರೈವ್‌ಲೇಟ್) ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ (5948.06)
ಅಥಲಿ ಪುರ್ಣಿಮಾ ಲಿ.	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	ಡಿಸ್ಕಿಲರ ಘಟಕದ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ (205.89)
ಲಾಕೆಮ್ ಆಗ್ರಿ ಇನ್ಫ್ರಾ ಲಿ.	ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	ಸೌರ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ (103.55)
ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್ ಐಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ	ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ ಪರಿಕರಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ (78.60)

ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳ ವಿವರ

● ಎಸ್‌ಟಿಡಿ ಗ್ಲೋಬಲ್ ಡೇಟಾ ಸೆಂಟರ್ಸ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದೇವರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೇಟಾ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಿದೆ. 1352.3 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಹೂಡಿಕೆ, 250 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ
● ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ್ ಇನ್ಫ್ರಾಸ್ಟ್ರಕ್ಚರ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ. ಕೋಲಾರದ ನರಸೀಪುರ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಟಾಲ್‌ಫೋರ್ಡ್ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಘಟಕ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು 2095 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ. 21, 723 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ
● ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಕೀನ್ ಪವರ್ ಲಿ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕಂಪಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಗುಂಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೌರ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗೆ 1078 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ 309 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ● ಎ.ಸಿ.ಟಿ ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್

ಸೋಲಾರ್‌ಪವರ್ (ಇಂಡಿಯಾ) ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ರಣಹಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೈಮಾಂಪುರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲ್ಯಾನ್‌ಲೇನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಘಟಕ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ 1,450 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದು, 2500 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯು ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ● ಶ್ರೀ ಬಾಲಾಜಿ ಪುರ್ಣಿಮಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಮಿಕಲ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮುರ್ದೇವಿಹಾಳ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಯರಗಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೌರ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ 494.75 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದು, 1085 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ● ಎರ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಬೆಂ. ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಮಾನಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಘಟಕ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಿದ್ದು, 1750 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೂಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ 1200 ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳು

ಹೆಸರು	ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಹೂಡಿಕೆ (ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.)	ಉದ್ಯೋಗ
ಹೊಸ / ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾ ಯೋಜನೆ	6	8220.05	27,067
ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆ	8	9615.85	
ಒಟ್ಟು	14	17835.92	27,067

Source: Prajavani, p.09, Mar.09, 2024

Govt ends tax break for high-end EVs, to levy 10% of cost

Suchith.Kidiyoor
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The prices of high-end electric vehicles — Rs 25 lakh upwards — will go up in Karnataka as 10% of their costs will be collected as lifetime tax at the time of their registration.

This will apply to electric cars, jeeps and buses and a notification to this effect was issued Thursday.

This is the govt's first move to do away with tax exemptions applicable to registration of new electric vehicles.

"For the last seven years, owners of electric vehicles, irrespective of the price range, enjoyed tax exemptions as part of the govt's strategy to promote eco-friendly mobility systems. As the market is expanding and growing for electric vehicles over the years, what has been observed is more high-end battery-operated vehicles are also hitting the road. Many brands sell cars, ranging from Rs 25 lakh to close to Rs 2 crore, and are mostly bought by affluent people," said a transport department official.

According to govt estimates, there will be 23 lakh electric vehicles in Bengaluru by 2030, compared to 80,000 in 2021. Across the state, the number of electric vehicles has crossed the 3 lakh mark.

Earlier, there was a propo-

sal to bring vehicles costing above Rs 20 lakh under the lifetime tax bracket. With the approval of the state government, it has been revised to above Rs 25 lakh.

After getting consent from the governor, the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act was published in the special state gazette paving way for the collection of the tax.

3% cess on transport vehicles

This apart, buyers of fossil fuel-driven transport and commercial vehicles will also have to shell out more for registration. As per the amendment to the Act, collection of cess is aimed at generating a fund for the welfare of drivers and allied workers working in the transport sector.

"In addition to the existing cess of the tax levied under Section 3 on motor vehicles registered under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Central Act 59 of 1988), three percent additional cess shall be levied and collected on transport vehicles for the purpose of Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund," states the Act.

Sources said the move is likely to generate Rs 100 crore annually which will be used to support social security and welfare schemes in the unorganised sector.



Source: The Times of India, p.4, March. 9, 2024

358 projects approved by SC panel: KMERC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) has said that the total number of projects approved by the Oversight Authority (appointed by the Supreme Court) as on date is 358, with an outlay of Rs 7,928.78 crore, for the benefit of the communities affected by mining in Ballari, Vijayanagar, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts.

The KMERC, in its response to *DH*'s story titled "KMERC funds elude mining-ravaged areas" published on March 4, stated that all the projects being implemented by the KMERC under the Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) are within the mining-impacted zone and with the approval from the Supreme Court. The letter states that KMERC has taken up 83 eco-restoration projects worth Rs 1,353.31 cr in four districts, 10 projects related to women and child development worth Rs 307.10 cr, 10 health projects at Rs 263.51 cr, skill development projects at Rs 149.32 cr.

Other projects are in the category of animal husbandry (Rs 262.24 cr), irrigation (Rs 508.61 cr), rural road projects (Rs 1858.90 cr). The KMERC is implementing 59 projects worth Rs 2076.10 cr in Sandur taluk.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 9, 2024

'Upskilling a key to K'taka's \$1 trillion economy aspirations'

But the exercise also calls for a multi-pronged approach for balanced growth

BENGALURU, DHNS

For Karnataka to achieve its goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2035, the state will have to take multiple steps towards accelerating sustainable growth and upskilling, according to Kamal Bali, the managing director and president of Volvo India Group.

"Karnataka can overachieve this target provided we upskill close to half a million youth every year, increase the R&D spends, make the 900,000 registered MSMEs ESG compliant with access to market linkages, focus on building sustainable cities beyond Bangalore, and be the leader in clean energy as nearly 50% of Karnataka's energy is (already) renewable," he pointed out during his keynote address at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Karnataka State Annual Meeting 2024 in Bengaluru.

He noted that India's current economic growth is hinged on factors like structural reforms, digitisation of financial markets, financial inclusion and a commitment to tackle climate

change.

During the same event, Hitachi Energy's managing director and chief executive officer for India and South Asia, N Venu, noted that if India wants to achieve its targets to become net zero by 2070 and 50% renewable energy dependent by 2030, citizens and state will have to put in 3-4 times the current effort.

"The energy transition businesses wherever, whether in generation, transmission, distribution, or consumption, is a huge opportunity for us. From the energy standpoint, Karnataka has been leading by being the first in the country to adopt a renewable policy," he said.

Venu was elected the chairman of the CII Karnataka State Council for the year 2024 -25 on Friday, after serving as the vice chairman the previous year. He replaced Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, managing di-

rector of industrial technology provider Kennametal India.

During his address, Venkatesan stressed that sustainable growth in the state would mean not relying completely on software exports to drive export revenue and GDP contribution.

"For the overall development of the state, especially at a grassroots level, other sectors such as skilling, education, manufacturing, tourism, healthcare, and others are needed to boost our economic development, thus mitigating any risk, which usually happens when there is an over-indexing of one particular sector," he explained.

Rabindra Srikantan, founder and managing director of engineering consultancy and solutions provider ASM Technologies Ltd, was elected vice president of CII's Karnataka chapter.



L-R N Venu, Vice Chairman, CII Karnataka, Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region, Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Chairman, CII Karnataka.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.13, March, 9, 2024

NK to get big chunk of investments in 'Beyond Bengaluru' push

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has approved six new projects and eight additional investment proposals worth ₹17,835.9 crore. An investment of ₹10,433.72 crore, a major chunk of the total projects announced, would be captured by Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Ballari, and Belagavi districts of North Karnataka. The State government has been constantly pushing 'Beyond Bengaluru' to decongest the State capital and also to trigger economic growth across the State.

These business proposals, expected to create 27,000 jobs across Karnataka, were cleared by the 63rd State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC),

headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Friday.

Wistron proposal

The SHLCC received a nod for six new projects worth ₹8,220.05 crore, and eight additional investment projects worth ₹9,615.85 crore. The committee also approved Wistron's proposal involving an investment of ₹2,095 crore that is expected to generate 21,723 jobs in the State. Other large proposals cleared by the government included a ₹1,750-crore MRO project by Air India Ltd., STT Global Data Centres India Pvt. Ltd. (₹1,352.3 crore), Indian Cane Power Ltd. (₹1,078 crore), and ICT Service Management Solutions which announced an investment of ₹1,450 crore.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, March. 10, 2024

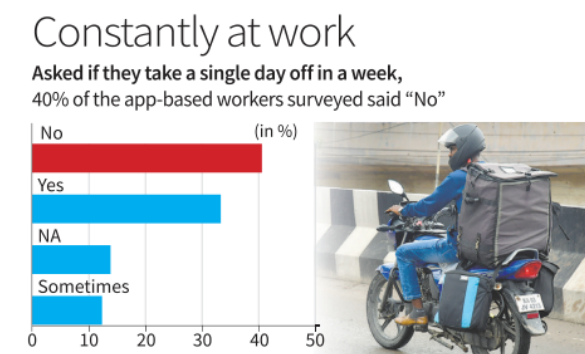
Gig workers suffer from lack of social security, regulations: study

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Almost a third of app-based cab drivers work for over 14 hours a day, while more than 83% work more than 10 hours and 60% work over 12 hours, according to a study of more than 10,000 Indian cab drivers, gig and platform workers.

It noted that social disparities make the situation worse, with over 60% of the drivers from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes working for over 14 hours a day, while only 16% from the unreserved category work such long hours.

The study was conducted by the People's Associa-



tion in Grassroots Action and Movements, and the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers, with technical support from the University of Pennsylvania and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung India, a German foundation.

Authors of the study,

which will be released on Monday, recommended stronger social security for app-based workers, and called on the government to exercise oversight on the fairness of algorithms and mechanisms used by platforms to monitor such workers. The report said

that over 43% of participants in the study earn less than ₹500 a day, or ₹15,000 a month, after deducting all costs. It found that 34% of the app-based delivery persons earn less than ₹10,000 a month, while 78% spend over 10 hours daily at work.

Adding to the problem

Noting the differences among workers from different castes, the report said that "these income disparities further exacerbate the already existing social inequalities and perpetuate cycles of poverty and distress within these communities".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Overall, 5,302 cab drivers and 5,028 delivery persons across eight cities – Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Indore – participated in a 50-question survey; 78% of the respondents were in the age group of 21 to 40 years.

Due to the demanding work hours, the study found that drivers are physically exhausted, and exposed to an increased risk of road traffic accidents, especially due to the '10-minute delivery at the doorstep' policy of certain e-commerce platforms. The lack of social and job security creates additional stress and leads to potential health issues. "It was found that 76% of the delivery persons are struggling to make their ends meet and over 80% of app-based cab drivers were not satisfied with the fares offered by the companies," the report said. Another major complaint of the workers is the issue of customer misbehaviour.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1&10, March. 11, 2024

Central transfers and the issue of shares of some States

There are many issues that the Sixteenth Finance Commission will have to deal with. In this article, we focus on one issue which has been raised by many States, particularly those in the south of India. The issue (or the complaint) is that these States have been facing a decline in their share out of the resources transferred from the Centre to the States, from Finance Commission to Finance Commission.

In finding a solution to this issue, we need to look at: which States have been gaining and which are losing their share over time; the criteria of horizontal distribution which has led to some States steadily losing their share; and what can be done to reverse this trend.

In Table 1, the shares of groups of States and those for selected States are shown, for the Twelfth Finance Commission to the Fifteenth Finance Commission (final report). In the case of the southern States, there has been a steady fall in their share, from 19.785% to 15.800%. In a comparison of these two Commissions, the northern and eastern States have also lost. The 'gainer States' were the hilly, central, and western States including Maharashtra.

The distance criterion

The shares of individual States in tax devolution depend on the criteria and the weights used by different Commissions. Table 2 provides a list of the different criteria used by Finance Commissions, from the Twelfth to the Fifteenth.



C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India



D.K. Srivastava

is former Director, Madras School of Economics

The income distance criterion and cesses and surcharges are areas that need review

Table 2: Relative weights for different tax devolution criteria: FC12 to FC15 (2)

#	Criteria	FC12	FC13	FC14	FC15 (final)
1	Population	25	25	17.5	15.0
2	Demographic change	-	-	10	12.5
3	Income/ fiscal capacity distance	50	47.5	50	45.0
4	Area	10	10	15	15.0
5	Forest cover	-	-	7.5	10.0
6	Tax effort	7.5	-	-	2.5
7	Fiscal discipline	7.5	17.5	-	-

Source (basic data): Reports of Finance Commissions (Twelfth to Fifteenth)

Table 3: Share of Centre and States in combined revenue (%)

FC period	Pre-transfer		Post-transfer	
	Centre	States	Centre	States
12th FC	64.3	35.7	38.7	61.3
13th FC	61.8	38.2	36.1	63.9
14th FC	62.3	37.7	31.9	68.1
15th FC (first 3 years)	62.6	37.4	31.3	68.7
2020-21	62.3	37.7	29.3	70.7
2021-22	64.1	35.9	32.3	67.7
2022-23	61.5	38.5	32.5	67.5

Source (basic data): IPFS, Union Budget documents, RBI Notes: (1) Transfers include tax devolution and Finance Commission as well as other grants. (2) Grants from the Centre to States after 2015-16 are taken from the Union Budget. It includes grants-in-aid to the Union Territories.

The distance criterion has been accorded the highest weight amongst these criteria. Its weight was reduced from 50% to 47.5% by the Thirteenth Finance Commission and further reduced to 45% by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Earlier, the Eleventh Finance Commission had given this criterion a weight of 62.5%. The equalisation principle has always been regarded in India and elsewhere as a key principle governing distribution. Economic and social justice demand this.

The main reason for the loss of the southern States is the income distance criterion (Table 1). Distance criterion means that the farther a State is from the highest income State, the higher its share. The main reason for the gain of the hilly States is area/forest criterion, although its impact is not separately shown. Between these two Finance Commissions, the loss to the southern States due to the distance criterion amounted to 8.055% points, although the overall loss was much less than 3.985% points, implying that there was a gain under other criteria.

Although on account of the distance criterion,

low-income States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have gained over time, they have lost on account of other criteria. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh show, in terms of their overall share, a loss of 0.970% points and 1.325% points.

On population

One other criterion that has caused some controversy is population. Until the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the data for the population in 1971 was used. For the Fifteenth Finance Commission, data for the population in 2011 was used. However, in order not to penalise States that showed better performance in reducing fertility rates, the demographic change criterion was introduced. The joint impact of these two changes has been marginal for all groups of States. For Tamil Nadu, the joint impact was marginally positive.

Steps to take

As mentioned, we cannot give up the income distance criterion. Some raise the question whether such a criterion can continue indefinitely. This is a legitimate question. But this question can be raised in relation to many other issues. Perhaps one step that the Sixteenth Finance Commission can consider is to reduce its weight while correspondingly raising the weights attached to other criteria.

Related to the question of share is also the quantum of the divisible pool. While accepting the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission to raise the share of all States to 42% from 32%, the Centre increased the cesses and surcharges, thereby reducing the size of the divisible pool. This is not desirable. One option is to limit the share of cesses and surcharges to 10% of the Centre's gross tax revenues. After the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the share of the States in the combined revenue receipts increased from 63.9% to 68.1% (Table 3). It increased further to 70.7% in 2020-21. Since then, it has fallen to 67.5% in 2022-23, although this level is still higher than 61.3% in the Twelfth Finance Commission period.

To sum up, there is a case to address the issue raised by some of the States regarding their declining shares. The major factor contributing to this situation is the adoption of income distance criterion and giving it a weight as high as 45%. But in any scheme of fair distribution, this criterion cannot be given up.

The Finance Commission can reduce the weight of this criterion by 5% to 10% points. Also, cesses and surcharges may be subjected to some upper limit by the Sixteenth Finance Commission.

The views expressed are personal

Share of States/groups of States in tax devolution

Table 1: Share of States (%) in Commission-wise tax devolution for groups and selected States

Region	Overall				Overall	Distance criterion
	FC12	FC13	FC14	FC15 (final)		
Northern of which:	32.666	33.031	30.285	30.897	-1.769	4.907
Bihar	11.028	10.917	9.665	10.058	-0.970	0.862
Uttar Pradesh	19.264	19.677	17.959	17.939	-1.325	2.509
Central	12.726	12.392	13.767	14.564	1.838	1.298
West of which:	14.434	14.359	14.478	16.207	1.773	2.822
Maharashtra	5.082	5.284	5.649	6.317	1.235	1.758
Gujarat	3.625	3.101	3.156	3.478	-0.147	-0.089
Southern of which:	19.785	18.575	17.978	15.800	-3.985	-8.055
Tamil Nadu	5.305	4.969	4.023	4.079	-1.226	-1.736
Eastern	15.453	15.671	15.277	15.179	-0.274	-0.192
Hilly	3.639	4.421	6.361	7.353	3.714	-0.020

Source (basic data): Reports of Finance Commissions (Twelfth to Fifteenth) and writers' estimates Notes: (1) The Fifteenth Finance Commission had submitted two reports. Here, the reference is to the final report. (2) Shares are not strictly comparable across Commissions because of change in the status of Jammu and Kashmir for FC15.

Source: The Hindu, p. 14, March. 12, 2024

'No severe shortfall due to guarantees, but only tightening of the belt'

Karnataka's five guarantee schemes have received bouquets and brickbats. While they are a pioneering effort towards universal basic income, there are concerns over fiscal prudence. Senior IAS officer L. K. Athreya, the additional chief secretary to the finance department and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, tells *Dit's* Bharath Joshi what he thinks is the way forward. Excerpt:

The government is studying the impact of the guarantees. What have the studies shown so far? From preliminary results, we've learned that the schemes have 98% coverage. Some people have complained that Gruha Lakshmi (Rs 2,000 monthly for women heads of households) hasn't reached them. In this case, out of 1.21 crore applications, 1.16 crore were approved. For those who were left out, panchayat-level outreach was conducted to resolve issues, which included men who had applied. We're also learning that people are happy. One interesting observation from Prof Prabhu Kotiswaran, especially on Gruha Lakshmi, is that people don't understand why they're being given the benefit. In Shakti (free bus travel for women), the feedback is that it's nice, while there are complaints of buses being overcrowded

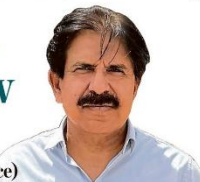
and parents saying children can't find space. We're responding by increasing the bus fleet. Under Anna Bhagya, people want other groceries, such as cooking oil, instead of rice.

On what basis is the government saying five crore citizens are being lifted out of poverty and promoted to the middle class?

There are 1.20 crore households, or nearly five crore citizens, receiving these guarantees. With the certainty of additional income of Rs 4,000-5,000 per month, it has taken the form of universal basic income. There's the potential to lift them out of poverty. The poverty rate in Karnataka is 13-20%. The National Food Security Act envisages covering a wide range of citizens who belong to low-income groups. They may not be absolutely poor; they could be transiently poor or lower middle-class. The Gruha Jyoti (free power up to 200 units) covers 90% of domestic consumers. It's additional income support for all categories. The median income of citizens is pretty low, despite per-capita income being high. The additional income support is to shield citizens from the effects of inflation and unemployment.

The Tuesday Interview With LK Athreya Karnataka ACS (Finance)

The five guarantees are predominantly welfare-based. Is there enough fiscal room for development works? Some amount of re-prioritisation of expenditure is inevitable. It doesn't mean that there'll be a severe shortage of resources for development. What is generally being said is that given the large number of committed works/projects and the associated pending bills, there'd be some constraints in expeditiously settling them. That has given rise to the impression that there's no money for development. But what is development? Development is a comprehensive phenomenon consisting of education, health, welfare,



irrigation, and roads. The Cabinet has approved a substantial number of projects over the last 9 months. So, I don't believe that there's a severe shortage. But there's definitely a tightening of the belts once you decide to give Rs 50,000 crore (towards guarantees).

Isn't it a fact that the government is failing to meet 2023-24 revenue targets? It's true that revenue collection has slightly fallen short. This is because targets themselves were ambitious based on assumptions that it'd be a normal year. The government didn't get the full financial year to implement measures

to achieve targets. Actual work began on August 1. The revision of guidance values was done on October 1, and the long-overdue revision of stamp duties was done in December. This has shown results in the revenues for February and March. Because it was a drought year, we suffered some shortages. Also, because the government started functioning after July, work contracts started only in August. They have an impact on GST. But what we've collected is 13% higher than the previous fiscal.

In the next fiscal, the government wants to borrow over Rs 1 lakh crore. This gives credence to the notion that the guarantees are pushing the state into financial distress.

There are certain parameters: debts shouldn't exceed 3% of GDP, total liabilities should be under 25% of GDP, and there must be a revenue surplus budget. Karnataka's GDP is growing robustly. Because we have space, we're borrowing. It's true that the borrowings will be used for the guarantees. But with the government's capability to generate more revenues and increase our receipts, we have the capacity to repay what we borrow. There's a slightly old-fashioned way of looking at borrowing: one

shouldn't borrow much. If you see Japan, the debt to GDP is 250%. It is over 100% in the US. These economies have the potential to generate resources to repay loans. They're creditworthy, so they're borrowing. Karnataka is also credit-worthy. Ideally, we should limit borrowings to curb interest costs. But if you can afford it, then you can borrow and pay later when capacities come up.

The medium-term fiscal plan says it'll take two years for the state to become revenue surplus. What's the basis of this projection?

We believe that expenditure on the guarantees will stabilise, whereas GDP and tax revenues will both grow. Karnataka will also make efforts to increase non-tax revenues. We're hiring consultants to advise on mining, forests, and user fees that haven't been revised for decades. Plus, we're a favourite investment destination. So, our GST base should further increase. The budget size will also increase. Guarantees form around 14% of our total budget. Next year, assuming that the budget size will reach Rs 4 lakh crore and we still invest only Rs 52,000 crore on guarantees, it'll be down to 13%. Then 12% and 10% over the years. Then we'll become revenue surplus.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, March, 12, 2024

KPCL to blend coal to boost power output

Niranjan.Kaggere@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Struggling with sub-standard coal sourced from fields in India and under pressure to augment thermal power generation to compensate for a loss in hydroelectric power, the govt has decided to blend locally sourced coal with a variety from overseas. The decision is expected to help existing thermal plants generate additional energy to cater to burgeoning demand.

The govt had previously ordered the import of 2.5 lakh tonnes of coal at \$86 per tonne and Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd's (KPCL) board, headed by chief minister Siddaramaiah, met on Saturday and cleared the proposal to blend this with local stock.

KPCL engineers say this will help thermal plants generate over 600 to 800Mw in addition to existing capacity of 3,400Mw.

Defending the import of coal, energy minister KJ George had said: "Coal from various Indian

coal fields is of substandard quality and produces more ash (35%). Due to low calorific value, it less energy is produced."

A senior KPCL engineer, who was privy to Saturday's decision, told TOI 2.5 lakh tonnes of coal will be imported from Indonesia.

"PT Bara Daya Energi has agreed to supply top-quality coal. We will also get low-quality coal from Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL)," the engineer said. Officials said the ratio of the blend is thermal-plant specific. The

2x800Mw capacity Yeramarus Thermal Power Station in Raichur will have a 30% imported coal blend as will the third unit of Balari Thermal Power Station (BTPS) which has an installed capacity of 700Mw.

But Karnataka's oldest thermal power plant — Raichur Thermal Power Station with a capacity of 7X210Mw and 1X250Mw will have a 4-6% imported coal blend. Similarly, the two other units of BTPS will use 10% of imported coal.



Source: The Times of India, p.4, March. 12, 2024

Hospitality industry booms with rising number of industries and tourists

Jahnabi T.R.
BENGALURU

“Every fourth commercial establishment in Bengaluru is some kind of a food joint,” said P. C. Rao, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers’ Association (BBHA). Thanks to the growing numbers of industries, tourists and investors in Bengaluru, there has been an exponential expansion of the hospitality industry in 2023.

From darshinis and ice cream parlours to five-star hotels and fine dining restaurants, the number of hospitality establishments in Bengaluru has increased. “In 2023, around 200 new food establishments (including bakeries, sweet stalls) were opened in Bengaluru. In January 2024, two establishments have opened for business,” Mr. Rao said. “The variety in restaurants here is such that now you can get a cup of coffee from ₹10 per cup to ₹250 per cup. Demand continues to grow,” he added.

At least 10 big hotels (including star hotels) would be inaugurated in 2024 in Bengaluru. “While a Hyatt is coming up at Hebbal, a Hilton is coming up at Whitefield. We also have an IBC hotel coming up. The Taj hotel at the airport is adding a block with 200 rooms while JW Marriott is planning a new hotel near Devanahalli,” Mr. Rao informed.

The hotelier credited the fast-paced growth of the hospitality industry to multiple industries and opportunities in Bengaluru.

“We have aerospace, au-



In 2023, around 200 new food establishments, including bakeries and sweet stalls, were opened in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

tomobile, and electric vehicles industries. We also have numerous start-ups. Along with that, there are multiple regional offices of Central government organisations, defence offices and PSUs, space and science centres, and Research and Development offices leading to several thousands of people coming to Bengaluru every day,” he said.

Increased investments

One of the major factors contributing to the expanding number of hospitality properties is the investment that is coming in, say industry insiders.

“After COVID, there was a dull year, but soon after that, demand increased and tourism also got better. Many high-profile liquor shops and pubs are coming up. We are now getting more investment into the sector from real estate companies, politicians and other wealthy members for whom it is a dream to set up a good pub,” said Karunakar Hegde, a pub owner and vice-president of Federation of Wine Merchants’ Association.

“The number of establishments, the size of

these establishments and the investment going into these properties has seen a tremendous increase,” said Mukesh Tolani, head of the Bengaluru chapter of National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). “Everyone seems to think that this industry is a gold mine right now, and that this is a lucrative business. There is also a glamour factor to it,” he said.

When asked about the

establishments that have the highest demand in the sector, he mentioned that any place that has a bar, including microbreweries, is in demand.

Licence troubles

Even as demand increases, pub owners have reported difficulties in obtaining liquor licences. Hence, the resale of CL - 9 (Refreshment Room (Bar)) licences is in full swing. At least 100 new pubs have bought re-sold licences and redeveloped them in the last year, according to Mr. Hegde.

The capital investment has also increased for these newly developed places. Another indicator of the kind of demand is the fact that around 500 new licences have been obtained in the last year in the CL-7 (Hotel and Boarding house licences) category.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 12, 2024

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಗಿತ, ಉಳಿದೆಡೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಸಮತೋಲನ ತಪ್ಪುತ್ತಾ?

ತಲಾದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂದಕ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಆತಂಕ!

■ ಶ್ರೀಕಾಂತ್ ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ತಲಾದಾಯ ನಾಡಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯ ತಲೆಬಾಗಿಲೂ ಹೌದು. ಸದ್ಯದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿವೇಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ತಲಾದಾಯ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿಗಿತ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ನಡುವಿನ ಅಂತರ ಕೂಡ ಗಣನೀಯ ಏರಿಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಾರು ತಲಾದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನಿಯಾದರೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಬೆಳ್ಳಮಗಳೂರು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಬೀದರ್, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ವಿಜಯನಗರ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ತಲಾದಾಯ ಕೊನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಹೇಗೆ?: ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಬೆಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನಿವ್ವಳ ಆಂತರಿಕ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವನ್ನು ವಿತ್ತೀಯ ವರ್ಷದ ನಷ್ಟ ನಡುವಿನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ಅಂದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷದ ಅಕ್ಕೋಬರ್ 1ರಂದು ಇರಬಹುದಾದ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾಗಿಸಿ ತಲಾದಾಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತಲಾದಾಯ ಒಂದು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಅಷ್ಟೇ. ಸರಾಸರಿಯ ಒಂದು ಚಿತ್ರಣ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ತಲಾದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ ಎಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ ಎಂದರ್ಥವಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಲಿ ಮಾಡುವವರು ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **ಫುಟ 7**



ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಲಹೆಗಳೇನು?

- ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ ಸಮತೋಲನ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತುರ್ತು ಗಮನ ಕೊಡಲಿ
- ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕೃತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರವಲ್ಲ. ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಣ ಆದರ್ಶವೇ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ ವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯ
- ವೃದ್ಧಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರೈಲು, ವಿಮಾನ ಸೇರಿ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಬಳಸಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸೆಳೆಯಬೇಕು
- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹೊರತಾದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಬಾಯಿ ಮಾತಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ಸಾಲದು. ಮಿಷನ್ ಮೋಡ್ ಆಗತು

ತಲಾದಾಯ ವಿವರ (2022-23)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

₹3,04,474

ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ

₹3,12,398

ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು

₹2,75,583

ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ

₹2,19,518

ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ವೇಗ

ರಾಜ್ಯ, ದೇಶದ ತಲಾದಾಯ ತುಲನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ವೇಗ ದೇಶದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ವೇಗಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. 2014-15ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ತಲಾ ಆದಾಯ 1,30,024 ರೂ. ಇದ್ದರೆ, ಭಾರತದ ಸರಾಸರಿ 86,647 ರೂ. ಇತ್ತು. 2020ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ 2,22,141 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿದರೆ, ಭಾರತದ್ದು 1,25,946ಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿತು. 2021ರೊಂದಿಗೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದ್ದು 1,85,854 ರೂ.ಗಳಾದರೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ್ದು 3,32,926 ರೂ. ತಲುಪುವ ಮೂಲಕ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗುವ ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

Bengaluru Edition
Mar 13, 2024 Page No. 5
Powered by : efoledo.com

Source: Vijayavani, p.05, Mar.13, 2024

States got ₹157K-cr royalty since 2016-17 FY, SC told

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Union government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that states' revenue generation from major minerals has not been affected because of central control over these natural resources as the mineral-yielding ones cumulatively earned Rs 284,000 crore from royalty, mine auctions and by way of contributions for district mineral foundations (DMFs), and emphasised that the Centre would be constrained to readjust the royalty component if states are allowed to levy taxes on minerals. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

presented a detailed revenue-earning data sheet of mineral yielding states before a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, A S Oka, B N Nagarathna, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish C Sharma and Augustine G Masih and said states have multiple revenue streams from mining and mineral sector; the first being royalty and dead rent under Section 9 of Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act.

"Since FY 2016-17, states have received a total of Rs 1,57,000 crore as royalty from major minerals. In addition to royalty, the auctioned mines have contributed Rs 40,000 crore to state exchequer," he said. The Centre said MMDRA was amended in 2015 to add a new section 9-B, which provides for establishment of DMF in all districts affected by mining operations. The object of DMF is to work for the interest and benefit of persons affected by mining related operations, in such a manner prescribed by states. DMFs are funded by statutory contributions from mine lease holders, it said.

A total of 644 DMFs in 23 states have earned Rs 87,049 crore, with which

3.2 lakh projects have been sanctioned, of which 1.7 lakh have been completed. Odisha earned the highest among states through DMFs at Rs 25,426 cr, followed by Chhattisgarh - Rs 12,396 cr; Jharkhand - Rs 11,960 cr; Rajasthan - Rs 8,897 cr; Madhya Pradesh - Rs 6,830 cr; Maharashtra - Rs 4,940 cr; and Karnataka - Rs 4,587 cr.

Mehta said if SC allows the states to impose tax on major minerals, the Centre would have to readjust the royalty component to keep the mineral prices under check. Royalty fixation, though in the hands of the central govt, is carried out in active consultation with states every 3-5 years, he said.

Source: The Times of India, p. 10, March. 13, 2024

ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ

ಜು. 7ರವರೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ | ನೀತಿಸಂಹಿತೆಗೂ ಮೊದಲೇ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯ ನೀತಿಸಂಹಿತೆ ಅಡಿಯಾಗುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಚ್ಚರಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ.

2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಏ.1ರಿಂದ ಪಾವತಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸ್ವತ್ತುದಾರರು ಈ ದಿನದಿಂದ ತಮ್ಮ ಆಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮೊದಲ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ.5 ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಂತರ ಎರಡನೇ ತಿಂಗಳು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದಲೂ ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ನಡೆದ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ವೇಳೆ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಅವಧಿ ಮುಗಿದ ಬಳಿಕವೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆದ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಫೋಷಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರನ್ವಯ ಜು.7ರವರೆಗೆ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಯುಕ್ತರು ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡಿದ ಅಯುಕ್ತರು: ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯು ಇನ್ನೇನು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ನೌಕರರು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ 2024-25ನೇ



ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ತೆರಿಗೆದಾರರು ಚಲನ್ ಸೃಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಥವಾ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಲು ಕಷ್ಟನಾಡುವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ತೆರಿಗೆದಾರರು ಚಲನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಶಾಖೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ತೆರಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈಗಲೇ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ (ಒಟಿಎಸ್) ಅನ್ವಯ ಜು.31ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಹೊಸ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ಶೇ.5 ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೊರಬೀಳದ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಅಧರಿಸಿ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕರಡು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನಾಧರಿಸಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೊರಬಿದ್ದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊಸ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಏ.1ರಿಂದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ವಸೂಲಾತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಿಸಿಎಂ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದಷ್ಟೇ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೂ, ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಬೀಳುವ ಮುನ್ನ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ಆದೇಶ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಗೊಂದಲ ಇನ್ನೂ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.11C, Mar.15, 2023

[Back to Contents](#)

EDUCATION

Govt to recruit 10k additional school teachers: Madhu

KALABURAGI, DHNS

Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said 10,000 more government school teachers would be recruited soon and a proposal in this regard will be sent to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his approval.

Classes will not be hit as the department has hired guest teachers to fill the vacancies, he said speaking to reporters here.

The department has a target of opening at least four public schools in each assembly constituency. The chief minister has made a budgetary allocation of Rs 44,000 crore despite the pressure to set aside Rs 50,000-plus crore for guarantee schemes. The department will soon take up repair of school buildings that are in dilapidated state.



Madhu Bangarappa.

The minister also justified the government's move to introduce three annual examination system for SSLC and IIPU students.

Last year, around 40,000 students out of 1.20 lakh students, who had failed in the exams, managed to pass in their third attempt and moved to the next class without wasting one-year time. The system has evoked good response from the students, he said. He also said that the department is considering a proposal to provide NEET training to government PU college students.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 9, 2024

Rs 50 lakh each for 7 'good' varsities as incentive

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seven public universities in the state have received 'Incentive Funds' of Rs 50 lakh each from the state government for the Good Governance Indicators.

The scheme was announced in the 2023-24 state budget for which the state higher education department had invited applications from the government-run universities, along with a detailed presentation. Of the 32 conventional universities, including Visvesvaraya Technological University, only seven got selected to receive the special funds.

The seven universities receiving the special funds are: Bangalore University, University of Mysore, Karnatak University - Dharwad, Mangalore University, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University - Ballari, Davangere University and Rani Channamma University - Belagavi.

The Bangalore University

got selected for its best practices in examinations, while Mysore varsity was selected for providing highest employability/best placement services, including affiliated colleges.

A committee, headed by the vice chairman of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, scrutinised the applications submitted by the universities and recommended a list of seven universities.

However, the government has put a condition on the universities to utilise the funds only for the developmental works and it is mandatory to submit utilisation certificates to the department. It is mandatory for the universities to follow the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act and rules while calling for tenders to take up any work under these funds and there should not be repetition of funds to any work.

Srinivas C, Registrar Evaluation of Bangalore University, said, "It is our pride to be recognised for best practices in examinations." He mentioned a few good practices including introduction of supplementary exams, establishment of a centralised service hub etc.

vited by the
mbai. 68/B,
istered with
t.
Government
14/03/2024
; interested
e. For any
lenhone no

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 9, 2024

ಕೇವಲ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ, ಮಸಾಲೆಪುಡಿ ನೀಡಿ ಸುಮ್ಮನಾದ ಸರಕಾರ | ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಣೆ ಆಗದೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಪರದಾಟ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ, ತರಕಾರಿಯದ್ದೇ ತಲೆಬಿಸಿ

■ ಪ್ರಮೋದ ಪರಿಣಾಂತ್
pramod.harikant@timesgroup.com
■ ಚಂದ್ರೇಶ್ ಎನ್. ಚಂದ್ರೇಗೌಡ
chandregowda.n@timesgroup.com

ಬರ ಪಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅದುಗಳೇ ಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಕೈಯಿಂದ ಹಣ ಪಾಕಿ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

1-10ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ಜನವರಿ, ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ತಿಂಗಳ ಕೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಣೆ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೇಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಬೇಳೆ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೇಳೆ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ಬೇಳೆ ಎರಡು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಬದಲು ರಸಂ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಅಂಗಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಜೇನಿನಿಂದ ಹಣ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಿರಿದ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕೊರತೆ ಇರುವ ಬೇಳೆ, ಎಣ್ಣೆಯನ್ನು ಅಕ್ರಮ ದಾಸೋಹ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ, ಆ ನಂತರ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನೂ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಕೈಯಿಂದ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಪಾವತ್ ಬರುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ ಎನ್ನುವ ಗೊಂದಲವೂ



ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಗದ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಬಿಡ್, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಕೋಲಾರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮಧುಗಿರಿ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ರಾಮನಗರ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ.

ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 15,000 ರೂ.
ತೊಗರಿ ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಣೆಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು ಒಂದೊಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಒಂದೊಂದು ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸಿವೆ. ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 12,488 ರೂ. ಬೆಲೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಳಿದ 22 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೆಲೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿವೆ. ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ 15 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ನಮೂದಿಸಿವೆ. ಇದು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ದರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಬಿ.ಬಿ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

■ 22: ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ ■ 7,549 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಾಲ್: ಜನವರಿ, ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ತಿಂಗಳ ಬೇಳೆ ಕೊರತೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ
■ 16,984 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಾಲ್: ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು 11 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ■ 30,000 ಕ್ಲಿಂಟಾಲ್: ಬೇಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯು 22 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿದೆ

ಇದೆ. ಬೇರೆ ಅನುದಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿದರೆ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಮತಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ ಎನ್ನುವ ಅನುಮಾನವೂ ಇದೆ.

ಬೇಳೆ ಹೊಂದಿಸುವ ಸಾಹಸ: ಈಗ ಪರಿಣಿತರು ಹೊತ್ತು, ಲೋಕಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಫೋಟೋಯಾ ದರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಿಯಾದ ಕೆಲಸ ಸೇರಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ. ಮೂಲ್ಕಾಲ್ವ ವಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಳೆ ಹೊಂದಿಸುವ ಸಾಹಸ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಬೇಳೆ-ಎಣ್ಣೆ ತಲೆಬಿಸಿ: ಜನವರಿ ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನಾನಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತಲೆದೋರಿದೆ.

ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂದು ಹೊಂದಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕಳೆದ 2 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ತೀವ್ರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಗೋಧಿ ಬಟ್ಟರೆ ಬೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸರಬರಾಜಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸವ್ವಯೂಟ: ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ನ, ಸಾಂಬಾರ್, ಬಿಸಿಬೇಳೆ ಬಾತ್, ಉಪ್ಪು, ಪಲಾವ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಖಾದ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇಳೆ ಕೊರತೆ ಮತ್ತು ತರಕಾರಿ ದರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಿಂದ ಇದ್ದದ್ದರಲ್ಲೇ ಹೊಂದಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ಮಾಡಿ ಬಿಡಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಾರು ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಕಂಪನಿ ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳ ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಾಗ 11 ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಷ್ಟೇ ಅಂಚಿರುವಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಳಿದ ಕಡೆ ಬೇಳೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು ದುಬಾರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬೇಳೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ನಮಗೆ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

- ರಮೇಶ್ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಬೇಳೆ - ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕಿಂದು ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಯನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲುಬಹುದು.

- ಅಂಜನೇಯ ಅಕ್ಷರ ದಾಸೋಹ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಬೇಳೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ವಿಳಂಬವಾದಾಗ ಉಳಿತಾಯ ವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡುಗೆ ಮಾಡಿ ದಿನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು.

ಬೇರೆ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅಲ್ಲೂ ಬೇಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

-ಸರಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಶಿರಸಿ

ಬೇಳೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಅಲ್ಪ- ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಒಂದು ಮುಂದೆ ಆಗುವುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಅಂಥ ವೇಳೆ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಶಾಲೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ತುಸು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಿದೆ.

-ಸದಾಶಂಕರ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಶಿರಸಿ

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.04, Mar.11, 2024

With no clarity on UG 4th yr, autonomous colleges in a fix

K'taka Govt
Yet To Spell
Out Stand

Sruthy Susan Ullas
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: With no official order from the state govt on continuing the fourth year of undergraduate programmes of NEP batches, autonomous colleges are in a dilemma. Many have informed students that the fourth year is kept in abeyance until there is official word on it.

Unlike in state public universities, the academic schedule of many autonomous colleges runs a few months in advance. The sixth semester is set to be completed by May.

NEP UNCERTAINTY

"While we haven't made a formal announcement, we've been telling students who come to us for clarity that they'll have to exit after the third year. There has been no formal word on the fourth year yet from the govt and we can't promise one until we're told about it," said the principal of an autonomous college in north Bengaluru.

He, however, added that the curriculum is ready with the college and can be rolled out whenever the govt gives its approval.

"The plan was to provide a fourth year for subjects of single discipline. As of now, the fourth-year programmes have been kept in abeyance until the govt gives clarity," said a women's college principal. "There is no clarity on which colleges can start fourth year. It was initially said universities must give nod based on infrastructure. After that, there have been no talks on it. Unless there is so-

mething in black and white, managements don't want to take a chance."

"Colleges are also hesitating as there is a lack of clarity on the future of the students completing the four-year programme. Who will offer a one-year PG programme for these students? Will they have to go back to a two-year PG?" she asked.

Meanwhile, students are at a loss. "Those who wanted to apply to universities abroad have done so as there was no assurance there would be a fourth year," said a sixth-semester communications student.

A college principal said: "Many states haven't implemented NEP. The UGC, in a recent video, said any college following the choice-based

credit system can start providing a fourth year... But unless our university or govt gives us (assurance) in writing, we will not go ahead."

BCU vice-chancellor Lingaraja Gandhi said there has not been any intimation from the government on this and the existing policy will continue until there is a new policy in place.

Source: The Times of India, p.6, March, 12, 2024

ಟಿಸಿ ನೀಡಲು 30 ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಹಿಂದೇಟು

ಬಾಕಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತಾಯ | ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಯೋಗ ನೋಟಿಸ್

■ ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಕನಕಪುರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
devaraj.l@timesgroup.com

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ 'ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರ (ಟಿಸಿ)' ನೀಡಲು ಅನಗತ್ಯ ತೊಂದರೆ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಮಧ್ಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಟಿಸಿ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿದ 30 ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಯೋಗ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಮೊದಲು ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಅನಂತರವಷ್ಟೇ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಕಪಟ್ಟಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿವೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಕರು ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಆಯೋಗವು ಇಂತಹ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಾಪಾಸು ದಂಡವಾಗಿ ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ ಕೊಂಡು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರಿಗೆ ಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಅವರಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಕಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೊರೋನಾ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡದೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಿಂಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ವೇಳೆಯೂ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ



ನಾಂದರ್ಥಿಕ ಚಿತ್ರ

46.81 ಲಕ್ಷ
ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು

17,236
ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ
ಶಾಲೆಗಳು

19
ಶಾಲೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ಗೆ
ಕ್ಯಾರೆ ಅನ್ನದ
ಶಾಲೆಗಳು

■ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸುವ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ, ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಬೋಧಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು. ಇಂತಹ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಟಿಸಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಸರಕಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮಾಡಿ ಟಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಿಸಬೇಕು.

- ನಾಗಸಿಂಹ ಜಿ. ರಾವ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ, ಚೈಲ್ಡ್ ರೈಟ್ಸ್ ಸಂಘಟನೆ

ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಟಿಸಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದವು. ಕೊರೋನಾ ವೇಳೆ ಬಹುತೇಕರು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದರು. **ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಸೂಲಿ ಅಸ್ತ** ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಮನಸೋ-ಇಚ್ಛೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರಿಂದ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ

ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೇ ಇದ್ದಾಗ ಅಥವಾ ಅನ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಬೇರೆ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಮುಂದಾದಾಗ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಸೂಲಿಯ ಅಸ್ತವಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತವೆ. ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದಿನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಟಿಸಿ ನೀಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರನ್ನು ಹೊರಹಾಕುತ್ತಿವೆ.

■ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲು ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುವುದು, ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸುವಂತೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಲವು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರು ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ನೀಡಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

- ಕೆ. ನಾಗಣ್ಣಗೌಡ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ

11 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ: 30 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 11 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಗ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ರ ದೂರುಗಳು ಬಂದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಸತ್ಯಾಸತ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿವೆ.

ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ 19 ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ಗೂ ಕ್ಯಾರೆ ಅಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆಯೋಗವು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೂ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರ ವಹಿಸಿ ಟಿಸಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.II, Mar.15, 2024



Students of class 5 writing the board examination on the first day at the Government Model Primary School, Ganganagar in Bengaluru on March 11. SUDHAKARA JAIN

To have or not to have a board exam

While the question of whether or not students of classes 5, 8, and 9 can be made to write board exams is being debated, students, parents, and teachers are waiting for some clarity to emerge. **Jayanth R.** reports on the various facets of the issue

“On Wednesday, I had a Hindi exam. I was well prepared. But our teacher informed us the previous day that the exam has been postponed. I don’t know when the exams will start again. We are really confused,” said Sangheetha, a class 9 student who studies in a private school in Bengaluru.

On March 12, the Supreme Court set aside the interim order of a division bench of the High Court of Karnataka, which had given the State government a green signal to conduct board exams for the summative assessment of students of classes 5, 8, and 9. Following the apex court order, the Education Department stopped the exams of these classes, which began on March 11. This was the third twist within a week to the saga of whether or not students of these classes can be made to write a board examination.

Twists and turns

On March 6, a single-judge bench of the High Court quashed the examination process for classes 5, 8, and 9, citing procedural lapses, after the Organisation for Unaided Recognized Schools and Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association, Karnataka, took the issue to court.

However, the Karnataka government challenged it before a division bench, which stayed the single-judge order. Following this, exams began on March 11 (Monday) as per schedule.

The association then approached the Supreme Court. The apex court said, “Prima facie the notifications [to hold board exams] appear to be issued in violation of the provisions contained in Section 30 of the RTE Act,” which states that no child is required to pass any Board exam till completion of elementary education, that is class 1 to 8.

Though the apex court said that “the government should not be permitted to hold board exams for these classes and thereby unnecessarily creating complication in education policy affecting the career of students as the single-judge bench had already quashed notifications as illegal”, it said that the division bench of the High Court could decide government’s appeal on its merits without being influenced by its observations.

By the time the apex court passed its order, class 5 students had completed two of their four exams, and classes 8 and 9 had two of their six. Exams for these classes stand postponed until further orders, while class 11 exams are already over.

Now, the case is back in the High Court, with the Supreme Court asking the division bench to adjudicate the government’s appeal on its merits, that is, to pass final judgment on the appeal by

Owing to the unsentimental decisions of the government and the vested interests of some of the petitioners, children are suffering. **SULOCHANA JAIN**

deciding whether the March 6 judgement of the single-judge bench requires interference or not.

While the legalities of the issue are one aspect of the imbroglio, the episode has left students, parents, and teachers baffled and worried. Sulochana, a parent from Bengaluru whose son’s exams have stopped midway, alleged, “Owing to the unsentimental decisions of the government and the vested interests of some of the petitioners, children are suffering.”

How it all started

The controversy’s roots are in the 2020-21 and 2022-23 academic years when schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue then, too, went all the way to the Supreme Court. After the pandemic, the government launched Kalika Chetartike, a programme to address gaps in learning caused by the lockdown. To determine the programme’s success, the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) introduced an exam for classes 5 and 8 in 2022-23.

The Registered Unaided Private Schools’ Management Association Karnataka, the Karnataka Unaided Schools Managements’ Association, and other private school associations challenged this in the High Court.

The petitioners questioned the method of assessment without framing rules according to the Right to Education Act 2009, as amended in 2019. They also questioned the correctness of changing the assessment method from school-level to board-level exams.

The High Court then quashed the government’s circular, changing the method of assessment. Though the court termed “laudable” the government’s move to introduce a uniform method of assessment, it said the change in the process did not stand to scrutiny of law as they

were made without framing the required rules.

The court declined to accept the government’s contention that it did not frame the rules as the year-end assessment process came under the provisions of the Karnataka Education Act for the State syllabus. The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) challenged the single-judge order before a division bench and obtained a green signal to conduct the examination.

The associations then moved the Supreme Court, which upheld the interim order of the division bench of the High Court and gave permission to conduct the examination with the condition that no student can be detained. The case was transferred back to the division bench of the High Court. The DSEL conducted the board exam for classes 5 and 8 in 2022-23.

Instead of pursuing its appeal to take to its logical end in law, the government on December 8, 2023, told the division bench that its appeal would not survive for consideration since it is issuing fresh notifications in October-November 2023 for conducting board examinations for classes 5, 8, 9 and 11 for the academic year 2023-24. Following this, the division bench disposed of the appeal for having become infructuous.

A sense of déjà vu

There is a sense of déjà vu in what transpired over the last week in courts, but this time, unlike earlier, the exams have been halted midway.

“My son is studying in class 8, and he is disturbed by the sudden developments. Students were already facing the examination stress, and two tests have been completed. Now this uncertainty is making things worse,” said Babitha Sallan, a parent from Dharwad in North Karnataka.

The Supreme Court observed that the division bench of the High Court ought not to have allowed the conduct of board examination through an interim order after two single bench decisions had earlier quashed similar notifications or circulars. It said the board exam violated provisions of the Right to Education Act, “which prohibit exposing children to the rigours of board exams till they finish elementary education.”

The High Court, while quashing the order, also said that board exams were held without framing the rules under Sections 22 and 145 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. This act mandates that the government frame rules for the implementation of the examination system and seek views from stakeholders prior to finalising such rules.

While the government attempted to take shelter under a State law rather than RTE, it was clearly not on solid ground even there, and many

feel that, given the experience last year, the government should have been better prepared.

“Last year also, it was a major setback in the court to the State government. The court noticed that the government didn’t consult any stakeholders before announcing the notification for the board examination. It also pointed out that the government didn’t frame proper rules and regulations to conduct the examination. It is hard to believe that this year also, the government repeated that same thing. Because of this negligence, students, parents and teachers are suffering,” a teacher from Bengaluru who wished to remain anonymous said.

Niranjanaradhya V.P., a development educationist, faulted the State government for trying to shelter under its own Act while the Right to Education Act is in force across the country. Section 30 of the Right to Education Act states that “No child shall be required to pass any Board examination till completion of elementary education,” he said.

“The Right to Education Act was enacted by the UPA government in 2009 and implemented in 2010, and it is in force across the country. RTE Act recognizes and prescribes only continuous and comprehensive evaluation ... It is unfortunate that the government violated the law and introduced board exams much against the letter and spirit of the RTE Act. Therefore, we urge the state government to respect the best interest of the children as per the law and to adopt continuous and comprehensive evaluation as the process at the school level for assessment.”

‘Vested interests’

While the central question is whether or not children should be required to write board exams at the elementary school level, the Karnataka government, in its ongoing arguments before the High Court, has also contended that “vested interests” are at play in dragging the issue to the court, linking it to the issue of “illegal schools”.

During a survey last year, the Education Department found that as many as 1,316 schools were being run illegally across the State, including 95 schools that taught the central curriculum (such as ICSE and CBSE) after getting permission to run classes with the State curriculum, collecting vast sums of money from parents. Since they were able to get away for a good ten years with no board exams until then, the government decided that board exams at an earlier level would also help catch such schools.

“Along with this, there is a huge lobby of private book publishers in the State. Instead of following the State curriculum, many schools were prescribing private publishers’ books additionally and charging more. Earlier, many private schools were conducting annual examinations at the school level on the basis of privately published books but not on the basis of the State syllabus. These unethical practices were curbed by the board examination implemented by the state government,” said a teacher of a school near Kanakapura Road.

The government, in its ongoing arguments before the High Court, has contended that associations are opposing the proposed uniform assessment because students studying in certain schools run by the members of petitioners’ associations are not in a position to answer questions based on the prescribed textbooks.

The teacher rued that the government holding examinations without adhering to rules and regulations had proved a significant advantage for unauthorised schools and private book publishers, while students and parents suffered. “At the end of the day, either way, it is students and teachers who are at the receiving end,” he said, as the arguments for and against board exams continued in the court.



Class 8 and 9 students at the Government Model High School Matadahalli, Bengaluru, on March 11. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, March. 15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Environment

ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೂ ಕೊಡಪಾನ ಹಿಡಿದ ನೀರೆಯರ ಸಾಲು, ನೀರಿಲ್ಲ ನೀರಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವಂಥ ಕೂಗು, ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ದರದ ಬಿಸಿ... ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ಬರವು ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಯುದ್ಧ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಟ್ಟು ತೆರೆದಿಟ್ಟಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲದ ಕುಸಿತದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲೂ ಭೀಕರ. ಈ ಬಿರುಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ನಾಡಿನ ಭೂ ಒಡಲಿನ ಜೀವಜಲದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೇಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶದ ಚಿತ್ರಣವನ್ನು 'ವಿಕೆ' ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

■ ನಿಜಗುಣ ದಿಂದಲೇನು

ಬರ ನಮ್ಮ ಭೂ ಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕುರಿತ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇದು ನಷ್ಟ ಮುನ್ನಡೆ.

- ಜಾರ್ಜ್ ಪರ್ಲಾರ್ ಅಂಗೈಕೊ

ಪ್ರತಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಬರ ಆದ್ದರೂ ಇದ್ದರೂ ನೀರನ್ನು ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಬಳಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇಟ್ಟ ಕೊಳವೆಯು ಕೊರೆದು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮೂಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪರಿಣಾಮ, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಪಾತಾಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ನಾಳೆಯ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಬರ ಬಲವು ಅತೀ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ 2-3 ವರ್ಷ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಮಳೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಎರಿಗೆ ಕಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಅದೇ, 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಬದಲಾದ ಕೆಲ- ಕೆಲವು ಮಳೆಗಾಲವನ್ನು ಬರದ ಮೂಲದ್ದು ಈಗ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟವನ್ನೂ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಇರಲಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ 238 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 7 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾದ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದ ಕಡೆ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ತೀವ್ರ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದು ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳು ಡ್ರೈನಾಗಲಾರವೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಾಕಾಲಯ ನೀಡಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 29 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗದ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು 2023ರ ಜನವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾದ ಕೇವಲ 215 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ತಳ ಸೀರಿದ್ದು 14 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, 7 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಕಂಡಿದೆ.

ನಗರವಾಸಿಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಆಹಾರ ಮುಟ್ಟುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಕಳೆದೊಂದು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ಸೀರಿದಂತೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (10 ಮಿಲಿಮೀಟರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚು) ನೀರು ಭೂಮಿಯ ಅಳಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 19.37 ಮೀ. ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಥರ್‌ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 19.82 ಮೀ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಅರ್ಜೇಲ್, ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ ಮಾಗಡಿ, ಕುಮಾರನಗಲ್ಲ ಮಧುಗಿರಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಹಾವೇರಿನ ಪಿರೇಕೋಡ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಒಂದೇ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10ರ 20 ಮಿಲಿಮೀಟರ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ.

ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿತಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರಿನ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಬಳಕೆಯೇ ಕಾರಣ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಗೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಬದು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಇಂಗುರಿಂದಿ, ಕೆರೆ ಹೊಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸೀರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದರೂ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. 2024ರಲ್ಲೂ ಪ್ರವಣ ಮುಂಗಾರಿನ ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಇರುವ ಆನುಮಾನಗಳು ಸತ್ತವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬೇಗವಾಗುವುದು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಲು ಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ನಗರವುಂದರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇರುವ 11 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೊಳವೆವಾವಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 6 ಸಾವಿರ ಮಿಥಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ನೀರಿನ ಮಿತಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಬೋರ್‌ಗಳು ಬಂದಾ ಆಗಿ ನೀರಿನ ಪಾಪಾಕಾರ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಾಟರ್

ದಶಕದ ದಾವಿಲೆ ಮುರಿದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿತ



'ಭೂಜಲ' ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಿಗದ ಫಲ

ಭೂಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ, ಸವೈಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ ಅಟಲ್ ಭೂಜಲ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2020ರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ 14 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ 41 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರ, ಯೋಜನೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹಲವು ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಾಣದೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಅಭಾವವೇ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ರೇವಣಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು 10 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿತ ಕಂಡಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲದ ಕಣಕಪುರ, ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರದ ಪಿಟ್ಟುಪ್ಪು, ಕುಮಾರನಗಲ್ಲದ ಪಿರಾ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗದ ಚಳಿಕೆರೆ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು, ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ, ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ, ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿಯ ಜಗಳೂರು, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕೊರತೆಯ ನಮೂನೆಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ.

ಬರ @ ನಂಬರ್

7,408

ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಈ ಬಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರದಿಂದ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ.

1,115

ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿದು ಬರದ ಬಿಸಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ತಗ್ಗಿದೆ.

10 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾವಿಲೆ ಕುಸಿತ ಕಂಡ 29 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು

- ಆಗಲೇಕಲ್ • ಬೇದನಹಳ್ಳಿ • ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ • ಹುಣಸುರು
- ಕಂಪ್ಲಿ • ಗಂಗಾವತಿ • ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ • ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ
- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು • ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ • ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ • ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ
- ಸುಳೇಂದ್ರಪುರ • ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ
- ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ • ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ

ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಂಡ 21 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು

ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ಹುಣಿಸೆ, ಗೋಕಾಕ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗದ ಕೊರಗೇರಿ, ಕೊಡಗಿನ ಮೂವೇಳಿ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬಿಟ್ಟಾಳು, ಮುಲ್ಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಳ್ಳಾಲ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು 10 ವರ್ಷದ ಎಲ್ಲ ದಾವಿಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮೀರಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದವು ಮೂಲಕ ಮೂರು ಆಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬಿಸಿ ಕುಲಬರಿಯ ಕೆಳಗಿ, ಬೀದರ್, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಸುಳಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಪುರ, ಕಾಪ್ಪ, ಭೈರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಅಂಕೋಲಾ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಕುಮಟಾ, ಸಿದ್ಧಪುರ, ಮಿಲಯಪುರ, ಕೊಡಗಿನ ಮೂವೇಳಿ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2023ನೇ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಕಂಡಿದೆ.

ಹೊಸ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾರಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ



ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ತೀವ್ರ ಕುಸಿತ ಬರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಮಟ್ಟದ್ದು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪದೇಶದ ಕೃಷಿ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಕೊರೆಸಲು ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ. ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಹಾವಳಿಗಳೇ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದು ಧಾರವಾಡದ ಉದ್ಧಾರ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಅತಿ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಪ್ರಿಲ್, ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿದು ನೀರಿನ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗಳು ಬಂದಾ ಆಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ, ಕುಡಿದು ನೀರಿನ ಮಿತಿಬಳಕೆ ಅತಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿತ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅನಿಶ್ಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಬಳಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಡಿದು ಪಾತಾಳಿಸಿ. ನೀರಿನ ಮಿತಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಆಗಲೇಕು. ಈ ಸನ್ನಿಧಿ ಬಳಿ ಜಾಗೃತರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಹಾರ ಕಟ್ಟು ಬಾಕಿ.

-ಬಿ.ಜಿ. ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರಯ್ಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಾಲಯ

nijaguni.dindalkoppa@timesgroup.com

ತೀವ್ರ ಕುಸಿತ ಕಂಡ ಟಾಪ್-10 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು (ಎಮಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ) ಮಿಲಿಮೀಟರ್			
ತಾಲೂಕು	2023	2024	
ನಿಜಗುರಿ (ಮಿಲಯಪುರ)	4.76	20.31	
ಬಿವೇಗೇರಿ	3.88	12.22	
ಹಾವೇರಿ (ಬಾವೇಗೇರಿ)	2.46	8.42	
ಮಧುಗಿರಿ (ಪುನಾಕೋಡು)	4.51	15.61	
ಪಿರೇಕೋಡ (ಹಾವೇರಿ)	9.18	27.26	
ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ	12.68	34.59	
ಬಿವೇಗೇರಿ (ಬೇಸಿಗೆ)	4.82	12.63	
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ (ರಾಮನಗಲ್ಲ)	7.58	20.32	
ಗೋದರಗೂರು (ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ)	6.76	18.39	
ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ (ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ)	3.31	8.54	

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.04, Mar.09, 2024

Human-wildlife conflict: Three southern States resolve to share intelligence, coordinate joint operations

The Hindu Bureau
BANDIPUR

The inter-State Coordination Committee comprising Forest Departments of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu resolved to mitigate human-wildlife conflict through collaborative action and intelligence sharing.

At a meeting conducted in Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Chamara Nagar district on Sunday, Forest Minister of Karnataka Eshwar B. Khandre and his counterpart from Kerala A.K. Saseendran signed a charter specifying action plan for conservation and mitigating conflict situations, foster collaboration in intelligence sharing, exchange resources to benefit from mutual strength and ex-



Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre and his Kerala counterpart A.K. Saseendran releasing the inter-State Coordination Committee Charter in Bandipur on Sunday.

pertise etc. The charter 'embodies a shared vision beyond administrative boundaries aiming to create a legacy of responsible conservation for harmonious coexistence of humans and wildlife'.

The meeting was a fallout of a slew of human-animal conflicts reported in the region and the trig-

gering point was the death of a person in Wayanad in Kerala trampled by an elephant which was radio collared in Karnataka.

Though two inter-State coordinating meetings - one of senior officials and another of field staffs - had been conducted in February this year, this was the first ministerial level meet-

ing involving Forest Ministers of Karnataka and Kerala while senior Forest Department officials had represented Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Khandre called for critical need for collaboration among the three south Indian States given their conservation initiatives and rich biodiversity. He also highlighted the

challenges arising from the increase in wildlife populations and the resultant conflict with humans and underlined the importance of working together, especially in the inter-State border areas.

The meeting adopted a landscape approach with focus on the entire Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve covering Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Calling for standard operating procedures for managing human-animal conflicts, the meeting also took note of the challenges arising from the proliferation of invasive weeds like lantana.

In cases that entailed jurisdictional issues, it was decided to have coordinated joint operations comprising the forest, pol-

ice and excise departments of the States concerned and along the inter-State borders so as to promote a unified approach to address human-wildlife conflict.

With respect to population estimation exercise, the charter has resolved to conduct synchronised population estimation in protected areas to provide valuable insights into population dynamics which is expected to help develop conflict mitigation strategies.

An advisory board comprising wildlife conservation experts will also be constituted to provide insights to enhance conflict mitigation strategies and there will be periodic review of the activities proposed in the charter.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, March. 11, 2024

Karnataka to collaborate with ClimateRISE Alliance to make State climate resilient

'Our collaboration with ClimateRISE Alliance, and their wealth of knowledge, research, analysis, and on-ground experience, will lead to transformative initiatives,' Rajeev Gowda

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Karnataka is set to collaborate with the ClimateRISE Alliance, a consortium of civil society organisations and think-tanks, to build sustainable and climate-resilient cities, Vice-Chairman of Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission M.V. Rajeev Gowda announced on Monday.

Water management

According to him, the collaboration focuses on six pivotal themes. The agenda advocates integrated urban water management in Karnataka to address water scarcity, protecting water bodies and enhancing water quality across the state through a series of measures.

"Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC) is committed to making Karnataka's cities climate resilient. Our collaboration with ClimateRISE Alliance, and their wealth of knowledge,



The agenda advocates integrated urban water management in Karnataka to address water scarcity. FILE PHOTO

research, analysis, and on-ground experience, will lead to transformative initiatives that safeguard our urban environments and enhance the well-being of our communities," Gowda said.

River basin approach

The series of measures includes addressing knowledge, cost, and skill gaps hindering rainwater harvesting and promoting the practice, as well as developing aquifer- and sub-aquifer-based understanding and plans for groundwater

management.

The other measures are-- adopting a river basin approach for water management, utilising historical maps, satellite imagery and archival data to create comprehensive maps showing newer and traditional water sources, encouraging citizen participation through initiatives like 'Lake Mitras', and developing comprehensive plans for wastewater collection and treatment with a reuse perspective.

It also emphasized gender equity and inclusion to ensure all

initiatives prioritise the needs and perspectives of women, marginalised groups and people of different abilities.

Quality pedestrian infrastructure

In a statement, it said the agenda also includes promoting quality pedestrian infrastructure and safe public spaces accessible within short distances, adopting strategies for bringing jobs and businesses closer to mass transit, suitable provisions for mixed-land use, and robust first-and last-mile connectivity through public transport for the creation of self-sufficient neighbourhoods (the "15-minute cities" concept).

Implementing passive cooling solutions and cool roofs to combat urban heat, particularly in northern Karnataka, informed by the Karnataka State Heat Wave Action Plan 2022 as well as conserving and restoring blue and green assets like water features and green spaces for flood resilience.

Source: The Hindu, p. 11, March. 12, 2024

Activists urge govt to drop Sharavathi Pumped Storage project

Say it will harm Lion Tailed Macaque sanctuary

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Days after the government's tender process for the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project was paused by a high court order, activists have questioned the government's move to push for the project without any clearances from the Union government.

The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) has submitted that the Rs 8,000-crore project is a "very attractive scheme both in terms of technical feasibility and economical consideration".

The project envisages generating 2000 MW electricity

by taking waters from Linganamakki dam to Talakalale reservoir from where it will be pumped to Gerusoppa lower reservoir.

"The project is within the Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) sanctuary. Hence the project layout has been prepared in such a way that the majority of the project components are completely underground," the KPCL said in an application to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

However, activists in Western Ghats have noted that even the underground project requires a road for laying the pipeline and huge machinery in an area which is highly sensitive.



A view of the Sharavathi valley in Shivamogga district

"It is interesting that the KPCL moves to complete the tender process even though a detailed project report itself is not prepared," Sagar-based activist Akhilesh Chipili told *DH* citing a reply he received under the Right to Information Act.

He said the area proposed for the project has forest has a rich population of the LTM.

Implementing this project will not only harm the LTMs but destroy the Sharavathi river's ecosystem thereby affecting lakhs of farmers and fishermen dependent on the project, Chipili added.

Sirsi-based activist Anant Hegde Ashisar, who was the chairman of the biodiversity board, warned that the project

will reduce the natural flow of water in the Sharavathi river, thereby increasing the salinity in the downstream which will affect drinking water and agriculture needs of lakhs of people.

"The Indian Institute of Science has already warned against taking up large hydro electric projects. The carrying capacity of the ghats has reached its limits. Any additional burden will lead to imbalance. A government-appointed committee on landslides has given a report against cutting of the hills, drilling tunnels, building roads or using heavy machinery as the area has been identified as highly vulnerable," he said.

He said the catchment area of Sharavathi river has already lost its greenery over the last two decades. "The Linganamakki dam has no water to meet the existing demands. Any additional project will affect the livelihood of people in the ghats," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, March, 12, 2024

A tribe in the Western Ghats in need of a lifeline

In Karnataka's section of the Western Ghats, lies Makuta village, under Betoli gram panchayat of Virajpet taluka in Kodagu district. More specifically, the village falls under the Makuta Aranya Valaya which is in the vicinity of the Kerti reserved forest. This area is in the Talacauvery sub-cluster, identified as one of the 10 World Heritage Sites in Karnataka and is a region of dense tropical evergreen forests that have remained undisturbed to a large extent.

The village has a Girijan colony inhabited by the 'Phani Yerava' tribe. In 2021, with the help of two local people including a Muslim gram panchayat member, all the 19 Yerava households here were able to successfully claim their 'land' in the forest, under the Forest Rights Act. In a joint survey conducted by the Forest, Revenue and Social Welfare Departments, officials found that the Yeravas reside on 135 acres of forest land, right from the time of their ancestors.

When asked about the importance of acquiring forest rights, the tribals did not appear to be very enthusiastic because their dependence on the forest exclusively for their livelihood has been reducing over some time.

The reason they gave was that they found going into the forest to collect minor forest produce to be a tiresome job. Besides, selling the produce was no longer lucrative given the volatile market and also rampant exploitation by middlemen. This bitter experience led them to believe that for the same effort, they would get better wages if they worked as labour. Hence, working as daily labour (casual or agriculture) is now the primary occupation of these forest dwellers. The majority of them prefer to go to Kasaragod in Kerala State which is less than 10 kilometres from their habitation, as they are comfortable speaking Malayalam.



Madhusudan Bandi

is a faculty member with the Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Issues such as alcohol abuse that are threatening to overwhelm the 'Phani Yerava' tribals in Karnataka need to be on the policy radar

Nevertheless, along with fuelwood and honey, the other minor forest produce they collect includes *dhoopa* (*Vateria indica*)/incense, and *shekakai* (soap pod). The quantity collected depends on the availability of the produce in the forest as well as the need to procure them. However, most of those who gather forest produce said that the amount they collected was most often for their own consumption. There is no stockpiling.

The scourge of addiction

However, there is an issue that is a cause for worry. When this writer-researcher visited them to understand their socio-economic status after the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, almost the entire community was found to be in an intoxicated state due to alcohol abuse. According to non-tribal locals and others in the area, they picked the habit in the city seeing other labourers doing the same in the evenings after returning home to unwind after the pain from the day's hard work. Not surprisingly, the tribals in the village were not in a position to recall how they got into this. Even adolescent children have taken to this vice. This has affected children's attendance in schools too. Intoxication has slowly turned the community's life into one of a miserable existence. As a result, the community is found to be uninformed about happenings in the external world around them. Given this development, important documents such as ration cards, Aadhar cards, voter identity cards, or even government documents such as rights given under the Forest Rights Act have to be kept in the safe custody of trustworthy non-tribal members.

Officials from the Department of Social Welfare working in this area have also been concerned

about this issue because they find the state of the habitants to be 'disheartening'. A case worker, who expressed deep empathy for them, said that efforts are being made to conduct a de-addiction drive. In another habitation in Nerugalale gram panchayat in Somwarpet taluka in the same district, a headman of the 'Yarava' tribe expressed sadness that a number of his relatives had lost their lives due to addiction. He cited this as the cause behind the population in his hamlet reducing to half. He hoped that good sense would prevail and that the tribals would lead a vice-free life.

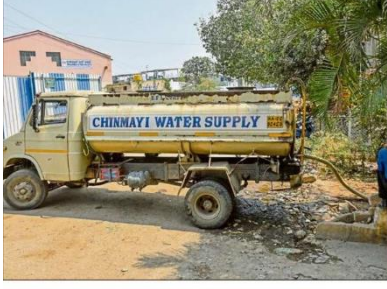
It was the same story, but with varying degrees, in every tribal village that this writer-researcher visited in the Western Ghats region in Karnataka during the study (this article is drawn from a larger research study titled "Tribals, Forest Rights and Heritage Conservation: A Study of Western Ghats in Karnataka", sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi).

Non-government organisation activists and government officials working in the jurisdiction of the villages have said that such issues do not get enough attention in the policy matters in the State – a view also expressed by the leaders of some local tribal communities such as the Hasalaru, Gowdalu, and Jenu Kurubas. According to them, only a few communities which are numerically dominant among the Scheduled Tribes have been gaining benefits over recent years, in every walk of life. They expressed the wish that the government should consider these kinds of social issues seriously and take steps that are in the best interest of those groups. It is only then, they believe, that existential concerns such as addictions haunting forest dwellers can be addressed effectively.

Source: The Hindu, p. 14, March, 12, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ವ್ಯತಿರಿಕ್ತ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ • ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೋದ್ಯಮಿಗಳು- ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಆತಂಕ

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಸಂಕಟ



ಪೀಣ್ಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.



ಪೀಣ್ಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿಡಲು ಡ್ರಮ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವುದು ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು / ವ್ಯಕ್ತಾಂತ್ ಎಚ್.ಜಿ.

• ಅದಿತ್ಯ ಕೆ.ಎ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 'ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಏಷ್ಯಾದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶ' ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ನಗರದ ಪೀಣ್ಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ 'ಜಲಸಂಕಟ' ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೆಲವು ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಎದುರಿಸಿರುವ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ, 16 ಸಾವಿರ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯೂ ಬೊಕೆಯಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ತಂದೊಡ್ಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಟ್ಟು ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ. ಕುಸಿದ ನೀರಿನಮಟ್ಟ: ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದು, ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರಿನ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೀಣ್ಯ 1ನೇ ಹಂತ, 2ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯ ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ದರ್ಶನವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ; ಈ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ಓಡಾಟವೇ ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆಯ ತೀವ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವರ್ಕ್,

12 ಲಕ್ಷ ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು

4 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

45 ಜನರ ರಿಲೀಸ್ ಮೀಟರ್ ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ

441 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ನೀರಿನ ಬೇರಿಕೆ

ಪೀಣ್ಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಅಖಿಲವೆಂಚೂರ್ ಬಿಡಿಭಾಗ, ಪೌಡ್ ಕೋಟಂಗ್, ಪಾಕೇಬೆಂಟ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿ, ಫ್ಲಾಬ್ರಿಕೇಷನ್, ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರೋ ಪ್ರೊಟೆಕ್ಟ್, ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಮೆಷಿನ್ ಬಾಬ್ ವರ್ಕ್, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪರಿವರ್ತಕಗಳ ಬಿಡಿಭಾಗಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಘಟಕಗಳು ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ (ಕ್ಯಾಲಿಂಗ್) ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಹತ್ತು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಲಭಿಸದೇ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಎದುರಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳು ಅಳಲು ತೋಡಿ- ಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅವರು.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 100ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಎಸ್‌ಟಿ (ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ನೀರು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ)

ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮವಿದೆ. ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 39 ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಶೇ 2ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಬೃಹತ್ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದಲೂ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ಬಳಸಿದ ನೀರು ಒಳಬರಂದಿ ಸೇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೃಹತ್ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಮರು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಶೇ 98ರಷ್ಟು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೋದ್ಯಮಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಖರೀದಿ: ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡ್ಡಾಡಿದರೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೋದ್ಯಮಿ- ಗಳ ಮೊಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಕಟದ ಛಾಯೆ

ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರೂ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಿಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ರಂಜನ್ ಅವರು, 'ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೂ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಅಷ್ಟು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿಧಾನವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಎದುರು ಪುಟ್ಟ ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಗಿಡಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಕಲು ನೀರಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವಾರದಿಂದ ನೀರು ಉಣಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಗಿಡಗಳು ಬಾಡಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಉದ್ವಾಸ ತೋರಿಸಿದರು.

'ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಕ್ಯಾನ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳು ಬತ್ತಲು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಿಗಡಾಯಿಸಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ



ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಸಾಕು...

ನಮಗೆ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರನ್ನೇ ಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ನೀರನ್ನಾದರೂ ಕೊಡಿ. ಆದರೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಹುಸಲು ಫೈಬರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಿಶ್ರಿಸಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ತಿಂಗಳು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯೋಚಿಸಿದರೆ ಅತಂಕ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಲಭಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾಡೇನು? ನಾನಾ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ಬಾಗಿಲು ಮುಚ್ಚಿವೆ. ಈಗ ನೀರು ಕೊಡದಿದ್ದರೆ ನೀರನ್ನೇ ಅಪಲಂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂದ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬರಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಅತಂಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.



ಸದ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಅರೇಜ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಸಂಘ

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಏನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ?

ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ನೀಡಿದರೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಬದುಕೂ ಉಳಿಯಲಿದೆ.

ನುಜಾಹಾ, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮತೀ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಬರದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಪೀಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಹುಡುಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲದೇ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಪರಿಹರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನುಜಾಹಾ ರಾವ್, ಆಗ್‌ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ವರ್ಕ್

ಎಚ್.ಎಂ.ಅರೇಜ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಇನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ತುಂಬಿಸಲು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಣ್ಣ ಹೋಟೆಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅವುಗಳಿಗೂ ನೀರಿನ ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸಿದೆ. ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರಿನ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜನವರಿ-ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ದರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಈಗ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರಿನ ದರ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ನಡೆಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅವರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.3A, Mar.13, 2024

Conservationists call for setting up Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of conservationists along with the IISc's Energy and Wetlands Research Group have called for setting up the Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority in order to help with the wise use of natural resources at the Aghanashini estuary.

The Aghanashini estuary located in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district is among the five wetlands which were recently designated as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention.

Flora and fauna

Covering an area of 4,801 hectares, the estuary, located at the confluence of the Aghanashini with the Arabian Sea, is home to over 80 fish, 115 birds and 45 mangroves and mangrove-associated species apart



The Aghanashini estuary located in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district is among the five wetlands which were recently designated as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention. FILE PHOTO

from sustaining the livelihoods of 6,000-7,500 families.

The estuary's mangrove areas store significant organic carbon contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.

"A Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority should be set up. We hope that with such an authority in place the wise use of wetland will happen with

appropriate site management plans.

The authority should consist of people who matter for the region and the district unlike some other boards and authorities," T.V. Ramachandra, Energy and Wetlands Research Group, IISc., said.

Mangal Shetty, co-founder, Panchabhuta Conservation Foundation, said that the setting up of an in-

stitutional mechanism in the form of an authority would give impetus for co-management which will help in the wise use of the natural resources.

Advisory body

He said that while the government will be the main stakeholder, a multi-stakeholder advisory body or committee drafting and implementing wetland use

of resources and other conservation measures is also suggested.

Apart from IISc's Energy and Wetlands Research Group and Panchabhuta Conservation Foundation the other institutions involved in the conservationist efforts include Integrated Design, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet and World Wildlife Fund.

**HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Maharatna Company)
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Chevron Brands International LLC have entered into a long-term agreement encompassing the licensing, production, distribution, and marketing of Chevron's lubricant products under the Caltex brand in India. Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for appointment as Bazaar Lube Distributor for Selling Caltex (A Chevron Company product) and premium grades of HPCL Lubricants in India. For details on the advertisement, please see the website: www.hplubricants.in and click 'Become a CALTEX Distributor' under the Head 'Lube Distributor'. Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted on the website only.

\$2 Per L | % Per L | \$2 Per L
www.hindustanpetroleum.com

**Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Ph. No.: 080-22410151/22429151, 9900569151;

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, March. 14, 2024

Too many trekkers spoil the mountains

The Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board has forgotten its role

STATE OF PLAY

Janaki Murali

After 4,000 trekkers climbed the Kumara Parvatha peak in the ecologically fragile Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary on the Republic Day weekend, an alarmed Karnataka government temporarily banned trekking in the State. Until a standard operating procedure is put in place, routes without an online booking system would remain closed, it said.

Although temporary in nature, the ban will effectively extend until September, as trekking is not allowed in the forest from March to September due to the risks associated with the monsoon months and probable forest fires.

Videos of a traffic jam of climbers en route to the peak went viral on social media. The government took this decision after ecologists and conservationists raised concerns about the damage that this could cause to the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats. While welcoming prompt action from the government, activists have called for more stringent measures and access to be limited to only serious trekkers studying forests and the environment.

Nowadays, many young trekkers with disposable incomes book weekend getaways that are challenging. They often flood social media with their personal vlogs, capturing their unique experience of negotiating a tough terrain. At a height of 5,600 feet, the Kumara Parvatha in Dakshina Kannada is considered one of the toughest treks in south India. The trek extends 25 km both ways, starting from the Kukke Subramanya temple, about 280 km



from Bengaluru.

Several private tourism agents and trekking clubs offer trekking packages to large groups, which include food packets, tents, and forest entry fees. So much so that forest department officials face challenges in handling the crowds at entry points. This is where baggage is checked for banned items and passes are then issued. Some serious trekkers have likened the weekend crowds to that of the Everest base camp during peak season and prefer to trek during the weekdays.

It is puzzling that the forest department has not fixed restrictions on the number of trekkers who can enter the forest per day, especially since the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-26 (revised) states that “ecotourism activities shall focus on increasing awareness towards conservation and sustainability of biodiversity and natural environments.” It adds, “The development and promotion of ecotourism shall be done after careful consideration of the destination’s carrying capacity...”

The Pushpagiri wildlife sanctuary, proposed as a World Heritage Site, is one of 21 sanctuaries in Karnataka. It is situated in the Western Ghats, which has been recognised by UNESCO as one of the eight “hottest hotspots” in the world. The UNESCO says, “Forests of the site include some of the best representa-

tives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species.”

When the Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board (KEDB) was set up in 2013, its aim was to “help the government immensely in protecting the wildlife, creating awareness about it, encouraging eco-tourism, forest safaris and also prevent damage to the eco-system in the name of tourism.” Under its objectives, the KEDB states that “the Forest Department shall encourage and permit wilderness tourism in specified areas of the National Parks/Sanctuaries/Forests, as a conservation tool. It is necessary that tourists desirous of entering wilderness areas should have interest in the flora and fauna. Casual tourists shall be discouraged.” It adds, “The wilderness areas are sacrosanct, and should continue to sustain themselves in pristine state... the entry of the number of tourists permissible shall be kept within limits.”

So, what went wrong? How did a body set up expressly to protect the sensitive ecological regions while promoting ecotourism forget its role? How did the board remain a silent bystander to the indiscriminate entry of tourists into this eco-sensitive region?

Overcrowding damages the delicate biodiversity of the region and also poses dangers to the tourists themselves. Forests are not just a source of livelihood, food, and fuel, but also act as carbon sinks. They purify our air and water and help fight climate change. Both the state and civil society have a role to play in conserving our rich biodiversity.

Janaki Murali is a journalist and author

Source: The Hindu, p. 15, March. 14, 2024

Getting set to guard forests housing tigers from raging fires during summer in Karnataka

Bandipur, Nagarahole, M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and BRT Tiger Reserve are prone to devastating fires given the dry deciduous nature of the vegetation

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The combination of searing heat due to rising mercury levels this summer preceded by unprecedented drought owing to monsoon failure in 2023 has brought to the fore the threat of forest fires plaguing national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in Karnataka.

Bandipur, Nagarahole, MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, BRT Tiger Reserve are more prone to devastating fires given the dry deciduous nature of the vegetation. Add to this, the proliferation of invasive weed *lantana*, and the stage is set for a conflagration that could go out of control.

Overrun by *lantana*

Bandipur in 2019 and Nagarahole in 2012 bore the brunt of some of the deadliest fires that ravaged large swathe of forests and reduced them to cinder, recovering from which takes years.

In Bandipur, authorities are on high alert as more than 60% of the national park spread over 912.04 sq km has been overrun by *lantana*. Not only is it inedible for the herbivores, but it is dry and highly inflammable, and is akin to fuel in the forest. A tiny spark could lead to a conflagration that could spread rapidly and would take days to control, by which time hundreds of acres of forest cover, along with edible vegetation for herbivores, would have been destroyed.

The added concern is the loss to the biodiversity and habitat degradation, which could have a bearing on the wildlife population of the national park in the long run.

Cascading effect

If there is no concerted effort to prevent forest fires, the devastation to the vegetation and, in



Elephants scouring for fodder and water in the dry jungles of Bandipur. M.A. SRIRAM

effect, fodder availability to the herbivore population, will diminish. This will set in motion migration of the herbivores to greener pastures, or their numbers will decline in the medium to long run, which will have an adverse impact on the carnivore population.

The two national parks – Bandipur spread over 912.04 sq km and Nagarahole over 847.98 sq km – are home to 376 tigers besides elephants, leopards, dholes and a host of herbivore creatures, as per the assessment of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). But any habitat imbalance by way of degradation through recurring fires and further proliferation of *lantana* can put a question mark on the long-term viability of the tiger numbers.

Early preparation

Knowing this, the Forest Department starts preparations early during the onset of winter. A key element in preparations to ward off a wildfire is the controlled burning of vegetation along boundaries of forest division, range, and beat.

These vegetation-free patches of land are called fire lines. They stop wildfires from spreading from one compartment, or block of the forest, to another, and thus acts as a barrier. In Bandipur, the cumulative length of the fire line is around 2,700 km, and it is about 2,450 km in Nagarahole. Ramesh Kumar, who was till recently the Director of Bandipur National Park and Tiger Reserve, said apart from drawing fire lines, they also launched an outreach programme in 2023 to make villagers living on forest fringes, as partners



An elephant beating the heat in the forests of Bandipur. M.A. SRIRAM



Waterholes in Bandipur and other forests tend to go dry during peak summer adding to water stress for wildlife.



Solar-powered borewells help replenish waterholes during peak summer in Bandipur and Nagarahole. SRIRAM M.A.

in conservation.

Bandipur Yuva Mitra

“Bandipur Yuva Mitra, as the concept is called, focuses on providing nature education programme for students, sensitise them on issues related to environment and conservation, as they are the local stakeholders,” said Ramesh Kumar.

The authorities believe there will be long-term benefits from the programme as students are also trained to become eco volunteers and can come in handy during fire season. The importance of the local community’s cooperation in preventing a fire can be gauged by the sheer density of human population surrounding these forests. While there are about 136 villages surrounding Bandipur, Nagarahole is surrounded by a little more than 100 villages.

Hence, it is customary for the Forest Department to appoint fire watchers drawn from the local community from January through April-May every year during which they are given free ration besides daily wages as per the prevailing norm. Nearly 500 watchers for Bandipur and a similar number of watchers are recruited for Nagarahole every year. This

practice, which is in vogue in other national parks as well since decades, is also a gesture to create goodwill among the local community.

Use of technology

“Along with traditional methods, technology is also being harnessed to fight forest fires and to stay vigilant to prevent their outbreak,” according to Harshakumar, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, Nagarahole. Thermal drones have been deployed to get an aerial view of the terrain and identify smoke emanating from any part, and rush fire fighters to douse a fire before it turns into a conflagration. In addition, the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, has been disseminating satellite-based forest fire alerts on location to all States and UTs, and other registered users through SMS and email. This is not new and is in vogue since the last few years enabling the authorities to take effective steps to control a fire at the initial stage itself so as to minimise the damage and loss. These technological initiatives complement ground-level monitoring, but there is no foolproof mechanism to prevent a fire.

While Bandipur and Nagarahole have not reported major fires in the last couple of years,

BRT Tiger Reserve reported a couple of fires during March 2024, but they were brought under control with minimal damage.

Seasonal waterholes

Coupled with the searing heat during summer is the issue related to water for wildlife. Most waterholes in forests are seasonal and tend to dry up during peak summer. There are 418 waterholes in Bandipur and about 360 in Nagarahole, most of which tend to go dry by late summer. Hence, in the last few years, the Forest Department has been drilling borewells that are energised by solar power.

In Bandipur, about 47 such solar powered pumps are in place with plans for an additional 10 pumps this year, taking their number to 57. These are located in water-stressed zones of the forests, like Omkar, Kundgere, Hediya, and G.S. Betta, and also areas which are key routes followed by wildlife during migration.

In Nagarahole, 26 such pumps have been



Forest fires in Bandipur and Nagarahole pose a threat to herbivorous animals during summer.

installed all of which help replenish water holes to enable the animals to beat the heat and tide over summer.

While such interventions have been criticised on the grounds that they are upsetting the natural selection by weeding out of the weak resulting in an increase in animal population, a section of wildlife activists have justified it on the grounds that the natural habitat of the animals has anyway been lost significantly, or disturbed and degraded, and hence a positive intervention will only help compensate the loss.

The other argument in support of positive intervention is that loss of fodder coupled with lack of water could force animals to enter human habitation, escalating conflict situations, which are already high around Bandipur and Nagarahole, and such initiatives help curb man-animal conflict to a great extent.

While solar powered bore wells may replenish seasonal water holes, both Bandipur and Nagarahole benefit from the perennial sources from the Kabini backwaters bordering both these tiger reserves. As a result, the Kabini backwaters is an area of large congregation of elephants and other animals during summer.

Besides, as the water level in the reservoir recedes, the moist ground facilitates the growth of fresh shoot of grass, drawing hundreds of herbivores, including elephants, which tend to congregate in large numbers to graze on them, and helps wildlife tide over the impact of heat and drought.

Guarding forests amidst elections

A new challenge in the coming days is the Lok Sabha elections during which it is customary for government staff to be deployed on election duty, resulting in reducing staff strength on the ground. But field staff and those engaged in critical forest protection duties have been exempted from election duty in the past. Authorities expect a similar gesture from the Election Commission this time as well. The threat of fire begins in the second week of February and lasts till the onset of pre-monsoon showers some time during mid or late April to early May. So, for the Forest Department, the battle is just half-complete. The vigil will continue for a few more weeks till nature intervenes in the form of rains.

Source: The Hindu, p. 14, March. 15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿ, ಕಬಾಬ್, ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಣ್ಣಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಷೇಧ ಖಾದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣ ಬಳಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ

■ ವಿಶ್ವ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಣ್ಣ, ಸುವಾಸನೆ ಮತ್ತು ರುಚಿವರ್ಧನೆಗೆ ಬಳಸುವ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳು ಹೃದಯ, ಮೂತ್ರಪಿಂಡ, ಮಿದುಳು ಸಂಬಂಧಿ ರೋಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು, ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ಕಾರಕ ಅಂಶಗಳೂ ಇವೆ ಎಂಬ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿ, ಕಬಾಬ್ ಸೇರಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ಖಾದ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣ ಬಳಸುವುದನ್ನು ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ತಳ್ಳುಗಾಡಿಗಳಿಂದ ಸ್ಕಾರ್ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ವರೆಗೆ ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಟಾರ್ ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ನ್, ಸಸ್‌ಸೆಟ್ ಯೆಲ್ಲೋ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮೋಸಿನ್ ಎಂಬ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ರೋಡ್‌ಮೈನ್ -ಬಿ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ಕಾರಕ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಡ್‌ಮೈನ್ -ಬಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿದರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಕಾಯಿದೆ -2006 ನಿಯಮ 59ರಡಿ 7 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಜೇಮಿತಾವಧಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಜೈಲು ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಮತ್ತು 10 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಲು ಆವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಆಹಾರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಯುಕ್ತರು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅಮೇರಿಕನ್ ಸಚಿವ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಈ ವಿವರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದರು. "ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗೋಬಿ



■ ಎಚ್ಚರ ವಹಿಸಲು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮನವಿ

■ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆಗೆ 10 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ದಂಡ

ಮಂಚೂರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಗಳ ಮಾದರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲದೆ ಸ್ಕಾರ್ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಈ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿರುವುದು ದೃಢಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಬಳಸಿದ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಂದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎಚ್ಚರ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು," ಎಂದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

ಬಣ್ಣ ರಹಿತ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣ ಇಲ್ಲ: "ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಗೆ ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಬಣ್ಣ ಬರಲು ರೋಡ್‌ಮೈನ್ -ಬಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಕಾರಕ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಇದನ್ನು ಆಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ

ಬಳಸಲು ನಿಷೇಧವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬಣ್ಣ ರಹಿತ ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣ ಬಳಸದ ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿ, ಪಾನಿಪುರಿ, ಕಬಾಬ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಖಾದ್ಯಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ," ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವರು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

ನಿಯಮಿತ ತಪಾಸಣೆ: "ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಆಹಾರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ವಿಭಾಗವು ಇನ್ನುಮುಂದೆ ನಿಯಮಿತವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನೂ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬಣ್ಣ, ರುಚಿ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಬಳಸುವುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಆಗಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ," ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಆತ್ಮತಂತ್ರ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ: "ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸುವ ರೋಡ್‌ಮೈನ್ -ಬಿ ಆತ್ಮತಂತ್ರ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ. ದಟ್ಟ ಗುಲಾಬಿ ಅಥವಾ ಬೇರೆ ಬಣ್ಣ ನೀಡಲು ಇದನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃತಕ ಬಣ್ಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬಳಸುವ ಟಾರ್ ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ನ್, ಸಸ್‌ಸೆಟ್ ಯೆಲ್ಲೋ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಮೋಸಿನ್ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ಗೋಬಿ ಮಂಚೂರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಟನ್ ಕ್ಯಾಂಡಿಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿಂದ ಇದು ದೃಢಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಈ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳು ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುವ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಮಿದುಳು, ಮೂತ್ರಪಿಂಡ, ಹೃದಯಕ್ಕೂ ಹಾನಿ ಮಾಡಬಲ್ಲವು," ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.08, Mar.12, 2024

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರಪೂರ್ತಿ ಒಂದೇ ಮೆನು | ದಿನಸಿ, ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತ | ತಿನ್ನಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ 2 ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಬೇರೇನಿಲ್ಲ!

■ ಕೆ.ಸತೀಶ್ ಮೈಸೂರು ಹೊಳೆಹೊಸದೂರು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಭಾಗದ ಕೆಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಊಟಕ್ಕೆ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಬೇರೇನೂ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲವಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ತಿನ್ನಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ ಊಟ ಮಾಡದೆ ಮಲಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಲಕರು ಅನ್ನ-ಸಾಂಬಾರು ನೀಡಿ ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಡ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರನ್ನು ಅಡಕತ್ತರಿಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿಸಿದೆ.

ನನಸಿನ ಕಾಳುಗಳು, ಅನ್ನ-ಸಾಂಬಾರು, ಧೈರ್ಯಾತ್ಮ ಮೆನುವಿನಿಂದ ನಾಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಜನವರಿ ಅಂಭದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಮತ್ತೇನನ್ನೂ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರ್ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ವಿತರಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರೇ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಿನ ಅದೇ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ನೀಡಿ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ರಕ್ಷೆ ಹಿಡಿದಾಗ ಸಮಾಧಾನಪಡಿಸಲು ಕೇಂಗಾ ಮಿತಾಯಿಯೂ ವಿತರಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ದಿನಸಿ ವಿತರಣೆ ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಕಡೆ ಬೆರಳು ತೋರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಿಚಡಿ ತಿನ್ನುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾಡಿದ ಅದುಗೆ ತಿಪ್ಪ ಸೇರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ ದಿನ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ದಿನ ನೀಡಿ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಅದುಗೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಮತ್ತೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಕಿಚಡಿ ತಿನ್ನದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂಗಾ ಮಿತಾಯಿ ಆಸೆ ತೋರಿಸಿ ಊಟ ತಿನ್ನುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಕಳೆದ ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಕೇಂಗಾ ಮಿತಾಯಿಯನ್ನೂ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಾಲಿ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೆಸರು ಹೇಳಲಿಚ್ಛಿಸದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರು.



ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅನ್ನ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣ.

ಜನವರಿ ಅಂಭದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಬಳಸಬಹುದು. ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಎಂದಿನಂತೆ ದಿನಸಿ ವಿತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಿಚಡಿ ತಿನ್ನುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಿನ ಅನ್ನ, ಸಾಂಬಾರು ವಿತರಿಸಲು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ, ಬಾಣಂತಿಯರಿಗೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳು ದಿನಸಿ ವಿತರಣೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ.

! ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ

ಕ್ಷಣಾರ್ಧದಲ್ಲಿ ರಡಿ

ಕಿಚಡಿ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಒಗ್ಗರಣೆ ಕೂಡ ಬೇಕಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣವನ್ನು ಕತ್ತರಿಸಿ ಕುಕ್ಕರ್ ಗೆ ಹಾಕಿ ನೀರು ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಎರಡು ಸಿಟಿ ಕೂಸಿದರೆ ಕಿಚಡಿ ತಯಾರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಕಾಂತಿಯುಕ್ತ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಿಚಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ತೋಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, ಹೆಸರು ಕಾಳು, ಕೆಲ ದ್ರವಗಳ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ನುಣ್ಣಿನ ಮಿಶ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಸಾರಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಕಿ ಒಣ ಮಿಶ್ರಣದ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜನವರಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ವಾರದಿಂದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ಕಿಚಡಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೂ ಇದನ್ನೇ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆ ಇದ್ದೇನೆಂದೇ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿರುವ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಪೊಟ್ಟಣಗಳು ಮೂಲೆ ಸೇರಿವೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಇದೇ ಗೋಳು?

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಕಿಚಡಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಗೋಳಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡದೆ ಕಿಚಡಿಯನ್ನೇ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದೇ ಕಿಚಡಿಯನ್ನೇ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಇಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ತಿನ್ನುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಮಾತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ರುಚಿಸಲಿ ಎಂದು ಕಿಚಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಹಾಕಿ ತಿನ್ನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಂಭದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಿನ ತಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಅದೇ ಊಟ ಎಂದಾದರೆ ಬೇಡವೆಂದು ರಕ್ಷೆ ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಿವೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕೆಲ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರು. ಆದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಭಾಗದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿಚಡಿ ಬದಲು ಜತೆ ಅನ್ನ, ಸಾಂಬಾರು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ. "ಇನ್ನು ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ದಿನ ಅನ್ನ,ಸಾಂಬಾರ್, 2 ದಿನ ಕಿಚಡಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ, ಬಾಣಂತಿಯರಿಗೂ ಇಲ್ಲ

ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ, ಬಾಣಂತಿಯರಿಗೂ ದಿನಸಿ ವಿತರಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವರು ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ವಿತರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಫೆಲ್ವರಿ, ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಣಂತಿಯರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ದಿನಸಿಯನ್ನು ಎಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಎಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳ ದಿನಸಿ ವಿತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ದಿನಸಿಯನ್ನು ಒಮ್ಮೆಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹೆಸರು ಹೇಳಲಿಚ್ಛಿಸದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.08, Mar.12, 2024

Road rage, parking issues among anxiety triggers for car owners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A survey of car owners conducted by Park+, a private app that facilitates parking solutions, has found road rage, car parking and FASTag deactivation as the main triggers of anxiety among car owners in Bengaluru.

The survey included responses by 22,000 Bengaluru car owners and was undertaken to understand anxiety triggers for car owners driving on city roads.

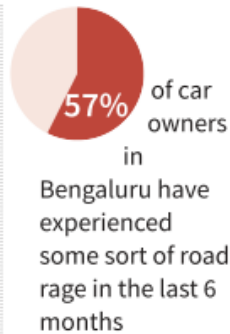
Bengaluru recently surpassed Delhi to have the most private cars in any city in the country.

The survey revealed that 57% of car owners have experienced some sort of road rage in the last six months, while 63% struggle to find a legal and safe parking spot, and 22% expressed anxiety over the deactivation of their FASTag over failure to update Know Your Customer (KYC) details.

Road rage emerged as the foremost trigger for anxiety amongst car owners.

Stress index

Total sample
22,000



The main causes of road rage are frequent traffic jams, congested roads, inadequate infrastructure, two-wheelers swerving between cars and buses, disregard for traffic laws, and aggressive driving behaviour, such as honking, tailgating and cutting off other vehicles.

These factors contribute to the overall stress and anxiety experienced by car owners while navigating Bengaluru's roads, the survey found.

The survey also found parking continues to be a major concern for car owners, with limited parking spaces leading to frustration and anxiety.

Additionally, the lack of

proper enforcement of parking rules exacerbates the problem, causing further stress for drivers in the city.

Furthermore, the lack of designated legal parking areas in busy commercial areas adds to the chaos and congestion on the roads.

This combination of factors contributes to the daily traffic gridlock that plagues Bengaluru, making commuting a nightmare for car owners, the survey said.

The current flux seen in the FASTag ecosystem, renewed KYC deadline and FASTag deactivations, has led to some confusion amongst car owners.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 14, 2024

Kidney stones in children have doubled in decade, say doctors

Pearl.DSouza@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: When 12-year-old Raghu (name changed) was taken to a hospital in Kalyan Nagar, little did his parents expect a 6mm stone to be in his ureter. Due to exams, he had missed out on his regular water intake and exercise and the slightly obese boy had to undergo laser treatment to get rid of the kidney stone.

Doctors in the city say they do not find children with kidney stones unusual as the number of such cases is now double of what it was 10 years ago. Due to inadequate hydration and excess perspiration following the onset of summer, doctors end up seeing marginally more cases of kidney stones at this time of the year.

"The stones take months to form — first they become crystals and then stones. During summer, dehydration exacerbates the problem and children end up coming to the hospital with stones. But these can be prevented with exercise to burn calori-



WORLD KIDNEY DAY

es, not causing excess waste to settle in the kidney, reduction in salty food to dilute the liquid content being processed in the kidney and cutting down on sugary beverages," said Dr Raghavendra N, consultant nephrologist and transplant physician, Trilife Hospital, who treated Raghu. The doctor said he noticed an increase in children with kidney stones over the past 10 years and 90% of the cases are due to lower than adequate consumption of water.

Besides drinking six to eight glasses of water daily, fresh fruits and vegetables should be preferred to

snacking on salty and processed food, doctors say.

"There are other reasons for children suffering from kidney stones — they include genetic abnormalities, but lifestyle choices contribute to 40% of the cases," said Dr Ganesh Srinivas Prasad P, consultant, nephrology and transplant physician, Narayana Health City.

According to Dr Prasad, children with kidney stones would make for 10% of paediatric ward patients 10 years ago and now they account for 20-25%.

Dr Deepak Dubey, HoD and consultant urologist, Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road, said the doubling of cases over 10 years is not alarming. "Hydration is the key component contributing to stones among children. Once that is tackled, we can prevent the formation of crystals," he said.

The doctor said the number of children having kidney stones has increased from 5% of the total number of paediatric patients 10 years ago to 10%.

Source: The Times of India, p.4, March. 14, 2024

Mending the fracture: India's healthcare gender gap

VARSHA GOWDA & SWEETKRUTHI K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Long-standing gender biases in health research and medical care are keeping women from receiving timely diagnosis and treatment

It had been months of regular outpatient appointments at a hospital in Mumbai for Sana (name changed), but the mystery of her ailment remained at large. The issue began with a tingling sensation behind her ear which soon developed into a throbbing pain. Since the 28-year-old was already diagnosed with an autoimmune condition, she decided to seek medical intervention immediately.

INSIGHT

"You are overthinking. Take a break, go shopping, eat good food and get a boyfriend. Your issues will go away," the doctor said on one such visit. Considering his 30 years of experience, Sana joined a yoga class and even practised mindfulness.

It was when she began to lose mobility and was affected by paralysis on the right side of her body, that she realised that her symptom was serious and that medical attention was paramount. A year later, the underlying issue was finally diagnosed — Sana had diabetes and had gone into hyperglycemia, resulting in permanent nerve damage and paralysis.



Women waiting at a government hospital in Davangere district, Karnataka.
DH FILE PHOTO/
SATISH BADIGER

Despite having access to hospitals and being proactive in seeking out treatment, Sana's concerns were dismissed as unfounded fears. "This kind of 'medical gaslighting' also impacted my mental and economic well-being," she says. It took another year to treat the resulting nerve damage.

In many cases, symptoms dismissed by doctors have turned out to be serious medical conditions. For instance, Preethi (name changed), a 20-year-old resident of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, went to see a doctor when she started experiencing shooting pains in her

chest. "The doctor kept insisting that it was nothing more than stress and prescribed painkillers even though I went back to her three times," says Preethi.

The pain continued, compelling her to approach a cardiologist. "After an ECG, the cardiologist told me that there is a small tear near my heart's wall along with general cardiac fatigue," she says.

These stories are among many that evidence the long-standing history of medical bias based on gender, which commonly manifests in the dismissal of women's symptoms and pain. The

diagnosis of health issues in women takes much longer than in men. Heart disease is diagnosed seven to 10 years later in women than in men, according to a US-based study.

According to a 2019 Danish study, on average, women are found to have diabetes 4.5 years later than men.

While narratives and studies about the gender gap in diagnosis, treatment and research have come to the fore globally, there is little research or even acknowledgement of these gaps in the Indian context.

► Gender gap, Page 2

Continued..

Targeted programmes key

The women's health skew

Women spend 25% more of their lives in debilitating health compared to men.

It would also boost global GDP by \$1 trillion by 2040.

The root causes of gaps in women's health can be attributed to gender blindness in:



Top contributors to women's health burden



- About 20% of women experience heavy bleeding during menstruation.
- 15% have chronic pelvic pain.
- 1 in 28 women is likely to develop breast cancer during her lifetime.
- Females account for only 33% of insurance claims among children and 43% among the elderly.

The case of Rajasthan and public health provisions

The Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana is a government health insurance programme that entitles 46 million low-income individuals in Rajasthan to free secondary and tertiary care at public and empanelled private hospitals.

Females accounted for only 45% of all hospital visits under the programme with the biggest gaps among children under 15 years (33%) and adults 50 years and older (43%).

Over 2.25,000 missing female hospital visits were recorded between 2017 and 2019 for nephrology, cardiology, and oncology care alone.

Source: 'An unbalanced scale', Dasra, 'Unlocking opportunities in women's health-care', McKinsey Health Institute, 'Closing the women's health gap', World Economic Forum and McKinsey, NFHS 5, news reports.

COMPILED BY SNEEKUTRIK DHIRAPATI SAGARIMS

Have your say
To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Conditions affecting women

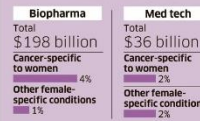
More than 800 women die every day from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes globally.

Women spend more than a third of their lives in peri- or post-menopause.

The lack of treatment for hot flashes alone could amount to nearly \$1,400 in health costs and \$770 in lost productivity per woman.

1 in 10 women of reproductive age is estimated to have endometriosis, which can cause debilitating pelvic pain and infertility.

Only 1% of global healthcare research and development is dedicated to female-specific conditions



- India was among the bottom 4 countries in the health and survival sub-index of the Global Gender Gap report in 2023.
- Only 37% of women have proper access to health needs and services compared to 67% of men in the country.
- A male child is 3.5 times more likely to undergo corrective cardiac surgery compared to a female child.
- During and after the pandemic, India vaccinated 3.8 crore more men than women.

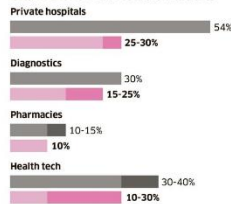
Public health insurance

Last year, the government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), a national health insurance scheme, to improve access to quality secondary and tertiary care for roughly 50 crore Indians.

Women make up nearly 49% of beneficiaries under the scheme.

However, they account only for 29.1% of all PM-JAY claims for hospital admissions.

Women make up 50% of the private hospital workforce, but only 28% of leadership positions



Pharma and biotech

8%

5-10%

Medical equipment

15-20%

10-20%

Financial institutions

20-30%

10%

% of women in overall workforce

% of women in leadership representation

Gender gap, from Page 1

According to a 2022 study based in Delhi, for every two boys diagnosed with cancer, only one girl receives a diagnosis. For women across age groups, fewer hospital visits can mean reduced instances of identification of medical conditions. A 2018 study found that 49% of expected female outpatient visits were missing from Delhi, Haryana, UP and Bihar.

The gendered nature of clinical trials and research compounds the problem. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 70% of chronic pain sufferers are women. However, 80% of pain studies are conducted on either male mice or men.

Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health expert based out of Bengaluru, adds that most drug trials are conducted on men and extrapolated to women. "There is very little data on how women respond to drugs and variations related to nutritional status, hormonal status, pregnancy or postpartum status etc. Women are just viewed as miniature versions of men who require smaller doses," she says.

Globally, a 2022 study found that only 1% of funding is invested in researching female-specific conditions. This is particularly concerning in the Indian context, where 50 million women suffer from reproductive health problems.

The resulting gap has high economic and social costs too. A study by McKinsey Health Institute and the World Economic Forum (WEF) revealed that closing the women's health gap could boost the global economy by \$1 trillion annually by 2040. The health gap currently leads to the loss of 75 million years of life due to poor health or early death per year. This is the equivalent of seven days per woman per year.

Black boxes

The shocking proportions stem from the high number of women suffering from chronic illnesses and pain. Chances are, within your own group of friends and family, several women would attest to facing symptoms connected with Polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis, thyroid or hormonal conditions, with little support from medical professionals.

"The most common thing I have been told is that I need to lose weight for all my problems—period cramps, adult acne, intense fatigue and nutritional deficiencies—to be solved. I have heard several female friends share the same experience," says 26-year-old Kriti T S. "The other usual script involves 'avoiding stress' and waiting until you have children, when symptoms are supposed to subside. Imagine saying this as a solution to a teenage girl with debilitating monthly cramps," she adds.

The general attitude of dismissal and low awareness and research on these health conditions feed into each other. Such is also the case with autoimmune conditions, which are found to be twice as prevalent in women compared to men. "I still do not know what my diagnosis is," says Meera (name changed), a 30-year-old resident of Delhi. She explains how investigating the presence of the CCL17 antibody was challenging in her case, across Delhi, Mumbai and Vellore, because doctors would often tell her that, "It's all in your head. You need to relax."

With autoimmune conditions, Meera recognises that both patients and doctors are dealing with a black box—with little research on symptoms, causes and treatments. "In this kind of a grey area, medical professionals still provide black-and-white answers," she says.

Especially in the case of diseases that are found to occur more in women than in men, "doctors need to take the time to understand and examine their responses because there is an increased incidence of auto-immune

conditions" in women," says Meera.

While medical professionals are much more likely to view men's symptoms as physical and clinical, they are more likely to write off the same symptoms as psychosomatic in women.

"There was a lot of disbelief in community health circles, when women came in, complaining of pain. The general assumption is that women want to seek from caregiving and fall ill due to psychosomatic issues," says Dr Tanya Seshadri, a community health practitioner and researcher, who works with the Soliga community in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

When screening for metabolic conditions became routine, many were diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. "This instance demonstrated why community health practitioners had to pay more attention to listening, believing and evaluating routine complaints that women come to hospitals with rather than dismissing their issues," she adds.

Social norms

Beyond biases within the medical community, social norms also dictate when and how women reach out for health support. "Since women bear the maximum burden of unpaid care work, they rarely have time for their own health. In my experience, women with serious illnesses come in at a later stage for diagnosis and treatment. For instance, cancer is generally detected only at the third stage among women," says Dr Shaiba Saldanha, a gynaecologist based in Bengaluru.

The gender gap persists across social groups and ages—with fewer outpatient visits being recorded among young women and elderly women when compared to men in the same age groups.

Even among children and infants, experts say, rates of hospital visits are significantly lower among girl children. "In a study on the reasons for admission into an ICU, a hospital found that the most common reason for admission was 'only male child' and that the frequency of health-seeking behaviour by the parents was higher for boy babies than girl babies," Dr Shaiba says.

Travel and organisation contribute to hesitancy in approaching hospitals, adds Madevi K, a leader of the Soliga community, based in the Biligiri Rangana Hills, Karnataka. "Women have to think about making food, catching a bus and coming back before dark. Many have to ask their husbands for 'permission'," she says. According to the National Family Health Survey 5, only 10% of women could make independent decisions about their health compared to 33% of men.

Madevi, who was diagnosed with a reproductive health issue, was forced to operate under similar circumstances as well. Such constraints provide women with a small window and a large time deficit, which become obstacles in seeking healthcare.

Women are also reluctant to take the time to pursue doctors or travel to hospitals as they think their tasks as caregiving duties cannot be transferred, Madevi adds. In most cases, families prioritise the health of the primary breadwinner.

The fear of adding to already stretched household budgets also keeps women from seeking treatment when they notice a symptom or pain, relates an Anganwadi worker based in Anekal district in Karnataka.

Further, a third of women expressed apprehensions about seeking care due to the non-availability of female health providers in the primary health centres they visited. The Bharat Health Index 2023 found that only 25% of semi-rural and rural populations in India have access to modern healthcare within their localities.

"While community outreach centres and taluk-level hospitals are primarily accessed by women, district, specialty and private hospitals are mostly frequented by men because of geographical barriers and economic and social norms," Dr Tanya says.

She cites the example of prenatal check-ups to illustrate how this can contribute to reduced exposure to the healthcare system for women. "While the WHO recommends four visits during pregnancy, most women are only able to go to one or two," she adds.

Insurance

Progress has certainly been made—India has climbed up five spots from ranking the lowest on the WEF's health and survival subindex in their annual Global Gender Gap report. More women have access to community health services, prenatal care, medication and doctors. A Policybazaar study reported a 40% rise in

health insurance coverage among women in FY24.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, India's public health insurance scheme, was introduced in 2018, aiming to provide coverage to over 12 crore families. As of 2023, women accounted for nearly 49% of beneficiaries under the scheme.

While insurance has opened the door for many women to access health services, it is far from a well-rounded solution to gender inequity, says Dr Radhika Jain, assistant professor in health economics, University College of London. Along with researcher Pascale Dupas, Dr Radhika is working on a study on how insurance reaches women and men in Rajasthan. "...A massive public subsidy is not reaching women as effectively as it is men, and large gender disparities persist even when care is highly subsidised," they write.

Universal insurance schemes tend to exclude those with complications. As women receive diagnosis and treatment much later, they are more likely to experience these complications. "For instance, the third or fourth stages of cancer, kidney, lung or liver disease may not fall within the health insurance packages. Additionally, chronic medical conditions may get left out, as the scheme tends to cater mostly to surgical procedures," says Dr Sylvia. Chronic conditions require outpatient care rather than admissions, which insurance schemes do not cover, she adds.

Most government insurance schemes also require documentation, which already puts women at a disadvantage, as many, especially women from vulnerable groups, rarely have access to this. "When women are required to produce documentation, they are more likely to not avail this service, many do not have IDs at all. Most are forced to depend on their family, who may hold their IDs and documents," adds Madevi.

Solutions with nuance

Relying on insurance to address women's health issues might not be a comprehensive solution. "Insurance programmes typically come with many caveats and only a certain percentage of people will be able to access such policies. India should look at other healthcare models for solutions. For example, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica and Australia are among several countries with universal healthcare," Dr Shaiba says.

When large-scale insurance policies are implemented by governments, they eat into the total budget allocated to health. "The amount that could be spent on providing free OPD and hospital admissions will go into paying insurance premiums, which in any case, exclude many of the illnesses that women face," she adds.

A gender-targeted framework is key, say public health experts. The WEF report identifies five avenues of intervention. "There is an opportunity to close the women's health gap by (1) investing in women-centric research and development, (2) strengthening the collection and analysis of sex- and gender-disaggregated data, (3) enhancing access to gender-specific care, (4) encouraging investments in women's health innovation, and (5) establishing business policies to support women," the report says.

In addition, as research on women's health expands and picks up pace, gender sensitivity training is essential to ensure women's concerns are taken seriously in the medical community.

The issue, along with a lack of research into how diseases present in women, Dr Tanya says, is also a lack of trust in women's accounts of their health problems.

Addressing the trust deficit and biases requires a better and more diverse representation of women. India still lags on this front, with a recent study showing despite the majority of healthcare workers in the country being female, as of 2021, only 17% of hospital board members were women. Further, only one in four people on health committees are women. "To decisively shape inclusive policymaking, equal representation is an essential first step."

Finally, across studies and regions, proximity to hospitals and doctors plays a major role in women accessing timely and effective health services. This is particularly a concern for women from rural regions.

Gender-specific interventions are critical, as they not only shape the prospects of about half of our population but also largely affect the day-to-day quality of women's lives. In order to fully address the gender gap, it is also essential to recognise and address gender biases ingrained within the medical system and provide women's accounts with the trust and dignity they deserve.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, March, 10, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Gender

Gender equality as the plank of sustainable development

Conversations around gender equality and women's empowerment continue to gain momentum. We, however, would like to reflect on an issue that is often overlooked, which is the critical intersection between gender equality and sustainable energy development. Time and again, studies have proven that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to achieving sustainable energy for all. The achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is in one way or another dependent on gender equality. In fact, strong connections exist among SDG5 on gender equality, SDG7 on clean, affordable energy, and SDG12 on climate action, among many others.

Gender equality is not just a matter of social justice; it is also a prerequisite for sustainable development. Women play a crucial role in energy access, production, and consumption. Yet, they often face significant barriers that limit their participation and impact in the energy sector. This gender disparity not only hampers individual opportunities but also hinders overall economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Gender equality in energy access

In many parts of the world, women bear primary responsibility for household energy management that includes cooking, heating, and lighting. However, research has shown that energy infrastructure tends to reach women last, yet the lack of access to modern energy affects women and children disproportionately. For example, lack of access to clean and reliable energy sources, forces women to rely on traditional and harmful alternatives such as biomass and kerosene. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), household air pollution leads to a staggering 3.2 million premature deaths



Damilola Ogunbiyi

is the CEO and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL)



Saurabh Kumar

is Vice President – India, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Though women have a key role in energy access, production, and consumption, they face barriers, limiting their participation and impact in the energy sector

each year – nearly half of all air pollution-related deaths – 60% of which are women and children. This not only perpetuates energy poverty but also exposes women and their families to health risks associated with household air pollution.

Another aspect that is particularly worrying is that the energy sector remains one of the least gender-diverse sectors. Women represent 32% of full-time employees in the renewable energy sector and only 22% in the energy sector overall; this is in comparison to 48% of women workers in the global labour force. In India, for example, only 10% of women hold technical posts in the energy sector, as per the International Energy Agency (IEA). This gender disparity is fuelled by disparities in educational access, restricted opportunities for women to acquire technical skills and training, and inequitable company policies, among other contributing factors.

Bridging the gender gap

Tackling these challenges requires a change in perception towards women's role in the energy sector and concerted efforts to mainstream gender in energy policies at the sub-national, national and international levels. Governments, non-state actors, international institutions and philanthropic organisations have a critical role to play in providing an enabling environment, innovative solutions and transformative platforms to not only increase access to clean energy but also deliver groundbreaking solutions to promote women's meaningful participation in the sustainable energy transition.

Initiatives such as the Women at the Forefront programme and the Energy Transitions Innovation Challenge (ENTICE) provide a forum for individuals, especially women, to embark on entrepreneurial ventures and drive collective action for sustainable energy practices.

We also see an opportunity for Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE), which are already being deployed by various State governments in India in collaboration with philanthropic organisations, to quickly provide affordable energy access and reduce the everyday drudgery of women's work, thereby increasing their productivity. Solar Mamas is one inspirational initiative started in India by Barefoot College to train illiterate women to become solar engineers, bringing clean power and light to their communities.

It is evident that empowering women in the energy sector is not just the right thing to do. It is also a smart investment in our collective future. Studies have shown that closing the gender gap in employment and entrepreneurship could boost global GDP by trillions of dollars.

Similarly, increasing women's participation in the energy sector can lead to more innovative solutions, increased productivity, and enhanced social and environmental outcomes. A recent report conducted by Powering Livelihoods has indicated that more than 71% of the early adopters of clean technology livelihood appliances in India, totalling over 16,000, are women.

With the passage of International Women's Day, it is important to recognise that the dialogue on gender and energy has clearly shifted from women being identified as part of vulnerable groups to acknowledging them as key agents of change, as consumers, producers, distributors and decision makers across the energy sector.

Gender-responsive and women-led initiatives have been successful in the clean energy space. That is why, this is the right time to harness the power of women and energy to create a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable world for present and future generations.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, March. 9, 2024

India's suboptimal use of its labour power

A vast majority of Indians earn the entirety of their incomes through labour as opposed to ownership of capital or land. Further, about 90% of the working Indian population earns its livelihood through informal employment that is characterised by little or no job security, no employment benefits, no social protection, and lower earnings. The informally employed are primarily concentrated among casual labourers and the self-employed, but exist even in some segments of those who are classified as regular wage or salaried workers.

Therefore, whatever is happening to the GDP growth rate – which tends to occupy the headlines concerning the economy – or how that translates into improvements in the standards of living of the masses, in the end, depends on what is happening to the labour market – are new jobs being created? Are better jobs being created? Are wages going up?

A deeper reading of improvements

At first glance it would seem that things have improved in the recent past for which we have yearly data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), beginning 2017-18, which replaced the earlier periodic National Sample Survey (Employment-Unemployment). Overall, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has gone up steadily to 58.35% in 2021-22, starting at 52.35% in 2017-18, a trend that is being driven largely by women in rural areas. This goes against the long-term trend towards decreasing LFPR over several decades since liberalisation. Moreover, the overall unemployment rate has also declined from 6.2% in 2017-18 to 4.2% in 2021-22. For the youth, the unemployment rate numbers are higher (12% in 2017-18 to 8.5% in 2021-22) but display the same downward trend. For both the LFPR and the unemployment rate, the very latest data available for 2022-23, display the same trajectory.

Do these improvements signal dynamism in the labour market in terms of job creation and wage growth? What is happening to the composition of the jobs and the earnings? In a recent essay with Jitendra Singh of Ashoka University, we looked at this question carefully, comparing the trends over the more recent period with longer-run trends.

When we look at the different categories of the employed, namely, regular wage/salaried work, casual work, and self-employment and their trends, we can see that the improvements in LFPR and the drop in the unemployment rate are largely driven by self-employment. The



Maitreesh Ghatak

is Professor of Economics, London School of Economics



Mrinalini Jha

is Assistant Professor of Economics, O.P. Jindal Global University

The economy continues to engage a majority in low quality work, which has larger macroeconomic growth repercussions

self-employed come in three categories – own-account workers, unpaid family workers, and employers who employ outside labour. A disturbing trend emerges if we look at them separately to identify which subcategory explains the overall rise in the self-employed. While the fraction of the self-employed who are employers has gone up marginally by less than one percentage point from 3.78% in 2017-18 to 4.57% in 2021-22, the bulk of the growth in self-employment has come from the rise of unpaid family workers, which has increased from 26% to 31.4% over the period.

Though the absolute number of workers in each employment type is increasing over the period of study, within the employed pool, the sharpest rise is seen in the proportion of unpaid family labour such as a helper in the family-run *kirana* store. Further, own-account workers such as someone running a corner shop or selling tea and snacks on a cart constitute the largest chunk of the employed population at close to 35%. The proportion of other subcategories within the employed (regular wage/salaried employee, casual labour, employer, and own-account worker) has dropped between 2017-18 and 2021-22. Together, this reflects a worsening of the quality of work being done by the workforce. Given that the seeming dynamism in the labour market has come from a subcategory of the self-employed – a category which itself is considered to be a main component of informal employment and, therefore, precarious in nature – it is cause for worry.

In terms of earnings

Does the evidence from earnings allay some of these worries? Unfortunately, the state of the labour market does not appear to fare well in terms of earnings too. At the most aggregate level, the all-India average real daily earnings increased by around ₹10 (in 2010 prices) between 2017-18 and 2021-22, about a 4% increase. Both rural and urban daily earnings increased on an average between ₹10 to ₹14 (in 2010 prices). However, this overall increase was not uniform for workers in all employment types. In general, the average earnings of wage and salaried workers are the highest among different categories of workers, followed by the self-employed and then the casual workers. The average daily earnings for both the salaried and the self-employed stagnated over the period, showing no increase in real terms. However, those in casual work saw an increase from ₹162 a day in 2017-18 to ₹196 a day in 2021-22, which is about a 20% increase; this is the category that is responsible for the moderate

increase in the overall average earnings of the employed. While this is a positive development, we must put it in context: even with a 30-day work month, casual workers were making ₹6,000 a month at 2010 prices (or, ₹11,520 in 2021 prices). Note that this is barely above the poverty line of ₹4,080 a month in rural areas and ₹5,000 a month in urban areas (poverty lines in 2011-12 prices).

To sum up our findings, while the rise in the LFPR and fall in the unemployment rate since 2017-18 appears to be a positive sign, closer examination suggests that the self-employed category of work saw the highest growth in employment generation between 2017-18 and 2021-22. And within that, it was the subcategory of unpaid family workers which saw the most growth in numbers. Not surprisingly, the earnings for the self-employed did not record any discernible improvements. The most desirable category of the employed (regular wage and salaried workers) did not see any real increase either in its share in total employment or in average earnings. In fact, the top 20% of salaried workers saw a drop in their real daily average earnings over the period. Though casual workers as a category saw a slight decrease in its share of total employment, their average earnings experienced moderate growth.

Phase of demographic dividend

While this is a matter of concern from the welfare perspective (i.e., how is economic growth affecting the job prospects and earnings in the labour market?) it also has larger macroeconomic growth repercussions. Taken together, own-account workers, casual workers, and unpaid family workers form more than three quarters of the employed. That is to say, more than three quarters of our working population is engaged in work which is typically of low productivity.

To put it in context, India is in its period of demographic dividend which is expected to peak in less than 20 years and exhaust in roughly another 30 to 35 years. In this golden period of reaping labour productivity, the economy continues to utilise its labour capital in a suboptimal fashion by engaging a majority in low quality work. Moreover, given that the poorer sections tend to spend a greater fraction of their incomes, their stagnant earnings also do not augur well for the demand-side of the economy coming from consumer expenditure, given that the investment to GDP ratio has been steadily declining – thereby raising the spectre of a vicious cycle.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, March. 9, 2024

ಆರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 327 ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ಆದರೂ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ಕಸಿಯುವ ವಿವಾಹ

■ ಎಚ್.ಪಿ. ಪುಣ್ಯವತಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

punyavathi.hp@timesgroup.com

ಅಡುತ್ತಾ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ಕಳೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು 'ತಾಳಿ' ಬಂಧನಕ್ಕೊಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಪುಟಾಣಿಗಳ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ಕಸಿಯುವ ಅನಿಷ್ಟ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ಯತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ 418, 328 ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ಈ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳು ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಾರದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಅದೆಷ್ಟೋ....

ಬಡತನ, ವಲಸೆ, ಕಾನೂನು ಅರಿವಿನ ಕೊರತೆ, ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದಾಗ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ದೂರ ಇವೆ. ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕಳಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವೆಂದು ವೋಣ್ಣಕರೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ವಿವಾಹ ಬಂಧನಕ್ಕೆ ದೂಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಾರಣವೆಂದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಸಮನ್ವಯದ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ.

2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ 2189, 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ 2194 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 5341 ದೂರುಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ 2401 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆದರೆ, 418 ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹಗಳು ನಡೆದೇ ಹೋದವು. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 389 ಮಂದಿ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಎರಡನೇ ವರ್ಷ 2522 ದೂರುಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ



ಕೂನ್ಯ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ನಡೆದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು

ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ದೂರುಗಳು ಬಂದವು. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಯಪ್ರವೃತ್ತರಾಗಿ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ತಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 54 ದೂರುಗಳು ಬಂದಿವೆ. ದೂರಿಗೆ ಸಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿ ಅಷ್ಟೂ ಮದುವೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ 7 ದೂರು ಅಧರಿಸಿ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ತಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೂ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ನಡೆಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ. ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಗದಗ, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳದಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ.

2194 ವಿವಾಹಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆದರೂ, 328 ವಿವಾಹಗಳು ನಡೆದವು. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 327 ಮಂದಿ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಮಂಡ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನ
ಕಳೆದ ಆರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ನಂತರದ ಸ್ಥಾನ

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಪಡೆದಿವೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯೇ ಇದನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 716 ಮಂದಿ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹದಿಂದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು: 18 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗರ್ಭಕೋಶ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ

2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ	
ಮಂಡ್ಯ	62
ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ	51
ಮೈಸೂರು	36
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	28

ಅಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೂಳೆಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಬೆಳೆದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆಯಿಂದ ಬಳಲುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹವರು ಗರ್ಭ ಧರಿಸಿದರೆ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ತಾಯಿ - ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮುಟ್ಟಿನ ತೊಂದರೆಗಳು ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಮಗು ಹುಟ್ಟುವಾಗಲೇ ಸಾಯುವುದು, ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮಗು ಜನಿಸಿದರೂ ವಿಕಲಾಂಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಜನಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಎಳೆ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯೊಬ್ಬಳು ತಾಯಿಯಾದರೆ ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಮಗುವಿನ ಆರೈಕೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ವಾತಾವರಣಕ್ಕೂ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗದೆ ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕುಗ್ಗಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಖಿನ್ನತೆ, ಆತಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ವೈದ್ಯರಾದ ಡಾ. ವಸುಂಧರಾ ಭೂಪತಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.17, Mar.12, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Governance

Govt. scraps E-Bike Taxi Scheme citing safety concerns



The notification asserts that authorities have become aware of violations, specifically the utilisation of non-transport bikes as bike taxis. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following objections by autorickshaw unions, the Karnataka government has revoked the Electric Bike Taxi Scheme introduced in 2021. The decision to terminate the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021 was announced by the Transport Department through a notification on March 6.

The Electric Bike Taxi Scheme was initiated in July 2021 by the State Government, then led by the BJP,

with the aim of enhancing first and last-mile connectivity.

The notification highlights possible misuse of the scheme, and asserts that authorities have become aware of violations, specifically the utilisation of non-transport bikes (with white boards) as bike taxis.

The notification mentions confrontations involving auto and taxi drivers regarding the operation of bike taxis. It notes instances highlighting a threat to

women's safety, raising concerns about law and order.

According to the report from a committee led by the Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL), the bike taxi scheme had fallen short of achieving its intended outcomes.

Although Karnataka was the pioneer in implementing an electric bike taxi policy in 2021, auto drivers continued to advocate a ban on bike taxis. This resulted in incidents of block-

ing and intimidation of bike taxi riders in Bengaluru.

A senior official said, "The department has noted the blatant misuse of the e-bike taxi scheme. Instead of electric bike taxis, there is a prevalence of other bikes and scooters being utilised as bike taxis. This misuse by aggregators has resulted in significant law-and-order concerns and safety issues, particularly for women. Hence, the Transport Department has decided to withdraw the scheme."

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 9, 2024

Indira Canteen opened at KIA; 600 more to be set up across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated an Indira Canteen at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Monday, announcing plans for 600 more across the State, including Bengaluru.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, organised by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Mr. Siddaramaiah highlighted the significance of the canteen, expected to cater to a large number of customers, especially airport cab drivers and BMTC bus drivers.

According to the BBMP estimates, the Indira Canteen at KIA is projected to serve approximately 2,000 customers. The construction, including the kitchen facilities, incurred a cost of ₹1.35 crore.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the inauguration of the Indira Canteen at Kempegowda International Airport on Monday.

Expressing optimism about the canteen's popularity, a BBMP official noted the stark price difference between meals at the airport and those available at the Indira Canteen.

"Food prices inside the airport are exorbitant, with breakfast costing upwards of ₹200. We anticipate passengers turning to the can-

teens for affordable options," the official remarked.

The establishment of a Indira Canteen was a key demand among the 36 submissions made by the federation of cab and auto drivers' associations to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy. The move aims to ease the burden faced by

drivers commuting between the airport and the city, aggravated by high food prices at airport eateries.

Highlighting the purpose of the Indira Canteen, Mr. Siddaramaiah emphasised its role in providing affordable meals to the economically disadvantaged. The canteen offers breakfast for ₹5, while lunch and dinner are priced at ₹10 each. Changes have been made to the food menu, and a dining hall has been arranged to accommodate patrons.

He also underscored the government's commitment to extending the reach of Indira Canteens, with plans for establishment in every ward of Bengaluru and other parts of the State. Criticising the previous administration for failing to address the need for affordable meals, he highlighted the closure of some facilities.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 12, 2024

Despite cap, water still costs over ₹2,000 per tanker load

Residents say water tanker dealers complain that the price limit fixed by the government is unviable and they can supply water only at higher rates. Most of the water tanker dealers in the city have rejected the ceiling on the price saying it is 'unscientific' and 'divorced from ground reality', and that it does not apply to them at all

WATER WOES

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Despite a cap on water tanker prices by the district administration in Bengaluru, water tanker loads of 12,000 litres continue to cost over ₹2,000.

The cap has had little effect on water tanker prices on the ground and enforcement has been almost nil, complain residents.

Nayaz Khan, a resident of Varthur, said when asked about charging more than the price cap, water tanker dealers complained that what the government had fixed was unviable and they could supply water at only higher rates.

"We are at the mercy of tanker dealers for water and have to buy water at whatever rates they quote. The government has an-



The price cap has had little effect on water tanker prices on the ground and enforcement has been almost nil, complain residents. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

nounced that they will provide water for free in our areas. It hasn't reached us," he said.

Mr. Khan said a tractor load of 4,000 litres of water cost ₹800 to ₹1,000.

The district administration has not issued specific

rates for 4,000 litre loads, but has capped 6,000 litre loads at ₹750.

Meanwhile, the cost of 12,000 litre tanker load used by most apartments are being sold in the range of ₹2,000 and ₹2,500, even as the government

has capped it at ₹1,200.

"There has been no correction in water tanker prices post the cap," said Rajesh H., a resident of an apartment community off Sarjapura Road.

Another resident of Whitefield said that water

Price cap

	Till 5-km radius	5-10 km radius
6,000 litres	₹600	₹750
8,000 litres	₹700	₹850
12,000 litres	₹1,000	₹1,200

*₹50 for every 1,000 litres between 6,000 and 12,000 litres

Price card offered*

Source-destination distance	For every 1,000 litres
0 - 3 km	₹125
3 - 5 km	₹150
5 - 7.5 km	₹175
7.5 - 10 km	₹200
10 - 12.5 km	₹225

* By Mahadevapura chapter of Bengaluru East Water Tankers' Association

supplier are not only charging the price they want, but are also insisting that apartment communities enter into a contract of at least six months to get water now.

"The price cap has been on paper and there is no way to enforce that. If one wants water, one has to accept the terms put forth by tanker suppliers and that is the ground reality," he said.

Cap rejected

Most of the water tanker dealers in the city have rejected the price cap put by the district administration, even as many argue the price cap was dead on arrival and did not apply to them at all.

"The district administration has put a price cap for tanker loads where the distance between the source of water and the destination is less than 10 km. But most of us routinely go beyond 15 km and in some cases even beyond 20 km one way to fetch water. So the price cap does not even apply to us," said Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker dealer in Maratha-

halli. The Mahadevapura chapter of the Bengaluru East Water Tankers' Association, with nearly 300 water tankers attached to it, held a meeting and came out with their own price card.

"For every 1,000 litres, we have decided to charge ₹125 if the distance between the source and the destination is below two km, ₹150 if the distance is between two and five km, and go on adding ₹25 for every two-and-a-half additional km," said R.V.N. Babu, president of the association.

As per this, the cost of 12,000 litres of water if sourced from 12 km away, which Mr. Babu said was very common, is ₹2,400.

'Divorced from reality'

When asked whether this was not a violation of the price cap imposed by the district administration, Mr. Babu said the basis for that

was "unscientific" and "divorced from ground reality".

"Probably they have only surveyed areas where one gets water at 200 feet. Here in our areas we have to dig more than 1,500 feet, which increases both capital and operational expenditure. Moreover these are far off from where our customers stay," he said, adding the association was being reasonable and imposing a price card on their members, not allowing them to exploit the situation.

BWSSB chairman V. Ramprasad Manohar said that the board will soon paste stickers of the prices fixed by the district administration on water tankers to create awareness among the public.

"It is a new system and will take some time for both the people and the tanker suppliers to get used to it," he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 14, 2024

PRR land-losers, farmers plan to file mass petition in HC to scrap project



The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

We will file mass petitions in the High Court soon to scrap the project...As per the BDA Act, the notification has expired and the project is no longer valid, we will contend.

RAMESH S.,
A farmer

As the State government has cut the guidance value of land notified for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, farmers are now planning to file mass petitions in the High Court seeking the scrapping of the project.

This may create new hurdles for the much de-

layed project, even as the government is keen for it to take off. In 2023, the Stamps and Registration Department revised the guidance value upwards across the State including 67 villages where the project would come up.

However, earlier this month, the State slashed the guidance value by nearly half upsetting land-losers. This would have a

direct impact on the compensation which they will receive. Angered by this, the farmers have now decided to move the court.

Ramesh S. (name changed), a farmer talking to *The Hindu*, said this has irked the land-losers and the government decision of axing the value is highly discriminatory. "We will file mass petitions in the High Court soon to

scrap the project."

He further said that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) issued final notification for the project in 2007 and even after several years, the BDA hasn't commenced work. "As per the BDA Act, the notification has expired and the project is no longer valid, we will contend," he said.

Another farmer said in

the court the land losers will pray for either scrapping the project or to issue new notification.

It should be noted that in 2007 the BDA issued notification under the BDA Act 1984 and now if they want to issue a new notification it should be done under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and

Resettlement Act, 2013.

This will change the structure of the compensation. Even then the compensation will not be satisfactory as guidance value has now been reduced, he contended.

In 2016, the BDA wrote to the Stamps and Registration Department asking them not to raise the guidance value of the land notified for the PRR.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, March. 14, 2024

The Karnataka civil engineers Bill, its pathway

The goal of the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Bill, that was passed recently, to improve professionalisation and construction standards, is laudable. However, the route it recommends, which mandates only certified civil engineers to offer engineering designs, is bound to create confusion, become unnecessarily restrictive, turn impractical and remain out of sync with best practices.

The brick and mortar

The Bill establishes four key things. First, it defines a civil engineer, lists engineering designs, imposes restrictions on those who can offer engineering design services, and, finally, instructs how to ensure this.

Anyone with a diploma or a degree in a civil engineering discipline in India or abroad can qualify as a civil engineer. However, they must register with the Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers within one year from the date of commencement of the Act. In addition, they should obtain a certificate to become a 'professional civil engineer' in Karnataka. For this, those with degrees need one year of experience, while those with diplomas require two years of experience. Only professional civil engineers can offer engineering designs, which includes 'civil, structural, geotechnical, and environmental engineering designs and drawings'. It also includes 'conceptual plans, master plans, layout plans, and other designs and drawings for buildings and infrastructure'.

The Bill insists that any building that is more than 50 square metres in plinth area or taller than the ground floor or that is not built with load-bearing masonry structure (meaning, buildings with columns and beams, and others) or a group housing project with more than three buildings must be supervised or executed or certified only by professional civil engineers. Strict gatekeeping is imposed by instructing government authorities not to permit construction unless registered professional civil engineers certify designs and drawings.

These provisions must be rethought for three



A. Srivathsan

is a professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

reasons. First, despite the overlaps between professional services in the building industry, the Bill, unthinkingly and restrictively, defines engineering designs. This is baffling since the Supreme Court of India, pointing out difficulties in a comparable situation involving architects, has refused to exclude related professionals from offering overlapping services.

In 2020, while settling architects' claim that their professional Act prohibits non-architects from offering architectural services, the Court pointed out that services, including site design, structural design, structural integration of services, incorporation of mechanical systems and inspection of construction, are carried out concertedly by a host of related professionals. Hence, to favour one group by imposing 'absolute prohibition' on others would lead to 'considerable confusion'. It wisely observed that 'varied professions form essential cogs in the overall machinery of construction' and one cannot take a hard and exclusionary regulatory view.

It is probably for these reasons that the Gujarat Professional Civil Engineers Act, 2006, which is similar, is restrained in its scope. It limits registered professional civil engineers only to certify engineering designs, which it does not define. Even this limited version may not withstand a legal challenge. Also, on the ground, anecdotally, the regulations are more honoured in the breach.

Global practices

Second, many countries are cautious about regulations restricting competition, reinforcing monopoly tendencies, raising prices, and working against user interest. Hence, they support the self-regulation of professions. Recalling a study on engineering licensing and professional practice across several countries would also be worthwhile. It pointed out that "there is no hard evidence that tight engineering licensure provides economic gains to societies". Also, large firms that employ many engineers and architects could easily counteract these provisions, making them difficult to implement.

Third, many professional councils across the world, aware of these complexities, have not tried to ring fence their services. Instead, they take the alternative and effective route of protecting titles such as 'chartered engineer or architect' by establishing a rigorous process that demands high academic standards and experience.

The councils also mandate additional peer interviews or examinations as non-negotiable requirements. Through this, they let users know that professional titles are not offered lightly, and only the competent ones earn them. Users, convinced by the credibility of the collective, voluntarily seek certified professionals.

For example, the Engineering Council in the United Kingdom clarifies that there are no restrictions on practising as an engineer. However, it protects titles offered to the qualified and those who pass professional reviews. Only a limited number of high-risk constructions, such as reservoir design and road tunnel safety regulations, are reserved for licensed persons. The same goes for the Architects Registration Board in the U.K. In comparison, the Karnataka Bill seeks an absolute protection of services and falls short of licensing requirements. There are no examinations and fewer experience requirements in the Bill. It would serve better to tighten the process leading to certification.

The question of which professional is more competent to offer a particular service will continue to arise regularly. As was decided in one of the cases involving the architect-engineer dispute in the signing of drawings for permits in Washington State, U.S., there cannot be a bright-line rule, and divisions are impossible in a 'general sense'. It must be decided on an event-to-event basis, locally and based on education, experience, and special knowledge. What would be even better is to resist the demand for professional turfs to control supply. An effective solution would be to influence the demand side by continuously demonstrating the usefulness of professionals and certification.

The views expressed are personal

Source: The Hindu, p.14, March. 14, 2024

47

BWSSB launches four apps to help the city navigate water crisis

Deputy Chief Minister launches a campaign to encourage people to use water judiciously

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Thursday unveiled four mobile applications aimed at simplifying various processes related to water supply, amid a drinking water crisis the city is facing.

The four mobile applications launched are – Parisara Jalasnehi, Jala Samrakshak, Antharjala, and Jalamithra.

According to BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar, Parisara Jalasnehi mobile application will monitor treated sewage from sewage treatment plants (STPs) which can be used by the public for purposes other than drinking. The application is expected to streamline STPs.

The Jala Samrakshak application will be used for penalising those who use drinking water for non-essential purposes. Recently, the BWSSB had issued an order banning the utilisation of drinking water for non-essential purposes.

The public can apply to



Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar launching a save water campaign of the BWSSB, in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday.

dig borewells and collect the no objection certificate (NOC) for their residences through the Antharjala app. Recently in Whitefield, the residents started the campaign to stop illegal borewells after which much of the drilling was stopped by the authorities. The BWSSB also fined

some borewell agencies for illegal drilling.

Jalamithra app was launched to monitor the leakage of water, drains issues, and also for other purposes of the BWSSB.

'Neeru Ulisi' campaign
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who launched

'Neeru Ulisi Bengaluru Belasi' (Save Water and Develop Bengaluru), said that 6,900 borewells in Bengaluru had gone dry and the city was now dependent on 7,000 borewells. It was important to create awareness among the public to judiciously use water, he said.

"We have tamed the water tanker mafia in Bengaluru which was charging exorbitant prices for the public. Water tankers are registered with the government and will provide water supply at the price fixed by the government. Even if the model code of conduct (ahead of the Lok Sabha elections) comes into effect, we will ensure water supply will not be affected in the city," Mr. Shivakumar added.

Stating that the BJP was using the water crisis issue politically with the elections around the corner, Mr. Shivakumar added, "We are least bothered about their propaganda. We are honestly trying to solve the water problems of the city and we will need public cooperation in saving water."

Source: The Hindu, p.2, March. 15, 2024

Karnataka to bring Clean Mobility policy shortly

It will focus on electric & other cell technologies

ANJALI JAIN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's long-awaited Clean Mobility policy may be implemented soon, the state's Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil highlighted in Bengaluru on Thursday, adding that the policy will take a fuel agnostic approach in order to be future ready. He did not, however, provide a timeline for the launch.

"I am excited to share that we are on the cusp of introducing the Clean Mobility policy. This comprehensive framework is designed to support all forms of mobility, be it electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen (H2) technologies, or fuel cells," the minister said while awarding the winner of Uber's Sustainovate startup challenge.

The competition, held in partnership with Startup India and Nasscom AI, was for early stage firms building innovative solutions towards the adoption of sustainable mobility in India. Gurgaon-based startup AHODS Technologies received a cash prize of Rs 1 crore from Uber, for its patented technology for on-demand hydrogen retro-fitment kits. The final three competitors will also re-



Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil (Left) greets the winners of Uber Sustainovate Startup Challenge, AHODS Technologies team. DH PHOTO/ B H SHIVAKUMAR

ceive mentorship from Uber India to aid in innovation and scaling.

Speaking at the event, Patil noted that the state aims to create an ecosystem for innovation that will aid Karnataka in becoming a global hub for clean mobility solutions. Reiterating the state's commitment towards reducing its carbon footprint and achieving zero tailpipe emissions, he urged the city's entrepreneurs to build solutions for sustainable mobility. Patil also extended the government's help in commercialising and scaling these solutions through collaboration.

"The creativity and ingenuity displayed by the startups participating in Uber Sustainovate are a clear indication that we are moving in the right direction... It mirrors our own aspirations within Karnataka and, by extension, India, to cultivate a landscape where sustainable mobility is not just an option but a way of

life," Patil said.

After losing significant foreign and domestic investments to neighbouring Tamil Nadu, the Karnataka government is looking to position the state as a premier destination for EV manufacturing by providing incentives and subsidies. In January this year, Patil had endorsed the policy by inviting Japanese companies to set up shop in the state.

The clean mobility policy's focus will be on the entire value chain of e-mobility, including battery and cell manufacturing, component production, original equipment manufacturers, charging and testing infrastructure and research and development, the minister had said at the time.

The state was the first to introduce an electric vehicle policy in 2017, and a revised draft policy was released in November last year that aimed to attract Rs 50,000 crore investment and create jobs for one lakh people.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.16, March, 15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Social Issues

Caught on camera, lost in transmission: CCTV lapses reveal hurdles in solving crime

Only 5,100 of the 7,500 cams are operational

CHETAN B C &
UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The recent blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in the eastern part of Bengaluru City has once again sparked a debate about the efficacy of CCTV cameras in the city. This is particularly relevant given that the rates of solving many public crimes—which rely heavily on CCTV footage—have remained below the 50% mark over the past few years.

A little over a month ago, CCTV cameras played a crucial role in locating a 12-year-old school student who went missing in the city. Now, footage from these cameras is proving invaluable in assisting the police—including both the local Central Crime Branch (CCB) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA)—in tracking the suspect involved in the low-intensity blast that occurred at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Brookefield on March 1. However, there are several challenges.

Safe City Project

Under the Safe City Project, which is estimated to have cost Rs 661.5 crore, the police have adopted “cutting-edge” technology and installed 7,500 CCTV cameras across the city. In addition, nearly 3 lakh cameras have been installed under the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act, 2017.

However, police sources indicate that only 5,100 of the 7,500 cameras are operational. The connectivity for the remaining cameras has been delayed due to prolonged issues encountered with their telecommunication partner.

The department has scheduled a meeting with the Chief Secretary to the



Dysfunctional CCTV cameras hamper police operations, such as the detection and tracking of suspects in public crimes or violations. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

Karnataka Government on March 12 to discuss and address this issue. Sources say they are prepared to sever ties with their current telecommunication partner.

Street crimes

Dysfunctional cameras hamper police operations, such as the detection and tracking of suspects in public crimes or violations. Law and order police typically rely on CCTV footage to solve cases of motor vehicle theft, residential burglary, housebreaking, chain snatching, and other thefts.

According to data released by the City Crime Record Bureau, the detection rates for these crimes have mostly been below 60% since 2021, except for chain snatching cases, which have seen a nearly 90% detection rate.

In 2023, the number of registered cases surged compared to previous years, while the detection rate significantly declined, prompting various questions. However, police have attributed this trend to the frequent reassignment of officers and their election duty commitments.

Tracking in real time?

The police department recently announced that it has adopted “proactive” and “preventive” policing methods to leverage the AI-backed technology at their disposal. These methods aim to track any individual in real time, provided they are under the surveillance of AI-equipped cameras.

During the ongoing blast investigations, an officer familiar with the case disclosed that the suspect’s movements within the city were primarily tracked using the available CCTV footage.

Furthermore, DH learned from a senior police department source that approximately 450-500 cameras were installed under the Safe City project in the vicinity of the blast site. Notably, one such camera, located just a few meters from the cafe, was found to be non-functional.

“He travelled mostly using public transport. Whenever he was out on the ground, most of his movements were learnt using CCTV footage,” claimed the officer.

This was despite the unavailability

Theft and street crime cases over the past three years:

	2021		2022		2023	
	Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected
Robbery	364	317	478	414	673	437
Chain snatching	166	166	151	139	153	114
House breaking thefts (in night)	654	361	702	333	879	264
House thefts	591	290	912	339	1692	376
Motor vehicle thefts	4124	1563	5062	1965	5909	1437
Ordinary thefts	1167	482	1369	531	2493	480

AI in traffic

Traffic police have recognised that AI cameras are not infallible in detecting road violations. While the detection accuracy for the helmet rule is about 97%, other violations, such as signal jumping, exhibit only about 75% to 80% accuracy, leaving room for numerous errors to occur.

To address this issue, Traffic Police Chief M N Anucheth has deployed teams to re-examine older violations and validate each new violation flagged by the cameras.

“This is an attempt to raise the road safety standards by making the system more transparent and less prone to errors,” Anucheth said, acknowledging that this process is labour-intensive.

of footage in certain places. However, he refused to answer if they used solely CCTV footage to follow his trail claiming it as “part of the investigation”. The reason for the delay in tracing the suspect’s travel route, despite the availability of AI cameras and advanced technology, remains unanswered, as the police have not responded to media inquiries.

Limitations in AI

The cameras installed under the safe city project use facial recognition to track the person’s real-time movement. But in this

case, the suspect was wearing a mask and a hat through most of the footage.

The 24/7 surveillance is managed by a software, Command Control Communications and Computer 4 intelligence (C4i), connected to a central Command Control Centre, all equipped with AI, according to a police source.

The criminal database is fed to the C4i software which enables tracking of a person, whose data is already available on the database. Unavailability of the suspect’s record in this case might be another reason.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 10, 2024

Intra-group caste variances, equality and the Court's gaze

Soon, a seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India will deliver its judgment in *State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh*, on a question of law that carries with it enormous significance for the future of affirmative action and reservations under the Constitution. Can State governments make a sub-classification within the proportion prescribed to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in recruitment to public employment? In other words, by making a special allowance for certain groups that are more backward than others, are regional units encroaching on a domain that remains within Parliament's exclusive preserve?

Studies and data have shown that although they have been bracketed into two homogenous categories, as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), within the groups there are differing levels of development; and some castes are more discriminated against than others. In redressing this position, should State governments not be afforded the power to recognise intra-group variances? The judgment in *Davinder Singh* will seek to answer this. And, in doing so, it might well serve to provide much needed clarity to an area of law that has long required mending.

A circular in Punjab in 1975

The issues at stake in the case emanate out of a circular notified by the Government of Punjab in 1975. The circular stipulated that out of the total seats reserved for SCs in the State, 50% of the vacancies would be offered to Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs. The other half would be open to all the remaining groups within the SC category. In July 2006, the Punjab and Haryana High Court struck down this notification, following a judgment of the Supreme Court, in 2004 in *E.V. Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh*.

In *Chinnaiah*, a five-judge Bench quashed the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2000, on the ground that it offended Article 341 of the Constitution. This provision allows the President of India to notify a list of SCs for each State, and stipulates that the list can only be modified by Parliament.

The Andhra Pradesh law sought to carve four distinct categories out of the President's list and granted to each category a separate quota based on its *inter se* backwardness. The Court found that the State government had no power to tinker with the list because it was clear on a bare reading of Article 341 that such authority vested only with Parliament. The judgment also pointed to B.R. Ambedkar's speech in defence of the presidential list, in which he had warned that if



Subrith Parthasarathy

is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

The case of 'State of Punjab vs Davinder Singh' highlights the point that within SCs and STs, there are differing levels of development, with some castes more discriminated against than others

State governments were allowed to amend the list, we ran the risk of the exercise partaking purely political considerations.

Even though its 1975 circular was struck down, the Government of Punjab remained persistent. It enacted a new law, i.e., the Punjab Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006, which once again provided first preference to Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs. The High Court declared this law too to be unconstitutional. But in August 2020, sitting on appeal over the decision, the Supreme Court doubted the correctness of its earlier verdict in *Chinnaiah*, prompting the creation of a seven-judge Bench and a fresh hearing on the issues raised.

In questioning the extant view, the Supreme Court cited its judgment in *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India*, which arose out of the Mandal Commission's report. There, a nine-judge Bench had held that sub-classifications within socially and educationally backward classes (OBCs) for services under the government was permissible. The majority endorsed Justice Chinnappa Reddy's judgment in *K.C. Vasanth Kumar & Another vs State Of Karnataka* (1985). In it, he had ruled that while the propriety of making sub-classifications might depend on the facts of each case, "we do not see why on principle there cannot be a classification into backward classes and more backward classes, if both classes are not merely a little behind, but far far behind the most advanced classes. In fact such a classification would be necessary to help the more backward classes; otherwise those of the backward classes who might be a little more advanced than the more backward classes might walk away with all the seats, just as, if reservation was confined to the more backward classes and no reservation was made to the slightly more advanced backward classes, the most advanced classes would walk away with all the seats available for the general category leaving none for the backward classes."

Equality and castes

Beyond this, at the root of the matter is the Constitution's collective commitment to equality. Contained in Articles 14 to 16, which can be read together as a code, is a promise of substantive equality. This guarantee recognises that individuals, throughout India's history, have been discriminated against based on their caste. Therefore, our constitutional vision demands that we be mindful of group interests in striving to ensure equal treatment. Under this model, reservations must be seen not as a measure in conflict with – and in exception to – the basic notion of equality, but, instead, as a means to

furthering and entrenching that goal.

Indeed, since its judgment in *State Of Kerala & Anr vs N.M. Thomas & Ors* (1975), the Supreme Court has, at least in theory, appeared to acknowledge that governments not only possess the power to make reservations – and correct historical wrongs – but also have a positive duty to ensure substantive equality. Viewed thus, if the Government of Punjab were to find on the basis of its studies – and it certainly has in this case – that its existing measures of reservation have not adequately reached Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs, then it is constitutionally obligated to ensure that these measures are corrected.

If Article 341 is seen as constituting a bar against sub-classification, then that prohibition would run athwart the Constitution's equality code. In any case, even on a plain reading, Article 341 does not impose such a prohibition. It merely proscribes State governments from including or excluding castes from the President's list of SCs. Where States provide special measures to certain castes that are within this list, they do not act to include or exclude other castes from the list. Those castes will continue to be entitled to the State's general provisions of reservation.

On sub-classification

In the case of the Punjab law, it decidedly does not modify the President's list. It merely accounts for *inter se* backwardness within that list by providing for a greater degree of preference to Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs. This sub-classification is also in keeping with the Constitution's time-honoured theory that reasonable classifications are permissible to ensure that equality is achieved.

Once we see the list of SCs and STs not as homogenous categories, but as comprising different castes with differing levels of development, a sub-classification will have to be judged on its own merits. That is, the Court will only have to examine whether Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs are intelligibly differentiable from other castes within the President's list, and whether the grant of preferential treatment to them – and the extent of such grant – bears a rational nexus with the law's larger objective of ensuring fair treatment.

It is time the Supreme Court takes seriously what it recognised in *N.M. Thomas* – that governments have both a power to make reservations and a duty to ensure that the constitutional dream of equality is achieved. To that end, any authority vested in the States to provide for special measures to those castes within SCs and STs who are most discriminated against must be seen as a way of making real the idea of equal opportunity.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, March. 13, 2024

Non-profit interventions bring clean water and sanitation access to ragpickers

More than 6,000 informal waste pickers of Bengaluru have benefited from the programme which is now gearing up for phase-2 of the project

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

It's a warm weekday, and the afternoon slump has set in over Siddhartha Nagar colony, a notified slum in the Peenya Industrial Area.

Children have gone off to school, most men are at work. Women, majority of whom are waste pickers, are taking a break and finishing off lunch before starting to segregate the day's collection. One of them is seen doing laundry near the water storage tank located at the entrance to the colony.

"We have enough water now. There has been no dearth of water this year, not at least until now," says Jyoti, who lives in the colony. It sounds pleasantly surprising given the severity of the water crisis that has grappled several parts of the city.

Siddhartha Nagar is one of the nine slums in Bengaluru that have benefited from WaterAid India's interventions as part of Saamuhika Shakti, a collective initiative by 10 organisations for waste pickers in the city. WaterAid India focuses on the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) aspects, and phase-1 of the project concluded in February this year.

According to the NGO, 6,555 informal waste pickers and their family members have benefited from the project so far. The team is now gearing up for phase-2 of the project.

Giving agency to the marginalised

Initiated and supported by IFM foundation, Samuhika Shakti is a first of its kind initiative in India where multiple organisations have come together to enable informal waste pickers, says Hemalatha Patil, regional manager at WaterAid India.

Phase 1 of the pro-



Residents of a slum in front of a newly constructed toilet by WaterAid India. Hygiene and behavioural change messages painted on the wall.

gramme started in 2019 and WaterAid India started by identifying slums where informal waste pickers resided. This was done with the help of Hasiru Dala. The criteria for selection of the slums included the number of households (minimum 15-20), scope for infrastructure creation in the locality and operations by other consortium partners also in the geography.

"Our goal was to reach 5,000 informal waste speakers and to provide them with access to safe water and sanitation. We selected 13 slums to reach the target. These had a mix of notified and non-notified slums," says Patil.

As per data Bengaluru has around 22,500 informal waste pickers. Majority of them are migrants from other parts of the state living in non-notified slums.

To work with non-notified slums, however, is challenging as the land is owned by private parties. This means it would be impossible to build permanent structures there. There could also be ongo-



A community toilet complex constructed by WaterAid India.

ing litigations. Owing to such challenges the team had to drop four of the 13 slums eventually.

WASH gap in slums

According to Patil, several factors contribute to WASH gap in slums.

"The slum development board has to provide basic facilities to slums. In some places where they have provided the facilities, the community was not able to manage it. In some other slums, the infrastructure

provided by the slum board was not sufficient," she notes, adding that there are also slums where no infrastructure has been provided at all.

"The team started by visiting the slums and interacting with the communities to understand the issues and mobilise community participation."

"We facilitated discussions to understand the challenges they are facing. Some would have issues related to accessing water,

for some others access to toilet would be the problem. They would tell us what their requirements are," explains Patil.

Following this technical assessments and feasibility studies were done and plans for each slum were drawn up. While 90% of the costs were born by the organisation, 10% was the contribution of the communities.

As part of the programme, joint accounts were opened, operation



As per data Bengaluru has around 22,500 informal waste pickers.

and maintenance (O&M) committees were formed with people from the communities as members and awareness activities were carried out.

The baseline data and broad plans were shared with government departments such as BBMP, BWSSB and slum board and permissions were obtained.

"Some of the communities wouldn't believe us initially. Many of them started trusting only after the construction of the infrastructure started," says Shyam Sundar, community facilitator at WaterAid India.

Once completed, the facilities were handed over to the communities. Every household pays monthly Rs 200 towards the maintenance of the facilities.

Durgamma, a resident of Sumanahalli slum and member of the O&M committee, says that the slum residents are more than happy to pay the sum.

"Before the construction of the community toilet here, we used to resort to the public toilet facility

nearby. For each usage we had to pay ₹10. Or else we had to relieve in the open," she recollects.

Women beneficiaries

Sumanahalli slum has around 120 households, all migrants from Koppal. While the slum had a community toilet it was dysfunctional. This was retrofitted under the programme and the biggest beneficiaries have been the women of the community.

"Earlier we had to wake up early in the morning while it was still dark and go very far to relieve ourselves. It used to be a big problem as there would be miscreants in those areas," recollects Durgamma.

Similar was the experience of women in Siddhartha Nagar colony where all residents are migrants from Yadgiri.

"We go for waste picking at 6.00 in the morning. Before that we have to wake up and go to the drainage or the 'ker' to relieve ourselves," says Jyoti and Renuka, both residents of Siddhartha Nagar.

The drainage is a rajakulave bordering the slum.

"We had to go in groups every time as there would be troublemakers in these areas. We also had to ensure someone's there at home because toddlers and kids can't be left alone."

Yet another challenge was collecting water. The water supply would only last for a few hours in the morning and the responsibility of fetching it fell on the women. This meant time lost for work.

As part of the programme, a water storage tank and a community toilet unit which consists of bathrooms and toilets for men, women, kids, elderly and disabled have been constructed here. The women of the community feel these infrastructures have made life easier for them.

Entering phase-2

According to WaterAid India, during phase 1 of the programme access to pipe water supply was provided in four slums, five sanitation complexes were retrofitted in four slums and two new toilet units were constructed in one slum and one dry waste collection centre.

The team is currently in the process of identifying slums for phase-2 of the programme.

"We are planning to work with 15 slums. In the second phase, we will have both notified and non-notified slums," says Patil.

"In non-notified slums we may not be able to complete the activity as per the timeline. Second issue is sustainability. We cannot create permanent infrastructure in these localities, but we need to figure out some technology by which we could look at portable facilities so that it will not lead to disputes with landowners. It may be temporary, but at least it will ensure access."

Source: The Hindu, p. 13, March. 15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Bengaluru's water crisis decoded

Plummeting groundwater levels due to scanty rains have led to a water scarcity. What's the way out?

SNIEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

On March 1, the residents of an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road were in for a shock when the apartment owners' association announced that the complex, which has over 2,500 flats, had run out of borewell water and that the water stored in the overhead tanks would last only an hour.

The issue was resolved over four to five hours as the association members found water suppliers. Later, the apartment residents met with local political leaders, seeking a permanent solution.

"We started receiving white and brown coloured water suddenly. The water would change colours once stored. The area has no Cauvery connection yet. How are we supposed to cook and take bath?" asks Mansoor Ali, an apartment resident.

The apartment used borewell and water tankers to manage water, in the absence of Cauvery water supply. He says the water quality has been bad for many months, and people have even lost hair after using it for baths. Many use bottled drinking water.

Many apartments and gated communities often see the same situation these days. The problem may recur in the next few months since the city is reeling under an acute water shortage due to the poor monsoons.

According to an estimate, the borewells met nearly 50% of the city's water needs, and the scanty rainfall has left the city dry. The plunging of groundwater levels with more than 5,000 borewells drying up, has caused the current water crisis.

The government is trying to solve the crisis in its own way, from banning the use of drinking water for gardening and other purposes to fetching water from surrounding districts. Various civic agencies have also set aside close to Rs 55 crore to fight the battle against water shortage.

However, most of these measures are short-term plans to ease the present situation. Experts say the city needs better planning and water management to ensure we do not run into such a situation again.

With Cauvery Stage V set to be commissioned soon and preparations underway for implementing Cauvery Stage VI, the city will completely utilise its share of water from Cauvery. Any increase in demand after this would have to be met by local sources and augmentation of available resources.



The government is taking many temporary steps to address the water crisis ahead of summer months. DH PHOTO/K. JANARDHAN

The experts point out the need to change the approach to water management by strengthening and utilising local water sources better.

"Local water management is the key. We must identify local watersheds, mark their boundaries, and create a water balance plan. This way, we can use the local water more effectively by recharging the aquifers," says V Ramprasad, co-founder and convenor of Friends of Lakes (FOL).

One more Cauvery

There are several ways to ensure water security, from better runoff water management to using treated water. But all these require a concentrated effort, says Ashwin Mahesh, an urban expert based in Bengaluru.

"The problem is not lack of water but lack of water management. There are many solutions to address the water shortage issue. In fact, our analysis has shown that effective management of watersheds coupled with the use of treated water and a few other measures can help us get almost the same quantity of water that we receive from Cauvery now," he says.

According to a vision document, 'Mat-



Residents of Cox Town demonstrated on Thursday to demand drinking water. DH PHOTO/B.K. JANARDHAN

tondu Cauvery' prepared by the Centre for Public Problem Solving, considering the amount of rainfall that the Bangalore Metropolitan Region (BMR) receives, harvesting just 10% of rainwater in the Bangalore Metropolitan Region will increase the water supply in the region

by nearly 100%. The document also outlines how watershed improvement and local supply from the BMR's largest lakes could fetch close to 700 MLD conservatively. Rainwater Harvesting in at least 50% of buildings in the city could help bring



The government has asked water tanker owners in the city to register tankers with the BBMP; unregistered ones will be seized. DH PHOTO/PRAGNATH H C

another 200 MLD.

Use of treated water

Waking up to the crisis, the government recently announced that measures will be taken to supply treated water to various industries. Given Bengaluru's limited water resources, using treated water is crucial to ensuring the city does not run into a crisis.

"Systematic use of treated water for most purposes is crucial in bringing down the demand for fresh water. Now, though a few apartments are using treated water for tertiary purposes, there is no systematic approach and as a result, demand for fresh water is growing," says Shubha Ramachandran, a senior member of the Biome Environment Trust.

Ashwin Mahesh suggested that dual piping should be mandatory in all new constructions to ensure treated water is used for tertiary purposes.

Shreya Nath, Managing Partner of the Urban Water Programme at Well Labs, opined that treated water could help meet nearly 40% of the city's water needs.

Many industries that DH spoke to said that they were open to using treated water, but they noted a lack of information and access to it.

Need to revive the lake circuit

Yet another saviour for the city is the circuit of lakes it is blessed with. However, the lack of management of lakes and stormwater drains has left the city squandering water.

"Bengaluru was once known as the city of 1,000 lakes. These lakes helped manage the city's water needs to a great extent. These lakes need to be redeveloped to ensure water security," says Shreya Nath.

Ramprasad points out that the lakes could help store water if redeveloped correctly.

"Lakes should not be treated like wells. They should be rejuvenated carefully by

science behind them. Also, many lakes are polluted and marked as Category D or E lakes. There is an immediate need to stop pollution and improve the water category in these lakes to at least Category B or Category C," Ramprasad says.

Groundwater management

Experts suggest that there is a need to ensure better groundwater recharge and management.

"We need many recharge structures to promote water percolation, which should be maintained periodically. Citizens also need to work proactively," says Shubha Ramachandran.

Lake rejuvenation is crucial in ensuring better water seepage to recharge the groundwater tables.

"Minor changes to building codes to enable open spaces to be more permeable to water can help promote groundwater recharge," suggests Shreya Nath.

Poor Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) in the city has also added to the problem. Efficient RWH systems also promote groundwater recharge when the untreated water is directed to a recharge pit.

Multiple organisations are working towards digging up more recharge wells in the city. Ensuring they are dug up at the right place and maintaining them well will yield significant results in the long term.

That aside, experts suggest proper planning for how much water the city will need in future and how the government will meet these demands.

"Bengaluru's population is growing rapidly, and we need to plan now to ensure we have water to meet the needs of the increasing population," Shubha Ramachandran noted.

Meanwhile, citizens have questions and suggestions. "How can the government expand Bengaluru without making arrangements for water? What do we do if the monsoon fails this year? Let them install a desalination plant in Bengaluru to provide water to Bengaluru,"

Wastewater generated and treated		Water treated in Decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants		Water treated in Common Effluent Treatment Plants	
Wastewater generated in the city	1,940 MLD	C&I wastewater	164 MLD	Industrial wastewater	264 MLD
Domestic wastewater	1,512 MLD	Water treated in sewage treatment plants	1,239 MLD	GW recharge from sewerage network leaks	124 MLD
				Untreated industrial wastewater	260 MLD
				Untreated domestic & C&I	

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, March, 9, 2024

300ml of every 1l of Cauvery water is lost to pilferage

Like In London, BWSSB Aims To Cut It To 20%

Chethan Kumar & Pearl Dsouza | TNN

Bengaluru: Efforts by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to curb pilferage notwithstanding, on average, of every litre of water drawn from the faraway Cauvery river to Bengaluru, 300ml is lost to unaccounted water flow.

That's a whopping 435 MLD (million litres per day) for a city where water is an increasingly stressed resource, thanks to the over-dependence on one source (Cauvery) and the absence of conjunctive water management. Bengaluru gets 1,450 MLD of Cauvery water daily.

With 30% of the water going unaccounted, the board is trying to take measures, including asset replacement, use of new technology and identifying unmetered usage, to further reduce pilferage. Comparatively, in 2019, Bengaluru lost 37.5% of water — 12% to commercial pilferage (theft) and the rest to physical pilferage, which the agency blames on century-old pipelines and other old infrastructure.

While BWSSB didn't immediately reveal the cost of pumping 1,450 MLD of water, the board's vision document reads: "...With rising costs, managing water services is becoming very expensive.

THE RIVER FLOWS TO B'LURU

Project	Design capacity (MLD)	Year	Cost (Rs)
Stage I	135	1974	29.2cr
Stage II	135	1982	55.5cr
Stage III	270	1993	240cr
Stage IV, Phase I	270	2002	1,070cr
Stage IV, Phase II	500	2012	3,384cr

Source: BWSSB

Bengaluru gets 1,450 MLD of Cauvery water every day. Of this, a whopping 435 MLD is lost to pilferage

The monthly power costs for pumping 1,400 MLD of water to Bengaluru alone is around Rs 450 million (Rs 45 crore)."

That's at least Rs 540 crore annually. This could be slightly more now as BWSSB is pumping 50 MLD more compared to the time the vision document was made.

SUMMER & SCARCITY

BWSSB engineer-in-chief Suresh B told TOI, "We've been consistently working towards reducing pilferage and have taken London, where it is at 16%, as the model. A lot of work has been done over the years; for instance, when I joined the board around 1999, pilferage was at 49%."

He said the water utility's target is to bring pilferage down to 25% immediately and 20% or less eventually.

"There's a lot of investment required for this and work is on in different parts of the city to change feeders, main distribution and house connection infrastructure. We've taken up work in Shi-

vajinagar, we've done it in Indiranagar, Domlur and other areas. We'll do it in Vidyaranyapuram," Suresh said.

Among other things, he said the board is using gaskets (like in pressure cookers) in pipeline joints to prevent leaks and the type of pipes used are also changing from cast-iron ones which are prone to leaks to ductile iron.

Per capita need & supply

According to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) code 1172, which is still under use, each person — for domestic usage — must get at least 135 litres of water a day. And the 1,450 MLD brought to Bengaluru daily is supplied to nearly 10.9 lakh connections, catering to over 1.2 crore people.

That means each person could get 112 litres if all 1,450 MLD reached citizens — which in itself is lower than the BIS-prescribed norms. The rest has to be met by borewells, including water supplied through tankers. And pilferage of 30% means per capita supply of Cauvery water comes down by another 33.6 litres.

Picture for representation



Source: The Times of India, p.4, March. 9, 2024

More than 2,50,000 groundwater recharge wells have been built in city

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Thanks to visionary conservationists, Bengaluru boasts around 250,000 recharge wells across the city, a concept pioneered by S Vishwanath, a Bangalore-based engineer, planner, and founder of The Rainwater Club NGO. Over the last decade, Vishwanath has spearheaded the construction of these wells, advocating for rainwater conservation as a sustainable solution to water scarcity.

Through the 'Million Wells for Bengaluru' campaign, which aims to balance groundwater extraction with recharge, Vishwanath promotes the construction of recharge wells. "A typical recharge well," he explains, "channels excess rainwater from households or apartments back into the ground," enhancing the city's water resilience, especially during non-monsoon seasons.

This initiative has gained traction among residents, like Raghuram C G from Vidyananyapura, who, since installing a recharge well in December 2018, has experienced no water scarcity. Raghuram's reliance on well water has significantly reduced his household's dependency on municipal water, evidenced by their minimal Cauvery water bill for a family of eight.



A recharge well near Kothnur Lake.

"In December 2018, we got the well constructed. Since then, I have not faced any water scarcity. I am confident that the water from the well will take me through the summer. Although I also have got a Cauvery water connection, we predominantly depend on the well," he told *DH*.

Additionally, the initiative has revitalised the well-digging community of Mannu Vaddar, providing them with sustainable livelihoods by engaging them in the revival of old wells and the construction of new ones. With over 750 families involved, contractors like Ramakrishnappa K R report a growing demand for recharge wells, with their team constructing over 500 wells last year alone.

"Last year, we built more than 500 wells, an increase from the 300 we built before that," he told *DH*.

Vishwanath advocates for each



A recharge well being cleaned in Ulsoor. PHOTOS: S VISHWANATH

household to have a recharge well and calls for broader systemic changes, including discouraging the deepening of borewells, establishing a dedicated groundwater management cell, and expanding wastewater treatment facilities, to further combat the water scarcity crisis.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, March, 10, 2024

'If State govt. is willing, Railways can execute city's suburban rail project'

Railway Minister says this is a technology-intensive project and the Railways is best placed with the expertise to execute it faster

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that the Railways can execute and complete the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) faster than the State government and they were ready to start discussions on the same if the latter was willing.

"This is a technology-intensive project and Indian Railways is best placed with the expertise to execute the project faster. I am saying this beyond politics. If the State government is willing, we can start talks on these lines," he said. He was in the city on Saturday to participate in multiple events.



This is the first time the Union government has openly expressed its willingness in taking over the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project. FILE PHOTO

This is the first time the Union government has openly expressed its wil-

lingness in taking over the project. Recently, Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi

Surya had said he had spoken to the Union Railway Minister and they were



Railway Board had approved the initial works of the Circular Railway Network for Bengaluru and had prepared estimates for the same.

ASHWINI VAISHNAW
Union Railway Minister

ready to take over the project for its speedy implementation. Presently, BSRP is being executed by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. between the State government and Indian Railways.

Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi, in June 2022, while laying the foundation stone for the project, had said that the project had failed to take off for 40 years and he would ensure its completion in 40 months. However, recently the State government set a new deadline of end-of-2027 for the completion of the project.

'Approval given'

Mr. Vaishnaw also said that the Railway Board has approved the initial works of the Circular Railway Network for Bengaluru and has prepared estimates for the same.

The 287-km network will connect Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Malur, Heelalige and Solur towns around the city.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 10, 2024

BWSSB set to crack the whip on unauthorised borewells in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the worsening water crisis in the city, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced action against people who drill unauthorised borewells.

The BWSSB on Sunday issued an order stating that moving forward, in accordance with Section II of the Karnataka Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011, complaints will be filed against individuals who drill borewells without proper authorisation. It also said that legal action would be pur-



Public borewells will be accorded priority, while private borewells will be considered after a site inspection by officials, BWSSB said. FILE PHOTO

sued against such individuals in accordance with the specified rules and regulations.

The directive comes into effect on March 15, when people can submit applications on the BWSSB web-

site for permission to drill borewells, said Ram Prasath Manohar V., Chairman of BWSSB. He further said that public borewells will be accorded priority. Private borewells will be considered after a site in-

spection by concerned officials, contingent upon an expert report.

Bengaluru has been reeling from water shortage since last month, even before summer fully set in, following a drought-hit year after the failure of the monsoon. The State government has been making a slew of announcements to tackle the situation, with the action against unauthorised borewells being the latest. Earlier, it had called the prices of water tankers as complaints of unavailability and increasing rates started pouring in from several parts of the city.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 2

Source: The Hindu, p. 1, March. 11, 2024

BWSSB to tap into city's groundwater resources

It plans to fill drying lakes with 1,300 MLD of treated water and install filter borewells on these lakebeds; Jakkur and Nayandahalli lakes, among others, chosen for this project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the ongoing water crisis in Bengaluru, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) has decided to tap into the city's groundwater resources by filling the drying lakes with 1,300 MLD of treated water. This initiative has been taken up in association with Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

"We have 1,300 MLD of treated water available with us. If we use it to fill tanks, which have dried up, then it will get rejuvenated in 10-15 days and the groundwater level will increase in the nearby areas. We will also install filter borewells on these lakebeds," said Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB.

He added that water from these borewells will be treated and tested by IISc scientists and then will be supplied for non-consumption purposes.

He said that this will add around 20-30 MLD of water into the system. In a similar initiative, the Irrigation Department is supplying water in Devanahalli by treating the water in Kote lake.

In Bengaluru, BWSSB has chosen Jakkur lake, Attur lake, Nayandahalli lake, Chikkabanavara lake, Varthur lake and Agaram lake for this project.

The BWSSB has also started supplying treated water for non-domestic purposes to those who are in need. "Those who need it can book it on our application," Mr. Manohar said.

Cauvery water

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Mr. Manohar said that there was plenty of drinking water available in Bengaluru.



Water from the borewells will be treated and tested by IISc scientists and then supplied for non-consumption purposes. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Deadline extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While 1,530 water tanker owners have registered themselves on the BBMP portal until now, the deadline for registration for the rest has been extended up to March 15, BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath

Manohar said. He added that legal action will be taken against those who fail to register even after that. He said that with the 1,530 registered tankers, 10 MLD water can be supplied at once. He also said that 419 people have voluntarily given their tankers to BWSSB on a rental basis.

BJP to protest tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said the Bharatiya Janata Party will protest in the city on Monday, against "mismanagement of the water crisis in Bengaluru". "The government has failed to rein in water tanker mafia and even in international media there are

reports everyday that Bengaluru has gone dry. This will severely hit the city's global image," he said.

Responding to the BJP's protest, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said he was open to suggestions from the Opposition granted they are constructive in nature, in light of the water crisis in Bengaluru.

"Bengaluru needs 2,100 MLD of water for drinking, out of which 1,450 MLD comes from Cauvery. There is sufficient water in

the reservoirs which will last us till July. We need 8 TMC, but there is 34 TMC water in reservoirs. There is no need for

Bengalureans to worry," he said.

He acknowledged that the remaining 650 MLD comes from borewell water and there is a 250 MLD deficit there due to exploitation of groundwater and lack of rain. "Where borewells are depleted, people are depending on Cauvery water and this is causing a stress on the system," he told *The Hindu*.

He also said that the 110 villages which do not have regular Cauvery supply have been allotted 79 water tankers of 6,000 litre capacity. He also said that 582 syntax tanks of 1,000-3,000 litre capacity have been installed in slums, low lying areas and other vulnerable localities which are being filled twice everyday.

"We are also augmenting our capacity with various means. Cauvery phase 5 of 775 MLD capacity will also be completed by May 15, and this will help us supply water to the 110 villages," Mr. Manohar said.

He added that Cauvery phase 6 will be commissioned in two years.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 10, 2024

A possible solution for Bengaluru's water crisis

Rainwater harvesting could make a dent on the freshwater needs of the city, but it pales in comparison to wastewater

DATA POINT

Rashmi Kulranjan
& Shashank Palur

As Bengaluru grows further outwards and faster than it can cope, water supply is one of the first casualties. Attempting to piece together the puzzle - where Bengaluru's water comes from, where it is stored, who consumes it, where the wastewater goes - is an essential first step to reduce the city's vulnerability to floods and drought. We zoom into four different aspects to do this.

The city's population increased from 8.7 million in 2011 to about 12.6 million in 2021 (projected). Most of the growth has been in the periphery (Maps 1 and 2).

We estimate that the total demand for freshwater is approximately 2,632 million litres per day (MLD), which is higher than what is officially supplied through the Cauvery and through groundwater sources. Water from Cauvery that is used for the city's needs has increased from 940 MLD to 1,460 MLD in the same period which, after subtracting losses, only serves half the demand. In addition, Bengaluru consumes an estimated 1,392 MLD of groundwater. This is worrying because groundwater recharge rates remain significantly lower than extraction rates.

Bengaluru recorded an above-average rainfall in 2022 while 2023 ended in a deficit. As the rainfall levels dropped, so did the groundwater level, and the periphery was impacted the most (Map 3).

As the water table drops, these areas now face borewell failures. Moreover, as shown in Map 4, many areas in the periphery don't yet have access to piped supply.

Bengaluru was not always dependent on pipelines or borewells. Most of its water bodies were originally 'tanks', rainwater harvesting structures constructed mainly to serve irrigation and livestock. The undulating terrain of the city al-

lowed for man-made cascading lake systems, which played a critical role in water supply. When piped water supply was introduced, lakes began to lose importance. Today, with rapid urbanisation, lakes have either been directly encroached upon or are drying out as the connections between them are lost. This has not only resulted in a more parched city but also aggravated the risk of flooding. The lakes and storm water drains have also become a dumping ground for sewage from the buildings around them and in their catchment, affecting the possibility of them being used to capture rainwater or storm water.

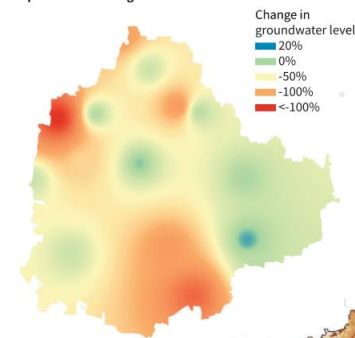
The maximum volume available to be held in lakes is about 41,600 million litres, but through a model we developed, we estimate that about 1,000 million litres of sewage is released into lakes every day making it unsuitable for use as a source of water. In Map 5 (for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike alone), we differentiate between perennial and seasonal lakes. Most of the water bodies in the city were once seasonal, meaning they captured and stored rainfall. The ones that are left are now largely perennial as a result of sewage entering them and keeping them full throughout the year.

Rainwater harvesting could make a dent on the freshwater needs of the city but it pales in comparison to wastewater. Currently, only one third of the city's wastewater is redirected for external reuse, which means it is taken to Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Devanahalli where it is used to replenish both groundwater and surface water sources. The remaining water flows into lakes and runs off land to join rivers downstream. This means the huge quantum of wastewater generated in the city is an untapped resource. Once treated to the required quality, wastewater can significantly mitigate freshwater consumption and can be crucial in making the city water resilient during low rainfall years.

Bengaluru bursting at the seams

The data for the maps were sourced from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka; India-WRIS; Sentinel; the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority; the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB); and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Map 3: Variations in groundwater levels between 2022-2023

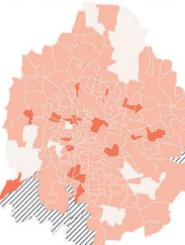


Groundwater levels dropped mostly in the periphery areas. These are regions that don't have access to piped supply from the Cauvery yet. As the water table has dropped, they now have dry borewells

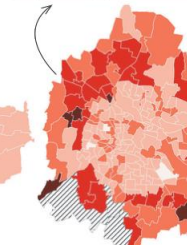
Bengaluru was once a city of 1,000 lakes. Its undulating terrain allowed for man-made cascading lake systems to be built. These played a critical role in managing the availability and surplus of water

THE WRITERS ARE HYDROLOGISTS AT WELL LABS

Map 1: Ward population 2011



Map 2: Ward population 2021



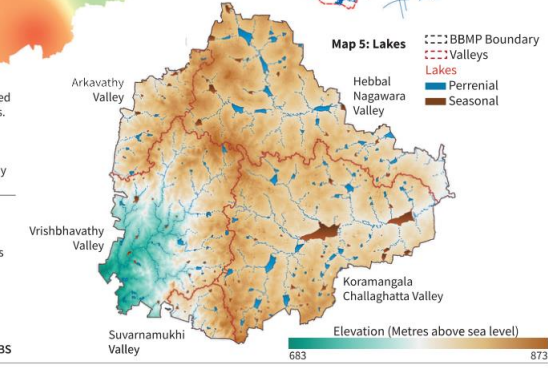
Ward population
No data
1-30000
30000-60000
60000-90000
90000-120000
>120000

Map 4: Piped water

BWSSB water supply lines

Map 5: Lakes

BBMP Boundary
Valleys
Lakes
Perennial
Seasonal



Elevation (Metres above sea level)
683 873

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, March. 11, 2024

Water woes: How is the Garden City maintaining its parks and gardens?

Jahnabi T. R.
BENGALURU

At a time when access to water has become Bengaluru's biggest issue, how are the authorities looking after the parks and gardens of the Garden City, keeping these spaces green.

The two premium lung spaces in the city – Lalbagh and Cubbon Park – are maintained by the Horticulture Department. The two green spaces get 15 lakh litres of treated water every day for the maintenance of trees and plants. The borewells within the gardens provide water for the potted plants.

"The water levels have gone down in the borewells. There are some dry patches here and there in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. Although we are not greatly affected, maintenance during the summer season is difficult," said M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director (Parks and gardens), Horticulture Department.

Stressing that there is no alternative for rainwater, he said, "Irrespective of how many times we water the plants, because of the



The water levels have gone down in the borewells. There are some dry patches here and there in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. FILE PHOTO

heat, the wetness in the soil immediately dries up. This has caused some withering. This concern can only be addressed by rains."

BBMP maintains a total of 1,270 parks which are spread across eight zones. Every locality has at least one BBMP park. Most of these parks have their own borewells. Due to recent weather conditions, some of these borewells have run dry. "So far, we have not had big problems when it comes to park maintenance. In the parks where the borewells are dry, we are planning to get tankers and use Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) water or biologically treated wastewater. Out of all the parks we maintain, there are water

problems in around 100 – 200 of them as of now," said Chandrashekar, Deputy Director (Horticulture), BBMP.

For the maintenance of one park, BBMP would require about two water tankers for three days.

While parks and gardens have their own borewells, golf courses in the city often rely on external sources, mostly treated water for maintenance. These courses sprawled across acres need lakhs of litres of water everyday. The two major golf clubs – Bangalore Golf Club and Karnataka Golf Association – are grappling with water shortage. Bangalore Golf Club needs around seven lakh litres of water every day whereas it is getting only two and a

half to three lakh litres as of now.

"Water is a major requirement for golf courses to maintain the fairways and greens. We mostly use treated water, but sometimes buy tankers too. However now, because of the demand and increased prices we are not able to procure tankers. For now, we are not able to do much for our fairways, but we are taking care of greens. Every summer, we face water shortage but this time, it is acute," said D.N. Vasanth Kumar, captain, Bangalore Golf Club.

The fate of IPL

The city is also scheduled to host three IPL matches later this month and in early April – on March 25, 29 and April 2. But, for the upkeep of the turf, water from the STP unit within the premises of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is used. But, there is precedent for the shifting of matches, for in 2016, the Bombay High Court had ordered close to a dozen games – including the final – be moved out of Maharashtra owing to severe drought.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 11, 2024

Water famine in Bengaluru?

The city must act now to prevent a potential drought catastrophe and mass migration

A RAVINDRA

Borewells, borewells everywhere. Not a drop to drink.

With apologies to the English poet, Samuel Coleridge, who wrote the famous lines:

*Water, water everywhere,
Nor a drop to drink.*

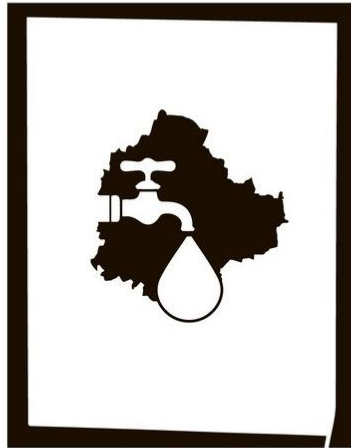
Bengaluru may not be facing such a dreadful situation right now, but it is experiencing a water crisis, evident in drying borewells and shortages in the supply of BWSSB water. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has said that the borewell in his house, in an elitist locality, has also dried up. A few years ago, a study forecast that certain cities, including Bengaluru and Cape Town in South Africa, would run out of water. Indeed, Cape Town was on the verge of such a crisis but overcame the danger through certain drastic measures. According to a 2018 Niti Aayog report, 40% of the population would have no access to drinking water by 2030.

The problems relating to water supply as well as remedial measures have been articulated from time to time. What is missing, despite there being a State Policy for Water, is a coherent long-term policy for Bengaluru, analysing the issues and spelling out strategies to ensure adequate water supply throughout the year. Let me put forth seven sutras that call for urgent action.

■ **Water Conservation:** Karnataka is a water-stressed state and needs to conserve the available water resources. In reality, a lot of water is wasted in daily use, especially in washing and bathing. Even drinking water is wasted, more so water supplied in bottles in star hotels and events, where people consume a little and the rest goes down the drain. According to some experts, the rainwater received in Bengaluru (an annual average of 800 mm) should suffice to serve the water needs of the city if properly conserved through rainwater harvesting and recharging. Although water harvesting is mandatory, implementation is poor. The agricultural sector, where farmers with pump sets enjoy free water, also contributes to significant water wastage.

■ **Regulating groundwater extrac-**

tion: Overexploitation of groundwater is a major reason for water shortages. Strangely, the government encourages the digging of more borewells during the summer, as it is happening now. Niti Aayog has warned that 21 cities, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, will run out of groundwater. Though there is a law regulating the use of groundwater, it is hardly enforced. The government has warned 'tanker mafias' not to exploit the situation and prescribed rates for the supply of water. How effective the enforcement will be is anybody's guess. There are, however, examples of water rejuvenation in and around Devanahalli that can be adopted in other areas.



■ **Reuse of waste water:** About 60% of the water is wasted, with only half being recycled. Bengaluru has a number of sewage or waste water treatment plants, and treated water is supplied for non-potable purposes such as washing, gardening (as in Cubbon Park and Lalbagh), etc. BWSSB, however, is not able to market it adequately due to low demand from industries. It may be time to consider the use of recycled water for drinking purposes, as is done in Singapore, where recycled and bottled water is sold as Newater. This would require tertiary treatment up to a level when it becomes fit for drinking and adopting the right technology. When I proposed this some years ago after a visit to Singapore and tasting Newater, the reaction was one of shock: "Ah, drinking sewage water!" With its own traditional concepts of purity, India may not be psychologically attuned to accept the idea.

■ **Water for agriculture:** While people in Bengaluru are primarily concerned about drinking water and other subsid-

iary uses, in the state as a whole, 80% of fresh water is used for agriculture. The problem is aggravated by the fact that excessive water is used for the cultivation of paddy and sugarcane in irrigated areas, which has an adverse impact on the availability and supply of water for other purposes. The solution lies in switching over from water-intensive crops to light-irrigated crops like pulses, millets, and horticultural crops. Efforts to persuade farmers to change their cropping patterns have been futile. However, there is no alternative to crop diversification, in the interests of efficient use of water as well as achieving agricultural prosperity.

■ **Water cost-price-value gap:** BWSB, which procures water from the Cauvery River about 90 km away from the city, supplies water far below its production cost. There is a disconnect between cost, price, and the intrinsic value of water, leading to a tendency to waste. Water being a political hot potato, revision of rates is rare. Water boards across the country run at huge losses. But with increasing costs and population, there is a need for a rethinking on the subject, although subsidies cannot be totally avoided.

■ **Set up a Water Regulatory Authority:** Unlike in the power sector, where electricity regulatory commissions have been set up in all states in addition to the one at the Centre, there is no regulatory mechanism for the use of water. Owing to political compulsions, state governments will not be able to effect drastic reforms in the water sector. It is therefore imperative that a water regulatory authority be set up in the state to ensure certain standards for optimum use of water and the fixing of water rates.

■ **Urban Planning:** Finally, water must be viewed from a holistic perspective and treated as part of urban planning. Unending construction in Bengaluru adds to water consumption. Unless there is a policy to restrict construction, particularly illegal construction, the damage to the city will be irreparable, affecting the quality of life of citizens. If we don't wake up to the alarming situation now and act, the day may not be far off when our capital city will have to face not just a water crisis but a water famine.

The Silicon Valley of India may well turn into a waterless valley, leading to mass migration.

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, March, 11, 2024

BBMP identifies 4 places to process city's waste

Experts call
Palike's new plan a
'retrograde' move

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's civic body has identified four large land parcels on the outskirts to process the nearly 6,000 metric tonnes of municipal waste that the city generates daily.

While the ambitious proposal hopes to do away with landfill sites where a large volume of waste is currently dumped, the plan may get a fair share of criticism for not promoting ward-level or in-site processing or composting of waste.

The four places are located in Doddaballapura taluk (where Terra Firma was once located), Mandur in the east (Mahadevapura assembly constituency), Bidadi in the west and Gollahalli on Bannerghatta Road.

It's noteworthy that two of these places were used as garbage dump yards but shut down in 2014 (Mandur) and 2016 (Doddaballapura) during Siddaramaiah's first tenure as chief minister, following protests from villagers.

The remaining two are new garbage spots.



Huge financial implications

Very few operators in the country are capable of handling large volumes of waste

Garbage disposal may be held as ransom if demands are not met

Goes against the decentralised approach to waste management

The Palike plans to send about 1,500 tonnes of waste to the designated locations. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

While the 100-acre land in Gollahalli belongs to the Public Works Department and is currently in the custody of Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE), the Bidadi land is owned by the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL), where it is setting up a new waste-to-energy (WtE) plant.

In all likelihood, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) may send about 1,500 tonnes of waste to each of the four locations once the new facilities such as the biomethanation plant, processing infrastructure and waste-to-energy plant come up.

Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner of the BBMP's

solid waste management division, said that the proposal had been shared with the government for approval.

"In each of these places, we will set up different facilities to process the waste. Only the inert materials will be sent to the landfill but that will not be more than 15% of the total waste generated in the city. This can handle the city's garbage for the next 30 years," he told DH.

'Contrary to HC order'

Experts, however, say the BBMP's new plan is a "retrograde" move and runs contrary to the High Court orders.

Ajesh Kumar Shankar, who was the lead counsel before

the High Court of Karnataka for enforcement of the solid waste management rules, said multiple court orders had ruled in favour of a decentralised approach to processing waste.

"The BBMP must provide captive units for processing waste at the ward level. The focus should be on promoting in-site composting of wet waste," he said.

A senior BBMP official said the idea was "very theoretical" but no resident would agree to open a waste-processing plant next to their house. He recalled how the BBMP struggled to optimally use waste-processing plants it built almost a decade ago.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, March, 11, 2024

BBMP formulating policy to use CSR funds for lake work

₹35cr Currently
Spent On
Maintenance

Santoshkumar.B
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The BBMP is formulating a new policy to enable private entities and individuals to contribute funds, facilities and assets for the maintenance and conservation of Bengaluru lakes. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Community Involvement For Lake Conservation Policy 2023 is being drafted and BBMP plans to notify it soon, inviting objections and suggestions from the public before issuing a final notification.

Once introduced, the new policy is expected to not only enable the civic body to access funds for the maintenance of lakes but also help cut its outgo.

"At present, our expenditure on lake maintenance



Photo for representation

LOVE FOR LAKES: The proposed policy could enable private entities to contribute funds and facilities for the conservation of lakes

stands at around Rs 35 crore annually to cover the 205 lakes under our jurisdiction, of which 114 have already been developed. We can reduce this once we start getting CSR (corporate social responsibility) and other funds through the new scheme," a senior official said. This move comes after a five-year gap since BBMP stopped entering into memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with private parties and NGOs for lake maintenance in 2019, following a high court

order questioning the legality of such agreements.

According to BBMP officials, previously, in multiple instances, the responsibility of lake maintenance was given to NGOs and local resident groups between 2011 and 2019. However, after the court's directive, BBMP had to discontinue.

The new policy, formulated with help from the BBMP's legal cell, aims to address the growing interest from private firms, and organisations, to contribute to-

wards the conservation of the city's lakes. Under the proposed policy, entities can contribute funds through their CSR initiatives, with a written statement. Interested parties can provide facilities or assets, such as benches, public restrooms, water treatment plants and parks adjacent to lakes.

A source said: "For the sake of transparency, every penny spent by private entities will need to be brought to BBMP's notice. The Palike, in turn, will give them receipts for all the expenditure... and the same will be addressed under the MoU to provide service." There will be a second type of MoU which will allow private entities, individuals and organisations to provide facilities or assets. "Those who are interested can contribute to the installation of benches, construction and maintenance of public restrooms, water treatment plants, parks and open places adjacent to lakes through such MoUs," the source added.

Source: The Times of India, p.6, March. 11, 2024

50% BWSSB, BBMP borewells either dry or give little water

About 7k Of 14k Such Sources Now Ineffective

Santoshkumar.B
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: One out of every two borewells belonging to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in the city has dried up or is yielding very little water. According to official data, there are 14,781 borewells in the city (BBMP limits) and 3,297 of them have dried up while 3,700 see poor yield.

BWSSB has 11,816 borewells in the city, and 2,035 — or 17% — of them have dried up, while 3,700 — or 31% — are yielding very little water. Only 6,081 of its borewells are active. BWSSB was drawing 400 million litres of water from its borewells daily to cater to the needs of the areas that don't get Cauvery water, but with half of them either dried up or seeing poor yield, the utility is struggling to meet the city's water needs.

BWSSB officials claim there is no water problem in the core areas of BBMP, as they get water from Cauvery river. However, CMC and TMC areas that were added to the BBMP limits are affected by the drying of borewells and other reasons. People who would draw water from their borewells have also started depending completely on Cauvery water as their borewells have dried up or will soon. This has also led to a shortage in water supply.

Meanwhile, BBMP has 2,965 borewells to supply water to the 110 villages that were added to its limits in 2008. Of them, 1,262 borewells have dried up, leaving 1,703 active ones. Pushed into hiring private water tankers to supply drinking water in the city, the two agencies are taking steps to identify borewells that need repair or have to be dug further.

BBMP's request to BWSSB

On Monday, BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath wrote to BWSSB chairman V Ram Prasath Manohar to start works related to drilling borewells and providing pipelines within Palike limits, except the 110 villages.

Nath stated in the letter that the govt has given approval for the action plan to drill



K Sunil Prasad

HELPING HAND: BWSSB supplies water on Monday to a locality in the city

BWSSB officials say there is no water problem in the core areas of BBMP, as they get water from Cauvery river. However, CMC and TMC areas added to BBMP are hit by drying borewells and other reasons

new borewells, redrill or maintain the existing ones, and provide pipeline works. Grants from the Amruth Nagarothana scheme, BBMP, and 15th Finance Commission can be used to carry out the works. BBMP has taken steps to release Rs 37.5 crore to BWSSB to carry out the work "on priority basis".

PARCHED SCENE IN BENGALURU

Civic agency	No. of borewells	Dried up/ poor yield	Active
BWSSB	11,816	2,035/3,700	6,081
BBMP	2,965	1,262/Not available	1,703
Total	14,781	3,297/3,700	7,784

Source: BWSSB & BBMP



Source: The Times of India, p.2, March. 12, 2024

'State has not seen such a drought in 30-40 years'

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said there was no question of releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu now; of the 13,900 borewells in Bengaluru, 6,900 have dried up

WATER WOES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing some of politicising the water crisis in Bengaluru to criticise the government, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that Karnataka was facing the worst drought conditions in the last 30 to 40 years.

"There is no shortage of water in areas serviced by Cauvery water. Those areas dependent on borewells have been facing crisis as borewells have dried up. The government has taken adequate steps to mitigate the problem," he told presspersons here on Monday.

Of the 13,900 borewells in Bengaluru, 6,900 borewells have dried up creating water shortage, he said, adding that water is being supplied through tankers in affected areas.

Claiming that the Congress government has stopped the water mafia,



Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has accused some of politicising the water crisis in Bengaluru.

he said that it has been ensured that water is being supplied to people at reasonable rates while in slums water is being given free of cost.

"Separate rates have been fixed for water supply to apartments and industries. Already about 1,500 private water tankers have registered with the government and time has been extended for others to register. The police, BBMP and

RTO officials have been asked to put a government board on registered tankers. These measures have helped in preventing tanker owners from fleecing people," said Mr. Shivakumar, who is also the Water Resources Minister.

Mr. Shivakumar added, "The government has decided to redrill dry borewells and sink more borewells besides seeking an agreement with farmers of

Anekal and other villages south of Bengaluru to supply water. The Cauvery Stage V meant to supply water to 110 villages will be completed by May."

He also said that the solution to the water crisis is construction of Makedatu balancing reservoir.

Meanwhile, on claims by the BJP that the State government had released water to Tamil Nadu despite severe water crisis in Karnataka, Mr. Shivakumar said the allegations were far from the truth.

"We have not released water to Tamil Nadu and we will not release (too). We have responsibility with respect to water management. We have protected the interest of farmers in Cauvery basin and will continue to do so." When Tamil Nadu is not asking for water, why should Karnataka leave (water), he asked.

The water from KRS has been released to secure drinking water needs of Bengaluru as water level in Shiva reservoir had receded.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 12, 2024

80km STRR to reduce 30% transient traffic in B'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

Bengaluru: The first phase of Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, is a game-changer of sorts for Bengaluru: To start with, construction of 80km of STRR was completed at a breakneck speed of around three years. Second, it is expected to reduce 30% of Bengaluru's transient traffic as it serves as a bypass around the city.

The newly inaugurated STRR stretch, which links Tumakuru highway with that of Bengaluru-Kolar, will ensure at least 20,000 trucks and other commercial vehicles avoid cutting through the tech capital. Vehicles coming Tumakuru side can now head to Dabaspur and move through Doddaballapur, Devanahalli and reach Hoskote using the ring road. Thousands of trucks that earlier used to enter city roads to reach the cargo terminals of Kempegowda International Airport via Ballari Road and those heading towards Hyderabad will also



FOR SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY: STRR connects Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Ramanagara and Krishnagiri of Tamil Nadu by linking eight national and eight state highways. NHAI has fixed a deadline of 2026 for completing the entire network

use the ring road.

NHAI project director KB Jayakumar said: "This road also saves a lot of time for motorists. It connects KIA, the industrial belt in Dabaspur, Sompura, Doddaballapur. In future, the road will have access to the proposed multi-modal logistics park near Dabaspur. Already, motorists have started using the entire 80-km stretch." In a way, it has declogged Hebbal junction by 20% following diversion of trucks heading towards Kolar.

The official said a toll fee will be collected for the 42-

km stretch from Dabaspur to Doddaballapur after a notification is issued. He added that NHAI has also opened a 4-km Hoskote bypass stretch for traffic.

To build the Doddaballapur-Hoskote stretch, NHAI has spent Rs 1,417 crore and Rs 1,438 crore for Dabaspur-Doddaballapur stretch.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said once the entire STRR network is ready, traffic congestion in Bengaluru will reduce by 30%. "The ring road will help transient traffic move without hitting city roads."

Source: The Times of India, p.6 March. 12, 2024

10-fold rise in concrete structures shrank water surface by 80%: IISc

City's Built-up Area Rose From 8% In 1973 To 93.3% In 2023

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: A sharp 1055% rise in built-up areas (concrete structures and paved surfaces) in Bengaluru over the last few decades has been well acknowledged. But what has gone unnoticed is the 79% fall in the water spread area, affecting the availability of the precious commodity and 88% loss of vegetation impacting the sequestration of respiratory carbon in the last 50 years.

The revelations come amid a severe shortage of water gripping the city, necessitating even its rationing.

The startling loss of green cover and the water spread area is part of the recordings documented by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) scientists who have mapped the transformation and evolution of Bengaluru over the last 50 years.

Presenting their analysis in a recently released model, the scientists have unveiled a public information system—BuiS (Bangalore Information System) and BLIS (Bangalore Lakes Information System) by making use of free and open-source software to help researchers and policymakers

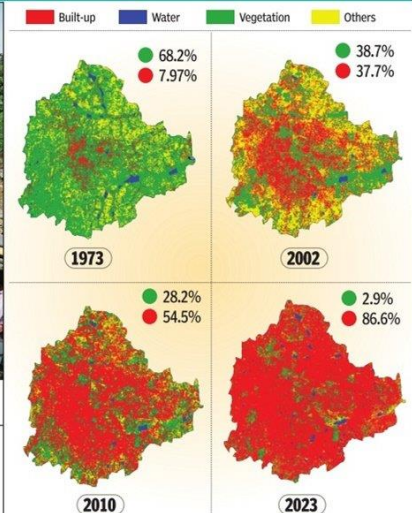
HOW B'LURU CHANGED FROM GREEN TO RED IN 5 DECADES



DISASTER BUILDS UP: Unplanned urbanization has impacted Bengaluru's water table and contributed to its ongoing shortage

“Remote-sensing data for Bengaluru reveals only 1.5 million trees support the city's population of 9.5 million, indicating one tree for every seven persons in the city

Prof TV Ramachandra | CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES, IISC



take note of the unplanned urbanization which is taking a toll on its citizens.

According to Prof TV Ramachandra of IISc's Centre for Ecological Sciences, the water spread area has plummeted from 2,324 hectares in 1973 to just 696 hectares in 2023 and it is said to be the root cause of the depleting groundwater table across Bengaluru.

“The extent of water surface in Bengaluru during 1973 was 2,324 hectares. Over the last 50 years, due to reckless concretization, the water surface has shrunk considerably. Of the remaining water

bodies, 98% of lakes are encroached upon and 90% of them are fed with untreated sewage or industrial effluents. Naturally, this has impacted the recharge of the groundwater table as well. The reduction in water surface area has also affected the groundwater recharge across Bengaluru,” he pointed out.

Incidentally, the IT city's built-up area way back in 1973 was just 8% and it stood at 93.3% in 2023.

Ramachandra attributed the higher quantity of air pollutants and rising temperature levels to a significant loss

of the green cover:

“Remote sensing data for Bengaluru reveals only 1.5 million trees support Bengaluru's population of 9.5 million, indicating one tree for every seven persons in the city. However, this is insufficient even to sequester respiratory carbon which is 540-900g per person per day,” he pointed out.

The BuiS, according to researchers, helps all in visualizing the urban dynamics of Bengaluru, ward-wise number of trees and their spatial distribution and lakes or waterbodies. It also helps in visu-

alizing ecologically sensitive regions in Bengaluru.

“Unplanned urbanisation, especially over a short period of time, poses serious problems such as pollution, inequitable distribution of natural resources, traffic congestion, spread of slums, unemployment, increased reliance on fossil fuels and uncontrolled outgrowth or sprawl in the periphery,” Ramachandra said.

Researchers Bharath H Aithal, Vinay S, Tulika Mondal and Abhishek Baghel have also contributed extensively to setting up the system by collecting historical data.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, March. 14, 2024

Cabinet approves Phase 3 of Namma Metro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Providing a further boost to urban mobility in Bengaluru, which is plagued by traffic issues, the State government on Thursday approved Phase 3 of Namma Metro.

Under this plan, 44.65 km of the new line will be added to the network by 2028 at a cost of ₹15,611 crore.

The proposed new line connects Hebbal with J.P. Nagar via Goruguntepalya, Magadi Road, Mysuru Road and Kanakapura Road along the Outer Ring Road for a distance of 32.15 km. Another line connecting Hosahalli and Kadabugere via Magadi Road for a dis-



While metro Phase 2A and Phase 2B are expected to be completed in two years, work on Phase 3 will start soon. K. MURALI KUMAR

tance of 12.5 km has been approved.

"The Cabinet approved adding two more corridors to the Namma Metro network to reduce traffic problems. While metro Phase 2A and Phase 2B are ex-

pected to be completed in two years, work on Phase 3 will start soon. Once Phase 3 is completed, the line along the Outer Ring Road will be completed. Already, the J.P. Nagar to Silk Board junction is under progress

under Phase 2," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Expecting the overall ridership to increase once Phase 3 becomes operational as connectivity increases, Mr. Gowda said, "About 80% to 85% of the cost of Phase 3 will be funded by the State Government, and we hope that the Centre meets the remaining cost. The feasibility survey has been completed, and the Centre has given its approval for Phase 3."

Tree park on NGEF land

The Cabinet also approved a tree park on about 65 acres of NGEF land at a cost of ₹11 crore. "Of the total 110 acres, 65 acres will

be earmarked for tree park, which will have a playground, walking and cycling track. This will provide a lung space to East Bengaluru, which currently does not have any big parks." He said the government decided to provide NGEF land, whose market price per acre is estimated to be around ₹25 crore, for public use.

Bhuvaneshwari statue

The Cabinet decided to install a statue of goddess Bhuvaneshwari, representing the land, language and culture of Karnataka, at a cost of ₹23 crore. The height and whether the statue should be in stone or metal has not been decided yet, Mr. Gowda said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1, March. 15, 2024

Future-proofing cities: Expert bats for efficient use of water

Groundwater extraction high, country dependent on rainfall

R KRISHNAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sustainability of groundwater sources needs to be at the centre of Bengaluru's development blueprint as the city grapples with the inevitability of unchecked growth and failed monsoons set off by climate change, water resource expert Dipankar Saha said.

The former member-secretary of the Central Ground Water Authority underscored water use efficiency as critical to the sustainable management of urban sprawls. Saha is currently a board member of the India division of Water For People, a US-headquartered non-profit that works on clean water solutions.

Bengaluru's ongoing water crisis is not a lot unlike the one faced by surface water-dependent cities like Mumbai or groundwater-dependent cities like Patna.

"The issue in Bengaluru is that the high rate of urbanisation – both vertically and through the annexing of peri-urban areas – leaves traditional water supply

networks and surface water sources short. The pressure is immense on groundwater sources and management of these sources is inadequate," Saha told *DH*.

Calling source sustainability "a major challenge", he said climate change was aggravating the crisis as the rainfall patterns become increasingly unpredictable. "Since the groundwater extraction is too high, cities are becoming more and more dependent on rainfall. This is happening across urban India but the trend has spiked in Bengaluru," he said.

Saha has led the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme as National Coordinator.



DIPANKAR SAHA
Board Member, Water for People India

"The issue in Bengaluru is that the high rate of urbanisation – both vertically and through the annexing of peri-urban areas – leaves traditional water supply networks and surface water sources short. The pressure is immense on groundwater sources and management of these sources is inadequate.

Improving water use efficiency is one of the strategies adopted in the Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), the union government's community-led groundwater management project. Atal Jal which covers water-stressed areas in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh

supports volumetric metering and real-time data systems and increasing awareness of groundwater governance.

"Supply-side interventions like rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge can have a limited impact in areas with acute overexploitation (of groundwater). There is a new emphasis

on demand-side interventions, specifically on enhancing water use efficiency. A lot of work is being done in this connection in the irrigation sector which consumes about 90% of the groundwater but water use efficiency in the urban areas is less discussed," Saha said.

Pitching a decentralised, community-led approach to groundwater management, Saha said civic agencies also needed to work with domain experts to devise science-backed strategies that factor in contingencies like climate change. While treated greywater has immense potential to meet non-potable demands, its mainstreaming will need to involve stringent quality checks, he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, March, 15, 2024

City's water tariff may go up by 15% after general elections

BWSSB has submitted many proposals seeking a hike

BENGALURU, DHNS

Water bills could go up after the Lok Sabha elections as the state government is considering revising the water tariff after 10 years.

Hinting that the government is convinced about the need to revise the water tariff, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said a decision would be made after the elections.

"We know that the water tariff has not been revised in the last 10 years and the Ban-

galore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been struggling to meet the rising expenses. We want to strengthen the organisation and we will come up with a solution after the elections," he said.

He suggested that the government could look at a dynamic tariff revision model.

"For instance, in the KSRTC, when the fuel prices go up, the bus fares also go up. Similarly for BWSSB, we are looking at a system that will provide a long-term solution for the tariff revision prob-



People fetching drinking water from BBMP kiosk on Thursday. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

lem," he added.

Speaking to *DH*, senior BWSSB officials said that the board had so far submitted multiple proposals seeking a tariff hike and considering the financial situation of the

board, they expect at least a 15% increase in tariff.

"None of our proposals was answered. They were neither rejected nor accepted," a senior official explained.

Yet another official said that the operational costs had gone up drastically over the last decade and a tariff revision was the need of the hour.

"When the tariff was last revised in 2014, our expenditure on electricity was approximately Rs 30 crore a month. In the last decade, Bescom tariff has been revised multiple times and we now spend Rs 70-75 crore a month on electricity alone," the official said.

The official also pointed out that the expenses on salaries and maintenance also increased over the years and the board's expenses were now higher than the income through consumer tariff.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, March, 15, 2024

BMRCL to study feasibility of 2-tier flyovers

Could Run For 57km
On 3 Metro Lines

Suchith Kidiyoer@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) will conduct a feasibility study on its proposal to construct double-deck flyovers (road-cum-Metro flyovers) on three of its proposed corridors.

The road-cum-Metro flyovers — one of the plans fervently advocated by deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar to decongest traffic in the city — have been proposed under Phases 3 and 3A of Namma Metro.

Under Phase 3, BMRCL is building an Orange Line from JP Nagar IV Phase to Kempapura (32km), via Peenya, Nayanahalli, and Sarakki Junction. On Magadi Road, one more Orange Line is proposed from Hosahalli to Kadabagere (12.5km). The feasibility of building double-deck flyovers for 41km on these corridors will be studied.

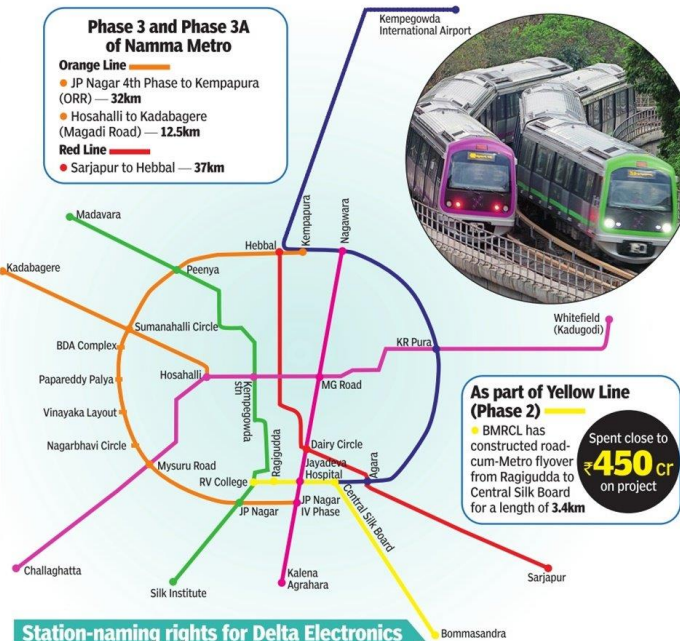
METRO PHASES 3, 3A

Under Phase 3A, a Red Line is proposed from Sarjapur to Hebbal (37km). The notification states that on this line, the feasibility of building a double-deck flyover will be studied for two stretches — Sarjapur to Iblur (14km) and Agara to Koramangala (2.5km). Most of the remaining corridor will go underground or will run parallel to another Metro line.

A BMRCL official said, "Under Phase 2 of Namma Metro, BMRCL has built a 3.4-km road-cum-Metro flyover from Ragigudda to Silk Board junction at Rs 450 crore."

Sources said the govt would have to bear the 'differential cost' in the construction of road-cum-Metro flyovers.

For Phase 3 of Namma Metro, BBMP and BMRCL had agreed on the construction of double-deck flyovers for 1.4km from Kanakapura Road junction and Sarakki Junction and for another 1.6km between Kamakya and Hosakerehalli junction.



CABINET NOD FOR ORANGE LINE

The state cabinet on Thursday gave its approval for building the Orange Line of Namma Metro under Phase 3. The project is estimated to cost Rs 15,600 crore.

Briefing media, minister Krishna Byregowda said BMRCL has set 2028 as the deadline for the project. "Up to 85% of the cost will be borne by the state govt, the rest by the Centre," he added.

The project is pending before the central govt for final approval, which is expected to come before the announcement of the Lok Sabha election dates.

The cabinet also approved developing a tree park on 65 acres of NGEF land near KR Pura at a cost of Rs 11 crore. The park will have a cycle track, walking paths and a big playground.

The cabinet also decided to give one more opportunity to allottees of sites in Kempegowda Layout, who defaulted on payments, to clear their dues and get the allotted plots registered in their name. Given the high price of plots (up to Rs 24 lakh for 1,200sqft), around 30% of the allottees are said to have not made payment.

Furthermore, the cabinet approved installing a statue of Bhuvaneshwari Naada Devate (state deity) on the premises of Vidhana Soudha at a cost of Rs 23 crore, to commemorate the 50th year of naming the state Karnataka.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, March. 15, 2024

ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪುಟದ ಕ್ರಮ | 5,611 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಹಸಿರು ನಿಶಾನೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ 3ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿ 'ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ' ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬುಧವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಇರುವಂತಹ ರಿಂಗ್ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿ ಕೊಂಡಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೇಲ್ದೇಗುಲ ಯಿಂದ ಗೋರಗುಂಟೆವಾಳು ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ತುಮಕೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೂಗಾಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕನಕಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ನಗರ ತಲುಪುವ 15,611 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪುಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ನಗರದಿಂದ ಸಿಲ್ವೆ ಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪುರ ಮಾರ್ಗವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಒಂದು ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದೆರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಧ್ವಜ ಒಡ್ಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 32.15 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು ಎಂದು ಸಭೆಯ ಬಳಿಕ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಲವು ಏಕಿಲ್ಲ: ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸಿಎಂ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಚಾಕಿರಾತಿ ವರದಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಾಗಲೀ ಗುರುವಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಅವರು, ಸಿಎಂ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದವರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ನ್ಯಾಯ, ಉತ್ತರದವರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಶ್ರೀಲಂಕಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್ ಟಿಟಿಎ ಸಂಘರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಾಗಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ವಲಸೆ ಬಂದವರಿಗೆ ಸಿಎಂ ಅಡಿ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮ ನೀಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪಾವತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ ಟಿಟಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವ ಕ್ರಮವಾದರೂ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿ ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ

ಭಿನ್ನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪಾಕಿಸ್ತಾನ, ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾದೇಶ ಮುಂತಾದ ದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಾಗಿ ಬಂದವರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮ ನೀಡಲು ಮುಂದಾದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಶ್ರೀಲಂಕಾದಿಂದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಾಗಿ ಬಂದವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಏಕೆ ಒಲವು ತೋರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು.

ಇತರೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖಾಂಶ

- ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಏಳು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 132 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 33 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಆದೇಶಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.
- ಬೀದರ್ ಪಶು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕಡಪ ಪಶು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಸೇರಿ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ 163.75 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಅನುಮಾನ
- ಅಥರ್ ಪಶು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ 82 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ನೀಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ.
- ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಹೊಸ ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ 170 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ.
- ಬೆಳೆ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ 67 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯೋಟೆಕ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಅಗ್ನಿ ಇನ್ಸೂರೆನ್ಸ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ

ನಿವೇಶನ ಕಂತು ಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಸಮಯ

ಕಂಪೌಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಲೇಔಟ್ ಸೇರಿ ನಾನಾ ಹೊಸ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ 2016-17ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಆಗ ಲಿಫ್ಟ್ ಕಂ ಸೇಲ್ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾದವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪಾಲಿನ ಕಂತುಕಟ್ಟಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ ವಾಪಸ್ ಆಗಿವೆ. ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಮುಗ್ಗುಲು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬಡ ಜನರು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂತಹವರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಆಗಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ಈಗ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿ ಪಾಲಿನ ಕಂತು ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಸಮಯ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಸಂಕೀರ್ತ ಭುವನೇಶ್ವರಿ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಮಂತಯ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಎಡಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯಾಗಲಿದ್ದು ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 23 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **-ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ**
 ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು 2028ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ

ಬಿಎಂಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಲ್ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. 15,611 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಶೇ.85ರಷ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶೇ.15ರಷ್ಟು ಹಣ ಒದಗಿಸಲಿವೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಸಹ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದು ಬಿಎಂಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಲ್ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಯೋಜನಾ

ವರದಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಸಹ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Vishwawani, p.11, Mar.15, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)