



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



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AGRICULTURE

Reforms panel asks govt to legalise agri land leasing

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2) has asked the government to legalise leasing of agricultural plots, a move whose impact can be far-reaching by unlocking the potential of huge tracts of land that are not being put

to use.

This is among the many recommendations made by KARC-2 whose outgoing chairperson TM Vijay Bhaskar submitted his seventh report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday.

The KARC-2 has drafted the Karnataka Crop Production and Land Rejuvenation Bill,



which it said the government must consider. At present, the law restricts

tenancy in agriculture (except if the landowner is a defence staff, seaman or if the land is located in Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada).

"Restrictive land leasing laws have led to informal and concealed tenancies without security of tenure. This has resulted in impeding investments in agriculture and, thus,

adversely impacted productivity," the KARC-2 stated. Leasing restrictions have also led to unused or fallow lands. Karnataka has 21 lakh hectares of fallow land - about 16% of the total tillable land. The total crop loss due to such fallow lands may be Rs 8,000 crore a year, the KARC-2 said.

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"The fear of agricultural lands falling into the hands of the sharecroppers or tenant farmers after a specific period (due to restrictive clauses) has also led to landowners keeping large chunks of lands fallow rather than leasing them to willing lessees in Karnataka.

With an enabling framework, legalising land leasing could correct such anomalies," the report said.

Under informal leasing arrangements, most tenants are small and marginal farmers belonging to SC/ST and OBCs. "Lands are mostly leased out by migrant land owners, land-owning urbanites and big land

owners," it said. The report said informal tenancy leads to inaccessibility of institutional crop loans, input subsidies and benefits under various schemes. "Such benefits are often appropriated by landowners." The KARC-2's seventh report has 527 recommendations pertaining to nine departments.

It has asked the government

to introduce a Tatkal system for service delivery in a day or two. "It is a fact that when a citizen needs a service urgently, she can pay a higher amount informally and get it. There is a need to formalise and institutionalise this system," the report said, adding that half of the fee can go to staff delivering the service.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&3, March, 3, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ವೆಚ್ಚ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾದರೂ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ • ಬರದಿಂದ ಬಳಲಿದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ನೀರಿಗೂ ತತ್ವಾರ

ಹಣ ಹರಿದರೂ ತುಂಬದ ಕೆರೆ

• ಮನೋಜ್ಞಕುಮಾರ್ ಗುಡ್ಡ



ಬಳನೋಟ

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ: 'ದನ, ಕರುಗಳು, ರೈತರ ಹೊಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಸರೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಜನೊಂದಿಗೆ ತಿಂಗಳ ತನಕ ನೀರು ಸಿಗಬಹುದು. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಬತ್ತಿ ಹೋದ ಮೂಲ ನೀರ ಕುಡಿಸಲು ದನಗಳನ್ನ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಒಯ್ಯಬೇಕು ಅದ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗ್ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಕಟಕರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರಾಕೂ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಬರ್ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ..'

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕುಮರಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕೆರೆಯಂಗಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾನುವಾರು ಮೇಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರೈತ ನಾಗನಗೌಡ ಕೋಟೂರ ಅವರ ಈ ಮಾತು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಬರಗಾಲದ ಛಾಯೆ ಆವರಿಸಿದೆ. ಬಯಲುಸೀಮೆ ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಮಲೆನಾಡ ಸರಗಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೆರೆಗಳೂ ಬತ್ತುವ ಪಂತ ತಲುಪಿವೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾಯಕೂ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನದಿಗಳಾದ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ, ಕಾವೇರಿ, ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ, ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ, ಭೀಮಾ, ಕದಿನಿ, ವರದಾ, ಬೋರಿಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಣ್ಣೆತೋರಾ, ನಾಗರಾಜ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಿಂದ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು

ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕಳಪೆ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಬಳಕೆ, ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗದಿರುವುದು, ಯೋಜನೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿವೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಶಯ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ, ಭದ್ರಾ ಮತ್ತು ತುಂಗಾ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಿಂದ ನಾಲೆಗೆ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು 'ಭದ್ರಾ ಮೇಲ್ದಂಡೆ' ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿ ಎರಡು ದಶಕಗಳೇ ಕಳೆದಿವೆ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ತುಮಕೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 367 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟು ತುಂಬಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಆಶ್ವಾಸ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ತರೀಕೆರೆ, ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭದ್ರೆಯ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇನ್ನೂ



ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲಿಂಗಮಗೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗುಡದನಾಳ ಬಳಿ ರಾಂಪೂರ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ 11 ನೇ ವಿತರಣಾ ನಾಲೆಯ ಕಾಲುವೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕೆತ್ತು ಕೋಗಿರುವುದು

ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೆ ₹ 6 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ಸುರಿದರೂ ಬಯಲುಸೀಮೆ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ!

ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ನದಿಯಿಂದ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿಯ ಮೂರು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಜಾರಿಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಆದ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಳೂರು-ಹೊನ್ನೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊನ್ನವಳ್ಳಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ, ಶ್ರೀರಂಗ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ 8 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಕುಂಟುತ್ತಾ ಸಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸುವ ಶ್ರೀರಂಗ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ 2015ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, 8 ವರ್ಷ ಕಳೆದಿದ್ದರೂ ತೆವಳುತ್ತಾ ಸಾಗಿದೆ. ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 17 ಕೆರೆ, ಮಾಗಡಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 66 ಕೆರೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 83 ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

10ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

'ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ₹ 2,300 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ'

'ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಕೆರೆ ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ 'ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ₹ 2,300 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಬರಬೇಕಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಚಿವ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾವ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದಲೂ ಹಣ ಕೊಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಪ್ರಲ್ಹಾದ ಜೋಶಿ, ಭಗವಂತ ಖೂಬಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ, ಕಾವೇರಿ, ನೇತ್ರಾವತಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ನದಿಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆರೆಯ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಬರಗಾಲದ ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

Continued...

1999ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಯಚೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಅಯನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಳಿ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿಯಿಂದ ಸೀರೆಶ್ವರಿ 208 ಎಕರೆ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ನೀರಣಿಸುವ ಯೋಜನೆಯೂ ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ₹ 2.30 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಹಣ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಿ 2013ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಲಾ-

ಹಣ ಹರಿದರೂ

ಹಣ ಹರಿದರೂ ತುಂಬದ ಕೆರೆ



ಎಚ್.ಎನ್.ಚಂದ್ರೇಗೌಡ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವಳ್ಳಿ
ಕಿವಿಬಿರುಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು



ಹಳೇ ಮೈಸೂರು ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಮೀನುಕೆ ಏತ
ನೀಲಾರಾಜ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿರುವ
ಕಾರಣ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್ ಜಲಾಶಯದ ಕಡೆ
ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ನೀರು ತಲುಪಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಲವು
ದಶಕಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ನಾಲಾ ಕೊನೆಯ ಭಾಗದ
ರೈತರು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದೇ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.
ಕೆ.ಬೋರಾಯ್, ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡ

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಿಲ್

ಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಹಣವಿಲ್ಲ

ಯುನೈಟೆಡ್ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋಕುಲ-ಹಬ್ಬೂರು
ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (₹ 60 ಕೋಟಿ) 2011ರ
ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 48 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 48 ಕಿ.ಮೀ.ರ
ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೆಲೆಗಂ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ
ನೀರನ್ನು ಹರಿದು ಬಂದ ಹಬ್ಬೂರು ಯೋಜನೆ ಗೋಕುಲ
ನೀರನ್ನು ಹರಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಗೋಕುಲದ ಜಲಾ
ಭಂಡಾರವಿದ್ದು, ಪೆಲೆಗಂ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಈ
ನೀರು ತುಂಬಿದುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ
ರೇನಿರು ಹರಿತು ಮಾಡಲು ಬೇಕಾದುದು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
4.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಾಗೆ ಕಾಂಪಲೆ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ
ಪರವಾನಗಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ನೀರು.

ಅರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು
ತಿಳಿಸಿದಾರೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿಳಂಬ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಯೋಜನೆ ನೆನಗುದಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ.

ಕಾಗವಾಡ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ 23 ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು

ಬೈಲಹೊಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿಯ ಕೆರೆ
ಬರಿದಾಗಿದೆ



ರಾಮಮೂರ್ತಿ

ಪೂರಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ:
ಮರಿಯಪ್ಪ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.,
ಜಂಧರೂರು ಮನಾಸಿ,
ಆರ್. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್
ಸತೇಶ್ ಬೆಳ್ಳೆ,
ಮೋಹನ್
ಪಿ. ಕುಮಾರ್,
ಇಮಾಮ್ ಹುಸೇನ್
ಗೂಡೂನವರ,
ರಾಮಮೂರ್ತಿ ಪಿ.

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪನಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರೈತರ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಳಿದು ಹೋದಿದೆ.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 8 ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಜಲಾನಯನಕ್ಕೆ 2 ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದವೆ. ಇತರವೆಲ್ಲ, ಕಡಿದು ಹೋಗಿ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಮೀಪದಿಂದ ಜಲಾನಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಳ್ಳೆಬಾಗಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕೆರೆ ಬಂದಿ.

ಎರಡು ಕುರುಬರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯದಂತೆ.



ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಷ್ಟೇ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ | ಪರಿಹರಿಸಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತೊಡಕು ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಸುಗಮವಿಲ್ಲ ದಾರಿ

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ರೈತರ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟಾಯ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ದಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದೆಂದು ಸರಕಾರ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಮಾಡಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ಇದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಸಂಕಟ ತಂದಿದೆ.

ಸರಕಾರಿ ನಡಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ, ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯಷ್ಟೇ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರೂಢಿರಸ್ತೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆದೇಶ, ಹೊಸ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಜನರು, ನಮ್ಮ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಸಾಲುಗಟ್ಟುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಚಿವರಿಗೂ ದೂರುಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಿ ಎನ್ನುವವರಿಗೆ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ಓದಿ ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ.

ಯಾವುದಕ್ಕೆ ರೂಲ್ಸ್? ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡುವ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನು (ಕಾಲುದಾರಿ) ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ನಕಾಶೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಯಾವುದೇ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಗಳ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಶಕ್ತರು. ಆದರೆ, ನಕಾಶೆಯಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲದ ರಸ್ತೆ (ರೂಢಿಗತ ರಸ್ತೆ)ಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ತಲೆಮಾರುಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಜಾಗವನ್ನು ಊರಿನ ಜನರ ಓಡಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡುಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇಂದಿನ ತಲೆಮಾರು ಅದನ್ನು ಮುಚ್ಚಿ ಬಿಡುವುದು. ಇಂತಹ ರಸ್ತೆಗಾಗಿ ಇಡೀ ಊರಿನ ಜನರಲ್ಲರೂ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರೂ, ಅದನ್ನು ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ರೈತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವಾಗ್ವಾದ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ.



ಯಾವುದಕ್ಕೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ?

- ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಬಹುದು
- ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರಷ್ಟೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಬಹುದು
- ರೂಢಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನೀಡಲು ಖಾಸಗಿ ಮಾಲೀಕನ ಮನವೊಲಿಸುವುದು

ಯಾವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಷ್ಟ ?

- ಖಾಸಗಿ ಒಡೆತನದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದು
- ದಾಖಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ರೂಢಿಗತ ವಾಗಿದುವ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಷ್ಟ
- ಅನಾದಿ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು ಈಗ ಖಾತೆಯಾಗಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಜಮೀನಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ

ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ಹೊಸ ರೂಲ್ಸ್

ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ರೂಲ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿವೆ. ಸರಕಾರಿ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳುಮೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅಂತಹವರಿಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ಸಹ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಇಡೀ ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ದರಖಾಸ್ತು ಪೋಡಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಪೋಡಿ ದುರಸ್ತಿ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಮೊದಲು ಹದ್ದುಬಸ್ತು ಸರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಳಿಕ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೈತರಿಂದ 10 ಅಡಿ ಜಮೀನು ಪಡೆದು 2ರಿಂದ 3 ಗಂಟೆಯನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ಆ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ದಾರಿ ಬಿಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್ ಎಂದರೆ

ಒಗ್ಗರಹುಕುಂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಉಳುಮೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ 'ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್' ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇಡಿ ಪಿ ನಂಬರ್ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಭೂ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದಲೂ ಜಾಗ ಪಡೆದು ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಬಹುದು. ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಬಹುದು.

-ಬಿನೋಯ್ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ರಾಮನಗರ

ಸರಕಾರ ಹೇಳಿದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೂ ರಸ್ತೆ ನೀಡಲು ಆಗುವುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ, ಯಾವಾಗ ಬೇಕಿದ್ದರೂ ಮುಚ್ಚಬಹುದು. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಸ್ತಕ್ಷೇಪ ಮಾಡುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

-ಸುಪ್ರೀತ್ ವಕೀಲ

ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಜಮೀನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಅಕ್ಕಪಕ್ಕದ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಯಾವುದೋ ಕೆಲಹಕ್ಕೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬುಂಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರಬಹುದು. ನಕಾಶೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಬಹುದು.

-ಕುಮಾರ್ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.10, Mar.04, 2024

ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 6,750 ಟನ್ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ

69,250 ಟನ್ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮನವಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 69,250 ಟನ್ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುವ ಶೇ 25ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಿದೆ.

ಈ ಮೊದಲು 62,500 ಟನ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಕ್ತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಧಾರಣೆಯು ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ರೈತರ ಬಳಿ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಇರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಅರ್ಧದಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕೇರಳ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಮಾನದಂಡವನ್ನೇ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೂ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೋರಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಮನವಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಪುರಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೆಳಗಾರ ಹಸರಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ತಕರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪ ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಳೆಯ ನೋಂದಣಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ 45 ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದಿಂದ ರೈತರ ಹಸರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಟ್ಟು 76 ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

'ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತಲೆದೋರಿತ್ತು, ಅದನ್ನು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಟರ್‌ನೆಟ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಂಡಗತಿ: ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರೈತರು ಸರದಿ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ದೃಶ್ಯ ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿತು.

ಕಡೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ



ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿ ರೈತರು ಮುಗಿದಿದ್ದರು

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ (ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
ಉಮಕೂರು	3,50,000
ಹಾಸನ	1,75,000
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	55,000
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	40,000
ಮಂಡ್ಯ	40,000
ರಾಮನಗರ	25,000
ಮೈಸೂರು	5,000
ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	1,500
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ	1,000

ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳಗಾರರ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ

ಮಂಗಳೂರು: ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಡಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳಗಾರರು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

'ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಳ್ಳು, ಪುತ್ಯೂರು, ಬೆಳ್ಳಂಗಡಿ, ಬಂಟ್ವಾಳ, ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಕಡೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಏಳು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಯಾವ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳಗಾರರೂ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.

'ಹಸರು ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಕರಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ತೇವಾಂಶ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೇಗ ಹಾಳಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರ ಬದಲು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳಗಾರರು ಮಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನೇ (ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ತುಂಡು) ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅವರು ಅದನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಗಾಣಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಯ್ದು ತೆಂಗಿನ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲವಾದರೆ ಚಿಪ್ಪುಸಹಿತ ತೆಂಗಿನ ಕಾಯಿ ಮಾರುತ್ತಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.



ಕಳೆದ ಬಾರಿಯ ನೋಂದಣಿ ವೇಳೆಯೂ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿಯ

ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈಗಲೂ ಅದೇ

ಮಾದರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ

ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ

ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಜು, ಕೃ.ಕೆ. ಕೊಡೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ,

ಉಮಕೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು



ದಿಸಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಕಾಮ

ನಿಂತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕುಡಿಯಲು ನೀರು ಸಹ ಸಿಗದಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಎಷ್ಟು ದಿನ

ಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ

ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಕೃ.ಕೆ. ಉಮಕೂರು

ಎರಡು ಕಡೆ, ಬೀರೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಒಂದು ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಯಂತ್ರ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಬಳಿ ಬೀಡುಬಿಟ್ಟ ರೈತರು

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ: ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ 2, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀರಾಂಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ 1 ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 8ರಿಂದ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಸಂಜೆ 6ಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆಗೊಂಡಿತು.

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು, ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದಿಂದ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ರೈತರು ಜಮಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾನುವಾರ ರಾತ್ರಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ರೈತರು ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದತ್ತ ಧಾವಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

ಮೊದಲ ದಿನ 918 ರೈತರು 11,862 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾತ್ರಿಯವರೆಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು ಬೀಡುಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು. 'ಎರಡೂ ಕಡೆ ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಭಾನುವಾರ ರಾತ್ರಿ 8ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಸೋಮವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 8ಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಿಸಿಲಿಗೆ ಸಾಕಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಶಾಮಿಯಾನ, ಶೌಚಾಲಯದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಸರಿ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮುತ್ತಾಂಗೊಂದಿ ರೈತ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ದೂರಿದರು.

ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ಗಂಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾಡಿತು. ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ರೈತರು

ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು. ಕೆಲವೇ ಹೊತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸರಿಯಾಯಿತು.

ಬಳಿಕ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸರಾಗವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವ ರೈತರಿಗೆ

ಅನುಕೂಲ ಆಗುವಂತೆ ಶಾಮಿಯಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ

ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ರೈತರ ತತ್ವಾಟ: ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಿಕ್ಕೇರಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ

ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆದಿದ್ದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು ತತ್ವಾಟ

ನಡೆಸಿದರು. ತಡಾರಾತ್ರಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ

ಮುಂದೆ ರೈತರು ನೆರೆದಿದ್ದರು. ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ರೈತರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಯಿತು. ಕೆಲವರು ಸರದಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು

ನೂಕಾಟ ನಡೆಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿ ಮುಂದಾದರು.

ಇದರಿಂದ ಕೆಲಕಾರು ಗದ್ದಲ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು.

ರೈತ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖಂಡರ ಮನವಿಗೂ ಕಿವಿಗೊಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ

ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.10, Mar.05, 2024

Govt. notifies rules for quick disposal of small farmers' cases in courts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has issued a gazette notification framing guidelines for providing speedy disposal of cases to help small farmers and people from economically weaker sections in courts within six months.

President of India Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill - The Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by the State legislature.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil told reporters on Monday that with the notification of the Act and rules, small farmers and people from economically weaker sections need not wait in courts to settle cases more than six months.

He said, "Person belonging to the weaker section means a person whose annual income from all sources should not exceed ₹3 lakh."

Who is small farmer?

The Act defined that a "small farmer" is a person who holds not more than two units of land and the annual income not exceeding ₹3 lakh and his in-



With the notification of the Act and rules, small farmers and people from economically weaker sections need not wait in courts to settle cases more than six months.

H.K. PATIL
Minister for Law and
Parliamentary Affairs

come drawn from agriculture. Under the Act, a unit meant two hectares of un-irrigated land; or one and one-fourth hectares of rain-fed wet land.

It also meant that a half hectare of land has facilities for growing one irrigated crop or for growing plantation crops or grapes or coconut or arecanut or sugarcane or used for growing mulberry by irrigation.

Plantation crop

One unit also meant a quarter hectare of land having perennial irrigation facilities or facilities for growing more than one irrigated crop in a year.

Under the Act, "plantation crop" included cardamom, coffee, rubber and tea.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, March. 5, 2024

Crop loss forces farmers to head out towards greener pastures

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

Farmers, who have been facing drought for the last one year, and whose crops were damaged due to incessant rain in 2022, are now migrating in the face of financial crisis, unable to buy seeds for cultivation.

A few farmers have now resorted to selling their cattle, for as low as Rs 50,000-60,000 an animal, owing to fodder shortage. During better times, each head of cattle was priced upwards of Rs 1 lakh. In some other villages, herds of cattle have become weak for want of fodder. The farmers of the district are the worst-hit due to rapid climatic changes in the last two years. In 2022, the region received heavy rain, ravaging the yield. As a twist of fate, the following year saw drought take over the region, making the farmers lose both their rabi and kharif crops. Hence, farmers are forcibly selling off their prized cattle. Concurrently, prices for fodder have also increased. Earlier, the price for one tractor-load of fodder was Rs 3,000, which has now crossed Rs 10,000, worsening the farmers' already worrying situation.

Sangamesh Nayak, a farmer from Ron, said, "There is drought everywhere and we have lost our crops consecutively. Several farmers are now staring at a financial crisis. Cattle are essential for cultivation, and farmers are now forced to sell them off due to inflating fodder prices, compounded by the drought situation. We request the district administration to start fodder banks to tide over the grim situation."

"We are now starting a fodder bank to help farmers. In the first phase, we will open fodder banks at five gram panchayats, each of which will have 4-5 truck-loads of fodder," Gadag district in-charge minister HK Patil reiterated.

Source: The New Indian Express, p.6, March. 5, 2024

Close to 20,000 people throng National Horticulture Fair 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 18,000-20,000 people visited the National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2024, which was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR).

More than 250 stalls showcasing various innovations and technologies in the horticulture sector have been set up at the three-day fair while 238 live demos of IIHR technologies are also being presented. Farmers from 20 states, 50 ICAR institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), and many other government organisations, NGOs, Farmer Producer



Participants at National Horticulture Fair on IIHR campus in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Organisations (FPO) and start-ups are participating in the fair.

Along with varieties of seeds, fertilisers, and other agricultural equipment, horticultural products like millet breakfast bars, jackfruit cookies, tender coconut milkshakes were also

exhibited at the stalls.

Visitors found the fair to be quite informative and diverse. Vinod Sundaram, a regular at agricultural fairs and also an organic farmer said, “For the first time, I am seeing stalls from so many different States – from Sikkim to An-

daman and Nicobar. There is quite a lot of information about the species in different regions and how we can grow them here.”

Prabhakar Bhat, who grows arecanut and other crops in Mangaluru, was a first-timer at NHF. “I am here to gather information as this is a good place to understand various advanced technologies and innovations so that we can use it for our crops,” he said.

As many as 12 progressive farmers, including five from the Northeastern hill region, four entrepreneurs, five FPOs, and five KVK officials were felicitated for their contributions to the horticulture sector during the inaugural ceremony.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 6, 2024

BULLET TRAIN PROJECT SENDS FARMING FAMILIES INTO A TIZZY

435-km project connecting Chennai, Bengaluru, Mysuru will hit 28 villages in Ramanagara

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

FARMERS from Ramanagara district, who depend on agriculture, horticulture and dairy farming, are apprehensive that they could lose their rich, fertile land to the 435-km Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru Bullet Train project.

The district administration is taking steps after the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) requested the deputy commissioner to provide revenue maps of 28 villages, which are likely to be affected, to prepare the detailed project report.

The NHSRCL has informed the DC that the consultancy services for the project has been handed over to private agencies and that the DC should provide necessary assistance to

these agencies.

In turn, the district administration has written to the grama panchayats, along with the details of the survey numbers of lands to be taken for the corridor, the extent of land and owners of those lands.

The personnel involved with the project are visiting the villages and collecting Aadhaar cards of farmers, who are likely to be affected. The project team is also informing the villagers that a railway line could pass through their lands. After the DPR is prepared, the preliminary notification will be issued for the acquisition of lands, sources said.

“We have seen about three proposed alignments marked in and around our villages. But we are now worried as it is said that the line marked on our

land is the one that is being finalised for the project. We will get a compensation for the land, but what can we do if our main livelihood of agriculture is gone,” said a resident of Kudluru village in Channarayana taluk. He pointed out that hundreds of acres of farmlands, on which coconut, mulberry, banana, paddy, ragi, mango, etc. are grown will be lost to farmers.

Another resident said there is a silver lining among people in the district because the groundwater table has recharged because of a lake-filling project and villagers are involved in agriculture, horticulture and dairy. Those who have large parcels of land will not be affected by families who have more than a piece of land may not be worried if some

parcels of their land is gone for the project but those who have only a piece of land will be severely affected, he added.



VILLAGES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

Talakuppe, KG Bheemanahalli, Belakempanahalli, Bananduru, Badadi, Kenchanakuppe, Kallugopanahalli, Kempanahalli, Mayagondanahalli, Kethohalli, Basavanapura, Kottipura, Shidlakallu, Acchalu, Acchalu state forest, Vibhuthikere, Bommanahalli, Brahmanipura, Thagachagere, Thimmasandra, Sunnaghatta, Honganuru, Kudluru, Hottiganahosahalli, Chakkere, Kuranagere, Chakkaluru and Kukkuru.

WORK DONE SO FAR

Desktop study work and further preliminary route development have been completed in January 2023

Stakeholder discussion; other activities (Environment Impact Assessment Report, etc.) have been completed and alignment has been finalized in May 2023

Light Detection and Ranging survey and alignment design and balance activities are under way

Source: The New Indian Express, p.14, March. 6, 2024

Coconut growers gather in panic to register for copra procurement

Many growers stood in queue for hours and some slept on the premises of APMC market on Sunday night as they were not ready to miss any chance

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Hundreds of farmers on Monday stood in queue at APMC markets in Hassan district to register their names for ball copra procurement at the support price. Even though the registration process was scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, many reached the registration counters as early as Sunday afternoon.

The growers stood in queue for hours in Channarayapatna and many slept on the premises of the market on Sunday night, as they were not ready to miss any chance.

There were around 2,000 growers in the queue in Channarayapatna by 7 a.m. on the day.

The scene was similar at Arasikere, Nuggahalli, S.Belgola and other centres. The district administration



Coconut growers gathering at APMC Market in Channarayapatna of Hassan to register for copra procurement on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

deployed policemen to handle the crowd at these centres.

Following the dip in the price of copra in the open market, the Centre granted permission to procure 69,250 tonnes from the

growers of Karnataka at the support price of ₹12,000 per quintal. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation procures copra through the Karnataka State Cooperative Market-

ing Federation. At the rate of six quintals per acre, from each farmer, a maximum of 15 quintals can be procured.

As part of the procedure, the growers have to register their names with

relevant records.

Why fresh registration

Earlier, the registration was scheduled for February 5. Surprisingly, the process ended within the first three days as the quantity of copra registered for procurement crossed the allotted limit.

There were allegations that instead of farmers, it was the traders who registered in large numbers in that short span of time. The growers staged protests, alleging irregularities in the whole process. They suspected the involvement of officers with the traders.

MLAs representing the coconut growing areas raised the issue during the recently concluded legislature session as well. Finally, a fresh request was announced on March 4, cancelling the old one.

Registration is done between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

In a day, the officials can register a maximum of 250 growers, if there is no breakdown of the network or delay in scanning. However, the number of farmers gathered is several hundred.

Srihari, Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing at Hassan, told *The Hindu*, "The farmers are in panic, as in the previous case the process ended within three days. They do not want to miss the chance this time. A large number of people are gathering at centres. The staff can register a maximum of 250 people a day."

Of the 69,250 tonnes to be procured, the quota allotted for Hassan district is 17,500 tonnes. "The registration process will end automatically when the quantity of copra that growers offer through this process crosses this limit. Hence, the farmers are in a hurry," the officer said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, March. 5, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವರ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ರೈತರ ಅಲೆದಾಟ • ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ

₹3,545 ಕೋಟಿ ಕಬ್ಬು ಬಿಲ್ ಬಾಕಿ

• ಬಸವರಾಜ ಹವಾಲಾರ್

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಬ್ಬು ನುರಿಸುವ ಹಂಗಾಮು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ₹3,545 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಬಾಕಿ ಇದೆ. ಹಲವು ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ 76 ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಮುಧೋಳದ ರೈತರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಆರಂಭ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. 75 ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 5.29 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಕಬ್ಬು ನುರಿಸಿ, 46.68 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ 6.20 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಕಬ್ಬು ಅರೆದು, 59.52 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

14 ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ₹1,322 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ್ದು, ₹622 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಲೀಸ್ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀಡಲಾದ



ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಹಾಲಿಂಗಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಬ್ಬು ಕಟಾವು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು

8 ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ₹1,101 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ್ದು, ₹103 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ 52 ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ₹11,963 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನೂ ₹2,819 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 35ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು

ಕಬ್ಬು ಅರೆಯುವಿಕೆ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿವೆ. ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. 'ನ್ಯಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ಬೆಲೆ (ಎಫ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿ) ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಪೂರೈಸಿದ 14 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರೆ, ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ, ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಕಬ್ಬು ಬಾಕಿ ಬಿಲ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ರೈತರು ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲೆದಾಡಿ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಸವೆದಿವೆ. ನಾಳೆ ಬಾ ಎನ್ನುವುದರಷ್ಟೇ ಅವರ ಉತ್ತರವಾಗಿದೆ

ನಾಗೇಶ ಸೊರಗಾವಿ, ಮಾಜಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ಎಂಬ ನೆಪ ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಬ್ಬು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘದ ಮಾಜಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ನಾಗೇಶ ಸೊರಗಾವಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ 45 ರಿಂದ 50 ಟನ್ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಇಳುವರಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ 35 ಟನ್ ಅಸುಪಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಎಷ್ಟೋ ರೈತರು ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಯಿಸಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಉಳಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿಲ್ ಬಾರದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಈ ವಿಷಯದ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಸಚಿವ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ

ಪೂರ್ಣ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಮೈಸೂರ್ ಸೇರಿ ಪಾಂಡವಪುರದ ಎಂಆರ್‌ಎಸ್ ಕೇನ್ ಪಾವರ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆಯ ಕೋರಮಂಡಲ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡಿನ ಬನ್ನಾರಿ ಅಮ್ಮನ್, ಕೊಪ್ಪದ ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್, ದೀದರ್‌ನ ಶ್ರೀಭವಾನಿ ಶುಗರ್ಸ್, ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿಜಯನಗರ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಇಜಿಡಿ ಪ್ಯಾರಿ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ಕೇ 100ರಷ್ಟು ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಿವೆ.

ಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ಅವರು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

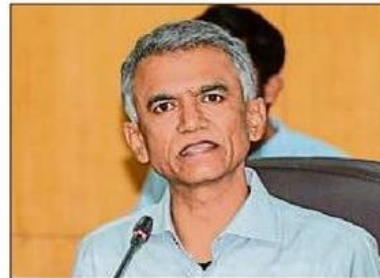
Source: Prajavani, p.10, Mar.07, 2024

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Decentralisation

Rs 856 cr released to districts to address water woes: Minister

'A total of 116 villages, 57 municipal wards facing drinking water problem'



Krishna Byre Gowda

BENGALURU DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Friday that the 7,377 villages and 1,272 wards in the state were vulnerable to drinking water crisis and that the government was prepared to tackle it.

Speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with the officials of the department, the minister said, "A total of 116 villages and 57 municipal wards in the state are reeling under drinking water problem. Currently, we are supplying water to the affected villages and the wards through tankers. The department is prepared to tackle the crisis

by identifying 7,080 private borewells. We have already tied up with 3,757 private borewells to supply water to the affected areas."

"Tenders have been called at the district, taluk and panchayat levels for water supply through tankers. The chief minister has directed the officials to supply water within 24 hours. The officials have taken necessary measures to supply water through tankers in the crisis-hit villages and wards," the minister said.

The minister added that the government has released Rs 856 crore for the districts to pay the borewell and tanker owners. The payments will be made once in two weeks, he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.11, March, 2, 2024

ವಲಯವಾರು 50 ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟ 400 ಸ್ವತ್ತುದಾರರಿಂದ 80 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ | ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವವರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಲಯವಾರು ತಲಾ 50 ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಆದಾಯ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡಿರುವ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಇದೇ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ವಸೂಲಾತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗಂಭೀರತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದಂತಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದೇದರು ತಿಂಗಳಿನಿಂದ ಕಂದಾಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಿಂದ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ವಸೂಲಿ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನು ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಕಟ್ಟಬೇಕಿದೆ.

ಗುರುವಾರ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾದ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತುದಾರರಿಗೆ ದಂಡ/ಬಡ್ಡಿ



ವಲಯವಾರು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ವಿವರ

ವಲಯ	ಮೊತ್ತ*
ಪೂರ್ವ	5.20
ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	36.10
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	12.55
ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ	2.51
ಯಲಹಂಕ	7.22
ಮಹದೇವಪುರ	8.50
ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ	3.18
ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ನಗರ	7.10
★ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	

ಮನ್ನಾದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜುಲೈ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೂ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ದಂಡದೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಸೂಲಾತಿಯನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಂದೇಶ ರವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಹೊರತಾಗಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸ್ವತ್ತುದಾರರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಆಯಾ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಂತಹವರ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹಾಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

3,650 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ 3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.

ಆಸ್ತಿತೆರಿಗೆ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ದಾಖಲೆಯು 3,650 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸುಸ್ತಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಬಾಕಿ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಇದೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 4 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ

ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಇದ್ದರೂ, ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂಬಾಕಿಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಲು ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ 8 ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 400 ಸ್ವತ್ತುದಾರರು 80 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬಾಕಿಯನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಂದಿ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲೊಬ್ಬರು 5 ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ 36 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

A group of women in colorful saris are walking along a dirt path. Some are carrying pots on their heads. The scene is outdoors, with a dirt road and some vegetation in the background.

11

100 taluks in State hit by drinking water crisis: CM

It is estimated that 7,408 villages and 1,115 wards in urban local bodies would face drinking water shortage. A helpline and a control room would be set up for monitoring the drought situation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close to 100 taluks in Karnataka have been facing severe drinking water crisis and tankers have been pressed into service to supply water to residents. Similarly, drinking water is being supplied to 96 wards of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in Bengaluru, and 250 tankers have been deployed to mitigate drinking water needs of the city.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday took stock of the situation in the State by holding a video-conference with Deputy Commissioners and CEOs of ZPs and said 98 out of 236 taluks have been facing drinking water crisis owing to drought. The State had declared 223 taluks as drought-hit.

It is estimated that 7,408 villages and 1,115 wards in urban local bodies would face drinking water shortage. Agreements have been signed with owners of private borewells to supply water to drought hit villages/towns, he said.

Steps have been taken



A private tanker selling water at Hesargatta main Road in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

for water supply in villages and towns through repair of government borewells, hiring of private borewells, and use of tankers.

Officials have been told to respond to the grievances of people by closely monitoring the social media tools. Noting the crop loss that has occurred extensively, the Chief Minister said ₹631 crore had been disbursed to 33.25 lakh farmers.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the drought-hit villagers have not been migrating to

cities owing to the impact of “guarantee” schemes implemented by the government. Close to 4.5 crore people have been benefiting from the welfare schemes of the government, he said. He reiterated that the Centre had not approved the State’s demand for 150 days of labour under the MGNREGA. The amount too not has been sanctioned for the people who had worked under the scheme, he said.

A helpline and a control

room would be set up to monitor the water crisis and drought. There was no shortage of funds for relief work, he said.

A sum of ₹854 crore was with the Deputy Commissioners and they were authorised to take decisions on supplying drinking water in tankers and drilling borewells, if required, said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Task forces have been set up in each district for handling the water situation and fodder, he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 6, 2024

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Water crisis hits industries, production costs soar

Impact felt most in units that are water dependent

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city's water crisis is hitting industrial production hard, as they struggle to access water to meet their employees' basic needs.

Industrialists say that the increased cost of procuring water is driving up production costs.

For instance, the cost of producing phenyl and other home cleaning products rose by at least 10% due to the water crisis, said Asha NR of Asha Chemicals that functions in the Machohalli (Bengaluru North) industrial area.

"Since our borewells are dry, we have to depend on tankers, which are expensive. As a result, the production cost has gone up by at least 10%," she said.

Though all the industries in the city are reeling under severe water crisis, the impact is particularly pronounced in those industries that are water dependent. Among the worst hit are textile processing units, chemical industries, and paper manufacturers, industrialists said.

"Since these industries depend heavily on water, they are the worst hit. If the situation continues, many of them will have to temporarily shut shop as they cannot afford to keep buying water at such high rates," said Suresh N Sagar, governing council member, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA).

Though some industries will manage to survive by hiking the prices of the products they sell, others may have to close down until the situation gets better.

"Even a small-scale textile processing unit requires one lakh litres of water a day," said Ashok Chakravarthi, who runs a textile processing unit near Basaveshwaranagar.

"With poor supply and dry borewells, we do not know how to manage the situation. This is the situation even though we have an in-house Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). Now, since the orders are relatively low, we are able to manage. In the next few months, we will have to refuse to take orders if the situation does not get better," Chakravarthi said.

Basic needs of workers
Industry bodies also point to units that are struggling to meet the basic needs of their workers.

"Consider a garment factory where there are hundreds of workers. In such industries, they are not able to meet the basic needs of workers. The situation has turned worse this year with majority of the borewells running dry," said Shiva Kumar R, president, Peenya Industries Association.

Industrialists are concerned about water management for the next three months.

"The situation is so bad right at the beginning of summer. We wonder how we will pull through the summer," Sagar said.

'Open to using treated water'

Industrialists are ready to use treated water to beat the looming crises but find no system that would allow them to access it.

"We want to use treated water but a lack of system and means to access is a hindrance," Shivakumar from the Peenya Industries Association said. "The authorities should have planned and provided us

with treated water so that we could have tested and planned on its use. But, no initiative was taken in this regard."

Acknowledging that the process of getting treated water is not seamless, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V said they will soon meet all the stakeholders

to understand how they can supply treated water.

"We will soon hold a meeting and understand their requirements. Based on the discussions, we will make arrangements to supply treated water," he said.

As a long-term measure, the BWSSB is also planning to lay pipelines to supply treated water to industrial areas.



A woman and her child push a cart with empty water cans meant for refilling, at Benson Town in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

BBMP sets up control room, appoints nodal officer

BENGALURU, DHNS: With an aim to address the water shortage in the city, the BBMP has set up a control room at its head office and appointed a nodal officer to address the problems.

While residents of the 110

villages in the city's periphery can contact the BBMP on the helpline 1533 to raise complaints about water shortage, residents of the other wards in the core areas can dial 1916.

That apart, acknowledged-

ing that the 110 villages are the worst affected since they do not have an operational Cauvery water connection, a dedicated nodal officer has been assigned to each of the 35 wards that fall under the 110 villages.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, March, 5, 2024

KPTCL plans five-acre underground substation through PPP model to augment transmission network

KPTCL will lease out land above the substation for 35 years to the private party who can set up real estate assets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For augmentation of its transmission network to cater to the growing power demand in Bengaluru, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) is planning to upgrade its existing Air Insulated Substations (AIS) to Gas Insulated Substations (GIS) through public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Currently, there are 149 AIS and 22 GIS in Bengaluru. Among the 149 AIS, a few will be taken up for redevelopment and redesign by KPTCL. The first is a pilot project planned at the Anand Rao Circle substation. In the first-of-its-kind project in the city, KPTCL plans to take the substation underground sprawling



Energy Minister K.J. George

across five acres.

Under the project, KPTCL will lease out the land above the substation for 35 years to the private party who can set up real estate assets. While the ownership of the land and the substation will lie with KPTCL, the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the substation and the real estate development will be borne by the private developer.

Upon completion of the lease tenure, the real estate will be transferred to KPTCL.

According to projections, the electricity demand in Bengaluru for financial year 2024-25 is stated to be 22 billion units while the peak demand is stated to be 3.6 Giga Watts (GW). The projections show that by 2030, the demand will reach 33 billion units while the peak demand will reach 5.4 GW.

"We need more substations with higher capacity in Bengaluru due to increased consumption from Electric Vehicle (EV) and other industries in and around the city. Old substations required more land and had lesser capacity. With these new compact substations, we can reduce land usage and in-

crease capacity," said K.J. George, Energy Minister, during a press conference on Wednesday. He added that the plans for redevelopment of substations are still at a preliminary stage and would be taken for cabinet approval after assessing the response from stakeholders to the concept.

The officials of the department also said that the plan is to first redevelop 15 substations which could mean 30-40 acres of land spread across Bengaluru. "We would need to conduct a detailed study of each location with design, feasibility, viability, and revenue for both government and the developer. The building designs will reflect the aesthetic of the city and will align with 'Brand Bengaluru'. We will consult experts for the

same," said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

No burden to the consumer

With the projects taking place under PPP model, KPTCL would not have to incur any capital expenditure.

"KPTCL wants to invest and create infrastructure without burdening consumers. These projects will also have other benefits including reduced construction time, footprint, reduced safety risk and lower maintenance cost. The idle land in the substation premises can be developed into real estate which will also be expected to generate employment," said Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Managing Director, KPTCL.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 7, 2024

Amid various challenges, women start-up founders find ways to thrive and support one another

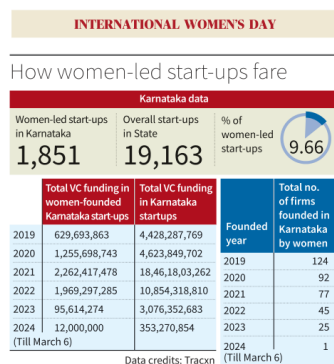
As per data from Tracxn, only 6.97% of Venture Capital-funded money went to Indian start-ups with female founders in 2023. In Karnataka, the figure was lower - 3.11%

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

On the eve of women's day, a post by angel investor and business strategist Jermina Menon on LinkedIn garnered some attention. In the post, she described how Vineeta Singh, founder of the ₹420 crore brand Sugar Cosmetics, reportedly faced challenges securing investment for her company because of her gender.

As per data from Tracxn, only 6.97% of Venture Capital-funded money went to Indian start-ups with female founders in 2023. In Karnataka, the figure was lower - 3.11%. Data also shows that the percentage of women-led start-ups in Karnataka stands at a mere 9.66%.

The good news, however, is the emergence of more women-focused



funds, women-headed incubators, and an increased sense of sisterhood perpetuated through communities of women entrepreneurs. Shreya Krishnan, MD of

AnitaB.org, an NGO that supports women in tech, notes that women founders often have to put in more energy and effort to get funded than their male counterparts. This makes

scaling up a difficult process.

Tanul Mishra, founder and CEO of Bengaluru-based fintech incubator Affthonia Lab, believes that the change in the Indian start-up ecosystem has been faster and better when compared to global numbers. Nevertheless, she feels two areas need to see more momentum. Women founders see more cheques being written for them in the early stages of their start-ups. Towards later stages it gets difficult, Ms. Mishra says.

"The other is that checks are being cut for women entrepreneurs in certain segments...When you look at more tech-heavy domains like fintech or space tech the number of women founders is lesser and the number of investments that go to them even lesser than what you would see in other seg-

ments," she says.

Alternative options

According to Susmita Ghosh, AVP, Women Entrepreneurship and Head - Funding Desk at NSRCEL, not just Venture Capital (VC) money, but other external financing options are also not easy to come by for women founders. "VC is one of the options. I think banks and others have much more apprehension about giving loans to a new female founder."

She also notes that of the 70 Central schemes and 433 State schemes for entrepreneurs, only 7% focus on women beneficiaries. "There is no way to find out which schemes are these unless you browse through different Ministry websites and dig them out. Access to relevant information is very important." Despite the odds, wo-

men in the ecosystem swear it's not all doom and gloom anymore.

Silver lining

Jayanti Bhattacharya, co-founder of Bengaluru-based India Hemp and Co, feels that things are slowly changing and points to several initiatives including NSRCEL's networks that reach out to rural women entrepreneurs, CSR initiatives that support and mentor women and VCs with a dedicated focus on women entrepreneurs. More women are also participating on the 'other side of the deal table' as investors and incubation heads.

"A lot of women-led networking groups have come up, and they are doing a phenomenal job of supporting each other. Men have always had bro clubs. Now women are doing it on our own time. We might

not meet for drinks on a Saturday night. We might meet at 10 or 11 in the morning for coffee, but it's efficient. It's fast. These networks empower women and create a safe space to ask questions, to not be shut down, to not be ridiculed."

Interest among female students to join entrepreneurship courses also seems to be on the rise. Five years back when CMS-Jain (deemed-to-be-university) started the BBA - Entrepreneurship (WoW) programme, of the 21 students who enrolled, only three were women. The current batch has 11 women out of 40.

"It is largely because there is a culture building up back in schools for ideaation. Families are also today encouraging girls to turn into entrepreneurs," says Anila Bajpai, who heads the programme.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 8, 2024

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EDUCATION

Over half of the sanctioned teaching posts in UoM vacant

The Hindu Bureau

MYSURU

Over half of the sanctioned teaching posts at the century-old University of Mysore (UoM) are lying vacant, with no appointments done since 2007. In this scenario, the university was banking on the guest faculty to carry out the academic activities with only 290 permanent teaching faculty remaining out of the sanctioned posts of 640.

How come the reputed centre of higher learning like the UoM manages the day-to-day teaching in the aftermath of serious shortage of faculty? Has the shortage affected the research activities?

Vice-chancellor N.K. Lokanath said in Mysuru on Friday, that the university had written to the government to fill up the vacant

posts making appointments at the earliest to ensure academic excellence. "It has been assuring us that it will take up appointments; we are awaiting the government's response on when the process can be initiated."

Prof. Lokanath said 850 guest faculties were managing the academic activities in view of the vacant posts.

Registrar V.R. Shylaja said more than half of the non-teaching posts are also lying vacant in the university. Out of 1,349 sanctioned non-teaching posts, less than 500 posts are filled and the remaining are vacant.

New varsities hit UoM?

With the formation of universities in districts including Mandya and Chamarajanagar which were earlier the PG Cen-

ters of the UoM, the scope of the UoM has been reduced drastically and so the students taking admissions.

"We had 236 colleges under the UoM jurisdiction, including Mandya, Chamarajanagar. With new universities coming up in those places, the number of colleges has come down by nearly 40 percent. UoM has just 111 colleges affiliated to it while the rest are now attached to the new universities," the VC said.

Prof. Lokanath admitted that the resources to the UoM had been affected by the colleges' affiliation shifted to new varsities.

The VC said he was not aware of the development when reporters asked whether the present government was rethinking on whether to continue with the new varsities or merge it back with UoM.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, March. 2, 2024

Savitribai Phule, Periyar, and progressive Kannada writers to make a comeback in textbooks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The literary works of various progressive writers, including Girish Karnad, P. Lankesh, Devanur Mahadeva, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, and Nagesh Hegde, among others, will make a re-entry into Kannada language textbooks from the 2024-25 academic year in Karnataka.

The Textbooks Revision Committee, headed by Prof. Manjunatha G. Hegde, which has submitted its report to the government, has also recommended reintroducing lessons on radical reformers such as Savitribai Phule and Periyar, and a few other subjects that were earlier dropped from the lesson "Social and Religious Reform Movements" in the

Textbooks Revision Committee, however, has not recommended reintroducing lessons related to Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali

class X history textbook.

However, the committee has not recommended reintroducing lessons related to Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali, which were dropped by the earlier committee.

"The social science textbooks have been revised giving importance to the Constitution, gender sensitivity, child rights, democratic and secular values, and scientific temper," said the committee in its report. For instance, in the class VI social science textbook, the lesson "Citizen and Conduct" has been re-

vised considering gender equality. A lesson on welfare of sexual minorities has been added in the class X social science textbook.

Among other changes, in the class VIII history book, the chapter titled "Indus-Saraswati Civilisation" has been changed as "Civilisations of Ancient India: Indus-Sarasvati Civilisation and Vedic Period." Information on icons of the Bhakti movement, including Kanaka Dasa, Purandara Dasa, and Shishunala Sharif, have been added to a lesson in the class IX History textbook. The class VII social science lesson refers to 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara as "cultural leader" of the State.

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Continued...

From Page One

Savitribai Phule, Periyar, and progressive Kannada writers to make a comeback

The Karnataka government, in June, had ordered immediate changes in the content of Kannada and social science textbooks of classes VI to X, with 18 major changes, including 15 replacements of lessons.

Later, it had set up a committee to look into the issue in a detailed manner.

The Congress, ahead of the elections, had promised to undo some of the changes made in the textbooks during the previous BJP regime if voted to power.

Other changes

Among significant changes announced by the Karnataka Textbook Society back in June, through a “corrigendum”, were replacing RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar’s “Nijavada Adarsha Purusha Yaragabeku” with “Sukumara Swamiya Kathe” by Shivakotyacharya in class X Kannada textbook and replacing “Bhoo Kailasa”, a play by Parampalli Narasimha Aithal with “Magalige Barreda Patra”, a translation of Jawaharlal Nehru’s letter to Indira Gandhi in class VIII Kannada textbook.

Shatavadhani R. Ganesh’s “Shreshta Bharatiya Chintanegalu” was replaced with Sara Aboobacker’s “Yudha” in class X Kannada textbook.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1&2, March. 6, 2024

Govt releases textbook revision report for 2024-25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Textbook Society on Tuesday released a report on changes made to textbooks for classes 1-10 for the year 2024-25. The notification came late in the evening without the officials making a big announcement.

The textbook revision committee formed by the government was led by Manjunath Hegde, a retired professor of history, who made several changes in the syllabus following the National Curriculum Framework-2005. At the onset, more emphasis has been given to Kannada literature with a focus on cultural leaders from the state and works by Jnanpith awardees have also been included for classes 8-10.

The notification highlighted that the revision was carried out keeping in mind only the educational interests of the students without changing the basic framework of the revised textbooks. All the requests made by various organisations, individuals and government departments regarding inclusion and omission have been reviewed and appropriate suggestions were

considered, it stated.

To reduce the burden on students due to the weight of textbooks, the education department previously also passed an order to divide textbooks into two parts. Appropriate context of the contents has been given in both sections. As per the release, social science textbooks have been revised keeping in mind the Constitution, gender sensitivity, information on child rights and democratic and secular values of the country.

For political science books, new developments such as the Women's Reservation Bill, India's international relations and information on local bodies in the legislative system have been added. Several minor changes have been made in titles and various chapters: 'Religions' have been changed to 'Dharmas', and more information was added to the Sanatan Dharma chapter. According to the relevant content, maps, taluk and district-related figures have also been updated.

The revision included Kannada language textbooks for both first and second languages for classes 1-10, third language Kannada textbooks for classes 9-10 and social science textbooks spanning classes 6-10.

Source: The New Indian Express, p. 4, March. 6, 2024

State govt. to challenge HC order quashing board exams

The examinations may be postponed if there is no clear ruling before Monday

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has said they will challenge the High Court order quashing board exams for classes 5, 8, 9 and 11, before the Division Bench and seek an urgent hearing. Exams for classes 5, 8 and 9 are scheduled to begin from March 11. Students and parents have now been pushed to confusion.

"We will challenge this order before a Division Bench and given the tight schedule of the exams, we will seek an urgent hearing on Thursday," said Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, DSEL. Thursday will be the only working day for the High Court of Karnataka before Monday, as the court will be closed for the weekend due to Shivaratri on Friday followed by a second Saturday.

Meanwhile, Lokesh Talikatte, one of the petitioners challenging board exams and the president of Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association (RUPSA-Karnataka), said if the Department challenges the High Court Order, they will also contest it, indicating a tough le-



gal battle ahead. Given the lack of time before the scheduled exams, if the Division Bench of the High Court doesn't give a clear ruling on Thursday, the exams for classes 5, 8 and 9 will likely be postponed, sources in DSEL said. However, officials hoped they would get a stay order on Wednesday's court order and exams will be held as per schedule.

Confusion galore

Wednesday's court order has pushed students, teachers and parents into confusion about whether the exams will be held on Monday or not, and whether they will be board examinations or school examinations.

Arun Kumar, a parent from Bengaluru, said with only four days left for the exams, the court order had created confusion and made students anxious.

"The government will likely get only one day on Thursday, as the court will be closed on the weekend. The department hasn't yet announced whether the exams will be held or will be postponed. There is confusion. These students are small children of classes 5, 8 and 9. They are stressed," he said.

"We were doing last minute preparation for the exams and now there is uncertainty over whether they will be held on Monday. This will definitely put more pressure on students, who are already under exam pressure," said a government school teacher.

However, H.N. Gopalakrishna, Director, Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), expressed confidence that exams will be held as per schedule. "Last year too, a lower bench of the High Court struck down our ex-

ams, but it was upheld by a Division Bench and later by the Supreme Court. So we are confident that it will turn out to be the same again this year too," he said.

A sense of *deja vu*

The entire sequence of events has created a sense of *deja vu* as in 2023 too, board exams for classes 5 and 8, were quashed by the High Court of Karnataka and exams were postponed and eventually held after the Supreme Court allowed for them. The DSEL introduced board exams for classes 5 and 8 in 2022-23 and expanded it to classes 9 and 11 in 2023-24. In 2022-23, the Department had scheduled board exams for classes 5 and 8 between March 13 and 18, 2023.

However, the High Court struck down these exams, after hearing a petition from private school managements. The DSEL had questioned this order before the division bench and the bench had upheld the government decision. Further, the division bench's order was challenged before the Supreme Court and the court had permitted the government to conduct the examination. Finally, the exams were held from March 27, 2023, across the State.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, March. 7, 2024

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Figuring out the truth behind K'taka numbers in leopard report

Risk of conflict with humans up as most live outside protected areas

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Nearly 59% of Karnataka's wild leopards are living outside protected areas.

With 1,879 leopards, the state is home to the third largest population of the spotted big cat in India, after Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, according to the union government's latest report.

The report 'The Leopard Status in India 2022' says 987 leopards are using the territory of the tiger reserves, including the 549 leopards which are living within the five tiger reserves of Karnataka.

Bandipur (138) has the highest leopard population in tiger reserve followed by Kali (124), Bhadra (116) and Nagarhole (105).

However, in terms of leopards utilising the tiger reserve limits, Kali tiger reserve (246) in Uttara Kannada district has the highest leopard population.

Either way, the high number of leopards living outside the protected area is a matter of concern as that is resulting in large-scale human-animal conflict. In the last four years, the state lost 23 humans and over 1,200 domestic animals after coming into conflict with leopards.

Sources in the forest department told *DH* that nearly 164 leopards died due to natural and unnatural reasons in the last five years.

Larger problem

The report says the conflict between humans and leopards, which was confined mostly to Ramanagar, Tumakuru, Mandya, Mysuru, and Hassan districts, initially, has now spread to Ballari, Koppal, Kolar,



A file photo of a leopard caught in a rescue operation. Forest officials are often forced to consider translocation of leopards in conflict with humans. Experts say translocation only increases conflict at multiple places. Shifting them to rehab centres is a better option, they feel.

Bengaluru Rural, Dharwad, Davangere, Hassan, Haveri, Koppa (Chikmagalur district), Mangaluru, Sagar (Shivamogga district), Sirsi (Uttara Kannada district) and Virajpet (Kodagu district).

Experts say the conflict is human-made, as development work, shrinking of forested areas, improper solid waste management and unscientific conservation have resulted in more conflict with leopards.

"Leopards are intelligent animals that can adapt to any habitat. The increase in conflicts in urban and rural areas is due to multiple reasons, including availability of easy prey," says a senior forest officer in Kali tiger reserve.

Scientific conservation

Forest department officials are often forced to consider the translocation of leopards in conflict with humans as the only solution to resolve the problem. However, experts say translocation only increases conflict at multiple places.

Leopards are highly territorial animals. Over the years, they have learnt to adjust themselves in the mosaics of coffee estates, plantations and forests in semi-urban set-up.

They can sustain themselves by consuming livestock, domesticated dogs and human-subsidised food sources (dumped meat and carcasses of cattle).

"A translocated leopard that has lived long in sugarcane fields or near human habitation by preying on cattle finds it difficult to survive in thick jungles of Western Ghats, where it needs to hunt prey. The translocation can also lead to more territo-

rial conflicts and straying away of the weaker leopard to other human habitations," says the officer.



Leopards are intelligent animals that can adapt to any habitat. The increase in conflicts in urban and rural areas is due to multiple reasons, including availability of easy prey — **Senior forest officer in Kali tiger reserve**

Mitigating conflict

Nikit Surve, project head at Wildlife Conservation Society, who is conducting an intense study on urban leopards, says: "The best solution to mitigate human-leopard conflict is to understand the problem in depth by shifting focus from the animal to humans who are the major stakeholders. Mitigation measures like proactive awareness sessions and safeguarding livestock and other domestic animals can help resolve the problem on a long-term basis.

reserves and other protected areas and forest areas as part of the All India Tiger Estimation 2022. The census has not taken into account the leopards living in the rocky hills of Ballari and Koppal, sugarcane fields of Mandya, Mysuru and Belagavi, urban and rural areas that are conducive for their survival. The numbers could be much higher than 1,879. We currently do not have an exact estimation of leopard population living in the different landscapes in the state. The Karnataka forest department is planning to conduct its own scientific population estimation for leopards to understand the distribution and the number of leopards."

Capturing and shifting leopards is more of a fire-fighting solution. One has to understand the reasons why a leopard is present in a particular area and deal with the reason, instead of the leopard itself. Removing one or two leopards will not stop other leopards from occupying vacant territories."

He negates the idea that animal birth control of leopards is a solution as it has failed miserably in controlling stray dog population.

Kumar Pushkar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), says the increasing trend in the leopard population is a positive thing from the point of conservation, but the increasing number of leopards in landscapes outside the forest is a major challenge and has resulted in large-scale man-animal conflict.

"As of now, the forest department is not considering leopards as a major threat and taking all measures to prevent loss of human lives as well as livestock," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, March, 3, 2024

KMERC funds elude mining-ravaged areas

RTI papers show
money being spent
on other projects

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) funds are meant for the restoration of ecology and rehabilitation of people in areas affected by illegal mining. However, many of the projects approved under these funds

Purpose defeated
KMERC funds are meant for areas ravaged by mining

■ So far, 317 projects worth Rs 7,634 cr okayed

■ But money being spent in zones not impacted by mining

■ Activists say politicians pressure dist administrations to divert 'surplus funds'



— such as the development of Hampi Zoo, the renovation of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, raising the bed capacity of Ballari Hospital and some railway projects — are in zones not impacted by mining.

KMERC, the special pur-

pose vehicle constituted as per the orders of the Supreme Court, has so far approved 317 projects worth Rs 7,634.97 crore. Documents received under the Right to Information (RTI) Act show that a large quantity of the funds have been allocated for development

works in non-mining impact zones. Activists say this defeats the purpose of the funds.

The Supreme Court order mentions that the Rs 24,996 crore approved by the Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zones (CEPMIZ) should be utilised only in the mining-impacted zones of Ballari, Chitradurga, Tumakuru and Vijayanagara districts.

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) and the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE) recommended the top court to include 466 villages in 13 taluks of these four districts.

► **KMERC funds, Page 5**

Continued..

KMERC funds elude mining-ravaged areas

KMERC funds, from Page 1

Sandur-based activist Sreesha Aladahalli alleges that local elected representatives and political leaders forced the district administration to include villages not hit by mining to utilise “surplus funds”. He says that while 20 mining-affected villages in Sandur taluk are reeling under a drinking water crisis, the district administration recommended supplying water to 15 wards of Ballari city not directly hit by mining.

After activists raised objections over the utilisation of funds, retired Supreme Court judge Justice B Sudershan Reddy, who is the Oversight Authority, put drinking water projects and the super-speciality hospital in Ballari in abeyance.

TR Chandrashekar, a member of the Samaj Parivartan Samudaya, which fought against illegal mining and whose writ petition resulted in the formation of KMERC, says, “By utilising the funds in non-impacted areas, the district administration is defeating the purpose of rehabilitation.”

Malliswamy, a resident of Kamatur, a village severely affected by mining in Sandur taluk, says not a single paisa under KMERC has been spent in his village. “Instead of utilising KMERC funds here, the district administration has proposed to build a canal in Siruguppa taluk,” he alleges.

Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner MS Diwakara says



the villages and projects were selected and approved by the Oversight Authority.

Ballari DC Prashanth Kumar Mishra says, “The proposals were made in 2018 after consulting with all the stakeholders. We are implementing the projects as per the rules.”

He says that while the top priority of the administration is to provide facilities in affected areas, the administration cannot put all the resources in one place. “A super-speciality hospital is proposed at Sandur. However, the project has not taken off as getting human resources and other facilities at a taluk centre is difficult. A 500-bed hospital in Ballari will also benefit a patient from Sandur and other mining-affected areas,” he says.

Manjunath K, General Manager of KMERC, says the corporation relies on the district administration’s recommendation to select affected villages and approve projects.

“There are clear guidelines on what kind of projects can be taken up in affected areas.”

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&5, March, 4, 2024

‘State will see above-normal temperatures this summer’

There is a high probability of above-normal rainfall over a few districts of north-interior Karnataka and south-interior Karnataka during in March, says India Meteorological Department

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is likely to have a warm summer as the season will witness above-normal temperature. The summer months are between March and May and the meteorological department forecasts above normal temperature for all three months.

“There is a high probability of above-normal maximum temperature during the three months (March to May). The minimum temperature will also be above normal. During March, some districts of south interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are likely to experience above normal maximum temperature,” said A. Prasad, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru.

The normal temperature for Bengaluru during the months of March, April, and May are 33.4°C, 34.1°C, and 33.1°C, respectively. “There is a possibility that the temperature could go up to 35°C for a few days in March,” Mr. Prasad said.

The highest-ever temperature for March was 37.3°C, which was recorded in 1996; the highest ever recorded for April was



The highest-ever temperature for March was 37.3°C, which was recorded in 1996. FILE PHOTO

39.2°C degrees celsius, recorded in 2016; and for May 38.9°C, recorded in 1931.

On Monday, Bengaluru city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.8°C.

Mr. Prasad also said that in some parts of the State, there is likely probability of heatwave during the three summer months.

“Above normal heatwave days are likely during these three months for some districts of north interior Karnataka and normal heatwave conditions over coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka,”

Mr. Prasad said. He added that there is a high probability of above-normal rainfall over a few districts of north interior Karnataka and south interior Karnataka in March.

“In the rest of the places, normal rainfall is likely to happen. During the next three months, we will get rains, and thunderstorms are also possible for a few days,” he added.

Mr. Prasad said that this year, the State did not witness intense winter because of El Nino. During February, the monthly average temperature was

1.3°C more than normal and compared to last year, it was 1.6°C more.

“The reason why temperature has been warm is because 2023 was an El Niño year and the index was more than 1.5°C. However, it has now slowly declined and weakened and the index has come up to 1.5°C. El Niño is further expected to decline by the beginning of monsoon season and there is high probability for this to happen,” Mr. Prasad said.

Met officials call it an El Niño year if the index is between 1.5°C to 2°C.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 5, 2024.

BNP: What is needed is a bypass and not a flyover, say experts

Can the already stressed green space abutting Bengaluru be protected from the latest onslaught by exploring alternative alignments to the proposed Satellite Township Ring Road? question experts

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Less than 100 metres wide at many stretches, can the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) accommodate a massive six-lane flyover without posing a severe threat to its wildlife and ecosystem? Its buffer zone already shrunk, can the endangered green space be protected from the latest onslaught by exploring alternative alignments to the proposed Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR)? Planned to be built on the 3.85km stretch of the existing road linking Bannerghatta and Jigani Road, the flyover project has unleashed a storm of concern among environmentalists and wildlife conservationists. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) says it will install effective noise barriers and restrict construction hours. But will these be enough to address the grave risks posed both in the short and long terms?

Severe threat of fragmentation

Faced with very high man-animal conflict and encroachments, BNP is already reeling under severe threats of fragmentation, reminds conservationists. "The Park has a unique distinction of hosting large mammals including the tiger, elephant, gaur, dholes and others right at the edge of a metropolis. Though it is connected to Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the national park is a very linear protected area with several parts of the forest area already used for tourism, zoo and other activities," notes conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi. This mandates extremely effective mitigation mea-



sures. "It needs to be ensured that the measures are planned and designed based on scientific studies and not on an ad-hoc basis. It should involve a good understanding of wildlife movement patterns especially that of elephants," he points out.

Habitat reduction

But the flyover project runs counter to this rationale. Sanjay explains, "This new road project will reduce the habitat available for elephants and increase the conflict in the long run as there are nearly 100 elephants that use the landscape. For sustainable development we really need to zone our landscapes and earmark where wildlife gets priority and where development gets importance."

Strategically located on the Northern side of Mysore Elephant Reserve, Bannerghatta park also serves as a critical link for the migration of elephants from the Cauvery Wildlife



File photos from the Bannerghatta National Park. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Sanctuary in Krishnagiri and the Hosur Forest division in Tamilnadu. Geographically, the park is also a key watershed for streams such as Kayathimalla Hole, Muthyala Madu halla, Antaragange Hole and rivers Arkavathi and Suvarnamukhi.

In March 2020, the Centre had reduced the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around BNP by 100 sqkm. The zone area shrank to 168.84 sqkm from 268.9 sqkm, earmarked by a 2016 notification. Commercial mining, stone quarrying and setting up of crushing units are effectively banned within the ESZ.

By 2008 itself, an Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) study had found about 120 human settlements within five kilometres km from the BNP boundary and five human settlements within BNP. Many of the settlements formed thereafter were through encroachments of forest lands. Tribes dominate the settlements located close to the park boundary in the South-East, and



South-West and depend on agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood.

Early warnings

The study's projected land use of 2027 depicted the loss of forest cover from 41.38 to 35.59% and an increase in urban area from 4.49 to 9.62 % due to various layouts in the periphery. Barren land area showed a reduction from 4.17 to 3.36 % by conversion of open spaces to urban. "The forest cover present in southern parts represents minimal disturbances (connected to Tali reserve forest and Cauvery wildlife sanctuary) while the Northern portion shows more transitions," the study noted.

In a clear warning, the study said, "The uncontrolled and unplanned growth of greater Bangalore would have an irreversible impact on forests of BNP. The regions of Koli Farm gate, Batterayana Doddli village, Weavers colony, Kalkere region and

Bannerghatta village, Anekal road represents higher loss in forest cover due to new paved surfaces created in the form of townships. The barren lands and fallow lands near to state highways and major roads were converted as layouts resulting in creating new agriculture areas in gomala and other fragmented forests."

"The flyover project will aggravate the human-animal conflict. We are shrinking their habitat and making them more and more vulnerable. That is why we need to be really careful about this project. Leopards, for instance, keep straying into settlements. Then people become more reactive and start killing, or demand like in Wayanad to start culling. It is so unrealistic," says Dr. TV. Ramachandra, who anchored the study along with his team.

No scientific basis

Alternatives to the road through the park are in-

deed possible. But, as he points out, "We don't have a scientific basis in designing or formulating the project. We implement it because large amounts of money are involved."

Flyover projects do exist in other forested areas. But there is a difference here, as Sanjay reiterates. "The experience in other forests has been mixed. When highways are made in forests that are vast in size, then a flyover may be the only solution. However, Bannerghatta is a very narrow stretch of forest. That is the concern. Anything like this is going to affect the animals."

Dr. Ramachandra draws attention to other problems related to vehicular emissions.

"During the construction stage too, there will be impact while erecting pillars and more. Besides, there are issues linked to climate change. The Park acts as a carbon sink for Bengaluru. More than 1,200 deciduous trees will be lost and there are many medicinal plants too," he explains.

An elevated flyover inside the park will effectively bypass villages that are inside Bannerghatta that rely on road connectivity, says Sanjay. "I don't know how they will address this by providing connectivity. That is something which only the Detailed Project Report (DPR) can tell us."

The State Wildlife Board has already cleared the project. Questions are now being raised whether it explored other alternatives. As an insider indicates, the proposals are usually not circulated in advance to the members to help them understand and deliberate on it. "Agenda is given in the meeting, so nobody has a clue about anything," the insider says, preferring anonymity.

Source: The Hindu, p. 7, March. 5, 2024.

WestBridge Capital pledges ₹25 cr. to Ashoka Trust for research

Previously, with the support of the investment firm, ATREE had established the Centre for Policy Design to bolster its capacity to convert research to on-the-ground impact

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

WestBridge Capital has pledged ₹25 crores to Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) to strengthen linkages between science and policy in the environment sector in India.

Previously, with the support of the investment firm, ATREE established the Centre for Policy Design to bolster its capacity to convert research to on-the-ground impact. “Moving the needle on policy requires bridging the gap between academics, civil society, and policymakers. ATREE is well positioned to develop such insights from rigorous and long-term research that can support effective decision making and shape public policy discourse,” said Sandeep Singhal, Managing Partner, WestBridge Capital.

The Centre for Policy



Workshop with forest department. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Design (CPD) at ATREE focused its initial efforts on socially and ecologically responsible restoration. With the fresh funding, ATREE plans to expand the Centre’s footprint to broader thematic areas aligned with the research focus areas of the organisation.

Environmental risks

“Mitigating the impact of environmental risks requires immediate but thoughtful action that is at the heart of the Science-Practice-Policy interface. For such action to translate into meaningful impact, a

long-term vision that is backed by strong and unwavering commitment is needed. ATREE is grateful for the support provided by WestBridge Capital in building this much needed capacity” said Anita Arjundas, Executive Director, ATREE.

Inter-disciplinary knowledge

ATREE has been consistently ranked among the top 20 environmental think tanks globally and the top two in Asia by the University of Pennsylvania Go To Think Tank Index.

Established in 1996, the research institute has been focusing its efforts to generate interdisciplinary knowledge for achieving environmental conservation and sustainable development in a socially just manner, to enable the use of this knowledge by policymakers and society, and to train the next generation of scholars and leaders.

“Environment and conservation policies in India should have a strong and robust scientific foundation, and be adaptive and responsive to the needs of a diverse set of stakeholders and circumstances. This is where we will leverage 25 years of ATREE’s pioneering efforts in fostering interdisciplinary science in sustainability practice to meet the most urgent challenges of the ongoing climate and biodiversity crisis.” said Abi T. Vanak, Director - Centre for Policy Design and Senior Fellow, ATREE.

Source: The Hindu, p. 7, March. 5, 2024.

‘Save Coorg’ calls trend as water crisis takes centre stage in Karnataka

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

As Karnataka battles the aftermath of a failed monsoon season in 2023, residents of Kodagu district, where the River Cauvery originates, have stepped up calls to save the district's ecology, which has a direct bearing on the vital river apart from the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats.

Through ‘Save Coorg,’ an online petition, residents and people belonging to Kodagu are hoping to draw the attention of the government to long pending problems of the district, including over tourism, mass conversions of wetlands and the rapid concretisation taking place in the district.

Why the crisis?

“Cauvery’s cry: A wake up call for conservation,” points out to the water scarcity in the Cauvery river belt, which has implications for Bengaluru, Mysuru and even Tamil Nadu.

“The conversion of wetlands, illegal tree felling, mass tourism, and commercialisation are exacerbating the situation. Additionally, the construction of railway lines, national highways and other infrastructure projects are further fragmenting and damag-



The conversion of wetlands, illegal tree felling, mass tourism, and commercialisation are exacerbating the situation in the Cauvery river belt. FILE PHOTO

Through ‘Save Coorg,’ an online petition, residents and people belonging to Kodagu are hoping to draw the attention of the government to long pending problems of the district

ing the ecosystem,” says Nanaiah Bottolanda who manages the page ‘Kodava Naad’ on Instagram.

“No one is using paddy fields for its actual purpose and have converted them into sites. Instead of fighting over the river, it is time to preserve the district,” he said.

“Bengaluru, Mysuru and Tamil Nadu residents must prioritise saving Coorg to secure their Cauvery water supply...Imme-

diately action is needed. Conservation efforts must focus on preserving wetlands, implementing sustainable forest management practices, regulating tourism activities and promoting water efficient agriculture. Additionally, there is need for stricter enforcement of laws against illegal activities and sustainable urban planning practices to minimise the impact of infrastructure development on water resources,” it said.

Loss of forest cover

The Western Ghats Spatial Decision Support System (WGSDSS), launched by the Indian Institute of Science’s Energy and Wetlands Research Group, has showed that the Western Ghats, which is among 36 global biodiversity hot-

spots, saw a loss of 5% evergreen forest cover with an increase of 4.5% built-up cover, and 9% agriculture area, according to the spatiotemporal analyses of land use, highlighting anthropogenic induced developmental thrust. Fragmentation analyses also highlight that interior forest constitutes only 25% of the forest landmass, depicting the fragmentation pressure, impacting local ecology.

T.V. Ramachandra from the Group, said recent events are a wake-up call. “We need to protect forests of native species. Water availability in lakes and streams in places where this is not threatened is for 12 months, while those with monoculture, such as in Kodagu, is for six to eight months. If you look at livelihood too, people can grow multiple crops throughout the year where the native species are protected, while in degraded forest regions, only one crop is grown over a lesser period, resulting in lesser earnings.”

“Yield is also higher in non-degraded forests as pollinators are abundant. If you want to give life to Bangaloreans, conserve the green cover and rivers and lakes in the forests as well as in Bengaluru,” he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 6, 2024.

Trees in Corbett fell prey to greedy nexus, says SC

'Amazed at the audacity' of ex-Minister; officials involved in felling of 6,000 trees in reserve, says Bench; court wants panel to study if tiger safaris should be allowed in buffer zones of reserves

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday condemned the illegal felling of over 6,000 trees to construct buildings, ostensibly for "eco-tourism" at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, as a "classic case" of nexus between politicians and officials working to ransack the environment for short-term commercial ends.

"The present case depicts a sorry state of affairs of human greed devastating one of the most celebrated abodes of tigers i.e. the Corbett Tiger Reserve," a three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai observed.

The court also directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate



The Bench said Uttarakhand could not 'run away' from its responsibility to restore the forest to the last tree. GETTY IMAGES

Change to form a specialised committee to study and recommend whether tiger safaris should be permitted in the buffer areas of a tiger reserve.

On the "huge devastation" caused by the illegal felling, the court said it was "amazed at the audacity" of former Uttarakhand Forest Minister and Congress

leader Harak Singh Rawat and former Divisional Forest Officer Kishan Chand for giving forest and wildlife conservation laws a complete go-by and throwing the public trust doctrine "into the dustbin".

The judgment approved the Central Bureau of Investigation probe initiated into the case and directed

the agency to submit a report in three months.

The Bench said Uttarakhand could not "run away" from its responsibility to restore the forest to the last tree.

Justice Gavai said the tigers needed the forest as much as the forest depended on the tigers. "The presence of tigers in the forests is an indicator of the well-being of the ecosystem. Unless steps are taken for the protection of tigers, the ecosystem which revolves around tigers cannot be protected... Events like illegal construction and illicit felling of trees like the one in Corbett cannot be ignored," he said.

CONTINUED ON

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TROUBLE WITH RESORTS

» **PAGE 16**

Continued...

'Resorts near tiger reserves have turned wedding destinations'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday flagged the “mushrooming” of resorts around tiger reserves and their use as choice wedding destinations.

“Music is played at a very loud volume which causes disturbance to the habitat of the forests,” Justice B.R. Gavai condemned the trend in a judgment on the illegal felling of trees in the protected Jim Corbett National Park, one of the first of its kind in the country. The court said unbridled growth of resorts near protected forests for sheer commercial gains destroyed the delicate ecological balance of the area.

Expert committee

The court directed an expert committee to be constituted by the Environment Ministry to make recommendations on the number and type of resorts that should be permitted within the close proximity of the protected areas.

The committee, in its report to be submitted to the top court in three months, should also suggest “as to how much area from the boundary of the protected



The court said the government held forests in public trust.

forest there should have restriction on noise level and what should be those permissible noise levels”.

The court said the government held natural resources such as forests in public trust. “The executive acting under the doctrine of public trust cannot abdicate the natural resources and convert them into private ownership, or for commercial use. The aesthetic use and the pristine glory of the natural resources, the environment and the ecosystems of our country cannot be permitted to be eroded for private, commercial or any other use unless the courts find it necessary, in good faith, for the public good and in public interest to encroach upon the resources,” it expounded.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1&13, March. 7, 2024.

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Healing ways: Contours of mental health landscape of Bengaluru

A panel discussion on 'How Can Bangalore Do Better for the Mental Health of Its Residents?' held at the BIC, Domlur, looked at a range of issues like the history and evolution of NIMHANS, the positive effect of green spaces on mental health, the role of family in caregiving, the limitations of legislation, and the treatment gap in mental health

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Sometime in the 1980s, a man barged into the cockpit of an Indian airliner, brandishing a plastic gun, claiming that it was being hijacked. "The plane was forced to land in Bengaluru," recalled renowned psychiatrist Dr Sanjeev Jain at a panel discussion titled "Minding the City: How Can Bangalore Do Better for the Mental Health of Its Residents?" held at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) in Domlur. When the man, a patient of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) who was having a manic episode, came out of the plane, he pulled out his NIMHANS card, almost as if the document provided some indemnity.

He was brought to the institute, continued the Bengaluru-based clinician and teacher, who shared the stage with sociologist and mental health rights activist Dr Nirmala Srinivasan and writer and editor Kavya Murthy at the event. "NIMHANS had become part of the local ecology of the whole city," he said, recalling a time when simply showing a NIMHANS OPD slip was enough to get one a free bus fare to the institute. "You didn't need a disability card or stamps from various authorities," he said. According to him, even though we are a more open, technologically-savvy society today, this kind of graciousness for people coming to the hospital and their families has reduced over the years.

Mental health
Anecdotes such as this constantly popped up during the panel discussion, furthering a nuanced, complex discussion on mental health, which

veered from the history and evolution of the institute to the positive effect of green spaces on mental health, the role of family in caregiving, the limitations of legislation, the treatment gap in mental health and so much more. "There is a lot of noise about mental health," pointed out Dr Srinivasan. She said she saw this as a positive development as was the increased sensitivity towards mental health. "I look forward to a bright and positive future for mental health."

However, one thing that disturbs her is the tendency to ignore the distinction between the broad spectrum of mental health and mental health disorders within it. "That is not happening. I look forward to that taking place, and I am sure that the trend is towards that," she said, adding that accessibility is another important thing that needs to be addressed. "There should be distributive justice of services," she stated.

About NIMHANS

Murthy, who was moderating the session, started by asking about the landscapes important for mental healthcare to work, the unique infrastructure of open pavilions and trees at NIMHANS and its close relationship with Bengaluru. "Could you tell us about what you have explored in your work and how you look at the individual, society and institution?" she asked.

Dr Jain responded by briefly tracing the institution's journey. "It starts off at the Hospital for Poons, Paupers and Soldiers in the Cantonment, and it moves to another side of the city, while is now the State Bank of Mysore," he said. In the 1930s or so, as that part of town became more crowded,



Francis Xavier Noronha, the first superintendent of NIMHANS, played a pivotal role in creating the institute's lush campus. FILE PHOTO

ed, the asylum moved to a hillock between Lal Bagh and Basavangudi, close to the Victoria Hospital.

"Indian psychiatrists were trained in the UK and felt that there is a need for better asylums matching those of the UK," said Dr Jain, adding that a lot of planning went into choosing a site that would be even more salubrious than the larger city of Bengaluru in the 19th century.

Dr Jain also mentioned how Dr Francis (Frank) Xavier Noronha, the first superintendent of this new facility, played a pivotal role in creating the institute's lush campus. Dr Noronha was a passionate gardener, which led to the planting of many semi-decorative and medicinal trees on the 125-acre campus, a fact that no doubt contributed to better management of the mental health of its patients, going by recent studies that indicate a positive correlation between proximity to green spaces and mental wellbeing.



Mental health rights activist Nirmala Srinivasan, psychiatrist Sanjeev Jain, and writer and editor Kavya Murthy at a panel discussion in Bengaluru. LERHA NAIDU

"That healing space was created for the district of Bangalore, and they wanted to replicate these in every district in Karnataka," he said, adding that there were around 350 patients back then, in keeping with the idea that 5-6 people needed an acre of land to spend their lives on. And while the city has grown exponentially since then, "these kinds of spaces haven't been created anywhere else," he says. So what has worked and not worked, asked Murthy. "Success lies in the eyes of the beholder," laughed Dr Jain. NIMHANS - which had a staff of 6 when it was established in 1954 as the All India Institute of Mental Health - today has a staff of 200. "We used to see about 1000 admissions a year. Now we have around 12,000 in psychiatry and another 8000 in neurology," he said. These numbers, the institute gets around half a million patient visits annually, he says, put immense pressure on NIMHANS.

While the service provision has improved, it doesn't always answer the needs of the people efficiently, he admitted. "Every morning, you get 1,000 patients."

"No matter how many staff you have, and if you



I don't separate the family from the individual the way mental health experts look at it. How can you use 'burden of care'; it is my flesh-and-blood.

NIRMALA SRINIVASAN
mental health rights activist

need to spend at least half an hour per person, there is simply no time."

A family matter

Family and their role in the management of mental health was another thing that came up in the discussion. Dr Srinivasan, for instance, shared her first impression of NIMHANS when she walked into it "as a 6-year daughter of a mother who was admitted there," she said, recalling the beautiful park and courtyard of the institute, the trees and buildings and acres of land surrounding the cottage her mother was housed in.

"I didn't find anything odd," said Dr Srinivasan, adding that her tryst with mental illness was a long journey, starting when she was a 3-year-old baby born in Victoria Hospital. "It is a beautiful experience to understand mental illness," said Dr Srinivasan, who played a pivotal role in enabling an ambulance service for psychiatric emergencies in the city.

Dr Jain talked about the establishment of the mental hospital in Amritsar and how it started from tents, with families playing a key role in the caregiving process, something that was also seen in the family wards of CMC Vellore.

"With that came the assumption that the families can be engaged in treatment and long-term outcome of the patient," he said. Unfortunately, ho-

wever, caregiving has become more complicated with shrinking family units. "The average size of family has dropped to four. If one person is ill, the other three cannot afford to look after another person," he said, pointing out that the question of who will look after a person with mental illness after their primary caregiver's time is a very high concern in the Indian context. "Family members need to share the care, but that should not reduce or make the government insensitive to providing care."

Srinivasan offered a slightly different take on the matter. "I don't separate the family from the individual the way mental health experts look at it. How can you use 'burden of care'; it is my flesh-and-blood." In her opinion, the words chosen by doctors matter a lot since they influence the family's thinking, attitude and behaviour. "I wish that we banish this expression, the burden of care," she said.

Dr Jain added that the term "burden" in relation to mental illness was specifically formulated in Nazi Germany. "They killed people in mental hospitals in Germany because of this concept of 'burden,'" he said. He also noted that the word was often only applied to mental illness. "No one talks about the burden of cancer, hypertension, heart diseases. It is a problem to be solved," he said. "The word burden has unfortunate connotations."

This event is part of the 'Listening to Voices' project that documents audio stories about mental health in Bengaluru. A pilot installation, inspired by Itaru Sasaki's windphone, will be open to the public from Feb 29th (5 pm) to March 5th (8 pm) at the BIC Garden area.

Source: The Hindu, p. 7, March. 4, 2024

Disorders, fear of labour pain drive up C-section deliveries

Made Up 41.8% of 6L Deliveries in 2023-24

Mini.Thomas@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka witnessed an alarming rise in C-sections in the past six years.

Health and family welfare department data accessed by TOI shows that in 2018-19, only 30.7% of the total institutional deliveries in Karnataka were C-sections, while in 2023-24, the proportion went up to 41.8%. Out of 6,08,424 institutional deliveries registered in the state during the last reported year, 2,54,385 were C-sections.

The increasing prevalence of medical disorders like diabetes or hypertension complicating the pregnancy has contributed to the rapid rise in C-sections, said Dr Savitha C, medical superintendent at Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru. "Another interesting statistic is that caesarean delivery is more among affluent women due to perceived lower risks and fear of labour pain," she said. "Rise in infertility cases treated with ART and elderly women with pregnancy who choose caesarean over normal delivery also have led to a rise in C-sections," Dr Savitha added.

There is also a growing trend of opting for muhurat C-sections to coincide with an auspicious date and time.

The data shows that 65.1% of the total deliveries in Tumakuru in 2023-24 were C-sections. The C-section proportion in Tumakuru has been steadily climbing, with 57.8% in 2018-19, 58.6% in 2019-20, 61.2% in 2020-21, 62.2% in 2021-22, and 63.5% in 2022-23. Of the 21,439 institutional deliveries

'EFFORTS ON TO BRING DOWN PROPORTION'

To address the rising number of C-sections in the state, the department of health and family welfare has launched several initiatives, including audits.

"With a view to reduce unnecessary C-sections, we have also introduced midwifery services at public health facilities. Nurse practitioners in midwifery (NPMs) support the mothers during labour and help them deliver naturally, using exercises and alternate birth positions," said **Dr N Raj Kumar**, deputy director, maternal health at the department, adding these initiatives are expected to bring the C-section proportion within the range of 20-40% of the total deliveries.

The state also offers Dakshata training to staff in the labour room as part of its efforts to bring down the C-section numbers, according to D Randeep, commissioner of health and family and welfare.



RISKS & BENEFITS

"A normal delivery is a physiological process. At any point of time, that is the best," said Dr Savitha C, medical superintendent at Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

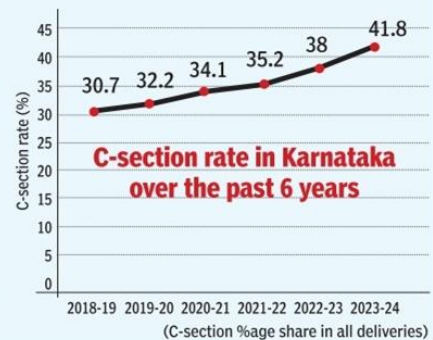
C-sections have many disadvantages, she explained. "The recovery will be delayed. There will be some amount of morbidity. Women who undergo C-sections are at a higher risk of infections if care is not taken. That said, with the advent of antibiotics, C-sections have become safer, compared to how they used to be in the

olden days. Where there is an indication to do a C-section, it can be done. Caesarean delivery is a life-saving procedure for either the mother or baby or sometimes both when it is done for the right indications and with following all surgical protocols," she said.

"We counsel the women regarding the benefits of normal labour from the antenatal period and have many interventions like music therapy, exercises, monitoring and labour analgesia. We have a strict set of protocols and indications for caesarean delivery. We also have a monitoring system with monthly audits and reports," she added.



Source: State health department



ries registered in the district since 2023, C-sections have accounted for 13,956.

Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar are among the districts with the highest proportion of C-sections, besides Tumakuru. Yadgir has reported a low proportion of C-sections, with 5.9% in 2018-19, 4% in 2019-20, 5.9% in 2020-21, 8.1% in 2021-22, 11.3% in 2022-23, and 9.4% in 2023-24.

Akhila Vasan of Karnataka Janaarogya Chaluvai attributes the rising trend in

the state to the commercialisation of healthcare.

"Globally, the proportion of C-sections is less than 15%. Here as your data shows 40% are C-sections. There is only one reason for this: the commercialisation of healthcare. If you disaggregate your own data by type of health facility, you will find that a substantially larger proportion of C-sections have taken place in private facilities. This trend has been seen for a very long time now. Many doctors say that complicated cases get re-

ferred to them. But that is not true. If you try and see what proportion of the C-sections in private hospitals had a complication, you will find that it is a small percentage," Akhila said. "Many doctors say women themselves ask for it. That is also true. My question is: since when have doctors started deciding on surgeries based on what the patient 'wants'. Also isn't it a doctor's duty to refuse surgeries when they are unwarranted? Who created the demand in the first place?" she said.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, March. 4, 2024

Uptick in Covid cases in four states, testing remains low

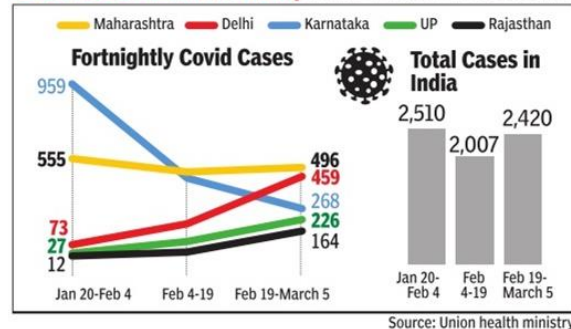
Delhi Has Recorded Over 400 Fresh Cases In Past 15 Days

Amit.Bhattacharya
@timesgroup.com

Delhi reported 63 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the capital's highest daily number since May last year, amid an uptick in infections in the city as well as some other northern states such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In the last 15 days, Delhi recorded 459 fresh cases of the virus, up from 191 in the previous fortnight and 73 in the earlier 15-day period. Cases in Rajasthan — where CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has tested positive — have risen from 27 to 96, and then to 226, during the same period, as per Union health ministry data.

The numbers aren't large. But with testing remaining low, most experts assume the actual count of cases is likely to be much higher.

CASES UP IN NORTH, FALLING IN SOUTH



The last time the daily number of Covid cases in Delhi was higher than 50 was in May 2023. That was during the declining phase of a countrywide surge in cases across India that began in March and peaked in mid-April, with over 12,500 cases reported in India on April 19.

Cases rose again earlier in this winter (Dec-Jan), but

the numbers were far lower. The highest daily count during this surge was 841 reported across India on Dec 30. At that time, most cases were being reported from south India, particularly Kerala.

More than two months later, the north seems to be now seeing a spike. Apart from Delhi and Rajasthan, numbers are rising in UP and Bi-

har: UP had reported just 12 cases in the 15-day period from Jan 20 to Feb 4. This rose to 36 in the subsequent fortnight (Feb 4-19), and then to 164 in the latest fortnight (Feb 19-March 5). Similarly, cases detected in Bihar have risen to 103 from 14 in the previous fortnight.

In Karnataka state, where cases had surged recently, infections appear to be cooling off. The state reported 268 new cases in the latest 15-day period, down from 959 two fortnights ago.

In Maharashtra, however, the case count has been more or less steady over the last three fortnights. The state reported 496 cases in the latest period as compared to 466 and 555 in the previous two fortnights. With Covid becoming endemic, such periodic surges are normal and expected, say experts.

Source: The Times of India, p.13, March. 7, 2024

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ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 6-7 ಸಾವಿರ ಶಿಶುಗಳ ಸಾವು | ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಹಲವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಜಾರಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಶಿಶುಮರಣ

■ ಶ್ರೀಕಾಂತ ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನವಜಾತ ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತಾರು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 6-7 ಸಾವಿರ ಶಿಶುಗಳು ಪ್ರಶಂಸೆ ನೋಡುವ ಮೊದಲೇ ಕಣ್ಮರೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2023ರ ಎಕ್ಸಿಲ್‌ನಿಂದ 2024ರ ಜನವರಿದರಗೆ 4,546 ನವಜಾತ ಶಿಶು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

» ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕ

2020-21ರಲ್ಲಿ 6,293, 2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ 6,722, 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ 7,471 ಶಿಶುಗಳು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿವೆ. ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ನೀತಿಯನ್ವಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದಲೂ ಓಂದಷ್ಟು

ಶಿಶುಗಳ ಮರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ

- ಅವಧಿಪೂರ್ವ ಜನನ
- ಶಿಶುವಿನ ಕಡಿಮೆ ತೂಕದಿಂದಾಗುವ ತೊಂದರೆ
- ಜನನ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಸಿರುಗಟ್ಟುವಿಕೆ
- ಮೈಬೋನಿಯಾ, ಸೆಪ್ಟಿಕ್, ಶಾಮಾಲೆ, ಅತಿಸಾರ
- ಜನ್ಮಜಾತ ಹೃದಯ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ, ಸರೋಣಿ

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಗಳು ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡುಬಂದಿವೆ. ಇಷ್ಟರ ಸಮಯದೊಳಗೆ ಮರಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಿಡಿತಕ್ಕೇನು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದಂಥಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಾರು ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ಮೈಸೂರಲ್ಲೇ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಮರ್ಥನೆ

ನವಜಾತ ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ದರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ನೀತಿ 2025 ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಗುರಿಯನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಐದು ವರ್ಷ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿಯೇ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾತು. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ನೀತಿ 2017ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ 2025ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ನವಜಾತ ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ದರವನ್ನು 16ಕ್ಕಿಂತ (ಪ್ರತಿ 1000 ಜೀವಂತ ಜನನಗಳಿಗೆ) ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಗುರಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ದರವು 14 (ಪ್ರತಿ ಸಾವಿರ ಜೀವಂತ ಜನನಗಳಿಗೆ) ಇದೆ.



ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ

ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು?

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023 ಎಕ್ಸಿಲ್-2024 ಜನವರಿ
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	75	83	104	66
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	703	665	483	323
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	170	278	481	145
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾ.	4	6	8	8
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನ.	478	651	1,136	292
ಬೀದರ್	157	174	307	201
ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	157	174	307	201
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	95	84	97	29
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	38	19	14	26
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	215	170	174	103
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ	238	279	347	201
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ	234	269	200	244
ಗದಗ	130	127	149	82
ಹಾಸನ	256	311	291	191
ಹಾವೇರಿ	62	85	67	18
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	330	281	369	363
ಕೋಲಾರ	196	152	138	83
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	249	424	475	371
ಕುಂದ್ಲ	194	134	129	76
ಮೈಸೂರು	598	695	578	437
ರಾಯಚೂರು	511	641	625	365
ರಾಮನಗರ	15	15	7	13
ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ	290	342	261	196
ತುಮಕೂರು	222	166	251	103
ಉಡುಪಿ	98	68	74	43
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ	67	67	76	49
ವಿಜಯನಗರ	0	0	51	28
ವಿಜಯಪುರ	67	56	113	113
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	125	57	63	48

₹440ರ ಮಾತ್ರ ₹4 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟ?

• ಎಂ.ಎನ್.ಯೋಗೇಶ್

ಮಂಡ್ಯ: 'ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆಗೆ ಬಳಸುವ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕಾಳಸಂತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 10 ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ₹440 ಮುಖಬೆಲೆಯ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗಳನ್ನು ₹4 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೂ ಮಾರಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಶ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

'ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣು-ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ' ಎನ್ನಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಸಿದ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ತನಿಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ಕುತೂಹಲಕಾರಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿವೆ.

'2023 ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ಡಿ. 12ರವರೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 12 ಸಗಟು ಔಷಧ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 6,626 ಎಂಟಪಿ (ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಟರ್ಮಿನೇಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ಪ್ರೆಗ್ನನ್ಸಿ) ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿವೆ. ಈ ಕಿಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಫೆಪ್ರಿಸ್ಟಾನ್, ಮಿಸೋಪ್ರೋಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾತ್ರಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಮುಖಬೆಲೆ ₹440. ಆದರೆ ಕೆಲ ವೈದ್ಯರು, ಔಷಧಿ

ಪಕರೂಪ ನೀಡಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ

'ಹೆಣ್ಣುಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಎಂಟಪಿ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗಳು ದೊರೆ ಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವರು ಹೊರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಗಳಿಂದ ತರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಣ್ಣುಭ್ರೂಣ ಹತ್ಯೆ ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

'ಕುರ್ತು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಿಟ್ ದೊರೆಯಬಾರದು' ಎಂಬುದು ತಜ್ಞ ವೈದ್ಯರೊಬ್ಬರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ.

ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ₹4 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂಬುದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ತನಿಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

4ನೇ ಪ್ರುಟ ನೋಡಿ

'ಆಸರೆ' ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ನಿಯಮ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿ 74 ಗರ್ಭಪಾತಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆಂಬ ಆರೋಪದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲದ ಆಸರೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಮಾಲೀಕ ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ತನಿಖೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾ ಕಡತವನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ನೆಲಮಂಗಲದ ಬಿ.ಎಚ್. ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಸರೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿದಾಗ ಈ ಕೃತ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಯಿತು. ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಪಡೆಯದೆ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-1971 ಅನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕಡತವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಡತದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ನಿಯಮ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆ' ಎಂದು ದೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

'ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಿರುವ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು (ಅಲ್ಟ್ರಾಸೌಂಡ್ ರಿಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗಳು) ಕೇಸ್ ಶೀಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಗರ್ಭಪಾತ ನಡೆಸಿದ ತಿಂಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ದಾಖಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ದೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Continued...

₹440 ಮುಖಬೆಲೆಯ ಮಾತ್ರ ₹4 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರಾಟ?

ಒಂದನೇ ಪ್ರುಟದಿಂದ...

'2023 ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ಡಿ.12ರವರೆಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 12 ಸಗಟು ಔಷಧ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 6,626 ಎಂಟಪಿ (ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಟರ್ಮಿನೇಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ಪ್ರೆಗ್ನನ್ಸಿ) ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿವೆ. ಈ ಕಿಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಫೆಪ್ರಿಸ್ಟಾನ್, ಮಿಸೋಪ್ರೋಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾತ್ರಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಮುಖಬೆಲೆ ₹440. ಆದರೆ ಕೆಲ ವೈದ್ಯರು, ಔಷಧಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ₹4 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂಬುದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ತನಿಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

'ಕುರ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಯಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಗುವಿನ ಜೀವ ಉಳಿಸಲು ಬಳಸುವ ಎಂಟಪಿ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಣ್ಣು-ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆಗೆ ಬಳಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೈದ್ಯರ



ಹೆಣ್ಣುಭ್ರೂಣ ಹತ್ಯೆ ಆರೋಪದ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸಗಟು ಔಷಧಿ ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರು, ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಗಾ ಇರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ
ಡಾ.ಕೆ.ಮೋಹನ್
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಸಲಹಾ ಚೀಟಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೆಯೇ ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿರುವುದು ಹೆಣ್ಣುಭ್ರೂಣ ಹತ್ಯೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕಾರಣ' ಎಂದು ತನಿಖಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಔಷಧ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕರು ನೀಡಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಅನುಸಾರ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಣ್ಣಪುಟ್ಟ ಔಷಧಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಎಂಟಪಿ ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿವೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 30 ಸಗಟು ಔಷಧ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಿದ್ದು, 12 ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರಷ್ಟೇ ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಉಳಿದ 18 ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ನೀಡಿದೆ. '15 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ಅವರೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ನಿಖರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

'ಮಾತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಇಷ್ಟೇ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ನಿಖರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ₹4 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೆಲೆಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಹೋಮ್‌ಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿ ಕೊಂಡಂತಿರುವ ಔಷಧಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಒಂದೇ ಹೆಸರಿನ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಹಲವು ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟದ ತನಿಖೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದೆ' ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ-ಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು: 'ಎಂಟಪಿ ಕಿಟ್ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಸಗಟು, ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಔಷಧಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗೂ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಸಲಹಾ ಚೀಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟದ ಬಿಲ್ ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ವಿಫಲರಾದರೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರರನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.1-4, Mar.07, 2024

‘Govt. aims to increase representation of women in police force to 25%’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday said that the State government plans to increase the share of women in Karnataka State Police from the existing 8% to 25% in due course.

Addressing a seminar on ‘violence against women’, Dr. Parameshwara said that the government is committed to ensure safety of women and has sanctioned six women police stations across the city taking their number to eight. To provide assistance to the aggrieved visitors, two women counsellors have been appointed at each of these police stations, he added. The department should ensure that all women police stations are headed by a woman officer but due to shortage of women officers many station do not have such facilities. However, this will be corrected in the coming days, he said.

Elaborating on the measures taken to ensure the safety of women under Safe City Project, Dr. Parameshwara said that the aim is to make Bengaluru a safe city where 7,500 CCTV



Home Minister G. Parameshwara addressing a seminar on violence against women, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DG&IGP Alok Mohan and city Police Commissioner B. Dayananda also seen.

cameras, 280 Hoysala vehicles, and the entire city police force work round the clock to ensure the safety and maintain law and order. The 112 response system developed on a par with the London Metropolitan Police model started with a response time of 20 minutes and has now improved to seven minutes, he added.

The Home Minister said that the government was also working on a scheme to provide housing facilities for acid attack victims and help their children get educated.

As many as 20 women participants raised their concerns ranging from creating gender sensitivity among the police personnel to getting required le-

gal support and dedicated advocates to fight their cases.

A woman complained that she was running from pillar to post to get justice for her minor daughter who is a rape victim. She said that the her daughter was being threatened by the perpetrators and the jurisdictional Begur police had refused to be of any help. She said her daughter was not going to school because of this for the past year. Dr. Parameshwara said that they would not only help the victim and her family, but would initiate action against officials who hadn't come to the rescue of the victim.

Another women complained about the indifference of the Hoskote police

while handling a case of a woman assaulted by her husband and being dumped in the well. The accused, who works in the Forest Department, was being supported by the police and despite assault and attempt to murder charges, the police refused to register FIR and take legal action against the accused, the woman alleged.

Many women voiced their concerns that dowry harassment section 498A cases had become “toothless” and the police refused to take legal action and arrest citing new guidelines. “Counselling has become the norm for all the domestic violence as victims advised to “adjust”, another women participant said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 7, 2024

30% of salaried women in city experienced gender bias at workplace: Survey

This is higher than the national average of 16%, according to the survey by CRISIL, DBS Bank India

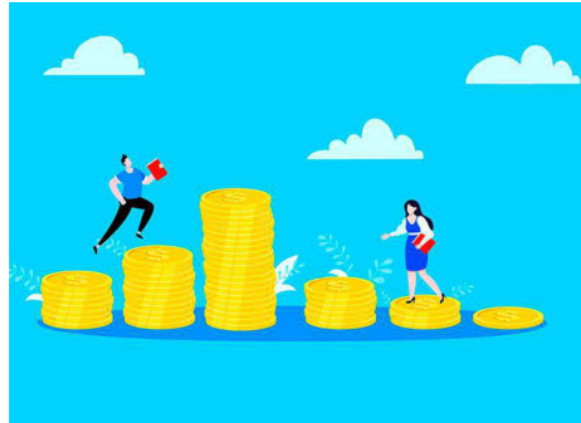
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to a joint survey conducted by CRISIL and DBS Bank India, some 30% of salaried women in Bengaluru experienced gender bias at their workplace, higher than the national average of 16%. The survey, conducted among 800 salaried and self-employed women across 10 cities in the country, reported that 14% of salaried women in Hyderabad reported a gender bias.

Also, the perception of the gender gap in pay varied by region. For instance, 43% of salaried women respondents from Delhi reported perceiving it, whereas only 4% did so in Kolkata.

Negotiating salaries

When it comes to negotiating salaries, 77% of women in Chennai said they did not face challenges, compared with 41% in Hyderabad. Some 42% of women across the country faced difficulties while negotiating salaries. Meanwhile, 96% of women in Kolkata faced no obstacles when



When it comes to negotiating salaries, 77% of women in Chennai said they did not face challenges, compared with 41% in Hyderabad. GETTY IMAGES

negotiating salaries, while only 33% in Ahmedabad felt so.

Kishore Poduri, Managing Director and Country Head, HR, DBS Bank India, said, "Encouraging women's active participation in the workforce is crucial for fostering their economic independence and ensuring autonomy in financial decision-making. Insights gleaned from the study can empower organisations to understand better women's aspirations and tailor strategies that align with their preferences."

The survey titled "Women and Finance" also tracked their leisure behaviour. After Kolkata (55%), women in Mumbai (50%) spend the most time on leisure travel. In the south, 47% of women in Bengaluru have taken more than three leisure trips in the past year, compared with 15% in Hyderabad. Some 38% of them in Delhi have taken more than three leisure trips compared with 30% of women in Ahmedabad.

The findings also corroborate industry views on persistent gender dispari-

The survey titled 'Women and Finance' was conducted among 800 salaried and self-employed women across 10 cities

ties in the workplace, revealing that the perceived gender pay gap at a pan-India level stood at 23% among salaried women, while perceived gender bias stood at 16%.

Semi-affluent women, earning between ₹10 to 25 lakh annually, and affluent women, with salaries ranging from ₹41 to 55 lakh per year, have varying perspectives on the gender pay gap. Affluent women reported a higher perception of the gender pay gap at 30%, while this stood at 18% among semi-affluent women.

A similar trend was seen with the perception of gender bias at the workplace, with 30% of affluent women asserting that they had experienced it, significantly higher than the 12% of women in the semi-affluent cohort who had perceived the same bias, as per the study.

Source: The Hindu, p. 7, March. 7, 2024

It's Women's Day. But on the ground, little has changed

Data on violence against women in the country tells us that much remains to be done to make the country a safe space

BUSHRA ANSARI AND SOWMYA RAJARAM

It hasn't been a good week for women in India. When a 28-year-old Spanish-Brazilian vlogger was gang-raped in Jharkhand, US journalist David Josef Volodzko posted on social media about India being an unsafe country for women. To this, the National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma responded, accusing him of "vilifying" India. She then purported to respond with "statistics" and "data" (sans sources) that "over 6 million tourists arrive in India every year, many of them are single women, and they holiday safely." So let's look at what the data actually says.

As per the Women Peace and Security Index 2023 released by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, India ranks 128 out of 177 countries in terms of women's inclusion, justice, and security.

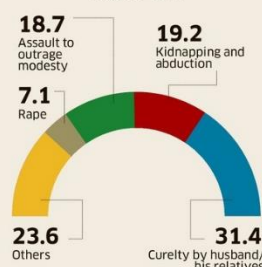
The latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals that the rate of crimes against women in India (calculated as crimes per 100,000 women) increased by 12.9% between 2018 and 2022. In India, the reported crimes against women per 100,000 women population was 66.4 in 2022, in comparison with 58.8 in 2018. This increase could be due to a number of factors, including an increase in actual crimes, an improvement in reporting mechanisms, and a growing willingness of women to speak out about their experiences of violence.

The statistics in "Crime in India 2022," the annual report by the NCRB, show that a total of 13 States and Union Territories recorded crime rates higher than the national average of 66.4. Delhi topped the list at 144.4, followed by Haryana (118.7), Telangana (117), Rajasthan (115.1), Odisha (103.3), Andhra Pradesh (96.2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (93.7), Kerala (82), Assam (81.2), Madhya Pradesh (78.8), Uttarakhand (77), Maharashtra (75.1), and West Bengal (71.8). The rate of crime in Uttar Pradesh, which contributed nearly 15% of the cases in India, stood at 58.6.

"India takes the safety of women very seriously, as evidenced by its implementation of stringent laws over time," Sharma said in her response. Yet, despite the enactment of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005), the majority of crimes against women under the IPC were of cruelty by the husband or his relatives (31.4%). This was followed by kidnapping and abduction of women (19.2%), assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty (18.7%), and rape (7.1%), NCRB records state.

There is more. During the Covid-19 pan-

Crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code, 2022



demic, the crime rate per 100,000 women population jumped from 56.5 in 2020 to 64.5 in 2021. A number of factors could have contributed to this, including reverse migration, social isolation, and economic strain. These factors can aggravate existing tensions within households and create additional stressors, leading to increased violence.

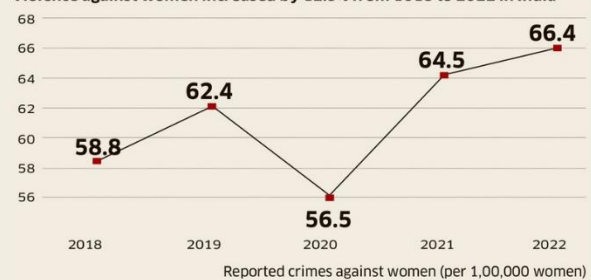
A lack of economic independence further cripples women's ability to protect themselves from abuse and harassment. Despite legal frameworks, most women are not entitled to a share of property due to established social norms. Also, women's participation in the labour force is mostly in the informal economy, which gives them little access to social protection.

In the workplace, too, women face a higher risk of gender violence. Data tells us that women's quest for financial independence actually seems to augment their risk of facing harassment within professional settings. This despite the existence of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 (commonly known as the POSH Act). As per the NCRB, the victim count for workplace sexual harassment against women has increased from 402 in 2018 to 422 in 2022. This is cause for concern because it is well established that women actually under-report crimes against them due to fear of repercussions, inadequate awareness, and societal biases.

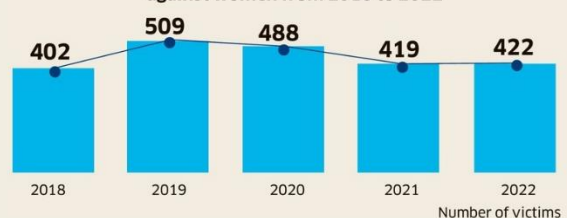
Globally, too, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a serious and pervasive issue. According to the World Health Organisation, at least one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and nearly one in 10 girls has experienced forced intercourse or other sexual acts.

In India, this is exacerbated by entrenched gender bias and patriarchal social

Violence against women increased by 12.9% from 2018 to 2022 in India



Tracking victim count: Trends in workplace sexual harassment against women from 2018 to 2022



norms, which allow women little agency and prevent them from reporting crimes against them for fear of repercussions. So, what can we do?

We need systemic change, which can only happen through a multi-faceted approach. Gender-transformative approaches can be implemented via childhood education and household- and community-level interventions. Innovative methods, such as game-play, can be used to involve both men and women in gender equality initiatives. Other methods include changing cultural attitudes, reforming policy and law, increasing support services for survivors, conducting more information campaigns, workshops, and training programmes, and designing intervention programmes based on data.

Initiatives such as the Government of India's One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme (launched in 2015) help by providing a range of integrated services under one roof, including police facilitation, medical aid, legal aid and counselling, psycho-social counselling, and temporary shelter to women affected by violence or in distress. Currently, 752 OSCs are operational across India and have assisted over eight lakh women. Civil societies, SPOs, ASHA workers, SHGs, religious and faith-based

institutions, and government initiatives can also play a vital role in raising awareness about gender-based violence through social gatherings and networking sites. These entities can raise awareness through educational campaigns, community outreach, and media engagement. They operate by organising workshops, leveraging social media, and collaborating to address gender-based violence and promote a culture of respect and equality.

VAWG has serious social, economic, and cultural implications. It has been linked to higher rates of poverty, poor health outcomes for women and their children, and lower levels of education and economic participation. Discussing VAWG in India is the first step to addressing it, and we must let the data and evidence guide us towards implementing solutions that create a safer and more equitable society for women.

(Bushra Ansari and Sowmya Rajaram work at ISDM DataSights, a soon-to-be-launched, singular online data hub under the umbrella of the Indian School of Development Management (<https://www.isdm.org.in/>), which hosts comprehensive data, knowledge assets and tools for analytics and research on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Source: Deccan Herald, p.11 March, 8, 2024

The determinant in 'more women in the job market'

There is growing demand from social scientists, governments and international organisations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that women's participation in the economy/labour market should increase to promote economic growth of India. It is believed that when women's participation rate, which is one of the lowest in Asia, increases, it will bring prosperity to the Indian economy.

Key factor of patriarchy

Why is women's participation in the labour market in India so low?

Though there are various explanations such as low human capital, and even discrimination against women, the root cause is patriarchy, which is a social system marked by the supremacy of the father/man in the family, community and society. As Marina Watanabe says, patriarchy is "a social structural phenomenon in which males have the privilege of dominance over females". This supremacy is manifested: in values, attitudes, and customs in the society; in ownership of assets, incomes and wealth; and in institutes and organisations that govern our society and economy. With economic growth and increasing education, the strength of patriarchy has perhaps declined in some ways. However, the overall culture of male dominance over women has not changed much in our traditional society.

Under patriarchy, men are considered to be the breadwinners and women are expected to be the homemakers. That is, women are responsible for household upkeep, and for providing care to the child and those who are old, sick and the disabled in the family. Even when there is hired help, it is the woman who is responsible for household upkeep and care.

Though performed with love, this work of women is inferior work for several reasons. This work is unpaid and invisible as time use data are not available on a regular basis in India, and, therefore, not covered under national policies. It is repetitive (performed every day) and boring. There is no upward mobility, and, therefore, a dead-end job. There is no retirement and no



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India raising the participation rate of well-educated women in the labour market could also lead to a huge army of exploited domestic workers

pension. This implies that a significant part of the total labour force available to the economy is locked up in low productivity and inferior kind of work, which is performed mainly by women. Women perform this work not necessarily by free choice or by any particular efficiency in this work but because it is largely imposed on women as a social construct. As this work is outside the purview of economic policies, the drudgery of work, the time stress, technology and low productivity of this type of work and working conditions of workers are outside the purview of policy making. This is unjust, unfair, and unacceptable.

As a result, many women do not enter the labour market due to their high domestic responsibilities. When the others enter the labour market, they enter with domestic responsibilities on their shoulders, implying that there is no level playing field for them from the beginning. Again, they usually have lower human capital (thanks to social norms); restricted mobility due to their domestic responsibilities.

Therefore, their choice is gendered in the labour market. They tend to prefer work that is close to home, part time or flexible work, and which has a safe work environment. Consequently, they overcrowd in stereotyped low productivity jobs and lag behind men in all average labour market outcomes such as participation, wages, and diversification of work. This is clearly not the optimum use of women labour power in the economy. Therefore, women's participation in the labour market must be raised.

Greater participation, but also exploitation

As women with higher education and professional qualifications in India tend to participate more in the labour market, it is argued by experts that greater women's education will raise their participation rate in the labour market.

However, this is only half truth, as this increase in participation is backed by an army of domestic workers, who are known to be highly exploited in the Indian economy.

Women's participation in the labour market

can increase at all levels mainly by reducing their burden of unpaid domestic work and care by reducing the drudgery/strain of work or improving productivity of women's work (for example, providing fuel-efficient stoves in cooking in place of primitive stoves that use fuel wood); by providing infrastructural support to reduce the burden of their work (for example, water supply at the doorstep); by shifting a part of unpaid work to the mainstream economy (for example, child care, disabled care, care of the old can be provided by the government, the market or by civil society organisations to the mainstream economy).

The burden of unpaid domestic work on women can also be reduced by redistributing this work to other household members, mainly men. These steps will release women from the burden of unpaid work to a significant extent and give them free time to acquire higher education and new skills, or to participate in productive work in the labour market.

Address the issue of subordination

If we want not only women's participation but also gender equality in the labour market, households will have to provide equal opportunities to men and women within the household, i.e., by sharing the "inferior work", or unpaid domestic work and care by men and women. However, irrespective of sharing, what is critical is removing the subordination of women in the household by sharing the responsibility of unpaid household work by men and women.

On hired domestic workers, there is an International Labour Organization Convention that provides minimum basic rights to domestic workers in the world. These include a weekly day off, limited hours of work, overtime compensation, minimum wages and minimum social security. It is unfortunate that India has not even ratified this Convention. If India raises the participation rate of (well-educated) women in the labour market along with a rapid increase in the size of domestic workers, the gains in terms of economic growth will be lost as it will create a huge army of highly exploited domestic workers also.

Source: The Hindu, p. 16, March. 8, 2024

The burden of women in construction

How the construction sector can absorb more women, especially migrants

**Namrata Chindarkar
& Divya Ravindranath**

Low female labour force participation remains a pressing concern in India. Even among women who are employed, it is imperative that we ask how they fare in their sector of employment, in terms of the quality of employment, which includes parameters such as skill development and training, social protection, work-life balance, income, and employment security.

One sector that is often overlooked in discussions on women's employment is construction, which is traditionally seen as a male-dominated sector in most parts of the world. In India, the construction sector is one of the largest employers of the migrant female labour force, especially those from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households. In several parts of the country, especially in seasons when agricultural work is scarce, the construction industry becomes a vital source of employment for women.

We reflect on the quality of women's employment in the construction sector by combining data from a sub-sample of women workers in the 2019 Time Use Survey (TUS) with insights from ongoing primary research at construction sites. Analysing quantitative data from the TUS alongside qualitative primary data helps us scrutinise and understand not just how much time women spend on paid work but also the nature of their work in particular sectors. Subsequently, it can help identify potential interventions to enhance conditions of work and the overall quality of work.

According to TUS data, women in the construction sector spend an average of 483



minutes per day on paid employment, 240 minutes on unpaid domestic work, and an additional 111 minutes on childcare. Furthermore, about 18% reported performing simultaneous activities, that is, engaging in more than one activity in a 10-minute time slot.

Simultaneity stems from the disproportionate amount of time women spend on unpaid domestic work and unpaid childcare in addition to time spent on paid employment. There are several examples of this. For instance, women breastfeed or tend to their children while also carrying a bag of cement on their shoulders. This is the only way they can accomplish both tasks, given the long hours of paid work and the burden of domestic chores and childcare. In resource-constrained housing for construction workers, social protection measures such as availability of childcare at the workplace can provide critical support in reducing women's burden of unpaid childcare responsibilities.

The TUS also suggests that 84% of women engage in multiple activities. This is defined as engaging in more than one activity in a 30-minute time slot, with each activity being done for at least 10 minutes. On average, they engage in seven such multiple activity slots in a single day. Our primary research shows that em-

ployers in the construction sector often break down tasks to circumvent minimum wage requirements, forcing women to undertake multiple tasks throughout the day to meet minimum wage thresholds. These include menial tasks with quick turnarounds such as moving bricks, mixing, and sifting sand and cement throughout the day. These tasks, though considered unskilled, are extremely laborious and usually without safety equipment. Women are often paid by piece or the quantum of work completed. This means that these tasks necessitate women to do high-intensity work within short durations.

With greater use of technology and automation, many of these tasks may become redundant, potentially reducing opportunities for women. While skilling is critical to seek and sustain better forms of work in the industry, employers remain hesitant to train women, assuming they are incapable of operating equipment and machinery. Skilled work is critical for achieving better quality of work and improving wages for women in this sector.

Construction is among the fastest-growing sectors, employing approximately 4% of the female labour force in rural and urban areas. With better provisioning of social protection, skills training, and improved workplace safety, it has the potential to absorb a significant portion of the female labour force, especially migrant women, into productive paid work.

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Source: The Hindu, p. 17, March. 8, 2024

Fall and rise in women's work participation

Arguably, the debate around trends in Indian women's employment is only outclassed by a similar one regarding trends in poverty. Unfortunately, the scrutiny of the measurement of poverty is not matched by similarly close attention to the measurement of employment.

The broad contours of the debate, mainly relying on data from the National Sample Surveys (NSS) and Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), are the following: the work participation rate for women ages 15 and above fluctuated around 42% between 1993-94 and 2004-05, declined to 28% in 2011-12, and plummeted to 22% in 2017-18. From 2017, it miraculously surged, and reached 36% in 2022-23.

Two contrasting narratives

In an era of heightened politicisation of statistics, these observations became a ping-pong between pessimists and optimists. The pessimistic story explained the decline in women's work participation as a sign of declining job availability and later increase as a sign of poverty. The optimistic story painted the initial decline as a sign of growing prosperity, allowing women to focus on their families, and the surge as a sign of increasing job opportunities. Others have tried to see this as a natural transformation of the economy chronicled by Claudia Goldin's famous U-shaped curve where women are displaced from the labour market as the agricultural workforce moves to industrial employment, with female employment rebounding with the service economy again making space for them.

We must examine the foundation of these narratives. We see a striking trend when we break down the 25-59-year-old women's work participation into three categories: self-employment in agriculture, self-employment in other activities, mainly in petty manufacturing or shopkeeping, and wage and salaried work in

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manual or white-collar work.

Women's work on family farms dropped from 23% to 10% between 1993 and 2017. During the era of increasing employment, the work on family farms bounced back to 23%, thus more than doubling in the last five years. Wage labour and self-employment in non-farm work remained more or less steady at 14-16% and 5-6%, respectively, although we see a slight upward trend in wage employment in recent years. So, most of the changes are driven by the ebbing and flowing tide of women's work on family farms.

Before we start spinning tales to explain these trends, let us explore the challenges faced by our labour force surveys, which try to pigeon-hole women who raise both chickens and children. NSS and PLFS surveys ask interviewers to fill out a grid containing brief descriptions such as "usual principal activity" and "whether engaged in any work in a subsidiary capacity."

But questions about principal and subsidiary activity status are alien for rural women whose day is full of demands for bathing and feeding children, fetching water, washing cattle, harvesting grains, and making pickles for sale. The interviewer's job is to provide context and ask questions that elicit information about the key indicators of interest. For example, a study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research traced the impact of question-wording on women's work participation rate. Women's work participation was initially measured using NSS-style questions and later through probing questions. This increased the rural women's work participation rate from 28% to 44% for the same women. Most of the omissions were of women who were self-employed in agriculture and animal care.

Historically, these challenges were addressed by relying on trained and experienced field investigators who learned to interpret their questions, keeping

local conditions in mind. However, India's once-vaunted statistical system has been in crisis. As Pramit Bhattacharya noted, until the late 1990s, interviewers were regular employees recruited locally. Since then, supervisors have been centrally recruited and often posted in areas they may not be familiar with, and interviewers are short-term contractual workers hired locally. This has led to a steep decline in quality, culminating in the government disputing the quality of the NSS consumption expenditure survey in 2017-18. A recognition of the declining quality of NSS surveys may have led to increasing attention to data quality, as evidenced by the increase in the strength of subordinate statistical services from 2,181 officers in 2009-10 to 3,121 in 2019-20. This suggests that increased attention to capturing women's work on family farms rather than an actual increase in farm work accounts for the doubling of women farmers over a short period of five years.

The counterargument

A counterargument might be that this increase is due to economic shifts, particularly men's movement out of agriculture, creating space for women. Yet, a modest decline in male self-employment in farming, from 33% to 25%, occurred between 2004-05 and 2017-18, when the female work participation rate also declined. Since then, the proportion of men classified as farmers/family helpers has increased slightly, accompanied by a much more significant increase for women.

Instead of debating the cause of the fall and the rise in the proportion of women farmers and family helpers, attention needs to focus on the relative stagnation in the proportion of women who are wage workers (around 16%) and owners/family helpers of small businesses (around 6%) and seek to expand women's opportunities outside of agriculture, which is generally better paying.

Instead of debating the cause of the fall and the rise in the proportion of women farmers and family helpers, we should look to expand women's opportunities outside of agriculture, which are better paying

Source: The Hindu, p. 17, March. 8, 2024

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JUNKING THE OLD LOT

Vehicles that can be scrapped

Those that haven't renewed their RC

Those without a fitness certificate

Those that are 15 years or older and are owned by the government or public sector undertakings

Those that have outlived their utility

Those damaged due to fires, natural disasters, riots or accidents

Manufacturing rejects, test vehicles, damaged vehicles, vehicles by the original equipment manufacturer that are unsold or unregistered

Auctioned, impounded or abandoned vehicles by any enforcement agency such as Traffic Police, Municipal Corporations, Municipal Council, or Transport Department.

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government issued the state vehicle scrapping policy in December 2022. However, only a few thousand of the lakhs of vehicles in Bengaluru have been eligible for disposal due to stagnation in its rollout.

The most common types of vehicles regularly seeing breakdowns and engine issues on roads in Bengaluru are government and private buses, government-owned or tendered vehicles, garbage trucks and water tankers—all of which pose serious accident risks and raise safety concerns for road users.

Old vehicles, with their outdated engines, also cause pollution problems. Over 33,00,558 out of 91,58,577 vehicles over 15 are in Bengaluru Urban division, as of March 31, 2023.

The Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy of Karnataka, 2022, aimed to phase out unfit, polluting vehicles and replace them with safer, fuel-efficient ones. It aims not just to tackle the vehicular emissions caused by these "end-of-life" vehicles older than 15 years but to formalise and streamline the recycling services available for vehicles and create a system to dismantle, recycle, or sustainably dispose of them.

The policy estimated that approximately 14.3 lakh end-of-life vehicles in Karnataka that did not have valid registration or fitness certificates were fit for scrapping, and another 66 lakh vehicles will turn 15 years or older by 2027.

The state government outlined the specifications for authorising registered vehicle scrapping facilities (RVSFs) to simplify the process. It mandated that all vehicles—even from other states and Union Territories—must be scrapped only at these authorised RVSFs.

Karnataka's only two authorised RVSFs are around Bengaluru—one in Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli taluk, and another in Kolar Hobli, Koratagere taluk. So, the burden of processing all scrap vehicles in Karnataka falls on these two centres.

The first RVSF in the state—Mahindra MSTC Recycling Pvt Ltd in Vijayapura Hobli, was set up by Mahindra CERO, a joint venture between central PSU MSTC Ltd and Mahindra Accelo, in September 2023. It has received and processed most of the scrapping applications in Karnataka. Out of 1,373 applications by the end of February, 1,157 have been approved.

Scrapping voluntary for private vehicles

The vehicle scrapping policy does not mandate the scrapping of private vehicles—it is still a voluntary exercise for vehicle owners.

Besides contacting the two authorised facilities in the state directly, vehicle owners can also apply to scrap their vehicles via the Voluntary Vehicle Scrapping Application on the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Parivahan portal. They can then go to any RVSF-managed collection centres across the state to deposit their vehicles.

A senior BIMP official, who was privy to early-stage meetings and

planning before the policy came into effect, explained that the logistics made the implementation a herculean task. "In initial meetings with stakeholders, there was some backlash from vehicle owners in rural areas because of a high number of over-age vehicles there. They also argued that the policy couldn't be applied to them as they didn't have the finances to keep replacing goods vehicles or tractors used for agriculture," he told DH.

He added that even if a mandate for scrapping private, non-transport vehicles is approved and passed, it can be implemented effectively only after logistical hurdles can be overcome.

Malikarjuna noted that while he doesn't envision a mandatory policy for private vehicles any time soon, giving a thrust to the existing policy might encourage more private owners to come forward.

"I hope the central government comes out with some mandatory rules that vehicles aged above 17 or 19 should be scrapped. Then I think it will pick up pace because people's mindset will change, and more people will try this out," he said, anticipating a major change by the fifth year of this policy (2027).

He emphasised that this goes hand-in-hand with the expansion of infrastructure and supply of electric vehicles. "Electric vehicle charging stations with reduced charging times fixed at short distances have to come to the market along with this scrapping of older vehicles. If this happens, longer-distance vehicles will be replaced with electric vehicles, and vehicle owners will offer their older vehicles to scrap," he said.

Mandate for government vehicles

Although the policy mandates the scrapping of all government vehicles ages 15 years and above, the central portal reflects only 40 applications submitted at both the authorised RVSFs, with only six applications that have been approved.

However, Malikarjuna told DH that 600 to 700 vehicles from state and central governments have already been scrapped.

"The RVSFs would have taken the vehicles for scrap but wouldn't have entered the information on the databases as regularly because there are no tax concessions for government vehicles. Hence, the question of speeding up the process may not exist here," he clarified.

The state needed to scrap nearly 15,000 government-owned overage vehicles, or about 5,000, by March. However, Malikarjuna recently confirmed that although the state has picked up the pace of scrapping, it cannot meet the goal of scrapping 5,000 vehicles by March.

Additionally, not all overage vehicles are eligible for scrapping as they continue to ply on the roads as long as they have fitness certificates and have renewed their Certificate of Registration (RCs). In some cases, especially with government vehicles, scrapping is not a practical decision.

For example, out of more than 400 fire tenders registered with the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services (KSSES), at least 284 are over 15 years old, as per information shared by Kamal Pant, Director Gen-

Vehicle scrapping policy yet to

TAKE OFF

The government is providing incentives to promote scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years. Yet, of 14.3 lakh end-of-life vehicles in the city, only 1,373 are lined up for scrapping. Many overage government vehicles continue to ply with fitness certificates, and scrapping of private vehicles is not mandatory

Older than 15 years in Bengaluru

Non-transport vehicles: **27.89 lakh**
Transport vehicles: **5.11 lakh**

Together, these include:

Two-wheelers: **20.33 lakh**

Cars: **7.06 lakh**

Light goods vehicles: **1.36 lakh**

Passenger autos: **1.35 lakh**

Trucks, lorries: **1.07 lakh**

Cabs: **39,913**

Tractors: **20,861**

Maxi cabs: **23,433**

Buses: **20,554**

Non-transport two-wheelers

Ex-showroom prices of new vehicles	Tax concession for new vehicles
Up to Rs 1 lakh	Rs 1,000
Rs 1 - 2 lakh	Rs 2,000
Rs 2 - 3 lakh	Rs 3,000
Rs 3 - 4 lakh	Rs 4,000
Rs 4 - 5 lakh	Rs 5,000

Non-transport four-wheelers

Ex-showroom prices of new vehicles	Tax concession for new vehicles
Up to Rs 5 lakh	Rs 10,000
Rs 5 - 10 lakh	Rs 20,000
Rs 10 - 15 lakh	Rs 30,000
Rs 15 - 20 lakh	Rs 40,000
Above Rs 20 lakh	Rs 50,000

Other vehicles

10% tax concession on tax paid either quarterly or yearly for up to 8 years and **10%** tax concession on lifetime tax on newly registered transport vehicles. **10%** tax concession on construction equipment vehicles, including tractors.

eral of Police, KSSES. According to the mandatory vehicle scrapping policy for government vehicles, these vehicles must also be scrapped due to being "overage".

However, Pant calls it a unique case. "Even if many of our vehicles are over 15 years old, they wouldn't have crossed thousands of kilometres because they don't run daily and work within their jurisdictions. Even among the overage ones, only about 120 have required engine repairs or replacements besides regular maintenance because we keep our vehicles in top condition. After all, they are emergency services. Therefore, they cannot be scrapped just because of age," he said.

He noted that he has written to the state government and the central ministry of road transport and highways and is awaiting their directions on the steps ahead. At present, he added, none of those 284 overage vehicles are plying on the roads and are instead kept as backup vehicles pressed into service only in dire need.

The specially modified fire tenders are also quite expensive due to the fabrication and time required to manufacture them. Ahead of the summer, with a higher chance of forest or accidental fires, it is also not the best decision to remove them if they function well.

Abandoned or impounded vehicles

This policy includes a provision for RVSFs to buy abandoned vehicles and

vehicles that are impounded and go unclaimed over a period via auctions.

For example, Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Bengaluru East, noted that vehicles impounded by the traffic police, besides those involved in crimes or accidents, usually remain in the police station premises until court proceedings close. Due to space constraints, vehicles might even be shifted to Mallasandra if they remain in police custody for many years.

"If the vehicle owner or user has the proper documents to release the vehicle and pays any pending dues in the case of impounding, the court can release the vehicle the very next day," he said.

However, if nobody claims it for a period of time or if a vehicle has been involved in an accident beyond repair, the police can auction it with the court's permission. Interested RVSFs can purchase these vehicles and dispose of them properly.

This is a win-win for the RVSFs, who get more scrap to disassemble, the traffic police, who get their premises cleared, and the public, who do not have to suffer from a lack of road space outside stations that see such vehicles piling up over the years.

Certificates of Deposit

According to the dashboard on the National Portal for Vehicle Scrapping Related Services, maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, as of February 29, 2024, Karnataka saw a mere 1,380 applications for scrapping being submitted by vehicle owners; only 1,164 of which have been approved.

Many other states are not doing this well. The state has seen a few hundred scrapping applications approved monthly since September 2023. However, the Certificate of Deposit (CoD) issue remains an issue. As of February 29, 2024, only 423 CoDs have been issued, of which 68 are unsigned. Similarly, only 84 Certificates of Vehicle Scrapping (CVS) have been issued, which indicates the number of vehicles finally disposed of.

CoDs issued by the RVSF recognise the transfer of vehicle ownership from the owner to the facility for further treatment. Each certificate has a unique ID to prevent misuse or malpractice and enable easy tracking of vehicles handed over to a scrapping facility.

Vehicle owners can submit CoDs when purchasing new vehicles to obtain tax concessions. However, the processing of these CoDs had been delayed because the previous system of tax concession calculations stipulated the tax concession given for newly registered vehicles against submission of CoD at 25% of tax paid on the scrapping vehicles.

This led to several issues in tax calculations as systems have changed over 20 years, and old tax data would not have been available with the vehicle owner or in manual records with the transport department, C Malikarjuna. Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement, South) told DH.

The new system of tax concession slabs for end-of-life vehicles, effective from January 22, 2024, is expected to boost scrapping in the state.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A March, 2, 2024

A summer of discontent on the water front

Drinking water is in acute short supply across the length and breadth of the State and reservoir levels have plummeted

DROUGHT DISTRESS

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
Kumar Buradikatti
R. Krishna Kumar
BELAGAVI/KALABURAGI/
MYSURU

The searing heat, which will only intensify in the weeks ahead, is set to aggravate drinking water crisis in parts of Karnataka that bore the brunt of a severe drought and crop failure due to failure of south west monsoon last year.

With mercury levels set to cross the 40 degrees Celsius in many part of central and north Karnataka and breach the 38 degrees Celsius in south interior Karnataka region, it will be a summer of discontent. The depletion of water level in the reservoirs will be abetted by the evaporation loss due to scorching heat adding to the scarcity.

Most of the areas in the arid Kalyana Karnataka region that are dependent on Krishna and the Tungabhadra rivers are bracing for a drinking water crisis. As per Tungabhadra reservoir authorities, the dam held only 8.37 tmcft of water against its capacity of 105.78 tmcft on Saturday. This can help meet drinking water requirements of



Residents await the arrival of a water tanker at a village in Raichur district; (right) women collect water from a tanker in Belagavi. SANTOSH SAGAR & P.K. BADIGER



Reservoir levels

Major dams	Gross Capacity	Storage as on March 1	
		2024	2023
■ Tungabhadra	105.79 tmc ft	8.65 tmcft	28.69 tmcft
■ Narayanpur	33.31 tmc ft	18.19 tmcft	30.39 tmcft
■ Malaprabha	37.73 tmc ft	11.66 tmcft	14.68 tmcft
■ KRS	49.45 tmc ft	15.97 tmcft	28.05 tmcft
■ Hemavathi	37.10 tmc ft	13.38 tmcft	21.50 tmcft

Source: KSNDMC

parts of Koppal, Raichur, Vijayanagara, and Ballari districts.

Kalaburagi receives water from the Saradagi barrage which is fed from the Basavasagar reservoir (Narayanpur dam) and the farmers along the river course are warned against lifting water from the river for their farming activities. The administration has de-

ployed personnel to keep an eye on the riverbank pump sets.

Water once in 12 days

Despite being on the canal network of Tungabhadra reservoir, Ballari is facing a serious drinking water crisis. Though authorities claim that they supply water once a week, the residents say that they receive

water once in 12 days in some areas and 15 days in others. The current water availability for Ballari city can last for another fortnight, according to Prabhakaran Kumar, member of Ballari City Corporation.

In Belagavi, perched amidst the Western Ghats, the average rainfall is about 1,500 mm and the local villagers have never experienced water scarcity. But this year seems to be different. With the majority of the residents harnessing open wells and borewells and only a modest percentage of people depending on tap water, the crisis is set to be intense as water table has depleted due to drought.

"The last time we had

good rainfall was in November 2022. We managed somehow till October last year. But the last few months have been very hard," said Kanteppa Appanna, resident of Bijagarni village.

Water scarcity is so severe this year that the Belagundi Gram Panchayat plans to run water tankers to needy houses. "Most farmers have suffered crop loss in the last kharif and rabi seasons. They have lost hope of a crop this year," said Sidagouda Modagi, Krishik Samaj leader. Interestingly, even the village of Rakkasakoppa that has a huge reservoir that supplies drinking water to most parts of Belagavi city, is suffering from scarcity.

In south interior Karnataka, farmers in the Cauvery command area are unlikely to get water for summer crops though there have been sporadic protests to release water to the canal at Hullahalli and other areas in Mysuru district.

Mysuru Zilla Panchayat CEO K.M. Gayatri said contingency plan was in place for 134 villages where water scarcity could emerge in the weeks ahead as the water table was likely to drop. The zilla panchayat officials have mapped the villages where the yield from the borewells were bound to be low and tankers will be pressed into service as a last resort to tide over water scarcity.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, March. 3, 2024

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ತತ್ಕಾಲ್ ಸೇವೆ

ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಶಿಫಾರಸು | ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯಗೆ 7ನೇ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ತಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇವೆ ಕಾಡಿರಿಸುವ 'ತತ್ಕಾಲ್ ಸೇವೆ' ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಿತ. ಇದೇ ಮಾದರಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಲು

» ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಹಾವಳಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ

ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಸಿಎಂ ಗೃಹ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರನ್ನು ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಟಿ.ಎಂ. ವಿಜಯಭಾಸ್ಕರ್ ತನಿವಾರ ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳ ಸಹಿತ ಏಳನೇ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ತಲುಪಿಸಲು 'ತತ್ಕಾಲ್' ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಸೇವೆಯಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸಬಹುದು. ಈ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್ ಕಳುಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಹಾವಳಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ: ಒಂದು ಅಥವಾ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಮಯೋಚಿತ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, 'ತತ್ಕಾಲ್' ವೇಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿಯವರ ಲಾಭಕ್ಕೆ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯೂ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ತತ್ಕಾಲ್ ದರಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಅಥವಾ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಒಂದು



ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಟಿ.ಎಂ. ವಿಜಯಭಾಸ್ಕರ್ ಶನಿವಾರ ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಏಳನೇ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು. ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಡಾ.ಜಿ. ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್, ಡ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಇದ್ದರು.

5,039 ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳು

ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಆಯೋಗವು ಆಯೋಗವು ಈಗಿನ 527 ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಸೇರಿ 2021ರ ಜು.3ರಿಂದ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಏಳು ವರದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 39 ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 5,039 ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅಥವಾ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಸೇವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಕಾಲ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದರೆ, ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಹಾವಳಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಬಹುದು. ಜತೆಗೆ ತತ್ಕಾಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಹಂಚಿತ ಸೇವಾ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ: ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕೆಲ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹವಿಧಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಬ್ಬ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು 2 ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ಗಮನಸೆಳೆದಿದೆ. ಡೇಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ,

ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಸ್ಥಿರಾಸ್ತಿ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಎ ನಿಂದ ಸಿ ವರ್ಗದ ನೌಕರರು, ಎಲ್ಲ ನಿಗಮ-ಮಂಡಳಿಗಳ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ ತಬ್ಬೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲು ವರದಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಜಯಂತಿಗೆ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಮುಂಚೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ, ನಿಗಮಗಳು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು, ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಳೇ ಕಡತಗಳು, ವರದಿ, ಪೀಠೋಪಕರಣ ಮುಂತಾದವುಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡುವ 'ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಅಭಿಯಾನ' ಘೋಷಿಸಲು ಆಯೋಗ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

ಶೌಚಗೃಹ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುವಿಕೆ, ಕಸ ಗುಡಿಸುವುದು, ಸಣ್ಣ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪತ್ರ, ನೇಮಕ ಸೇವೆಗಳು, ಕಾನೂನು ಸೇವೆಗಳು, ಡೇಟಾ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ, ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ, ಐಟಿ ಸೇವೆಗಳಡಿ ಕ್ಲೌಡ್ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟಿಂಗ್, ಡೇಟಾ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಸೈಬರ್ ಭದ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿತ ಸೇವಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ತರಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಕ್ರಮದಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿ, ಉತ್ತಮ ಸೇವೆ ವಿತರಣೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ವಲಯದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿ ಹಂಚಿತ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು (ಶೇರ್ಡ್ ಸರ್ವಿಸಸ್ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ) ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. • ಪುಟ 5

Continued...

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತತ್ಕಾಲ ಸೇವೆ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾದ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.16ರಷ್ಟು ಅಂದರೆ, 21 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಭೂಮಿ ಪಾಳು ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದು, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಷ್ಟದ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಎಂಟು ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳೆಂಬ ಕಳವಳಕಾರಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ವರದಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಭೂ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಭೂರಹಿತ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ಗೇಣಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಭಯಭೀತರಾದ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಬದಲು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಪಾಳುಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ

» ಪಾಳು ಭೂಮಿಯಿಂದ

₹8,000 ಕೋಟಿ ನಷ್ಟ

ಕೆಲ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಗ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಬೆಳೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂ ಪುನಶ್ಚೇತನ ಮಸೂದೆಯ ಕರಡನ್ನು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಅದರ ಬಳಕೆ, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ, ಆಹಾರ ಭದ್ರತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ಕರಡು ಮಸೂದೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

4ಜಿ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಮಿತಿ: ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 4(ಜಿ) ಅನ್ವಯ 'ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ' ಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕೂಲ ಟೀಕೆಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿಗಳಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಮಾಣದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಡ್ಡ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರಿದ್ದು, ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ವಿಫಲಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ದೂರು ಕೊನೆಗಾಣಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವೇಚನಾ ಅಂಶ ಮತ್ತು ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಬಹುದಾದ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಖರೀದಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಕ್ಕೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೌಲ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡುವ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಸೇರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳು

- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗವು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇಮಕ ಪತ್ರದ ವಿಳಂಬ ತಗ್ಗಿಸಲು ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಂಧುತ್ವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರದಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ
- ಎಲ್ಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿಯಿರುವ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ರದ್ದು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾದ ಟೈಪಿಸ್ಟ್‌ಗಳು ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯಾದ ನಂತರ ರದ್ದು. ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಹು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರು ಎಂದು ಮರು ನಿಯೋಜನೆ
- ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಎಫ್‌ಡಿಎ, ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಎಫ್‌ಡಿಎ ವೃಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾನವಾದ 'ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕ' ಎಂದು ಕರೆದು ಹೊಸ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ
- ಯೋಜನಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಗಡಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ
- ಅಬಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವ ಎಫ್‌ಡಿಎ, ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಅಬಕಾರಿ ಕಾನ್‌ಸ್ಟೇಬಲ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ.
- ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿ 3 ರಿಂದ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸರತಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೇರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

KARC-2 recommends doing away with caste verification certificate for issuing appointment orders to KPSC candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2), headed by former Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, on Saturday recommended to the State government to exempt the requirement of obtaining a caste verification certificate for issuing appointment orders by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) for candidates selected under general merit, category-I, SC and ST, belonging to others (physically challenged, rural quota), and women categories.

In the report submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the commission said the general recruitment rules should be amended accordingly for expediting the recruitment process. In its 7th Report, the commission has covered nine departments and made 527 recommendations.

It said: "After selection of candidates by KPSC, months and in some cases years of delay occur in giving appointment letters to candidates." To reduce the time taken, it is recommended to exempt the requirement of obtaining a caste verification certificate, it added.

Noting that many selections are delayed because of the time taken by KPSC for document verification, it recommended that in



Former Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar submitting a report on administrative reforms to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the case of recruitments where there are no interviews, KPSC should do automatic online verification of documents with the online databases of the Revenue Department (using RD numbers) and Exam Board databases for SSLC, PU marks cards. It said the verification of original degree certificates and other documents by calling the selected candidates should be done by the departments concerned.

The commission said newly-recruited staff should be compulsorily sent to orientation or induction course of at least 30 days by each department. It recommended that undergoing one-week training be made a compulsory condition for being considered for promotion.

Tatkal services

Under the Karnataka Sakala Services Act, the report

recommended that the relevant rules be amended for providing tatkal services within a day or two depending on the service on payment of the tatkal rates. Employees may be given incentive for providing tatkal services.

It is recommended that Sakala Act be amended to increase compensatory cost from ₹20 per day to ₹250 per day of delay subject to maximum of ₹25,000 on the lines of the penalty prescribed under RTI Act. The current Sakala Services Act prescribed the compensatory cost as ₹20 per day for the period of delay in delivering a service, subject to a maximum of ₹500. The 12-year-old Act should be changed for making the compensatory cost provision more effective. The penalty for not furnishing information under the RTI is ₹250 per day subject to a maximum of ₹25,000.

On typists and shared staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KARC-2 report said vacant posts of typists should be abolished in all departments by general orders. Typists may be re-designated as "multi-skilled" workers. It suggested that outsourced staff working in the Secretariat be rotated among departments after three to five years for transparent functioning.

It suggested that government offices hire staff on a part-time or shared basis. The services that can be delivered on shared basis are: data entry operations, housekeeping services, accounting and payroll services in smaller offices, recruitment services, legal, data collection and surveying, analytics services, and IT services - cloud computing, data storage and management, and cyber-security.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

WE REGRET to inform the sad demise of K. Srinivasa Raghavan, retired professor of Metallurgy, IIT Chennai on 2nd March, peacefully in his sleep. DOB: 26.01.1936 DOD: 02.03.2024 Wife Chitra Raghavan. Children Hrishikesh Raghavan and Arundhati Raghavan. Ph: 963226440.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, March. 3, 2024

36,789 families get title deeds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday gave away title deeds to 36,789 poor beneficiary families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), built by the Karnataka Slum Development Board, at a function organised at K.R. Puram in Bengaluru on Saturday.

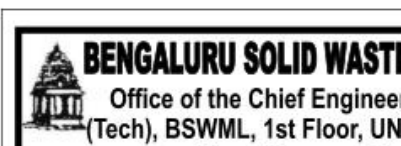
Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said the project had been revived and taken forward by the present government by pitching with subsidy amount, releasing ₹500 crore in the first phase. As a result, 36,789 houses were being given away in



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan at an event in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the first phase. While a beneficiary was to pay ₹4.5 lakh towards construction as per the earlier terms, the present government had reduced it to ₹1 lakh and pitched in with the remaining sum, Mr. Khan

said. A total of 1,80,253 families would benefit from the scheme, he added.



Source: The Hindu, p. 8, March. 3, 2024

‘Guarantee schemes have reached 4.6 cr. people’

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said the government's guarantee schemes have reached over 4.6 crore people in the State, and with that, the purchasing power of the people strengthened.

He was addressing a convention of beneficiaries of guarantee schemes in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday. In Chikkamagaluru district alone, women had utilised the benefit of free travel under the Shakti scheme over 1.52 crore



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Minister of Energy K.J. George inaugurating development works in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday.

times, which incurred an expenditure of over ₹55 crore.

Besides that, the number of people visiting the pilgrimage centres also in-

creased in the State with the effective implementation of the scheme.

Similarly, 2.95 lakh families were getting the benefit of Gruhajyothi, 2.41 lakh families were getting Anna Bhagya, 2.44 lakh women were getting ₹2,000 every month under Gruha Lakshmi, and 2,657 youth had enrolled in the Yuva Nidhi scheme. The government had been spending ₹486.86 crore to reach these benefits to the beneficiaries in the district, he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, address-

ing the beneficiaries, said the guarantee schemes had been benefiting all families, irrespective of the party they supported.

Referring to leaders of the BJP and JD(S) criticizing the guarantee schemes, Mr. Shivakumar challenged them to ask their party supporters to give up the benefits of the schemes.

Energy Minister K.J. George, legislators H.D. Thammaiah, T.D. Raje Gowda, Nayana Motamma, G.H. Srinivas and officers were present at the programme.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, March. 4, 2024

DKS directs officials to take over irrigation, commercial borewells

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As water crisis looms large in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to take over irrigation and commercial borewells to supply water to parched areas.

Speaking to the media after chairing a meeting on drinking water crisis, Mr. Shivakumar said he has directed BWSSB and the zilla panchayat to identify irrigation borewells used for farming and commercial ones and take them over. "We are planning to compensate for taking over irrigation borewells. As water is the property of the State and not of any individual, the State has the right to take over in the time of crisis. The law pertaining to water also allows the State to rope in borewells to ease the crisis."

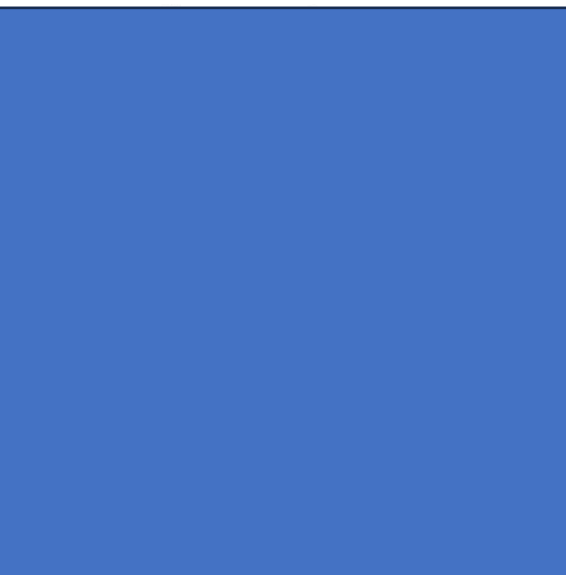
Mr. Shivakumar said these water sources will be identified soon and water will be supplied through tankers. He further informed that of the 14,781 borewells in Bengaluru, 6,997 are dried up and 7,784 are functional. The crisis may worsen as already, close to 50% of borewells have dried up."

Meanwhile, with private water tankers having to mandatorily register now, so far, only 219 water tankers have registered in the BBMP limits. According to estimates, there are 3,500 tankers and this also includes oil tankers.

Mr. Shivakumar said it is



According to IMD, there is likely to be heatwave during the three summer months in some parts of the State. FILE PHOTO



mandatory for the tankers to register and the vehicles which are not registered will be seized. The police and the RTO have also been informed about this. A portal - bbmp.oasisweb.in - was opened for registration on March 1 and registration should be done before March 5.

Mr. Shivakumar said tanker operators are now charging exorbitant prices and the government will soon fix prices based on

distance from the source to the household. Mr. Shivakumar said that KMF and other departments that have empty tankers have been told to keep them on standby. He said he had directed the officials to identify areas where there are good watertables to drill borewells, including in Ramanagara, Devanahalli, Kanakapura, and others.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 5, 2024

In Karnataka, Congress on the defensive

But it hopes to shift focus to 'guarantee schemes' and the issue of devolution of funds

STATE OF PLAY

S. Bageshree

In the heels of the Budget session of the Karnataka Legislature ending on a raucous note, an IED blast at the Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru's IT hub has set off a predictable narrative ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

During the Budget session, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that supporters of the Congress's Rajya Sabha winner Syed Naseer Hussain raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the corridors of the State Secretariat. On Monday three people were arrested in connection with the case. BJP State party president B.Y. Vijayendra described the blast in the cafe as an "extension" of the incident involving the alleged slogans and blamed the "my brother" policy of the Congress government for both. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister and BJP contestant from Thiruvananthapuram, also said that both were a result of the "appeasement politics" of the Congress. Even as the investigating agencies are yet to make a significant breakthrough in either of the cases – with the forensic science laboratory report on the audio clip awaited in the first and no arrests made yet in the second – there has been political cacophony.

The Opposition has also been talking about the "failure" of the Congress government's guarantee schemes and mounting allegations of corruption. But the two recent episodes and the manner in which the BJP has seized these opportunities to target the ruling party is an indication of the tenor of its Lok Sabha campaign. Its leaders' statements are in the party's com-



fort zone of Hindutva politics, which is in tune with what is perceived to be the national mood after the inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. The two incidents have succeeded in putting the Congress on the defensive, yet again compelling it to bend backwards to "prove" that it is not "anti-Hindu." Effectively countering this narrative and bringing the discussion back to what it was hoping for in the run up to the elections is a challenge for the Congress.

Besides riding on the "success" of its five guarantee schemes, the party gave a fair indication of what it is keen to focus on during its campaign, during the Budget session. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched no-holds-barred attacks against the Centre over "stepmotherly treatment" in the devolution of taxes and drought relief. The Congress government went on to even pass a resolution in the Assembly against the Union government. This led to acerbic exchanges, dharnas, and walkouts in the Budget session. Mr. Siddaramaiah's Budget speech and his reply to the Budget discussion were replete with accusations against the BJP government at the Centre for decreasing the State's share of devolved taxes, and gradually decreasing the grant-in-aid allocation for centrally sponsored schemes and forcing the State to increase its share. Every time

the Opposition brought up the question of drought or funding for works, the Chief Minister laid the blame squarely at the door of the Centre.

In early February, the State government's leadership, led by Mr. Siddaramaiah, staged a protest in New Delhi, calling it a "movement to protect the interests of Karnataka and Kannadigas" and against the "gross injustice" of the Centre. Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote a letter to all the MPs of the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular), the BJP party's ally for the Lok Sabha polls, asking them to participate in this agitation "in the interest of Kannadigas."

Devolution of funds has remained a hot issue, with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's brother and Lok Sabha member D.K. Suresh going as far as to argue that "South Indian States may be forced to demand a separate country if the Centre does not provide them with adequate funds." While this was dubbed "anti-national" by the BJP, the Congress government has continued to make overtures related to federalism and regional identity, also evident in the passage in the Budget session of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which mandates 60% of text on the name boards of all business and industrial establishments to be in Kannada in the top half. The Congress has made similar attempts in the past, including demanding that the Centre to grant official status to the 'Kannada flag'.

The Lok Sabha polls are going to be held in summer. Karnataka is reeling under a drinking water crisis and farmers have already lost a large part of their crops. What narrative will cut ice with the voters in a such a situation remains to be seen.

Source: The Hindu, p. 11, March. 5, 2024

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಡಿ.ಸಿ, ಸಿ.ಇ.ಒಗಳ ಜೊತೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಸಭೆ

ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಭರಪೂರ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗ ಬಹುದು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯೂ ಸೇರಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಜತೆ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಮರೋಪಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಹಲವು ಸಲಹೆ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಬರಸೀಡಿತವೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ 223 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ, 194 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 7,408 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ 1,115 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಎದುರಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅವರು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದರು. 'ಯಾವುದೇ

223

ಬರಸೀಡಿತವೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳು

194

ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳು

98

ಸದ್ಯ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳು

ಮುಂದಿನ 3 ತಿಂಗಳ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆ

7,408

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಬಹುದಾದ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು

1,115

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಬಹುದಾದ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು

₹854

ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹಿಡಿ ಕೋಟಿ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಹಣ

ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗಬಾರದು. ಎಷ್ಟೇ ಹಣ ಖರ್ಚಾದರೂ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು' ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಸಂವಾದದ ಬಳಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರ ನೀಡಿದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ, 'ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಾಗ ಬಹುದಾದ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರಗಾಲವನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಲು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದ ಕೊರೆತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗಬಹುದೆಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿರುವ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಲು

ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯ

ಈವರೆಗೆ 33.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ₹631.13 ಕೋಟಿ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಪರಿಹಾರ (₹2 ಸಾವಿರದಂತೆ) ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಮೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ₹600 ಕೋಟಿ ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ₹800 ಕೋಟಿ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಜಪ್ಪಯ್ಯ ಅಂದರೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ': ₹18,172 ಕೋಟಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೋರಿ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಭೇಟಿಗೆ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನಾಯಕರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನಿಯೋಗ ಹೋಗೋಣವೆಂದರೂ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನಾಯಕರ ಉತ್ತರವಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಪ್ಪಯ್ಯ ಅಂದರೂ ಒಂದು ರೂಪಾಯಿಯೂ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನಲೂ ನಮಗೆ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೇ' ಎಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು.

ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾಚಕರ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಜೊತೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗಳಲಿನ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಗಮನಿಸಿ, ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡುವಂತೆಯೂ

ಸಿ.ಎಂ ಕಚೇರಿಗೂ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಉಲ್ಟಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕುಮಾರ ಕೃಪಾ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯ ಗೃಹ ಕಚೇರಿ 'ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ' ಕೊಠಡಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಸಭೆಗೂ ಮೊದಲು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು.

ಬರಗಾಲ ಬಂದಾಗ ನರೇಗಾ ಅಡಿ ಪಾಸನವ

ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು 150 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲಸದ ಹಣವನ್ನೂ ಪಾವತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

5ನೇ ಪ್ರುಟಿ ನೋಡಿ

Continued...

ಒಂದನೇ ಪ್ರುಟಿದಿಂದ...

'ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಆದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ₹140 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಕೊಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ ₹70 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪಿ.ಡಿ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹854 ಕೋಟಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಮೇವಿಗೆ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೂ ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಮೇವು ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಪಶುಸಂಗೋಪನ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ₹40 ಕೋಟಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆಯ ಸಭೆ ಕರೆದು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆ ಈವರೆಗೆ 646 ಸಭೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವಿಧ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ

'ಗುಳೇ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬರಬಹುದು'

'ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಮುಗಿದಿವೆ. 1,400 ಕೋಟಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದ ಮೊತ್ತ ₹730 ಕೋಟಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. 4.74 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ನೂರು ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಿದ್ದು, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಿಗದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಗುಳೇ ಹೋಗುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಬರಬಹುದು' ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಆತಂಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

307 ಸಭೆಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಬಹುದಾದ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲೇ ಯೋಜನೆ ತಯಾರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದ್ಯ 98 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳ 412 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದೆ. 175 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 596 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳಿಂದ 204 ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

'ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಆಳ ಮಾಡು

ವುದು, ಫ್ಲಾಶಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದರ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ದರಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ 120 ಹಾಗೂ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ 232 ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ 96 ವಾರ್ಡುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ನಾರಾಯಣಪುರ, ಅಲಮಟ್ಟಿ, ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ, ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕಣಿವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ಜಲಾಶಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1.78 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಅಡಿ ನೀರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, ಜೂನ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿ ಅವಲಂಬಿತರಾಗಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗಬಹುದು. ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಅವಲೋಕಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದರು.

ಗುಳೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಿರುವ 'ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ' ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ 1.20 ಕೋಟಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ 4.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಲಾಭ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ₹4 ಸಾವಿರದಿಂದ ₹5 ಸಾವಿರ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಜನ ಗುಳೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.1 &3, Mar.06, 2024

KERC issues guidelines for installing prepaid smart electricity meters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Wednesday notified the “Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Prepaid Smart Metering) Regulations, 2024” which will come into effect from April 1. This will enable consumers across Karnataka to install prepaid smart electricity meters.

The prepaid smart meters, which can be procured at the retail outlets of electricity supply companies (Escom), will communicate all the metered data at least once a day to the escom.

Once every quarter, an authorised representative of the Escom will physically read the meter. The con-



The prepaid smart meters can be procured at the retail outlets of electricity supply companies. FILE PHOTO

sumers can get all their energy consumption related data on a real-time basis through a website, mobile app, or any other digital mode.

“At the time of availing prepaid metering facility, the consumer shall pay minimum amount equivalent to the monthly fixed/demand charges plus energy

charges as per consumers’ requirement at the prevailing tariff rates. The consumer may recharge the energy charges as and when required in multiples of ₹100, subject to a minimum amount equivalent to one week’s average consumption as recorded in the immediately preceding week or month. There

shall be no maximum limit for recharge amount,” the notification said.

While the communication system will notify and alert the consumers when they exhaust 75% of energy charges amount in a billing month, in case of failure to recharge the meter account the balance runs out to zero, then the meter will be automatically disconnected and it will be deemed a temporary power disconnection. The power will return upon recharging the account after the adjustment of any negative balance.

Both new consumers and existing postpaid consumers can avail the prepaid smart meter facilities. Consumers who wish to know more about the process, can visit <https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in>

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, March. 7, 2024

Tanker owners say they travel over 15 km one way to fetch water, making price limit rules redundant

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Water tanker owners have termed the price cap decided by the city administration as “unscientific” and “divorced from ground reality”.

The main complaint of the tanker owners is that the government has not prescribed a price cap for trips where the distance between the water source and the destination is beyond 10 km. Several owners say that most tankers are sourcing water beyond 10 km. Thus, the

price cap instituted now is unfeasible, they argue.

“Most tankers travel over 15 km between the source and the destination. So this order does not make any sense,” said Shashikumar, president, Bommanahalli Water Tankers’ Association.

Another water tanker dealer, Praveen Reddy from Doddanekkundi, said he travelled 20 km one way to fetch water, some 11 km beyond Varthur, as all borewells nearby have gone dry. “The site of commercial exploration of water, which was earlier near

Varthur, has now moved far beyond it. One trip from our office to the source and the destination covers over 40 km. Our costs for one such trip add up to ₹1,900. Any price cap below that will not work. And the government fixing the price cap only for trips less than 10 km is meaningless and completely divorced from ground reality,” he said.

Madhu, tanker owner, said the price cap is unfeasible even for shorter trips. “As most borewells have dried up in the city limits, borewell owners

charge more for every load extracted. For instance, at a source just 1 km away from our office, they charge ₹1,000 for a 12,000-litre load to be extracted from the borewell. The government order caps the maximum price at ₹1,000 for this trip,” he said.

Will resolve issue soon
Deputy Commissioner Bengaluru Urban Dayananda K.A., told *The Hindu* that beyond 10 km was not stipulated by the administration as the BWSSB request was limited to 10 km. “After the request, I dis-

cussed the issue with the technical advisory committee. Based on their suggestion, the price was fixed. If the BWSSB puts forth another proposal for more than 10 km, the district administration will act upon it,” he said.

“We will put up a proposal to the DC seeking directions on the price cap and mechanism to decide if the distance between the source of water and the customer is more than 10 km. We will resolve the issue soon,” said Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB chairman.

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

Water tanker price capped at a maximum of ₹1,200 for 10-km radius

Move comes amidst escalating demand for tankers, particularly with taluks in Bengaluru Urban district declared drought-hit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to address water scarcity and skyrocketing tanker prices, Bengaluru district administration has capped water tanker prices at a maximum of ₹1,200 for a load of 12,000 litres. At present, a 12,000-litre tanker load costs anywhere between ₹1,800 and ₹2,500 depending on the locality. Whitefield and Varthur are some of areas worst hit by the drinking water crisis.

Following a recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee and upon the request of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on behalf of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), rates have been fixed for a four-month period.

The move to cap tanker prices comes amidst escalating demand and soaring price of tankers, particularly with all taluks in Bengaluru Urban district declared as drought-hit.

Effective immediately, residents who order a 6,000-litre water tanker are to pay ₹600 for delivery within a 5-km radius while the charge for an



Following a recommendation by the Technical Advisory Committee and upon the request of BWSSB on behalf of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, rates have been fixed for a four-month period. FILE PHOTO

Cost of water

	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 per every 1,000 litres between 8,000 and 12,000 litres		

8,000-litre tanker has been capped at ₹700. For those requiring larger quantities, a 12,000-litre water tanker is available for ₹1,000.

For distances beyond 5

km but within 10 km, the rates have been set slightly higher. A 6,000-litre water tanker would cost ₹750 while the price for an 8,000-litre tanker is ₹850.

Largest capacity

For the largest capacity 12,000-litre tanker, residents should be ready to pay ₹1,200.

The order does not specify the cost of a tanker load for distances beyond 10 km, which water tanker dealers say has now become the norm.

Deputy Commissioner K.A. Dayananda has issued the order, which specifies that businesses supplying water through tankers will now be subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST) as well.

At present, 200 private tankers have been commandeered under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by BWSSB and BBMP to deliver water for free to pockets dominated by the poor in 110 villages, and in erstwhile CMC and TMC areas.

Poor response to water tanker registration

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The registration of water tankers with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has drawn poor response with 1,391 tankers voluntarily registering in the dedicated portal.

According to estimates, there are 3,500 tankers, including oil tankers. Last week, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had said that they were expecting registration of at least 2,000 vehicles. The registration that commenced on March 1 ended on March 7. The data of registered vehicles is latest till 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Recently, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that unregistered water tankers will be seized by the RTO and taken over by BWSSB. However, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told *The Hindu* that he was not informed about seizure. "Seizing of vehicles is impractical as it will not serve any purpose."

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

THIRSTY CITY: Suppliers argue cap impractical, given their operating expenses

Water tanker pricing welcome move, but enforcement crucial: Residents

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The government's move to cap the water tanker prices to prevent overcharging comes as a relief to many citizens struggling to bear the increased expenses on water. However, the order has capped the pricing only for the supply of tankers within a 10-kilometre radius and there is no clarity over how it would apply for those which supply to areas beyond 10 km.

Many water tanker suppliers that the *DH* spoke to said that the price capping was not practical and would only lead to losses.

"I have to go 20 km one way to get water filled for a trip. This means I will be travelling close to 40 km to supply every time. Diesel cost, water filling cost, and driver charges will account for Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000. When such is the situation, how can we deliver a water tanker at Rs 1,200," said a tanker operator from Doddanekundi.

Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner K.A. Dayananda told *DH* that the technical committee will reevaluate the rates and in-



BWSSB says residents can either call the BBMP or the BWSSB helpline if tankers overcharge. DH PHOTO/ BH SHIVAKUMAR

clude capping for over 10 km, if need be.

"As of now, the committee has given out the report based on the requests it received and an analysis of it. If there are requests stating that water has to be carried from further away, the technical committee will reevaluate and fix prices for those beyond 10 km as well," he said.

That apart, residents also expressed concerns over on-the-ground enforcement of the price cap. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) maintained that the citizens can either call the BBMP or the BWSSB helpline if tankers overcharge.

"We will jointly enforce the capping and the citizens can

either reach out to ward or zonal officials from BBMP or BWSSB. They can also raise a complaint in our helpline. We will immediately inspect and act upon it," said Dr Ramprasad Manohar V, Chairman, BWSB. However, citizens raised their concerns.

"Now, I need water. That is the immediate need. If the water tanker supplier says he will only supply water if I pay up a certain amount, I have no way but to pay up. I cannot raise a complaint and sit and wait for them to inspect," said Sushmitha B, a resident of Andrahalli.

Yet another resident of an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road said that the citizens were so helpless

that they offered higher prices. "We have seen many other apartments offering a higher price for tankers so that they get supply at the earliest. When citizens themselves are

involved how will price capping be effective," he said.

Citizens suggested that the authorities ensure better on-ground enforcement with surprise checks and visits.

Only 1,391 tankers have registered

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had set a March 7 deadline for the water tanker suppliers across the city to register themselves with the civic body. However, even as the deadline ended on Thursday, only close to 1,391 tankers have registered with the BBMP. The data from the transport department had shown that there could be close to 3,500 tankers operating in the city. Even of the 1,391 registered, only close to 398 of them have shown willingness to rent their vehicle to the government to supply water.

Speaking to *DH* on conditions of anonymity, one of the water tanker owners said that they were worried that they would

be forced to work with the government if they registered.

"We have yearly contracts and we need to ensure we supply to these customers. If the government takes control, we will have to act upon their orders. This will be a big blow to our business," the tanker owner said.

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ramprasad Manohar V said that the authorities will not initiate drastic measures immediately but will try to get on board as many tankers as possible. "We will not seize them immediately. We will reach out to them and request them to register. Based on the response, we will initiate action," he said.

The price range was decided by a technical committee that was constituted to study the on-ground situation. "The committee has studied in detail the rates available with the Public Works Department and also the prices being charged on the ground. Based on the analysis, they have suggested a capping for tanker prices," the order said.

Govt caps water tanker rates

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has capped the rates of water tankers in Bengaluru amid reports that suppliers are taking advantage of the current scarcity.

According to an order passed by the Bengaluru DC, the rate of a 12,000-litre water tanker is capped at Rs 1,000 for a distance within five kilometres and at Rs 1,200 for areas between five and ten kilometres. Similarly, a 6,000-litre water tanker provider cannot charge over Rs 600 for areas within a five-kilometre radius and Rs 750 for areas between five and ten kilometres.

The price range was decided by a technical committee that was constituted to study the on-ground situation. "The committee has studied in detail the rates available with the Public Works Department and also the prices being charged on the ground. Based on the analysis, they have suggested a capping for tanker prices," the order said.



Several empty water cans are kept outside a supermarket in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, as the city suffers a water crisis. DH PHOTO/PUSHPAK V

The order has also specified the rates at which these tankers can be hired by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). Given the acute water shortage the city is witnessing, the BWSSB had proposed to acquire a few private tankers temporarily to supply water to areas that are facing a shortage. The order caps the daily rent of 6,000-litre water tankers at Rs 5,000 and of 12,000-litre water tankers at Rs 7,100.

The capping comes after multiple complaints that the water tanker suppliers are misusing the situation and overcharging customers. In areas such as Whitefield and Varthur, the rate of a 12,000 litre water tanker had shot up to Rs 8,000.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4 March. 8, 2024

Borewells dry as these 2 lakes were denied water for 4 yrs

Incomplete work by BDA has affected groundwater table

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS,

The delay in rejuvenation of Bengaluru's two major lakes may have contributed to the drying up of borewells in and around Bellandur and Varthur region, experts and residents believe.

Both waterbodies, spread across a total of 1,200 acres, stopped receiving treated sewage and rainwater after since the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) took up lake rejuvenation work four years ago.

As part of the rejuvenation, the BDA has diverted the water inflow for desilting the lakes but incomplete work has severely affected the groundwater table.

When these lakes were filled with water, many residents living in the vicinity said they could at least depend on private tankers even when their borewells dried up. Some residents said their tubewells worked around the year until the BDA started desilting lakes, which should have been completed in a year.

"A major part of the groundwater crisis in Bengaluru is the draining of Bellandur and Varthur lakes for desilting," Vishwanath Srikantaiah, a

water conservation expert, said. "Bellandur Lake alone, spread across 330 hectares, can recharge 66 million litres per day. That is equivalent to 5,500 tankers (12,000 litres). Varthur could recharge 36 million litres per day. A total of 102 million litres per day recharge missed out has caused the groundwater collapse," he said.

As an emergency measure, he said, the BDA should fill these lakes with tertiary treated wastewater. "These two lakes, biggest in Bengaluru, have an influence zone to fill aquifers not less than 10 km," he said.



A large part of Bellandur Lake resembles a playground because the BDA has blocked the flow of treated and rainwater to carry out desilting work. DH PHOTO/ NAVEEN MENEZES

He gave an example of Doddabommasandra Lake in the north of the city. "BEL has set up a 10 MLD secondary wastewater treatment plant. The BBMP pays the electricity bill of Rs 10 lakhs a month. About 300 million litres becomes available to fill lakes and recharge aquifers," he said.

Amareesh, president of

Green Glen Layout Resident Welfare Association, said borewells of residents living close to Iblur Lake were getting water but the ones near Bellandur Lake had dried up.

"After Iblur Lake was rejuvenated, it has water to fill the aquifers but the work in Bellandur Lake has been going on for years," he said.

'Need one more year'

Even though the water crisis is severe, the BDA is in no hurry to complete the work. An engineer in charge of the rejuvenation project said it would take another year to completely fill Bellandur Lake. "Until then, we will not be able to allow water into the lake," he said, adding Varthur Lake is in the advanced stage of completion and hoped to allow the flow of water by December-end.

Former MLA Arvind Limbavali blamed the BDA for destroying a project conceptualised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) committee. "Had these lakes been full, the borewells would not have gone dry to this extent. Of the 110 villages added to the city limits, 31 fall in my constituency and all of them are facing severe water shortage," he said. "I am struggling to supply water even through

tankers as the suppliers themselves are seeing their borewells going dry."

Shobha Bhat, a resident of the Jnana Bharathi ward, blamed the unscientific rejuvenation of the lake for the water problem. "The BBMP focused on the beautification of waterbodies in the RR Nagar constituency. As the water holding capacity of these lakes has narrowed down, many borewells in our area have gone dry," she said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4 March, 8, 2024

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Social Issues

Lingayats, Vokkaligas up in arms over 'unscientific' caste survey

Allege their communities were undercounted

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the report of the Socio-economic and Educational Survey, also known as the caste census, trouble started brewing for the Congress with the powerful Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities on Friday registering their strong objection to the “unscientific” survey.

The Lingayats and Vokkaligas — the state’s politically-dominant communities—have been mobilising themselves to oppose the findings of the caste census in the run-up to the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes submitting its report to Siddaramaiah.

Senior Congress lawmaker Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who heads the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, said his community has been “deliberately” undercounted in the caste census.

“We won’t keep quiet. We will wait for the government’s next step. We will prove that the survey is unscientific,” Shamanur said.

He claimed to be aware of the findings of the census, which the government has

BJP dares CM to make findings public

The Opposition BJP on Friday dared CM Siddaramaiah to make the findings of the caste survey public by convening a special legislature session immediately. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai told reporters that there were several questions surrounding the report.

Details on Page 6

not officially released.

“It is shown that the population of Lingayats, Vokkaligas and Brahmins together is 1.86 crore. We are saying that Lingayats alone are not less than two crore. That’s why we are saying it is unscientific. It must be done correctly,” he said, pointing out that the census is nine years old.

“Looking at this, it seems like our numbers have been shown less deliberately,” Shamanur said.

The Mahasabha had earlier petitioned Siddaramaiah to junk the caste census that was carried out when H Kantharaj headed the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

“It is the same Kantharaj report that has been merely delivered to the government by (current chairperson) K Jayaprakash Hegde,” Shamanur said.

► **Caste, Page 6**

Caste, from Page 1

The Mahasabha is planning to carry out its own survey to prove its point on the Lingayat population in the state, Shamanur said. “Our numbers are shown as 65-70 lakh. But we are not less than two crore,” he insisted. Meanwhile, the

Vokkaligas claim they account for 16% of the state’s population which is not reflected in the caste census findings.

The community, which Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar belongs to, has planned meetings with senior leaders to chalk out protests. Earlier, Shivakumar had signed a pe-

tition addressed to Siddaramaiah urging the government to junk the report. “The survey contains information without visiting all households. The report was submitted to the government without making necessary changes as sought by our community’s pontiffs and leaders such as H D Deve

Gowda, D K Shivakumar and others,” State Vokkaliga Reservation Committee’s chief convener Nagaraj Yelachavadi said. Vokkaligara Sangha president C N Balakrishna, who is also a JD(S) lawmaker, said, “Our objection is to this particular survey, which wasn’t done scientifically,” he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&6, March, 2, 2024

Caste census puts Siddu on track to deliver 75% quota promise

N B HOMBAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

The caste census may help Chief Minister Siddaramaiah upend the 50% ceiling on reservation, in line with the promise Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been making nationally.

DH has reliably learnt that the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) has advised the government to consider hiking OBC reservation to 51%, up from the current 32%.

This will give Siddaramaiah the opportunity to politically consolidate the backward classes and delivering on his pet social justice plank.

Hiking reservation will mean breaking the 50%

quota ceiling, for which the caste census will come in handy to furnish empirical data.

Giving OBCs 51% reservation, 17% for SCs and 7% for STs will make it a total of 75%, a promise Siddaramaiah had made in April last year, just before the Assembly polls.

During his first term in office, Siddaramaiah had spoken about increasing reservation to 70%.

At present, Karnataka has 32% quota for OBCs, 15% for SC and 3% for ST - totaling to 50%.

The previous Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government increased the SC/ST quota by six percentage points, breaching the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court.

However, there is still no

clarity on its application.

An official source pointed out that Haryana, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra have passed laws breaching the 50% ceiling. So, Karnataka is not the first state to attempt the quota breach.

The Commission has recommended a 1% reservation to orphans in education and employment. Also, it has recommended bringing under the reservation bracket 57 castes whose population is small and live in remote places.

"With an assurance of 51% reservation, the Congress can reap its benefit," former KSCBC chairperson C S Dwara-

kanath said. "This is what Rahul Gandhi has been saying...politically, it'll help Congress."

But will Siddaramaiah bite the bullet?

According to political analyst Chambi Puranik, the caste census can potentially become a parallel to the "separate Lingayat religion" campaign that damaged the Congress' prospects in the 2018 Assembly election.

"The caste census may unite the Lingayats and Vokkaligas. Therefore, I feel that Siddaramaiah may delay the implementation of the caste census," he said, adding that the fate of the caste census would depend on the role Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, will play.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, March, 2, 2024

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Urban Affairs



The Vrushabhavathi river in Bengaluru city. K. BHAGYA PRASAD

India's parched IT capital

Households in Bengaluru, dependent on water supply from the Cauvery river or water tankers, are preparing for the current water crisis to worsen as the city stares at a long, hot summer. **K.C. Deepika and K.V. Aditya**
Bharadwaj report on the worries of the people at a time of drought across the State

Sharfunnisa, 70, a resident of Varthur in south-eastern Bengaluru, has been struggling for the last one month to arrange for water for her family's daily needs. As the prices of water tankers have shot up exponentially over the last one month, a few houses in the neighbourhood, all one-room tenements, have now decided to order one water tanker and share the costs.

"A 4,000-litre tanker was about ₹500-₹600 a month ago; now it costs ₹1,000. Over and above this, we need to buy drinking water cans. Our water expenses grew to over ₹4,000 in February. And this is just the beginning of summer. The water tanker operators have been warning us that the costs may double soon," says Samina Taj, 35, another resident of the area.

Households in Bengaluru, dependent on water supply from the Cauvery river or water tankers, are preparing for the situation to worsen as the city stares at a severe summer.

Ganga P., a senior citizen who lives in an independent house in east Bengaluru, says she washes clothes less often, preferring instead to hang them out to dry in the hot sun if they have been worn only for a few hours. She also hand-washes clothes as far as possible, to save water. "I have stopped using water to clean the veranda of my house. I do not mop the floor daily to save water so I don't have to buy a tanker," she says.

Whitefield and Varthur, which house the Information Technology corridor in eastern Bengaluru, are some of the worst-affected areas by the drinking water crisis. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the city's civic body, has directed officials to dig borewells in 58 areas which are reeling under the crisis. Of them, 16 are in Mahadevpur, 25 in R.R. Nagar, five in Bommanahalli, and three each in the Velahanka and Dasarahalli zones.

No one has been spared; water has become a rare commodity even for those who live in posh apartments and can afford to buy it easily. Unlike the older parts of the city where, despite the drought, the State government has prioritised drinking water needs over irrigation and assured supply till the next monsoon, these areas are not yet serviced by piped water supply from the Cauvery river. On account of unplanned growth over the last two decades, these regions have been stretched beyond their capacity. Basic infrastructure such as drinking water and underground drainage are absent, so they rely on borewells and water tankers.

Karnataka saw a few consecutive years of surplus rain until 2023 when the monsoon failed. The underground water table levels are depleted,



A 4,000-litre tanker was about ₹500-₹600 a month ago; now it costs ₹1,000. Over and above this, we need to buy drinking water cans.

SAMINA TAJ
Resident, Varthur



SAMINA TAJ
Resident, Varthur

aggravating the water crisis. The borewells of the BBMP are the source of water ATMs, or easy access points to vend safe water. As they have also dried up, the civic body has put up posts at several water ATMs stating that one person can take only one pot of water a day.

Down to a trickle

In these areas, water is the most commercialised and politicised commodity. Even before these neighbourhoods joined the city's civic limits in 2007, the local panchayats had dug borewells and laid pipelines to supply water; these are now overseen by the BBMP. But many of these borewells have gone dry or the force of water is down to a trickle, disrupting service in many areas.

"The water man (who is in charge of releasing water in specific areas) acts like a king. We need to go and beg at his house for water. We pay the water board. But he doesn't give us water unless we pay him," says Radha S., 45. She adds that the local MLA and former councillor also target blocks that have not voted for them. In such a scenario, water tankers have become ubiquitous.

In the absence of any regulatory mechanism, the prices of water tankers have been erratic. Tankers usually come in three capacities – 4,000 litres, 6,000 litres, and 12,000 litres. The prices of these have shot up to ₹1,000, ₹1,500 and over ₹2,000, respectively. For the first time, the price has crossed the ₹2,000-mark in the city.

The cost of water tankers has shot up to such an extent that even residents of apartments have



Women and children collect potable drinking water from a public tap at Nayandahalli off Mysuru road, in Bengaluru. The water is supplied by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. K. HIRALI KUMAR

been complaining that sourcing water is becoming increasingly hard and their monthly maintenance costs are going up. Many of them have started rationing water to flats. They use recycled water for gardening and have stopped filling up their swimming pools. Recently, an internal note by an apartment on Kanakapura Road, south of Bengaluru, went viral. It notified its members that water would be supplied only after 11.30 a.m. after the morning peak hours, to conserve water.

Prasad, a resident of an apartment community in Whitefield, says their borewells have dried up, forcing them to rely on water tankers. "A few days ago, the tankers that used to supply water stopped taking our calls. They suggested we contact other operators. When we did that, those operators quoted far higher prices. We had no option but to buy water at the new rates," he says.

Price cap for water tankers

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently said that 25% of the city's water needs are met by water tankers. The civic administration has made registration of all water tankers in the city, an estimated 3,500, mandatory by March 7. It has announced that it will cap the tanker prices after a meeting with stakeholders in the next few days.

But water tanker dealers dispute the 'tanker mafia' tag, used by citizens and even political parties. They argue that as borewells have gone dry, water tankers are now going at least 40 kilometres away from the city to fetch water.

Praveen Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Marathahalli, an eastern suburb, says on average, a water tanker's journey to the source and to the customer has gone up to 50 km from less than 30 km a year ago. "If we were taking half an hour to fill a 12,000 litre tanker from a borewell earlier, now it takes over three hours as the water has depleted. The prices that landowners are charging for digging borewells have also shot up. We are working under tremendous pressure and are unable to meet the rising demand," he says. He narrates the story of how the residents of an apartment recently waylaid a tanker demanding that it unload the water to them at any cost.

Jagadish Reddy, a social activist from Varthur, says a decade ago, their village had been the site of commercial extraction of water. Varthur had been supplying water to the entire IT corridor and beyond, including areas 15-20 km away.

"We did not realise how it would affect the village resources then. Today, the underground water table in the village has depleted extensively and water tankers have to go nearly 20 km beyond Varthur, up to Chikka Tirupati, to fetch water now," he says.

Reddy adds that due to rapid development of the region, the residents had no choice but to allow commercial extraction of water to cater to the burgeoning population. "Some villages will have to pay the price. Now a few surrounding villages are not allowing commercial extraction, forcing tankers to move farther away," he says.

The civic administration has now stepped in to provide some solace to the poor. Bengaluru's Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has announced that invoking the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the administration will commandeer 200 water tankers over the next few days to supply free water to 58 dry patches identified by the administration.

Of the 10,955 borewells drilled by the civic administration in the city, 1,214 have completely dried up. In 3,700 others, the water levels have dropped. The civic body has now released ₹131

crore to redrill some of these borewells and dig new ones in the outer zones. But as the aquifer levels have depleted, this may be too little too late.

The changing face of the city

While the IT capital reels under a water crisis not seen in recent times, experts say this was only waiting to happen. Rashmi Kulranjan and Shashank Palur, hydrologists at WELLS Labs under the Urban Water Programme, point out that though there are reports of water shortages in other cities due to the variability of rainfall from the southwest monsoon last year, cities such as Delhi and Kolkata are not as vulnerable due to their proximity to major rivers. "Bengaluru is not situated near a major river or coast. So, it relies on an expensive and unreliable source of water that is located 90 km away and 350 metres below the city's elevation. Half its supply is still provided by groundwater sources. And this fluctuates significantly according to the season," says Shashank.

Bengaluru was not always dependent on networks of pipelines or borewells pumping water from afar or from below the ground, says Rashmi. "Most of the city's water bodies were originally 'tanks', rainwater harvesting structures constructed mainly to serve irrigation and livestock purposes. The undulating terrain of the city allowed for man-made cascading lake systems to be built; these played a critical role in managing the availability and surplus of water. Despite centuries of effort that went into building the region's water resilience, lakes eventually began to lose their importance with the introduction of piped water supply," she says.

Shashank says with rapid urbanisation, lakes have been directly encroached on or are drying out. "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 treated and untreated sewage from the buildings around them. This affects the possibility of using them to capture rainwater or storm water," he says.

The loss of the city's blue-green infrastructure – water bodies and parks and green spaces that allow water to percolate – has resulted in a significant underutilisation of rainwater harvesting and capture methods, he adds. The highly polluted Bellandur lake, one of the largest in the city, is a prime example.

Ironically, as the two of them point out, Bengaluru is situated between two river basins. To its west are Vrushabhavathi and Arkavathi, tributaries of the Cauvery, and to its east is the Ponnaiyar or Dakshin Pinakini. But Vrushabhavathi, the only river originating in the city, has become polluted due to sewage and effluent discharge.

TV. Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, says Bengaluru receives annual rainfall of 700-850 millimetres, which amounts to 15 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of rainwater. The city requires 18 TMC of water, which means that 70% of the water required comes from rainwater.

"We need to make rainwater harvesting mandatory, rejuvenate lakes on priority so that we can store rainwater, ensure complete treatment of domestic sewage, apply the 'polluter pays' principle to industries discharging untreated industrial effluents as per the Water Act of 1974, create mini forests of 12 hectares with native species in each ward, and re-establish inter-connectivity among lakes by evicting all encroachments of storm water drains," he says.



If we were taking half an hour to fill a 12,000 litre tanker from a borewell earlier, now it takes over three hours as the water level has depleted. The prices that landowners are charging for digging borewells have also shot up.

PRAVEEN REDDY
Owner of a water tanker business

Rashmi says the Cauvery currently supplies 1,460 million litres per day (MLD). An additional 775 MLD will be added to the supply when the latest stage of infrastructure is completed.

"However, water levels in the river fluctuate seasonally. The reservoir capacity in the Cauvery basin has decreased to 40%, even before the onset of summer. The Bengaluru water board spends huge amounts on electricity charges to pump the water into the city. Additionally, the feasibility report for the construction of the Mekadatu reservoir, aimed at augmenting water supply to the city, reveals that the project entails the submergence of 4,996 hectares of wildlife, forest, and revenue land," she says.

Instead of expending huge resources to source water from afar, other options must be considered, including those within the city, Shashank says. "The city produces 1,941 million litres of waste water every day. This is likely to go up as the population increases. Treating and reusing it could significantly cut down on freshwater demand and reduce the city's vulnerability to water scarcity. Bengaluru, notably, is unique for its number of on-site sewage treatment plants at apartment buildings and commercial establishments, but there is a need for better standards and mechanisms to treat and reuse this water more effectively. Bengaluru could also benefit from adopting strategies employed by other water-scarce cities like Chennai, which have proactively implemented indirect potable reuse by harnessing surface water bodies," he says.

Replenishing groundwater is another crucial step to improve the city's water security, says Rashmi, adding that to address the seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels, utilising open spaces such as fallow land and green areas to recharge shallow aquifers with rainwater during the monsoon season could prove beneficial.

Finally, environment literacy should be enhanced, Ramachandra adds. "Conservation, waste minimisation, and nature-based solutions should be part of our daily routine," he says.

Source: The Hindu, p. 11, March. 2, 2024

BDA to study feasibility on parallel road to NICE corridor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Even as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is struggling to build a 71-km peripheral ring road (PRR) project, it has taken up one more project that aims to complete the circle around Bengaluru by building a parallel road to the NICE corridor. Earlier this week, the BDA invited bids from consultants for the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR).

Totalling about 40 km, the second phase of PRR aims to connect Mysuru and Hosur roads via Bannerghatta and Kanakapura roads. This stretch along with the first phase of PRR were notified for land acquisition around the same time in 2006-07 but both the proposals remained on the drawing board as the government did not have enough funds to pay for land losers.

While the BDA now wants to take up the first phase en-

tirely under public private partnership (PPP), it has estimated the second phase to cost Rs 1,589 crore.

In 2006, the BDA notified 2,700 acres for the PRR's Phase II (51 km). In its report to the court, the BDA stated that many illegal constructions have come up on the notified land, particularly in Gottigere, Basavanapura and Pillaganahalli. However, landowners say they cannot legally utilise their properties because they have been notified to build the PRR whose alignment is mentioned in the Revised Master Plan 2015.

While some say the PRR's Phase II is redundant because NICE Road (41 km) runs parallel to it in the south and southwestern parts of the city, others believe the PRR will help commuters heading to Electronics City and it's also in line with the government's plan to make Bidadi an alternative city to Bengaluru.



Source: Deccan Herald, p.3C, March, 2, 2024

Growing but **gridlocked**: Bengaluru's chaotic expansion

It is critical that urban development agencies coordinate efforts and implement holistic, hyperlocal plans to guide Bengaluru's rapid growth

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

On Christmas Eve last year, Bengaluru's Bellary Road was gridlocked in a chaotic traffic jam, leaving many passengers struggling to reach the airport on time. The Phoenix Mall of Asia, which opened in October 2023, had hosted several special programmes, inviting crowds of people. It was clear from the flood of cars and the crowding of the approach road that the organisers did not anticipate such a situation.

"Even without the new mall, commuting across the city has always been a nightmare," says Adam Johnson (name changed). "We have to travel 15 km to Whitefield every week and leave early in the morning to avoid traffic. This cuts



High traffic inflow on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road, below Silk Board flyover, as metro construction work is underway. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

our commute time down to 25 minutes," he adds.

"But on our way back, due to the traffic, it takes more than an hour in the blazing afternoon heat," he says.

The allotment of land for commercial use often does not account for public road use. "The roads around Malleswaram's Mantri Mall are always crowded. From going at about 20 km/h, when I reach this junction, my vehicle speed reduces to 5km/h," says Suraj (name changed), a resident of the city. The issue, he explains, is its

INSIGHT

proximity to the metro, a major bus stand and a petrol pump.

"There is also no footpath on one side of the road, not accounting for pedestrians," he says. Combined, these issues result in bottlenecks in traffic inflow.

Experts say that commercial projects need to be evaluated by accessibility and not just by the car parking capacity. However, most commercial projects do not assess if the roads can accommodate the

traffic that they generate.

Throughout Bengaluru's rapid growth in the past seven decades, the problem has stemmed from the constant expansion unaccompanied by systematic planning. Data shows that this could continue to pose a problem in the years to come. A study conducted jointly by scientists from the National Institute of Engineering and IIT-Kharagpur predicted that the city will grow 58% by 2025.

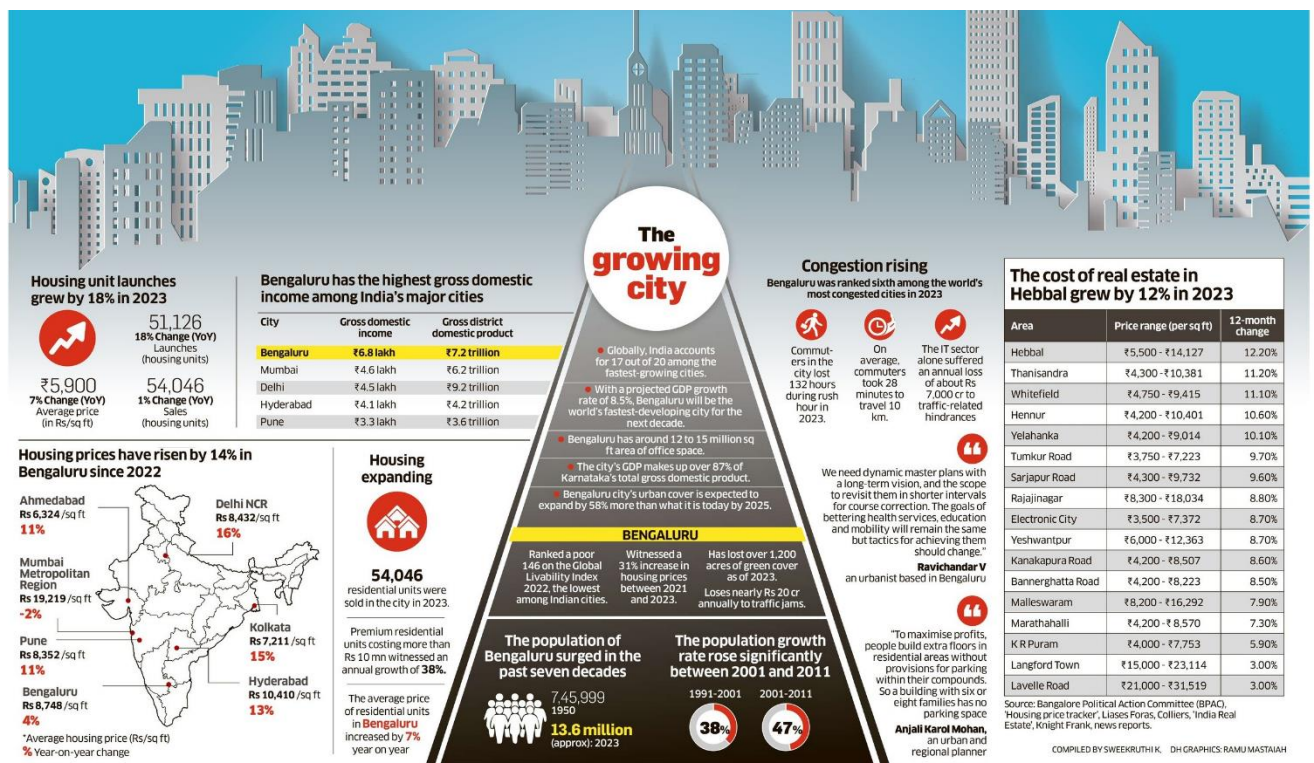
Adding to these concerns, the city consistently sees numerous new residential projects within city limits and outskirts. A 2023 report by Knight Frank shows that Bengaluru has seen sales of 54,000 commercial units. In 2022, this was 52,000 units, and the trend is upward post-pandemic.

"If you compare it with the rest of the market, Bengaluru has been standing out among the country's major metros like Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, etc.," says Shantanu Mazumder, executive director, Bengaluru, Knight Frank India. Bengaluru ranks lower only to the National Capital Region and Mumbai in terms of sale numbers (60,002 and 86,871 units respectively). Bengaluru was among the top cities that latched on to the information technology wave that happened 20 years ago.

► **Expanding city, Page 2**



Continued..



Outdated city master plan

Expanding city from P1

Today, Bengaluru's commercial real estate take-up is the highest among cities in India. Almost 33% of commercial units were sold in Bengaluru, as per reports by various real estate research firms.

Over the past two decades, the city has absorbed migrants from various states and provided employment and livelihood opportunities. The climate is an added advantage for Bengaluru even today.

With so much of an influx, the city is bursting with issues. Road infrastructure and water scarcity are major problems that Bengaluru is facing today.

The tip of the iceberg

Bengaluru's haphazard growth and lack of planning are the root causes behind most of these problems — be it traffic or water. The city's development has followed the 'Revised Master Plan 2015', released in 2007, which specifies development regulations and land use planning in the city. "Bengaluru is in such a mess because, for the last three decades, we followed a flawed master plan — we must realise this. The dumbest thing for us to do is to follow a failed master plan even when we know it is not working," says Ravichandran V, an urbanist based in Bengaluru. He has been active in Bengaluru's development planning space for 23 years. The many court cases on commercial projects in residential areas and encroached public spaces stand testimony to this statement.

Unfortunately, Bengaluru does not seem to have a choice. The finalisation and implementation of the next master plan, which is supposed to take place once every 15 years, has been delayed for various reasons, leading to policy paralysis of urban development. Amidst this, the Karnataka government passed a Bill last week that allows developers to construct additional

built-up areas after paying a premium for a higher floor area ratio (FAR) — the ratio of the total plot area to the total built-up area. Another problem he sees is the lack of unified vision between the various agencies that manage the city's development. "Agencies do not see eye to eye with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on the plan. Each agency has its agenda of what to do in the next 25 years," he adds.

The implementation of the urban plan is a major issue, he says. "On paper, academically and theoretically, the master plans in BDA and Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) limits seem flawless. However, on the ground, we have our challenges. Bureaucratic inefficiency and political influence cause problems which lead to the flouting of the master plan," says an official preferring anonymity.

Anjali Karol Mohan, an urban and regional planner, explains the phenomenon. "To maximise profits, people build extra floors in residential areas without provisions for parking within their compounds. So a building with six or eight families has no parking space." "This is a common issue. We bought two units in an apartment building that was constructed according to regulations. However, soon after that, the builders constructed two additional floors that are not legally approved," says Praveen Kumar, an IT professional.

Even then, these units were sold within a week due to high demand in the area. Now, the residents are facing a familiar conundrum: Lack of parking space. "Initially the basement parking area was planned to only house the 'legal' floors' vehicles. However, now, those buyers are demanding parking spaces too. Further, many families have two or three cars and several two-wheelers." The residents' association has been engaged in unresolved debates over the parking spaces for the past few months.



The Bengaluru metro piles on the purple line, which connects Challaghatta and Whitefield. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

He points to the multi-storey and multi-building complexes from major builders currently being developed in the vicinity for high demand for real estate.

Anjali says that the intervention needs to focus on two aspects. "The first one is more immediate, perhaps reactive, doing what is necessary: Leveraging low-hanging fruit such as strict regulations for street-side parking. The other is planning for systemic change by proactive engagement," she explains.

Water issues

Supplying water that meets the needs of this growing metropolis has become another major worry. "Even before the summer has fully started, our apartment has begun facing water issues," says Sana (name changed), who lives in a mid-sized apartment complex in Hennur.

The management procures three water tankers every day to meet water requirements in the complex. However, this month, due to water scarcity and high demand, tanker suppliers only deliver on alternate days. "To meet the demand, sup-

pliers have even asked for an advance of Rs one lakh, but the building association has paid Rs 40,000 to maintain a regular supply," she says.

On average, a water tanker costs Rs 1,000 now, a jump from previous years when it cost Rs 500 to Rs 700. "However, many apartments pay close to Rs 1,500 in different localities, for a single tanker," says Sana.

While wastewater is treated in most apartments in compliance with building regulations, the treated water is rarely ever used, says a BBMP official. While the government looks for alternative water sources, there is an immediate need to focus on the use of treated water, he adds.

Even independent homes that rely on borewells are uncertain about water availability in the near future. Out of 10,955 public borewells in the city, 1,214 of them have run dry. In another 3,700 borewells water levels have gone down significantly.

"There will be cuts to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) water supply also soon. We do not seem to have a plan for water use when there is a

rainfall deficit. Authorities only seem to show concern when the problem cannot be ignored," says Kashinath V G (name changed), a civil engineer in Bengaluru.

Decongestion

Things have started to ease on the traffic front in BMRDA-administered areas in the last three years, say some. "The city's metro network is only second to that of Delhi NCR. It will become the largest metro when Phase 3 and Phase 4 are completed," Mazumdar says.

According to Mazumdar, projects like the 280.8-km Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) and the 7.4-km Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) will help ease traffic and smoothen freight movement. He sees the emphasis on developing PRR and STRR into major commercial hubs as a step in the right direction.

Metro connectivity will be a game changer when it comes to decongestion. After the metro reached Whitefield, there was a 20 to 30% reduction in road traffic, as per traffic police data. "We need dynamic master plans with a long-term vision, and the scope to revisit them in shorter intervals for course correction. The goals of bettering health services, education and mobility will remain the same but tactics for achieving them should change," says Ravichandran.

Anjali bats for a master plan that integrates mobility and employs other agencies such as the BWSSB, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) or the municipality, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

"The master plan should go beyond the

prescription of land use for larger areas and should look at specific demarcated local areas. The master plan cannot be a one-time exercise," says Anjali. "It has to be continuous," she adds.

She says more thought should go into conceiving long-term solutions. "Clearly, a flyover, underpass or tunnel will not solve the problem in the long run. Around 1997, the Town Hall to Sirci Circle flyover was proposed. During a public consultation, people told the government they were only pushing the problem from one place to another," she says. This prediction came true after the flyover was constructed.

Sources say that the latest master plan captures the current realities on the ground in the base map. Rakesh Singh, additional chief secretary of the Urban Development department, says that the lower the number of planning areas, the easier it is to manage them. He feels the BDA should expand beyond its current limits to include parts of the BMRDA areas to accommodate the increased growth.

"There is a need to adjust the zoning regulations, the width of the road, adjusting commercial activities, large apartments and layout locations to ensure that there is no traffic chaos," he says.

Considering the scale and trajectory of Bengaluru's growth, and data showing it will only rise exponentially in the years to come, the city's logjam only stands to get more complicated. It is critical that urban development agencies coordinate efforts, course correct and implement holistic, hyper-local plans.

Have your say

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, March, 3, 2024

'A million litres a day' solution to Bengaluru's water crisis

MADHAVAN RAO

Receding groundwater levels, depleting reservoirs, a rainfall deficit, dried-up borewells, water supply cuts, and long queues of women clutching their empty buckets—Bengaluru is no doubt facing one of the worst water crises in its history. The city presently has access to about 1,850 million litres per day (MLD) and needs at least 1,680 MLD more to meet its water needs.

While a multi-pronged approach involving solutions with varying timelines and costs is definitely underway by the state, an opportunity to make available an additional 100 MLD (million litres per day) at zero capital cost is being missed and should be tapped immediately. This is done through the use of tap aerators. For the uninitiated, the aerator is a small attachment that can

be inserted at the tip of most taps.

The humble tap aerator, no bigger than a thumb nail, reduces the flow of water from 12-18 LPM to 3-6 LPM in hand wash and kitchen taps, enabling the saving of more than 50% of water without affecting functionality. They are a practical solution to conserve water in urban areas.

The proof of pudding can be seen in a 120-flat apartment complex in Malleswaram that has installed aerators in 4-5 taps per home, leading to savings of approximately 10,000 litres per day. While creating awareness for residents to install tap aerators took longer, the process of installing each aerator took less than five minutes. The solution is also cost-effective, as good quality aerators are now available at Rs 50 to 70 per piece, with bulk purchases costing even less.

While the concept of tap aerators is not

new, there is a need for a WUC (Waterflow under Control) policy that would trigger public participation to install aerators on taps on their premises. Taps are the ultimate point of urban consumption as well as waste due to excess flow. A new "WUC Policy (Waterflow under Control)" that will set the maximum permissible flow rates (of 3-6 LPM) from water taps should be announced by the state.

Similar to how the government imposes Pollution Under Control (PUC) norms for vehicles, the state government must introduce Water Flow Under Control (WUC) norms for taps. This would ensure that the maximum flow rate in taps would be regulated to 3 litres per minute for hand wash taps and 6 litres per minute for kitchen taps, which is sufficient and does not compromise on functionality. This can be achieved through the use of tap aerators,

which are readily available on the market.

The WUC policy and its implementation would strengthen the hands of BWSSB and the government, which cannot do it alone by investing in increasing the supply side. Once BWSSB notifies corporations, establishments, and resident welfare associations of the WUC policy and sets a compliance deadline of 60 days, everyone will be surprised at the speed of implementation. To give an example, Bengaluru is the IT capital of India, with around 15 lakh employees working out of IT companies housing a large number of hand wash taps. Assuming each employee uses a hand wash tap for one minute a day, an aerator (fitted to the tap) would result in savings of at least 10 litres per minute during usage. This would result in saving 15 million litres per day in the IT corridor alone. Given the high importance of CSR activities,

we envisage a fast-track implementation of tap aerators in all their taps within 10 days, resulting in 15 million litres per day saved. With zero capital expenses by the government, this 1 WUC policy will effectively result in 15 MLD savings on Day 10 through the IT sector alone. Extrapolating this across other sectors can easily yield 100 MLD to 500 MLD in 100 days time.

Further, BWSSB is empowered to create awareness and subsequently take punitive action against users for violating WUC norms. The water body can introduce expectations from RWAs to submit a self-declaration regarding tap aerators being fitted on their premises.

Being the software hub of the country, it would be easy for the government to create and implement a tracking mechanism through a "Bengaluru WUC dashboard" to monitor the implementation of tap aer-

ators in city buildings.

The state must also make it mandatory for new buildings to have aerators pre-installed in taps, to receive the necessary clearances, and for tap manufacturers to only sell taps that are aerator compatible.

This solution is a low-hanging fruit for the government to alleviate the water scarcity in Bengaluru. These can be implemented alongside more intensive measures such as lake rejuvenation, rainwater harvesting, etc. However, with the onset of summer, the state must act quickly and make tap aerators mandatory by announcing the WUC policy, which will enable an immediate saving of 100 MLD in 100 days at zero capital investment.

(The writer is a waterpreneur and mentor at ABillionTaps and author of the book on project management, Steering Project Success)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, March, 4, 2024

Apartments take up conservation steps amid water crisis

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The ongoing water crisis in Bengaluru, along with the government taking over water tankers, has left apartments and gated communities framing several new regulations for the conservation of water. While many communities are resorting to rationing, some have taken up steps like closure of pools and water pressure adjustment.

On Friday, after some private water tankers were seized by government officials, water resources were almost completely depleted in an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road. The apartment with 2,500 units needs around 150 to 200 water tankers a day. "We have around 75% dependence on water tankers. After that day's incident, we started water rationing (cut off water supply) from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are trying to build our reserves and we are able to see 20% water savings. Additionally, we are also educating residents, closed the swimming pool and have stopped unnecessary activities which require water," said a member of the apartment's resident welfare association (RWA).

He added that while the crisis is not very bad, a glimpse of how bad it

could be has acted like a wake-up call.

In a similar vein, another apartment complex in Kengeri has also planned to ration water during night and maybe replicate the same during the daytime, if it results in significant savings.

"Our plumber is also going to every house and checking for leaks and installing water-saving aerators," an RWA member said.

Several apartments throughout the city have asked their residents not to wash their car multiple times a week, reuse water that is discharged from RO water purifiers for non-potent purposes, refrain from activities which would require large amounts of water, among other things.

With Holi around the corner, some communities have also asked residents to celebrate the festival in a waterless manner this time.

"Although we are not entirely dependent on tankers and get a little bit of the Cauvery water, there are still a lot of restrictions within the community. We have been asked to celebrate Holi without water, wash cars only twice or thrice a week and even then, try to wipe it down rather than use water," said a resident of a gated community in Whitefield.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, March. 5, 2024

Driverless trains on Yellow Line likely by year-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

"DRIVERLESS commercial operations on the Yellow Line (between RV Road and Bommasandra) will start by this year-end," said Jitendra Jha, Project Manager, Rolling Stock, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). He demonstrated the prototype that has arrived from China, here at Hebbagodi Metro depot near Electronics City on Wednesday. He also said that the static and electric circuits tests will start in two days with the prototype, after which, the train will be moved to the main line for testing.

"We can complete 90 per cent of the tests with the prototype. There are as many as 37 types of tests lasting for a period of four months. After which, the System integration with signalling system, telecommunications system, power supply system and others tests will be completed for another 45 days. To complete these above tests, we need three trains on the Yellow line. These tests can be completed only after the two trains from Titagarh Rail Systems Limited in West Bengal arrive. They are expected to be delivered by June end, or July."

He said that the commercial operations can begin only after they have seven trains and the supply of another four trains is expected by this November or December.

"If we start the operations with seven trains, we can operate trains at a frequency of 15 minutes. We are hoping to start operations by the end of the year, after completing all the tests and approvals," said Jha, and added, "Though the trains can be operated without drivers, it will initially be run with drivers."

He said that the train's exterior arch design is inspired from the Light House at Lalbagh, while the lower part takes inspiration from the Gandabherunda, which is part of the state government's official emblem.



The first set of prototype six coach metro train for Yellow line, at Hebbagodi Metro depot near Electronics City on Wednesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Yellow Line route

- The 18.82 km long under-construction metro line connects RV Road with Bommasandra.
- Fully elevated metro route with 16 stations --- Rashtriya Vidyalaya Road, Ragigudda, Jayadeva Hospital, BTM layout, Central Silk Board, Bommanahalli, Hongasandra, Kudlu Gate, Singasandra, Hosa Road, Beratena Agrahra, Electronics City, Infosys Foundation- Konappana Agrahara, Huskur Road, Blocon Hebbagodi and Bommasandra.
- It connects with the Green Line at RV Road and with the Pink Line at Jayadeva Hospital.

SPECIALITIES AND SAFETY FEATURES

- Enhanced supervision capability from Operations Control Centre
- AI-based Track Monitoring System to monitor track's surface, and raise alarm if anything is out of place
- Hot Axle Detection System detects overheating in the bearings of trains
- Obstacle and Derailment Detection System applies brakes in case of any obstacle, or in case of derailment
- Two fire detection and control units in each train to detect any fire or smoke. Train will stop at the next station
- Drum type flexible panel at the Gangway (where two coaches meet), to help navigate curves easily
- LCD type dynamic route map, presence of special LED screens and place for manual advertisement
- Front and rear-view camera for safety reasons
- Updated Emergency Egress Device handle when pulled will alert OCC. Doors will be opened after observing the situation through CCTVs
- Any coach in this train can be converted into women's coach, which will reflect on the side panel of the coach

Source: The New Indian Express, p.2, March. 7, 2024

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