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ಗುರಿ 148 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್, ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ 90 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯ ಬರ ಭೀತಿ

■ ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಹರ್ತಿಕೋಟೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಡಿದ ಭೀಕರ ಬರದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುವ ಅತಂಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ಕಾಡಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇನ್ನಾದರೂ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದಿದ್ದರೆ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ತಾಪಮಾನದ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳಿಂದ ಮುಂದಿನ ತಲೆಮಾರು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಲಿದೆ.

■ ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ ಪ್ರವಾಹ, ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಬರ

ಕೊರತೆ ಎಷ್ಟು?

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರದೇ ಅರಂಭದ ಗುರಿಗಿಂತ 61.98 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯದ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಡೀ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹದಿನಾರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟು ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಎಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯದ ಕೊರತೆಯಾದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು, ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗುವುದು ಎಂಬುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಭಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಎಷ್ಟು? ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದೆಷ್ಟು?: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿಯಿಂದ ಅರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು 148.16 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯದ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ■ ಪುಟ 3

ತಾಪಮಾನದ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳು

ಕಳೆದ ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ತಾಪಮಾನದ ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದಾಗ ಕೇ.12.5 ರಷ್ಟು ಮಳೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಪೆರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ 5 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 50 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಕೃಷಿಯ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ತಜ್ಞರು.



ಯಾವ ಬೆಳೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ?

ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ, ಜೋಳ, ಕಿರುಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು, ತೊಗರಿ, ಅವರೆ, ಹೆಸರು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಿಂತ ಐಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತರೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಕಡಲೆ, ಗೋಧಿ, ಹುರುಳಿಯ ದತ್ತನೆ ಕೊನ್ನವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ, ಕಿರುಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು, ತೊಗರಿ ಕೊನ್ನವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಉಳಿದ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು ದತ್ತನೆಯೇ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ?

ಲಿಪ್ಪಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 100 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೊರತೆ ತುಂಬಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ಎಂಬ ಭಯ ಇದ್ದೇ ಇದೆ.

ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಲಹೆಗಳು

- ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿಸುವುದು
- ಬಹು ಬೆಳೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದು
- ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳ ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರವಾಹದಿಂದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಹೊರಗುವ ನೀರು ನಂಗುಡ
- ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನವೀನ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು
- ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು
- ಬರೀ ಹಣ ಬೆತ್ತ ಮಾಯವುದು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತೆಗೆ ಅದ್ಭುತ ನೀಡುವುದು
- ಅತಿಯಾದ ನೀರು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ

ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

ಲಿಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಮುರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ತಜ್ಞರು ಗುರುತಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಕೇ.20 ರಿಂದ 40 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಬಹುದು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಅಧಿಕ ಕುಸಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಣದುಬ್ಬರದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಜನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರ ಮೇಲೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ ಹೇಗಿರಲಿದೆ?

ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷದ ಹವಾಮಾನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೇಗಿರಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನೇನೂ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ತಜ್ಞರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರವಾಹ ಅಥವಾ ಬರ ಬರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬರ ಎನಾದರೂ ಬಂದರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಇರಲಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೂ ಪರವಾಹವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ತುಮಕೂರು: ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ₹12 ಸಾವಿರದಿಂದ ₹24 ಸಾವಿರ ಧಾರಣೆ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣು ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತ?

• ಕೆ.ಎಚ್. ಓಬಳೇಶ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಖುತುವಿನ ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಧಾರಣೆಯಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ತಿರುಳಿನ ದಪ್ಪ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತದ ಆತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಶಿರಾ, ಮಧುಗಿರಿ, ಕೊರಟಗೆರೆ, ಪಾವಗಡ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನೂರಾರು ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಣಸೆ ಗಿಡಗಳಿವೆ.

ಆದರೆ, ಕಳೆದ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿಯಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

‘ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹುಣಸೆ ಮರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯಿಗಳಿವೆ. ಮರದಿಂದ ಹಣ್ಣು ಕಿತ್ತು ಸಿಪ್ಪೆ, ಬೀಜ, ನಾರು ಬೇರ್ಪಡಿಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ತರಲು ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ₹5 ಸಾವಿರದಿಂದ ₹6 ಸಾವಿರ ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ



5ರಿಂದ 6 ಚೀಲದಷ್ಟು ಹಣ್ಣಾದ ಹುಣಸೆ ಕಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದರೆ ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಹಣ್ಣು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ 9ರಿಂದ 10 ಚೀಲಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಹಣ್ಣು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ’ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವರ್ತಕ ರಮೇಶ್.

ಸದ್ಯ ತುಮಕೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣು ವಹಿವಾಟು ಆರಂಭಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿಂದ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ಮತ್ತು ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಖರೀದಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಧಾರಣೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಅಷ್ಟೇನು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಗುರುವಾರ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ವೇಳೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಉಳಿದ

ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ

ತುಮಕೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಯು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ (ಕೋಲ್ಡ್ ಸ್ಟೋರೇಜ್) ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಕುಸಿತದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣನ್ನು ದೀರ್ಘಕಾಲದವರೆಗೆ ಕಾಪಿಟ್ಟು ಧಾರಣೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾದಾಗ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಲಾಭ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಒತ್ತಾಯ.

ಸದ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಮತ್ತು ವರ್ತಕರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದ ಹಣ್ಣನ್ನು ನೆರೆಯ ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮಡಕಶಿರಾ ಮತ್ತು ಹಿಂದೂಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಕೋಲ್ಡ್ ಸ್ಟೋರೇಜ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

‘ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ನಡೆದ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಸವ್ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸುಮಾ ‘ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ’ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

‘ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 10 ಸಾವಿರ ಚದರ ಅಡಿಯಷ್ಟು ನಿವೇಶನ ಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಸಮಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಷ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ನಿವೇಶನವಿಲ್ಲ. ಸೂಕ್ತ ಸ್ಥಳದ ಹುಡುಕಾಟ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪ ನೀಡುತ್ತೇವೆ’ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದರು.

ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವರ್ತಕರು.

ಸದ್ಯ ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಹುಣಸೆ ಹಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ₹12 ಸಾವಿರದಿಂದ ₹24

ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇದೆ. ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಧಾರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಳಿತವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಅವರ ವಿವರಣೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.10, Jan.28, 2024

Govt. issues norms for farm machinery hubs to address labour shortage during harvesting

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government has issued guidelines to help farmers' groups set up farm machinery hubs in rural areas. This will enable farmers to take crop harvesters on hire for a short time, use them, and return them.

The State Cabinet cleared the scheme in its meeting in November. As per the plan, the total number of hubs planned is 91, and the average number of hubs planned for each district ranges from two to 10. The scheme is aimed at supporting increased mechanisation and addressing the problem of labour shortage during the harvest season.



Farm machinery hubs are meant to enable farmers take crop harvesters on hire for a short time, use, and return them.

"Individual farmers are also eligible to apply for the scheme," said G.T. Putra, Director, Department of Agriculture. Individual beneficiary can avail subsidy up to 50% while institutions can claim up to 70%.

Rural entrepreneurs, who are either youth, cooperative societies of farmers, registered farmers' societies or farmer producer organisations (FPOs), can establish an agriculture machinery

hub. An in-principle loan sanction letter will be given to the selected beneficiary.

As per the detailed guidelines issued on January 20, the hubs will be called Krishi Yantra Dhare centres. They will be categorised based on the crop pattern, machinery used, and ownership style. The maximum subsidy for different categories of hubs is – ₹1 crore for combo harvester hubs, ₹50 lakh for combined harvester hubs, and ₹50 lakh for sugarcane harvester hubs. The benefits will be distributed among group, individual, general, and SC/ST farmers.

A committee headed by the zilla panchayat CEO will screen applications. The district committee will

supervise the process of establishing hiring tariff and maintenance operations. This is to see that the hubs are not out of the reach of small and marginal farmers.

It is an extension of the centrally aided Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) scheme, where the Centre contributes around 40% of the subsidy. The Centre provides credit-linked back-ended financial assistance in which beneficiaries will get subsidy after taking loans, where the project cost is higher than ₹1 crore.

But the State government's scheme is aimed at clusters where the project cost is under ₹1 crore, a senior official said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Jan 28, 2024



A mobile veterinary unit at work.

'Over 1L livestock treated by mobile vet units for free in six months'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government's mobile veterinary units treated more than one lakh livestock in six months across Karnataka, an official said.

With 275 ambulances equipped with diagnostic tools, veterinarians, para-veterinarians, drivers and attenders, the project created a benchmark in animal health care, said Naushad Ali Khan, the project head for the state.

The ambulances are run by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services. Each taluk was given one ambulance while some had two considering larger farming lands and a higher number of livestock.

"The ambulances are fitted with sophisticated CAD applications, along with GPS, and are dispatched to various locations as directed by the command centre in Bengaluru," he said, adding that this has been the result of rigorous door-to-door campaigns across various villages in Karnataka. He also said that this initiative has helped largely farmers in remote villages, with lower accessibility to

veterinary services.

"While the most common diseases among the cattle include, lumpy skin disease (LSD), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and dystocia, the emergencies are usually caused by accidents and poisoning," said senior veterinarian Dr R Venugopal, who is part of the helpline service.

The treatment is completely free, from the start to follow-ups over, he said.

This apart, they also received emergency cases from dog and cat owners, horse, donkey and monkey rearers, typically from urban areas, including one elephant in Bidar.

What is Project 1962?

With the collaborative efforts of the state and central governments along with Eduspark International Private Limited, an emergency veterinary services helpline, "1962" was established in August 2023. As part of this helpline, 275 mobile veterinary services were introduced in Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Jan 30, 2024

₹3.97 lakh crore credit potential for State in 2024-25: NABARD estimate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has estimated the credit potential for Karnataka at ₹3.97 lakh crore for 2024-25.

The credit potential for the agriculture sector, including the farm credit of ₹1,54,11,738.36, has been estimated at ₹1.85 lakh crore (46% of the total credit plan). The credit for MSME sector has been estimated at ₹1.58 lakh crore (40%) and other priority sector activities at ₹0.54 lakh crore (14%).

PLPs for all 31 districts

NABARD prepared Potential Linked Credit Plans (PLPs) for all 31 districts of the State after detailed consultations with various line departments of the government, banks and other stakeholders, to map credit potential under the priority sector.

T. Ramesh, Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, said that estimated a credit potential of ₹3.97 lakh crore for priority sector lending in Karnataka during 2024-25 which is 10.67% higher than the pre-



NABARD has been complementing the efforts of State in the wake of the severe drought situation by extending financial support of ₹990 crore for 119 irrigation projects and ₹611 crore for drinking water projects under RIDF. FILE PHOTO

vious years' credit projection. It said the total number of land holdings in the State increased from 75.80 lakh (2010-11 Census) to 86.80 lakh in 2015-16, operating an area of 118.05 lakh hectares with the share of small and marginal farmers at 80%. The average size of land holding is 1.36 hectare in Karnataka is marginally higher than the all India average of 1.08 hectare.

NABARD organised the State Credit Seminar for Karnataka on Tuesday and it was chaired by Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner.

He said NABARD has been complementing the efforts of State in the wake of the severe drought situation by extending financial

support of ₹990 crore for 119 irrigation projects and ₹611 crore for drinking water projects under RIDF. It had sanctioned ₹290 crore under the Micro Irrigation Fund for promoting sustainable irrigation practices, during the current year.

NABARD is piloting the Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) Accelerator Project with 30 FPOs from across the State, for establishing better backward and forward linkages and leading the way for other FPOs in the State.

He said the process of computerising 5,491 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PPACS) in the State to enable cooperative societies to offer seamless services to member farmers was under way.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, Jan 31, 2024

Groundwater level plunging in Bengaluru Urban taluks

Many areas in the city have been grappling with a water crisis due to poor rains

TEAM METROLIFE

The groundwater levels in all five Taluks (Anekal, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, and Yelahanka) under Bengaluru Urban district have gone down significantly owing to the poor rains, the recent report by the Minor Irrigation department has revealed. According to the data by the department, the groundwater levels have gone down by nearly 7.42 metres in Anekal, 7.31 metres in Yelahanka, 5.81 metres in Bengaluru East, and less than a metre in Bengaluru South and Bengaluru North. This was in comparison with the mean groundwater levels recorded over the last ten years.

Over the last few months, many areas of the city have been struggling with a water crisis since many borewells in the city have turned dry.

However, even amid the drought, the 117 taluks across the state have managed to see a rise in groundwater levels, and 119 taluks have recorded a fall in the levels.

Officials from the department opined that the lake-filling projects



BBMP digging a borewell at Sampangi Rama Nagar in 2023. Over the last few months, many borewells in the city have turned dry. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION DH PHOTO/ S K DINESH

were creating an impact now and hence the groundwater levels had gone up in many districts, especially in Kolar, Ramanagar, and Chikkaballapur.

Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju, who reviewed the situation of groundwater levels across the state, opined that there was a need to study the situation and measures initiated to improve the groundwater levels. "There is a need to conduct an in-depth study on the impact of such projects. This will also facilitate long-term planning for drought mitigation," he said.

Taluk	Mean of 10 years (in metres)	Dec 2023 average water levels (in metres)
Anekal	26.74	34.16
Bengaluru South	18.96	19.7
Bengaluru North	22.68	22.7
Bengaluru East	24.67	30.48
Yelahanka	19.88	27.18

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Jan 31, 2024

Farmers seek end to onion export ban amid price freefall



Workers unload sacks of onion from trucks at an Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Flooding of export quality onions from Maha further drives down local demand

UDHBHAVI BALAKRISHNA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The ongoing ban on onion exports has dealt a blow to farmers and traders in the state, resulting in a significant drop in wholesale prices of

onions to as low as Rs 5 per kg for certain varieties. The Government of India implemented the export ban from December 2023 to March 2024 due to soaring market rates and limited domestic availability. Ravishankar B, secretary of the Bengaluru Potato and Onion Merchants' Association, identified the export ban as a primary factor behind the price decline. He said: "If the ban is lifted and exports resume, we anticipate a price increase of Rs 5 to Rs 10 per kg."

Countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia traditionally imported substantial quantities of onions from the state, he added. Hopeful of reaping benefits like last year, many farmers cultivated onion as a second crop, said Mahanthesh, an onion farmer from Challakere, Chitradurga district. "Local farmers sowed too much until October-November, hoping to earn Rs 3,000 and more per quintal, the way they did last year. This has led to surplus supply," he said. He said the ban allowed

flooding of onions from Maharashtra, preferred for export, further driving down demand for local produce. At the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Yard, Yeshwantpur, onion wholesale prices currently range between Rs 5 and Rs 20 per kilogram, contingent on size and quality. For the best quality onions, wholesale rates per kg are Rs 15 to Rs 20, Rs 10 to Rs 15 for second quality, and Rs 5 to Rs 10 for small-sized Golis onions. Contrastingly, the previous month witnessed rates varying

from Rs 25 to Rs 44 per kg for different sizes and qualities. While retail markets in the city display significantly higher rates, a supermarket in Richmond Town offered one kg of onions at Rs 24, another in HAL 2nd Stage sold onions at Rs 35 per kg, and a small grocery store in Shanthala Nagar priced onions at Rs 40 per kg. **Fuel, transport costs** A store representative justified the higher price, saying: "We must account for fuel and transportation costs from the APMC Yard."

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 1, 2024

Glut in market leaves onion traders teary-eyed

Jahnavi T. R.

BENGALURU

The price of onions has crashed owing to a glut in the market with many farmers in the State going for a second crop of onions this season. This comes after one kg of onions costed over ₹100 in 2023.

Currently, small and medium-sized onions, which were selling at ₹20-₹25 per kg a few days ago, has reduced to ₹5-₹10 per kg due to excessive supply at the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee (APMC) in Yeshwanthpur.

“The government stopped exports last year when the price was at ₹35-₹40 per kg thinking there will be a huge shortage. This also prompted farmers from regions like Chitradurga and Chalkere to go for a second onion crop expecting a good price,” said B. Ravi Shankar, an onion merchant in APMC and the secretary of Onion Merchants’ Association of Bengaluru. He added that more onions are also coming into the market from Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Vijayapura along with stocks from other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.



More onions are also coming into the market from Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Vijayapura along with stocks from other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

desh. The small onions which are majorly grown in Chitradurga and Chalkere were mainly exported to countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Now with a ban on exports, these small onions have no demand in local markets.

“People who buy onions for day-to-day consumption avoid small onions as it requires a lot of work. They only prefer big onions,” Mr. Shankar said. The price for big onions is not great either. Most of the stock which has come from Solapur in Maharashtra are selling for ₹20 per kg (previously around ₹40-50 per kg) in APMC.

The traders said that although they do not want

to sell onions at a lesser price, they have no choice even as they waited for a few weeks for the price to climb up. “Onions are not highly durable and hence we have to sell them at whatever price we are getting instead of not selling it and going into complete loss,” said Gopi, another onion trader in APMC.

The traders said that if the government does not consider resuming exports of onions, then farmers and traders alike will be impacted badly. Going by the current trends, more onions are expected to arrive in markets by April - May and the steady supply will continue till December with no price rise.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Feb. 1, 2024

Cauvery authority desists from issuing direction to Karnataka on water release

Majority of the members opine that proposal on Makedatu project should be reverted to CWC for further appraisal as it is the competent authority, according to D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which is reeling under serious drought, got relief on Thursday as the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) did not issue any direction to the State to release water to the neighbouring Tamil Nadu though the latter urged the authority at its meeting in Delhi to direct Karnataka to release 18 tmcft of water till May-end, according to a communique from the office of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds Water Resources portfolio.

“Finally, the CWMA, taking cognisance of the fact that the irrigation season has ended on January 31, 2024, (for this water year) and considering live storages in the reservoirs in both the States, did not give any directions for water release from Karnataka,” stated the communique.

It may be noted that the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) in its meeting held on January 18 had directed Karnataka to ensure realisation of stipulated quantum of flows at Biligundlu as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award as modified by the Supreme Court for Ja-



A file photo of river Cauvery flowing through a deep and narrow gorge at Makedatu, near Kanakapura. Karnataka has reiterated that the CWMA should consider and decide on the permissibility of the Makedatu balancing reservoir project to solve the water sharing problem during distress years on a permanent basis.

nuary and February.

Karnataka stated that it had a distress inflow of 52.461% at its reservoirs from December 19, 2023, to January 28, 2024. “On applying such a level of distress, the flow at Biligundlu should have been 2.65 tmcft as against the actual release of 4.064 tmcft during this period,” Karnataka contended.

Maintaining that it had experienced more distress than that of Tamil Nadu during the current water year, Karnataka said that it would not be able to release any water from its reservoirs but for the flows from uncontrolled catchment. The CWMA did not give any directions for water release from Karnata-

ka, the official release notes.

Meanwhile, Karnataka reiterated that the CWMA, which is an expert body, should consider and decide on the permissibility of the Makedatu balancing reservoir project to solve the water sharing problem during distress years on a permanent basis.

When the opinion of all the members of CWMA was sought, a majority of them opined that the authority was not competent for technical examination of the DPR. They also expressed a view that the proposal regarding the Makedatu project may be reverted back to the CWC for further appraisal as the CWC is the competent

authority, states the official note from the office of Mr. Shivakumar.

Earlier, Karnataka requested the authority to take an appropriate stand about the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Makedatu project. It also appealed to the authority to forward its views to the Central Water Commission indicating that the DPR does not infringe upon the provisions of the Tribunal’s award so that Karnataka could obtain requisite clearances.

It also submitted that there were no restrictions or any impediments in the decision of the Tribunal or in the Supreme Court’s judgment on the construction of Makedatu balancing reservoir.

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

Govt to help ryots earn and sell carbon credits

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The Karnataka govt is developing a carbon credit framework to enable farmers to transition to sustainable agri-horticulture systems. The move is aimed at helping them grow crops that guzzle greenhouse gases, earn carbon removal units and monetise them.

The govt will sign an MoU with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Consultancy Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nabard.

The project will be implemented in six months.

Over 35,000 farmers of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, hit pay-dirt by selling their carbon credits during the pilot of a similar project and earned 49 euros (Rs 4,400) per hectare, besides earnings from their crops. "This initiative will promote sustainable agriculture and better livelihoods for farmers," said Shalini Rajneesh, additional chief secretary and development commissioner.

Karnataka's initiative will be a pilot focusing on capacity building and trading. A group of farmers from select districts of the state will

HOW IT WORKS

Carbon removal units are tradable carbon credits. Farmers or entrepreneurs adopting sustainable practices that guzzle or stop producing greenhouse gases are allotted equivalent CRUs which can be monetised by selling them to industrial units which, in turn, get permission to emit that much greenhouse gases.

be trained to grow agriculture/horticulture crops like tamarind, mango and lemon to earn CRUs, which are tradeable. According to sources, farmers can earn an estimated Rs 6,000 per hectare from their carbon credits.

Ramesh T, chief general manager of Nabard, told TOI, "Horticulture plants for the first five years have a great capacity to consume more carbon. By growing them, farmers can earn in two ways: From their crop as well as from selling carbon credits." He said Karnataka, with 149 lakh hectares of cropped area and 114 lakh hectares of net sown area, has the potential to generate carbon credits.

Source: The Times of India, p.5, Feb. 2, 2024

NABARD estimates credit potential of Rs 1.85L cr for agriculture sector in state

Need for synergy among officials, bankers stressed

BENGALURU, DHNS

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) estimates a credit potential of Rs 3.97 lakh crore for priority sector lending in Karnataka for this financial year, and places the share of the agricultural sector at about Rs 1.85 lakh crore (46%).

This was discussed as a part of NABARD's State Focus Paper 2024-25 that was released at the State Credit Seminar held at its regional office in the city on Tuesday.

Representatives of RBI, SBI,

and Canara Bank who were present at the seminar highlighted the need for financial institutions to leverage this credit potential to disburse it correctly to farmers and agri-industry players to make the most of the agricultural potential in the state.

The seminar also highlighted the key challenges and their potential solutions in the agri-infrastructure and ancillary activities industry. Some of the sectors covered under this include crop production, water resources, farm mechanisation, plantation and horticulture, and animal husbandry. The focus was on developing sustainable agriculture practices and encouraging an in-



The focus of the seminar was on developing sustainable agriculture practices and encouraging an integrated farming system.

tegrated farming system to mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture whilst

enhancing output.

Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka, stressed the need to focus on resources and challenges at hand to maximise output and for multiple stakeholders to collaborate on workable micro-level solutions. "We are not using the full potential of the resources at our disposal. How many times do we consult the farmers or stakeholders? Why don't we value the inputs of the local experts -- the farmers themselves -- and see their value addition? We must take their inputs to replicate success using innovative methods," she said.

She also emphasised the

need to develop "synergy" among bankers and officials to enable the easy disbursement of credit to all farmers. "Any citizen or farmer must not go back and forth (for paperwork). Banking must be made easy, and people must be informed well in advance about the documents required," she added.

The State Focus Paper acts as a guidance document for banks, lending institutions and planning agencies to develop actionable strategies to aid the agriculture industry, noted NABARD officials. Bankers present at the seminar also vowed to ensure the effective implementation of the Paper's insights.

**Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department**
Office of the Chief Engineer, RWS&SD, First Floor, "E" Block,
KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road,
Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-22533700, e-mail: cerws14@gmail.com

**GOVT. TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE**
Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560010.

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

ಅಸಲು ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಹೊರೆಯಿಂದ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ ರಿಲೀಫ್ ಕೃಷಿ ಸುಸ್ತಿ ಸಾಲದ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ

■ **ವಿಕ ಸುಸ್ತಿಯೇ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು**

ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ರೈತರು ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಮಧ್ಯಮಾವಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ ಸಾಲಗಳ ಅಸಲು ಪಾವತಿಸಿದರೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಮಾಡುವ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಗುರುವಾರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

■ **ಫೆ.29ರೊಳಗೆ ಅಸಲು ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ ಈ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ**

■ **440 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಒನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ತುಸು ರಿಲೀಫ್ ನೀಡಲು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವು ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ, ಮತ್ತು ಭೂ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಗಳು (ಪಿಕಾರ್ಡ್) ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಸುಸ್ತಿ ಸಾಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಸಾಲಗಳ ಅಸಲು ಪಾವತಿಸಿದರೆ ಅದರ ಮೇಲಿನ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಆಗಲಿದೆ. ರೈತರು ಈ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಇದೇ ತಿಂಗಳ 29 ರೊಳಗೆ ಸಾಲಗಳ ಅಸಲು ಮರುಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. 2023ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 31ಕ್ಕೆ ಸುಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ರೈತರ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಾಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಕಳೆದ ಜುಲೈ 20 ರಂದು ಸರಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಘಟನೋತ್ತರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿತು. ಈ ತೀರ್ಮಾನದಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಾಲಗಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 440.20 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸುಸ್ತಿ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಮನ್ನಾ ಆಗಲಿದೆ.

6 ತೀತಲ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ: ನಬಾರ್ಡ್ ನೆರವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ 6 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಬಹುಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ತೀತಲಗೃಹಗಳನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟು 65.97 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಅಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿತು. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಒಟ್ಟು 14,000 ಜನ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು, ಆಲೂಗೆಡ್ಡೆ, ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ, ಶುಂಠಿ, ಅರಿಶಿನ, ಕರಿಮೆಣಸು, ನಿಂಬೆ, ಒಣದ್ರಾಕ್ಷೆ, ಕೊತ್ತಂಬರಿ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ರಾಣಿಬೆನ್ನೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಪನುಮನಮಟ್ಟಿ ಘಾಟಂ,



ವಿವಾಹ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸುಸ್ತು

ವಿವಾಹ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಇನ್ನು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾವೇರಿ -2 ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ 'ಹಿಂದೂ ವಿವಾಹಗಳ ನೋಂದಣಿ (ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ನಿಯಮಗಳು - 2024' ಅನ್ನು ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿತು. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ವಿವಾಹ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಾಪುಜಿ ಸೇವಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮ -1 ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮಾಲೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಚಾವ್ವನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮರುಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಶಿಕಾರಿಪುರದ ಕಾಳೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ಅರಕೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹಾಸನದ ಸಂತೇವೇಟೆಯ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಯಾರ್ಡ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಶೀಘ್ರಲಗ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಲಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮೀಸಲು: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಕೋಟೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡು ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾವಂತ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.2ರಷ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿತು. ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸಲು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಈ ತೀರ್ಮಾನದಂತೆ 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೇವಾ (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ) ನಿಯಮಗಳು -1977ರ ನಿಯಮ-9ಕ್ಕೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತಂದು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಬೇಕು. ಬಳಿಕ ನಿಯಮ ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತಿಮಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಬಹುದು. ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದರೆ, ಕರೆದು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸಂಪುಟದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೆ ತರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಸಂಪುಟದ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಗಳು

- 93 ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಆಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 104 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ 60 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿಕಾ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ 6 ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ತರಬೇತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉನ್ನತೀಕರಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ. ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಾದ ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಜಯಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 52.81 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹೊಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಐಟಿಐಗಳನ್ನು 47.18 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಉನ್ನತೀಕರಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ.
- ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ 450 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯು 142.47 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಅಂದಾಜಿಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.
- ರಾಯಚೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ 47.32 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಮಾನವ ಜಿನೋಮ್ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ' ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ. ಈ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ.
- ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೊಸ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು 499 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ.
- ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ವಸತಿಗೃಹಗಳು ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 455 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.
- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ಜನರಲ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಂಬಂಧ 150 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.02, Feb.02, 2024

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Decentralisation

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

225 110
ಚರಂಡಿ ಕೋಟಿ
ಮೀಟರ್ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ

₹4,515.11 ಕೋಟಿ
ಒಟ್ಟು 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
ವ್ಯಯವಾಗುವ ಮೊತ್ತ

₹1,574.64 ಕೋಟಿ
ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯಿಂದ
ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ

₹1,775.91 ಕೋಟಿ
ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ
ಮಾರ್ಗ, ಎನ್‌ಟಿಕಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ

₹1,164.56 ಕೋಟಿ
ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು
ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಶಕದಿಂದಲೂ ಸಿಗದ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ

ರಸ್ತೆ, ನೀರಾದ್ರೂ ಕೊಡ್ತಿ...



• ಆರ್. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 'ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿದ್ದೋ, ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್‌ಗೆ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನೇಕೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿದ್ದೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೋಗಲಿ ಸೇರಿಸಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ನಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಸವಲತ್ತು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೋ? ಅದೂ ಇಲ್ಲ... 15 ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಒಂದು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ ಅಂದ್ರೆ ನಮಗೇಕೆ ಬೇಕು 'ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಗರಿ....'?

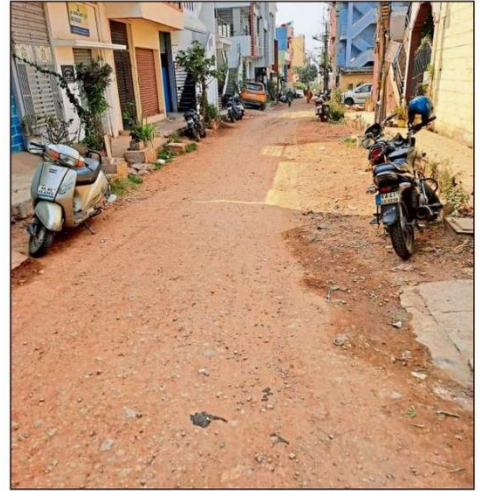
ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿರುವ 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಮಾತು, ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿವು. 'ಹಳ್ಳಿ ದಿಲ್ಲಿಯಾಗೋದೇನೂ ಬೇಡ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೋರಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಾದ್ರೂ ಕೊಡಿ' ಎಂಬ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಮೂಲ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಸ್ಥರಿಂದ ದಶಕದಿಂದ ಸ್ಪಂದನ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಯನ್ನು 2007ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಪುರಸಭೆ ಜೊತೆಗೆ 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಯಿತು. ದೇಶದ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಈ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಯೂ ಕಾರಣ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಮರೀಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿಯೇ ಇದೆ. '110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಹಣ'

ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟೆಷ್ಟು ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು?	31	27	19	11	8	8	5	1
ಮಹದೇವಪುರ		ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	ಯಶವಂತಪುರ	ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ	ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಬೃಹತ್ಯಾಂಜನಪುರ	ದಾನೇಕಲ್	ಅನೇಕಲ್
ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ								



ಎಂಬ ಘೋಷಣೆಗಳು 2007ರಿಂದಲೂ ಕೇಳಿಬರುತ್ತಲೇ ಇವೆ. ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯ 2008-09ನೇ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಿಂದಲೇ 'ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹಣ' ಎಂದು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 'ಒಂದು ಕೋಟಿ ಒಂದು ಹಳ್ಳಿಗೆ' ವಿಶೇಷ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2015-16ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ 2018-19ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನವರೆಗೆ ₹300.40 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2019-20ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಂತರ ಸುಮಾರು ₹5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಈ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚರಂಡಿಯ ಸೌಕರ್ಯವೂ ಇಲ್ಲ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಹಾಳು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆಯನ್ನು ಮರುಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ, ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸುಮಾರು ₹3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಲ್ಲ ಕೋಟಿಗಳು ಕಾಗದ ಹಾಗೂ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದಿವೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಸುಬೂಬು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 110 ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜನರು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಸೌಕರ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಹೈರಾಣರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಕರಿಹೋಬನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾಂಬರು ಕಾಣದ ರಸ್ತೆ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟೆಷ್ಟು ವೆಚ್ಚ? (2019-2020ರಿಂದ 2022-23ರವರೆಗೆ)			
ವಲಯ	ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು	ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಅನುದಾನ	ಒಟ್ಟು ವೆಚ್ಚ
ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ	28	₹175.5 ಕೋಟಿ	₹147.83 ಕೋಟಿ
ದಾನೇಕಲ್	5	₹65.48 ಕೋಟಿ	₹40.18 ಕೋಟಿ
ಮಹದೇವಪುರ	42	₹726.34 ಕೋಟಿ	₹599.77 ಕೋಟಿ
ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿನಗರ	19	₹318 ಕೋಟಿ	₹253.50 ಕೋಟಿ
ಯಲಹಂಕ	16	₹177 ಕೋಟಿ	₹173.19 ಕೋಟಿ
ರಸ್ತೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ	-	₹112.32 ಕೋಟಿ	₹23.82 ಕೋಟಿ
ಒಟ್ಟು	110	₹1574.64 ಕೋಟಿ	₹1244.29 ಕೋಟಿ

Source: Prajavani, p.5A, Jan.27, 2024

Bengaluru MLAs demand water, better roads & footpaths ahead of BBMP budget

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The state government, which is planning multiple infrastructure initiatives under the ambitious 'Brand Bengaluru' project, was flooded with complaints from several legislators cutting across the party lines on Monday.

From resolving confusion over property tax arrears under the controversial self-disclosure scheme to better footpaths, wider roads and potable water, the MLAs urged deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar for a concrete solution to fix the city's perennial problems of Bengaluru during a consultative meeting at Vikasa Soudha ahead of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget.

The MLAs slammed BBMP's stand on collecting tax dues under the self-disclosure scheme.

"The civic body has been issuing notices to the citizens for no fault of theirs. The government must introduce a one-time settlement and collect only the tax and interest

while waiving off the penalty," Suresh Kumar, MLA from Rajajinagar, said.

S Muniraju, MLA from Dasarahalli, questioned the BBMP's move of seizing 25 buildings per day per assembly constituency. "Which law or act permits such seizure of property daily? This is embarrassing and the government must discontinue it with immediate effect to give relief to the citizens," he said.

Shivakumar said: "BBMP is unable to collect tax as planned under the self-disclosure scheme. As per my own survey, over 50% of the property owners are not paying taxes. The penalty on defaulters has considerably increased after the revision of Property Tax rules. Citizens can't pay such huge arrears. Unfortunately, nobody thought about this before. Hence, we have decided to amend the rules again."

M Krishnappa, MLA from Bengaluru South, highlighted the problems of pedestrians. "Not a single footpath has enough amenities for pedestrians. The government must crack down on footpath encroachment and allow hawkers



TALK ON: Bengaluru legislators during a meeting with deputy CM Shivakumar on Monday

WHAT THE CITY NEEDS TO GROW BETTER

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Coordination of all parastatal agencies for effective administration | • Better maintenance of playgrounds, lakes, parks with deployment of security |
| • Widening of roads wherever possible to decongest the city | • Resolve the garbage crisis |
| • Request to Fastrack the pending Akrama-Sakrama plea hearing | • Allocate funds based on area, population of constituencies |
| | • Clear abandoned vehicles dumped along roadside |

only where there is enough space or rehabilitate them at a suitable place. The government must develop at least 5 to 6 footpaths in every constituency," he said.

Another MLA from South Bengaluru questioned the reduced allocation of funds. "The total outlay of the budget is Rs 9,500 crore and most of it goes only for salaries and pension. Each ward will get Rs 3 crore grants for various works. What can be done with

such poor allocation? When will the government allocate funds to clear the pending bills for over two-and-half years?" he asked.

The MLAs also demanded a proper supply of potable water, especially along the outskirts and in 110 villages. "As per the Supreme Court order, we have issued an order to allocate 6tmc of water for Bengaluru and we'll ensure the city gets the entire share of this allocation," the DCM replied.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan. 30, 2024

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Peer-to-peer solar power trade to be reality soon

Karnataka power regulatory body releases draft rules

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

If you are someone who wants to run the chores using green energy but have no option to install a rooftop solar power system, there is good news in the offing.

In a big push for the use of solar energy, Karnataka will

soon allow peer-to-peer trading of solar power produced through rooftop photovoltaic systems. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has published draft guidelines to put in place a system that could allow such trading. While peer-to-peer solar energy trading using a blockchain-based technology is increasingly becoming popular in the country, the producers in Karnataka could not venture into peer-to-peer trading owing to a lack of guidelines.

Once the guidelines come into force, owners who have installed solar rooftop systems

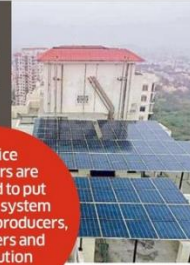
Electrifying move

• The guidelines fix the responsibility of every stakeholder

• The producers and consumers are expected to register with the distribution licensee (ESCOs)

• The distribution licensee shall work with the service provider to integrate their systems

Service providers are expected to put in place a system connecting producers, consumers and distribution licensees



in their houses and establishments can sell the excess power to other consumers at a price negotiated by the producer and the consumer. So far, the users of solar rooftops

could sell the excess power only to the Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOs). "It is aimed to benefit small consumers who are willing to adopt green

energy. This new technology will also help producers earn more," a senior official from KERC told DH.

While the installation of solar rooftop systems was said to be declining across the state owing to the 'Gruha Jyothi' free power scheme, this new power sharing model is expected to give a boost to the sector since it could open up the market for new customers.

Peer-to-peer trading could promote the use of clean energy, increase the state's power production and also provide better returns to those adopting clean energy.

► **Solar power, Page 4**

Continued...

Peer-to-peer solar power trade likely to be a reality in state soon

Solar power, from Page 1

"The peer-to-peer trading model helps those who do not have space to install solar power generation systems but want to adopt green energy. The demand for green energy will increase drastically once the system falls in place," a researcher from World Resources India (WRI) said.

KERC in its draft guidelines named as 'KERC (Implementation of Peer to Peer Solar Energy through Block-Chain

based Platform) Regulations, 2024' noted that 'peer-to-peer transactions are likely to play a significant role in shaping the future of sustainable energy systems'.

The guidelines, which fix the responsibility of every stakeholder, suggest that both the producer and the consumer should register with the distribution licensee (ESCOs) and pay network charges for the use of infrastructure set up by the supply company. "The peer-to-peer solar transac-

tions offer various benefits, the success of which depends on regulatory support, technological advancements, and widespread adoption within communities," the draft said.

The guidelines also delve into various scenarios and actions to be taken in cases of over-injection and under-injection of power by the producers, and overuse and underuse of power by the consumers. The service provider is held responsible for creating awareness

and training the producers, consumers, and ESCOs regarding the functioning of peer-to-peer platforms. "The service provider shall ensure that the systems installed by it for facilitating peer-to-peer exchange do not disrupt distribution licensee's system and shall ensure that there is a seamless settlement between the peer-to-peer partners," the draft said.

The public can raise objections or provide suggestions to KERC till February 11.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 &4, Jan 30, 2024

'Karnataka wants to create 30,000 fresh jobs by 2028 in AVGC-XR'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has a mandate to create 30,000 fresh high-quality jobs in the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics and extended reality (AVGC-XR) sector by 2028 and the target is also to export 80% of the services and products of the industry by that time, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

He was speaking after inaugurating the fifth edition of Bengaluru GAFX-2024, a three-day annual AVGC-XR exposition, jointly organised by the State government and the industry apex body, ABAI, here on Monday.

"Karnataka wants to be the leader in AVGC-XR sector in the country, similar to the dominance the State currently commands in in-



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar others during the inauguration of Bengaluru GAFX-2024 on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

formation technology, knowledge process outsourcing, and innovation spaces. To achieve this feat the industry and the government should work in tandem,' said Mr. Siddaramaiah, while addressing industry players, international buyers, and investors. He said Karnataka currently held a 20% share in the country's total media and entertainment in-

dustry, employing over 15,000 professionals across over 300 specialised AVGC-XR studios.

In 2021, when India's nominal GDP grew 19%, advertising growth outperformed and grew 25%. The highest growth was in television advertising of ₹62 billion, followed by digital advertising of ₹55 billion, and then of ₹29 billion from a resilient print, he

noted. India was amongst the largest content producers in the world – with 1,50,000 hours of TV content, 2,500 hours of premium OTT content, and 2,000 hours of filmed content produced in 2021 alone. Interestingly, the digital media has firmly established itself as the second-largest segment and it grew by ₹68 billion in 2021, he added, quoting industry statistics.

On the State's readiness for growth in the sector, Mr. Siddaramaiah further said the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru a one-of-its-kind and the country's first state-of-the-art facility, houses a highly equipped AVGC post-production lab, providing the industry with resources for hands-on education and to generate high quality content.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Jan 30, 2024

Like shares, you could soon buy and sell solar energy too

Draft Rules Ready For P2P Transactions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has notified draft regulations on 'Peer to Peer (P2P) Solar Energy Transaction' that provides citizens to transact electricity with any other consumer like the way shares are traded in the stock market.

The regulations, if implemented, could revolutionise the energy sector and give the much-needed boost to rooftop solar power generation in Karnataka, which is betting big on renewable energy sources to meet its growing demands.

Sources at the KERC revealed that citizens who install rooftop solar systems are currently permitted to sell power only to the Escoms. Under the P2P model, they are free to sell the power generated on their rooftops to anybody at an agreed tariff set by the regulatory authorities.

The sale of surplus power by one consumer to another

HOW WILL IT BE REGULATED

- P2P sellers must have solar rooftop units with a capacity of 1 Kw to 2 Mw
- Parties can quote prices and receive bids for energy
- Parties shall not indulge in anti-competitive practices such as price fixing
- Parties shall not compromise on the electrical safety
- Billing cycle will be the same as those of Escoms
- Escoms will generate bills for P2P parties including transaction charges
- P2P consumers have to clear bills by the due date
- If parties fail to clear dues, they will be removed from the platform

Photo for representation



at an agreed tariff — Peer to Peer (P2P) solar energy transactions — will be facilitated through a blockchain platform, the draft regulations said. The KERC has also invited objections, if any, in 30 days. "The concept is a promising innovation in the energy sector as it achieves decentralisation, renewable energy integration, efficiency and flexibility, empowerment of prosumers, cost savings, grid resilience, environmental impact, innovation in tech-

nology, community engagement and regulatory evolution. Also, citizens with rooftop solar units could recover their investment much faster than in the prevailing arrangements," a senior KERC official said.

MG Prabhakar, advisor to the energy committee of FKCCI, said the proposed regulations would benefit the industries in the long run.

"Jurisdictional Escoms or their authorised firms will facilitate the sale and

buying of energy. Also, the participants shall have either net metering or gross metering arrangements to facilitate energy transactions," he revealed.

Ramesh Shivanna, a renewable energy expert and member of FKCCI, said, "The exciting factor is that traders and buyers can set their prices based on the regulatory framework. In the case of higher and lower prices, average pricing can easily be worked out in this method. In case there is no energy available on the P2P platform, Escoms will provide energy and if there are no buyers, energy will be sold to the Escoms as per the purchase agreement."

"Integration of new technology with the existing infrastructure can be complex and may need technological intervention and investment. Also, the intermittent nature of solar power generation poses a challenge in ensuring continuous and reliable energy supply for consumers. Regulatory bodies shall collaborate with the industry and provide incentives and rebates on transactional charges to promote the P2P model," Shivanna voiced.

Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan. 31, 2024

Karnataka releases new AVGC policy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday released an updated policy for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality that will guide the growth of the sector until 2029. The AVGC-XR industry has seen unprecedented growth in the last few years, becoming an integral part of the broader technological landscape, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, and IT & BT.

Tech prowess

As per the most recent data, India's IT-BPM (business process management) sector contributed 8% to the national GDP and 25-30% to Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). "This existing technological prowess provides Karnataka with a strategic advantage in embracing and advancing in the AVGC-XR sectors and therefore this new policy to further growth," said the Minister while unveiling draft policy at GAFX 2024.

As per the draft, the State proposes to set up

Centres of Excellence and innovation hubs across the State. These centres are expected to create a collaborative environment involving academia, the private sector and government agencies. They would also serve as focal points for skill development, fostering innovation, and translating research into market-ready products and services. "The policy includes a range of fiscal incentives, a streamlined regulatory environment, and the development of cutting-edge infrastructure," he added.

The aim is to provide a nurturing and enabling setting that allows both startups and established companies to flourish, ensuring that Karnataka becomes a prime destination for investments in these sectors, he further said.

Best practices

According to Mr. Kharge, countries like Japan, South Korea, and Singapore have set global benchmarks in the development of AVGC-XR sectors by establishing dedicated centres of excellence and innovation hubs and facilitating public-private partnerships.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Feb. 1, 2024

Karnataka, Wistron sign MoU for laptop manufacturing plant



Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil at the signing of the MoU with Wistron officials on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Wistron (ICT Service Management Solutions) in connection with the latter's plans to set up a laptop manufacturing plant in the State.

Under the MoU, the Taiwan-based company would invest ₹1,500 crore to set up the laptop factory which would create around 3,000 jobs, M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries.

Land sought

The Minister said the company sought 32 acres of land for the proposed project and his government was considering offering the company the land in

the surroundings of the Bengaluru region.

Wistron executives informed the Minister that their company was planning to start the work on the plant by July 2024 to start manufacturing laptops by January 2026.

"This will be the first unit to manufacture laptops in Karnataka. The proposed fully automated facility will make laptops for all brands and over 50% of laptops made from here will be for export markets. The plant will also produce IoT components and EV-related parts," said the Minister.

Wistron executives who met Mr. Patil included Alec Lai, president of Global Manufacturing, Dennis Hung, Senior Director, Rachael Lu, General Manager, and Sudhir C., Manager of Wistron Corp.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Feb. 1, 2024

Injustice meted out to State though it contributes ₹4 lakh crore in terms of taxes: CM

Budget has remained silent on increasing debt and has not provided a clear picture of the state of economy, unemployment, price rise, drought, and farmers' problems, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the interim Union Budget presented on Thursday was not a “vikasit” (development-oriented) but a “destructive” one, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said it has not only been disappointing but increased the country's debt to ₹190 lakh crore besides remaining silent on unemployment, drought, and farmers problems.

“The Budget has remained silent on the increasing debt and has not provided a clear picture of the state of economy, unemployment, price rise, drought, and farmers' problems. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

speaks of development-oriented Budget, in a true sense, this is a destructive Budget,” he told presspersons in his reaction on the Interim Budget.

There are no programmes for the poor, youth, farmers, and women, and there is no mention of crop loss compensation. “While a few crops have been brought under

MSP, there is a need to bring all crops under the MSP but there is no mention of it. The Finance Minister has reduced 30% tax on the corporates and increased the burden on the poor and middle class,” he said.

Stating that Karnataka has not got drought compensation, the Chief Minister said that the Centre's grants to the State is also yet to come. AIIMS has not been approved to Raichur, funding for peripheral ring road and ₹5,300 crore for Upper Bhadra project is yet to be released, he added. “Injustice is being meted out to the State continuously, though Karnataka contributes ₹4 lakh crore in terms of taxes,” Mr. Siddaramaiah added.

Refuting the allegations of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai that the State under Mr. Siddaramaiah's earlier tenure did not effectively argue before 15th Finance Commission, he said: “What we are asking for is justice for Karnataka. Have 26 MPs said this before the Centre? These MPs have not raised their voice in favour of the State. They are scared of Mr. Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. When the State delegation met Mr. Shah, he promised to release grants to the State, but he has not called a meeting so far. He has a stepmotherly attitude towards the State.”

The State will effectively arguing its case before the 16th Finance Commission, he said.

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

Interim budget: Slight respite for K'taka with rise in tax devolution

Centre to devolve Rs 44,485 cr; State collects Rs 4L cr in taxes

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union government will devolve Rs 44,485.49 crore to Karnataka as the state's share in taxes and duties for the 2024-25 fiscal, providing some respite for the Siddaramaiah-led government that had anticipated a lesser amount.

The finance department had projected that Karnataka could receive Rs 41,483 crore under devolution in 2024-25.

When contacted, Additional

Chief Secretary (Finance) L K Atheeq told *DH*, "We welcome this and are happy about it."

The "slightly higher devolution" will come in handy for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who will present his record 15th Budget on February 16 amid pressure to set aside an estimated Rs 55,000 crore for the Congress' five guarantees.

According to documents linked to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Interim Budget, the Centre will devolve a total of Rs 12.19 lakh crore of taxes and duties to states.



In this, Karnataka's share is 3.647% as fixed by the 15th Finance Commission.

Karnataka's projected devolution figure of Rs 44,485.49 crore includes corporation tax

(Rs 13,969.93 crore), income tax (Rs 15,393.23 crore), central GST (Rs 13,600.47 crore), customs (Rs 907.75 crore), union excise duty (Rs 542.78 crore), service tax (Rs 1.50 crore) and other taxes and duties (Rs 70.28 crore).

For the fiscal ending this March, Karnataka is now expected to get Rs 40,280.88 crore under devolution. This is more than Rs 37,252 crore that was estimated.

"We had assumed that there would not be much difference between the budget estimates (BE) and revised estimates (RE) for the current financial year. However, revenues of the Union government grew more than their estimates," a senior finance department official said.

Uttar Pradesh, whose share in taxes and duties is the high-

est at 17.939%, will get Rs 2.18 lakh crore under devolution in the next fiscal. Bihar, with a 10% share, will get Rs 1.22 lakh crore.

With the Union government constituting the 16th Finance Commission, the Congress-ruled Karnataka has been raising "injustice" in devolution.

Karnataka's share in tax devolution fell from 4.713% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.647% under the 15th Finance Commission.

"Karnataka has faced injustice in devolution of taxes. The state government collects Rs 4 lakh crore in taxes. We're number two in India after Maharashtra. But when it comes to devolution, we're placed 10th," Siddaramaiah said while reacting to the Interim Budget.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Feb, 2, 2024

Budget earmarks Rs 7,524 cr for railway projects in Karnataka

Future projects to be fully funded by state or Railways dept

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union Budget for 2024-25 has allocated Rs 7,524 crore for railway projects in Karnataka, including Rs 7,239 crore for the South Western Railway (SWR), whose 84% jurisdiction lies in the state.

Of the Rs 7,329 crore, the SWR will spend Rs 2,286 crore on building new railway lines, Rs 1,531 crore on doubling/quadrupling, Rs 987 crore on developing passenger amenities, Rs 341 crore on constructing railway underbridges/overbridges, Rs 126.11 crore on creating traffic

facilities works and Rs 22 crore on undertaking surveys for new lines, doubling and quadrupling, the railway zone said in a statement on Thursday. Another Rs 85 crore has been allocated for railway electrification.

Notably, it has been decided that all future railway works in Karnataka will be fully funded by the railways or the state government to ensure faster progress. The existing practice of equally sharing the cost between the railways and the state government has often caused delays and cost overruns.

The Rs 7,524 crore is a tad lower



No funds have been allocated in this year's budget for the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project. *DH FILE PHOTO*

than the Rs 7,561 crore allocated for railway projects in Karnataka in the 2023-24 budget. However, the previous budget allocated another Rs 1,350 crore for the Ben-

galuru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

No funds have been allocated in this year's budget for the BSRP. Of the Rs 1,350 crore allocated

last year, the railways released only Rs 450 crore. In the revised estimates, the allocation has been reduced to Rs 450 crore.

An official from K-RIDE said that they wouldn't be short of funds because of the €500 million loan agreement signed recently with Germany's KfW Development Bank.

K N Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Vedic welcomed the "decent" allocation to existing projects and hoped that the funds would be retained in the regular budget.

In particular, he praised the "handsome" allocation to three new lines that would pass entirely in Karnataka — Bagalkot-Kudchi (Rs 410 cr), Gadag-Wadi (Rs 380 cr) and Ginigera-Raichur (Rs 300 cr).

"These new lines are crucial for the state because they will seamlessly connect different parts of North Karnataka," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.10, Feb, 2, 2024

Interim Budget: State gets ₹7,524 cr. for railway projects

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In the Interim Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman on Thursday, the outlay for railway projects in Karnataka has been increased to ₹7,524 crore, with South Western Railway garnering ₹7,329 crore of it.

According to a press release, of the allocation made to railway projects in the State, ₹2,286 crore has been given for new lines, ₹1,531 crore for track doubling and ₹987 crore for passenger amenities.

Under Amrit Bharat Scheme, 48 railway stations under South Western Railway have been chosen for redevelopment.

A sum of ₹341 crore has been allocated for safety works, including road overbridges and road underbridges. While the allocation for traffic facilities works is ₹126.11 crore, allocation for survey of new



SWR GM Sanjeev Kishore watching the live telecast of the Railway Minister's press briefing, in Hubballi on Thursday. KIRAN BAKALE

lines, doubling and quadrupling projects is ₹22 crore.

Some of the allocations for the new lines and ongoing works are as follows: Gadag (Talkal)-Wadi ₹380 crore, Ginigera-Raichur ₹300 crore, Tumakuru-Davangere (via Chitradurga) ₹300 crore, Tumakuru-Rayadurga (via Kalyandurga) ₹250 crore, Bagalkot-Kudachi ₹410 crore, Shivamogga-Shikaripura-Ranbennur ₹200 crore, Belagavi-Dharwad (via Kit-

tur) ₹50 crore and Kadur-Chikkamagaluru-Hassan ₹160 crore.

Doubling works

Gadag-Hotgi ₹197 crore, Baiyappanahalli-Hosur ₹150 crore, Yeshwantpur-Channasandra ₹150 crore, Londa-Miraj ₹200 crore, Hubballi-Chikjajur ₹94 crore, Bengaluru Cantonment-Whitefield Quadrupling ₹260 crore, Hosapete-Tinaighat-Vasco-da-Gama ₹400 crore, and Hosur-Omalur ₹100.1 crore.

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

B'luru hails ₹1 lakh-crore corpus for research as tech game changer

Golden Era For Tech-Savvy Youth, Says FM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of a Rs 1 lakh-crore corpus for long-term financing of research and innovation in sunrise domains has been received with much jubilation in Bengaluru, a city dotted with multiple research and development institutes.

In the Interim Budget unveiled Thursday, Sitharaman said it will be a golden era for the country's tech-savvy youth. The corpus will provide for 50-year interest-free loans.

"The corpus will provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenures and low or nil interest rates. This will encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in sunrise domains. We need to have programmes that combine the powers of our youth and technology," she said.

"It's a good opportunity for corporates to bring startups into their innovation ecosystem and co-create solutions. A

HOW CORPORATES REACTED TO INTERIM BUDGET

"In the Interim Union Budget 2024-25, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has provided a comprehensive roadmap for sustained economic growth that will enable India to achieve a developed economy status by 2047. Her emphasis on research & innovation, biomanufacturing, green technology, robust infrastructure development, and technology-driven digital transformation augurs well for India to deliver on aspirational yet people-centric, inclusive development



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw | EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON, BIOCON & BIOCON BIOLOGICS

"The Rs 1 lakh crore support to technology & innovation is a very thoughtful and compelling idea that will propel India on course to Viksit Bharat. Likewise is the focus on the farm sector and MSMEs



Kamal Bali | PRESIDENT & MD, VOLVO GROUP IN INDIA

"Skill India Mission has helped in building a highly skilled workforce and the Rs 1 lakh crore corpus with interest-free loans for tech-savvy youth will be a true game-changer. This will fuel innovation & entrepreneurship, fostering the next generation of tech leaders. We believe this Interim Budget has laid a strong foundation for continued growth, with technology playing a pivotal role in shaping India's future



Debashis Chatterjee | MD AND CEO, LTIMINDTREE

"The vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' is built on the strong foundations of decisive governance, inspirational leadership and a proven track record of delivering digital, physical, and social infrastructure. The emphasis on boosting innovation through the low/no interest 50-year loan, expanding capex on infrastructure and adhering to fiscal deficit goals are significant, strong points from this Interim Budget



Kunal Bahl | CO-FOUNDER, SNAPDEAL AND TITAN CAPITAL

50-year interest-free loan for long-term financing research and innovation in sunrise domains will not only help the companies to get ample opportunity and time to scale up but to utilise their potential at the best which will in a way boost the economy in the long run," said Anand Sri Ganesh, CEO of NSRCEL IIMB.

"It's a well-thought-out move. However, there are a

few steps that the govt should take in this regard," suggested G Ramesh, retired professor from IIMB, and director, Niti School of Public Policy & Leadership.

"It should be a triple helix — with govt, universities, and business in the loop. For instance, if the govt makes a funding of 80%, the researcher should get a business too in it. Further, the system should be

an autonomous institutional structure, with a strong leadership like that of the UIDAI. It should also permit collaboration with universities abroad. There are institutions in countries like Israel and Japan that are doing commendable work in sunrise industries. This should be tapped," he pointed out.

"Tech entrepreneurship is the need of the hour," said

Prof S Sadagopan, former director of the International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore.

"VCs fund only those that can grow fast and big. They are always after 'unicorn' ideas. But India needs tens of thousands of 'nanocorns' and not just hundreds of unicorns. Nanocorns would create hundreds to thousands of jobs all over the country and not in Bengaluru alone! That is the reason I am excited about this proposal from the government," he said.

Growing research culture

B Thimme Gowda, former vice-chairman of Karnataka State Higher Education Council, hailed the announcement. "With the National Education Policy in place nationally, there is research mandated at the undergraduate level. So a research culture is being built at the UG level," said Gowda, who had helped the previous govt roll out NEP in the state.

"The important factor is to identify the good projects, which are relevant for the industry and the scientific advancement of the country. This requires more support which will hopefully come from this corpus," he said.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Feb. 2, 2024

HAS SOUTH RACED AHEAD OF NORTH? A REALITY CHECK



So, north is north, and south is south, and never the twin shall meet? An industrialised south, materially much more prosperous, healthier and better educated. And a largely rural north, with its cow belt and its politics, and people with modest incomes who are less educated and have shorter life expectancy? Is that how you look at things? If you thought so, here are three maps that will make you re-evaluate your notions

HEALTHY STATES

LIFE EXPECTANCY In Years (2016-20)

70+ years

69-70 years

Below 69 years

Longest Life Span

Delhi 75.8

Kerala 75.0

J&K 74.3

Shortest Life Span

Chh'garh 65.1

UP 66.0

MP 67.4

Source: Sample Registration System Bulletin - 2016-20

WEALTHY STATES

PER CAPITA INCOME

Rs lakh per year

2022-23

Rs 2.3L and above

Rs 1.5L-Rs 2.3L

Below Rs 1.5L

Richest

Sikkim 5.2

Goa 4.7

Delhi 4.4

Poorest

Manipur 0.9

UP 0.8

Bihar 0.5

Source: RBI

WISE STATES

LITERACY RATE (2017-18)

80% and above

75%-79.9%

below 75%

Most Literate

Kerala 96.2

Delhi 88.7

U'khand 87.6

Least Literate

Bihar 70.9

Raj 69.7

Andhra 66.4

Note: Latest life expectancy and literacy data for some NE states not available

Source: National Statistical Office- 2017-18

Source: The Times of India, p.17, Feb. 2, 2024

State to bring in new compulsory gratuity bill

Govt plans corpus fund for unorganised workers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government will soon bring in a new compulsory gratuity bill to ensure employees are not denied their gratuity even if the company goes under, said Labour Minister Santosh Lad.

Lad was speaking at the 'eShram registration drive for newspaper distributors', organised by *Prajavani* and *Deccan Herald* at their MG Road office on Thursday.

"Under the gratuity scheme, the company or the employers should invest the gratuity amount in insurance companies. This will ensure that the employees receive their gratuity amount, even if the company goes bankrupt," he said. Once the bill is passed, it would benefit nearly 80 lakh employees across the state, he added.

Corpus fund

"There is also a plan to establish a corpus fund for unorganised workers by imposing a cess of Rs 1 on every litre of petrol and diesel so that these workers can avail

greater benefits," he said.

The minister also noted that the age limit for unorganised workers applying for the eShram scheme will be extended to 70 years, and efforts are on to propose a bill recommending a 5% reservation for people with disabilities in the private sector.

"We have thought of bringing nearly 40 lakh unorganised workers in the transport department, including autorickshaw drivers, mechanics, and garage owners, under the eShram scheme. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has agreed to provide nearly Rs 250 crore under the 11% transport cess being collected. We will discuss it with the Chief Minister to provide social security to this sector's unorganised workers," he said.

More than one crore unorganised workers in 394 sectors in the state are eligible to apply for eShram.

The minister proposed that unorganised workers in 10 other professions, including newspaper distributors, photographers, street vendors, tailors, and people working in the field of cinema, will also be included under the scheme.

Labour Commissioner H N Gopalakrishna pointed out that of the 40,000 newspaper distributors, only 5,000 had registered under eShram and urged more people to register for the scheme.

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

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BBMP to provide health insurance cover for its school, college students

Santoshkumar.B@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is set to provide health insurance cover for its school and college students in the upcoming budget after securing government approval.

According to BBMP officials, 25,397 students are studying in its schools and colleges in the city. If the proposal is implemented, it will be the first local body to provide health insurance cover for students in the state.

BBMP runs 33 high schools, 16 primary schools, 18 PU colleges, four degree colleges, and 93 nursery schools in the city.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath recently told media that they have received several suggestions for the BBMP budget.

Palike may need up to Rs 1 crore for the scheme and the funds may be allocated by its education department

Providing health insurance to students was among them and Palike would make appropriate decisions after taking consent from the government, Nath said.

Palike officials said some students have a coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh annually under 'Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka' (AB-ArK) scheme. The students could get this coverage as their families had BPL ration cards. Students from above poverty line (APL) will get free treatment from empanelled hospitals up to Rs 1.5 lakh every year. "We are collecting details of

students having BPL or APL cards. We are planning health insurance coverage up to Rs 5 lakh for students belonging to APL families too," BBMP sources said.

When pointed out that the AB-ArK cover extends to the entire family, the sources said the nitty-gritty of the insurance coverage is yet to be worked out.

BBMP education department officials are planning to discuss health insurance with four government companies: New India Assurance, National Health Insurance, United India Assurance and Oriental India Insurance. Palike officials estimated they may need up to Rs 1 crore to get health insurance and the fund may be allocated for the scheme from the BBMP education department's outlay.

Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan. 27, 2024

In a first, more women than men in 5 of 7 top UG courses

Enrolment, No.
Of New Edu
Institutions
Up: Govt Study

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Higher education in India has witnessed significant progress in terms of enrolment, establishment of new institutions, or improved pupil-teacher ratio in the last five years, with increased participation of females over males in five of the top seven undergraduate programmes across various disciplines for the first time, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (2021-2022) released by the Centre on Thursday.

Based on 2011 census, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reached a new high of 28.4, and in both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, there are now more female students on campuses than their male counterparts. In 26 states, GER for females exceeds that for males. There are two UTs registering GERs of over 60%—Chandigarh (64.8) and Puducherry (61.5)—and six states with GERs of 40 and above—Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Telangana.

The total enrolment in higher education has reached 4.33 crore, up from 3.57 crore in 2016-17, an overall growth of 18.1%. According to the survey, enrolment surged by 4.6% from the preceding year and 26.5% from 2014-15. Then it stood at 3.42 crore. The leading six states, which account for 53.3% of total student enrolment and house 51.4% of the total population in the 18-23 age group, are UP (69.73 lakh), Maharashtra (45.78 lakh), Tamil Nadu (33.09 lakh), MP (28 lakh), West Bengal (27.22 lakh) and Rajasthan (26.89 lakh).

Female enrolment has increased to 2.07 crore (a 32% increase since 2014-15 and 18.7% since 2016-17) with states like Kerala, Telangana, Haryana, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh having more female students enrolled than males. "The share of female enrollment is 55% of the increase in overall enrollment (91 lakh) since 2014-15," the report said.

The number of universities/university-level institu-

FEMALE STUDENTS ENROLMENT UP BY 76 LAKH IN 5 YRS

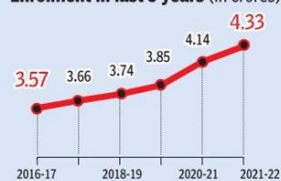
1,162 Universities, 42,825 colleges and 10,576 Stand Alone Institutions have responded in the 2021-22 survey

Indian higher education in numbers

Institutions	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Universities	1,043	1,113	1,168
Colleges	42,343	43,796	45,473
Colleges per lakh eligible population*	27	31	30
Teachers	15,03,156	15,51,070	15,97,688

* Population in the age-group 18-23 years

Enrolment in last 5 years (in crores)



Total female enrolment is **47.8%** (2,06,91,792) in 2021-22

Level-wise enrolment in 2021-22

UG	PG
3.4 crore (78.9%)	52.2 lakh (12.1%)
Female %	
UG 50.8%	PG 55.4%

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

	2020-21	2021-22
Total	27.3	28.4
SC	23.1	25.9
ST	18.9	21.2
Male	26.7	28.3
Female	27.9	28.5

GER in higher education estimated using population projections based on 2011 Census for the 18-23 age group

Programme-wise enrolment at UG level

	Female %	Total	% of total UG enrolled students (3.4 crore)
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	51	1.1 crore	34.2
Bachelor of Science (BSc)	50.8	49.7 lakh	15
Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)	47.2	43.4 lakh	13.1
Bachelor of Technology (BTech)	29.1	25.1 lakh	7.6
Bachelor of Arts (Honors)	54.3	20.4 lakh	6.2
Bachelor of Education (BEd)	62.4	17.2 lakh	5.2
Medical Science	57.6	17.1 lakh	5

Total 10 programmes account for more than **90%** of the total UG enrolment

A total of 57,18,185 students are enrolled in Science at UG, PG, M.Phil, Ph.D levels with **52.1% female**

States with over 2000 colleges

Uttar Pradesh	7,182
Maharashtra	4,685
Karnataka	4,283
Rajasthan	3,521
Tamil Nadu	2,807
Gujarat	2,374
Andhra Pradesh	2,582
Madhya Pradesh	2,464

These 8 states account for **69.8%** of total colleges

The top 6 states with maximum student enrolment (in lakh)

Uttar Pradesh	69.7
Maharashtra	45.8
Tamil Nadu	33.1
Madhya Pradesh	28
West Bengal	27.2
Rajasthan	26.9

These states account for 53.3% of total student enrolment. These states also house 51.4% of the total population of age-group (18-23) years

Allegations of fake caste certs in West Bengal med colleges: CBI registers case

The Central Bureau of India (CBI) has registered a case in connection with the alleged issuance of false certificates of reserved category candidates and the use of these fake certificates for admission in medical colleges in West Bengal for the past three years. The case has been registered against unknown candidates, unknown officials of the West Bengal government and other unknown persons. It is alleged that a large number of ST candidates were allotted seats for different government colleges, though in reality they do not belong to the ST community but obtained ST certificates from the competent authority either fraudulently or by way of manipulation and under such circumstances the petitioner lodged a complaint to the Director of Medical Education and Chairman of West Bengal Medical Counselling Committee against which no proper action was initiated. ANI

tions also increased by 341 since 2014-15. In addition to the 45,473 colleges (an increase of 1,677 from 2020-21), there are 1,168 universities, of which 685 are government-managed (Centre: 240, State:

445), 10 private deemed (aided), and 473 private (un-aided). However, 69.8% of total colleges are concentrated in eight states, with Uttar Pradesh (7,182) topping the list, followed by Maharashtra

(4,685) and Karnataka (4,283).

The last five years have also witnessed an addition of over 3.12 lakh teachers. This has positively impacted the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR), improving from 30 in 2017-18 to 24 in 2021-22 at university and college levels.

Humanities continue to be the top choice at UG level, with 34.2% of the enrolled students in this stream, followed by BSc and Commerce. BTech is in fourth place with females accounting for only around 30% of the enrolled.

There are a total of 10 UG programmes that account for 90% of enrolment, including BA, BSc, BCom, BTech, BA (Honors), BEd, and medical sciences. With the exception of engineering and commerce, number of females enrolled is significantly higher than males in all others.

Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan. 27, 2024

Gross enrolment ratio of women in higher education dips in Karnataka

GER Of Men Increases From 34.8% To 36.1%: Survey

Sruthy Susan Ullas
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: When the rest of India gloated over an increase in gross enrolment ratio among women in higher education as recorded in All-India Survey for Higher Education 2021-22 released this week, Karnataka had a worryingly different trend: The GER for women in the state dropped marginally to 36.3% from 37.2% the year before.

Overall, the state's GER has gone up only marginally from the last survey. The enrolment is 36.2% as against 36% in 2020-21.

The GER of men has gone up from 34.8% to 36.1%, thus helping the overall GER to move up slightly. Interestingly, the number of women in undergraduate courses is less than that of men. However, they exceed

the men in postgraduate enrolment. According to the survey, in UG courses, there are 9.2 lakh women as against 9.8 lakh men. Diploma and PG diploma also have a higher number of male students. But in PG, there are 1.4 lakh women as against 1.18 lakh men.

Nationally, the female GER went up from 27.9% in 2020-21 to 28.5% in 2021-22. The overall GER is 28.4% as against 27.3% last year. The gender parity index of the state also dropped from 1.08 five years ago to 1.01 in 2021-22. It was 1.07 in 2020-21.

B Thimme Gowda, former vice-chairman of Karnataka State Higher Education Council, expressed skepticism over the data. "It is really surprising because the trend is that more women are coming into higher education. There could be some data variation," he said. As per the survey, Karnataka added 15 universities, 837 colleges and around five lakh students in five years. The number of colleges in the state in 2017-18 was 3,593. It rose to 4,430 in 2021-22. The number of universities grew from 60 to 75. Six private universities and five public uni-

HIGHEST COLLEGE DENSITY

Karnataka continues to have the highest college density (number of colleges per lakh eligible population) with 66 followed by Telangana (52), Andhra Pradesh (49), Himachal Pradesh (47), Puducherry (53) and Kerala (46).

Karnataka has the third largest number of colleges with 4,430. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of colleges (8,375), followed by Maharashtra (4,692). Among top states in terms of enrolment, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have the best pupil-teacher ratio of 14 and 15 each.

“This trend could be because AISHE covers only academic degrees. This is a good development. Higher education leads to academic degrees. A shift is taking place towards technical/professional education. Gain there is loss here. With increasing skilled, semi-skilled opportunities in the employment market, academic degrees/higher education loses its shine. In fact, women's participation is quite low in technical education, that is ITI, industrial training institutes. Girls should be attracted to those courses for secondary sector skills development by giving incentives

AS Seetharamu | EDUCATIONIST AND FORMER PROFESSOR AT INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

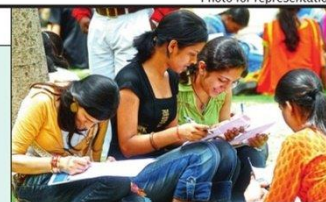
versities were added in this gap. The average enrolment per college moved up to 413 from 392 in 2020-21, which was the lowest in five years owing to the pandemic. It continues to be the lowest for the country because of the largest number of colleges.

The undergraduate student enrolment moved up to 19.1 lakh from 15 lakh in 2017-18. In post graduation 2.6 lakh students are enrolled as against 2.0 lakh five years ago. However, the number of students enrolled for PhD dipped by 3,000. Currently,

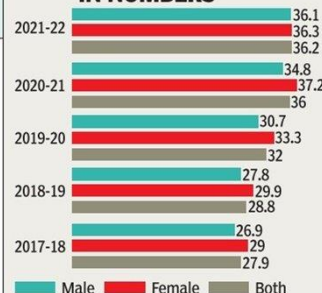
only 11,193 students are pursuing PhD in the state.

The number of students who have joined diploma programmes are at 2.2 lakh, an increase of 30,000 students. For the PG diploma, an additional 12,000 students have joined.

Photo for representation



IN NUMBERS



Source: All-India Survey for Higher Education 2021-22

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan. 28, 2024

GER in higher education up by 0.2% in Karnataka: AISHE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of higher education in Karnataka increased by 0.2% compared to the previous year, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), which was recently released by the Union Ministry of Education. While it was 36% in 2020-21, it increased to 36.2% in 2021-22.

The GER of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) students has also increased by around 2%. In 2020-21, the GER of SC students was 25.6% and ST was 23.4%, while in 2021-22 it increased to 27.2% and 25.8% respectively.

The GER at the all-India level has also increased over the years. GER increased to 28.4% in 2021-22 from 27.3% in 2020-21, 24.6% in 2017-18 and 23.7% in 2014-15. The female GER has increased to 28.5% in 2021-22 from 22.9% in 2014-15.

Number of colleges

Bengaluru Urban district recorded the highest number of colleges at the national level with a total of 1,106 followed by Jaipur with 709, Hyderabad with 491, Pune with 475 and Prayagraj with 398.

Even when it comes to the density of colleges, Karnataka managed to maintain its position at the top of the list in the survey. Since 2017-18, Karnataka has reported the highest density of colleges. It has recorded 66 colleges per

Gross Enrolment Ratio in Karnataka (in %)

Year	All students	SC	ST
2021-22	36.2	27.2	25.8
2020-21	36	25.6	23.4
2019-20	32	23.6	21.3
2018-19	28.8	21.1	19
2017-18	27.9	19.8	17.7

lakh population in the recent survey and during 2017-18, it was 51. In 2018-19, the number was 53, while in 2019-20 the density of colleges was 59. In 2020-21, the State reported 62 colleges. The average enrolment in these colleges is 413.

States with highest number of colleges

Karnataka has total of 4,430 higher education institutions and it is the third state which has maximum number of colleges. Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of colleges, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu.

Number of teachers

The total number of teachers recorded in the survey is 15,97,688. Of these, 56.6% are male and 43.4% are female teachers. Of the total, 89,770 (5.6%) are Muslim Minority teachers and 1,40,205 (8.8%) are Other Minority teachers.

Among these, 13.1% of the total number of teachers belong to Tamil Nadu, 11.2% are in Uttar Pradesh, 10.5% in Maharashtra and 9.4% in Karnataka. Out of total Muslim teachers, 10.4% are from Karnataka.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Jan 28, 2024

Hit by a shortage of funds, Kannada University seeks ₹133 crore budgetary support from State government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada University, Hampi, which has for some years been facing severe fund crunch for even paying electricity bills, salaries to guest faculty, and building maintenance works, has sought ₹133 crore budgetary support from the State government during 2024-25.

The State's lone university promoting the Kannada language has been entirely dependent on the government for funds. Unlike other universities,



Kannada University at Hampi was set up in 1991. FILE PHOTO

Kannada University has no internal resources for mobilisation of funds. The PhD registration fee (about

The State's lone university promoting the Kannada language has been entirely dependent on the government for funds

₹25 lakh per year), paid by students, was the only source for the university.

A couple of months ago, Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (GESCOM) officials stopped the supply of electricity to the university for a whole day owing to the non-payment of

electricity bills, sources said.

The university, set up in 1991, has demanded ₹133 crore, including ₹73 crore funds for development works. The university demanded ₹72 crore development fund in 2023-24, but the government granted only ₹1.5 crore.

All development works in the university have come to a halt following negligible financial support from the government, sources said.

Located near the historical site of Hampi, the university campus "Vidyara-

nya" is spread over 700 acres. Unlike other universities which are largely confined to one district, Kannada University has jurisdiction over the entire State. It has set up over two dozen extension centres across Karnataka.

The shortage of faculty is another issue the university has been facing for the past few years. Nearly 40 teaching faculty posts are vacant at the campus at Hampi, sources said.

The university, which undertakes publications, has come out with over 1,600 books so far.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Jan 28, 2024

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನಮ್ಮ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಸಾಟಿಯಿಲ್ಲ

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸಿಲಿಕಾನ್ ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ | ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು-ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಂಚೂಣಿ

■ ರಮೇಶ್ ಮೈಸೂರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಐಐಟಿ, ಎನ್‌ಐಟಿಗಳು ಬೆರಕೆಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಹಲವು ವಿಚಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಚೂಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಎಸಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಕೆಲ ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದಷ್ಟೇ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ 'ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ' ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಒಲವು ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ, ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ, ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನುಪಾತ, ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಸಾಂದ್ರತೆ, ವಿದೇಶಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲೂ ಇತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾಧನಗೈದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸರಾಸರಿಗಿಂತ ಕನಾಟಕ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 18- 23 ವರ್ಷ ವಯೋಮಾನದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು, 2011ರ ಜನಗಣತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ, ಅನುದಾನಿತ, ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸೇರಿ ದೇಶದ ಶೇ.98.8ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜಿಇಆರ್ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸರಾಸರಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು: ನಿವೃತ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ (ಜಿಇಆರ್) ಶೇ.27.3ರಿಂದ ಶೇ.28.3ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸತತ ಐದನೇ ವರ್ಷವೂ ಮುಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಶೇ.28.5 ನಿವೃತ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜಿಇಆರ್‌ನ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಶೇ. 28.4 ಆಗಿದೆ.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿರುವುದು, ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿರುವ ಏಕೈಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1,106 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಜೈಪುರ 703 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ನೆರೆಯ ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 491 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿವೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.



ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು- ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನುಪಾತ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು

ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಯುನೈಟೆಡ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳು ಹಲವು ನಿಯಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿವೆ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮುಂದಿದೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನುಪಾತವು 14 ಆಗಿದೆ.

ವಿದೇಶಿಗರಿಗೂ ಇಷ್ಟ

ವಿದೇಶಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವೇ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗದ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 170 ದೇಶಗಳ 46,848 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 6 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಅಂಕಿ- ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿವು...

● 1,16 ವಿವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು. ● 42,825 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು. ● 10,576 ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು. ● ನಿವೃತ್ತ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ: ಶೇ.36.2, ● ಪುರುಷರು: ಶೇ.36.1, ● ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು: ಶೇ.36.3. ● ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ: ಶೇ.28.4

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ

12,58,004: ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು
11,75,486: ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರು
24,33,490: ಒಟ್ಟು

ದೇಶವ್ಯಾಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ

2020-21: 4.13 ಕೋಟಿ
2021-22: 4.33 ಕೋಟಿ
ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 2.07 ಕೋಟಿ

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Source: Vijayavani, p.5A, Jan.29, 2024

ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ಕಾಡಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಗ್ಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಹಸಿರು

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡೆಗೂ ಮರ ಗಣತಿಗಿಳಿದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಮರಗಳ ಗಣತಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾರ್ಯಾ ರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂದಿನ 6 ತಿಂಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ದೂರಸಂವೇದಿ ಅನ್ವಯಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರ (ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್) ಮರ ಗಣತಿಗೆ ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಮರ ಗಣತಿ ತಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಜ್ಞರು ಇರಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 5.5 ಸೆಂಮೀ ಸುತ್ತಳತೆ ಅಥವಾ 1 ಮೀಟರ್ ಎತ್ತರವಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮರ- ಗಿಡಗಳ ಗಣತಿ ಪ್ರಭೇದ ಸೇರಿ ಹಲವು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮರ ಎಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗಿಡ-ಮರಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರ, ಪ್ರಭೇದ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ಆ್ಯಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗಣತಿಗೆ 4 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಬಾನ್ಸ್ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ 50ಕ್ಕಿಂತ

ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮರಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೇ ಗಣತಿ ನಡೆಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲವಾದರೆ, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಗಣತಿ ನಡೆಸಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಜನಗಣತಿ, 5 ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಜಾನುವಾರು ಗಣತಿ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರನ್ನು ಉದ್ಯಾನಗರಿ, ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಹಿ ಎಂದೆಲ್ಲ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಗಳ ಗಣತಿಗೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪ್ರಾಶಸ್ತ್ಯ ನೀಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮರ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮರ ಗಣತಿ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕಾದದ್ದು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ. ಆದರೆ, ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗಿ 47 ವರ್ಷಗಳು ಕಳೆದರೂ ಆ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣತಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಗಣತಿಗೆ ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿ ತೋರಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷ ಬಳಿಕ ಎಚ್ಚೆತ್ತುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.



ಶೇ.88 ಹಸಿರು ಹೊದಿಕೆ ಮಾಯ!

‘ಉದ್ಯಾನನಗರಿ’ ಎಂಬ ಖ್ಯಾತಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನೇ ದಿನ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕುಗ್ಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ಕಾಡಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಲಿ ಏಟು ಬೀಳುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ, ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷವೂ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂ. ವ್ಯಯಿಸಿ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಗಿಡಗಳು ಮುರುಟಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. 2003 ಮತ್ತು 2021ರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರವು ಶೇ.59 ಹಸಿರು ಹೊದಿಕೆ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, 45 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಶೇ.88 ಹಸಿರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಶೇ.79 ನೀರಿನ ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. 1940ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 260 ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ಕೇವಲ 65ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಯೂನಿಕ್ ಐಡಿ

ಪ್ರತಿ ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ಯೂಆರ್ ಕೋಡ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಚಿಂತಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಪ್ರತಿ ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ಯೂಆರ್ ಕೋಡ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಮೊಳೆ ಹೊಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರತಿ ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೊಳೆ ಬದಲು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಯೂನಿಕ್ ಐಡಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಯಾವ ಪ್ರಭೇದ, ಎಷ್ಟು ವರ್ಷದ ಮರ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ. ಕಾನೂನುಬಾಹಿರವಾಗಿ ಮರ ಕಡಿಯುವಿಕೆ ತಡೆಗೈ, ಗಾಳಿ-ಮಳೆಗೆ ಬೀಳುವ ಮರಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕ, ಯಾವಾವ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಮರ ಕಡಿಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಣತಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಒಂದು ಮರದ ಮುಂಭಾಗ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕ್ಯೂಆರ್ ಕೋಡ್ ಫಲಕ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಜನರಿಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಮರಗಳಿವೆ, ಯಾವ ಜಾತಿಯ ಮರಗಳಿವೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

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ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಮೊದಲ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಆಯೋಗ • ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಒಲವು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾಣಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ (ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ) ಆಯೋಗವು ತನ್ನ ಮೊದಲ ಸಲಹಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿಯನ್ನೇ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತರಾತುರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು (ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ) ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪೂರ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್, ಪಕ್ಷ ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಆಯೋಗವನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಹಲವು ಸುತ್ತಿನ ಸಭೆ. ಅಧ್ಯಯನ, ಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆ ಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದು ಸುಖದೇವ್ ಥೋರರ್ ಅವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

‘2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ 6ನೇ ಸೆಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಇದೇ ಜೂನ್ ಒಳಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ. ಅವರನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ವರ್ಷದ

ಪದವಿಗೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಬೇಕೇ? ಬೇಡವೇ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ತುರ್ತು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಮೂರನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ಓದುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ‘ಆನರ್ಸ್’ ಕನಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ವರದಿ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿತವಾಗಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ-2020 ಅನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪಿಯು ನಂತರ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆಯುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲದೇ, ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಓದಿದವರಿಗೆ ‘ಸರ್ಟಿಫಿಕೇಟ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್’, ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷ ಪೂರೈಸಿದರೆ ‘ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ’, ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ‘ಪದವಿ’, ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ‘ಆನರ್ಸ್’ ನೀಡುವ ನಿಯಮ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

9ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ?

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ ರೂಪಿಸಲು ರಚಿಸಲಾದ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಇದೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಫೆ.28ರವರೆಗೆ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಆಯೋಗ ಕೋರಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಮಾಜಿ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

‘ಆಯೋಗ ಸಲಹೆ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಲವು ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ತುರ್ತಾಗಿ ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಮಧ್ಯಂತರ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸಮಯ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ, ಅದರ ಸಾಧಕ-ಬಾಧಕಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ನಂತರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು’ ಎಂದು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.



ಆಯೋಗ ನೀಡಿದ ಸಲಹೆ ರೂಪದ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವರದಿ ಕುರಿತು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರ ಜತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ, ವಾರದೊಳಗೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು
ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಸುಧಾಕರ್, ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ

‘4 ವರ್ಷ ಪದವಿ ಅನಗತ್ಯ’

ಯೂರೋಪ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಮೆರಿಕ, ಕೆನಡಾ, ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲ ದೇಶಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಭಾರತದಂತಹ ದೇಶಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿ ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ತಜ್ಞರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರವಾದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- 3ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ‘ಆನರ್ಸ್’ ಕನಸು ಅತೃಪ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ
- ಬಹು ಪ್ರವೇಶ-ನಿರ್ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧ

ಆಯೋಗದ ಹಾದಿ...

ಆಯೋಗ ರಚನೆ	ಅ.11, 2023
ಮೊದಲ ಸಭೆ	ನ.3, 2023
9 ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳ ರಚನೆ	ನ.3, 2023
ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಅವಧಿ	ಫೆ.28, 2024
ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಸುಖದೇವ್ ಥೋರರ್	
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ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು	8

Continued...

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಒಲವು

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಇದರಿಂದ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ಪದವಿ ತೊರೆಯುವ, ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದರೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮರು ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿತ್ತು.

ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿಯ ಇಂತಹ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಂದು ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು, ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳು ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದವು. ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿಯ ನೀತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ ರೂಪಿಸಲು ಥೋರಟ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 11 ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಲು ಎಂಟು ತಜ್ಞರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗವನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಆಯೋಗ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದ 9 ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಯ್ದ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್‌ರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ಲಿಖಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಲವು ಅಂಶಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪದವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಹು ಪ್ರವೇಶ-ನಿರ್ಗಮನದ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಹುತೇಕರು ವಿರೋಧ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನೇ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.1-9, Jan.31, 2024

Creativity will be a key element in Karnataka's new education policy, says Sudhakar

**The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU**

Karnataka would consider creativity as an important element to be incorporated in the State's forthcoming education policy in order to support its mandate to lead the growth of the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector for the country, said M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education here on Tuesday.

"We are formulating a new education policy. We will create a provision to inculcate creativity in students as an important skill in this new policy," said the Minister while participating in a panel



M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, addressing the GAFX 2024 in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

discussion on "Future of education in AVGC" at the fifth edition of Karnataka's AVGC-XR annual event GAFX 2024.

The Minister was responding to a special re-

quest made by Ashish Kul-karni, Chairman of FICCI AVGC Forum and Founder of Punarnaryug Artvision to Karnataka, to include AVGC-related topics in its school curriculum from class I itself as catching the imagination of children right from a young age was essential for creating a healthy pipeline of talent in the future.

Dr. Sudhakar recalled growing up enjoying cartoons, including Phantom.

"I still remember one of the first 3D cartoons, Chota Chetan. The dual roles played by the actor looked so artificial then, but today, such characters look 100% realistic and natural. Things really have

changed, and portrayal and presentation with the help of visual effects has given a new dimension to AVGC."

Sharath Bache Gowda, Chairman, KEONICS, said the AVGC sector could reach the projected \$26 billion in revenues by 2030 only if the country developed a good crop of talent in content creation, sculpting, painting and other creative arts needed for the industry.

"The government has to do a lot of catching up to help this industry grow. We are with you to support the growth of this industry."

"We need to create an environment where we tell stories and narrate stories

for the world," he said.

He also reiterated that the state has plans to create an ecosystem for developing AVGC talent in tier 2 and 3 cities.

Support entrepreneurs
Karnataka Information Technology Venture Capital Fund (KITVEN) unveiled a dedicated Venture Capital fund of ₹20 crore to support the AVGC sector at GAFX 2024.

P.V. Harikrishnan, CEO, KITVEN Fund, said that this pioneering initiative, under the Department of IT, BT & ST, was designed to invest in companies within the State contributing to Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics.

Source: The Hindu, p. 11, Jan 31, 2024

Govt plans common admission process for PhDs on KCET lines

VCs not amused, say it's undermining autonomy of universities

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

From the next academic year, PhD admissions at state-run universities are likely to be centralised with a common entrance test.

The higher education department has submitted a proposal to the government in this regard. As per the details shared

by the officials of the department, the idea is to follow the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) model. "The plan is to have a state-level entrance test and allot seats through online counselling to maintain transparency in the entire admission process," said a senior official.

Currently, there are around 27,000-30,000 PhD seats avail-

able at state-run varsities and the admissions are being made at the respective university-level. "Considering the malpractice complaints at some of the universities in conducting entrance tests for PhD programmes, and violation of norms during seat allotment, it has decided to go with centralised admissions," said the official.

This was one of the announcements made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his budget. The chief minister proposed common counselling for PhD seats to bring uniformity in the process of filling up PhD seats in all public universities, and 40% at the private universities. How-

ever, the department has not mentioned anything about the private universities in its proposal submitted to the government.

Meanwhile, the vice-chancellors and research guides have opined that this would lead to further delay in the admission process. "Before proposing CET for PhD admissions, the government must bring in uniformity in conducting exams for postgraduate courses and announcement of results. Unless that is streamlined, it is impossible to go for common counselling," said a vice-chancellor of a university.

Another vice-chancellor said that, government should not

interfere with the academic autonomy of the universities. "If there are particular complaints, let the government conduct an inquiry and initiate action. But, centralised admission is nothing but interfering in academic autonomy of the universities."

According to the officials of the department there will be no changes in the seat-allotment process. "There is nothing to worry about autonomy, or students losing opportunities. The priority will be for those who have studied at the respective universities, there will be a few seats reserved for inter-university students," the official added.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 31, 2024

Do away with four-year degree option, SEP panel tells govt

'Retain conventional 3-year degree'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The State Education Policy (SEP) drafting committee has submitted its interim report to the government recommending scrapping the option of four-year honours programme introduced under the National Education Policy (NEP). The report recommends retaining the conventional three-year degree.

While the final decision has been left to the government, the committee pointed out that most students do not want a four-year course. However, some of the experts in the committee itself are in favour of it.

The four-year honours degree was an option provided under the NEP introduced by the previous BJP government.

It was not mandatory. Students who joined degree courses in 2021-22, the year when NEP was rolled out in the state, are not in their final year. Their three-year degree will end in June. Most students are under the impression that it is mandatory for them to study a fourth year.

Amid confusion on whether or not the honours option should be retained, the state government asked the SEP drafting committee to submit an interim report. "The committee had submitted suggestions, like draft recommendations, which we're yet to verify. Once we go through the report, we will take it to the chief minister for a final decision," Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said.

The SEP drafting committee headed by former UGC chairperson Sukhdeo Thorat has nine sub-committees to gather opinions from various stakeholders.

"A majority of the stakeholders, mainly students, have

expressed low interest in the four-year honours programme. But some experts in the SEP drafting committee are batting for it. We have reported both the opinions," a committee member said.

The member explained that some of the experts said the four-year course exists in some

universities of USA, Canada and Australia. "It will be helpful for students who wish to pursue higher education in such universities. Even now, a four-year degree is not mandatory. There's nothing wrong in continuing it. The only requirement is that the universities have to prepare syllabus," the expert said.

Extension of panel tenure

The tenure of the SEP drafting committee is likely to be extended. Earlier, the state government had asked the committee to submit its report by February 28. An extension may be granted based on a request made by the committee's chairperson, sources said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum-9 (Item No.1) to E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/54/2023 Dated: 03-08-2023

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Yadwad (excl.) and Jamkhandi (excl.) for a length of 24.61 km Under Bagalkot-Kudachi New Line Project (142 Km) including Signal & Telecommunication & Electrical Works. (Tender Ref. No: YADWAD-JAMKHANDI-EPC)	Rs. 4,02,82,13,720/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
01-02-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)	15-02-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/652/JAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRLY | SWRLY

IREL (India) Limited
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN: U15100MH1950G01008187 Website: www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Company

Ref: ADVT.NO. 23-24/187 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 23-01-2024
IREL (India) Limited, Chavara invites Bid for the following items / job description

Event No	Job / Item Description
GEM/2024/B/4536016	Engagement of an agency for excavation, collection, heaping, loading, and transportation of mineral sand from Pandarathuruthu to IREL (India) Ltd, Chavara plant and Mechanical Loading, transportation and levelling of tailings sand from IREL Chavara plant to the excavated pits at Pandarathuruthu.

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or CPPP website. Any corrigendum /extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

CBC 48129/12/0054/2324 Sd/- Head, Chavara

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: SnT_ProRUB_CabDriver

COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH PRESSURE COACH

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 31, 2024



ಶಾಲಾ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅನುದಾನವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಈಚಿನ 30ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾದರೆ, ಅಂತಹ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಅನುದಾನ ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಹಲವು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಾದರೆ, ಅನುದಾನವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು ಎಷ್ಟು ಸರಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಕೆಲವು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ.

• ಜಯಸಿಂಹ ಆರ್.

ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ (ಪಠ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ) ಚುರುಕುಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದೇ ಶಿಸ್ತುಬದ್ಧವಲ್ಲ (27ನೇ ಜನವರಿ) ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಎರಡು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದವು. ಒಂದುವು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೊಂದುವು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು. ಶಾಲಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ-ಶುಚಿತ್ವ ಎಂದು ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ ಯಾವುದಕ್ಕೂ ಸಾಲುಪುಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕೈತೊಳೆಯಲು ಬಳಸುವ ಸಾಬೂನನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ದುಡ್ಡಿನಿಂದ ತರಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಧಿಕ್ಕವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ರಾಮನಗರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಾದ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು. ಹೊಲಬಳಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಬ್ಬರು. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿಗೆ (ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 4202-01-201-1-07) ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದಿರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾದ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ₹30 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಬಳಸಬೇಕು. ರಾಜ್ಯದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಸಮನಾಗಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸುಮಾರು ₹6,000 ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ವರ್ಷವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಆರು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲುಪುಡಿ' ಎಂದು ಸೋಲೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ 'ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ. ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನೇ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬಳಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ನಿಯಮ. ಆದರೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ಉಪಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ₹20 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಅನುದಾನ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಹೊಸ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ.

‘ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಬದಲು’

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ವಿವಿಧ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಿ ಅದೇ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅನಂತರ ಹಲವು ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. 'ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಈವರೆಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೇ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅದನ್ನು ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಹೊರಗಿನಿಂದ ಪೌರ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಕರೆಸಿ ಆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಾಗರಬಾವಿ ಸಮೀಪದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ. 'ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿವೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಶುಚಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಮೇಲೆ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಚಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಕೆಲವು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ, ಜನರ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಚಾಕೋಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ಆ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಈಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ, ಪೋಷಕರೂ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಲು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.



ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೊಂದು, ನೀಡಿದ್ದೊಂದು

ಹಿಂದಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಎಂದು ₹50 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು 2022-23ರ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಆ ಅನುದಾನವು ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಅನುದಾನವೂ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ 2022-23ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ₹17.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಆ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದು ₹9.08 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಅನುದಾನ ಎಂದು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಶಾಲಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಅನುದಾನವೇ ಬೇರೆ

ಶಾಲಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪ್ರತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹6,500ರಂತೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹9,000ರವರೆಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅನುದಾನ ದೊರೆತರೆ, ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಅನುದಾನ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹20,000ದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹45,000ರವರೆಗೆ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಬಳಸಬೇಕು. ಶಾಲೆಯ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳು, ಅವರಣವನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಯಾಗಿಸಲು, ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕೈತೊಳೆಯಲು ಬಳಸುವ ಸೋಪುಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಪರಿಕರಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಆದರಲ್ಲೇ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. 2023ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 29ರಂದು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಅನುದಾನ ಉಳಿದರೆ, ಅದನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಯ ಇತರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಬಳಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಅನುದಾನವೂ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಾಲುಪುಡಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಆಲೋಚನೆ. 'ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಒಂದು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹50 ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆರು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹300ರಂತೆ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಬಾರಿ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ₹2,400 ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. 10 ತಿಂಗಳ ಶಾಲಾ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಕೂಡಲೇ ₹24,000 ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಫಿನಾಯಿಲ್, ಪೊರಕೆಗಳ ಖರ್ಚು ಬೇರೆ. ಶಾಲಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ₹33,000 ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೇ ಡ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಪೊರಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸೋಪು ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು. ₹33,000 ಮೊತ್ತದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಅನುದಾನ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಲುಪುಡಿ' ಎಂಬುದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಬ್ಯಾಟರಾಯನವರವರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ.

ಶುಚಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ-ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಚಿತ್ವ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ನು 2014ರಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳು ಈಗಲೂ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವು ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಪಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದರೂ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಅಂತಹ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯಾಸ್ಥಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಶಾಲಾ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯಾಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ₹25,000ರಂತೆ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಶೌಚಾಲಯವನ್ನು ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಲೆಂದೇ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. • ಶಾಲಾ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಶುಚಿಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು. ಅದರ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಬೇಕು • ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಶುಚಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಾರದು • ಶಾಲಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಬೇಕು • ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಬೆಂಚ್, ಪೊರಕೆ, ಬ್ರಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫಿನಾಯಿಲ್‌ನಂತಹ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳನ್ನು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲೇ ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು • ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು • ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ವೇಳೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾಂಕಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಳವಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನೀಡಬೇಕು, ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾಂಕಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಶುಚಿತ್ವ ಕಾಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸುಲಭವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ

ಆಧಾರ: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಬಜೆಟ್ 2022-23 ಮತ್ತು 2023-24, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ 2022-23, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಬಜೆಟ್, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಆದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರೊಬ್ಬರು

Source: Prajavani, p.9, Feb.01, 2024

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ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ 236 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು ಬರಗಾಲದಿಂದ ತೀರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಗ್ಗಿಯುಕ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಗ್ಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳು ಬತ್ತಿಹೋಗಿ ನೀರು ಬರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಆಗಮನಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗುವ ಅತಂಕ ಕುರುವಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸದ್ಯದ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ? ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿದೆ? ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾಡಲಿದೆ? ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಗಳು ಏನೆಲ್ಲ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ? ರೈತರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೇಗಿದೆ? ಎಂಬುದರ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ ರಿಯಾಲಿಟಿ ಚೆಕ್‌ನ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ವಿವರ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಕರುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಜಲಾಘಾತ

ಯುಗಾದಿ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ತತ್ವಾರ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರ ವೆಂಕಟರಾಜ್
ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಾರ ಮುಂಗಡಾ ಕೈಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಬರದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀಸಿ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ತತ್ವಾರ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ಜಲಾಶಯ, ಕೆರೆ-ಕಟ್ಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ತಡೆಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಅತಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 31 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ 236 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು

ಬರಗಾಲದಿಂದ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಅಭಾವ

ಉಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ಕೆಲ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಕೃಷಿಗಿಂತ ಜೀವ ಜಲಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಸೂಚನೆ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವೃಕ್ಷಾಯೋಜನೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ರಚನೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವಾಗ

ಪೂರೈಕೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಯ

ಉಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ನಿಗಾ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರ

ಫಲವಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನದಿನ ನೀರು

ತಡೆಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳಾದ

ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಲ್, ಶುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ, ಅಲಮಟ್ಟಿ, ಬಸವನಗುಡ, ಹಿಡಕಲ್, ಮಾಕಾಂಡೇಯ, ಭದ್ರಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲ

ಕಿರು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಕುಗ್ಗಿರುವುದು.

ವತ್ತಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟದ ತತ್ವಲಿಪಿಯಂತೆ ಹರಿದು ಬರುವ

ನದಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ನೀರಿನ ಹರಿವು ತಡೆಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಪಳ-ಕೊಳ್ಳಗಳೂ ಬರಿದಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯುತ್

ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಗಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗೇರುಕೊಪ್ಪ,

ಪಟ್ಟಪ್ರಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಬಹುಮಾನೀನಿಗಾಗಿ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳ

ನೀರನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲು ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಬಿಡಿಸಿದ ರೂಫ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು

ಅವಿಯಾಗುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕುಗ್ಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಇದಲ್ಲದ

ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರ

ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಸಂಭವ ಇದೆ.

ಅಪಾಯದಿಂದ ಬಹುಗ್ರಾಹ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ: ನದಿ,

ಜಲಾಶಯ ಇಲ್ಲದ ನಗರ, ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ

ರೂಪಿಸಿರುವ ಬಹುಗ್ರಾಹ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇದರ ನೀರಿನ

ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ನಿವಾರಿಸಿದೆ. **ಫುಟ 3**



ಹೊಸಬೇಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊಡಗಳ ಸಾಲು.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಗೂ ನೀರಿನ ಕಂಟಕ?

■ ಬಹುಮಾನೀನ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆರಂಭ.

■ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಬಾನ್, ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

■ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತ.

■ ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದ್ದರಾದರೂ ಗುಡ್ಡಗಾಡು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ.

■ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಮಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಸೂಚನೆ.

■ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

■ ಕೆಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2-3 ದಿನಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಇಲ್ಲದ ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

■ ಕೆಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಂಡುಬಂದರೆ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಚಿಂತಾ ಕರೆಯಲು ಸೂಚನೆ.

■ ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ ಕಾಲುವೆ ಪಾತ್ರದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ.

■ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆಯಾದರೆ ಬಾನ್, ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಗೂ ನೀರಿನ ಕಂಟಕ?

■ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಜನರ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು

ತುಳುಕಿಸಿ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಲ್

ಲಾಕೆಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಕಾವರಿ ನದಿ

ನೀರನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಜಲಾಶಯದಲ್ಲಿ 60

ಅಡಿಮೆಟರ್‌ಗೂ ನೀರನ್ನು

ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ,

ಮೈಸೂರು- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮೊದಲು ಇತರರೊಂದಿಗೆ

ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಜತೆಗೆ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ

ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ನೀರು

ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ನೀರು

ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕುಗ್ಗಿಯಿದೆ.

ಇದರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಎಕ್ಸಿಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು

ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಆಗುವ

ಅತಂಕವನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಡೆಗಡೆ.

ಎದ್ದುತಿರುಗುವ

ಹಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಬೋರ್‌

ವೆಲ್ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿದ್ಯುತ್

ಕಣ್ಣಾಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶ ಯಿಂದಾಗಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಗಳು ಸಮರ್ಪಕ

ವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆ

ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನೀರುಗಂಟಗಿಲು

ಕೂಡ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ

ಮಾಡದಿರುವುದು

ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ.

ಕಾನೂನುಬಾಹಿರಗಳೂ ನೀರು

ಬೀಕಿದೆ.

ಕರುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಕಾದಿದೆ ಜಲಾಘಾತ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಇದೀಗ ಜಲ ಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (ಜಿಜಿಎಲ್)

ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯದ

1.01 ಕೋಟಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ

ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜ.24ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ 73.96 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ

ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನೂ 24.51 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ನಗರ

ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಡ್, ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ

ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕಗಳು

ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೋರ್

ವೆಲ್ ನೀರೇ ಆಸರೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್

ಕಣ್ಣಾಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶವಾಗಿದೆ ಈ ಘಟಕಗಳು

ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವು ದುರಸ್ತಿ

ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ್ ಆಗಿವೆ. ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳ ಒತ್ತಾಯದ

ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಿಂದ

ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಆದರೂ, ಗೃಹೇತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರಿನ

ಅಭಾವ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.3-5, Jan.28, 2024

Satellite remote sensing technology should be used efficiently to report and prevent forest fires: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has said that satellite remote sensing technology should be used efficiently to provide timely information and prevent forest fires in the State.

The Minister on Monday witnessed a demonstration of the remote sensing technology and reviewed a meeting with officials on forest fire prevention and control preparedness. Remote sensing technology provides information with

the help of satellites which has been in use for many years now.

Continuous monitoring

In the past, forest fire information from NASA was passed on to ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and then to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), following which the information was relayed to the respective States. However now, the information comes directly from NASA to NRSC and then to the Karnataka Remote Sensing Centre (KSRSC). The infor-

mation is forwarded to the zone concerned of the Forest Department.

Mr. Khandre directed officials that the information received should be continuously monitored by the fire suppression cell of the Forest Department.

Timely information

He said that timely information about the occurrence of fire can prevent further damage to the forest and in this regard the Forest Department should take all precautionary measures to prevent and

control forest fire.

On being informed that the frequent occurrence of forest fires in certain forest areas of the State has been codified from 15 years of data and hot spots have been identified, Mr. Khandre directed the deployment of more fire watchers in these areas and also to keep surveillance through drone cameras.

He also directed officials to take strict action and file criminal cases against miscreants who set fire to forests.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Jan 30, 2024

Govt releases toolkit and manual for Green Index

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Bengaluru

FOREST, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday released a toolkit and manual for Green Index, a method to evaluate, analyse and rank environment conservation initiatives of various infrastructure projects and programmes.

Khandre said in the next step, the Green Index portal will be launched.

The index will assess how much recycled materials are used for construction, energy efficiency of sites, energy saved and the implications of infra-

structure projects. The same information will also be uploaded on the portal for people to give feedback.

An official from the environment department said based on the measures taken like waste water treatment, use of recycled materials, pollution control, sustainable development, carbon emissions and disaster management, grading will be given in categories — red, orange, light green and dark green (most polluting to least polluting and score 1-4).

The official added that the grading will be for projects and constructions taken up by government and private firms.

Source: The Indian Express, p.2, Feb. 1, 2024

State to identify more wetlands to secure Ramsar site tag

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Close on the heels of three wetlands in Karnataka being declared as Ramsar sites the State is set to initiate the process to get two more sites recognised as wetlands of international importance.

The three wetlands which were declared as Ramsar sites are Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve near Gadag, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve near Hampi and Aghanashini estuary close to Gokarna. With this, Karnataka has four Ramsar sites including Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary near Srirangapatana, which was the first to be accorded the Ramsar tag in August 2022.

The Ramsar site tag is accorded to wetlands that fulfil at least one or more of the nine criteria stipulated under the Ramsar Convention which was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar on February 2, 1971, and to which India is a signatory. The convention provides a framework for conservation of wetlands.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Subhash Malkhede said that Karnataka has at



Aghanashini estuary has been recognised as a Ramsar site as it harbours rich biodiversity.

least 10 such sites with the potential to receive the Ramsar site tag though there could be more.

"Of these Alamatti Backwaters and Tungabhadra Backwaters have tremendous potential as they support a large bird population besides fulfilling various criteria stipulated for being accorded the Ramsar site tag," said Mr. Malkhede.

But the process to secure the international recognition is lengthy and entails conducting a bird survey and creating a database. "We will start with

either of them or both before identifying a few more wetlands with potential," he added. Once the wetlands are declared as Ramsar sites, they are on the international map and to that extent, can help in conservation as the habitat receives greater protection, said Mr. Malkhede.

One of the criteria for a wetland to receive Ramsar site tag is that it should support vulnerable, critically-endangered species; harbour population of species during a critical stage of their lifecycle or provide refuge during adverse con-

ditions, regularly support 20,000 or more water birds; or if it supports flora and fauna, it is important to maintain the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region etc.

The three newly recognised sites fulfil more than one criteria and now have greater protection given their international status as Ramsar sites.

For Karnataka, the recognition of three wetlands as Ramsar sites could not have come at a more opportune time as the World Wetlands Day approaches. Held every year

Wetlands now recognised

Magadi kere: The Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve near Gadag is a human-made wetland with an area of nearly 50 hectares which was constructed to store rainwater for irrigation purposes and is home to over 166 species of birds, of which 130 are migratory and two are vulnerable species and four are near-threatened species. In addition, 8,000 birds visit the site during winter and the wetland is also one of the largest wintering grounds for the Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) in Southern India.

Aghanashini estuary: Aghanashini Estuary, spread over an area of 4801 ha, is formed at the confluence of Aghanashini River with the Arabian sea. The wetland also provides livelihoods to 6000-7500 families by supporting fishing, agriculture, shrimp aquaculture, traditional fish farming in the estuarine rice fields (locally

known as Gazni rice fields). The mangroves bordering the estuary help to protect the shores against storms and cyclones. The estuary regularly supports over 43,000 counts of over 66 waterbird species and over 1% of the biogeographic population of 15 waterbird species.

Ankasamudra reserve: Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve is a humanmade Village Irrigation Tank built centuries back and is spread over 98.76 ha adjoining Ankasamudra village. The wetland supports 210 species of plants, 8 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles, 240 species of birds, 41 species of fishes, 3 species of frogs, 27 species of butterflies and 32 species of odonates. Besides, over 30,000 waterbirds nest and roost at this wetland that also supports over 1% of the biogeographic population of Painted Stork and Black-headed Ibis.

on February 2, the day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Conven-

tion on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

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

Biomedical waste disposal: Govt. hospitals face challenges as companies quote high prices

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With only a handful of companies running common biomedical waste (BMW) treatment facilities in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts, many government hospitals are finding it hard to get their waste disposed of at reasonable rates.

Hospital heads alleged that the "monopoly" held by the few companies is affecting scientific disposal and many times it becomes inevitable for them to agree to the high prices quoted in the tenders. "If we do not agree, they threaten to stop picking up BMW from our facilities," said a doctor from a teaching hospital in the city.

Currently, two hospitals affiliated to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) are facing a problem in reg-



Hospital heads alleged that the 'monopoly' held by the few companies is affecting scientific disposal. FILE PHOTO

ular disposal as the companies, whose contract term ended in December, are now not agreeing to the old rate of ₹4.5 per bed. Sources said new tenders have been floated. Till the tender process is completed, which is likely to happen in two weeks, a short-term contract has now been allotted based on quotation of ₹7 per bed.

Sources said the companies initially quoted ₹25 per bed. The hospital auth-

orities managed to bring it down to ₹7 per bed. "Besides, if the total BMW exceeds 3,000 kg a month, the company quoted ₹60 per additional kg. We bargained and brought it down to 6,000 kg a month and ₹24 per additional kg. How can government hospitals pay such high rates? Currently, Victoria Hospital is paying ₹4 per bed, PMSSY is paying ₹6.5 per bed, and K.C. General is paying ₹7 per bed," sources

said. Balaji Pai S., Special Officer of Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) on Victoria Hospital campus, suggested that the government should set up a centralised common BMW treatment facility for its hospitals. "This will be advantageous as it does not require any heavy investment to set up the plant. If the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) runs the facility, waste disposal from government hospitals can be more scientifically organised," he said.

Eshwar Khandre, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, said he was aware of the problem. "We discussed this in the KSPCB review meeting held recently. I have directed the officials to explore possibilities of resolving the issue and submit a detailed report within a fortnight," he told *The Hindu*.

BMW generation

According to data from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, 12,948 Health Care Establishments (HCEs) in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts are covered by Biomedical Waste Rules.

As many as 34,645 kg of BMW is generated per day by bedded hospitals in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts and 6,190 kg per day is generated by non-bedded hospitals, said an official from KSPCB. Overall, the State has 48,431 HCEs of which 8,628 are bedded hospitals, half of which are in Bengaluru. A total of 63,972 kg of BMW is generated per day by bedded hospitals and 13,976 kg per day by non-bedded hospitals in the State. A total of 25 common BMW treatment facilities are in operation in the State, according to data.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, Feb. 2, 2024

Aghanashini estuary, two other wetlands from state get Ramsar status

6 other wetlands identified as priority sites fade out of memory

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

While the Ramsar status for Aghanashini estuary, Magadi lake in Gadag district and Ankasamudra has brought cheers among activists, conservation of six more water bodies identified by the government as "priority wetlands" has not proceeded as per the plan.

The three new Ramsar sites, along with Ranganthittu, were part of the 10 wetlands identified by the state government. An expert committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Environment Department, and comprising officials from various departments was set up

to steer the works. The move is part of a national-level effort to protect water bodies, which play a major role in maintaining biodiversity.

Under the National Conservation Programme for Aquatic Ecosystem, the Centre had sought proposals from the states which aspire to conserve the unique ecosystems.

The committee met in March 2022 to discuss the prevailing issues. Apart from Gudavi bird sanctuary (Shivamogga), KG Koppa lake (Shivamogga), Bonal Lake (Yadgir), Heggere lake (Haveri) and Hidkal lake (Belagavi), the Environment Department has identified Bellandur and Varthur lakes of Bellandur as



Magadi lake in Gadag district, one of the largest wintering grounds for the bar-headed goose, has been added to the list of Ramsar sites. Two other wetlands from state - Aghanashini estuary and Ankasamudra lake - have also made it to the list.

DH FILE PHOTO

priority sites. The committee made the Forest Department as nodal office for matters related to Magadi lake, Ranganthittu and Gudavi Bird sanctuary as the three were managed by the department. Ranganthittu was added to the Ramsar list in 2022.

The committee resolved to take up issues related to four lakes - Bonal, Heggere, Hidkal and KG Koppa - in the next meeting. With regard to Bellandur and Varthur lakes, a direction was given to the Bangalore Development Authority to prepare a proposal along with a

detailed project report.

While getting the Ramsar tag is not an end in itself, a member of the panel said the focus brought on the wetland helps in its conservation and spread awareness on the importance of the ecosystem.

Independent authority

"The committee had suggested setting up of an independent wetland authority for conservation of each lake on the lines of Chilka lake in Odisha. However, no further development has taken place in the matter since then. The committee has not met again to assess the current situation," he said.

Any request to add a wetland to Ramsar list involves preparing a detailed proposal to ensure the site meets the criteria laid down by the Ramsar convention.

The member said that the committee needs to push for the studies to be undertaken in each of the sites along with conservation works.

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

ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 28,264 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 837 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 480 ಕೆರೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು 253 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ನನೆಗುದಿಗೆ

■ ಬಿ.ಎನ್.ಧನಂಜಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
dhananjaya.gowda@timesgroup.com
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 1913 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 253 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ

480 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು
ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಎಚ್.ಎಸ್.ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅವರ ಸೂಚನೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ

ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಕಡೆಗೆ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲೂ ನೀರಿನ ಮೂಲವಾಗಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 28,264 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 837 ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ 480 ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ವೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 4,552 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 733 ಕೆರೆಗಳು ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, 2,613 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 480 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಉಳಿದ 1913 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 253 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಜಾಗ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ವೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ತಿರುವಾರ್ಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಿಗೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಮೂಲಾಂತರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ವೆಗಳ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿ, ಕೆರೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಸಿರು ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಸರಕಾರ ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಸಮನ್ವಯದಿಂದ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ಬೀಳ್ಕೊಡುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಜಾಗ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು. ಬಳಿಕ ಗಡಿಶುಲ್ಕ ನಿಟ್ಟು ಹೆಣ್ಣಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಕುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಬೇಕು.

- ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ. ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿರ, ಆಕ್ಟಿವಿಸ್ಟ್

ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳು ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಗ್ಗಿತು ಮತ್ತು ಮಳೆನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವಾಹದಂತಹ ಭೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಭಯಾನಕ ದುರಸ್ತುಕಾರ್ಯವು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸುವ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶ

- ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕೆರೆಗಳು - 837
- ಇವುಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ - 28,264 ಎಕರೆ
- ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಕೆರೆಗಳು - 733
- ಇವುಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ - 4552 ಎಕರೆ
- ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವಾಗಿರುವ ಕೆರೆಗಳು - 480
- ಇವುಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ - 2613 ಎಕರೆ
- ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಜಾಗ ಇರುವ ಕೆರೆಗಳು - 253
- ಇವುಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ - 1913 ಎಕರೆ

ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಮಾಡಿರುವ 480 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲೂ ತಡೆಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅದ್ಭುತವಾಗಿ ಒಳಗಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕೆರೆ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರರು.

ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ತಡೆಮಾಡಲು ಕಾರಣ: ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಳಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಬಾರಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ಮತ್ತು ತಡೆಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವು ತಡೆಗಡೆ ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣಗಾರರು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗಿ ತಡೆಯಾಜ್ಞೆ ತೆರಲು ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ನಿಯೋಜಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕೆರೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಸರಕಾರ ಈ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು, ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣಗಾರರು ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಎಳೆಯಲು ಆದರಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ. ಸರಕಾರ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ತ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಸರಿಸಿ, ಕ್ರಮವು ಮುಂದುವರಿದು ಅತಿಕ್ರಮಣಗಾರರು ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಬಹುದು.

Source: Vijayakarnatka, p.08, Feb.02, 2024

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Cancer cases on the rise, care options trail behind

KALYAN RAY & PAVAN KUMAR H
NEW DELHI/HUBBALLI, DHNS

Without accessible treatment centres, insurance coverage and early detection options, patients battling cancer have nowhere to turn to

Six months ago, Ashok (name changed), a resident of Hosapete in Vijayanagara district visited the Karnataka Cancer Therapy and Research Institute (KCTRI) in Hubballi, complaining of difficulties in swallowing, chest pain and weight loss, after a local doctor referred him to this hospital. Scans confirmed his worst fears. He had stage-2 oesophageal cancer.

The doctors suggested radiation and chemotherapy. While the initial investigation cost him Rs 25,000, the hospital said he would require 20 to 30 sittings. Each sitting would have cost between Rs 7,000 and Rs 13,000, depending upon the complications. The total estimate for his treatment was around Rs 6 lakh.

INSIGHT

The 55-year-old grocery shop owner, who is the sole provider for his wife and two daughters, decided to visit an alternative medicine practitioner instead, who gave him some herbal powders.

On January 18, when he returned to the KCTRI, his pain had worsened. Tests confirmed that the cancer had progressed to stage four in just five months. The prognosis is grim, say doctors at the institute.

"I could not afford the allopathic treatment as it was costly. A relative informed me about the alternative medicine practitioner, who has cured many. Maybe it is my bad luck that I



The higher cost of anti-cancer therapies is also compounded by the prolonged treatment duration. In pic, a woman undergoes treatment at the Cancer Ward of Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubballi. DH PHOTO/GOVINDARAJ JAVALI

could not be cured," says Ashok.

Like more than 60% of India's population, Ashok is not covered under any insurance scheme as he battles cancer, one of the "costliest" ailments. Treatment options are often costly not only because of expensive medicines and surgeries, but also due to the inaccessibility of local, specialised treatment centres. Due to this, the patient and family members often need to travel to another city where they would have to stay for months to complete the treatment.

The higher cost of anti-cancer therapies is also compounded by the prolonged treatment duration, says Soumendu Sen, senior research

fellow at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. "In India, the lack of a robust financial safety net against health expenditures makes patients with chronic diseases vulnerable. For any type of cancer, the majority of the patients' households pay the treatment cost out-of-pocket," he adds.

Earlier this month, Sen, along with doctors from the Tata Memorial Centre published research on how even insurance reimbursements fail to protect breast cancer patients from financial hardships. Their study, published in the *Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia*, also shows that high costs and insufficient coverage mean

that out-of-pocket expenses for breast cancer treatment in India are too high to be met adequately by insurance reimbursement. The situation is more or less the same with other types of cancers.

The scenario is especially troubling, considering India's cancer count is rising rapidly, with data from the Indian Council of Medical Research showing a projected rise in cancer cases from 14.61 lakh in 2022 to 15.7 lakh in 2025.

ICMR's Bengaluru-based National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research has estimated an 11.6% rise in premature mortality and years lost due to cancer between 2021 and 2025.

► High treatment costs, Page 2

Continued...

A grim prognosis

High treatment costs,
from Page 1

More than 40% of India's cancer burden is contributed by the seven most common types of cancer — lung (10.6%), breast (10.5%), oesophagus (5.8%), mouth (5.7%), stomach (5.2%), liver (4.6%), and cervix uteri (4.3%).

As per the 2020 report from the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer, the estimated incidence of cancer cases in India (13,24,413) accounts for the third highest number of cancer cases after China (45,68,754) and the United States of America (22,81,658).

While the incidence rate of cancer in India is lower, when compared to developed countries, the mortality rate is higher due to late diagnosis. However, the absolute number of new cases is increasing due to population growth and better diagnostic facilities. It has been estimated that around 20 lakh people will be affected by 2040 due to this disease and almost 10 lakh cancer deaths shall be observed.

In 2020, 8.5 lakh Indians died due to cancer. Death due to breast cancer accounted for the highest share (11%) followed by lip, oral cavity (9%), cervix uteri (9%) and lung cancer (8%).

The country is home to the world's second-largest number of tobacco users (over 28% of all adults in India). Of these, at least 12 lakh die every year from tobacco-related diseases including cancer.

"In earlier decades, stomach, penile and cervical cancer were more common, while in the recent decade, breast, lung and prostate are the most affected body parts in terms of prevalence in India," says Sen.

Among women, the incidence of breast cancer is rising rapidly, he adds. In 2020, breast cancer accounted for 13.5% of all cancers and around 10.6% of all cancer-related deaths. Recent epidemiological studies also show that the incidence is increasing particularly among Indian women under the age of 40.

Inadequate treatment options

The treatment options, however, remain limited. Shamsundar SD, associate professor at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru, says every year, the institute registers around 25,000 new cases of cancer, leaving 120 doctors and postgraduation students to treat more than one lakh cases on average.

Kidwai has long been known as one of the few public cancer treatment options in Karnataka. Patients and families from all over the state travel to Bengaluru for treatment. "Only 10 of the 31 districts in Karnataka have either a government or a private hospital to treat cancer. There are only three to four government-run hospitals in Karnataka that are equipped to treat cancer patients. Given the increasing number of cancer cases, there is a need for setting up more peripheral cancer centres," Shamsundar says.

India currently has 39 specialised government-run cancer care hospitals. Ten more are planned to be set up. In addition, more than 250 cancer centres, including six dedicated cancer hospitals like the Tata Memorial Centre, function as a part of a grid run by the Department of Atomic Energy. Specialised cancer treatment units have been approved in all the 22 new AIIMS and 13 government med-

ical colleges have been selected for upgrades to include cancer treatment.

But the numbers are gravely inadequate for a country of 1.4 billion people, and the facilities are out of reach for a large part of the rural population.

In 2022, a panel of lawmakers reviewing India's cancer care scenario found that a 2013 Cabinet-approved scheme to improve the facilities at 39 cancer centres was yet to be implemented fully, even after 10 years.

The lack of such facilities means that not only are treatment options too expensive and inaccessible, they often come into the picture too late. "A primary reason for India's high cancer mortality is late diagnosis, as approximately 80% of the cancer patients seek medical attention in advanced stages of disease," the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health noted in their 2022 report.

Shravan Nadkarni, a surgical oncologist at KCTRI, says that about 60% of cancer patients, especially from the rural background, come for a medical consultation only once the disease has progressed beyond cure. "This is mostly due to a lack of awareness about the availability of effective cancer treatment. They sometimes rely on ineffective alternative medicines which promise miracle cures," he explains.

Noted oncologist Raghunadharao Digumarti, founder-director of Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, says that while chemotherapy and other basic cancer care is being provided to the patients in the government sector, there is a dire need for advanced diagnosis systems and therapeutic services, especially for transplant procedures. In addition, staffing in cancer centres and departments needs to be augmented, he adds.

Need for screening

Experts point out that regular cancer screening, especially for breast and cervical cancer, is the need of the hour to tackle the rising disease burden.

Unfortunately, without regular screening, breast cancer is commonly detected at third and fourth stages only, says Rekha A Nair, director of the regional cancer centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The centre has been carrying out awareness and screening camps across Kerala since 1981.

These awareness efforts are key, others explain. "We have a bus that travels across Tamil Nadu communicating the need for cancer screening to students, employees, and the general public. Such an outreach effort has impacted a substantial audience with 1.75 lakh people benefiting from these campaigns," says Hemanth Raj, executive vice-chairman of the Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai.

Rising risks, late detection

1 out of 9 Indians is likely to develop cancer in their lifetime.

India alone accounted for 32.9% of global deaths due to lip and oral cavity cancer in 2019.

The incidence of cancer cases is estimated to increase by 12.8% in 2025.

India recorded approximately 12 lakh new cancer cases and 9.3 lakh deaths in 2019.

Lung cancer is most prominent among men, and breast cancer is most common among women.

Since 1993, there has been a 79% increase in the incidence of cancer among people below 50 years.

In India, nearly more than 50,000 new childhood cancer cases occur every year.

Half of the estimated cancer burden is in the 40-64 age group in India.

Raj says the institute has conducted community-based screening programmes to detect early cervical, breast and oral cancer cases in several districts, reaching more than 1.25 lakh people.

In Karnataka, Kidwai Hospital has a satellite centre at Kalaburagi and similar units are being planned at Tumakuru, Mysuru, Shivamogga and Belagavi. "We need to set up peripheral cancer centres with basic facilities that can at least address the initial stages," says Shamsundar.

The Union Health Ministry and a few state governments have been debating programmes for the vaccination of teenage girls against the human papillomavirus for protection against cervical cancer. But no final decision has been taken yet.

Insurance coverage

Flagging inadequate insurance coverage, the Parliamentary panel had also noted that insurance companies bank on the maximisation of profit and all cancer treatments are not covered in health insurance schemes.

They pointed out that besides the devastating effect of cancer in terms of morbidity, the cost involved in managing the disease put unbearable economic burdens on individuals and their families. One-third of households with individuals with cancer are estimated to spend more than half of their per-capita annual household expenditure on hospitalisation.

The panel recommended innovative health insurance packages to ensure adequate financial coverage for cancer treatment.

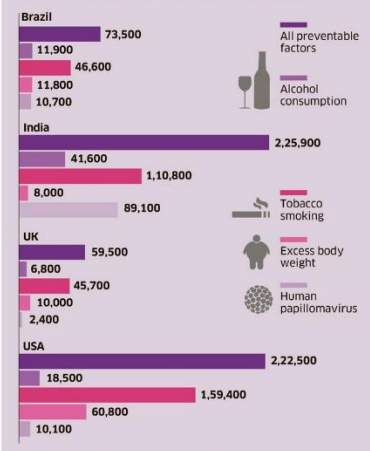
"Cancer treatment can become very expensive, and even an insurance policy may not be sufficient to cover such expenses. To overcome this, it is essential to get cancer-specific add-ons and covers that will provide lump-sum payments. These generally are affordable and can protect a person against a very big financial risk," says Anuj Parekh, co-founder and CEO at BharatSure, an insurance startup.

Cancer incidence has been rising in India due to increased detection and awareness, says Kalyan V Nadiminti, a medical oncologist and an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center in the USA.

Noting that it is emerging as a major public health concern, he adds: "It requires a multi-pronged strategy involving a national cancer registry, improved access to well-trained staff and equipped facilities for treatment."

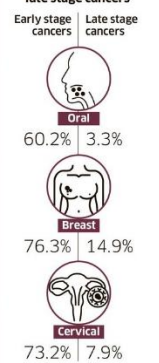
(With inputs from Arjun Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram, ETB Sivapriyan in Chennai, SNV Sudhir in Hyderabad and Gyanendra Kesiri in New Delhi)

In 2020, more than 2.2 lakh Indians died of cancer caused by preventable risk factors



Early detection is essential

The five-year survival rate falls drastically in late stage cancers



India has a poor cancer detection rate of 29%

Almost 75-80% of patients have advanced disease (stage 3 or 4) at the time of diagnosis.

85% of breast, lung and cervical cancers go undetected in stage 1



Major reasons

- Low level of awareness in the population and among community physicians
- Lack of screening programmes
- Lack of diagnostic facilities locally
- Lack of access to major tertiary cancer centres
- Financial constraints
- Stigma associated with diagnosis
- Language and cultural differences

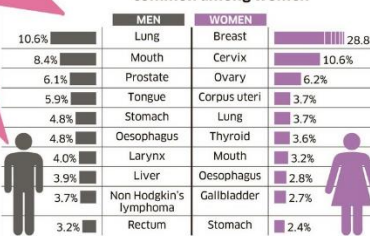
Care inaccessible

Only 22% of districts in India have comprehensive cancer centres.

While the WHO recommends 1 radiotherapy centre must be available per million people, India's has 0.4 per million.

COMPILED BY SWEETKRUTHI DH GRAPHIC: SAGAR M S

Despite having a prevention rate of 93%, cervical cancer is the second most common among women



Gender inequality

Globally, gender equality in cancer diagnosis and treatment could save an estimated 8,00,000 women each year.

Out of the 30 lakh adults diagnosed with cancer in 2020, 2 out of 3 were women.

- In India, more than 63% of women's cancer deaths were preventable, according to a 2023 study.
- Timely detection and treatment could have saved at least 1 in 3 women.
- The five-year survival rate of women patients who were diagnosed with breast cancer stands at 66% in India, compared to 90% in the United States.

High costs

Cancer is one of the most financially demanding ailments. An average outpatient visit costs Rs 2,669.		A single hospitalisation can cost more than Rs 23,000 in a rural public hospital.	
Rural		Urban	
Public	Private	Public	Private
Rs 23,905	Rs 85,326	Rs 19,982	Rs 1,06,548

* cost per hospitalisation

Source: Quantitative estimates of preventable and treatable deaths from 36 cancers worldwide: a population-based study, The Lancet, 'Call for Action: Making quality cancer care more accessible and affordable in India', EY and PwC, 'Women, power and cancer', The Lancet, 'Auditing costs of intensive care in cancer patients in India: A new area explored', Transforming India's Approach to Cancer Care', ORF, 'Cancer research in India: Challenges & opportunities', IUMR, news reports.

"Cancer is emerging as a major public health concern. It requires a multi-pronged strategy involving a national cancer registry, improved access to well-trained staff and equipped facilities for treatment."

Kalyan V Nadiminti, medical oncologist and assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

"Cancer treatment can become very expensive, and even an insurance policy may not be sufficient to cover such expenses. To overcome this, it is essential to get cancer-specific add-ons and covers that will provide lump-sum payments. These generally are affordable and can protect a person against a very big financial risk."

Anuj Parekh, co-founder and CEO, BharatSure

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



People wait to get tested at a free cancer care camp in Bikaner earlier this month. PTI

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 27, 2024

Health dept to launch phase 2 of rural heart care programme in Feb

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Buoyed by the success in reducing the death rate due to heart attacks in rural areas, the state health department will soon launch the second phase of the ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) heart attack programme that aims to ensure treatment in the golden hour.

The programme is designed in a hub-and-spoke model, wherein tertiary hospitals with catheterisation lab function as hubs, and taluk and district hospitals as spokes.

While in the first phase, 15 districts were covered with 45 spokes and three hub hospitals, in the second phase, the health department aims to cover another 15 districts with eight hubs (Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Belagavi, Davangere, Shivamogga, Dharwad, Bagalkot, and Ballari) as cardiac cath lab centres connected to 41 spoke hospitals. The second phase is expected to be launched in February.

Pointing out that a heart care programme is the need of the hour in rural areas, Dr CN Manjunath, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research which is the main hub



hospital in phase one, said that STEMI had brought down the death rate significantly in the areas where it was implemented in the first phase. "The incidents of heart disease among the rural and semi-urban population have increased drastically over the last few decades owing to the change in lifestyle. This change needs to be addressed and hence the programme is significant. The risk of death increases by 7% for every 30-minute delay. The survival rate is high when treated within three hours," he explained.

To ensure the doctors can buy time to refer critical patients to tertiary care centres, the programme includes the administration of clot-dissolving medicines. In the first phase, the government had procured only Streptokinase and this will be replaced with Tenecteplase in phase two.

"There were concerns that Streptokinase is tough to administer. Also, Tenecteplase is said to be more effective. Hence, we have decided to include Tenecteplase in phase two," said Randeep D, Commissioner, Department of Health and Family Welfare. "Once a clot-dissolving drug is administered, the doctors get 24 hours to start other treatment. In that time, the patients can be stabilised and moved to tertiary care centres," Dr Manjunath added.

In the second phase, the department will also procure Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices to be placed in public places, such as bus stations, railway stations, airports, court complexes, and government offices. Phase one was launched in March 2023, and so far 1.01 lakh patients from the rural areas have been screened. A total of 1.04 lakh ECGs were performed and 1,704 patients were confirmed to have had a heart attack. Close to 6,155 of them were diagnosed with various heart diseases.

According to an estimate, in Karnataka, close to 96,150 patients are affected by severe heart attacks (STEMI) causing sudden deaths every year.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, Jan 28, 2024

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ 800 ಏಕಬಳಕೆಯ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಉಚಿತ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ

■ ಏಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೋಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಾಳಜಿ ವಹಿಸಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ 219 ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 800 ಹೊಸ ಏಕಬಳಕೆಯ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ನಗರದ ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ಜನರಲ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕಬಳಕೆಯ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಶನಿವಾರ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿ ಅವರು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. "ಕಡಿ ವೈಫಲ್ಯದಿಂದ ಬಳಲುತ್ತಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊರೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂರು ಬಾರಿ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ 2 ರಿಂದ 3 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬಡ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಲು ಉಚಿತ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ," ಎಂದರು.

"ಶ್ರೀಮಂತರು ಹಣ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ

48 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಆರಂಭ

1573 ರೂ.

ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್‌ಗೆ ತಗಲುವ ವೆಚ್ಚ

800 ಯಂತ್ರ

ಗಳಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 7.20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್

475 ಏಕಬಳಕೆ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್

ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಈಗ ಆರಂಭ



ವಿಭಾಗವಾರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ / ಯಂತ್ರ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
57/250

ಮೈಸೂರು
62/222

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ
62/201

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ
45/127

ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಭರಿಸಿ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲಿದೆ. ಸೋಂಕು ರಹಿತ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ಜನರಲ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೆ: ಸಿಎಂ

"ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ಜನರಲ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯನ್ನು 150 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು," ಎಂದು ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಹೆಸರು ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ

ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಶೇ. 60 ರಷ್ಟು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಶೇ. 40 ರಷ್ಟು ಅನುದಾನ ನೀಡಲಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹೆಸರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಎಂದಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಎಂದು ಸಿಎಂ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಗಾಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ," ಎಂದರು.

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್ "ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಸದೃಢಗೊಳಿಸುವತ್ತ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ದೂರುಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಂದ ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿದ್ದವು. ಒಂದು ಬಳಕೆಯ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೋಂಕು

ತಗಲುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹೊಸ ಡಯಾಲಿಸಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಈ ಸೇವೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ದೊರೆಯದ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರಿಗೆ ದೊರೆಯಲಿದೆ" ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.3, Jan.28, 2024

Only 1% women screened for cervical cancer in India

Share of women screened for cervical cancer crosses 50% mark in many BRICS nations

DATA POINT

Elsa Sunny,
Rebecca Rose Varghese
& Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Only 1% of women are being screened for cervical cancer in India, despite the World Health Organization's recommendation that at least 70% of women should get tested. The share of women screened remains around the 1% mark for oral and breast cancer too.

Table 1 shows the share of women aged 15-49 who underwent specific screening tests for cancer in 2019-21, across States. The table shows that cancer screening did not cross the 10% mark for any type of cancer in any State.

However, many southern States and select States in the Northeast have shown initiative in testing more women. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, 7% of women said that they were screened for cervical cancer and 3.8% for breast cancer – the highest among the two types across States. Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Maharashtra also crossed the 1% mark under these two types. In Andhra Pradesh, 5% of women said that they were screened for oral cancer, the highest for this type of cancer across States. On the other hand, only 0.1% of women were screened for any type of cancer in West Bengal, the lowest in India. Gujarat too performed poorly with 0.2%.

Altogether in India, the share of women screened for cervical, breast, and oral cancer stood at 1.2%, 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively, as of 2019-21. In contrast, the share of women screened for cervical cancer in advanced economies such as Sweden, Ireland, the U.S. and the U.K. was more than 70%.

Even if only comparable economies were considered, India lagged far behind. Chart 2 shows the share of women aged 30-49 who were screened for cervical cancer as of 2019 in BRICS nations.

Russia led the list with 93%, followed by 58% in Brazil, and 52% in South Africa. In India, Egypt and Ethiopia, coverage was less than 5%.

A look at Tamil Nadu's data throws light on the way forward and some potential pain points. Chart 3 shows that even in the State with the highest screening share, most tests were conducted among older women.

A recent survey published by Apollo Hospitals, which analysed 1.5 lakh of its health screenings in five years, found that 25% of breast cancer incidence occurred in women aged under 40 years in India. This stresses the importance of casting the net wide and encouraging younger women to get screened too.

Chart 4 shows the share of women screened for cervical cancer in Tamil Nadu, across various levels of schooling. Over 10% of women who completed less than five years and between five and seven years of schooling in Tamil Nadu were screened for cervical cancer. The share reduced considerably as the years of school education increased.

Chart 5 shows the share of women screened for cervical and breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across social groups. The share of women screened from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes communities was higher compared to other communities.

Data from Charts 4 and 5 show how state intervention helped Tamil Nadu achieve respectable levels of screening. It shows that State-sponsored screening drives at government health centres makes cancer testing accessible to low income groups as well. It also shows that lack of awareness is not the only factor behind poor cancer detection, as higher education levels have not led to more screenings.

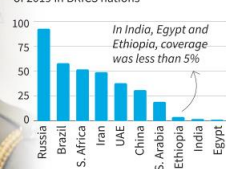
Elsa Sunny is a student at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai

Need for more tests

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Survey and the World Health Organization



Chart 2: The share of women aged 30-49 who were screened for cervical cancer as of 2019 in BRICS nations



Precautionary step: A police officer gets tested for breast cancer as part of an awareness camp in Chennai. K. PICHUMANI

Table 1: The share of women aged 15-49 who underwent specific screening tests for cancer in 2019-21, across States

	Cervix	Breast	Oral
Punjab	1.9	0.3	0.4
UP	1	0.3	0.6
Himachal	0.7	0.3	0.3
Haryana	0.5	0.2	0.3
Delhi	0.4	0.2	0.7
J&K	0.3	0.2	0.6
Rajasthan	0.3	0.1	0.2
Uttarakhand	0.3	0.1	0.3
MP	0.7	0.5	0.7
Chhattisgarh	0.3	0.2	0.2
Odisha	0.7	0.1	0.2
Bihar	0.5	0.2	0.3
Jharkhand	0.4	0.1	0.2
WB	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mizoram	3.8	1.6	0.7
Manipur	1.3	1	0.6
Arunachal	0.7	0.3	0.4
Meghalaya	0.4	0.3	0.4
Sikkim	0.5	0.2	0.6
Tripura	0.4	0.3	0.4
Assam	0.2	0.2	0.2
Nagaland	0.2	0.2	0.3
Maharashtra	1.7	1	1
Goa	0.9	1	0.5
Gujarat	0.2	0.1	0.2

	Cervix	Breast	Oral
Tamil Nadu	7	3.8	0.9
Andhra	3.2	0.6	5
Kerala	2.3	1.5	0.5
Telangana	2.1	0.3	1.8
Karnataka	0.5	0.2	0.4
India	1.2	0.6	0.7

Chart 3: Share screened for breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across age-groups

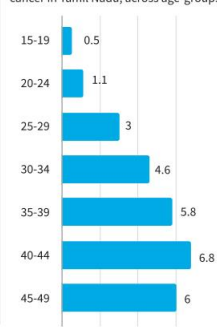


Chart 4: % tested for cervical cancer in TN, across years of schooling

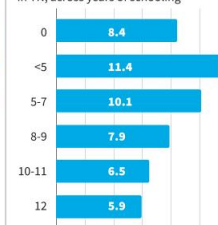
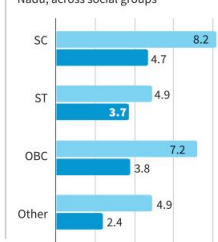


Chart 5: Share of women screened for cervical and breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across social groups



Source: The Hindu, p. 9, Jan 29, 2024

Of nearly 1,600 doctors who succumbed to COVID in India, 92 were from Karnataka

IMA publishes State-wise data on number of doctors who died of the infection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 92 doctors died of COVID-19 during the first and second waves of the pandemic in Karnataka, according to data collated by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). Of these, 68 succumbed to the infection during the first wave.

The IMA, that observed Tuesday as COVID Martyrs' Day, published State-wise data on the number of doctors who died of the infection. According to the data, a total of 1,596 doctors died of COVID-19 in the country - 757 during the first wave and 839 in the second wave.

IMA State president Srinivasa S. said of the 92 doctors who died in Karnataka, eight are from Bengaluru. In commemoration of the contribution of the deceased doctors during the pandemic, IMA honoured their families on Tuesday. Similar pro-



The Indian Medical Association, Karnataka branch, observed COVID Martyrs' Day on Tuesday in commemoration of doctors who succumbed to COVID-19. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

grammes were held by IMA branches in all districts.

Pointing out that the families of a total of 120 health personnel had so far received the ₹50 lakh insurance relief earmarked by the government for healthcare workers, IMA State secretary B.P. Karunakara alleged that only 30 of the 120 are families of deceased doctors. This despite several pleas by the IMA, he alleged.

Asserting that most of the doctors who died were

running single doctor clinics, the State president said it is unfortunate that the government did not consider them eligible for the insurance compensation. "In the second wave, some of them died as they could not get beds and timely treatment. They are COVID warriors, who were exposed to the infection, while treating patients," he said.

"We were forced to open our health facilities, including clinics, following an assurance by the go-

vernment that we will be provided insurance. However, it is unfortunate that only a handful of those who succumbed to the infection have got the compensation," he added.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said overall, of the 245 claims received under the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Healthcare Workers Fighting COVID-19' in Karnataka, 168 had been approved. "Of these, around 34 are doctors," he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Jan 31, 2024

Karnataka plans digital detox initiative with game developers, NIMHANS

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Thursday said it would launch a 'Digital Detox' initiative in collaboration with the All India Game Developers Forum (AIGDF), with special emphasis on gaming and social media.

The aim is to spread awareness about the ills of spending too much time in the digital world and instead create an environment of responsible gaming, Minister for Information Technology, Biotechnology Priyank



Online and offline centres will be set up across the State to provide counselling. AFP

Kharge said.

Speaking at the valedictory function of GAFX 2024, he said, "The Digital Detox initiative is yet another step towards fulfilling this government's commitment of building a

digitally empowered Karnataka through responsible use of technology."

Toll on mental health

Observing that mental health issues, shrinking attention spans and fraying real-world relationships are the outcomes of digital dependence, the Minister said that technology had woven itself firmly into the fabric of everyone's lives, and being glued to screens has become the norm in this hyper-connected age.

"This initiative will enable an environment of meaningful and constructive use of technology

while minimising its adverse effects," he assured.

The government of Karnataka will work with AIGDF and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) to raise awareness about mindful technology.

Through this initiative, both online and offline digital detox centres will be set up across the State of Karnataka, which will offer personalised guidance, where trained professionals will provide counselling and support to individuals seeking to navigate their relationship with technology, an official release said.

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಸೂರಗದ 'ನಿಕ್ಷಯ್ ಪೋಷಣ್'; ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 81,585 ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗಿಗಳು

ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು

• ಎಂ. ಮಹೇಶ

ಮೈಸೂರು: ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಅಹಾರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿರುವ 'ನಿಕ್ಷಯ್ ಪೋಷಣ್' ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಹಣ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಉಚಿತ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲೆಂದು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ₹ 500 ನೀಡುವ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇದು. 6 ತಿಂಗಳು, 8 ತಿಂಗಳು, 2 ವರ್ಷ ಅಥವಾ ರೋಗದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳುವವರೆಗೆ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಖಜಾನೆ-2' ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಿರುವ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ತೊಂದರೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 81,585

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆ
- ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ದೊರಕದ ಹಣ
- ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ರೋಗಿಗಳು

ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು: 'ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಹಣ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಣ ಬಂದೇ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದರೆ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಅಹಾರ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು' ಎಂದು ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರದ ರೋಗಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘ-ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಅಹಾರದ ಕಿಟ್,



ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣ

ಬಾರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ

ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹರೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹಣ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿವೆ

ಡಾ.ಸಿರಾಜ್ ಅಹಮದ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕ್ಷಯ ರೋಗ ನಿರ್ಮೂಲನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಪ್ರೊಟೀನ್ ಪುಡಿಯ ಡಬ್ಬಿ ಕೊಡಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೈಸೂರಲ್ಲೂ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ವೈದ್ಯರು ರೋಗಿಗಳನ್ನು ದತ್ತು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಡೆದಿದೆ ಅಪ್‌ಡೇಟ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ: 'ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ನಾವು 2022ರ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಖಾತೆಯಿಂದ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು (ಪಿಎಫ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್‌ನಿಂದ). ಖಜಾನೆ-2

ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ತೊಡಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಸೇವಾಸಿಂಧು ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಡೇಟ್ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ' ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.

'ಬಾಕಿ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಆಧಾರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದಲೇ ಫೆಬ್ರುವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯದೊಳಗೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಹಣ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಬಿಪಿಎಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಪಿಎಲ್ ಪಡಿತರ ಚೀಟಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಪಿಎಲ್‌ನ ಚೀಟಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಕೆಲವರು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವರು ಕೀಳರಿಮೆ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಹಣ ಬೇಡ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.10, Feb.02, 2024

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DECCAN HERALD

Dark side of gender bias: More female children up for adoption

The more choosy parents are, lesser the chance of getting a child

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

A total of 1,331 children were adopted between 2018 and 2023 in Karnataka, of which 775 were girl children. As many as 103 girl children were adopted by parents living in foreign countries.

Also, there are a higher number of female children up for grabs in the adoption centres of the state.

According to experts, one of the major reasons for a higher number of girls in these centres is social prejudice and a preference for male children by biological parents.

Karnataka is ranked fourth in the country in terms of adoptions. Maharashtra has

reported the highest number of children adopted in the country, followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Govt portal

According to Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS), a union government portal that records "legally available children for adoption," 18,177 children found a new home (family) in India and abroad between 2018 and 2023. Of this, 10,600 were girl children.

In 2023-24, India saw 3,008 adoptions till December 2023. In all, 32,739 prospective adoptive parents have registered with CARINGS to adopt kids.

Currently, there are 2,167

children on the system. Of them, 1,422 are children with special needs. Currently, Karnataka has 99 children waiting to be adopted. Of them, 65 are kids with special needs.

Abandoned children

"Children born out of wedlock and to minors as well as kids of parents who are poor are either abandoned or surrendered by their biological parents," said Santosh Koulagi of Janapada Seva Trust that runs Karunagruha, an adoption placement centre at Melukote in Mandya district.

Couples can adopt a child in India under three major laws - the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956, the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act of 2000. Single women who are above 25 years of age and are financially stable are eligible to adopt a child.

Single men can adopt only a male child after clearing certain conditions, including an age difference of 35 years between the child and the adoptive father.

Officials at the State Adoption



Number of adoptions

Year	India			Karnataka		
2018-19	In-country	1,397	1,977	107	130	237
	Intra-country	232	421	16	28	44
2019-20	In-country	1,413	1,938	111	150	261
	Intra-country	145	249	9	12	21
2020-21	In-country	1,286	1,856	90	137	227
	Intra-country	183	234	8	21	29
2021-22	In-country	1,293	1,698	105	145	250
	Intra-country	155	259	12	27	39
2022-23	In-country	1,286	1,724	78	110	188
	Intra-country	187	244	20	15	35

Male Female Total

tion Resource Agency (SARA) Karnataka and staff at government-registered adoption agencies say first preference is given to adoptive parents who opt for 'no choice' in

terms of gender and other preferences while seeking a child for adoption. Prioritising one gender reduces the chances of adopting a child by 50%.

Healthy baby

"A majority of the adoptive parents seek a healthy baby, irrespective of gender," says Malathi, welfare officer at Mathru Chhaya Adoption Centre, Bengaluru.

"Most of the time, the women and child welfare department officials give us children who are abandoned, orphaned or surrendered. Unfortunately, the number of girl children abandoned is more," she said.

Sources in SARA-K informed DH that their top priority is to reunite the baby with its biological parents. She says most adopting parents look for children less than 2-3 years of age.

Long wait

Malathi says there is a long waiting period for parents to adopt children. "There are people who have been waiting for three to four years to adopt a child," she says.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 29, 2024

Gruha Lakshmi is not a freebie

It signifies a redistribution of resources by the government to a marginalised section

STATE OF PLAY

Gourishankar S. Hiremath
& K.S. Harikrishnan

The introduction of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme by the Karnataka government has reignited the policy debate about welfare programmes for the economically disadvantaged and fiscal prudence. The scheme guarantees a direct monthly cash transfer of ₹2,000 to women who are the heads of below poverty line households in Karnataka. About 1.36 crore beneficiaries are registered. This means that the annual outlay of the scheme is more than ₹32,000 crore.

Mainstream economics does not recognise activities primarily carried out by women at home as economic activities. Unpaid work encompasses domestic chores such as cooking and washing, while care work involves caring for the elderly and children. The participation of women in remunerative economic activity is abysmally low, while their burden of unpaid work is substantially higher than men. According to the Time Use survey conducted by the National Statistical Office, 57.3% of male respondents were involved in employment and related activities compared to 18.4% of women. In contrast, 81.2% of women bore the burden of unpaid domestic services for household members compared to 26.1% of men.

Further, the burden of unpaid and care work is disproportionately higher for economically poor women who are also engaged in wage work, as they lack the resources to outsource care activities. Thus, they are trapped in a cycle of poverty. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme represents a



crucial step in recognising the value of unpaid work. As urbanisation grows and the population ages, the burden of elderly care is expected to increase, especially for impoverished families. Income support from the state can alleviate the strain on such families. In this context, monetary support to women cannot be seen as a 'freebie'; it is an entitlement for the care work that women do, especially women who face multidimensional and time poverty.

In a patriarchal economic system, women are often paid low wages, which they reluctantly accept due to their limited bargaining power. Unconditional cash support not only helps women decontrol their labour power from the system to an extent, but possibly provides some cushion to resist accepting reservation wages by enhancing their bargaining power.

Empirical evidence supports cash transfers to households in stimulating aggregate demand and putting the economy back on a growth trajectory rather than providing sops and bailout packages to the corporate sector to revive it. For instance, according to a study by IFPRI-Indian Council for Agricultural Research, PM-KISAN, a direct benefit transfer scheme of the Union government, enabled farmers to meet expenses other than agriculture and had a multi-

plier effect. Direct support measures, including cash transfers to households by the Union government during the COVID-19 pandemic, led to a swift V-shaped recovery of the economy. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is also poised to bolster aggregate demand given its target group's relatively high marginal propensity to consume. Consumption improves quality of life and also boosts economic activities.

The scheme signifies a redistribution of resources by the government to a marginalised section of society, recognising unpaid work. Nonetheless, ensuring that resources to finance the scheme are augmented from direct taxes, such as levies on high-value property and capital transactions and excise taxes on premium liquor, is crucial. Prudent administrative measures to trim unnecessary expenditures can provide additional resources to ensure timely and uninterrupted cash transfers. Therefore, a transparent and well-thought-out road map for resource augmentation is indispensable. While fiscal prudence is necessary, it must not come at the expense of the welfare of the marginalised.

It is naïve to consider Gruha Lakshmi as a panacea for gender inequality. There is a need to universalise such support to women in recognition of their unpaid and care work. A comprehensive institutional framework at the national and sub-national levels and cooperative federalism are indispensable to address gender inequality in the economy and ensure redistribution.

Gourishankar S. Hiremath teaches economics and K.S. Harikrishnan is a UGC Senior Research Fellow at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. Views are personal

Source: The Hindu, p. 13, Jan 31, 2024

UGC proposes Sakhi Niwas hostels for working women on university campuses

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To help working women in urban and semi-urban centres find affordable and safe accommodation, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has ordered universities to allocate land/built up space within their campuses for establishing Sakhi Niwas or working women's hostels.

Impact of STEM education

"India's progress in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education sees a commendable 43% representation of women graduates," said the UGC document, point to a spike in women's presence in the labour force.

"One of the key factors prompting women and girls from rural areas to relocate to tier-1 and metro cities is availability of better educational and employment opportunities there. There is a need for safe and affordable accommodation for them," it added.

The UGC further said that Sakhi Niwas, a component of the Umbrella scheme of Mission Shakti, offers a secure haven equipped with fundamental amenities such as lodging, meals and day-care facilities for their children, wherever feasible. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has suggested to identify suitable land /built up space within the campuses of the universities for establishing them.

If the universities provide such space, the cost of construction and management cost for running the facility can be provid-

ed by MCWD. It has also requested to convey a list of 10 to 15 such identified spaces within the next 10 days.

Underlining the need for such accommodation, Roopashree, a techie from Hassan district, said, "It is difficult to find good, safe and affordable hostels for working women in cities like Bengaluru. Most of the Paying Guest (PG) accommodations are very expensive. The initiative taken by the MWCD and UGC is really appreciable."

"In terms of security and safety also, working women's hostels in the universities is a good option," added Pavithra, another working woman from Tumakuru.

A Bangalore University official said that they had not received any official order from UGC regarding this yet. "If the order comes, action will be taken as per the government's decision," said the official.

Transit hostels

The State government is currently running around 65 Transit Hostels across the state, including 11 transit hostels in Bengaluru city, under Women and Child Development Department.

"There is a huge demand for women's hostels in Bengaluru. A large number of women are coming to Bengaluru for employment and higher education. Our department is already running 65 transit hostels across the State and there is huge demand in Bengaluru city for transit hostels. More transit hostels are needed in Bengaluru city," said an officer in the Women and Child Development Department.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, Feb, 2, 2024

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Schemes launched with great fanfare; lax execution fans distrust in people

Bureaucratic lethargy, delay in beneficiary lists, fund crunch dog them

N B HOMBAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

Datsets of various departments reveal the pathetic side of implementing pro-people schemes such as housing, Ganga Kalyana, scholarships, construction of hostels and schools that intend to provide long-term relief to beneficiaries.

Successive governments promised to build 4.61 lakh houses for BPL families under various schemes 2020-21 onwards. But the state could complete only 1.3 lakh houses, while 1.36 lakh houses are still under construction. Work on 1.91 lakh houses are yet to start.

Ganga Kalyana

The Ganga Kalyana scheme aims to provide borewells to individuals free of cost for Scheduled Castes and other similar caste groups.

According to data from Dr B R Ambedkar Development Corporation, it had sanctioned 1,314 borewells for 2022-23 and identified 909 beneficiaries. But in reality, only 19 borewells were sunk. These are classic examples of the failure of schemes.

A senior official from social welfare department told *DH* that the biggest hindrance in execution is political interference as most of these schemes are beneficiary-driven.

"Selecting beneficiaries is a tedious task and it changes every time the government or CM or ministers change. Between 2018



Successive governments promised to build 4.61 lakh houses for BPL families under various schemes 2020-21 onwards. But the state could complete only 1.3 lakh houses.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

and 2023, the state saw 3 CMs and ministers changed multiple times. Identifying beneficiaries became troublesome. The process couldn't take off," the officer said.

Overlapping schemes

An official from the planning and statistics department told *DH* that another problem is that there are 1,856 schemes in operation and most of them overlap.

"Every CM comes with a new plan and new scheme to leave a legacy behind. The expenditure reforms commission and successive central finance commissions have recommended that overlapping schemes must be merged to avoid pilferages," sources said.

According to him, of the 1,856 schemes, there are 335 that have a budget allocation

of Rs just 1 crore, while 609 have allocation of just below Rs 10 crore. A total of 618 schemes are in the Rs 100-crore range and 294 schemes have budget outlay of more than Rs 200 crore.

Window for graft

"Schemes within Rs 1 crore and below Rs 10 crore constitute 51% of the budget. Once these schemes get allocations, the government starts feeling the pinch of garnering resources to fund schemes that need bigger outlays. Therefore, the delay in completing projects. This invariably leads to rising costs of tenders, opening a window for corruption," sources said.

Former bureaucrat S M Jamdar told *DH* that there are three major reasons which lead to delay.

Tedious process

"First, the start of schemes is delayed. Second, neither politicians nor officers take them seriously. So, identifying beneficiaries is a tedious process as it is under the control of politicians and list keeps growing. Lastly, ruling dispensation never releases full amount for the schemes," he said.

Another retired bureaucrat V Balasubramanian said "acute laziness" in the bureaucracy is the most impacting factor for the delay.

"If a scheme has to succeed, officers from ground level to top level have to sweat it out. For instance, once politicians clear beneficiary list, bureaucrats can speed up the process. As I have seen, politicians will not try to stop any scheme that brings them good name. It is bureaucrats at grassroots level who delay it for various reasons," he said.

No accountability

Lack of accountability on the part of bureaucracy is another big factor why schemes get delayed.

"Our system itself is so corrupt that till date no politician or bureaucrat is punished for wrongdoings. So, beneficiaries get harassed," he said.

Prof R S Deshpande, former director of Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), said schemes are not 'demand-based,' but 'supply-pushed'.

Missing mechanisms

"Shakti and Gruha Jyothi schemes fall under this category. Whenever government comes out with schemes, it fails to put implementation mechanisms in place. Most schemes are prepared at the last minute and many don't know how to implement it. Identifying mechanism to implement takes a long time. In the process, CMs get changed, schemes become rudderless and take a backseat. This leads to high degree of pilferage," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Jan 28, 2024

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ನೆರವಿಗೆ ಸರಕಾರದ ಮೊರೆ ₹ 8050 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಕೋರಿದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ

■ **ನಾಗಪ್ಪ ನಾಗನಾಯಕನವರು**
nagappa.narayanappa@timesgroup.com
ಸಂಪಾದಕ ಬಟ್ಟಗೇ, ಕೆಸ, ರಸ್ತೆ ಗುಂಡಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸೇತುಕೃತೇ ಇರುವ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 8050 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನ ಅಪೇಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ ಫೆ.16ರಂದು ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮಂಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 8050 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನ ಕೋರಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಸುರಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಕೆಸ, ರಸ್ತೆ ಗುಂಡಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ವಾಂಟಿಟಿ ಗೆಜ್ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮಂಡನೆ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯು 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮಂಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿ ತಯಾರಿ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದ ಭರವಸೆ ಅನುದಾನ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರಗಳು ಫೋಟೋವು ಅನುದಾನವು ಫೋಟೋಗಳಿದ್ದು ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ವಾಂಟಿಟಿ 200 ಕೋಟಿ: 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ವಾಂಟಿಟಿ ಗೆಜ್ ಅಪಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ 60 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಕಿ ಬಲ್ 110 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 200 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸರಕಾರವನ್ನು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಫಸ್ಟ್ ಫ್ಲಾಷ್, ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ 600 ಕೋಟಿ: ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಫಸ್ಟ್ ಫ್ಲಾಷ್



ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ, ರಿಹಿಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ, ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಹಾಗೂ ಫಲಿತಗಳ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಫಸ್ಟ್ ಫ್ಲಾಷ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕಂಪನಿಗೆ 600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಲ್ ಪಲಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಚಾರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮೊದಲ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ 200 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ 75 ಬಂಕ್ಯೆಟ್‌ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲೂ 100 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 75 ಬಂಕ್ಯೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಗುರಿ: 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೊಸ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ನಿಯಮದಿಂದ 1000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಆದಾಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ 4300 ಕೋಟಿ

ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆ, ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ವಿವರ (2016-17 ರಿಂದ 2023-24ರವರೆಗೆ)	
ವಿವರ	ಮೊತ್ತ
ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ	29,420
ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ	19,205.37
ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಬೇಕಿರುವ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	10,214.63

ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರನ್ನು ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ತಾಣವಾಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಸುಮಾರು 350 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್ ಎತ್ತರದ ಸೈಡ್ ಗೋವ್ವರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಸಿಲಿಕಾನ್ ಸಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಭೂಪಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಲು ಸಾಬ್ದವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

10,214.63 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರಗಳು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಕೋಟಿಗಿಂತ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನ ಫೋಟೋವು ಅದರ, ಅವು ಫೋಟೋಗಳಾಗಿಯೇ

ಜನ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಗಾಗಿ ಭರವಸೆ ಫೋಟೋ, ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಅಲ್ಪಸ್ವಲ್ಪ!	
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಕೋಟಿಗಿಂತ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಬಾಕಿ	

ಉಳಿಯುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಕುಂಠಿತಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯೂ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರವು 2016-17 ರಿಂದ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನವರೆಗೆ 29,420 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ 19,205.37 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ 10,214.63 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯೇ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಣಾಮ, ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯು

ಅಧಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯು ಬೆಂಚರ್ ಕರೆದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಬಲ್ ಪಾವತಿ ಸಾಬ್ದವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿಯೇ, ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವಿಮಾಡತಕ್ಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿ, ನಂತರ ಅನುದಾನ ಹೊಂದಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಣಾಮ, ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹೊರೆ, ಬೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಬಾಕಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದರೂ ಅರಂಭವಾಗದ ಯೋಜನೆ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗಿಯದೇ ಇದ್ದರೂ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಬಾಕಿ ಬಲ್ ಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ... ಇವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಅಂಟಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕ ಅಕಿಸ್ತಿನ ಪಾಡ್ವರ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.7, Jan.30, 2024

How to fight water scarcity in summer? Make water conservation a law, say activists

Bengalureans are set to face a more severe water crisis this summer given that it is a drought year. Activists weigh in on the inadequacy of our laws to ensure that water is used judiciously

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Barely weeks from a scorching summer, Bengalureans are deeply worried about a perennial problem that just does not seem to go away: Drinking water woes. Can a smart water pricing strategy boost conservation or is a separate law the only way to give it some teeth?

Many water experts will tell you this for the failure of conservation efforts so far: Despite the enormous costs involved in pumping Cauvery water from over 120 kms, it is supplied at ₹7 per kilo litre in the city. "For a thousand litres, you are paying just ₹78. That is cheap, and people don't feel the pinch. There is no limit in supply, and there is no incentive to save water," as Senior Scientist A.R. Shivakumar, a Water Management Advisor to multiple State Governments, puts it.

However, this would have to be put in the context of treating water as a public good. "This call for monetizing water beyond a certain slab is also linked to deliberately creating scarcity. Obviously, things like rationing will have to happen. And like in electricity, you may want to ensure that there is no wastage by educating people, rather than just letting the economy take over," says water activist Kshiti U. S.

A law for water conservation

The city seriously lacks a law that mandates water conservation. "It is free for all now. If you want to use one lakh litres a month, do you think there is any restriction? No. You have the ability to pay, you pay and get it. Conservation measures should be enforced for every house, every apartment, institution, hotel and every industry," says Shivakumar.

So, how should consumption be measured



The scarcity of water in Bengaluru has forced people to depend on tankers. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.



A vendor carrying drinking water cans for distribution. K. MURALI KUMAR

and what is the pricing strategy to adopt? Srikant Narasimhan, Bengaluru Navanirman Party (BNP) General Secretary and Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) Founder, has a suggestion: "For an individual house with five to six people, the rough water usage should be about 500 litres per house per day. This means 15 kilo litres a month, of which only 30% should be Cauvery water."

The rate should be kept low for anything less than 5 kilo litres of Cauvery water per house, he points out. "Currently, they charge apartments a flat rate of ₹25 per kilolitre, which is exorbitant and ridiculous. There should be a proper slab structure, with low rates for 0 to 5 kl and 5 to 10 kl. Let the rate be ₹50 or ₹60 for more than 10kl. That is how you should penalise over-usage," Srikant explains.

Ration water, treat overuse as luxury
Shivakumar calls this rationing. "Instead of giving whatever water consumers

want to use, you restrict supply. Treat anything beyond the World Health Organisation (WHO) mandated volume, as a luxury. Charge them Rs 100 or even Rs 150. Then there will be an incentive for them to go for Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) and other conservation methods such as aerators. People will, for instance, think twice before standing under a shower for a longer time," he says.

One of the best conservation methods is to price it correctly, agrees Vishwanath Srikantaiah, a noted specialist in the water conservation field. "There is a willingness to pay, but no willingness to charge. Unless we get our act together and get the true cost of water, it will not be conserved. By merely appealing to the good sentiments of the people, it doesn't get conserved. So pricing is crucial!"

In Kshiti's view, however, "monetising water would be counterproductive. But having said that, the largest context is to democratise the process of water security and right to water, which comes only by ensuring conservation is not just about using an efficient tap but conserving your lakes," he explains.

Some water for all, not all water for some

Distribution is another issue. "There is a lack of distributed justice. Some water for all, not all water for some. That should be the philosophy to drive us. We should look at universal connection and a democratic reporting at ward level. That every household in the ward is connected to the water supply network and it is getting some water. Of course, there is a costing issue in outer wards, because initial connection cost is the largest barrier to water connections," says Vishwanath.

At the community level, rainwater harvesting systems have been set up in

many apartments although there is no way to track their numbers. Other conservation methods such as groundwater recharge pits, individual house water-metering and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) treated water for car-cleaning and gardening are being implemented. But these are yet to make a big impact at the larger city level.

"Rain Water Harvesting helps in keeping the apartments less reliant on outside sources of water," says Srividhya Murali, a Federation member. "Many apartments, on their own, have installed water meters and it has a significant impact on reducing the consumption. Once people can see how much they are spending for water for their own household, they take steps to reduce the cost by reducing consumption," she notes.

Reviving 'Half Bucket Challenge'

In March 2019, BAF with over 70,000 flats and two lakh residents had actually launched a 'Half Bucket Challenge' to address the acute water crisis that year. The challenge was to bathe with only half a bucket. This applied to toilet flushes too. As he notes, "Many of them come equipped with only one button. There should be two. One which entirely flushes out the water, and a smaller one that releases only that is needed."

The Federation has now proposed to revive the challenge this year. Co-Founder Arun Kumar says, "This summer is going to be harsh on us. Water levels are really low. You don't need a bathtub, or a shower going on relentlessly, you can have a good bath with half a bucket of about 25 litres."

Treated water, a growing resource
To see these efforts really

provide water aerators to residents or insist that residents install aerators which reduces the flow of water per tap. Besides, many apartments have STPs with dual piping in which treated sewage water is sent back to flushing the toilets. This reduces the amount of fresh water needed," informs Srividhya.

The inexpensive supply has, however, made many consumers lax about water utilization. Srikant elaborates, "The globally accepted norm is to use 135 litres per person per day, but we all end up using 300 per person per day. Typically, in Bengaluru, we use 300 to 400 litres per person per day. I actually take a bath with five to six mugs of water. Even half a bucket of water makes a huge difference, provided everybody does it."

make an impact, conservation should go hand-in-hand with a willingness to use treated waste water. This is possible, says Vishwanath, because the city has enough and more treated waste water. "Thanks to the NGT (National Greens Tribunal), the treatment quality has improved in several STPs. For example, at Jakkur or Vrishabhavathi Valley STP, they treat the wastewater to drinking water standards. But it is being let off to the drain," he points out.

The tertiary treated water meets the BIS 10500 drinking water standards, he notes. "So, if you are able to put that to productive use, we won't even have a resource scarcity. We should draw up a plan to reuse it indirectly. Fill up the lakes, allow it to recharge the aquifers, pick it up from ground water, treat it and supply it as drinking water, so that the yuck factor is taken care of."

He estimates that the tertiary treated water volumes in Bengaluru is now more than 200 Million Litres per Day (MLD), including the output from Vrishabhavathi Valley STP, Jakkur STP (15 MLD), Cubbon Park (4 MLD) and Raja Canal (40 MLD). Besides, several apartments are now keen to either sell their excess treated water or supply it to the construction industries. They are now in talks with multiple civic agencies to also use the treated water in parks, bus washing and for other utilities.

Currently, the city's drinking water requirement is met by 1,450 MLD supplied from the Cauvery, and about 700 MLD from groundwater resources through borewells. This is expected to be boosted by another 775 MLD once the Cauvery V Stage is commissioned in April this year.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, Jan 31, 2024

EoI invited for Ganga Kalyana scheme is contrary to law: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed the Expression of Interest (EoI) invited by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare through the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Corporation for drilling borewells under Ganga Kalyana Scheme for the year 2023-24 in various city municipal corporation limits across the State.

The court said that the EoI is contrary to Rule 27 of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Rules, 2000, and the mandate of the Standard Tender Document, notified by the government in 2008 under the Rules. The EoI does not include work experience as a condition for qualification of the bidder though it is a mandatory condition to be included in all the tenders of the government as per the Rule and the Standard Tender Document, the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by borewell operators, Chin-

nappa Reddy of M/s Maruthi Borewells, Bengaluru, and others.

The petitioner had questioned the EoI issued on December 5, 2023, by the Managing Director and EoI Accepting Authority of the D. Devaraj Urs Corporation on behalf of the department. In its November 2, 2023, communication, the department had asked the EoI Authority to exclude the condition of work experience in the EoI.

A communication by a department cannot override and delete the clause of work experience which is the Rule and the government's mandate issued through the Standard Tender Document for all the departments, the court said. "The action of the department is contrary to the Rules and the Standard Tender Document holding the field, and taking away of work experience of a contractor would put the project in jeopardy. Therefore, the process from the stage of issuance of request for proposal should be redone strictly in consonance with law," HC said.

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

Govt. decides to extend 2% quota to sportspersons in jobs in all departments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government on Thursday decided to extend 2% quota to sportspersons in jobs in all departments, at a Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Briefing presspersons on the decisions taken at the Cabinet, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said necessary rules would be formulated for the Karnataka State Civil Service and Recruitment Rules and gazette notification would be issued seeking objections.

Enforcement

If no major objections are received within 15 days of the notification, he said the quota would be enforced for sportspersons in all government departments.

Currently, the reservation is provided to sportspersons in the police and forest departments of the State.

For medical facilities

The Cabinet has approved



If no major objections are received within 15 days of the notification, the quota would be enforced for sportspersons.

H.K. PATIL
Cabinet, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

a sum of ₹142.47 crore for construction of a 450-bed hospital building attached to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan. A sum of ₹47.32 crore was approved for setting up a DNA centre at Raichur University campus, Raichur. A sum of ₹60 crore was approved for providing learning components to 10 Karnataka Public Schools at 93 Aspirational Taluks, Mr. Patil said.

Under the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, the Cabinet has approved ₹49.50 crore and ₹49.80 crore for setting up Allied Health Sciences College in Kalaburagi and Mysuru, respectively.

Approval was given for

setting up a RGUHS regional centre and laboratory and other works in Mangaluru at a cost of ₹49.75 crore. A sum of ₹34.50 crore was approved for setting up burn care centres at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi, and Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi. It also approved ₹499 crore for setting up hostels for students of Haveri Institute of Medical Sciences, Haveri. The Cabinet approved the Horticulture Department's proposal on developing six cold storages in Haveri, Kolar, Mandya, Shivamogga, Vijayapura, and Hassan at the cost of ₹68.87 crore under the RIDF scheme of NABARD.

It was decided to amend the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 2024, for providing representation to 18,000 people in Kodagu.

The Cabinet approved the release of ₹440.20 crore for waiver of interest on medium and long-term loans availed from cooperative banks if farmers pay the principal amount.

Proposal of online marriage registration cleared

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an attempt to simplify the process of marriage registration under the Hindu Marriages Act, the Cabinet cleared a proposal to allow online registrations.

Applications can be submitted online at Bapuji, Grama One, and other centres in Karnataka.

Who can avail?

The online option, however, will not be available for those choosing a registered marriage under the Special Marriage Karnataka Rules, 1960, under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 since it mandates one month notice and presence of applicants before a sub-registrar.

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

Marriage registration to go online, back to square one on BGML land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state govt has decided to take registration of marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act online, a move aimed at simplifying the registration process. The initiative eliminates the need for the physical presence of couples at sub-registrar offices, offering a convenient and hassle-free alternative.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah had proposed the initiative in his budget for the 2023-24 fiscal, insisting that the process must be made more "people-friendly". He had said: "Provision will be

CABINET MEETING

made in Cauvery-2.0 and for applications for registration at Bapuji Seva Kendras and Grama One Centres."

The state cabinet, which met on Thursday, approved the proposal, paving the way for the govt to move an amendment to the Hindu Marriage Act during the legislature session which commences from Feb 12. "This step aims to enhance transparency and make the registration process more accessible for people," said HK Patil, law and parliamentary affairs minister.

Revenue department officials welcomed the decision

Six bills await gov's nod: Patil

Law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil on Thursday sought to put to rest the controversy over the Kannada signboards ordinance issue, saying governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has communicated reasons for returning the ordinance, and that the Siddaramaiah govt will not comment further on the issue. But Patil said Gehlot has six other bills pending before him for assent. He highlighted ongoing communication between Raj Bhavan and his department of parliamentary affairs on these bills. He said the governor has sought certain clarifications, and the govt is actively addressing these queries to facilitate approval of pending bills. He said 19 bills were sent to Raj Bhavan after the Belagavi winter session in Dec last year and as of Jan 30, six are still pending.

saying the proposed amendment will help streamline the application process and reduce congestion in sub-registrar offices.

Besides marriage registration reforms, the cabinet



DELIVERING ON PROMISES: Chief minister Siddaramaiah had proposed to take registration of marriages online during his budget speech in July last year

Ex-MLA allowed to sell 'G' category site

Taking a "sympathetic" view, the govt decided to permit former legislator CM Lingappa to sell his 'G' category BDA site even before the mandatory 10-year waiting period. The decision was taken considering Lingappa's financial constraints. He is a confidante of deputy chief minister and KPCC chief, DK Shivakumar. This decision mirrors a similar one made last year when the govt allowed former Jamkhandi BJP MLA Srinivas Kulkarni to sell a 'G' category site.

also allocated grants totalling Rs 136 crore to establish electrified crematoriums. The govt intends to set up a crematorium in each of the 10 civic corporations in the state (outside Bengaluru) and 24

urban local bodies. Each municipality will receive Rs 4 crore for the purpose.

The govt also decided to set up a 450-bed hospital at Hassan Medical College and another 300-bed hospital dedi-

cated to mother and child welfare in Kalaburagi.

Legal opinion on BGML land
To establish ownership of the land, the cabinet referred the defunct Bharat Gold Mines

OTHER DECISIONS

► Cabinet approves draft rules for 2% reservation for sportspersons in govt jobs

► 104 Karnataka Public Schools, including 22 new ones, in 93 aspirational taluks to get financial aid

► Human genome research centre in Raichur district at cost of Rs 47 crore

► ₹100 crore to upgrade 6 industrial training institutes in Bengaluru and aspirational districts

► Petro cards for the entire police force for three years. To cost Rs 170 crore

► Post-facto approval for interest waiver of Rs 440 crore in cooperative lending institutions on medium and long-term farm loans

Ltd (BGML) land in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) and tailing dumps (gold waste) of an estimated 13 million tonnes across 1,003 acres, to the law department. This decision had been deferred by the govt.

Patil said, "Following discussions with the Centre, certain decisions had to be taken. As a result, we have deferred a decision." This move follows discussions over handing the land to the Union mines ministry to extract precious metals and residual gold from tailing dumps.

Sources say KH Muniyappa, food and civil supplies minister, who also represented Kolar in the Lok Sabha, raised questions over why the land should be handed over to the Centre when it is considered state govt property.

The govt had previously agreed that it would hand over BGML land and the tailing dumps to the Centre for exploration. After exploration, the land was supposed to be returned to the state govt. However, with Muniyappa raising questions about the land, it has now been sent back to the law department for an opinion.

Officials anticipate that the reuse of BGML land will become a topic of political interest with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

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

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Social Issues

Project Garuda soars: 300 CCTV cameras enhance safety and security

Placements focus on areas with high public movement

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a unique partnership between the Thalaghattapura police in Southern Bengaluru, a new command centre has been established within their jurisdiction. This centre will receive live visuals from 300 CCTV cameras set to be installed across the area, with approximately 100 of them already operational as of Saturday.

This initiative, named 'Project Garuda,' is the result of collaboration between 40 Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) under the Changemakers of Kanakapura Road Association (CMKRA) and the Thalaghattapura police. The centre was inaugurated on Saturday.

In the initial phase of the project, 100 high-end Internet Protocol (IP) CCTV cameras equipped with announcement systems have been strategically placed within the Thalaghattapura police station's jurisdiction. These cameras feed live visuals to nine 55-inch LED screens in the state-of-the-art command centre, located at the Thalaghattapura traffic police station limits.

All these cameras have been installed strategically identifying places where there is a dire need and major public movement points.

The camera placements were thoughtfully selected, focusing on areas with high public movement and pressing surveillance needs. For instance, cameras with audio output systems were installed near educational institutions to promptly address issues like ragging.

In the upcoming phase, an additional 200 cameras will be installed and operational within the station's jurisdiction. These live visuals can be accessed not only at the station's command centre but will also be integrated with the main police command centre, according to police sources.

On a pilot basis, cameras installed in the first phase were live for the past two



Cameras feed live visuals to 55-inch LED screens in the state-of-the-art command centre, located at the Thalaghattapura traffic police station limits. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Live visuals will be displayed on LCD screens in the state-of-the-art Command Centre.
- Police personnel monitoring the feed can switch between cameras and access live visuals.
- In the event of thefts, they can promptly alert the nearest officer.
- For minor incidents, public announcements can be made, and traffic violations can also be recorded.

months. Numerous traffic violations have been booked through these cameras and five cases, including house thefts and robberies, were solved.

Crowdfund of Rs 2.5 crore

This entire project is crowd-funded, with nearly 30,000 residents, including members of 40 RWAs, commercial establishment owners, and corporate companies, contributing approximately Rs 2.5 crore, according to Abdul Alim, president of CMKRA.

"With the area being a hub of educational institutions and commercial establishments containing working spaces, such a collaborative project was indispensable," said a police officer from Thalaghattapura. "These cameras will not only bolster policing by helping to keep a vigil on illegal activities and rowdy elements but also assist in booking traffic violations," he said.

Kiran Kumar, Joint Secretary of CMKRA said, "We understand the importance of the public working in close coordination with law enforcement agencies and we value the partnership with the Thalaghattapura Police. By establishing this CCTV command centre, we aim to complement police efforts in maintaining law and order within the area."

Habitual offender arrested

In Banashankari, a habitual offender involved in multiple house thefts and with 35 cases against him across various police stations was apprehended last month, as per police sources. Authorities stated that they successfully captured his facial features and tracked his movements, ultimately leading to his arrest.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 28, 2024

ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ (ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ): ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕುದುಪಕುಂಟೆಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶೌಚಾಲಯವನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರು ವೀಡಿಯೋ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿದುಹೋದ್ದು. ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಶಾಲೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿ ಬಿ.ರೇಣುಕಾ ಅವರನ್ನು ಅಮಾನತುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಜಿ.ಮುನಿರಾಜ, ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರಕುಮಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ವಿದಿಯೊ ಚಿತ್ರೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ
- ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ತಾ.ಪಂ ಇ.ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಭೇಟಿ
- ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯವೈಖರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ

ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೋಷಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ,



ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿ

ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದರು.

‘ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗೋಪ್ಯವಾಗಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರಿಂದ

ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಹ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯನ್ನು ಅಮಾನತುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು’ ಎಂದು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರಕುಮಾರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯ ಕಾರ್ಯವೈಖರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ ಪೋಷಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮಸ್ಥರು, ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಯೋಜಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಮಾಡಿಸದಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪೋಷಕರು ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.5, Jan.30, 2024

1993ರಿಂದ ಈವರೆಗೆ 47 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ

ಮಲಗುಂಡಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ವೇಳೆ 92 ಜನ ಸಾವು

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲ ಹೋರುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿಷೇಧ ವಿದ್ವರೂ 1993ರಿಂದ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 47 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 92 ಮಂದಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸವೆಂದರೆ, ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮನುಷ್ಯ ರಿಂದ ಮಲಗುಂಡಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿಷೇಧ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-2013ರ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆಯಡಿ 87 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 6 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟು ನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಂತೆ ಎಫ್‌ಸಿಟಿಯುನ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಘಟಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದೇ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಾನೂನು ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಲಹೋರುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಜೀವಂತವಾಗಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ವರದಿ



ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತವಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಯು ಹಂಗಾಮಿ ಸಿಜಿ ಪಿ.ಎಸ್‌ ದಿನೇಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಟಿ.ಜಿ. ಶಿವಶಂಕರ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಆವರಿದ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಪೀಠದ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಜ.

8ರಂದು ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದಂತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಜಂಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಎಸ್.ವಿ. ಕಲಾವತಿ ಅವರ ಅನುಪಾಲನಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪರ ವಕೀಲರು ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು. ವರದಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡ ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳ ಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟು, ವರದಿಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಪರ ವಕೀಲ ರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯನ್ನು 4 ವಾರ ಮುಂದೂಡಿತು.

ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಅಂಶಗಳು

- 1993ರಿಂದ ಈವರೆಗಿನ 47 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 15 ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, 1 ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.
- 2013ರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿತನಕ ಮನುಷ್ಯರಿಂದ ‘ಶೌಚಗುಂಡಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿಷೇಧ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-2013ರಡಿ’ 87 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ 28 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಬಾಕಿ ಇದ್ದು, 6 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಆಗಿದೆ.
- ಶೌಚ ಗುಂಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸುವಾಗ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು 10 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 30 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಸಫಾಯಿ ಕರ್ಮಚಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿವರೆಗೆ 1,462 ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ 32.66 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೌಚಗುಂಡಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸುವ 7,483 ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 1,833 ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಳಿದವರಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತಲಾ 40 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಪಾವತಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.2A, Jan.31, 2024

City still has most cybercrime cases, but Jamtara not the scamster hub anymore

The police say that investigation is a tough task with the accused based outside Karnataka and across multiple states

CAUGHT IN A WEB

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Bengaluru, the country's 'IT capital', topped the list in cyber crimes registered across all metro cities in India in 2022 again, an ignominy it has had for several years now. According to the National Crime Records Bureau report, 2022, for cyber crimes, as many as 13,534 cases were registered in 19 prominent metros of the country in 2022, and cases in Bengaluru accounted for nearly three-fourths of that. In 2023, Bengaluru alone recorded 17,623 cyber crime cases.

But here is the catch. Until recently, Jamtara in Jharkhand, which even inspired an OTT series, was the headquarters of cybercrime in India. But law enforcement agencies say there are new hotspots emerging, proving to be a major challenge for the in-

vestigating authorities.

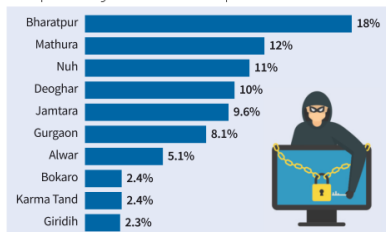
Epicentres and hotspots

According to a 2023 report, 'A Deep Dive into Cybercrime Trends Impacting India' by the Future Crime Research Foundation, an IIT Kanpur incubated start-up, among the top 10 cybercrime epicentres are Bharatpur - Rajasthan (18%), Mathura - Uttar Pradesh (12%), Nuh - Haryana (11%), Deoghar - Jharkhand (10%) and Jamtara - Jharkhand (9.6%).

The report said several common factors contribute to their vulnerability, including geographical proximity to major urban centers, limited cybersecurity infrastructure, socioeconomic challenges, and low digital literacy.

At the same time, the report identified emerging hotspots across States, according to which Bengaluru is the biggest in Karnataka. "While established cybercrime hubs continue to pose significant threats, the emergence of new hot-

Top 10 cybercrime epicentres



Source: Future Crime Research Foundation

spots demands our attention and proactive measures. These emerging cybercrime hotspots represent regions where various forms of digital criminal activity are on the rise, often catching both law enforcement agencies and the public off guard," the report added.

The Bengaluru city police's list is on similar lines. A police officer who is part of one of the four Special Investigation Teams (SIT) formed to investigate specific types of cybercrimes in

Bengaluru said, "Nowadays, we are getting accused from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar and Jharkhand."

Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP, Traffic, East, who is heading the SIT for the courier scam, acknowledged that there was a shift from Jamtara as a cybercrime hub. "Such hubs are coming up in other places coming up across India. For the courier scam, we have observed that they are based out of

Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and areas surrounding Delhi," he said.

The police spoke about the challenges in investigation. "Investigation is extremely difficult. Even for a single case, our team which travels to these states, needs 10 to 15 days. Even after going there, they may not be able to secure the accused immediately. Entering those villages is not easy and they have to seek the local police's cooperation. Even for them, it is difficult to apprehend the accused. Moreover, recovery is a huge challenge. We are focusing on returning the money to the victims," said the officer.

Sharing an example, an officer said, "One of our teams went to Araria in Bihar to apprehend the accused in an Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) scam case. The local police sought the help of the sarpanch, but the accused had crossed over to Nepal as they were already

alerted about the police operation. In another operation in Bihar, a day before our team reached, the police of another State had barged in without intimating the local police and they were assaulted by the locals," he said.

Spreading awareness

The Bengaluru police said awareness on the part of the citizens would prove a key factor in deterring cybercrimes. "If you lost money, immediately approach 1930 or the local police so that the accounts can be frozen," said B.M. Laxmi Prasad, DCP, North East. Mr. Jain said though the Bengaluru police are raising awareness through various modes, percolation is still not high. Ironically, he said, most victims are educated, while the scammers and mules are illiterate. He said that the means of raising awareness will have to be revisited to get the message across to a larger population.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Feb. 1, 2024

Measures will be taken to rectify caste census report if it is not scientific: CM

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Reiterating that his government would accept the caste census report when it is readied, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday, made it clear that the government would initiate measures to rectify if there are any mistakes in it.

“A lot of people have started saying that the caste census report is unscientific without even reading it. Hence, I want to tell everyone that we are ready to rectify the report in consultation with experts if it is unscientific,” Mr. Siddaramaiah said, while inaugurating the Jayanthi of 12th Century social reformer Madiwala Machideva.

At the same time, he asserted that his government was committed to accept-

ing the caste census report.

Stating that he was the first Chief Minister to commission a caste census to understand the socio-economic-educational condition of the oppressed sections, he said he would have accepted the report in his previous stint if it was ready. “But the report was not ready then. He accused his successors H.D. Kumaraswamy, B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai of not accepting the caste census report though it was ready. But now, a new chairman has been appointed to the Backward Classes Commission. Hence, I have asked him to submit the report in about a month,” he said.

Hailing Madiwala Machideva, the CM said he had authored 354 vachanas and also protected Vachana literature.

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

CM distributes ₹40,000 to manual scavengers; activists seek rehabilitation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

“There should be no manual scavenging in the State. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone who gets someone to do manual scavenging,” said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after inaugurating the rehabilitation convention and one-time subsidy distribution ceremony for newly-identified manual scavengers on Wednesday.

The convention was organised by the The Social Welfare Department, Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation and Commission for Manual Scavengers. The State government has newly identified 4,556 manual scaven-



Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister, and H.C. Mahadevappa, Social Welfare Minister, celebrating the achievement of a UKG student on Wednesday. SREELAKSHMI PRIYADARSHINI

gers and has started distributing a financial compensation of ₹40,000 per person.

According to Obalesh, State Convenor, Safai Karmachari Kavalu Samiti, around 80% of the newly-identified manual scavengers have received compensation so far, worth around ₹18 crore. After

the Centre refused financial aid for their rehabilitation due to technical reasons, the State government took up the task of giving them ID numbers and compensation.

However, the compensation of ₹40,000 doesn't lead to any kind of rehabilitation, Mr. Obalesh said. He

said that according to the guidelines of the Manual Scavenging Act, 2013, the government should provide comprehensive rehabilitation to manual scavengers. He noted that in the absence of such rehabilitation, manual scavengers will go back to scavenging.

“We have demanded the State government earmark ₹350 crore for the rehabilitation of the 7,483 manual scavengers who have been recognised. We have submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister to allot ₹5 lakh per person for their comprehensive rehabilitation. We were expecting a positive response regarding this at the convention, but sadly he said nothing,” he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Feb. 1, 2024

CASTE CENSUS MAY BE OUT SOON; BC PANEL CHIEF'S TERM EXTENDED

Report may not be tabled before the state legislature

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE government issued an order extending the tenure of Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde and five other members for another month from February 1 to February 29. The decision has been taken following Hegde's request as the commission was vetting the controversial socio-economic caste survey report to be presented to the government, sources said.

Hegde's tenure had come to an end in November and the Congress government, led by Siddaramaiah, had extended it up to January 1. Siddaramaiah had said the government will accept the report, but it was opposed by Veerashaiva Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities.

On January 28, Siddaramaiah

at the 'Shoshitara Samavesh' held in Chitradurga had reiterated that the government will accept the report. JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy had challenged the government to accept the report.

Now, it is to be seen whether the government will accept the report before February 29 when Hegde's extended term ends. "Even if the government accepts the report, it may not table at the legislature or release it in public domain as it may boomerang on Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections," an analyst said.

Final touches

Hegde too expressed confidence that he will present the report to the government. "We have analysed the survey report and will give it final touches before sending it to final print," he said.

"We have extended the commission's tenure based on Hegde's request. Shouldn't a commission chairman be given time as he has sought," Backward Classes Department Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said. "Let the commission submit the report first, then Siddaramaiah will decide whether to table it in the legislature," he added.

The Siddaramaiah government in its first tenure had initiated the survey, while then commission chairman Kantharaju completed the process in 2018. But he could not submit it to the government as the member secretary of the commission did not sign it.

The present government has also deferred accepting the report as certain original worksheets have reportedly gone missing.



Source: The Indian Express, p.4, Feb. 2, 2024

Na. D'Souza: Narrator of stories on displacement and despair in Malnad

Na. D'Souza, a prolific writer in Kannada, has won this year's prestigious Pampa award. His stories are marked by a sensitive response to issues that have haunted the hilly Malnad region in Karnataka

Sathish G. T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Whenever the proposal to utilise water from River Sharavathi to quench the thirst of Bengalureans surfaces in the corridors of power in the capital, novelist Na. D'Souza from Sagar in Shivamogga district raises his voice to oppose it. He led a series of protests against such a move in 2019. Again, recently, when the talk on the project resurfaced, the writer reiterated his stand and appealed to the people of Malnad to oppose it, highlighting the damage the project could cause.

In his six-decade career as a writer, Na. D'Souza has always responded to issues that he believes are detrimental to Malnad. In fact, his career began with witnessing the pains of displacement that the people of Sagar and Hosanagar taluks in Shivamogga underwent following the construction of the Lingamakki dam to generate power. Being a typist at the office of the Sharavathi Project back then, he listened to the stories of many people who came to meet the officers every day. And those stories compelled him to write the travails, livestock and wildlife.

Satyanarayana G.T., a writer and resident of Karuru in Sagar taluk, feels that Na. D'Souza has been the voice of the voiceless. "Hundreds of people who lost their homeland have found a place in the novels of D'Souza. In fact, his novels based on displacement offer us the details of our native place that we miss a lot," he said.

Tenant farmers

His other interesting work is *Kolaga*, a novel that narrates the story of historic Kagodu Sathyagraha, a struggle of tenant farmers against the landlords in the early 1950s. As a youth, D'Souza was a keen observer of the struggle that attracted socialist leaders like Rammanohar Lohia to Sagar and face police action.

D'Souza has penned 40 novels, many short stories, plays, and stories for children as well. His story *Mulugadeya Urige Bandavaru* for children won him a Central Sahitya Akademi award. He presided over the 80th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Madikeri in 2014. Whenever there is an issue concerning local people, he hits the streets and joins the protests. D'Souza was



Na. D'Souza with Girish Kasaravalli, who directed *Dweepa*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

one of a writers who received multiple threat letters in recent years allegedly from right wing activists.

Among the short stories and novels that D'Souza wrote, *Dweepa*, a novella, brought him fame and wider recognition in the literary world after it was adapted into a film. Noted director Girish Kasaravalli directed the play in 2001, and it won a national award.

Through the family of three people, the author narrates the travails of displacement. First, it was published in a weekly in 1970. Later, it was published in book form in 1978. Girish Kasaravalli was adapted into a movie in 2001. Actress Soundarya, who played the role of Nagi, added value to the movie with her performance. It was screened at many international film festivals. The novella was translated into English in 2013 by Susheela Punitha as part of a series published by Oxford University Press.

His other novels that figured on the silver screen are *Kadina Benki*, (Directed by Suresh Heblikar, Baluvali, (Director: Sirigandha Srinivasa Murthy), *Bettada Purada Ditta Makkalu* (Director:



Na. D'Souza, addressing the gathering after inaugurating 11th Shivamogga district Kannada Sahitya Sammelana.



Na. D'Souza took part in a protest in 2014 demanding an ambulance facility for people of Tumari Gram Panchayat.

Kodlu Ramakrishna) and Antharya (Director: Manu). Over the years D'Souza has written 45 novels. Suvvi Prakashana, a publishing house in Shikaripura, has recently brought out his complete works in nine volumes. "The volume of

his writing is also tremendous. He has written nearly 6,000 pages," said Sunil, the publisher. Besides novels, he wrote short stories, plays, plays for children and poems, among other things.

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

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Public libraries in Bengaluru: Where is their story going?

With the BBMP sitting on funds meant for public libraries, maintenance has become uphill. The libraries department is struggling to buy books and put new infrastructure in place

BENGALURU, DHNS

Suresh, an accounting professional working in Malleshwaram, visits the City Central Library on Sampige Road after work at least once a week to read magazines and catch up with the news. He spends about an hour before heading home to Yeswanthpur.

"The library has English and Kannada magazines and all newspapers. I like the ambience where we can sit calmly and read," he says.

He does not have any membership. He walks in every time, takes what he wants, reads, and then quietly gets out. That he is a user of the library is not recorded anywhere. When the Department of Public Libraries counts footfalls, many like him are not counted.

This is just one of the 205 public libraries in Bengaluru, considered very useful by students who visit. The libraries, maintained by the Department of Public Libraries, are called City Central Libraries and fall under one of the five zones of the department—East, West, Central, North and South, in BBMP limits.

Students find libraries useful to sit and read, and even study for examinations. "I visit this and other closeby libraries and study whenever I have free time. I read and update myself. I want to take the Karnataka Administrative Service exam, and this library is resourceful," says Shraddha, a final-year student visiting City Central Library, West Zone, in Vijayanagar.

Senior citizens, housewives and working professionals often sit and read in the libraries. One has to pay a fee of Rs 2, a refundable deposit of Rs 20 and Rs 10 for a photo identity card, to become a member. Address proof in the form of a voter identity card, Aadhar card, passport, rental agreement or ration card should be provided along with the photo.

After this, one can borrow three books at a time from the library. A book can be kept for a maximum of 15 days. Late returns will be charged at Re 1 per day, and a maximum of Rs 50.

Kannada books dominate the libraries. Some of the libraries allow citizens to donate books too. All libraries are closed on Mondays, second Tuesdays and fourth Saturdays, and all public holidays. All libraries are supposed to be open from 8 am to 8 pm on the days they are open.

"It would be a good idea to keep the libraries open on public holidays, as we can make use of the time," said a student in Vijayanagar, who visits West Zone Library regularly.

Pending funds

Recently, *DH* wrote about the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike not paying Rs 397.37 crore cess to the library department. The Bruhat Bengaluru



DH FILE PHOTO/S K DINESH

Zonewise libraries in Bengaluru

South: 42 East: 35
North: 46 Central: 38
West: 50

Zonewise digital library membership in Bengaluru

South	20,44,165
North	8,30,607
West	39,20,188
East	6,37,893
Central	6,10,379
Total	80,25,232

Library cess pending from BBMP

Old balance (April 1, 2022)	Rs 586 cr
Cess collected	Rs 137.19 cr
Paid to date	Rs 850 cr
Pending in March 2023	Rs 638.18 cr
Pending according to BBMP	Rs 397.37 cr

How to subscribe to the digital library:

Go to: <https://karnatakadigitalpubliclibrary.org>
Click on 'register' section, using your name, mobile number, the zone and the nearest library.
Install e-Sarvajanika Granthalaya app from Google playstore
Access e-content.

Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) collects 6% of the library cess on property tax, which must be paid to the library department.

However, the library department sources say the due is Rs 638.18 crore. Rs 586 crore due was pending as of April 1, 2022. About Rs 137.2 crore were collected as property tax cess in 2022-23. The BBMP gave Rs 850 crore to the libraries department, and Rs 638.18 crore was pending as of March 2023, show the library department data.

The BBMP has a City Library Authority, headed by the mayor usually, and the administrator now. The BBMP gives the building to public libraries without any rentals. The library department provides the staff, books and infrastructure and maintains it. Sources say the lack of rentals has nothing to do with the pending money to be given to the department.

The library department approves the books for all libraries. It also prepares library-wise action plans for spending the cess money on infrastructure and facilities like water, electricity, salaries of temporary staff and other expenses.

This plan goes to the City Library Authority, which approves it and uses the BBMP cess to implement it, says Sathish Kumar S Hosamani, director of the Department of Public Libraries. Currently, the libraries are run using the amounts given in parts by the BBMP and the zones of the public libraries department.

Problems cascade

Fund problems cascade into other problems, too. Water problems are sometimes caused by nonpayment of

ills and other reasons. For example, the users of the city central library on Sampige Road have complained of water problems in the building in the past.

Toilets getting shut down is common in some of the libraries. Sometimes only gents' toilets are open, and girls and women struggle. Fans not running properly, internet connectivity issues, lack of charging facilities for mobiles or laptops etc., plague some of the libraries.

Badly maintained books without proper covers and torn pages, bad indexing of books, outdated books no one wants to read, and sometimes not enough books, not enough English books, etc., are common to many public libraries.

Other issues are rude behaviour of staff, not maintaining the timings, closing of libraries earlier than the scheduled time etc. "I visited the library at 7.30 pm after returning from work, but half the staff had gone home. The last remaining person shouted at me, asking me to come early, and I had to return empty-handed," explains a student who works part-time.

While zonal libraries have been upgraded and are maintained better, many users complain of a range of other above-mentioned problems, especially in the regular libraries.

Zonal libraries have cloakroom facilities and a better reading atmosphere with all facilities, compared to smaller libraries. Visitors are mostly happy with zonal libraries, while smaller ones demand better infrastructure, facilities and upgradation. Walk-in readers are allowed in all the libraries.

Top 10 eBooks accessed in KDPL portal

Sl. No.	Content title	Content category	Access count
1.	FDA mattu SDA	Competitive & entrance	24979
2.	Itihasa	Competitive & entrance	15705
3.	K.A.S.	Competitive & entrance	13709
4.	Kannada Kaipidi	Arts & Humanities	13417
5.	Adhunik Bharatada Itihasa	Arts & Humanities	12333
6.	Karnataka Pradeshika Bhogolashastra	Arts & Humanities	10427
7.	Prakrutika Bhogolashastra-Vastunishita Madari Prasnottaragalu	Competitive & entrance	9776
8.	Chidambara Rahasya	Classics & Literature	9086
9.	Itihasa patrike 1&2 - G.R.R.	Competitive & entrance	8545
10.	Aparadha Shastra	Competitive & entrance	8378

DATA: PUBLIC LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

Digital push

Out of the 205 libraries in the city, 100 libraries have digital services. The Public Libraries Department boasts 80,25,232 registered members for its digital library initiative inside Bengaluru. Officials say it includes mostly students and people looking to study for competitive examinations.

People can subscribe to the digital library and access it at their fingertips using the mobile app e-Sarvajanika Granthalaya. e-books, e-journals, videos, separate sections for kids zone, an academic section, a simulation lab, a competitive exams section and the assessment section with quizzes are accessible for the registered users for free. The officials say e-books have been

downloaded 17,19,394 times until now, and videos have been seen 6,18,736 times. However, the data for the number of page views, unique monthly users and the break up of the type of most-viewed content etc. were not readily available.

The department has no ready data to show the number of active users, online and offline. Such data will help make useful decisions that help the department buy the right books and improve the overall approach.

"Books for competitive exams are read widely both online and offline. There is heavy demand and rush for such books," says Hosamani. He says that the public have to make the best use of the public libraries and spread the book culture everywhere.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 27, 2024

Bengaluru skywalks: Should BBMP prioritise fixing them instead of building them?

Array of challenges plagues pedestrian overpasses

FLORA ADELINE
BENGALURU, DHNS

The BBMP's plan to construct 11 additional skywalks (foot overbridges) across the city may not receive a warm reception from Bengalureans. A reality check conducted by *DH* on several existing skywalks, which were installed by the BBMP in various parts of the city, revealed multiple issues: poor maintenance, malfunctioning or absent lifts, inadequate lighting, and steep stairs that pose challenges, especially for individuals with disabilities.

Sophia High School junction

The L-shaped skywalk on Palace Road, near Sophia High School junction, has no elevators. There are educational institutions, restaurants and offices in the vicinity.

"This is a major inconvenience to the old and the disabled," said Gunjan Kumar, a frequent user of the skywalk. The lack of elevators is a deterrent to pedestrians from using them and prompting them to jaywalk across the roads instead.

KG Road

The skywalk on KG Road, connecting Mysore Bank to the court complexes, has functional lifts, but users complain of frequent power outages. The surroundings are marred by unsanitary conditions, with people urinating on the walls and an unpleasant stench pervading the area. The worn-out roof and scattered garbage, including beer bottles, further deter pedestrians.

Umesh, a silk vendor, who frequents this place thrice a week, told *DH*, "Women and older people hesitate to take the skywalk because of its poor state. They would rather wait and cross the road, which is otherwise a busy stretch. This



Cracked bricks and structural damage are evident in the skywalk on KG Road in Bengaluru on Saturday.



Empty liquor bottles are scattered along the pedestrian skywalk on KG Road. *DH* PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN



Paan stains deface walls in Hebbal's skywalk.

has been so bad for the last couple of years and nobody has bothered to make it neat for the public to use. It is hell when it rains, water seeps through the roof."

Hebbal skywalk

The skywalk at Dairy Farm bus stop in Hebbal connecting four roads has three flights of stairs and no elevators. Paan stains and litter remain uncleared for days, leaving pedestrians wondering whether using the skywalk is worth the trouble of climbing the stairs.

11 new projects

The locations for the proposed skywalks are Tank Bund Road, Chowdeshwari underpass, Kaikondrahalli Junction, RMC Yard on Tumkur Road, NCC Apartment on Outer Ring Road, Bagmane Tech park on ORR, Hoodi Junction, Old Madras road (near GRT Jewellers), Carlton Tower (Old Airport Road), BHEL on Mysore road

and Sarjapur road (near Krupanidhi College). Given most of these roads are major corridors with high traffic, the BBMP believes the skywalk will provide safe crossing for pedestrians. In reality, walkers especially children and senior citizens struggle to climb the mammoth steps of skywalks as the lift or elevators of most skywalks do not function.

Jayanagar

The L-shaped skywalk in Jayanagar 3rd block connecting two roads has three elevators that can accommodate up to 8 people each. It is supervised by a security staffer from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm. "The field officer assigned me here because couples misuse the elevators or people even urinate in here. There are no public toilets or drinking water facilities for up to a km from here", said Raja (change name), the security staffer. It was built in 2017 at an estimated cost of about Rs 4 crore.

Palike to do away with PPP model

A senior BBMP official told *DH* that BBMP had taken up a large number of (skywalks) on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and that was on a 30-year lease period.

"But thanks to poor maintenance by the private agencies, we have now decided to change that and are bringing in a new time period in which you

have to hand over the skywalk after the bidding parameter's number of years, not 30 years as fixed earlier. The private agencies just made their money and did nothing for the upkeep of these skywalks," a senior official with BBMP told *DH*.

The official further explained that they will now take up those skywalks

that should be constructed and maintained using BBMP funds.

"If at all there are advertisement rights, we will make money from those advertisements and use it for the upkeep of the skywalk. Earlier, the 30-year time period was our PPP model; we are paying the price for it now. We aren't taking up that model

now. We are now saying, commensurate with the investment and location, each place will have dynamic returns that we have to assess."

The official said that the existing skywalks' maintenance will be taken up by the BBMP and do away with the maintenance linked to the PPP model.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 28, 2024

Despite increase in flat prices across city, bigger the better, say B'lureans

Hybrid Work, WFO Add To The Demand

Chethan.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The demand for bigger apartments refuses to wane in Bengaluru despite rising residential prices, while Lavelle Road and Langford Road in the heart of the city are the most expensive, analysis of data from different real estate consultancies has revealed.

According to data from Anarock Group, the average flat size increased by 26%, from 1,175 sqft in 2022 to 1,482 sqft in 2023. The city reported an increase even on the five-yearly basis. The average flat size in 2019 was 1,280 sqft.

"The average flat sizes in the top seven cities/regions grew 11% annually last year — to 1,300 sqft in 2023 from 1,175 sqft in 2022. Back in 2021 (1,170 sqft) and 2020 (1,167 sqft), the average flat sizes across the top seven cities were comparable to that in 2022," Anarock said.

A deep dive into the data across the top cities — NCR (National Capital Region), MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region), Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, and Hyderabad — reveals that MMR and Kolkata were the only ones where the average flat sizes decreased in 2023.

Anuj Puri, chairman of Anarock, stating that supply of bigger luxury homes increased significantly in 2023, said, "Data indicates that more than 1 lakh units (or approximately 23%) of the total new launches in 2023 were in the luxury category."

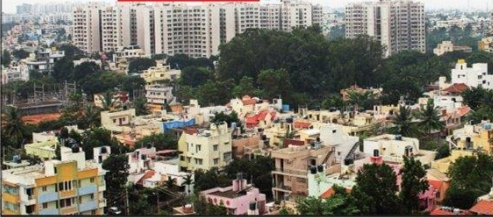
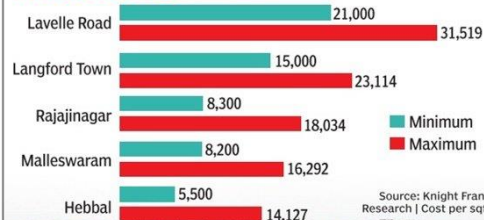
Central B'luru costliest

Separate data from Knight Frank India shows Bengaluru observed a continuing momentum which showcased progression in sales, despite the headwinds arising from elevated interest rates.

Shantanu Mazumder, executive director, Bengaluru, Knight Frank, said, "This indicates a continuation in buyer appetite for home ownership in Bengaluru and ensures optimistic sentiment for 2024."

The northern region of the Bengaluru micro-market

PRICE RANGE IN 2023



saw maximum residential price appreciation of 12.2%, while the central region continued to be the most expensive micro-market with residential prices ranging between Rs 21,000 and Rs 31,519 per sqft. A break-up of the data shows Lavelle Road (Rs 21,000 to Rs 31,519 per sqft) was the most expensive locality, followed by Langford Road (Rs

15,000 to Rs 23,114) and Rajajinagar (Rs 8,300 to Rs 18,034).

Overall, Bengaluru witnessed an annual growth of 7%, reaching a weighted average price of Rs 5,900 per sqft. The surge in prices was predominantly fuelled by growing demand, attributed to the prevalence of hybrid work structures and return to office, prompting individuals

SIZE MATTERS FOR MOST

Bengaluru | Average flat size increased by 26% in 2023 to 1,484 sqft from 1,175 sqft in 2022; on a five-yearly basis, 16% jump from 1,280 sqft in 2019

NCR | From 1,375 sqft in 2022 to 1,890 sqft in 2023

Hyderabad | From 1,775 sqft in 2022 to 2,300 sqft in 2023

Pune | From 980 sqft in 2022 to 1,086 sqft in 2023

Chennai | From 1,200 sqft in 2022 to 1,260 sqft in 2023

Kolkata & MMR were outliers, seeing a drop in average flat sizes in 2023 by 2% and 5%, respectively

Source: Anarock Group

duals to relocate to the city.

"In response to this demand, the supply of residential properties in the city is also on the rise, evident in the record-high launches observed in 2023. Going ahead, as the supply aligns with the demand, it is anticipated that the growth in prices will moderate in 2024," Knight Frank said.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan. 29, 2024

SWR approves alignment of suburban rail project's Corridor 4

Groundwork may take time as railways yet to give land

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The South Western Railway (SWR) has finally approved the alignment of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project's Corridor 4, which will link Heelalige in southern Bengaluru to Rajanukunte in the northern suburbs over 46.88 km and 19 stations.

Groundwork, however, will take some more time because the railways is yet to give land.

On January 23, 2024, the SWR's Chief Track Engineer approved the revised working plan for the 23.67-km section of Corridor 4 (also called Kana Line).

The 23.67 km spans the stretch between Baiyappanahalli and Heelalige. The suburban train tracks will be built a little away from the main railway line.

While the SWR approved the alignment of Corridor 4 last year, the design had to be modified for the stretch between Baiyappanahalli and Rajanukunte (23.21 km) because of the ongoing doubling work (Baiyappanahalli-Hosur, 41 km).

The project agency K-RIDE subsequently revised the alignment for that section, and the SWR has approved it, officials in the know said.

The 149-km BSRP project is a joint venture of the state government and the railways, which provides the bulk of the land and has the final say in alignment approvals. The project has four corridors and is to be completed by 2028.

Though K-RIDE awarded Corridor 4's civil work contract to L&T on December 30, 2023, the company hasn't been issued the Notice To Proceed (NTP) because of the delay in alignment approval and land agreement with the railways.

Without the NTP, the contractor cannot start the groundwork.

K-RIDE has reduced the railway land requirement from 194.07 acres to 115.472 acres, per the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

"We have given the kilometre-wise land plan to the Bengaluru railway division. Once the land plan is approved, an agreement about leasing 115 acres will be signed," a K-RIDE official said.



Concrete is being poured into a pile cap at Hebbal on the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project's Corridor 2, the only line where groundwork has begun.. CREDIT: K-RIDE

The railways will provide the land at Re 1 per acre. K-RIDE will also require land from the state government and private individuals.

Yogesh Mohan, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru, said the land proposal was being examined and a reply

would be given soon. "There were some issues about the quantum of land to be handed over. It's prime land in the heart of the city," he told *DH*.

The proposal will go to the Railway Board and a decision is expected soon, he added.

Chandapura, Challaghatta extensions

K-RIDE has sought the South Western Railway's (SWR) permission to conduct a pre-feasibility study to extend Corridor 4 from Heelalige to Chandapura on Hosur Road and Corridor 3 from Kengeri to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Challaghatta.

A K-RIDE statement on Monday elaborated that the two extensions were part of the 452-km Phase 2 suggested by the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) in April 2023.

In July, K-RIDE sought the SWR's permission to conduct a pre-feasibility study for Phase 2.

Even though the SWR rejected the proposal in November, K-RIDE later submitted it to the chairman of the Railway Board.

On December 28, it requested the SWR general manager to reconsider the proposal and recommend to the Railway Board to approve the pre-feasibility study.

The SWR's approval is awaited, K-RIDE said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Jan 30, 2024

Don't sink the money on white-topping

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is expecting a record property tax collection this year. That is the good news. The bad news is that BBMP proposes to spend a large portion of this amount, that is about Rs 700 crore, on white-topping over 70 roads. While the collection during the last fiscal was over Rs 3,300 crore, the target for this year is Rs 4,600 crore. While BBMP deserves a pat for collecting taxes well, the decision to sink a substantial portion of the additional funds it expects to collect on white-topping raises many questions. What's worse is that many of the roads that the civic body proposes to rip apart and re-lay with concrete are already smooth and well-maintained roads. A case in point is the 2.2-km-long MG Road, which the BBMP plans to white-top at a cost of over Rs 45 crore. This, at a time when many other roads in the city are in urgent need of repairs while several in the city's outskirts are not even motorable. Commonsense dictates that the BBMP should first give attention to such roads rather than to those that are in top condition.

The bigger question, however, is whether these concrete roads meet the conditions laid down by the BBMP's own Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP) which aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. As part of the plan, BBMP has established a dedicated Climate Action Cell and introduced the #Blue-GreenUru campaign to encourage citizen participation in conserving, restoring, and integrating Bengaluru's natural infrastructure. However, neither the cell, nor the residents welfare associations of the areas concerned, nor citizens at large have been consulted about white-topping roads or its impact on climate change. The government argues that white-topping is cost-effective in the long run as it has a lifespan of 20 to 45 years. White-topping of a one-km stretch costs Rs 9-10 crore as against Rs 70 lakh to Rs 1 crore for asphaltting. Moreover, Bengaluru already has the dubious distinction of being one of the most congested and dusty cities in the world. If 70 main thoroughfares are dug up to be relaid, one can imagine the nightmare it will be.

For some reason, the BBMP believes that its primary responsibility is to build roads, while other pressing responsibilities like schools, primary healthcare centres and garbage clearance can be allowed to go to seed. There is already a belief in the public mind that politicians across parties and even bureaucrats are obsessed with white-topping due to the huge kickbacks that they allegedly receive. Instead of strengthening this suspicion, the BBMP and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar should ensure that the additional funds are deployed where they are needed the most, and wisely.

**Have RWAs
been
consulted?
Is the plan in
line with
BBMP's
climate
action plan?**

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Jan 30, 2024

16 flyovers, 10 overpasses, 12 underpasses to ease traffic on PRR

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU DHNS

Sixteen flyovers, 10 overpasses and 12 underpasses will be a part of the 73-km peripheral ring road (PRR), which is proposed to connect Hosur road in the south with Tumakuru Road in the north west of Bengaluru. The project—estimated to cost Rs 27,000 crore—will be fully funded by the private players. In return, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has assured rights to collect toll for 50 years.

As the eight-lane project passes through 10 major junctions and over 100 minor intersections, the BDA has planned flyovers in places such as Hesarghatta Road, Old Madras road, Whitefield road, Channasandra road, Hosur road etc, which are high density corridors.

Bridges have also been proposed across as many as seven water bodies, including Chikkatogur lake, Gunjur lake, Chikka Banahalli lake, Chinnappanahalli lake, Tirumenahalli lake, Jarakabande lake etc. The project also comprises six cloverleaf-type overbridges to enable criss-crossing of roads without getting caught in the traffic.

According to the BDA officials, a six-month target has been set to complete the acquisition of 2,560 acres of land required for building the project and another two years to complete the construction

At a glance

Project cost: Estimated at Rs 27,000 crore, with funding entirely from private investors. In exchange, these investors are granted toll collection rights for 50 years by the BDA.

Land acquisition: Targets the acquisition of 2,560 acres within six months, with the land acquisition cost estimated at Rs 21,000 crore and civil works requiring an additional Rs 6,000 crore.

Greenfield expressway: Plans include a 100-meter wide expressway, equipped with green spaces, utilities, underground cables, foot-

paths, cycle tracks, and drains. The design also features an eight-lane main carriageway with service roads on both sides and a wide median for future Metro project accommodation.

Additional lengths: Beyond the main stretch, the BDA plans an extra 3.4 km near Madanayakanahalli and 4.08 km near Hebbagodi to integrate existing roads into the PRR network.

Eco concern: The project—which passes through Jarakabande reserve forest—is yet to get environmental clearance.

work. The tender documents did not provide much details about the extent of land required for the project and the compensation structure to be followed.

BDA Commissioner N Jayaram was not available for comment.

Earlier, the officials had stated that the cost of acquiring land is estimated at Rs 21,000 crore and another Rs 6,000 crore is needed for the civil works.

“The entire project will be funded by the private players. We will assist them in acquiring the land,” officials had said, expressing confidence that more players would participate in the tender.

As per the designs made public, the BDA plans to build a 100-metre wide greenfield expressway and has made provision for green space, utilities, underground cable, footpath, cycle track and drains. While the main carriageway will have eight lanes, there will be a service road on both sides. The median has been kept wide enough to accommodate Metro project in the future.

While the stretch between Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road is 65.95 km, the BDA has planned an additional length of 3.4-km near Madanayakanahalli and another 4.08 km near Hebbagodi to link the existing roads.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Feb, 2, 2024

MAJOR PROJECT IN EAST B'LURU EXPECTED TO COST ₹263CR

City's first rotary flyover near Sir MV Terminal receives nod



TRAFFIC CONTROL: The proposed 1.5-km flyover is expected to ease traffic congestion near Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Byappanahalli

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The decks have finally been cleared for construction of the city's first rotary flyover at IOC junction near Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Byappanahalli. On Thursday, the state cabinet approved the project aimed at providing seamless access to the swanky terminal, connecting important roads in and around Byappanahalli area, east Bengaluru.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 263 crore. The flyover will be 1.5km long and along with it, a two-lane railway over-bridge (ROB) will be constructed. This is one of the major road projects in the city approved by the Congress government.

BBMP engineer-in-chief BS Prahlad told **TOI** that the presence of operational railway tracks and space constraints at the spot necessitated a rotary flyover.

"A comprehensive plan has been prepared to integrate prominent roads in the area. At IOC junction, we are not in a position to build road infrastructure at grade level due to the presence of multiple rail lines, and a rotary flyover is the most suitable option for us. This type of infrastructure can be seen in Chennai," he said.

As per the proposal, the road infrastructure will be built from ITC Limited (towards Fraser Town) to IOC junction.

Flyover to link roads leading to

- Old Madras Road
- Kammanahalli
- Banaswadi
- Byappanahalli
- Maruthi Sevanagar

From the rotary flyover, access will be given to the terminal and roads heading towards Old Madras Road. Motorists coming from Kammanahalli and Banaswadi will also get access to the flyover.

"Motorists coming from all four directions will be able to use the flyover and travel to whichever direction they want. The road infrastructure will also provide seamless access to Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal," the official explained.

BBMP is also proposing to build a ROB connecting Old Madras Road with the terminal. "A ROB is already operating, connecting Old Madras Road with the terminal. Considering the future demands, one more ROB is proposed next to the existing structure which helps ease traffic congestion from the Indiranagar

side," the official said.

South Western Railway (SWR) opened Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in June 2022. It is the first swanky 'airport-like' terminal developed by the railways with a centralized air-conditioned system. Though the infrastructure was ready in 2021, the absence of good road networks forced the authorities to delay commercial operations.

At present, the terminal sees 22,000 footfalls per day and close to 50 trains operate from the point.

FLYOVER PLAN

PROJECT COST
₹263 cr

TOTAL LENGTH
1.5 km

WHITE-TOPPING WORTH ₹1200-CR APPROVED

The govt gave post-facto approval for Rs 1,200 crore worth of white-topping works in the city and sanctioned a fresh project of rainwater harvesting in Chamarajpet at a cost of Rs 30 crore, apart from Rs 220 crore for II Phase of a drinking water project under BWSSB for the newly-added 110 villages to BBMP

Source: The Times of India, p.3, Feb. 2, 2024

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