



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



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### Grapes turn sour for growers hit by cold storage crisis

VITTAL SHASTRI  
KALABURAGI, DHNS

**G**rape production has seen a steady increase in the last three years, but the lack of adequate cold storage facilities is proving to be a problem for growers in Karnataka. Around 80% of the produce in the state is converted into raisins as per data obtained from the Karnataka Wine Board.

As Karnataka has a limited capacity to store only about 30% of the annual raisin production, farmers are being forced to turn to storage options in Maharashtra. An unprecedented fall in the market price of grapes coupled with transpor-



tation costs and overhead expenses is leading to losses among grape growers.

Karnataka is the second-largest producer of grapes in the country after neighbouring Maharashtra. The crop is grown mainly in Vijayapura, Bagalkot,

Belagavi and some parts of Bengaluru urban and rural districts. Vijayapura, which accounts for more than 75% of the total grape production in the state, is also one of the top raisin-producing districts in the country.

The area under cultivation in the state has increased from 29,197 hectares in 2019-20 to 36,575 hectares in 2021-22. The production of fresh grapes also witnessed a rise from 7.11 lakh tonnes to 7.88 lakh tonnes during the same period. The production increased to 9.8 lakh tonnes last year. On average, 1 kg of raisins can be produced from 4 kg of fresh grapes.

It takes 12-18 days depending on

climate conditions and fruit quality to dehydrate grapes into raisins. Raisins can be stored in cold storage units for three years.

The rise in production has fuelled the crash of raisin prices in the market.

"The additional stock has led to a fall in raisin prices from Rs 250-270 per kg to Rs 110-150 in the wholesale market. We were facing a shortage of cold storage facilities even before the increase in the cultivation area. The high production last year has compounded the problem," said Karnataka Grapes Growers' Association president KH Mumbareddy.

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### Continued...

Vijayapura Horticulture Department Deputy Director Rahulkumar Bhavidoddi said that last year, farmers in the district produced around 1.7 lakh tonnes of raisins.

"Karnataka has cold storage capacity to accommodate nearly 30% of the total raisin produced at present. Steps are being taken to construct more cold storage in a phased manner," he said.

The cold storage facilities in Vijayapura can store around 50,000 tonnes of raisins.

Now, the government is constructing 10,000-tonne capacity storage facilities.

However, this is still not sufficient. As a result, Karnataka farmers depend on cold storage in Sangli in neighbouring Maharashtra, which has a 90,000-tonne storage capacity.

Consequently, Sangli has emerged as a major market for raisins in the country.

Grape growers say they incur Rs 10,000 per tonne as an additional cost for transportation and overheads for storage of raisins in Maharashtra.

Interestingly, merely 20% of the grapes produced in Maharashtra are converted into raisins. The rest is sold as fresh fruit.

"Fresh grapes being produced in Maharashtra are supplied across the country and also exported. But most of the farmers in Karnataka store their yield as raisins," said Karnataka Grape and Wine Board Managing Director T Somu.

He adds that the harvesting has just begun this year, and production is expected to reduce due to scanty rainfall.

The distressed farmers are looking for the intervention of the government to either construct more cold storage facilities or procure the crop at a support price.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 5, Feb, 3, 2024**

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ: ನುರಿತ ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕೊರತೆ

# ರಬ್ಬರ್ ದರ ಏರಿಕೆಯ 'ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ' ಖುಷಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಮಂಗಳೂರು: ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್-4 (ರಿಬ್ಬೆಡ್ ಸ್ಪೋಕ್ ಲೀಟ್) ದರ್ಜೆಯ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಧಾರಣೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಒಂದು ಕೆ.ಜಿಗೆ ₹147ರಿಂದ ₹148ರ ಆಸುಪಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಬೆಲೆಯು ಒಂದು ವಾರದಿಂದ ₹161ಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿದ್ದು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಖುಷಿ ತಂದಿದೆ. ಇದರ ನಡುವೆಯೇ ಎಷ್ಟು ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಈ ಬೆಲೆ ಇರಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯೂ ಕಾಡತೊಡಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದಶಕದ ಹಿಂದೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಧಾರಣೆಯು ಕೆ.ಜಿಗೆ ₹240 ಆಗಿತ್ತು, ನಂತರ ಬೆಲೆ ಕುಸಿಯುತ್ತ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ₹200ರ ಆಸುಪಾಸು ತಲುಪಿದ್ದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈಗಿನ ಧಾರಣೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನಕರ ಎನಿಸಿದರೂ ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಇದು ತೀರಾ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಅವರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ.

ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕೇರಳದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ-ದಲ್ಲೂ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಒತ್ತಾಯ.

ರಬ್ಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ್ದು ಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌4 ದರ್ಜೆ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದು ಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್-4. ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು 2016ರ ಅಂದಾಜಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇದರ



ಸುಳ್ಯ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ತೋಟವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಮರಗಳು

ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಕೆ.ಜಿಗೆ ₹178. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ಸುಮಾರು ₹240 ವೆಚ್ಚ ತಗಲುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಜಿಗೆ ₹260 ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದರೆ ಲಾಭ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ₹161 ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪಕಳಕುಂಡ ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭಟ್.

ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 11 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ರಬ್ಬರ್‌ಗೆ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇದೆ. ಅಷ್ಟು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೊರತೆ ನೀಗಿಸಲು ಮಲೇಷ್ಯಾ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ 'ಬ್ಲಾಕ್' ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಮದು

ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ರಬ್ಬರ್. ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಳೆಯುವವರು ಇದ್ದರೂ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಬೆಲೆ ಸಿಗದ ಕಾರಣ ಈ ಕೃಷಿಯಿಂದ ವಿಮುಖರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಸುಳ್ಯದ ಗುಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಮಾಣಿಲ, ವಿಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಇದೆ. ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಹಾಸನ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲೂ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ.

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲೇ

## ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ತೋಟಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ತೊಂದರೆ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಇರುವುದು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಲಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ ಶೀಜಾ.

ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಕೇರಳ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾರ್ಖಂಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರನ್ನು ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ನುರಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಸಿಗುವುದು ಕಡಿಮೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ತೋಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವೇ ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯವೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನೀಗಿಸಲು ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಅನೇಕ ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.



ಒಂದು ದಶಕದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಬೆಲೆ

ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಆಗಿರುವ ಏರಿಕೆ

ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಆರಂಭದವರೆಗಾದರೂ

ಇರಲಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಎಲ್ಲರ ಆಶಯ

ಶೀಜಾ, ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮಂಗಳೂರು

ವಲಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ

ಸುಮಾರು 60 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್

ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಳೆ ಇದೆ. ಅದರ,

ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಂದ ರಬ್ಬರ್

ತೋಟಗಳು ಅಡಿಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳಾಗಿ

ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

'ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ

ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಬೆಲೆ

ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ

ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ

ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಟ್ಯಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ಆಗದೇ

ಇದ್ದರೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಳಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೇರಳದಲ್ಲಿ

ಕೆ.ಜಿಗೆ ₹175 ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯು

ಕೂಗು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ

ಕೇಳಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ

ಭಟ್.

'ಕೆಲವು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆಜಿಗೆ

₹161 ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹175

ಆದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದರೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಅನುಕೂಲ

ಆಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಸದ್ಯ ರಬ್ಬರ್ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಲಾಭವೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೂ

ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ'

ಎಂದು ಸುಳ್ಯ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಪಡಪ್ಪಾಡಿಯ

ನಿತ್ಯಾನಂದ ಮುಂಡೋಡಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.10, Feb.03, 2024



# ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಶೇ.50 ಸಬ್ಸಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ನೆರವು ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬೆನ್ನಲುಬು

■ ಎಚ್.ಪಿ. ಪುಣ್ಯವತಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
punyavathi.hp@timesgroup.com

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ಯುವಕರು ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಾನಾ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಕಡೆ ತಟ್ಟು ಬದಲು ಕೃಷಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಆಲೋಚನೆ, ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ವಂತ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವವರಿಗೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು 'ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮ'ದಡಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕೃಷಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೂತನ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳು, ನವೀನ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ನೀಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದೊಂದಿಗೆ 'ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮ' ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ (2023-24) 10 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಯಾವ ಭಾಗಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಬಂದರೂ ಕೆಲವು ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆದರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದವರು ಅದ್ವಿತೀ ಪದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಆಶಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೃಷಿ ಆಧಾರಿತವಾಗಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವವರಿಗೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 5 ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 20



ನವೀನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕತೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನೂತನ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಕೃಷಿಯ ನವೋದ್ಯಮ ಆರಂಭ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಶಯ. ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ, ಹೊಸ ಬಗೆಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಉದ್ಯಮದಾರರಿಗೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅದ್ವಿತೀ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

-ಡಾ. ಜಿ.ಟಿ. ಪುತ್ರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾದ ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಗಳ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ (ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳು ದೇಶದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ) ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 20 ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 50 ಲಕ್ಷದವರೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು

## ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ?

ಈ ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಕ್ಕೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ರೈತ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ಮಿದ್ನಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲೇ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬರಲಿದೆ.



ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ನಾನಾ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್‌ಕ್ಯುಬೇಷನ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನೂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಧನದ

ನೆರವು ನೀಡುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎ.ಎನ್.ರೂಪಾ.

**ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ, ಮೌಲ್ಯವರ್ಧನೆ:** ಆಹಾರ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತೆಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ, ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಸದೃಢತೆ, ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಕೃಷಿ ಜತೆಗೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೌಲ್ಯವರ್ಧನೆಯಿಂದ ರೈತರ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹಲವಾರು ರೈತರು ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೌಲ್ಯವರ್ಧನೆಯಿಂದ ತಮ್ಮ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವನ್ನು ಮಧ್ಯಮರ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ಯುವಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ನೂತನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕತೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನವೀನ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯೀಕರಣವನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸಲು ಕೃಷಿ ನವೋದ್ಯಮ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೆಲವರು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೃಷಿ ಪದವೀಧರರು, ವಿದ್ಯಾವಂತ ಯುವಕರು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಪ್ರಗತಿಪರ ರೈತರು, ನವೋದ್ಯಮಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

Source: Vijaya Karnataka, p.9, Feb.05, 2024



# Over 2,000 former bonded labourers struggle without rehabilitation package

Jayanth R.  
BENGALURU

As many as 2,252 persons freed from bonded labour in the State from 2016, have alleged they are yet to get rehabilitation package from the State government owing to new norms introduced in 2017, and are planning to hold a protest in the city on February 7.

The rescued persons will get compensation between ₹1 lakh and ₹3 lakh under a Central scheme. However, if an FIR is registered in the case, they will get an immediate ex-gratia of ₹30,000 and the remaining amount only after the case is settled in the court.

Norms of the Union government allow for a 'summary trial' by the district magistrate within 24 hours from the date of identification or rescue of the bonded labourers, even if no FIR has been lodged. The filing of FIRs is required only in the case of other offences being made out



Thimmanna Hanumanta Bisiholgi and Siddappa Laxman Bangari, former bonded labourers from Chunchanur village of Ramdurg taluk in Belgavi district, showing their release certificates.

against the employer, explained Kiran Kamal Prasad, founder of Jeevika, an organisation fighting against bonded labour.

As per these rules, 61,610 individuals have got their rehabilitation package since 2001 to 2016.

However, as per the new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the State government in 2017, officials have to file FIRs against the employers

when an individual is rescued in every case.

This has essentially delayed the rehabilitation package for those rescued till the trial is concluded. "This disregards the main objective of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976," said Mr. Prasad.

In many cases, as those freed wait for their rehabilitation, their former employers are allegedly pressuring them to withdraw

the cases. Such instances have been reported from many districts, including Chickballapur, Mandya, Mysuru, and Belagavi, the former bonded labourers say.

Thimmanna Hanumanta Bisiholgi, from Chunchanur village, Ramdurg taluk, Belagavi district, said that he, his father, and his grandfather were bonded labourers.

"In 2016, the government freed me and gave me a release certificate. Also, a case has been registered against the employer. As the case is still in court, I have not received any rehabilitation package from the government. With no one else giving me work in the village, my previous employer threatened me and got my signature on an affidavit stating that I was not working in his house and submitted it to the court," he said.

Siddappa Laxman Bangari, another former bonded labourer in the same village, said that despite

meeting officials at the DC's office requesting them for the rehabilitation package, it had not yielded any results. "They say that since the case is pending in court, rehabilitation is not possible until the final verdict. It is difficult to live like this," he said.

## Protest on Feb. 7

Those former bonded labourers yet to be rehabilitated have now decided to hold a protest at Freedom Park on February 7, demanding the withdrawal of SOPs that make filing FIRs mandatory.

"Karnataka is stressing on investigation rather than rehabilitation. This is against the spirit of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. We have met senior officials of the government several times, but have not got any relief. So we have decided to protest," said Patlu Govindaraju, an activist fighting for the rights of those rescued from bonded labour.

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

## ಕೆಜೆಗೆ 10 ರಿಂದ 15 ರೂ. ಮಾರಾಟ | ಇನ್ನೂ ದರ ಇಳಿಯುವ ಆತಂಕ ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ

■ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾಚಾರಿ ಎ. ವಿಠಲರಾವ್  
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಕೆಜೆಗೆ 10 ರಿಂದ 15 ರೂ. ಮಾರಾಟ | ಇನ್ನೂ ದರ ಇಳಿಯುವ ಆತಂಕ  
ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ತರಕಾರಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ.

### ರೈತರಿಂದಲೇ ಮಾರಾಟ

ರವ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೆಲವು ರೈತರು ಜೊತೆ ಜೊತೆಯಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವೇ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಉಳಿರಿಂದ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ಬಂಡವಾಳ (ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ) ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದು 10 ಕೆಜೆ ಚೀಲದಂತೆ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವು ರೈತರು ಬಂದ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣು ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಮಾರಾಟಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಲಸ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸುವ ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣು ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಮಾರಾಟ.

ಬರಕಾಲದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಕಷ್ಟಕಷ್ಟ ಉಣ್ಣುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣು ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಮಾರಾಟಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಲಸ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸುವ ರೈತರ ಕಣ್ಣು ನೀರು ತರಿಸಿದ ಮಾರಾಟ.

■ ಭಾರತೀಯ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ

ಭಾರತೀಯ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ  
ಭಾರತೀಯ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ



ಕಾರ್ಯ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ  
ಕಾರ್ಯ ರವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ



ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಈಗ ಇರುವ ದರ	ಬೆಲೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	10-20 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 30-40 ರೂ.)	2,700
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	15-20 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 30-35 ರೂ.)	3,571
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	32 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 55-66 ರೂ.)	3,886
ಬಾಯಲೂರು	4-15 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 6-18 ರೂ.)	800
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	10-15 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 25-30 ರೂ.)	218
ವಿಜಯನಗರ	12-14 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 36-40 ರೂ.)	3,308
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	7-8 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 18-25 ರೂ.)	2,500
ಮಂಜ್ಯ	20-25 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 40 ರೂ.)	277
ವಿಜಯಪುರ	15-20 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 25-30 ರೂ.)	12,000
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	25-30 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 30-35 ರೂ.)	6,143
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	15-18 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 25 ರೂ.)	21,862
ಗದಗ	10 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 18-25 ರೂ.)	18,700
ಧಾರವಾಡ	18-20 ರೂ. (ಏಕಮ 25-30 ರೂ.)	10,100

(ಚಿತ್ರಾಂಗ)

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.09, Feb.06, 2024



ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ  
ಯಾರ ಹೊಣೆ? 1

# ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹೊಣೆ ನಮ್ಮದಲ್ಲ, ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳದ್ದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ 2010ರಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಪಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು 'ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ: ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ'ಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯು 'ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ' ಅಧ್ಯಾಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವರವು ಈ ಮುಂದಿನಂತಿತ್ತು: 'ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವಾದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಹಲವು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯಗಳ ನಿರಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆ ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಬೇಕು'.

2010ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳೆರಡರೂ ಹೊಣೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿನ ದಿಟ ಸತ್ಯವಾದ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈ ನಿಯಮವನ್ನು 2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಿಸಿತು. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿತು.

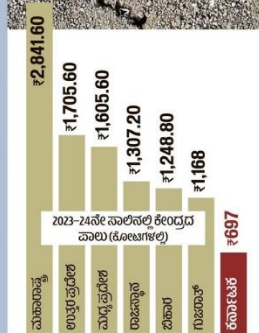
2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಮತ್ತೆ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 'ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ (ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪ) ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳದ್ದು ಮಾತ್ರ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ನೆರವಾಗಬಹುದು ಅಷ್ಟೆ, ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಹಣಕಾಸು ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸಬಹುದಷ್ಟೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೆರವನ್ನು ಕೋರಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ನೂತನ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯು ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬರದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಜನವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ಹೊಸ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಸಬೇಕು. ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶದ ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಜನರು ಗಳಿಕೆ ಹೋಗುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಬೇಸಾಯದ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಭರಿಸಬೇಕು... ಇವು ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು. 2010ರ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗಿನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪಡೆ ಪಡೆ ಬದಲಿಸಿದ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

ಈ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ 'ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿ'ಯ (ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಆ ಹಣ ಸಾಲದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ 'ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯು ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿ'ಯಿಂದ (ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್) ನೆರವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಈ ಎರಡೂ ನಿಧಿಗಳ ಹಣ ಸಾಲದೇ ಇದ್ದಾಗ, ಇತರ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು 2010ರ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗಿನ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, 'ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್‌ನ ಹಣವು ಸಾಲದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹಣಕಾಸು ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಮನವಿಯನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ



ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್‌ಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ವಾಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ, ಉತ್ತರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು



ಕೇಂದ್ರವು' ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೀಗೆ ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ನೆರವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಲೇ, ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಾನು ಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿರಬೇಕಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತವೆ.

2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರುವಾಗ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಕಡೆಗಣಿಸಿ ನೂತನ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಈ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರುವಾಗ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ದಿಟ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಆಗಲೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಕಡೆಗಣಿಸಿ, ನೂತನ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಲೇ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹೊಣೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಹಗಲಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕೇ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಬೇಕೇ ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಚಲಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಅಫಜಲ್ಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜೋಗೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬರತಾಡ ಹೊಲದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತ...  
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ: ತಾಜ್‌ದೀನ್ ಅಜಾದ್

## ರೈತರಿಗೆ ₹1,000 ಕೊಡಿ ಸಾಕು: ಕೇಂದ್ರ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೂತನ 'ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ'ಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹1,000 ಪರಿಹಾರ (ಬೇಸಾಯ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಹಾಯಧನ) ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನೂತನ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. 2023ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಿಂದು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಇದನ್ನೇ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜಮೀನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಕು ಎಂದು ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹1,000 ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಸಾಕು ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಹೇಳುವುದರಿಂದಲೇ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೇಸಾಯದ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಒಂದು ಪಾಲನ್ನಷ್ಟೇ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು, ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟದ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನಲ್ಲ ರೈತರು ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸಬೇಕು. ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾದಾಗ, ವಿಮೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನೂತನ ನಿಯಮವು ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮೊತ್ತ		
ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ	ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಧಾನ	ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಒಂದು ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗೆ)
2 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು	ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ	ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹1,000- ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹8,500
	ನಿಲಾವಿ	ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹2,000- ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹17,000
	ಬಹುವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಬೆಳೆ	ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ₹22,500- ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ₹22,500
2 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ	ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ	₹8,500
	ನಿಲಾವಿ	₹17,000
	ಬಹುವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಬೆಳೆ	₹22,500

\* ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 30 ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹ

## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಣ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿರುವುದೇಕೆ...

ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ಪದೇ-ಪದೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್ ಅವರು, 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಣ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲೇ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಅವರು ಹಾಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದಿರುವುದು, ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹಣವನ್ನೇ ಒಂದು ಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್‌ಗೆಂದು ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅಯೋಗವು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಧಿಯ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅಯೋಗವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ 2023-24ನೇ



ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್

ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ₹929 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾಲನೆ ₹697.60 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ್ದೇ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ₹18,171 ಕೋಟಿ ನೆರವು ನೀಡಿ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೇಳಿದೆ. 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹929 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು, ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿ, ಮೇವು-ಗೋಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ನೆರವು ಒದಗಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಆದರೆ, 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಅಡಿ ನಾವು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕಿರುವ ₹697.60 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಲಾಕಿ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಆ ಹಣದಲ್ಲೇ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿ' ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಹಣ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕಿದ್ದರೂ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಅಥವಾ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆಧಾರ: ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ-2010, ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳು 2016 ಮತ್ತು 2020, 2023ರ ಬರ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಯೋಜನೆ, ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಅಂಶ 3ರ ಸಡಿಲಾಯಿತು 30ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳು-2023, ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್



ದಿನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ವಿಧ್ಯಾಂಶಕರ ಸೋಮಯಾಜಿ, ಕ



# 'ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ' ಘೋಷಣೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಬರವು ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಥವಾ ತೀವ್ರ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾದ ಘಟ್ಟ. ಬರವು ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ್ದು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬರವು ತೀವ್ರ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ್ದು ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೇ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಮೊದಲು ಬರದ ತೀವ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕುವ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳು ಸರಳವಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಆದರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು 2016 ಮತ್ತು 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯು, ಬರ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬರದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯು ಈಗಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಇರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದು ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನೂ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ.



ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಸಾಲಾಗುಂದಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಳಿ ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ ನದಿಯು ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಬತ್ತಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ ಚಿತ್ರ: ಸಂಗಮೇಶ ಬರ್ಗೀರ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

'ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದ್ದರಷ್ಟೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೆರವನ್ನು ಕೋರಬೇಕು' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ-2020. ಆದರೆ ಬರವು ತೀವ್ರ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಸಾಬೀತುಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೇ ಇರುವಷ್ಟರಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವಾದ ನಿಮಿಷಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರೂಪಿಸಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರವು ತೀವ್ರ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲು ಅಥವಾ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಷತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ (ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್)

ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಪ್ರಮೇಯವೇ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. (ಕೆಲವು ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಬರ ಇದ್ದರೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ನೆರವನ್ನು ಕೋರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳು ಯಾವುವು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ). 2010ರಲ್ಲಿ ಯುಪಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬರ ಮತ್ತು ತೀವ್ರ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲು ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಲ್ಲಾದ ಕೊರತೆಯನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಏಕೆ? ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಇಳುವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಂದ ಇಳುವರಿ ಮತ್ತು

ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆತ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಇವುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ 2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ಮತ್ತು 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬರದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳೂ ಹಲವು ಉಪ ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರನೇ ಎರಡರಷ್ಟು ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎಂಬುದು ಸಾಬೀತಾದರೆ ಮತ್ತು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

## 2010ರ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ

- ಜೊತೆಗಿನಿಂದ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ ನಂತರ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆಯಾಗದೇ (ವಾರಿಕೆಯು ಶೇ 50 ಮತ್ತು ಶೇ 60ರ ಕಡೆಮು) ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಕೃಷಿ ಬರ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.
- ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆಯು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ವಾರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಶೇ 20ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಬರ ವರ್ಷ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.
- ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆಯು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ವಾರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಶೇ 25- ಶೇ 40ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ವರ್ಷ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

## ಬರದ ತೀವ್ರತೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುವ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳು

### ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲ..

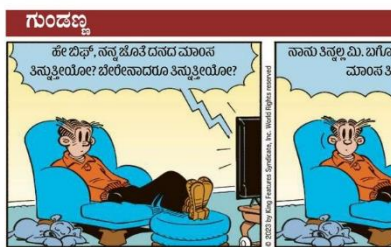
2020ರ ಕೈಪಿಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನಿಚ್ಛೆಯ ಮೂರು ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಆ ಮೂರರಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಎರಡು ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳು 'ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ' ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಒಂದು ಸೂಚಂಕವು 'ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಬರ' ಎಂದಾದರೂ ಸೂಚಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅದನ್ನು 'ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ' ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ: ಮಳೆ ಸೂಚಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಜಲ ಸೂಚಂಕವು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎಂದು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಹಸಿರು ಸೂಚಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೇವಾಂಶ ಸೂಚಂಕವು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಎಂದು ತೋರಿಸಿದರೆ ಆ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು 'ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ' ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಆಗ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಅಥವಾ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

'ಇದು ಹಸಿರು ಸೂಚಂಕದ ಒಂದು ಉಪಸೂಚಂಕ. ಬರವನ್ನು ಆಳಿಯು ಹಲವು ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ, ಕೈ ಬಂದ ಬೆಳೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರಿಂದ ಬಂದ ಆದಾಯ- ಇವುಗಳೂ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟವನ್ನು ಹಣದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅನುಸರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಎಷ್ಟು ಆದಾಯ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಬರ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೇ ಬೇಡವೇ ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ನಿಮಿಷಗಳು ಬದಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವಾಗಿವೆ. ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಆಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಈಗ ಬರವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಯುಪಿಎ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿಸಿದ ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ, ಒಂದು ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಇಳುವರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು 18 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಎಂದಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಆ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ 9 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಇಳುವರಿ ದೊರೆತರೆ (ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ) ಅದನ್ನು ಬರ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಮುಂಗಾರು ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ನಷ್ಟಗಳಿಗೂ ಇದೇ ಸೂತ್ರವೇ ಅನ್ವಯ.

## 2020ರ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ

ಈ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆ, ಬೆಳೆ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಯಾವುದನ್ನೂ ನೇರವಾದ ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ಮಳೆ ಸೂಚಂಕ
  - ವಾರಿಕೆ ಮಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 60ರಿಂದ ಶೇ 99ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊರತೆಯಾದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೇಸಾಯದ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸತತ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಾರ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಾದರೆ (ವಾರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 50ಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೊರತೆ) ಮಾತ್ರ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಂದು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಉಪಸೂಚಂಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
  - ಇವುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಪ್ರಮಾಣಿತ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಮಳೆ ಸೂಚಂಕ-ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಎ' ಅನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸೂಚಂಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕೊರತೆ, ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಕೊರತೆ, ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅತಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಂದು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ.
2. ಹಸಿರು ಸೂಚಂಕ
  - ದೂರಸಂವೇದಿ ಉಪಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ಸಾರ್ ರೆಡ್ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳ ನೆರವಿನಿಂದ ಹಸಿರು ಸೂಚಂಕವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ಸೂಚಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೇವ ಸೂಚಂಕ ಎಂಬ ಎರಡು ಉಪ ಸೂಚಂಕಗಳಿವೆ. ಉಪಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ಮತ್ತು ತೇವಾಂಶವು ದಟ್ಟವಾಗಿ (ಇನ್ಸಾರ್ ರೆಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಧಾನ್ಯಕ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು) ಕಂಡರೆ ಬರ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸೂಚಂಕದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕೊರತೆ ಅಂದರೆ, ಭೈರು ಅಥವಾ ಗಿಡ ತೆನೆಟ್ಟದೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
3. ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ತೇವಾಂಶ ಸೂಚಂಕ
  - ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಉಪಸೂಚಂಕಗಳು ಇವೆ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ತೇವಾಂಶದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಶೇ 50ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದ್ದರಷ್ಟೇ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೇಸಾಯದ ಋತುವಿನ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿನ ತೇವಾಂಶದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟದರೆ ಅದು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
4. ಜಲಸೂಚಂಕಗಳು
  - ಜಲಾಶಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಸೂಚಂಕ: ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಶೇ 40-60ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
  - ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಬರ ಸೂಚಂಕ: ನೆಲಮುಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಎಷ್ಟು ಅಳೆ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ, ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅಳೆದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟವನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡಿ ಇದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
  - ಪರಿಯುಜ ಜಲಮೂಲಗಳ ಸೂಚಂಕ: ನದಿ-ಹಳ್ಳ-ತೋರಣಗಳ ಬೇಸಾಯದ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಹರಿದಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡಿ ಈ ಸೂಚಂಕವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನೀರಿನ ಹರಿವಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದರಷ್ಟೇ ಅದನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.



ದಿನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರಂಕರ ನೋಮಯಾಜಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಕೋಟಗೌಡ್ ಸಾಮ ಸಂವತ್ಸರ ಉತ್ತರಾಯಣ ಹೇಮಂತ ಋತು ತಿಥಿ: ಪುಷ್ಯ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ತ್ರಯೋದಶಿ ಗಿ. 11-18 ನಕ್ಷತ್ರ: ಉತ್ತರಾಷಾಢ ಗಿ. 26-14 ದೋಣ: ಸ್ವಾ (ಅಶ್ವಿ) ಗಿ.



# ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.40ರಷ್ಟು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಕುಸಿಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ | ರಾಗಿ, ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ, ಶೇಂಗಾ, ತೊಗರಿ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಕುಂಠಿತ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಅಭಾವ?

■ ಎಚ್.ಪಿ. ಪುಣ್ಯವತಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
punyavathi.hp@timesgroup.com

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬರಗಾಲದ ಪಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಶೇ.40ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂಠಿತವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಂಗಾರು ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಮ ರೈತರು ಎರಡರೂ ಬಾರಿ ಬಿತ್ತಿದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಹೊಲ-ಗದ್ದೆಗಳು ಹೊಲಮಯವಾಗಿವೆ, ಫಲ ಕೊಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಗೆ ಹೊಡೆತ ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 114.27 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 148.16 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಮುಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 92.87 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್, ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 19.45 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 112.33 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗಲಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬರಗಾಲದ 36 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್‌ಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನ ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಅಂಶವು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನ ಬೆಳೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮುಂಗಾರು-ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನ ಹೊಡೆತ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬಾಧಿಸಲಿದೆ. ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.



2023 ವರ್ಷ
1153 ಮಿ. ಮೀ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಮಳೆ
872 ಮಿ. ಮೀ. ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಮಳೆ

## ಭಾರತ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಾಟ



ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ಆನಂದಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇವಲ 29 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಮಾಜಿ ಸಿಎಂ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಯಡಿಯೂರಪ್ಪ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ದರಗಳು ಕಳೆದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.15ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಲು 'ಭಾರತ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್' ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಜಿ 29 ರೂ.ಗಳ ಸರ್ಟಿಫಿಕೇಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಭಾರತ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯು 5 ಕೆ.ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು 10 ಕೆ.ಜಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. 5 ಕೆ.ಜಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್‌ಗೆ 145 ರೂ., 10 ಕೆ.ಜಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್‌ಗೆ 290 ರೂ.ವಾಯಿತು.

ದರವಿದೆ. ಸಾಫ್ಟ್, ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್., ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಭಂಡಾರ, ಇ-ಕಾಮರ್ಸ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರ್ಮ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

## ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಂಠಿತ?

- ರಾಗಿ: ರಾಮನಗರ (ಶೇ.40ರಿಂದ 50), ಕೋಲಾರ(ಶೇ.60), ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ (ಶೇ.70), ತುಮಕೂರು(ಶೇ.60), ಹಾಸನ(ಶೇ.60), ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ (ಶೇ.60-65), ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ(ಶೇ. 50-60), ಮೈಸೂರು(ಶೇ.70), ವಿಜಯಪುರ(ಶೇ.65)
- ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ (ಶೇ.60-70), ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ (ಶೇ.70-75), ತುಮಕೂರು(ಶೇ.70), ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಗದಗ, ಬಿವರೋಗ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು (ಶೇ.60)
- ಶೇಂಗಾ: ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
- ತೊಗರಿ: ತುಮಕೂರು, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ

ಮುಂಗಾರು, ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 114.27 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ 148.16 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಸದ್ಯ 112.33 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಡಾ. ಜಿ.ಪಿ. ಪುತ್ರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

## ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಬರ, ಅಕ್ಕಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ!

■ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಕೆ.ಜಿ., ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ / basava.darshu@gmail.com

ಬರಗಾಲದ ಪಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಿಂದ ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಕುಂಠಿತಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕುಸಿಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಭತ್ತ ವರ್ಷ 10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕೇವಲ 29,168 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಗಂಗಾವತಿ, ಸಿರಸೀಕೆರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ

ಹೊಳೆ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹೊನ್ನಾವ್ಳು, ನ್ಯಾಮಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕೆಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿ ನೀರು, ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿ ನೀರು ಲಭ್ಯತೆ

ಇರುವವರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲೆ ನೀರು ಆವಲಂಬಿಸಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಭತ್ತ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಹಲವರ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಒಮ್ಮತೇ ಭತ್ತದ ಗದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಬತ್ತ ಹೊಲಗಿದೆ. ಅಡಿಕೆ ಬೆಳೆ, ಭತ್ತದ ಗದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅನುಸರಿಸುವ ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಮುನಿಸು ರೈತರನ್ನು ಸಂತೋಷಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಮುಗಿದ ನಾಟ ಅವಧಿ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಜನವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮುಗಿಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಆಗುವುದನ್ನು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಳೆದ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲೆ ನೀರು ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಸುಮಾರು 50 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಅದರ ಶೇ.1 ರಷ್ಟು ನಾಟ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ.

# ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಅಭಾವ

» ಮೊದಲ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಮುಂಗಾರು ಬಿತ್ತನೆಗೇ ಹೊಡೆತ: 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನಾ ಕೃಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳನ್ನು 82.35 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಂತೆ 74.32 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು (ಶೇ.90ರಷ್ಟು). ಆದರೆ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾದ ಬೆಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ಇಳುವರಿ ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಮಧ್ಯೆಯೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು 92.87 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ 25.38 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 21.67 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ (ಶೇ.85)ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಸುಮಾರು 22.35 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಗುರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೀಗ 19.45 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ 6.54 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಬದಲಿಗೆ 1.13 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ (ಶೇ.17ರಷ್ಟು) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

# ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಬರ, ಅಕ್ಕಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ!

» ಮೊದಲ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

29 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ನಾಟಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ 10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕೇವಲ 29,168 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 2.72 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಾಟ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಕೇವಲ ಶೇ.10ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು 10,700 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ 7920, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ 5746, ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1575 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಬೇರೆಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ನಾಟ ಪ್ರದೇಶ 800 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ದಾಟಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.3-7, Feb.07, 2024



# 6.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ: ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇರುವ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮಿತಿ ನಿಗದಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ) ಒಟ್ಟು 6.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ (62,500 ಟನ್) ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರೈತರಿಂದ 5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 1.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಿದೆ.

ತುಮಕೂರು, ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಫ್‌ಎಕ್ಯೂ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 48 ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿದ್ದು, ಮೂರು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಫೆಡ್ ಖರೀದಿ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ರೈತರ ಆತಂಕ ಏನು?: ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಿಂದ ಜುಲೈವರೆಗೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, ರೈತರ ಒತ್ತಾಯದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಈ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ



ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು

**₹12,000**

ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ

**₹1,500**

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನ

**1.33**

ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್

ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ್ದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ

**₹1,493**

ಕೋಟಿ

ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಡಿ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ಮೊತ್ತ

ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮಯ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವುದು ರೈತರನ್ನು ಆತಂಕದ ಮಡುವಿಗೆ ದೂಡಿದೆ.

## ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಚುರುಕು

'ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಲ್ಲ. ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಷ್ಟೇ ನೋಂದಣಿ ನಿಧಾನಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ಅಂತಹ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಚುರುಕುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಆರ್. ಶ್ರೀಧರ್ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಬುಧವಾರದವರೆಗೆ 3.60 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ 20,978 ರೈತರು ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಎರಡು-ಮೂರು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಿತಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.



ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮತ್ತೆ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿದೆ **ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪಾಟೀಲ್**, ನಾಫೆಡ್‌ನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ

ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕಳೆದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳ ಕೊನೆಯ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು. ದರ ಕುಸಿತದಿಂದ ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ರೈತರು ಆಗಿನಿಂದಲೇ ನಾಫೆಡ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆದರೆ, 6.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮಿತಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ

ಮಿತಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಸಮಯ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ರೈತರ ಆತಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನೋಂದಣಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಾಲುಗಟ್ಟಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಎಂದಿನಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ?: 'ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾದ ರೈತರ ದತ್ತಾಂಶವು ನಾಫೆಡ್‌ನ ಇ-ಸಮುದ್ರಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ರವಾನೆಯಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು' ಎಂದು ನಾಫೆಡ್‌ನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

## ಮಾನದಂಡ ಮಾಪಾಡಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ

'ನನಗೆ ಆರು ಎಕರೆ ತೋಟವಿದ್ದು, 300 ತೆಂಗಿನ ಮರಗಳಿವೆ. 50 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಿಪ್ಪೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಸುಲಿದರೆ ಸುಮಾರು 75 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚನ್ನರಾಯ-ಪಟ್ಟಣ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾವಲಿ ಹೊಸೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರ ಹೊಂಗೃಪ್ಪ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಆದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಾನದಂಡದ ಅನ್ವಯ ಐದು ಎಕರೆ ತೋಟ ಇದ್ದವರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 18 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದಲೂ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಉಳಿದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಏನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ತೋಟುತ್ಪಾದಕ ರೈತರ ಬಳಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇರುವ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.12, Feb.08, 2024

# State govt. likely to amend APMC Act

It plans to bring back provisions that make it mandatory to purchase and sell notified agricultural produce in APMC yards

Sharath S. Srivatsa  
BENGALURU

The State government is likely to introduce amendment to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, bringing back provisions that make it mandatory to purchase and sell notified agricultural produce in APMC yards, subject to clearance by the Select Committee.

The Bill will bring changes to the APMC Act that had been passed by the earlier BJP government to remove the licence regime and enable farmers to sell their produce anywhere. The changes that were brought to the APMC Act during COVID-19 pandemic had been criticised by the Congress that was then in the Opposition, as well as a large number of farmer organisations across the State.

## A promise made

While the Congress had promised to roll back the amendment brought to the APMC Act, the farmers had



A view of the APMC yard at Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

pointed out at the depleting arrivals to APMC yards since sale and purchase had been deregulated.

In fact, soon after assuming power, the Congress government had made an attempt to bring an amendment to the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) Act, 1966. The government moved the amendment Bill in July 2023. Though it had been passed by the Legislative Assembly on July 17, 2023, it failed to get the nod of the Legislative

Council as it was referred to the select committee on July 18.

Among the provisions in the proposed amendment are authorising the Director of Agricultural Marketing and officers authorised by him to issue licence, providing penal provision for using any place for marketing any agricultural produce without a valid licence, and for purchase or sale of notified agricultural produce in contravention of the provisions of the Act. The amendment will also specify the places

which can be used for purchase or sale of notified agricultural produce.

## Language Bill

Among about 16 Bills that are likely to come before the legislature during the 10-day Budget session starting next Monday is also the Karnataka Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that mandates display in nameboards to be 60% in Kannada language and Kannada to be displayed in the upper half of the same board.

Though State government had sent a proposal to promulgate an Ordinance in this respect, the Governor had sent the proposal back to the government asking it to secure the nod of the Legislature since the session dates had been finalised.

The Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is also likely to be moved to exempt the office of Adviser to the Chief Minister, Financial Adviser to Chief Mi-

nister, and Chairman or Member to any commission from incurring disqualification for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council. The amendment is being moved due to recent appointments that were made by the Congress government to quell dissidence.

To enable police officers to understand their jurisdiction better and build good relation with the public, the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is likely to be moved to increase the tenure of police officers in operational duties from one year to two years. The Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Worker's Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024, will be moved to provide levy and collection of cess on motor vehicles for financing schemes to provide social security to workers in transport and allied sectors. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is being moved to enhance tax on motor vehicles.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Feb. 8, 2024



# Sweeter days are ahead for mangoes, barring unfavourable weather conditions in State

With the weather conditions being congenial in the flowering season, the Technical Committee set up by the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, is confident of an average good yield this year

**Jahnavi T.R.**  
BENGALURU

**B**arring unprecedented weather conditions, this year might be sweeter for mango after quite a few off years in the recent past. With the weather conditions being congenial in the flowering season, the Technical Committee set up by the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC), is confident of an average good yield this year.

The Technical Committee met last month for the evaluation of mango yield. "At the time, there was 15-20% flowering in Ramanagara district. Now it has touched around 75-80%. Ideally, the formation of fruits should have started by now, but there is a slight delay. In the major growing areas of Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Bengaluru Rural districts, there is 30-35% flowering (delayed), but it will happen properly in February," said C.G. Nagaraju, Managing Director, KSMDMC. Production is expected to be good in Kolar as well, he said.

He added that, unlike previous years, there was



According to the committee's findings, in the absence of any rain in the coming months, and with on-time, one-phased, and quality flowering, the mango yield will be 12-14 lakh tonnes in Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

no rainfall during the flowering months making the weather conditions congenial for mangoes this time.

According to the committee's findings, in the absence of any rain in the coming months, and on-time, one-phased, and quality flowering, then the mango yield would be 12-14 lakh metric tonnes in Karnataka. If not, the State will get around 8-10 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes.

Mr. Nagaraju mentioned that it is difficult to have demarcated on and off years with weather fluctuations and cultivation changes. "It feels like we are heading towards an on

year. Ideally, an on year is when more than 75% of trees produce fruits and flowers. This year, we are certain to see at least an average yield. The harvesting should start by the end of March or the first week of April in Ramanagara. The weather conditions have been fantastic this year, especially in Ramanagara," S.V. Hittalamani, former Additional Director (Fruits), Horticulture Department who presently heads the Technical Committee for mangoes, told *The Hindu*.

He further said that there has been no disease outbreak this year so far

which shows that farmers have taken necessary precautions based on the training they have received in the previous years.

The marketing preparation for mangoes is underway and in full swing in the State. The Thothapuri variety from Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already come to markets while the mangoes from Karnataka will be available from April.

The Kesar variety which has been cultivated largely in Koppal district this year, is expected to hit the markets earlier than the other fruits of the same variety from the other States.

## Farmers demand Kisan Rail from Kolar to Delhi

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The mango growers from Kolar district have urged the Union government to consider resuming the Kisan Rail that ran between Srinivasapur taluk and New Delhi for a year.

### Good prices

"Every year, the farmers in Srinivasapura grow five to six lakh tonnes of mangoes and if the train services are resumed, then it will help them get good prices for the fruit," said NeelaturuChinnappa Reddy, president, of Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

### More trains

The farmers also requested more trains from Srinivasapura to Tirupati via Madanapalli to benefit farmers from Kolar which is a major horticultural crop hub.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Feb. 9, 2024**



# ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ

ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಣೆಗೆ ಮುಗಿಬಿದ್ದ ರೈತರು: ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಳಂಬ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಮೈಸೂರು: ಮೈಸೂರು ಭಾಗದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲು ರೈತರು ಮುಗಿಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಳಂಬವಿಂದಾಗಿ ತೊಂದರೆ ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ₹12 ಸಾವಿರ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ₹1,500 ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ₹13,500 ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ದರ ಕುಸಿತದಿಂದ ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ರೈತರು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳತ್ತ ಮುಖ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ನೋಂದಣೆ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೇಗದ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನೆಟ್ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ 150 ಮಂದಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ: ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿತ್ಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ 100ರಿಂದ 150 ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 68 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ವರ್ಷ ರೈತರ ಬಳಿ 20 ಸಾವಿರ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

‘ಆರಂಭದ 2-3 ದಿನ ನೋಂದಣೆಗೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದೀಗ ಟೋಕನ್ ನೀಡಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರೈತರೂ ಸರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ನೋಂದಣೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**83,900 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು:** ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಅರು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಧವಾರದಿಂದ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಆರಂಭಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ದಿನವೇ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ರೈತರನ್ನು ವಾಪಸ್ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಬಳಿ 83,900 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಲ್ಲ: ಚಾಮರಾಜ



ರಾತ್ರಿಯೇ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಬಳಿ ಬಂದು ಹೆಸರು

ನೋಂದಣೆಗೆ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಬಯೋ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳೆ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ

## ರೈತರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ತಕರ ನೋಂದಣೆ

ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ₹10 ಸಾವಿರದಂತೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ವರ್ತಕರೇ, ನಾಫ್‌ಡ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ರೈತರು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಲ್ಲದ ರೈತರನ್ನು ಕರೆತಂದು ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅವರ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿವಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ದೂರಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚೆಯ ರೈತರಷ್ಟೇ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ‘ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇಲ್ಲ’ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು ಹೈರಾಣು: ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಸಿಲಲ್ಲಿ ಸರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು ರೈತರು ಹೈರಾಣಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ 2, ಹಿರಿಯೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ 1 ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2,499 ರೈತರು ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ 37,653 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

‘ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ರೈತರು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಬಯೋ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಎರಡು ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ



ಹೊಸದುರ್ಗ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆದಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಣೆಗೆ ಸರದಿ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಕಾದಿದ್ದರು

## ರಾಗಿ, ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಸರ್ವರ್

**ತುಮಕೂರು:** ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮತ್ತೆ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಗುರುವಾರ ಒಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಯಿತು.

ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30ಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ಫೆ. 5ರಿಂದಲೂ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದ್ದು, ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ನಿಧಾನವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಗಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದೇ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಇದರಿಂದ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಿಧಾನವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ರೈತರನ್ನು ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು ಈವರೆಗೆ ಇದ್ದ 23 ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳನ್ನು 40ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರ ಬಳಿ ಸುಮಾರು 8 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನದರೇ ನಾಫ್‌ಡ್ 1.50 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ಉಳಿದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ವರ್ತಕರಿಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

## ಒಂದೇ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್: ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಅಳಲು

**ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು:** ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಡೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದೇ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಸರ್ವರ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಣೆ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ರೈತರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ತಕರು ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಪಡೆಯುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಈ ಬಾರಿ ರೈತರೇ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ನೀಡುವುದನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಖಾತೆ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದು, ಅವರೇ ಖುದ್ದು ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮುಂದೆ ವಯಸ್ಸಾದ ರೈತರು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಬೀರೂರು, ತರೀಕೆರೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ದೂರದ ಊರುಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ರೈತರು ನೋಂದಣೆಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಹೋಬಳಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆದರೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಆಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರೈತರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಹ ಶಾಖಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಬಸವೇಶ ಎಸ್. ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಾಡಿಗರ್ ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.



# Pressure on Siddaramaiah to waive farm loans

BV.Shivashankar  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Pressure is mounting on chief minister Siddaramaiah to make substantial allocations for the agriculture sector in the upcoming budget. Farmer organisations have already held a series of protests, demanding, among other things, that the govt waive farm loans.

Farmer organisations are now exerting more pressure following Siddaramaiah's recent protest in Delhi against the Centre over resource sharing. The govt's demonstration was aimed at highlighting injustices faced by Karnataka, including the failure of the Centre to grant drought relief under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Farmers are now looking to the state government for relief.

This week, Karnataka State Farmers Organizations Federation (KSFOF) submitted a memo-



## BLEAK OUTLOOK:

With the Union govt delaying funds to compensate for drought losses, farmers are looking to the state govt for relief

## KARNATAKA BUDGET 2024-25

random to Siddaramaiah, highlighting severe drought and the need for relief measures. "While we support the government's fight against the Centre, we also expect it to play its role and reduce distress among farmers," Kuruburu Shanthakumar, KSFOF president, said.

The state provided interim relief of Rs 2,000 to 31 lakh farmers, but farmers say the sum is too meagre and are demanding Rs 8,500 per hectare. But officials say this is not possible without central assistance.

## BUDGET WISHLIST

- Waiver of loans
- Set up MSP procurement centre at gram panchayat level
- Pension scheme for farmers aged above 60 years
- Govt jobs for women marrying farmers
- Declare Dec 23 as Farmers Day in the name of Prof MD Nanjundaswamy

NDRF prescribes Rs 8,500 compensation for one hectare of rain fed agricultural land and Rs 17,000 for irrigated land. The state has pegged agricultural loss at Rs 36,000 crore and sought Rs 17,935 crore relief from the Centre. However, the Centre's interminable delay has caused friction.

In the previous budget, Siddaramaiah allocated Rs 22,158 crore for agriculture, with Rs 10,000 crore earmarked for Anna Bhagya rice scheme. He is expected to increase allocations by at least 20% in the upcoming budget.

Criticism from BJP over ex-

cluding farmers from guarantee schemes and the decision to discontinue contributions to the Centre's Kisan Samman Yojana cash assistance scheme has prompted Siddaramaiah to consider other populist measures.

Officials suggest higher allocations for Krishi Bhagya, which is aimed at constructing ponds. Farmer organisations have also sought a pension scheme for those over 60 years old. However, the biggest challenge is the demand to waive farm loans. Some 48.6 lakh farmers have loans totalling Rs 1.9 lakh crore.

**Source: The Times of India, p.8, Feb. 9, 2024**

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# Decentralisation

## Panchayats earn only 1% of their revenue through taxes

Most of their revenue comes from the Centre and the States as grants

### DATA POINT

#### The Hindu Data Team

Only 1% of the revenue of panchayats was earned by them, with the rest being raised as grants from the State and the Centre, show data. Specifically, 80% of the revenue was from Central government grants; only 15% was from State government grants. Consequently, the revenue raised by panchayats formed a minuscule share of the States' own revenue.

Panchayats act on three levels – gram sabhas, panchayat samithis, and zila parishads. They are responsible for a variety of tasks including agriculture, rural housing, water management, rural electrification, healthcare, and sanitation. In some cases, zila parishads are also responsible for maintaining schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and minor irrigation projects.

However, due to dependence on the Centre and the State for their funds, most panchayats suffer from interference from the top two tiers of the system, according to news reports. In August last year, several panchayat heads protested in Chennai asking for independence of the Panchayati Raj. A news report from Telangana last year stated that the failure of the State government in releasing funds on time forced sarpanches to use private funds. The Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj said in March last year that 19 out of 34 State/Union Territories did not receive any funds under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme in FY23. The programme was started for building capacity and training elected representatives.

The recently released report by the Reserve Bank of India on the finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions for 2022-23 argues that one of the ways forward is to promote greater decentralisation and empower local leaders and officials. According to the report, pan-

chayats had recorded a total revenue of ₹35,354 crore in 2022-23 (Chart 1). Of this, just ₹737 crore was earned by their own tax revenue. Panchayats can earn this through taxes on profession and trades, land revenue, stamps and registration fees, taxes on property, and service tax.

Panchayats also earned ₹1,494 crore through non-tax revenue, which is mostly earnings from interest payments and Panchayati Raj programmes. In contrast, they earned ₹24,699 crore as grants from the Central government and ₹8,148 crore as grants from the State governments. Chart 2 shows these numbers per panchayat.

In 2022-23, each panchayat earned just ₹21,000 as its own tax revenue and ₹73,000 as non-tax revenue. In contrast, each panchayat earned about ₹17 lakh as grants from the Central government and more than ₹3.25 lakh as grants from the State governments. In essence, just 1% of panchayats' revenue comes from their own revenue (Chart 3).

When we look at the average revenue earned per panchayat in 2022-23, there are wide variations among States. In Kerala, the average revenue raised by each panchayat was over ₹60 lakh in 2022-23. West Bengal came a close second with an average revenue of ₹57 lakh per panchayat. The revenue was over ₹30 lakh per panchayat in Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu; and less than ₹6 lakh in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Mizoram, Punjab, and Uttarakhand (Chart 4).

Due to meagre revenue raising potential, panchayats' share in the respective State's own revenue was poor. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, revenue receipts of panchayats formed just 0.1% of the State's own revenue. The revenue of panchayats in Uttar Pradesh formed 2.5% of the State's own revenue, the highest among States. Chart 5 shows the revenue of panchayats as a share of State's own revenue in 2022-2023.

### Too top heavy

The charts are based on data collated from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report titled, 'Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions'



Chart 1: The chart shows the revenue receipts of panchayats in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ crore

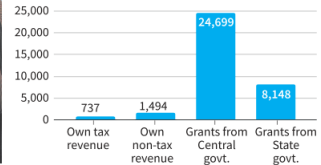


Chart 2: The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ thousand

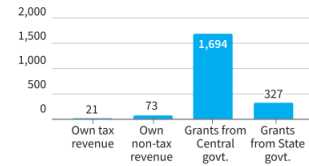


Chart 3: The chart shows revenue per Panchayat in percentage terms in 2022-23

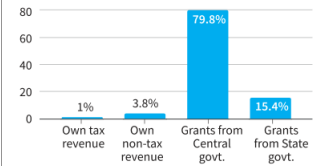


Chart 4: The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat across States in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ lakh

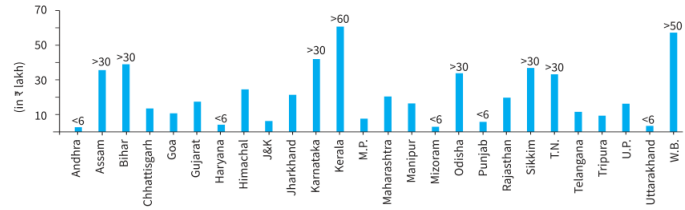
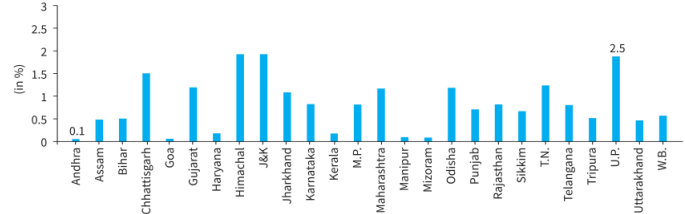


Chart 5: The chart shows the revenue of panchayats as a share of State's own revenue in 2022-2023. Figures in %



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

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

## ನರೇಗಾ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ 223 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 31 ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಉಪ-ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಬರ ಪೀಡಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಜನರಿಗೆ ನರೇಗಾ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಭದ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುವಂತೆ. 31 ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಉಪ-ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ 150 ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ನಿಲುವು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ. ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ...

13 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಗಳು

2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿದ್ದ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು

5 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಗಳು

31 ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಉಪ-ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಿಸುವ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು

18 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಗಳು

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮನವಿಯಂತೆ ಈ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 223 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಅಳಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಿಜ್ಞಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಳಿ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋದ ಬಸ್

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರಣ: ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಆರಾಧ್ಯ



# Higher autonomy of panchayats leads to better health outcomes

Panchayats which have a better say over power, people, and money also feature high on health, nutrition and sanitation scores

## DATA POINT

### The Hindu Data Team

The Data Point published on Monday had highlighted how panchayats earn only 1% of their income through taxes, with the rest being sourced from Central and State grants. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study, based on which the report was written, had called for greater autonomy for panchayats and empowerment of local leaders. This Data Point aims to show that greater autonomy of panchayats results in better governance and leads to superior outcomes.

Panchayats collaborate with health departments to maintain clinics and dispensaries in rural areas. By encouraging prenatal and postnatal check ups, they help reduce maternal and infant mortality rates (IMR). They also provide clean water and sanitation facilities. All these help improve health outcomes. The RBI study uses two datasets to show that panchayats which scored high on the health, nutrition, and sanitation parameters also had lower rural IMRs.

**Chart 1** shows the State-wise average of panchayat-level health, nutrition, and sanitation scores calculated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) on the vertical axis. The scores of all the panchayats in a State were averaged to present the State's overall score on these parameters. On the horizontal axis, the IMR of the State is presented. Both data were for 2018-19. In general, as shown by the trend line, the higher the score on health, nutrition, and sanitation parameters, the lower the IMR.

Major States including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir (before it became a Union Territory), Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all feature on the top left. That is, they have a high score and

a low IMR. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh can be seen on the bottom right – they have a low score and a high IMR.

Given that panchayats play a vital role in health management and as **Chart 1** shows that some States outperform others, **Chart 2** checks whether these better-performing States also have greater autonomy at the panchayat level. For this, the RBI study uses the devolution index prepared by MoPR using independent agencies. The devolution index rates a State based on three parameters.

First, the transfer of subjects, that is, how many functions including drinking water, rural housing, family welfare, and women and child development are under the control of panchayats. Second, transfer of functionaries, that is, how many positions were filled by panchayats on their own. Third, transfer of finances, that is, what share of funds are raised by panchayats on their own and what share can they spend based on their decisions. These three and some other categories are used to calculate the devolution index.

**Chart 2** plots the States' devolution index on the horizontal axis. The States on the right – Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu – have higher devolution scores. The States on the left – Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand – have lower devolution scores. **Chart 1** and **2** when read together shows that panchayat autonomy plays a vital role in better health outcomes in rural areas.

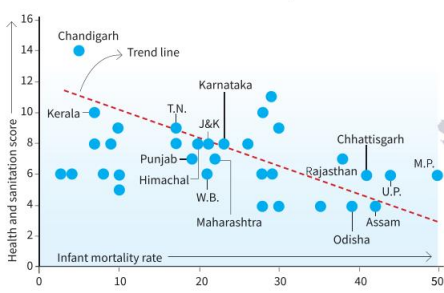
**Map 3** which shows the percentage shortfall of primary health facilities in rural areas also concurs with this conclusion as States which perform better on the index have a surplus, with a few exceptions. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have very high levels of shortage. On the other hand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Himachal have none.

## More freedom at the grassroots

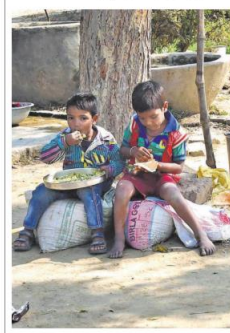
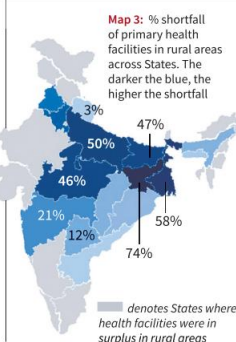
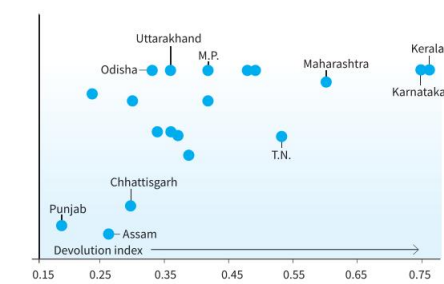
The charts are based on data collated from the RBI report titled, 'Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions'



**Chart 1:** The chart shows the State/UT-wise avg. of panchayat-level health, nutrition and sanitation scores (vertical axis) and infant mortality rate (horizontal axis)



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the devolution index calculated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, across States



**Source: The Hindu, p.9, Feb. 6, 2024**



# ನರೇಗಾ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ 223 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳೇ ಕಳೆದಿವೆ. ಬರ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ನರೇಗಾದ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಭದ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲೇಬೇಕು. ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ 150 ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ನಿಯಮ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿರುವುದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ. ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ...



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಆಳಂದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಡಗಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಳಿ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋದ ಜನ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು: ಕಾಡುಗ್ಗಿನ ಆಜಾದ್

**13** ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳು

2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿದ್ದ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು

**5** ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳು

ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಕಾರಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು

**18** ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳು

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮನವಿಯಂತೆ ಈ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಲಾಭವಿರುವ ನರೇಗಾ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಲೂ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೆಲಸ ಕೃಷಿಯೇ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರರು, ಭೂರಹಿತ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಕೃಷಿಯನ್ನೇ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಇರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಆ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ವಹಾತ್ಕಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿ-ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ವರ್ಷವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ 100 ದಿನಗಳ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲೇ, ನೆರೆ ಆಢಿವಾ ಬರದಂತಹ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪಗಳ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು 150 ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈಗಿನ ತೀವ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನದೇ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆಯೇ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆ ಆಢಿವಾ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಾದುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾದ ಬನ್ನಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮ. ಬರ ಮತ್ತು ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರೆ ಹೊಡೆತ ದೀಳುವುದು ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ. ಅವರು ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ಬೇರಡೆಗೆ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋಗುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗತೀದಿರುವ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನೆರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಈ ನಿಯಮ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೀಗೆ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ಮನವಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ.

## ಅನುಮತಿ ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ, ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಬೇಕು

ಯುಪಿಎ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿದಾಗ, ಅದರ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಭರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಿಯಮ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ನೆರೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರೋಕ್ಷ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅತಿ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇರುವುದು ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದಾಗಲೂ ಇದೇ ನಿಯಮ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೂ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಅದನ್ನು ಅನುಮತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನರಿ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕಿರುವುದೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮನವಿಯಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು 50 ದಿನಗಳ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದರೆ, ಅದರ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರವೇ ಭರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ 50 ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ, 5 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ದಿನವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ₹316 ಕೂಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ₹1,580 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಕೂಲಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮತ್ತು ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

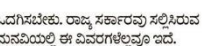
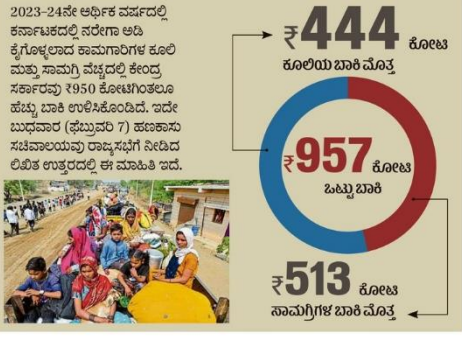


**ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಯಾರ ಹೊಣೆ?**

150 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಕೋರಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ರೂಪಿಸಿದ್ದ 'ಬರ ನಿವಾರಣಾ ಕೃಷಿ'ಯ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯವೇ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಿಯಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ವಿಧಾನಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಘೋಷಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ ಒಂದು ವಾದದ ಒಳಗೆ ಆಗತೀದಿರುವ ಪರಿಹಾರಗಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಜಾರ್ಜ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಇರುವ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಮೊದಲಾದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಪಾಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಾದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನರೇಗಾ ಅಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡಿತ್ತು. ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ, ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿತ್ತು. ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಕಾರಣ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವ 100 ದಿನಗಳ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು

## ಈ ವರ್ಷದ್ದೇ ನೂರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ಬಾಕಿ

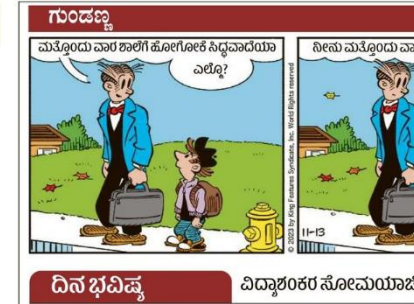


ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ಮನವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಿವರಗಳಿಲ್ಲವೂ ಇದೆ. 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅತಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 13 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟು (ಎಂಟು ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಒಂದು ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 100 ಮಂದಿ ಒಂದೇ ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಟು ತಾನು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ, ಅದನ್ನು 100 ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳು ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ) ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 12.40 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟು ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 5 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟು

ಕೆಲಸ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತಂಡವು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು. ಅನಂತರದ ಜುಲಿ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ತಂಡವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಡಿಫಾರಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ನಂತರದ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲೂ ಇದೇ ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ಎಂದು 2023ರ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಅನಂತರ ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಭದ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಈವರೆಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ.

## ಆಗ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಲೇ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ?

2018-19ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 156 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಆಗಿನ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ-ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೈತ್ರಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು. 31 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು 150 ದಿನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವಂತೆ 2019ರ ಜನವರಿ 28ರಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು 15 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಮನವಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 13ರಂದು ನರೇಗಾ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿತ್ತು. ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸಿದ್ದ 125 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು 150 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2023ರ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ಮನವಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 195 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 42.3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನರು ನರೇಗಾ ಅತಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಆರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅಷ್ಟು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 7.32 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳಷ್ಟು ಉದ್ಯೋಗವನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ನೀಡಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಐದು ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆದಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈವರೆಗೆ ನರೇಗಾವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.



ದಿನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಶಂಕರ ಸೋಮಯಾಜಿ

Source: Prajavani, p.11, Feb.09, 2024

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## ECONOMY

# 'Cong. will protest in Delhi on Feb. 7 against injustice to Karnataka'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday announced that the Karnataka government will stage a protest in New Delhi on February 7 against the step-motherly treatment by the BJP government in the Centre.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Karnataka has been getting a raw deal in the Union Budget. The State has lost a revenue of about ₹62,000 crore in the last five years due to this. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and MLCs will also participate in the protest to be held on February 7. We have written to the Centre about the venue for the protest."

Urging MLAs, MLCs, and MPs of the Opposition parties to be part of the protest to seek justice for the State, he said: "The size of the Union Budget, which was ₹24.5 lakh crore in 2018-19, doubled in 2023-24 to ₹45 lakh crore

but the State hasn't benefited from it. Though the Budget size has doubled, grants for Karnataka have only gone up a little from ₹46,000 crore in 2018-19 to ₹50,000 crore in 2022-23."

"Karnataka is one of the most progressive States in the country with the second highest tax contribution to the country's exchequer... But the State hasn't been getting a fair share in the last five years. Though 27 of the 28 MPs from Karnataka are from the BJP, they have not been able to get justice for the State," he said.

"Budgetary allocations for Karnataka have come down by 40%-45% since 2018-19 increasing debt burden on the State. As per a recent survey, the allocations have been coming down by around ₹7,000 to ₹10,000 crore every year. Karnataka was getting a share of 4.71% as per the 14th Finance Commission but it has been reduced to 3.64% in the 15th Finance Commission. The State has lost ₹62,000 crore due to this reduction," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p. 10, Feb. 3, 2024**



# In the dark without data: **Census** delay leaves citizens in limbo

Without a recent census, a large proportion of India's population is unable to access schemes, benefits and services due to the reliance of policymakers on outdated data

ET B SIVAPRIYAN  
CHENNAI, DHNS

**S**anthosh (35), a single mother living with her two sons in Delhi's Jagdamba colony, is tired of hearing the word 'waitlist.' She applied for a ration card in 2019, and the only response from officials in the past five years is that as her application has been waitlisted, she cannot get subsidised or free food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

## INSIGHT

Since 2020, every time Suryakali (45) visits the nearest government office in Delhi to follow up on her application for a ration card, she is told by the officials that her application cannot be processed, albeit for now, since the union territory has exhausted its quota under the National Food Security Act (NSFA).

These two women are among crores of Indians who are left out of the NFSA ambit due to the Union government's failure to conduct the decennial census, which was due in 2021, on time. Census is known to generate primary, authentic data which is used as the basis for several key statistical analyses and for identifying beneficiaries under various schemes and programmes.



Experts say the census delay affects how Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme funds are allocated. In pic, MGNREGS workers constructing a lake in Kalaburagi. DH PHOTO/TAJUADDIN AZAD

Since the Union government currently uses population data generated from the 2011 Census for allotting funds for schemes, Suryakali and Santhosh have been told they are not eligible to get a ration card under the NFSA, which gives legal entitlement for 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).

The inordinate delay in conducting the decennial census — this is the first

time that the population enumeration exercise has been delayed in about a century and there is no word on when the exercise will begin — has left several schemes in limbo. This has resulted in the delay of at least 15 vital data sets, including those relating to health, demography and economy, besides affecting the quality of surveys by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

It also affects how Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds are allocated, says Abhay, a social activist based out of Raichur in Karnataka. Technically, the Union government has to allocate annual MGNREGS funds to each state based on the number of households and labourers, he adds.

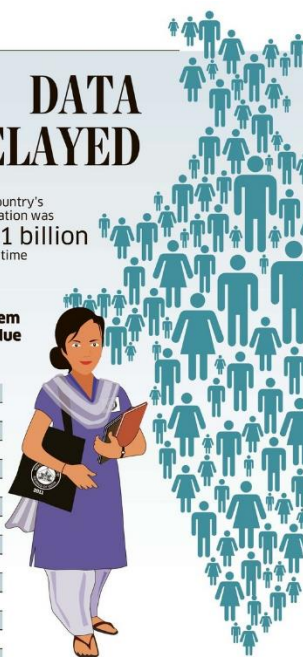
► Census delay, Page 2

**Continued..**



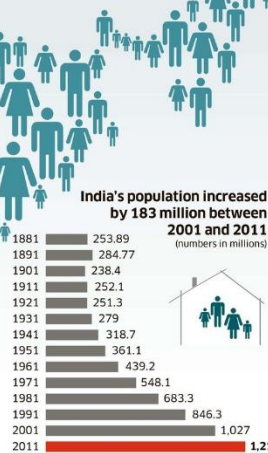
DATA  
DELAYEDIndia's  
most recent  
census was  
conducted in  
2011The country's  
population was  
1.21 billion  
at the timeEstimated Public  
Distribution System  
under-coverage due  
to census delay  
(numbers in millions)

Uttar Pradesh	28.5
Bihar	17.7
Madhya Pradesh	9.5
Rajasthan	7.9
Maharashtra	6.6
West Bengal	5.4
Gujarat	5.1
Jharkhand	4.4
Karnataka	4.1
Assam	3.6
Odisha	3.3
Chhattisgarh	3
Tamil Nadu	2.9
Andhra Pradesh	2.4
Telangana	2.1
Haryana	1.8
Punjab	1.2
Kerala	1
Delhi	0.8
Jammu Kashmir	0.7
Uttarakhand	0.6



Estimated population in 2021 was **1.41 billion**

- Due to delays, an estimated 10 crore people are said to be left out of the food subsidy schemes.
- The deadline for census has been extended at least 9 times since 2020.



Census was conducted regularly before Independence:

1872 1881 1891 1901 1911 1921 1931 1941 Conducted despite ongoing World War II

And after Independence:

1951 1961 1971 1981 1991 2001 2011 2021 Postponed indefinitely due to Covid-19

## Several data sets have been delayed due to the lack of recent Census data



## How other populous countries fared:

<b>CHINA</b>	<b>1.41,05,39,758</b>
Status: Neither stopped nor postponed	
Conducted census in late 2020, released data in May 2021	
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>1.38,96,37,446</b>
Status: Postponed	
Not decided	
<b>USA</b>	<b>33,28,38,183</b>
Status: Had to extend the period of enumeration	
Extended field collection operations. Original end date: July 31, 2020. Actual end date: October 15, 2020	
<b>INDONESIA</b>	<b>27,73,29,163</b>
Status: Had to postpone to later in 2020	
Preliminary data released after digital census in January 2021	
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<b>24,29,23,845</b>
Status: First digital census planned in August 2022	
Enumeration was extended several times, but was completed in May 2023.	

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, IndiaSpend, 'A review of the coverage of PDS'.

COMPILED BY  
VARSHA GOWDA AND SWEETHRUTHI K  
DH GRAPHIC: SAGAR M S

## Census delay puts extra burden on states

Census delay,  
from Page 1

MGNREGS data is arrived at from the census. In the absence of this data, officials say they depend on the previous year's expenditure and estimate what this year's requirements could be. In the wake of junking two surveys on consumption expenditure and employment due to 'data quality' issues, the Union government in August 2023 revamped the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) to review the extant framework and to address issues raised on the subject, results and methodology, and to advise on survey methodology including sampling frame, and sampling design.

## Food security

Economists Reetika Khera and Jean Dreze had in 2020 estimated that over 10 crore people have been excluded from the PDS because of the Centre's method of calculating state-wise NFSA coverage using the 2011 Census data. Though the economists have not done an update, activists who are working in the field fear that the number of people left out of the NFSA could have increased to over 11 crore, given India's projected population is now 140 crore.

While some states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh spend their resources to include more beneficiaries in the PDS by giving subsidised rations over and above the Centre's 67% quota, states like Delhi, Jharkhand, and even wealthier ones like Karnataka have stopped issuing new ration cards.

Tamil Nadu, the only state in the country to implement universal PDS, provides free rice to over 2.2 crore families, with much of the funding coming from state resources.

Struggling to make ends meet with the meagre Rs 5,000 she earns as a domestic cook every month, Santosh tells *DH* that the subsidised food grains will help her save money that can be spent on her children, who are studying in a private

school under the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

"I visit the local ration shop every two months and all I get to hear is that I am on the 'waitlist'. I just hope my wait ends soon," she says.

Reetika Khera, professor of economics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, says the lack of a census has wide implications for the country and the wrongful exclusion of more than 10 crore people from the PDS is "just the tip of the problem."

"It is, however, a problem where an interim solution is possible, viz. to use census projection figures to determine the updated figures for PDS coverage," she adds.

According to the estimates arrived at by Khera and Dreze in 2020, over 2.45 crore people were left out of the NFSA in Uttar Pradesh alone, while the number is 1.77 crore in Bihar, and 44 lakh in Jharkhand. The states are also forced to spend money to generate fresh data sets to identify beneficiaries for ongoing and new programmes in the absence of census data.

"In a country like India, census data is very crucial as it helps understand the changes in demographic profile, sex ratio, migration, economic diversification of households and extent of urbanisation, among other things. Also, it is the census data that forms the basis or the frame for any sample survey to estimate poverty and inequality," says Prof M Vijayabaskar of the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

Karnataka Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharage says the lack of fresh data has resulted in state governments revising their plans and budgetary allocation multiple times, as more people have become eligible to availing schemes in the last 10 years. "With the lack of latest census data, we are unable to formulate policies," he says.

Kharage adds: "Since the state has already reached its maximum capacity of funds allocated, we are unable to expand the PDS scheme to more beneficiaries. We have frozen new ration cards. Several beneficiaries are excluded from schemes due to shortage of funds, which in turn,

affects their lives," Kharage points out that 18 departments of the state government depend on data from the census.

In Kerala, the lack of census data is affecting the allocation of funds for the welfare of SC/ST communities. "The lack of accurate data on the population is affecting their development. Also, there is a dramatic change in inter-state migration when compared to the 2011 Census. We need census data to analyse the situation and come out with schemes for them," says K Raviraman, member, Kerala Planning Board.

Tamil Nadu Minister P T R Palaniivel Thiagarajan, who handled the Finance portfolio for two years from May 2021, underlines that information is the basis for all policymaking decisions and derided the non-conduct of the decennial census as "really debilitating" in a country like India whose population is changing "rapidly and dramatically."

"I feel conducting the census once in a decade is an archaic model as we should be doing this exercise more frequently. But even if you do it once every ten years, you will have some bases to decide on population growth, gender ratio, and ageing. Without data, you are just shooting in the dark," Rajan says.

"If there is no data (census figures), everything will fall in the dark and we won't know where the growth is, what the gender equality is, and what is the percentage of elderly people. When we do not have information, we cannot decide on the coverage of the programmes," Rajan adds.

Development economist Santosh Mehrotra accuses the BJP government of "conserving its resources" by not extending the NFSA benefits to eligible people to "hide its incompetency in handling the economy."

"While India used the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse, countries like the US, UK, and China have completed it. I see the non-conduct of the census as part of this government's systemic approach to stop several uncomfortable truths from reaching the public domain. They conducted elections, but not the census," says Mehrotra.

At the same time, the Union govern-

ment did conduct the National Family Health Survey and NSS surveys. "The fact is they do not want the poverty figures to come out," he adds.

## State governments pitch in

As state governments pitched in resources, an additional 9 crore people were able to access similar entitlements (free rations) in 2020 along with the 80 crore people who had NFSA cards, according to estimates arrived at by economists Khera and Anmol Somanchi.

"Obviously, this strains the already strained finances of state governments, and it is also unfair because this is an obligation of the Union government under the NFSA," Khera says.

For instance, of the 1.45 crore families that receive ration in Andhra Pradesh, only 89 lakh get it under the NFSA. The Andhra Pradesh government funds the remaining 56 lakh families. The AP government bears the cost for 39.4% of ration cards and 38% of beneficiaries in the state.

"If we had fresh census data, the state would not have endured such a burden," a senior official in the AP Planning Department told *DH*.

Food rights campaigner Anjali Bhardwaj feels non-conduct of census is leading to violation of the fundamental rights of citizens, like their right to food. She points out that the exclusion of people from the NFSA is non-compliant with the Supreme Court's directive. "When the Union government informed the Supreme Court that the census is indefinitely delayed, the apex court asked it to ensure the food security of the unorganised sector and migrant workers by directing that all eight crore workers registered on the e-shram portal who are not covered under the NFSA be issued ration cards," Bhardwaj says.

Khera says, at the very least, the Union government should accept ration card holders identified by state governments as NFSA beneficiaries, to the extent that the numbers match the population projections.

Economists, activists and politicians not only question the delay in conducting the census, but also suspect whether it is

"being delayed" to hide Covid-19 deaths, which were allegedly grossly under-reported.

K Ashok Vardhan Shetty, a former IAS officer, believes that the Centre's reluctance to enumerate OBCs in the census is the reason why it will be delayed until after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Since the next delimitation of Lok Sabha and state Assembly constituencies is to be done based on the results of the first census after 2026, he says he will not be surprised if the census is delayed till 2027.

While India used the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse, countries like the US, UK, and China have completed it. I see the non-conduct of the census as part of this government's systemic approach to stop several uncomfortable truths from reaching the public domain. They conducted elections, but not the census." **Santosh Mehrotra**, Development economist

"Census is the only exercise which makes data available at district, taluk, block, town, village, ward and even household level. Sample surveys cannot do this," Shetty says.

Prof Vijayabaskar, who is a member of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, says census also helps in getting a sense of inter- and intra-state migration and only when its extent is known, states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka which see a huge influx of workers from across the country, can allocate funds according to their population and needs.

## Planning programmes

States also depend on the India Human Development Survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research among other agencies for data.

Karnataka and Kerala collect data through their local bodies to identify beneficiaries for various welfare schemes and fund them. However, Kharage says

the state governments still allocates funds based on the data provided in the 2011 Census.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh pumped in money to collect details of their population door-to-door in 2014 and 2019.

In 2017, Tamil Nadu came out with a State Human Development Report and District Human Development Reports that made inter-district and inter-block comparisons to identify problems within the state and frame policies.

The report, which Vijayabaskar co-authored, found that 14% of households in Tamil Nadu are headed by women and the index of ageing was on the increase.

"It is difficult to get a correct estimate of this phenomenon in the absence of an updated census," Vijayabaskar says. Though the state governments use their own data to identify beneficiaries, they don't have central legislative backing. "These data sets prepared by the state governments cannot be applied to centrally sponsored schemes," says Chakradhar Budha of LibTech India, which works with tribal people.

Arguing that India certainly has the capability to conduct census more frequently than once in a decade, Rajan says whatever it costs is a minuscule fraction compared to the benefits the exercise gives to society.

Abhay says the status of society changes every 10 years and the NITI Aayog has been working on a formula of adding 2% per year to the population since 2011. "However, it is unaware of the actual ground realities as they don't have the required data. If adding 2% to every year's population provides them the exact picture of India then what is the need to even have a census in India?" he asks.

(With inputs from Arjun Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram, Pavan Kumar H in Hubballi, and S N Sudhir in Hyderabad)

## Have your say

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 &amp; 5, Feb, 4, 2024



# Forest dept faces revenue loss due to error in notification

## Licence fee for saw mills cut from Rs10k to Rs 2k per year

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Forest Department's move to boost revenue by increasing fee for felling of trees is set to reduce the existing revenue flow, thanks to an error in the notification

which has brought down fee for saw mills from Rs10,000 to Rs 2,000.

The notification dated November 17, 2023 seeks to amend several sections in the Karnataka Forest Rules, 1969 by hiking fee for possession, transport, storing, processing

and sale of the timber. The last hike in fee was done in 2017.

The fee was doubled for possessing sandalwood of less than 1 quintal from Rs 250 to Rs 500 and from Rs 2,500 to Rs 5000 for more than one quintal. Similarly, for other timber, fee for issuing pass for removal and transport to godown was hiked from Rs 100 to Rs 200; the fee for transporting timber was hiked from Rs10-Rs20 per log.

Surprisingly, the annual licence fee for registration of sawmills, timber produce stocking companies, timber depots under Section 153 was

reduced from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2,000. This has come at a time when the minister has ordered officials to keep a check on the exploitation of forest produce.

The state has over 3,300 entities registered under Section 153 of the Karnataka Forest Rules. "This means a loss of about Rs 30 lakh every month. The government needs to rectify the error immediately and reissue notification," sources in department said.

To a question, an official in the office of Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre said a correction would be issued. "The final notification was issued on January 4. We will correct it soon to ensure the department will

not suffer losses," he said.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered an inquiry against a Kolar-based plywood industry, following a complaint on licence misuse.

In a letter to additional chief secretary of the department, Khandre said a team of officials, including heads of the vigilance wing and forest resource management should probe the issue. "Associate Decor Ltd in Malur industrial area, Kolar has received clearance to import 2 lakh tonnes of fire wood from neighbouring states. But, this office has received a complaint that the industry is illegally sourcing materials in Kolar and surrounding areas," the minister said, seeking a report.

ಅನಲಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ  
(ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)



**RAICHUR POWER  
CORPORATION LIMITED**



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

# 100 new 'Ashwamedha Classic' buses launched

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagged off 100 upgraded versions of Karnataka Sarige buses, operated by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), on Monday.

The new buses, branded 'Ashwamedha Classic', carry the tagline 'Journey Redefined'. They will be operated by KSRTC on point-to-point routes between district headquarters and Bengaluru.

"The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation is introducing 1,000 buses this year, with the inauguration of 100 buses taking place today. Over the past four years, no new buses were added, and the services of around 3,800 buses were suspended during the pandemic. Since assuming power, we are taking the initiative to add 5,800 buses to the organisation," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

He informed that the corporations had intro-



KSRTC staff taking a selfie in front of newly launched 'Ashwamedha Classic' buses in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

duced several passenger-friendly schemes and implemented innovative labour welfare programmes.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the new buses have 50 seats each.

"They are equipped with front and rear LED destination boards, pneu-

matic doors with sensors, and an emergency button," he said.

According to officials, the length of the bus is 3.4 metres, as compared to 3.2 metres of the Karnataka Sarige buses. It boasts a wider front windshield (70 inches by 97 inches, as compared to 46 inches by

97 inches in Karnataka Sarige buses), a broader rear windshield, expanded passenger window frame and glass, wider louver glass, and a two-row roof grab rail. It has high-back seats with quality cushioning, magazine pouches, and water bottle holders.

Additional enhance-

ments include front and rear LED destination boards, advertisement-type hand grips, an FRP dashboard, two-way roof (saloon) LED strip lights, strip-type LED lights on the entrance footstep, front and rear cameras, Electronic Vehicle Stability Control (EVSC), a vehicle location tracking unit, panic buttons, and a public address system.

Mr. Reddy said that the corporation plans to introduce 948 diesel and 300 electric (G.C.C. Model) buses in 2024 in a bid to encourage more people to embrace mass public transport, and enhance passenger services.

"As of December 2023, KSRTC incorporated a total of 180 buses (comprising 153 diesel and 27 electric buses). To support this initiative, the government has allocated ₹100 crore. At present, 15 Ashok Leyland buses are undergoing trials as a precursor to the induction of 200 ordinary Karnataka Sarige buses in the corporation's fleet," he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Feb. 6, 2024**

## State has spent only 52% of proposed borrowings

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Chief minister Siddaramaiah has been tight-fisted in terms of spending loans which has led to a reduction in debt, but while his decision to borrow funds was severely criticised, he is now being accused of depriving the state of funds for development.

In his previous budget for 2023-24 which he presented in July, Siddaramaiah had planned to borrow Rs 85,818 crore but the govt has spent only Rs 44,800 crore — or 52% — till Jan end.



However, since a major chunk of this money was meant for capital expenditure including infrastructure development and asset creation, some experts suggest low borrowing is a "missed opportunity". However, others support the govt's "prudence".



"Borrowing funds is not a bad thing if the govt spends it on asset creation and jobs," said BV Madhusudan Rao, senior research advisor, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies. "Lower borrowings mean it has not spent much on productive needs and that development has taken a back seat."

Rao also pointed out that the government had borrowed only Rs 16,711 crore till the end of Nov and spending rose to Rs 32,290 crore by Dec end. "This could suggest the government is in a rush to exhaust

borrowed money since the end of the current fiscal is fast approaching," Rao said. "While it is under pressure to borrow more than 50% of what it had proposed and spend it in just two months (Feb and March), it would suggest that it has failed to ensure uniform developmental works across the financial year."

Department-wise spending also suggests slow progress. Of the allocated Rs 2,98,321 crore, govt departments have spent Rs 1,77,606 crore (59.5%) till Jan end. It was

pegged at Rs 1,60,615 crore till December. Capital expenditure until Dec end was 22,662 crore or 42% of annual target of Rs 54,374 crore.

But a section of experts supported the government's move, saying it should not borrow aimlessly just because it has the licence to do so.

"Using borrowed money sparingly is always a good thing since it saves the government from higher interest payments," said S Subramanya, former additional chief secretary (finance) who worked as economic advisor to the CM in the JD(S)-Congress coalition govt. "Also, revenue flow in terms of tax collection this year has been good and there was no great compulsion for the govt to borrow more."

Govt authorities also defended the move. "By the time our govt took over and we presented the budget, the first quarter had passed. The figures we are talking about pertain to only two quarters. We are still in the final quarter," said Basavaraj Rayareddi, economic advisor to CM.

**Source: The Times of India, p.6, Feb. 6, 2024**



# Govt not discriminating in release of funds: Nirmala

GYANENDRA KESHRI  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday dismissed apprehensions that the Centre was discriminating against Karnataka and other non-BJP-ruled states in release of funds, as she weighed in on the issue that has become a political hot potato.

Terming the narrative “politically vitiated”, Nirmala said the system of tax devolution is well placed, and thus can’t be changed as per anybody’s whims and fancies. A combative Nirmala instead pointed fingers at the Karnataka government’s poll guarantees for the fiscal stress.

Replying to a question by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

Chowdhury in the Lok Sabha, who brought up the Karnataka government’s claim that it has been deprived of its legitimate dues, Nirmala said, “This is just not a possibility that any finance minister can intervene to say that ‘I don’t like this

## Siddu: K’taka lost Rs 1.87L cr

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said Karnataka has lost Rs 1.87 lakh crore under the 15th Finance Commission and that Congress’ protest in New Delhi this week is to fight this “big injustice” to the state. All Congress lawmakers from Karnataka, led by Siddaramaiah, will protest at Jantar Mantar on February 7.  
**Details on Page 5**

state, stop payment’. No way. It can’t happen that way. The systems are well placed.”  
► **Funds, Page 5**

# K’taka lost Rs 1.87L crore under 15th Fin Commission: CM

## Invites state BJP leaders to join protest against ‘injustice’

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said Karnataka has lost Rs 1.87 lakh crore under the 15th Finance Commission and that Congress’ protest in New Delhi this week is to fight this “big injustice” to the state.

All Congress lawmakers from Karnataka, led by Siddaramaiah, will protest at Jantar Mantar on February 7.

“I invite BJP MPs, MLAs

and leaders to join the protest to raise our voice for the state’s rights,” Siddaramaiah told a news conference here. The CM also specified that he is not against giving money to states that are financially weak.

Hammering out statistics, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka’s share in central taxes came down to 3.64% under the 15th Finance Commission from 4.71% under the 14th Finance Commission. “This decrease resulted in a loss of Rs 62,098

crore,” he said.

Attacking Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka was not given Rs 11,495 crore of special grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. “Altogether, Karnataka missed out on a total of Rs 73,593 crore,” he said.

The stoppage of the GST compensation has hurt Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said. “Before GST, our state’s tax collection growth was at 15%... compensation was discontinued in June 2022. This has significantly impacted our ability to achieve a 15% tax collection growth rate again,” he said.

With cess and surcharges not devolved to the states, Karnataka is losing another Rs 45,322 crore, Siddaramaiah said.

**SIDDARAMAIAH**  
Chief Minister



Karnataka is the second-highest tax collector after Maharashtra. The state contributes Rs 4.30 lakh crore in tax revenue. However, the state receives only around Rs 12-13 out of every Rs 100 in taxes.

“Karnataka is the second-highest tax collector after Maharashtra. The state contributes Rs 4.30 lakh crore in tax revenue. However, the state receives only around Rs 12-13 out of every Rs 100 in taxes,” Siddaramaiah explained.

Siddaramaiah refuted claims by BJP leaders that Karnataka received more funds under the NDA government.

“In 2017-18, the union budget size was Rs 21.46 lakh crore. We got Rs 47,980 crore under devolution and grant-in-aid. In 2018-19, the union budget size was Rs 24.42 lakh crore and we got Rs 51,157 crore. In 2019-20, the union budget size was Rs 27.86 lakh crore and we got Rs 54,814 crore. In 2023-24, the union budget size is Rs 45.03 lakh crore. But the state is receiving Rs 50,257 crore. How is it that the state got more funds?” Siddaramaiah said.

Siddaramaiah also said that Karnataka did not get Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project as announced in the previous union budget.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&5, Feb. 6, 2024**



# K'taka tourist count jumps by 10 crore a year

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of travellers to various tourist destinations in Karnataka has increased by a whopping 10 crore in just one year, spurred by a combination of factors, including the state government's free bus travel scheme for women. In 2023, Karnataka hosted close to 28.45 crore travellers as against 18.27 crore in 2022. This is the highest number of travellers recorded in the last seven years, according to data from the state tourism department.

Officials attribute this surge to an increase in excitement to travel post-Covid, revenge tourism and the state government's initiative to pro-

## Bitten by the travel bug



vide free travel facilities for women. "Revenge tourism and the government's initiatives have both helped attract more tourists. Through the department, we have also taken up initiatives to popularise tourist destina-

tions in the state. We are developing water sports facilities in many areas. Ropeways and adventure activities have also added to the attraction," said Dr Ram Prasath Manohar V, Director, Department of Tourism.



The government's Shakti scheme that provides free travel facilities to women, has had a significant impact and temple tourism has increased drastically, pointed out G K Shetty, treasurer of the Karnataka Tourism Society. "The number of tourists, especially to temples, has increased drastically. The number almost doubled post the launch of the scheme. This has added to the domestic traveller count," he said.

Shetty added that tour operators were seeing at least a 10% to 15% increase in business as compared to pre-Covid times.

A Bengaluru-based tour operator said that people are more enthusiastic about travel after the pandemic.

► **Tourist, Page 3B**

## State tourist count jumps by 10 crore a year

### Tourist, From Page 1

"Now, there are bookings for almost every weekend. People want to take at least a short trip during the weekend. Every long weekend is busy since there is a huge rush," said M N Sudhir, a Bengaluru-based tour operator.

While the total number of tourists has increased drastically, the state has not been able to attract more international travellers. Data revealed that only close to 0.14% of the total travellers were international travellers.

"Though Bengaluru is a gateway to South India, we have not been able to attract foreign travellers much. While Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa get a huge number of travellers from foreign countries, the number of those visiting the state is still low," said S Mahalingaiah, Director of Skyway International

Travels and Secretary, Karnataka Tourism Society.

Manohar, however, said that they were now participating in more international events and hoped that the number of foreign travellers would go up in the coming days.

"Our presence in the international market has increased. We are planning to participate in more events overseas and hold regular stakeholder meetings to attract foreign tourists. We are also working on branding Karnataka's eco-tourism and developing more tourist circuits," he said.

Shetty suggested that the department should also focus on developing the coastal corridor since it has a huge potential to attract tourists.

Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Kolar, Belgaum, Mysuru, Mandya, and Bengaluru were among the top districts visited.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&5, Feb, 7, 2024**



# Minister plans 25-acre Science City near B'luru

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Department of Science & Technology has proposed the creation of a fancy Science City near Bengaluru, which will require 25 acres of land and an investment of Rs 232 crore.

Minister for Science & Technology NS Boseraju has submitted a proposal on this for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to include in the 2024-25 Budget.

According to sources, Boseraju's department is considering space available in Devanahalli near the Kempegowda International Airport for the Science City. The project will be taken up under the Scheme

## Science City, From Page 1

He said the Science City will provide "experiment-based immersive learning ambience to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, foster creative talent and create scientific temper". It will include both indoor and outdoor exhibits as well as year-long regular activities, he added.

"It will focus on frontier areas of S&T and infotainment and will be conceptualised in such a manner that it is attractive and useful to students, teachers and general public," the minister said, adding that maintenance of the project will be funded by the state govern-

for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) of the National Council of Science Museums.



**NS Boseraju**

The total project is estimated at Rs 232.70 crore. This includes a capital cost of Rs 179 crore and a corpus of Rs 53.70 crore. The total cost will be shared between the Union and state governments at Rs 118.14 crore and Rs 114.56 crore, respectively.

"It will act as a major attraction by presenting science and technology in a stimulating and engaging environment, which is educational and entertaining for people of all ages," Boseraju said.

## ► Science City, Page 3B

ment "until it becomes financially self-sustainable".

The government is chasing another ambitious project aimed at attracting investments.

Industries Minister MB Patil is pushing for a Knowledge, Health, Innovation & Research (KHIR) City on 1,000-2,000 acres at a distance of 50-80 km from Bengaluru. He hopes Siddaramaiah will announce this project in the budget.

Patil has said that the KHIR City has an investment potential of Rs 40,000 crore and will create one lakh jobs over five years.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&3B, Feb, 7, 2024**



# UP's race to nowhere

UP must focus spending on education, healthcare, not on fancy infrastructure; and its messaging on facts, not bluster

VASU KRISHNAMURTHY

Ram Mandir has been inaugurated, and Ayodhya has got a swanky new airport, too. Uttar Pradesh is basking in all that glory. Now, perhaps, we may return to more mundane, bread-and-butter issues concerning India's largest state by population.

Much has been claimed about UP's development. It is the singular pitch of the current dispensation's estimated Rs 50-crore-per-day advertising campaign promising to make UP a \$1 trillion economy, parroted from PM Modi's presentation to BRICS in 2019 about making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, with UP driving that growth. What's the reality?

A good place to start would be to study two districts, both drivers of growth, one of which is in UP, and the other elsewhere.

The first is Bengaluru. The Bengaluru Urban District is the third richest district in India, with a per capita income (PCI) of \$6,500. Bengaluru has a population of over 12 million that delivers a GDP of \$110 billion (2022). It houses thousands of technology companies and start-ups that together employ over three million people. Bengaluru is the engine for Karnataka's growth – 16% of the state's population drives over 40% of the state's GSDP.

The other is Gautam Buddha Nagar that comprises the satellite town of Noida. GB Nagar generates a GDP of \$26.5 billion and contributes roughly 10% of UP's GSDP. With a population of 2.3 million people, GB Nagar has the second highest per capita income in the country of \$10,000, albeit over a smaller base of a concentrated population that lives in this district, fuelled by its satellite town. In other words, 1% of UP's population contributes 10% of its GSDP.

Noida is a satellite city of Delhi, established by authoritarian diktat to decongest New Delhi during the Emergency, and though it forms a part of the National Capital Region (NCR) of India, it actually is a part of UP and lies in the district of GB Nagar. Satellite towns like GB Nagar, Gurugram, Faridabad, Hosur and Mohali draw their strength from their planet towns – Delhi (which has the highest PCI of the country at \$11,000), Bengaluru, and Chandigarh. Nothing intrinsically lay in these satel-

lite towns that would otherwise explain their exponential growth.

The planet town, in turn, has seen several prior decades of development – and at the base of this is human capital, a rules-based system of governance that allows for quality education and healthcare, besides maintenance of law and order. Not so much, infrastructure!

Bengaluru has grown and surpassed Mumbai and Delhi despite its infrastructure, not because of it. It was the talent of engineers, medical professionals, graduates and ITI diploma-holders that led to many companies establishing themselves in Bengaluru. Infosys, for instance, established itself in Bengaluru in 1981.



Noida derived all of this initially from Delhi – AIIMS, Delhi University, IIT-D, JNU, etc. In fact, HCL, that other IT behemoth, saw its origins in the NCR region in 1976. GB Nagar has taken that many decades to stand on its own feet and justify Asia's largest airport today, but its development is restricted to two million people. Bengaluru's development is spread over six times that.

Another way to look at UP is to compare two states. UP recently took over from Tamil Nadu as the state with the second highest GSDP in the country. Tamil Nadu has eight districts out of 38 that account for 50% of its GDP, spreading growth evenly. The state's urbanisation stands at 49% across 15 districts and 52% of the state's GSDP comes from services. Its PCI at \$3,500 is three times that of UP.

Data shows that it will take decades for UP to achieve real GSDP growth. In 2023, 46 districts out of 75 were below the already low PCI of the state (\$1,300 in 2022-23), let alone the national average (\$2,400). Of the 20 districts that average a higher PCI, 18 lie in a contiguous belt across western UP alongside NCR and account for 60% of the state's GSDP, derived from agriculture, manufacturing, public administration, and defence

sectors, excluding Noida and its IT.

There is only so much you can grow these sectors by. With this skew, how does the Rs 1.1 lakh crore being spent on infrastructure and a flagship initiative like ODOP (One District One Product) even begin to bear fruit? At last count, two years of effort has thrown up just Rs 1,600 crore of revenue from ODOP, some .000001% of the state's GSDP. It is estimated that most of the 3 million labourers who were asked to return to UP post-Covid have left UP again, despite a massive exercise by the government to map their skills to jobs. That is because a bulk of the migrant labourers were unskilled.

UP's focus, therefore, must be education and healthcare. If we agree that human capital lies at the basis of a nation's/city's growth, then the bluster contradicts the budgetary allocation for education. UP's budget for education is Rs 80,000 crore for a population of 230 million, or just four times that for the city of Delhi with 30 million people. It is not surprising to note that the private sector follows the government's lead and just 7% of the 'proposed' investment at the state's Global Investor Summit was for higher education. UP's healthcare spend is a similar story.

UP's contribution to India's GDP is 8.25%, and ranks second after Maharashtra. There should be no pride in this rank as it is mostly population and inflation-driven. UP's population is three times that of Tamil Nadu, whose GDP it just overtook. UP will take 16 years of sustained GSDP growth at 9% to become a \$1 trillion economy from today, not the 5-year promise made by the 'double-engine sarkar' in 2019!

Maharashtra, which is growing at 6.8%, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka will reach the \$1 trillion GSDP faster than UP. Importantly, in five years, per capita income in UP will still be 32% lower than India's current PCI. This means, concentration of wealth in UP with a few, surrounded by widespread poverty.

Districts like Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Bundelkhand, Balrampur, Bharaich, Shravasti, to name a few, are actually seeing a drop in PCI. The Niti Aayog re-calibrated the population living in poverty in the state to 40%.

Given all this, when the state government claims in the Assembly that unemployment has dropped to 4% and growth will be at 19%, we need to worry. In my experience, industry decision-makers find this messaging misleading. Facts must lie at the basis of good, considered policy decisions. Anyone indulging in bluster is doing the country and the state a grave injustice.

*(The writer runs a Corporate Finance practise headquartered in Bengaluru)*

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Feb, 8, 2024**



# Tech start-up investment in State fell 72% in 2023: Study

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Karnataka's tech start-up ecosystem witnessed a decline in funding in 2023 compared to the previous year, said a study by Tracxn Technologies, a data intelligence market research platform.

Tech start-ups in the State received a funding of \$3.4 billion in 2023, a 72% plunge from the \$12.2 billion raised in 2022, and an 83% decline from the \$20.4 billion raised in 2021.

"This decline could be attributed to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and geopolitical issues," said the report released by Tracxn here on Thursday. It further said: "The funding trends witnessed in Karnataka was similar to that of the glo-

**'The decline could be attributed to prevailing macroeconomic conditions and geopolitical issues'**

bal trends." In terms of city-wise funding in 2023, Bengaluru was the leader. Start-ups based in the city raised \$3.4 billion in 2023, while those based in Hubballi raised \$121,000.

## **At all ages**

Early-stage funding in 2023 stood at \$784 million in funding, a drop of 71% from the \$2.7 billion raised during the previous year. Seed-stage funding fell 54% to \$294 million from the \$643 million raised in 2022. The calendar saw late stage investments also declining at 74% to \$2.3 billion compared with \$8.9

billion a year ago, the study said. On ticket size, the report found, only eight over \$100 million funds happened in tech start-up space in 2023, as against 26 and 44 such rounds in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Further, no new unicorns emerged in this space in 2023, a sharp contrast from seven unicorns in 2022 and 18 in 2021.

Accel, Wellfound, and LetsVenture were the top investors in the State till date, said Tracxn. We Founder Circle, Y Combinator, and 100X.VC were the top seed-stage investors, Accel, Lightspeed Venture Partners, and Ka-laari Capital led early-stage funding, while Footpath Ventures, Founders Circle Capital, and DST Global were the top late-stage investors.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Feb. 9, 2024**

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## EDUCATION

# Govt yet to name members for panels on admissions, fee determination

## Chairpersons to committees were nominated in October 2023

BENGALURU, DHNS

It looks like the two committees - one to oversee admissions, and another to determine fees for professional courses - have been reduced to "namesake" bodies as the state government has not nominat-

ed members to these panels.

Both the committees are headed by retired High Court judges. The government appointed the judges as committee chairpersons in October 2023, but even after four months, it has not issued an order to nominate members.

These committees are important in the interest of students as they address the complaints/issues related to admissions and fee issues in professional colleges. As per the norms, after constituting the committee, the government should issue communication to the chairperson of the committee, asking him to nominate two people. Once the names are recommended, the government will send approval.

According to sources, the committees are currently hearing the complaints filed

by students with the ex-officio members. The vice-chancellors of respective universities and principal secretary of the respective department are the other members.

As explained by the sources, this was the scenario during the previous tenure of the committees too. "Even when the term of the members expired, the government did not bother to nominate, which led to pendency of complaints. Even now the vice-chancellor and the department officials are not available all the time and this causes delay in addressing

the complaints," sources said.

For current academic year, by the time the government appointed the committees, the admissions to professional colleges were completed. In the absence of the committees, the Karnataka Examination Authority forwarded the complaints to the higher education, medical education departments and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

The members, who have served the committees during previous tenure, have not received honorarium yet, sources said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Feb, 4, 2024

DECCAN HERALD

# Free bicycle scheme for schoolkids likely to make a comeback

## School education dept sends proposal to CM for approval

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government is likely to re-introduce the free bicycles scheme for class 8 students at government and aided schools in the state.

The department of school education and literacy has submitted a proposal to the chief minister, requesting him to approve re-introduction of free bicycles scheme which was discontinued from the 2020-21 academic year, due to Covid-19 pandemic and long closure of schools.

Sources from the department confirmed the proposal and said, there were very few budget proposals from the department this year and bicycles was a major one.



This scheme had in the past helped in increasing enrolment of female students in schools. The dropout rate at the primary school level had also decreased. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

"As there was a prior instruction not to submit many new proposals, we have decided to request for re-introduction of the free bicycles scheme as a major announcement," said an official source from the department.

As shared by the department officials, there was demand for bicycles from children and parents enrolled in schools in rural areas.

"This scheme even helped

in increasing enrolment of female students in schools. The dropout rate at the primary school level had decreased when the scheme was active," sources said.

It can be recalled that Minister School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa had told the Legislative Council during the session in Belagavi that the government is keen on re-introducing the scheme.

As per estimates, the de-

partment needs around Rs 700 crore to Rs 800 crore to distribute bicycles for class 8 students (boys and girls).

"We had submitted a proposal during the 2022-23 academic year, but it was rejected by the finance department," the sources said.

The free bicycle scheme was launched by B S Yediyurappa when he was chief minister in 2006-07.

Though it was only for girl students in the first year, considering the demand, it was extended for boys. However, students in Bengaluru South and North districts, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mysuru and Davangere districts were not covered under the scheme.

The department has also proposed to extend the egg distribution scheme from twice a week currently to five days a week.

This follows health improvements among kids due to the scheme and also following demands by parents and children, official sources said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Feb, 4, 2024



## ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ, ಬೋಧಕರಿಂದ ಸಚಿವ ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

## ಸಚಿವರಿಂದಲೇ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ರಿಯಾಲಿಟಿ ಚೆಕ್

■ ಎನ್.ಎಲ್.ಶಿವಮಾದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಪ್ರೊ. ಸುಖದೇವ್ ಥೋರಟ್ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿಗೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಾದರೆ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯ ವಾಸ್ತವಾಂಶ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಸ್ವತಃ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ. ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಅವರೇ ರಿಯಾಲಿಟಿ ಚೆಕ್‌ಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನಿತ್ಯದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು, ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳು, ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ, ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

4 ವರ್ಷದ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ಕುರಿತು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ ಏನಿದೆ? 4 ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ? ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಓಪನ್ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟಿವ್‌ಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳಿವೆ? ಎಂಬ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾಲೇಜು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ

430 ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 213ರಲ್ಲಷ್ಟೇ ಕಲೆ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿವೆ. ಉಳಿದ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೊಂದು ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಕಲಿಕೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರವೇಶ, ನಿರ್ಗಮನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಬಯಸಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಅದೇ ವಿಷಯಗಳು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳು ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ಬೇಕೋ ಬೇಡವೋ ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ವಿವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಚಿವರು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುವುದು ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಸಿ ತುಪ್ಪವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕೆಲವರು ಮೌಖಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಬೆರಳೆಣಿಕೆ ಮಂದಿ ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಅನಿಸಿಕೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು.



ನೈಜವಾಗಿ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವಾಗಬೇಕಿರುವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸುವ ಬೋಧಕರು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಡೆದಾಗ

ಅನುಕೂಲ ಮತ್ತು ಅನನುಕೂಲಗಳು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿವೆ ಎಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿದೆ.

! ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ

## ವಾಸ್ತವಾಂಶ ತಿಳಿವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವಾಗಿ 3 ವರ್ಷ ಕಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮೂರನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 4 ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ಕುರಿತು ಯಾವ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿದೆ? ಎಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಎನ್‌ಇಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.15, Feb.07, 2024

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DECCAN HERALD

# 22 K'taka plastic firms, among 687 nationwide, face closure

### CPCB gives 10-day deadline to explain green violations

BENGALURU, DHNS

A whopping 687 Plastic Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs), including 22 in Karnataka, are on the brink of closure due to their non-compliance with environment protection rules.

In a notice dated January 15, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has given these units a 10-day window to explain their failure to follow the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules. Despite being granted ample time for compliance, the units

now face the prospect of punitive action.

Regulations prohibit PIBOs from operating without proper registration obtained through the centralised EPR portal. After securing clearance, they are required to file annual returns on plastic packaging waste as part of fulfilling their EPR obligations.

In October 2023, the CPCB extended the deadline for industries to submit their returns to November 30, warning that a penalty of Rs 5,000 per tonne would be imposed on non-compliant PIBOs.

The CPCB said the 687



Several Plastic Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) face flak due to their non-compliance with environment protection rules. DH FILE PHOTO

units submitted applications under the PIBO category, but these were not approved as the pollution boards sought additional details. The notice states: "The EPR obligations for 2022-23 have not been

fulfilled and the annual report not filed by your unit as the complete application for grant of registration is yet to be re-submitted... Continuing operations as PIBO and introducing plastic packaging in the

economy without obtaining registration... is in violation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016."

The CPCB has directed the 687 units to provide reasons why their operations should not be closed, and penalties imposed.

"Your unit is hereby given an opportunity to submit a reply or take necessary action within 10 days of this notice, failing which appropriate action will be taken," CPCB chairman Tanmay Kumar said.

Efforts to obtain a response from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials regarding actions against the violators were unsuccessful.

The KSPCB had previously faced controversy when central authorities uncovered a case involving fake EPR certificates from an industry.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 5, 2024**



# Water levels in Cauvery basin dams deplete alarmingly

## KRS has water only upto 35% of its storage capacity

SHILPA P  
MYSURU, DHNS

The water levels in the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin have reduced alarmingly.

The storage of water in the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir stood at just 35%, Kabini dam 66%, Harangi and Hemavathi dams 30% each, of their respective gross capacities, as on Sunday.

Also, the storage in the KRS dam is 51% less and Hemavathi 34% less, compared to their storage on the corresponding day last year.

On Sunday, the water level in the KRS dam was 91.84 feet as against its maximum capacity of 124.80 feet; Kabini dam had water up to 2,272.44 (against full reservoir level of 2,284 feet); Hemavathi dam had 2,891.39 feet of water

(against its capacity 2,922 feet) and the water level at Harangi reservoir was 2,831.61 feet as against its capacity of 2,859 feet.

In terms of storage capacity, the KRS dam has 17.08 tmcft of water as against its capacity 49.45 of tmcft. The storage capacity was 34.95 tmcft on the corresponding day last year.

Hemavathi has 14.85 tmcft as against its capacity 37.10 tmcft and last year it had 22.34 tmcft.

Kabini has 12.95 tmcft as against its capacity 19.52 tmcft and last year on the same day it had 12.41 tmcft.

Harangi had 3.42 tmcft as against its capacity 8.50 tmcft and last year it had 3.29 tmcft.

As much as 3.35 tmcft of water is required per month to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru (2 tmcft),



The Krishnarajasagar dam in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district has 17.08 tmcft of water as against its capacity 49.45 tmcft. PHOTO BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mysuru (0.75 tmcft), Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Ramanagara (0.60 tmcft) till the end of water year (June 2023-May 2024).

Before the state started releasing water to Tamil Nadu, on August 5, 2023, the maximum water level of the KRS

dam was 113.44 feet, Kabini was 2,282.73 feet, Hemavathi 2,915.05 feet and Harangi dam was 2,858.65 feet.

### Deficit rainfall

The state received 38% deficit north-east monsoon showers from October to December

(including 31% deficit rainfall in south interior Karnataka, 1% excess in Mysuru and 15% deficit in the Malnad area, 10% deficit rainfall in Kodagu, in the Cauvery basin). Karnataka received 25% deficit south-west monsoon rain from June to September.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Feb, 5, 2024

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ಮಳೆನೀರು ವೃಥಾ ತಡೆಗೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಿವಿಸ್ ಆರ್ ನಿಧಿ ಬಳಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

## ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾವಿರ ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಸಾವಿರ ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿದೆ.

ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 115 ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮ ಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಯಲಹಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ನಗರ, ಬೊಮ್ಮನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮಹದೇವಪುರ, ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ವಲಯ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂತ ಹಂತವಾಗಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. 20 ಅಡಿ ಅಳ, 4 ಅಡಿ ಅಗಲವುಳ್ಳ ಪ್ರತಿ ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿಗೆ 40 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಗುಂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಸಾವಿರ ಟೆಂಟ್ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರ್ಪೋರೇಟ್ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ (ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್) ನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ನೀರನ್ನು ವೃಥಾ ವಾಗಿ ಹರಿಯದಂತೆ ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಖರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಗರದ ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಗಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳ



ಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮರ- ಗಿಡಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರುಣಿಸಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿದೆ. 2011ರಲ್ಲಿ 8 ವಲಯಗಳ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 951 ಇಂಗುಗುಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದ ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್, ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆಯ ಜಿಂಕೆವನ ಸೇರಿ ಹಲವು ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

### ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಇಂಗು ಗುಂಡಿ?

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ಒಟ್ಟು	1,270

### ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ

ಉದ್ಯಾನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ 'ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ', ಮರಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ 'ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ' ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ 'ಕೆರೆ ಮಿತ್ರ' ಮೊಬೈಲ್- ವೆಬ್ ಆಪ್ ಅನ್ನು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅನಾವರಣ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಗಾರ್ಡನ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಹಿರಿಮೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆನು ನಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರುಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು, ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ



ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಆವ್ವಜನಕ, ಮನೋಲ್ಲಾಸ ಒದಗಿ ಸಲು, ಉದ್ಯಾನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹೊಣೆ ಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಕಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದಾಗಿ 'ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ' ಆಪ್ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಮೊದಲು ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ನೋಂದಣಿ ನಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಉದ್ಯಾನ ವಿವರ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಉದ್ಯಾನದ ಸಮಯ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ, ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

Bengaluru Edition  
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Source: Vijayavani, p.9, Feb.06, 2024



ಚಳಿ ಕಳೆವ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ತಾಪಮಾನ ತೀವ್ರ ಏರಿಕೆ; ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 32 ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ದಾಖಲು

# ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಕೆಕ್ಕರಿಸಲಿರುವ ಸೂರ್ಯ!

ಎಲ್‌ನಿನ್ಯೋ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ  
ಅವಧಿಗೂ ಮುನ್ನವೇ  
ಕಾಲಿಡುತ್ತಿದೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ!



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಕಾಡಿದ ತೀವ್ರ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯೂ ಜನಜೀವನದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬರೆ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾದಂತಿದೆ. ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ವಾರ ಕಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗಲೇ, ಕಳೆದೇರಡು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬಿಸಿಲು ಬಾರಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ತಾಪಮಾನ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ 32 ಡಿಗ್ರಿಗೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳು ಚಳಿಗಾಲ ಇರುವಾಗಲೇ ತಾಪಮಾನ ತೀವ್ರ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡುಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ಅನುಭವ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಉದ್ಯಾನನಗರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಗಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಳಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 22 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವೇಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ವಾಯು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಕೂಡ ಕಳೆದ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಎಂದು ಖಾಸಗಿ ಹವಾಮಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಸು ವೆದರ್ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮಾರ್ಚ್-ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿದ್ದು, ಜನರನ್ನು ಹೈರಾಣಾಗಿಸಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬಿಸಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದ್ದು, ಹಾಲಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಎಲ್‌ನಿನ್ಯೋ ಪರಿಣಾಮವೇ ಕಾರಣ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ತಜ್ಞರು. ಇದೇ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಂಗಾರಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ವ್ಯತಿರಿಕ್ತ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ, ಮಳೆ ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಇದೀಗ ಎಲ್‌ನಿನ್ಯೋ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಧಿಗೂ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಕಾಲಿಡುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ➡8

## ಆಗಲೇ 31 ಡಿಗ್ರಿ!

ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಆರಂಭದಿಂದಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ತಾಪಮಾನ 31 ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಸೆಲ್ಸಿಯಸ್‌ನಷ್ಟಿದ್ದು, ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉರಿಯ ಅನುಭವ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಸಾಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಮೆ ನೀರಿನ ತಾಪಮಾನ ಏರಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿರುವ ಹವಾಮಾನ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಯಿಂದ ಎಲ್‌ನಿನ್ಯೋ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ತಾಪಮಾನ ಏರಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸೆಖೆಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಸವಿತಾ ಬಂಗೇರ.

## ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆ?

ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೆರೆ ಕೊಳ್ಳಗಳು ತಳಕಂಡಿವೆ, ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳು ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಕೇವಲ ಸದ್ದು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಜನ ಚಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೂ ಕುಡಿಯಲೂ ನೀರಿಲ್ಲದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿರುವ ಸೂಚನೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ.

## ← ಮೊದಲಪುಟದಿಂದ

**ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ:** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಚಳಿಗಾಲದ ತಿಂಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಎಲ್‌ನಿನ್ಯೋ ಪರಿಣಾಮವು ತಾಪಮಾನವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ನಂತರ ಬಿಸಿಲು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳು ಮುಂಬರುವ ಸುದೀರ್ಘ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ಸೂಚನೆ. ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯು ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳಿವೆ. ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲೇ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಿಗಾಳಿಯೂ ಏಳಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹವಾಮಾನ ತಜ್ಞರು.

**ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳ ಬರಿದು:** ಇತ್ತ ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆ, ಅತ್ತ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಿನ ವಿವಾದದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಸುದೀರ್ಘ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಡು ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಅಬ್ಬರಿಸುವ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರ ಎಳುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟೆಗಳು ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಬರಿದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಭೀಕರ ಬರದ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಕಾವೇರಿಯ ಉಪನದಿಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕೂಡ ಆತಂಕ ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 49.45 ಟೀಎಂಸಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೀಗ ಕೇವಲ 17 ಟೀಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಉಳಿದಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೂ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಭಯ ಕಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕಬಿನಿಯ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ 2,272 ಅಡಿ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಜಲಾಶಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ 2,891 ಅಡಿ ನೀರು ಉಳಿದಿದೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.3 & 8, Feb.07, 2024



# Activists express concern over 70% of fire-fighting vehicles being old

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Ahead of the fire season, wildlife activists have expressed concern over how the Forest Department would be able to deploy fire extinguishing vehicles in the event of fires, considering that 70% of these vehicles are over 15 years old.

With the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways banning the use of vehicles which are over 15 years old, activists said that this rule will affect the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services (KSFES) as 70% of its fire extinguishing vehicles are over 15 years old. The Forest Department, meanwhile, plans to write to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in this regard.

## Forest fire season

“The forest fire season is fast approaching. But KSFES is handicapped to assist the Karnataka Forest Department, in the eventuality of a fire breakout in its forest landscapes. Unfortunately, KSFES has not been given funds to indent for new fire tenders. Even if



Wildlife activists have expressed concern over how the Forest Department will be able to deploy fire extinguishing vehicles in the event of fires. FILE PHOTO

funds are granted in February 2024, it will take a minimum of two years to replace all old fire tenders of the KSFES department,” said Joseph Hoover, wildlife activist and former member, State Board for Wildlife. He added that if the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways insists that the department should replace its vehicles, it will severely impact forests, households and establishments across all districts in Karnataka.

He said that while Director General of Police, KSFES, Kamal Pant has

written four letters to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, requesting time to replenish, but the response hasn’t been encouraging.

He said that the January 16, 2023, notification of the Union Transport Ministry has exempted special purpose vehicles from this regulation.

The 15-year rule does not apply to special purpose vehicles (armoured and other specialised vehicles) used for operational purposes for the defence of the country and maintenance of law and order and inter-

nal security.

“Considering that our forests are vulnerable to fire during summer, Nitin Gadkari could relax the rules for the fire services department too. The special purpose vehicles tag should also be made applicable to fire tenders also. The least the Central government could do is exempt the January 16, 2013 notification, at least until the fire season is over and budgetary allocation is made for the purchase of new fire tenders,” he added.

## Dept. aware of problem

Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, said that the department is aware of this and would seek an extension of one year for using the existing fire extinguishing vehicles.

“The vehicles are owned by the KSFES and not the Forest Department. However, we will be moving a request to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to give an extension for one year as the fire season is approaching,” he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Feb. 7, 2024**



# Scientists to study forest biomass in three regions

**Project to cover forests in K'taka, Kerala, MP**

**R KRISHNAKUMAR**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**A**s the NASA-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) programme picks pace with a series of pre-launch data validation exercises, Isro has commissioned scientists to undertake a project to assess forest biomass in

three regions – Shivamogga in Karnataka, Nilambur in Kerala, and Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh.

The parameters measured in these regions, which include tree species, tree height and girth, canopy density, and wood and soil moisture, will be used to calibrate and validate data from the regions, as mapped by NISAR.

NISAR, a low earth orbit observatory with a dual-frequency radar system jointly developed by NASA and Isro, is designed to map the entire globe in 12 days.

It can generate high-resolution data that track changes



es in the earth's ecosystems, from ice mass to vegetation to ocean levels and natural hazards like earthquakes and tsunamis. The space agencies are planning a 2024 launch for the mission.

Led by Girish Gopinath, associate professor and head of

remote sensing and GIS at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), the scientists will collect Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging, a remote-sensing tool to study the earth's surface), optical and in situ data over forest inventory plots in the three regions.

The first phase of the KUFOS-led project involved the validation of ground truth data from the regions. In January, Isro's Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad approved the second phase, on a budget of Rs 44 lakh.

The ground-measured data and drone-based Lidar and op-

tical data from the inventory plots will be used to validate one of NISAR's key science products – the forest Above Ground Biomass or the total mass of living matter within a given unit of forest area.

Under the NISAR utilisation programme, SAC has identified multiple areas of engagement with India's scientific community that include calibration and validation of data and science products from NISAR.

Estimating forest biomass and carbon sequestration potential of Indian forests is one of the identified research areas.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Feb, 7, 2024**



# Rain gives biggest push to groundwater table: Report

Lakes, Tanks Not Found To Play Big Role

Niranjan.Kaggere  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Contrary to ongoing efforts to recharge the groundwater table across Karnataka, especially in and around Bengaluru region, by filling up lakes and tanks, the annual report on 'Dynamic Groundwater Resources of Karnataka 2023' has revealed that natural rainfall results in the highest recharge of groundwater table.

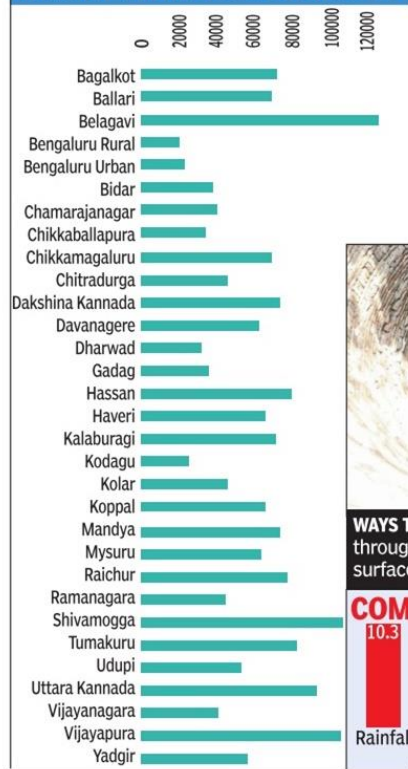
Of 18.9 billion cubic metres (BCM) of recharge observed across Karnataka, the lakes and tanks contributed only 0.5 BCM, while natural rainfall accounted for the highest contribution of 10.3 BCM, according to the report. Among the districts, Belagavi tops with the highest percentage of groundwater recharge, while Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts occupy the last spots.

According to officials at the Ground Water Directorate of Karnataka, groundwater table recharge happens through six methods — rainfall, groundwater irrigation (GWI), canals, tanks-ponds, surface water irrigation (SWI), and water conservation structures (WCS).

Rainfall was the biggest contributor, followed by return flow from SWI and GWI at 4.9 BCM and 2.2 BCM, respectively, the report stated.

Elaborating further on the study, a minor irrigation department official said rainfall data from three different agencies and the availability of water in various waterbodies during 2022 were considered to estimate the recharge rate. "While assessing recharge through lakes and tanks, we normally consider 60% of the water spread area against the number of days the water lasts. Ho-

## DISTRICT-WISE RECHARGE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES



## Nitrate-polluted water in B'luru

Estimating the status of groundwater across Karnataka, officials have also assessed the quality of groundwater by collating data from Central Ground Water Board and Ground Water Directorate. "While fluoride contamination was noticed in 14 taluks, largely in North Karnataka, salinity was seen in 17 taluks. Due to anthropogenic activities, nitrate contamination was noticed in 41 taluks, including Bengaluru North and Yelahanka taluks in Bengaluru. In 12 taluks, uranium contamination was observed, including Madhugiri in Tumakuru, Bangarpet and Mulabagilu in Kolar, Chintamani in Chikkaballapura, and Nagamangala in Mandya," the report stated.

TOI



**WAYS TO RECHARGE:** Groundwater table recharge happens through rain, groundwater irrigation, canals, tanks, surface water irrigation, & water conservation structures

## COMPONENT-WISE RECHARGE (BCM)



Source: Dynamic Groundwater Resources of Karnataka 2023

wever, in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts, where KC and HN Valley projects are under progress, it was observed that there was 100% availability of water all through the year as they were filled up with treated water," the official explained.

Recharging of groundwater table by lakes and ponds is measured in terms of metres per hectare per day, which is the overall increase in the groundwater level calculated in terms of the hectares over which the waterbody nearby is spread on a daily basis.

"Among the districts, Belagavi topped the list by recharging 1,25,931.4 metres per hectare per day (ham), followed by Uttara Kannada and Vijayapura. Bengaluru Rural occupied the bottom place for minimum recharge

with just 20,676.2 ham. Barring Ballari, Davanagere, Koppal, Mandya, Raichur, Bagalkot, Haveri, Hassan, Ramanagara and Kolar districts, where recharge was largely through SWI due to vast command area, all other districts witnessed the highest recharge through rainfall," explained another official.

NS Boseraju, minister for minor irrigation, said, "Whenever there is more rainfall, it directly recharges the groundwater through seepage and percolation. But in drought conditions, it is largely lakes and ponds that help recharge groundwater. However, silt and other sedimentation on lakebeds could have prevented the percolation of water. I've already directed experts and scientists to analyse and list out the possible obstacles, and sug-

gest measures to increase the rate of groundwater recharge through lakes and ponds."

## Fall in extraction

Amid concern over depleting groundwater table levels, Ground Water Directorate officials have observed that the 'stage of extraction' (SOE) of groundwater is on the decline across Karnataka, barring in Chikkaballapur. "SOE is nothing but how much groundwater you utilize with respect to the recharge. While the SOE was 69.9% in 2022, the same has come down to 66.3% in 2023. Similarly, in Kolar, it was 181% in 2022 and was down to 172% in 2023. However, in Chikkaballapur, the extraction has increased from 146% to 153%," an engineer explained.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Feb. 7, 2024



# Why govt colleges are top choice for MBBS students

Just 10 Among The First 2,000 NEET Ranks Chose Private Medical Colleges, And 6 Of Them Went To CMC Vellore

Rema.Nagarajan  
@timesgroup.com

When it comes to choosing a medical college, high-ranking students in the entrance test overwhelmingly prefer govt colleges, especially the older and well-established ones that also happen to have the lowest annual fees.

That's the conclusion from National Medical Commission's data on over 1 lakh MBBS admissions across India in 2023-24. However, data for admissions to 20 functional AIIMS and JIPMER – altogether 2,269 seats – and four other colleges that account for 420 seats isn't included.

## Delhi And Kerala Are Top Choices

TOI analysed this mega-set of NEET ranks to arrive at the median rank (midpoint – 50% of admissions are ranked lower than the median) of admissions to each college. Delhi, with several well-known medical colleges and no post-MBBS bond, appears to be the top choice. Without data from AIIMS-Delhi or any other AIIMS, Maulana

## TIMES Special

Azad Medical College in Delhi tops the chart with the highest median rank of 1,112. Banaras Hindu University's Institute of Medical Sciences is in second place with a median rank of 1,325, followed by Vardhman Mahavir Medical College attached to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital (median rank 2,718).

## Calculating median rank of a state

Let's take the case of Delhi. Data is available for 1,114 seats in govt medical colleges in Delhi. The median rank of the students who got admission into these colleges is 4,597 – meaning, 50% of those who took admission in Delhi scored above this rank, and 50% below. So, the median rank of Delhi is 4,597. Similarly, 1,752 students were admitted into govt medical colleges in Kerala. The median rank of those who got admission was 12,592 – which is also Kerala's median rank.

Govt colleges in Delhi have a median rank of 4,597. Kerala, where govt college annual fees range from Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000, and there is no bonded service after MBBS, has the next highest median rank for govt colleges (12,592). Even pvt medical colleges in Kerala have a relatively high median rank (96,600) as the average fee is less than Rs 7 lakh annually. In fact, their median rank would be even higher if the deemed university of Amrita School of Medicine in Kochi

## OPERATION ADMISSION



## TOP 10 GOVT COLLEGES BY MEDIAN RANK\*

College name	Median rank
Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi	1,112
Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi	1,325
Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi	2,718
SMS Medical College, Jaipur	2,886
King George Medical University, Lucknow	3,095
B J Medical College, Ahmedabad	3,271
Madras Medical College, Chennai	3,308
Seth GS Medical College, and KEM Hospital, Mumbai	3,667
Government Medical College, Kozhikode, Calicut	3,708
University College of Medical Sciences & GTB Hospital, Delhi	4,497

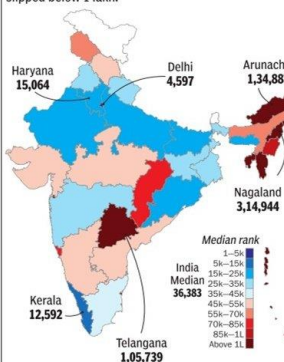
\*AIIMS, JIPMER data not included

## TOP 10 PVT COLLEGES BY MEDIAN RANK

College name	Median rank
Christian Medical College, Vellore	18,832
Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha	20,531
Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram, Wardha	23,598
Army College of Medical Sciences, Delhi	25,213
KJ Somaiya Medical College & Research Centre, Mumbai	38,067
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	40,130
Bharatratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College, Pune	41,008
Jubilee Mission Medical College & Research Institute, Thrissur	41,081
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences, Jammu	45,704
M E S Medical College, Malappuram, Kerala	45,830

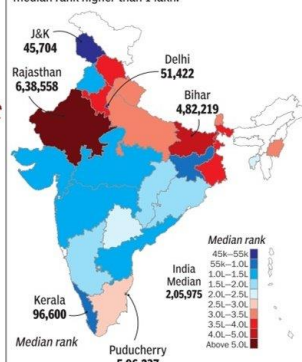
## GOVT COLLEGES: HIGH MEDIAN IN MOST STATES

Govt medical colleges in the top 14 states have a median NEET rank higher than 30,000, which shows the bulk of high-scoring students opted for them. In only eight states, the median rank at govt colleges slipped below 1 lakh.



## PVT COLLEGES: MEDIAN ABOVE 1 LAKH RARE

The median rank for all private colleges taken together was 2,05,975 – almost six times lower than the overall median rank at govt colleges. Pvt colleges in only four states – Delhi, Kerala, Jharkhand and J&K – had a median rank higher than 1 lakh.



□ NA- Not available because these states do not have any pvt college, or in the case of Sikkim, no govt college

with an annual fee of Rs 19 lakh is left out.

## Demand For Cheap Pvt Colleges

CMC Vellore has the highest median rank (18,832) among pvt colleges, followed by Maharaja Agrasen Medical College in Haryana (20,531) which is govt-aided though run by a trust. MGIMS-Wardha (23,598), which gets the bulk of its funding from the Centre and Maharashtra govt, is third. Annual tuition fees in these three colleges are Rs 52,000, Rs 1.8 lakh and over Rs 1.6 lakh, respectively, the lowest among pvt colleges. Affordability thus seems to have a very high impact on students' choice.

## Bottom Rung Can Be Very Costly

Rajasthan's pvt medical colleges have the lowest median rank of 6.38 lakh, behind Puducherry's pvt colleges (5.96 lakh median rank).

However, Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry has the lowest overall median rank (10.4 lakh), behind Pacific Medical College in Udaipur, Rajasthan (8.82 lakh). Yet, these colleges have among the highest fees for MBBS – Rs 23 lakh and Rs 21 lakh per year, respectively, for state quota seats, and in case of Pacific Medical College, Rs 35 lakh per year for management quota seats.

## Steep Penalty Is A Deterrent

However, fees alone don't determine choice. Assam's govt colleges, for example, have low annual tuition fees (Rs 20,000-28,000), but the mainstream perception that they are far away, and the very high penalty of Rs 30 lakh for not doing one year of rural service after graduation, deter top-rankers.

In fact, this is true for most govt colleges in the North-East. Yet, Haryana with the longest bond of five years, a penalty of Rs 36 lakh, and govt college fees of Rs 90,000 per year, has the third highest median rank in govt colleges. Clearly, location too is an important factor.

Source: The Times of India, p.7, Feb. 6, 2024



# Inclusive intentions, exclusive outcomes

Parks meant  
only for persons  
with disabilities  
perpetuate  
isolation and  
othering

SNEHA PRIYA YANAPPA  
AND AKHILESHWARI REDDY

As per the 2011 census, Karnataka was home to over 10 lakh persons with disabilities (PwDs). Thirteen years later, this number is only bound to have increased with the exponential growth in Karnataka's population. One critical aspect of ensuring the health and vitality of PwDs, especially children with disabilities (CwDs), is to ensure adequate access to inclusive and accessible play areas. It is unfortunate to learn that until 2018, there were only four accessible parks in Bengaluru. Therefore, it was a welcome development when the state government, in collaboration with the Mindtree Foundation, announced the construction of an inclusive park for CwDs in Bengaluru's beloved Cubbon Park.

While the park opened in 2022, a recent article revealed a low turnout. This revelation is troubling and begs the question: Why has the park been mostly unused? Currently, the park is accessible only to CwDs and their guardians. Although the physical infrastructure within the park allows CwDs to use it freely, the current segregation from other children points to a lack of forethought and understanding of 'inclusivity'. 'Othering' is a term often used to describe the act of excluding some individuals from the larger group, as they are seen as different. By making the park 'exclusive' to CwDs, the state is further entrenching the idea that they are somehow 'different,' normalising their exclusion from society.

In this case, the parents and guardians of CwDs have only two options, both saddening: depriving their disabled children from playing in these 'exclusive parks' to avoid the sting of separation or allowing them to play within these parks, but with no interaction with other children, further entrenching the 'othering'.

The question of how these children are to prove their disability is worth pondering. Do they need a doctor's note or a government-issued disability certificate? What about children with invisible disabilities like ADHD and autism? This "exclusivity" is causing the CwDs themselves to suffer and is negatively impacting their self-esteem and their right to human dignity.

It is crucial to note that the Rights of Persons with Dis-

abilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016) mandates the state government to ensure that all public spaces are made accessible to PwDs. The Act also guarantees a right to a cultural life and participation in recreational activities for PwDs. The Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India, 2021 also enunciate the need to accommodate CwDs through the creation of therapeutic play areas within cities. In Karnataka's case, the legislation governing neighbourhood parks, the Karnataka Parks, Play-fields and Open Spaces (Preservation and Regulation) Act, 1985 (KPPO Act, 1985), fails to address the issue of access to parks by PwDs, thereby directly contravening the RPwD Act, 2016.

There are therefore five fundamental steps that the state government needs to take to make parks truly accessible to CwDs.

■ The government needs to rethink the idea of inclusion and exclusion to ensure CwDs are not precluded from playing with other children. One suggestion to cater to children with specific types of disabilities is to ensure that they are provided with "quiet hours" where they may exclusively access parks in order to cater to their sensory needs.

■ It is critical that urban planning incorporate accessibility as a norm while designing parks and other public spaces, as opposed to it being a cosmetic afterthought.

■ The KPPO Act, 1985, must be amended to ensure that "universal design" is an integral part of park design and maintenance in Karnataka.

■ It is important to acknowledge that the buck does not stop with merely making parks accessible; local authorities are also responsible for ensuring that these spaces are maintained. For instance, Coles Park, which was the first ever accessible park in India, has now become unusable due to a lack of maintenance and upkeep. It is also necessary that the KPPO Act, 1985, be amended to lay down minimum standards of maintenance as well as periodic audits of all parks.

■ While the intent behind the creation of a park for CwDs on the premises of Cubbon Park is well placed, it may be crucial for the state government to identify neighbourhood parks that can be made accessible and inclusive for CwDs. There is a need to acknowledge that CwDs do not face problems unless their surroundings are designed in a manner that creates problems for them.

(Sneha Priya Yanappa is a senior resident fellow, and Akhileshwari Reddy is an associate fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Feb, 8, 2024**

# ಬೇಸಿಗೆಗೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಭಣಭಣ

ತುಂಗಭದ್ರ, ಭೀಮಾ, ಅಮರ್ಜಾ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಖಾಲಿ | ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರ

■ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ ಎಗನೂರು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

Venkatesh.narasappa@timesgroup.com  
ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಆರಂಭಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವು ತಳಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿವೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕುಗ್ಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಜನ-ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರವಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಮಳೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಹಲವು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ಬಿಸಿಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದ ಕಾರಣ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಬೇಸಿಗೆಗೆ ಅಪಾಯ:** ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತಗಳು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ ಜುಲೈವರೆಗೆ ನೀರು ಬದಗಿಸುವುದು ತೀರಾ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ನೀರನ್ನಾದರೂ ಶೇಖರಿಸಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಜನ-ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಮುಂದಾಲೋಚನೆಯಾದರೂ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಭೀಮಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಮರ್ಜಾಳು ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳು ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗುವ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿವೆ. ಮೇಲಿನ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಿಂದ ನೀರು ಹರಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ ಜನ-ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಹಾಹಾಕಾರ ತುರುವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಉಳಿದ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ನೀರನ್ನು ಶೇಖರಿಸಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಆತ್ಯಂತ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಬೆಳ್ಳೆತೊರಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನೀರು:** ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೆಳ್ಳೆತೊರಾ ಜಲಾಶಯದಲ್ಲಿ 3.774 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಿದ್ದು, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ನಗರದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಆತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇತರ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣೆ ನೀರು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

**ಕಾವೇರಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳದಲ್ಲೂ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ:**



ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣಲಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಭೀಮಾ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಖಾಲಿ ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದು.

ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಮಳೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಗಂಡೋರಿ ನಾಲಾದಲ್ಲಿ 1.2 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರಿದ್ದು, ಕುಡಿಯುವದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಳಸಲು ಚಿಂತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಅಲ್ಪಾಫ್ ಎಇಇ ಗಂಡೋರಿ ನಾಲಾ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ರಾಮನಗರ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಸೇರಿ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಆಕರವಾಗಿರುವ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿಯ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ಹಾಲಿ 17 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರಿದ್ದರೂ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಸಿಗುವುದು 8.672 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಬೆಳೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಹಾರಂಗಿ ಜಲಾಶಯದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಹೇಮಾವತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದು, ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವಂತೆ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಮತ್ತು ಕರಾವಳಿಯನ್ನು ಬಳ

ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಭೀಮಾ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೇಲಿನ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳಿಂದ ತಕ್ಕನುಮೇ ಭೀಮಾ ನದಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಬಿಡಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳಿಗೂ ನೀರು ಸಿಗದಂತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

- ಶರಣಬಸಪ್ಪ ಮಮತಿಟ್ಟಿ ಬೆಳ್ಳಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾಂತ ರೈತ ಸಂಘ

ಗೊಂಡ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಡ್ಯಾಂನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಬಾವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದು, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗುವ ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಇದೆ. ಬೆಳೆ ಗಾವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಸಿಲಿನ ತಾಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದು, ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಬೇಗ ಆದಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳ ಅಂತ್ಯದ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆ ಆಗುವ ಆತಂಕ ಇದೆ. ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಡ್ಯಾಂನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಡೆಡ್ ಸ್ಟೋರೇಜ್ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗುವ ಮುನ್ನಾಡು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ (ಟಿಎಂಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)		
ಜಲಾಶಯ	2023ರ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ	2024ರ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ
ಅಮರ್ಜಾ	1.197	0.413
ಭೀಮಾ	1.544	0.112
ಚಂದ್ರಪಳ್ಳಿ	0.626	0.455
ಗಂಡೋರಿ ನಾಲಾ	1.375	1.259
ಮುಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಕೆಳದಂಡೆ	1.306	1.105
ಬೆಳ್ಳೆತೊರಾ	3.140	3.774
ಚುಳಕಿನಾಲಾ	0.795	0.719
ಕಾರಂಜಾ	5.950	5.400
ಮುಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಮೇಲ್ದಂಡೆ	0.412	0.362
ಹತ್ತಿಕೋಟೆ	0.1453	0.0994
ಸೌದಾಗರ್	0.1660	0.1141
ಹಾರಂಗಿ	3.29	3.42
ಹೇಮಾವತಿ	22	14
ಕೆಆರ್‌ಎಸ್	43.696	17.051
ಕುನಿ	13.2	13.2
ಸೂಪಾ	82.22	63.80
ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ	47.128	9.539
ಅಲಮಟ್ಟಿ	69.156	51.480
ಘಟಪ್ರಭಾ	28.41	33.64
ಮಲಪ್ರಭಾ	15.83	9.51
ವಿವಿ ಸಾಗರ	28.415	20.59

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.09, Feb.09, 2024



# State lost 26,000 acres of forests to encroachers in 9 years

**PAVAN KUMAR H**  
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Despite stringent legal provisions, Karnataka has lost around 25,767 acres of forest land due to encroachment between 2014 and 2023.

Of the 14 forest circles in the state, Kalaburagi circle, which has one of the least forested

areas, lost the highest forest cover – 6,333 acres – during this period.

Forest department officials attribute this loss to porous borders and staff shortage. The department, over the decade, has filed 6,611 cases.

According to experts, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Canara, Kodagu and Hassan



circles have been reporting a large number of forest land

encroachment for cultivation. Bengaluru, the state's biggest forest circle, is witnessing encroachment for both agriculture and "development".

"People of Chikkamagaluru have already started facing the consequences of encroachment," said a Chikkamagaluru-based wildlife activist.

► **Forests, Page 8**

## Forests, from Page 1

Chikkamagaluru circle, known for its coffee estates and green-covered mountains, has reported encroachment of 5,864 acres of forest land of which Koppa division alone has seen a diversion of 4,130 acres for agriculture in the last 10 years.

According to an affidavit submitted by the forest department in the high court, around 2.04 lakh acres of forest land was encroached as of 2014 and over 1.10 lakh cases were pending in various courts of the state.

Department officials said eviction has been hampered by long legal processes and the state government's decision to "rehabilitate" farmers who have encroached upon less

than three acres of forest land.

The department, in its affidavit, mentioned that a large area of encroached forest land is in the possession of farmers who own less than three acres of land. Praveen Bhargav, a former member of the National Board for Wildlife said, "Several court orders have directed state governments to curb encroachment. However, every round of regularisation has set the stage for another wave of encroachment."

He said that in 1997, more than 18,000 cases of pre-1980 encroachments were regularised. "Yet, under the Forest Rights Act, one lakh claims of other forest dwellers who had to establish 75 years of continuous occupation, have been granted. This requires to be reviewed but the Forest

department has not yet submitted the GPS coordinates to Forest Survey of India, as directed by the Supreme Court," he said.

Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), said the department is working towards clearing encroachments. "In the last decade, we have evicted more forest encroachers than fresh encroachment cases. The legal process to be followed for eviction takes time and the government policy of rehabilitating small and marginal farmers has to be followed wherever possible. This sometimes results in a bit of delay," he said. He conceded that one of the reasons for higher encroachment in "lesser green circles" is staff shortage.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&8, Feb, 9, 2024**

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## Health

# Tele ICU hubs planned in 60 taluks to address shortage of specialists

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

To address the shortage of specialist doctors in taluk-level hospitals and reduce referrals of patients to district hospitals, the State Health Department has launched a Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub at the Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC) on Victoria Hospital premises here. The department is now planning to start similar hubs in 60 taluk hospitals by next year.

This project, launched through a public-private partnership with the E-Governance Foundation, will facilitate the monitoring of critical patients in rural hospitals by experts from the hub hospital (medical colleges and district hospitals), thereby providing them timely treatment.

**Hubs and spoke centres**  
Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said four government medical institutions have been created as hubs and 41 taluk hospitals have been linked to



Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister of Health Dinesh Gundu Rao during the launch of Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub in Victoria Hospital on Friday.

them as spoke centres. As many as 10 tele ICU beds have been arranged in each of these 41 taluk hospitals and superspeciality care will be available to patients with the advice of expert doctors through AI technologies, he said.

Already, 13 spoke hospitals in the Mysuru division and 10 in the Belagavi division have been integrated with Mysuru Medical College and Research Institute (MMCRI) and Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Hubballi, resulting in over

11,000 patients receiving treatment through tele ICU services. Besides, nine taluk hospitals each have been linked to the Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster. "We are planning to set up tele ICUs in 60 taluk hospitals next year," he said.

Through this project, the Health Department is anticipating a reduction in referrals from spoke hospitals to district-level facilities. "This shift will not only ease the burden on healthcare professionals but also significantly im-

prove patient outcomes, potentially increasing recovery rates by up to 70%. Additionally, the introduction of a generative artificial intelligence-based digital tool, as part of the first 10-bed ICU scheme in the State, will streamline patient care and alleviate the workload on healthcare staff," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who inaugurated the Bengaluru and Ballari tele ICU cluster hub, said the facility is a boon to patients in rural areas.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Feb. 3, 2024**



# State to start doorstep screening of oral and breast cancers

**Afshan Yasmeen**

BENGALURU

Facilitating early detection of oral, breast, and cervical cancers in the population, the State government is all set to roll out 'Gruha Arogya' under which door-to-door screening of these cancers along with other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) will be taken up.

The scheme – which is awaiting the State Cabinet's approval – is likely to be rolled out by the end of this month in eight districts in the initial phase. People aged above 30 in every family in Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Gadag, Ballari, Yadgir, Dakshina Kannada, and Mysuru will be screened.

To create awareness about cancer, February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day. The theme for this year is 'Close the care gap'.

**February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day and the theme this year is 'Close the care gap'**

In India, while the leading cancers among males are lung, oral cavity, stomach, colorectum, and oesophagus, in females, cancers of the breast, cervix, ovary, and oral cavity are in leading position.

Srinivasa G., State Deputy Director (Non-Communicable Diseases), told *The Hindu* on Saturday that teams from Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) comprising a community health officer (CHO), ASHA workers, and primary healthcare officers will visit 20 homes each in their jurisdiction on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

"These teams will cover

nearly 1,000 homes under each HWC in three months to screen oral and breast cancers (and if they have any symptoms of cervical cancer) along with diabetes and hypertension, on the doorstep of people. If the team detects the possibility of cancer among those screened, they will be referred to the nearest community health centre or taluk hospital for more investigations, confirmation, and further course of treatment. Similarly, people with suspected cases of diabetes and hypertension will receive teleconsultation from doctors, and if confirmed, medication for three months," Dr. Srinivasa said. The CHOs will update any positive case on the NCD portal with their ABHA IDs to create a database of people with these diseases and help them access medicines.

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Feb. 4, 2024**

# Second KFD death in State this year; Health Dept. holds meeting

**The Hindu Bureau**

SHIVAMOGGA

One more person has died due to Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), increasing the death toll due to the viral infection to two this year.

A 79-year-old person, a native of Sringeri taluk in Chikkamagaluru, died in a private hospital at Manipal in Udupi district on Friday. On January 8, an 18-year-old girl from Hosanagar taluk in Shivamogga died of the virus in Manipal. So far, 49 positive cases of KFD have been reported in the State this year. That includes 34 in Uttara Kannada, 12 in Shivamogga, and three in Chikkamagaluru district.

Following the two deaths and the increase in the number of KFD cases, Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare Department D. Randeep visited Shivamogga on Saturday and held a meeting with officers from Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada, and Chikkamagaluru districts. He and other senior officers of the department reviewed the preparedness

to tackle the spread of the disease.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Mr. Randeep said that since January 1 this year, the staff collected 2,288 samples from localities wherever cases were reported, and among them, 49 tested positive. "Two people have died. In one case, the person was 79 years old and was bedridden for other health issues," he said. "We have released a guideline and there is a strict treatment protocol to be followed," he said.

KFD is spread through ticks in forest areas. People who visit forest areas to collect firewood or to graze cattle attract the disease. The department had been distributing DEPA oil, a tick-repellent liquid, to people in affected areas. "So far, we have distributed 45,926 bottles. Besides that, we have 32,000 bottles in stock. The supplier has kept 50,000 bottles ready," he said.

## **No vaccine available**

Answering a question, Mr. Randeep said that as of

now there was no vaccination for the disease. The vaccination provided earlier had been found ineffective. "We have approached ICMR for vaccination. The institute has been in touch with Indian Immunological Ltd. for manufacturing of vaccines. As the process takes six to nine months, it would not be available for the current season," he said.

Regarding the discrepancies in reporting the positive cases at Viral Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), the officer said the issue had come to the attention of the department. A team of senior officers conducted an inquiry into the issue and noticed violation of protocol. "Suitable action would be taken if any wrongdoing was noticed," he said.

The officer said that as of now, all blood samples were being tested at VDL in Shivamogga. There had been a proposal to set up a lab in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district, which needs clearance from the National Institute of Virology in Pune.

**Source: The Hindu, p.8, Feb. 4, 2024**

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# Gender

COLLEGE INITIATIVE

## Women save Rs 200 a day in Shakti scheme, finds survey

Highlights overcrowding, infrequent bus services during peak hours as major issues

BENGALURU, DHNS

Women are saving up to Rs 200 a day due to the ongoing Shakti scheme, even as they struggle to manage overcrowding and infrequent bus services during the peak hours, a survey has found.

Prof Alice Mathew, HOD and Associate Professor with Mount

Carmel College's Department of Political Sciences, conceptualised the survey and executed it with 120 students of her department over a month.

"I had conversations with students and faculty, who reported that buses had gotten so crowded after the scheme was introduced that they had to stand for most of their journeys every day. That sparked the idea to conduct a survey," she told *DH*.

Students spoke to women at bus stands and inside buses to understand how the Shakti scheme impacted them after its introduction in June 2023.

Nearly 96% of the 600 respondents, aged between 16 and 57 years, viewed the scheme positively, noting that they had increased



A passenger displays her free ticket under the Shakti scheme.

DH FILE PHOTO

their frequency of bus travel after its introduction and found it to be the cheapest and most convenient

### What women want

- Introduce AC buses under the Shakti scheme.
- Improve quality and cleanliness of buses.
- Have more women conductors and drivers.
- Online bus tracking system and a schedule.
- Conduct gender sensitisation session for drivers and conductors.

mode of transport, especially to areas with no metro connectivity.

Several respondents said they feel safe traveling in buses due to the high presence of women, post the scheme's introduction, flagging overcrowding as a major issue. They suggested bringing AC buses

into the scheme and increasing the frequency during peak hours.

They also suggested improving the quality and cleanliness of the buses, besides induction of women conductors and drivers. Other suggestions are an online bus tracking system, a schedule, and holding gender sensitisation session for drivers and conductors.

The department intends to prepare a detailed research paper on the scheme and publish it in a peer-reviewed journal soon, noted Prof Mathew.

They will also submit a copy of the study to the state government to highlight the impact of the scheme on women's mobility and urge the government to increase the number of buses to effectively address overcrowding.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 6, 2024

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## Governance

ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ತನ್ನಿಂದಾಗದು ಎಂದ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ | ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಡಿಪಿಆರ್ ವಾಪಸ್

# ಮೇಲಕೆದಾಟದ ಯೋಜನೆ

■ ಕೆಂಚೇಗೌಡ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
kenche.gowda@timesgroup.com

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತನಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ನ್ಯಾಯಯುತ ಪಾಲು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮೇಲಕೆದಾಟ ಬಳಿ ಸಮತೋಲನ ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ (ಸಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಸಿ) ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಮತ್ತೆ 4 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಮರಳಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾ ರೂಢಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್‌ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ವಿಷಯ ವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮೇಲಕೆದಾಟ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಸಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ತೊಡಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇಚ್ಛಾಶಕ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಬಲ ಸಿಗದ ಹೊರತು ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಂತೂ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ನೇರಯ ರಾಜ್ಯ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ತೀವ್ರ ಆಕ್ರೇಷದ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಜಲಾಶಯದಿಂದ ಮುಳುಗಡೆಯಾಗುವ 4,996 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಭೂಮಿ ಪೈಕಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಧಾಮದ 3,181 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಹಾಗೂ 1,869 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಮೀಸಲು ಅರಣ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮಹತ್ವದ ಸವಾಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಂದಿದೆ. 2013ರಲ್ಲಿ ಚಾಲನೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಯೋಜನೆ ದಶಕ ಕಳೆದರೂ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮೂಲ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಮರಳಿದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಯೋಜನೆ 'ರಾಜಕಾರಣ' ಕೇಂದ್ರಿತ ಚರ್ಚಾವಸ್ಥಾವಾಗಿಯೇ ಉಳಿಯುವ ಆತಂಕವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿದೆ.



**ಪಾದಯಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ಫಲವಿಲ್ಲ**

“ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಚೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದು ಡಿಪಿಆರ್ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕವೂ ಯೋಜನೆ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಮೋದನಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಚುರುಕುಗೊಳಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಉತ್ಸುಕತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.” ಎಂದು ಆಪಾದಿಸಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಪಕ್ಷ 2022ರ ಜನವರಿ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರ ಸಂಗಮದಿಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವರೆಗೆ ಪಾದಯಾತ್ರೆ ನಡೆಸಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರತಿಪಕ್ಷದ ಈ ಆಪಾದನೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಅಂದಿನ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರಕಾರ, ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾಲಿನ ಹಕ್ಕಾದ ಮೇಲಕೆದಾಟ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಾಕಾರ ಮಾಡಿಯೇ ಸಿದ್ಧ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಡಿಪಿಆರ್‌ಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು 2022 -23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಕೆದಾಟ ಕನಸಿನ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯಾಯಿತೇ ಹೊರತು, ಸಾಕಾರದ ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯೂ ಆಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

**ನಿರಾಶೆ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ**

ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡರೆ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡುವ ಕನಸು ರಾಜ್ಯದ್ದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಯಾವ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯೂ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ.

**ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಗ**

ಒಟ್ಟು 67.16 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಹುಉದ್ದೇಶದ ಸಮಾನಾಂತರ ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಸಂಬಂಧ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿ (ಡಿಪಿಆರ್) ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿ 2019ರ ಜನವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಆಯೋಗವು ಇದನ್ನು ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಕಾವೇರಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಳೆದ 9 ಸಭೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಸೂಚಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಬಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಗುರುವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಮರ್ಥವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲಾಯಿತು. ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ಜಲ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವವನ್ನು ಮರಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ 2019ರ ಮೂಲಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಮರಳಿದೆ.

**ಡಿಪಿಆರ್ ಉದ್ದೇಶ**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಿಂದ 90 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ಗಡಿಯಿಂದ 4 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಈಚೆಗೆ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನದಿಗೆ

ಆಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 67.16 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಹು ಉದ್ದೇಶದ ಸಮಾನಾಂತರ ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವುದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ 4.75 ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ 400 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ಜಲವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮೂಲ ಉದ್ದೇಶ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಕಾ ಮತಿ ಸಂಗಮಗಳಿಗಿರುವ ಜಾಗದಿಂದ 1.5 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ದೂರದ ಒಂಟಿಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ಬಳಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿ, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿ (ಡಿಪಿಆರ್) ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

**Source: Vijaya Karnataka, p.05, Feb.03, 2024**



# Midday meal programme to be extended during summer vacation in drought-hit taluks

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

Due to the drought situation in Karnataka, the State government has decided to extend the midday meal programme to schoolchildren in 223 drought-hit taluks during the summer vacation. The government has decided to extend the programme for 41 days in April and May. Around 55 lakh government and aided school children from classes one to eight will benefit by this.

The Director of 'PM Poshan' of the Department of School Education has instructed all Block Education Officers (BEOs) and Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) to send the information regarding the identification of the number of children who are willing to or desire to receive midday meals in the summer vacation, before February 3.

According to the Union government's Drought Management Manual-2020 Drought Mitigation Guidelines, the State government has surveyed and declared 223 taluks out of the total 236 as drought-prone taluks.

The midday meals programme will end by April



Midday meals will be served during summer vacation from April 11 to the last week of May. FILE PHOTO

10 for the academic year of 2023-24. Then the summer vacation midday meals will start on April 11 and end in the last week of May.

## Consent letter

The government has made the consent letter from the parents of the children willing to receive the midday meals in the summer vacation mandatory. The headmasters of schools should get the consent letter from the parents. Officials should inform the department about the number of children receiving midday meals at the school level based on the letters of consent.

Information is also being collected from the parents about where the children will be during the

summer vacation, and which school should distribute the meals to the children. Sources of the department said that arrangements would be made to provide midday meals to the children concerned in the school of their respective towns.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sindhu B. Rupesh, Director of PM Poshan of the Department of School Education, said, "We have instructed officials to collect information about children who are willing to receive midday meals. After getting the data, we will submit the proposal to the Union government to extend the midday meals during the summer vacation and for additional funds too."

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Feb. 3, 2024**

# ಏರಿದ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಹೊರೆ

ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಏರಿಕೆ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಮತ್ತೆ ಶಾಕ್

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸ್ವಿರಾಸ್ತಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇದೀಗ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನೋಮವಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸ್ವಿರಾಸ್ತಿ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ ಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಸಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದೀಗ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ » ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮುದ್ರೆ ಒತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಸೌಧ ದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಚಳಿಗಾಲದ ಅಧಿ

ವೇತನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪರೇಗೌಡ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ (ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ವಿಧೇಯಕ-2023 ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ವಿಧೇಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ ದತ್ತುಪತ್ರ, ಅಫಿಡವಿಟ್, ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಅಥವಾ ಅದರ ದಾಖಲೆಪತ್ರ, ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ, ಸರ್ವೆ ಫಿಕ್ಸೇಟ್, ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರ ಪತ್ರ, ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಸಂಘದ ಜ್ಞಾಪನಾಪತ್ರ, ಡಿಟಿಡಿ, ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕೆ ಮರುರಚನೆ, ಸೀಮಿತ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ದರವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದಿಂದ 4-5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಆದಾಯದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವಿದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ನಡುವೆ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಏರಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹೊರೆ ಬೀಳಲಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಅಸ್ತಿ ಖರೀದಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸಾಲ ಪಡೆದು ಡಿಟಿಡಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವವರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹೊರೆ ಬೀಳಲಿದೆ. 10 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗಿನ ಡಿಟಿಡಿಗೇ ಶೇ.0.1 ಇದ್ದ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಶೇ.0.5ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಡಿ.5ರಂದು ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿದ್ದ ವರದಿ.

**ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಬರೆ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ!**  
ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಕಾಂಟ್ ರೂಟಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ | ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಗುರಿ

**ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ**

ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ	ಹಾಲಿ	ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ
ಡಿಟಿಡಿ (10 ಲಕ್ಷ ವರೆಗೆ)	ಶೇ.0.1	ಶೇ.0.5
ಡಿಟಿಡಿ (10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು)	ಶೇ.0.2	ಶೇ.0.5
ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರ (ಸ್ವಾಧೀನರಹಿತ)	ಶೇ.0.1	0.5
ವಿಲ್ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	500	1,000
ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ	20	100
ಪವರ್ ಆಫ್ ಅಟಾರ್ನಿ	100	500

**ವಿಭಾಗ ಪತ್ರ, ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕೆ**

ವಿಭಾಗ ಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೂ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರ, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅಸ್ತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಪತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿದ್ದ 1 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ನಿಂದ ಐದು ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅಸ್ತಿಗೆ 500 ರೂ.ನಿಂದ 3 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗೆ, ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ 250 ರೂ. ನಿಂದ 1 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗೆ, ಚರಾಸ್ತಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಗಿದ್ದ 250 ರೂ. ನಿಂದ 1 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕೆ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಶೇ. 3ರಿಂದ 5ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.



# Govt takes stock of water problem in industrial areas

**M B Patil, Priyank Kharge review supply situation**

BENGALURU, DHNS

Industrial areas in and around Bengaluru are facing “severe” drinking water problem, Industries Minister MB Patil said on Monday, while expressing concern that industrial growth could suffer if the issue is not addressed.

Patil, along with IT/BT & Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge, reviewed the water supply situation in indus-

trial areas. Officials from the BWSSB, KIADB and the rural water supply department were present.

“The industrial areas of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru and Kolar districts are facing severe drinking water problems. The Dharwad industrial area requires 45 MLD of drinking water that can be supplied from the Hidkal reservoir. Likewise, the

Vijayapura industrial area also needs to be supplied with the same amount of drinking water from the Krishna reservoir daily. The Kalaburagi industrial area needs seven MLD of drinking water from the Krishna and Bhima rivers. The Ballari industrial area needs 13 MLD from the Tungabhadra dam. The Raichur industrial area needs 13 MLD from the Krishna river,” according to a statement from Patil’s office.

“All the above districts require a total of 290 MLD of water daily. If the required water supply is not ensured, the industrial growth of the state will suffer,” Patil said.

“The industrial areas of Tumakuru, Bengaluru, Kolar and Chikkaballapur located in the

old Mysuru region have already been using treated wastewater for industrial purposes. However, there is a severe shortage of drinking water in these places. Hence, the availability of water and sources from which it can be supplied needs to be identified. Another meeting would be held in a week or so,” Patil said.

He added that the supply of drinking water to industries is “a primary responsibility” and “one of the basic facilities necessary for the growth of industries” in the state.

## **New entity to attract investments?**

Patil on Monday initiated consultation meetings on

creating a new full-fledged entity to attract continuous industrial investments and promoting reinvestment from existing industries. Patil viewed presentations from consultancy firms Rajneethi and Boston Consultancy Group.

Models of many countries such as Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Chile and South Korea have been thoroughly studied, Patil said.

The minister said that the ‘Invest Chile’ initiative adopted by Chile was very interesting. An IAS officer will be appointed as the CEO of the proposed entity. Stalwarts of private enterprises will also be hired on a full-time basis for the entity.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Feb, 6, 2024**

# Many villagers reluctant to apply for Cauvery water connection

## Residents of 110 villages want BWSSB to complete project

BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) fervent promises to provide Cauvery water to the 110 villages by May, not many residents have opted to get the connection.

Some residents have paid to get the connection as far back as in 2019, but many remain non-committal, with sources revealing that only 1.5 lakh residents out of 3.5 lakh have opted for the water supply.

Officials argue that it is too early for a mad rush to obtain the connection since they are yet to notify the supply in all areas, but sources confirm that people are not totally convinced they would get Cauvery water.

"We provide water to nearly 60 villages at least once or

twice a week. Even here, people are unwilling to get the connection since they are not convinced they would get regular supply," a senior BWSSB official said.

Another official said the BWSSB's additional 'Beneficiary Contribution Charge' (BCC) on the applicants has not gone down well with residents.

Besides, the agency has also asked residents of private

layouts to cough up Establishment of Tools and Plants (ETP) charges that run into crores. Residents have urged the board to withdraw the charges.

"Not everyone can afford to pay Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000 upfront. Many have asked for time. It is a slow process," the official said.

BWSSB chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar said that the response to obtain water connection has been positive, expressing confidence that people would apply.

"It is too early to determine the response," he said. "We see people are happy about the project nearing completion. We are sure that they would apply for connection," he said.



A file photograph of a pipe being laid to supply Cauvery water in Bengaluru.

### 'Be transparent about the project'

Residents who paid over Rs 50,000 for the water connection back in 2019 are waiting for the BWSSB to complete the project. After the board misses multiple deadlines, they want it to be transparent about the progress.

"We have paid the amount they

demand and have been waiting for five years. Every time we ask about the progress or when they would finish the project, we get random dates," said Kochu Sankar, a resident of Horamavu, who paid close to Rs 40,000 to get a connection in 2019.

People pointed to the long delay

as a reason for the lack of interest, saying that the BWSSB has lost credibility.

Reminding the BWSSB that the city may grapple with an acute water crisis this summer, they want it to act responsibly and complete the project soon.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 7, 2024**

DECCANHERALD

## Farmers' forum wants BDA to withdraw Peripheral Ring Road tenders

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group representing farmers, whose land has been notified for the 74-kilometre Peripheral Ring Road project, has urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to withdraw the tenders for the project.

It said the authority did not clarify the compensation structure for land losers in the tenders and has vowed to hold a protest on Friday,

if the BDA goes ahead with the tenders without offering compensation according to the 2013 Act.

Mavallipura Srinivas, president of the PRR Raitha Hagu Niveshanadara Sangha, accused the BDA at a press conference on Tuesday of sticking to the colonial-era compensation laws, while the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Karnataka Hous-

ing Board and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) are following the 2013 Act while compensating land losers.

The BDA plans to acquire 2,560 acres for the road project envisioned as a semicircle around Bengaluru. The authority has notified 1,810 acres in 2007, and a further 750 acres in 2021.

Floated on January 25,

the tenders ask successful bidders to fund both land acquisition and the civil works, which together is estimated at Rs 27,000 crore.

"The government has an obligation to protect the interest of farmers," the forum said, vowing that they will not allow it to "displace the farmers in the name of building a business corridor that will in no way help the land losers".

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 7, 2024**



# Pension woes flood elder helpline

**The Karnataka chapter of the National Helpline for Senior Citizens 14567 for Karnataka fields 40-60 enquiries every day**

**BARKHA KUMARI**  
TEAM METROLIFE

**I**t is 11.45 am on Tuesday when *Metrolife* arrives at Elder Line Connect Centre, R T Nagar. The centre runs the National Helpline for Senior Citizens 14567 for Karnataka between 8 am and 8 pm daily.

It has already received 23 calls from senior citizens, lead Anand Kumar says, as his team of four call officers waits for more, each sitting in front of a computer with a pair of noise cancellation headphones on.

The enquiries so far have ranged from pension irregularities to where to buy walking sticks and bathroom fittings and how to get money for medical treatment. A 70-year-old Bengalurean, a frequent caller, said he was feeling lonely and suicidal again. The team transfers such calls to their panel of counsellors.

Just three minutes into the briefing, a call rends the air in the tiny room. It is a follow-up from Raichur, of a man who has stopped receiving his pension a month ago. You need to apply for a life certificate, the call officer says, explaining the procedure. The next call comes 20 minutes later. A man wants to know about disabled-friendly cars. Ask the government to manufacture and promote such cars, he demands. Another caller is having trouble with his provident fund. His call is transferred to the Tamil Nadu team of 14567 as his bank is based there.

During our two-hour visit, the team receives 10 calls. The daily average has been 40-60 calls lately. That is half the number they used to handle before September 2023. Nightingales Medical Trust, implementing agency of 14567 service in Karnataka, attributes the downturn to changes in an MoU they have signed with the state and central



Currently, a seven-member team handles the 14567 Elder Line Connect Centre for Karnataka. DH PHOTOS BY B K JANARDHAN

governments (see box).

Despite the demand, the team doesn't feel the helpline needs to run 24/7.

"Senior citizens think of us as a government office and call between 9 am and 5 pm. And we are not emergency care service," Anand says. Calls missed after 8 pm are returned the following day.

## Services at a glance

Elder Line was launched in 2021. It aims to give free information (about healthcare services, old age homes, elder-friendly products), offer guidance (on legal disputes, government schemes, and maintenance issues) and lend an ear to seniors looking to chat.

About 60% of all calls coming to this centre are about pension problems. Call officers try to offer solutions, and list out numbers they can call. Likewise, they share contact numbers of government hospitals, district legal services cells, and the food and civil supplies authorities. "If the officials don't respond, we intervene and make the call," says Anand.

Abuse and neglect by children form the second biggest number of calls. If the call is about physical abuse, the helpline calls up 100 or 112 and gets the police to rush to the scene.

If it is verbal abuse, the team counsels the perpetrator. Often, these are family members. "Under The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, children have to look after their parents and pay a monthly allowance (up to Rs 10,000). We don't threaten them with the law, and also, senior citizens don't like involving the police and courts in personal matters," says Anand.

Most people call secretly. Some pretend they are calling to seek help for their neighbours. A few dial up to show people around them that they can call the authorities if pushed to the edge.

## Money matters

Cases of the elderly fighting for their property and maintenance are not easy to settle, and can turn acrimonious. In Mysuru, a daughter-in-law and mother-in-law are fighting over property for over a year, and the resolution is nowhere in sight.

An elderly man from Bengaluru was suicidal when he first called the centre a year ago. After counselling, he decided to fight it out in court. Explaining the case, Anand says, "His son works in aviation. The son claims his business is running under loss, so he



Nightingales Medical Trust runs the 14567 centre above its dementia care centre in R T Nagar.

can't provide maintenance."

## Trauma watch

The emotional baggage these callers carry sometimes overwhelms members of the team, all under 35.

"A woman from Udupi would call us routinely to enquire where her husband was. We would pass on some numbers. She would call these numbers, get new numbers, and keep calling more and more officials. The Udupi police told us both this woman and her daughter are mentally unwell and skip their medicines," says Seema Taj, admin in-charge.

A Bengaluru woman, "who speaks impeccable English and owns a colonial-style house", landed up at the centre to say somebody was trying to set her house on fire. "We later learnt that her mother had died in a road accident before her eyes. Perhaps she hallucinates. She doesn't even let her children come near her but she is slowly opening up to the idea of counselling," says Anand.

When an elder calls to say someone is hiding under the bed, knocking on the door or throwing stones at the window, the team intimates the police.

## Miscellaneous calls

Being a toll-free helpline, the call officers, all masters in social work, get a lot of unrelated enquiries. Children call to ask how to make Maggi. College-goers seek 'likes' on their Instagram page. Drunk men want someone to talk to. Under-60 people impersonate senior

## 'BRING BACK FIELD OFFICERS'

Premkumar Raja, cofounder of Nightingales Medical Trust, says in the latest MoU, the central government has removed the provision for field resource officers (FROs). "Without them, the Elder Line is like a call centre to give out information. When it comes to resolving elder abuse cases, we need field intervention, dialogues and follow-ups. Earlier, we had 16 FROs in Karnataka," he says.

He says he has sought an appointment with the principal secretary at the women and child development department, Karnataka, to explore the idea of integrating the services of 14567 and 1090, a state-supported elder care helpline. 1090 operates in 25 districts of Karnataka through local partners.

citizens to usurp properties. Women demand somebody come home to switch on the refrigerator and clear the garbage in front of their houses. Some want tickets booked to Tirupati or cabs hailed with a police escort as they fear kidnapping.

The team attends to each call patiently, without judging the caller. "About 90% of the job is to listen and 10% to offer advice," says Anand.

## HELP AT HAND

**Elder care services can be reached:**

**14567:** National Helpline for Senior Citizens for Karnataka (8 am to 8 pm, daily)

**1090:** Elder Helpline (8 am to 8 pm, daily; night calls get forwarded to the police control room).

**WhatsApp:** 80950 01090

**Visit:** stopelderabuse.in

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Feb, 7, 2024**

# Over 20,000 FCRA licences cancelled, most from T.N.

If cancellations are expressed as a share of FCRA licences given, then Uttar Pradesh tops the list

## DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani  
Neetika Jha  
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Last week, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case of alleged Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) violation against human rights activist Harsh Mander and his NGO Centre for Equity Studies (CES). FIRs were registered based on a complaint from the Union Home Ministry. The agency allegedly found that the NGO transferred some amount to certain individuals from the FCRA account, apart from salary/wages/remuneration, which is a violation of the Act.

The action against CES is the latest incident in a series of measures against civil society and NGOs. Last month, FCRA registrations of Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and World Vision India were cancelled. In 2023, the Home Ministry had recommended a CBI investigation into Oxfam India for allegedly violating FCRA provisions. CBI also conducted searches and registered a case against news portal NewsClick for violating FCRA in December 2023.

The government uses FCRA to regulate the foreign funds received by NGOs "to prevent any possible diversion for activities detrimental to national interest." Organisations have to compulsorily register under the Act if they wish to receive foreign funding. Over 20,000 FCRA licences have been cancelled till February 4.

Chart 1 shows the year-wise break-up of cancellations. It shows that cancellations have spiked in certain years – 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019. Especially in 2015, over 10,000 cancellations were recorded. In other years, cancellations rarely crossed into the double digits. It is important to note that not all cancellations were due to violations, as many were also done to

remove multiple registrations for the same organisation.

Cancellation of licences is not the only way in which organisations are denied foreign money. Changes in the law meant that FCRA registration is not permanent and needs renewal once in five years. Data from Lok Sabha show that 783 renewal applications were denied between 2019 and 2021.

Chart 2 shows the State-wise number of active, expired and cancelled FCRA licences. Tamil Nadu leads the list with 2,580 FCRA licences of organisations registered in the State getting cancelled to date. Close to 1,576 licences expired in the State, also the highest among States. Notably, the State still has over 2,500 FCRA licences active, again the highest among States. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka are other States with a high number of cancellations. If cancellations are expressed as a share of all FCRA licences given, then Uttar Pradesh tops the list, with over 50% cancellations followed by Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal with over 40% cancellations. A break-up of organisations with an active FCRA licence shows that most of them are engaged in educational and social service, while religious NGOs – most dominated by those registered as Christian organisations – also form a significant share, as shown in table 3.

While Tamil Nadu has the largest number of organisations with an active FCRA licence, they received the third highest amount (2,507 crore) of foreign contribution in this route in FY22 (Chart 4). Organisations registered in Delhi received ₹5,809 crore in the period, the highest among all States/UTs, followed by Karnataka (3,140 crore). Organisations in Gujarat and Telangana have received over ₹1,000 crore.

Neetika Jha is a student at Asian College of Journalism

## Denying foreign funding

The data for charts and tables were sourced from Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act portal maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rajya Sabha answers



Chart 1: The chart shows the year-wise break-up of licence cancellations

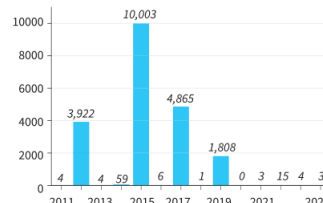


Chart 2: The chart shows the State-wise number of active, expired and cancelled FCRA licences till date

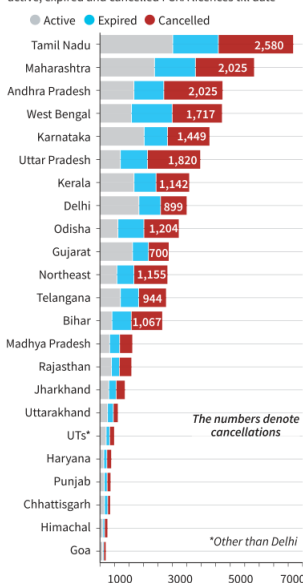
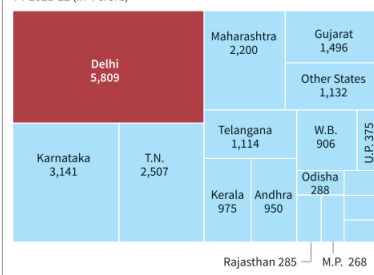


Table 3: The table shows the break-up of organisations with an active FCRA licence

State	Religious (non-Christian)	Religious (Christian)	Educational	Social
T.N.	95	515	1,680	2,174
Maharashtra	65	213	1,295	1,489
Karnataka	83	448	1,020	1,215
Delhi	44	115	783	1,114
Kerala	28	619	603	856
Andhra	27	326	811	1,094
Gujarat	127	153	845	863
W.B.	92	128	739	956
Telangana	20	149	465	628
U.P.	63	98	417	595

Chart 4: The chart shows State-wise foreign contribution received in FY 2021-22 (in ₹ crore)



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



# 54% of people in city never used government's digital platforms, says report

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

In what could sound surprising coming from the IT city, a recently conducted survey revealed that around 54% of the general public in Bengaluru had never used any of the major government platforms/solutions available online.

At 32%, Aadhaar was the most used government platform among the general public, followed by IRCTC railway ticketing at 23% and Aarogya Setu/Co-Win - healthcare apps at 22%. Even among these, there were differences between Socio Economic Classification (SEC) groups.

The survey for the report 'Digital Society – A study of an Urban City (Bengaluru)' was conducted in 2023 by itihaasa Research and Digital, a company that studies the evolution of technology and businesses, and released on Thursday, in a symposium organised by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP) at International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) on 'Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital Society.' The participants were divided into two groups - 1,640 respondents who were chosen by random sampling method, referred to as the general public, and 206 respon-



(From left) N. Dayasindhu, co-founder and CEO of itihaasa Research and Digital; Rajalaxmi Kamath from the Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore; Kris Gopalakrishnan, founder of itihaasa; Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT-B; Krishnan Narayanan, co-founder of itihaasa; and Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU Bengaluru, at a symposium on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Top regular digital usage	Activity by general public (%)	IT experts (%)
■ Call family/friends on WhatsApp	90	80
■ Watch videos on YouTube / Facebook / Instagram chat	83	69
■ Message on WhatsApp	52	76
■ Use digital payments such as UPI / GPay / PhonePe / Paytm	48	84
■ Browse / comment on Facebook / Instagram	35	67

dents (booster sampling), who are referred to as IT experts in the report. In most parameters assessed in the study, there were significant differences among the two groups.

For instance, the usage of government platforms/solutions by IT experts was 2.5 times more than the general public. At least 97% of them had reportedly used at least one government solution once in the last year. The report says the general public mainly (90%) used digital technology for calling friends/family on WhatsApp, while 83% used it to watch videos on social media. They used

digital technology for messaging on WhatsApp (76%), using digital payment apps (84%), browsing and commenting on Facebook or Instagram (67%), online shopping (62%) and online delivery of food (60%).

Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), who participated in a panel discussion at the symposium, said, "Given the media and public discourse on the matter, the abysmally low usage of government platforms even among SEC A people in a city like Bengaluru in 2024 is rather alarming."

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Feb. 9, 2024**

# BWSSB invites bids for Cauvery VI stage DPR to supply water to towns around Bengaluru

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

As work on Cauvery V stage is nearing completion, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has called for bids to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Cauvery VI stage, which will supply water to towns around Bengaluru apart from a few pockets on the outskirts of the city.

The VI stage will utilise around 6 tmcft of Cauvery river water annually, taking up the total utilisation by Bengaluru and surrounding areas to around 35 tmcft annually. BWSSB has mooted the VI stage project following a recent order by the Karnataka government to fully utilise water allotted for drinking in the Cauvery award.

Under the VI stage, water will be supplied to two new BDA layouts in Bengaluru – Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout – apart from towns around Bengaluru – Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Bidadi, Anekal, among others, sources said.

A senior BWSSB official said that it has to be noted that only these towns will be supplied drinking water under this project, and not the entire taluk.

BWSSB intends to draw water from Shivanasamudra, in Malavalli taluk Mandya and take the water to Torekadana-halli, where the water will be processed and from there to other destinations via a pipeline, a senior official said.

## Tender issued

BWSSB had issued a tender on February 6 for a consultancy to prepare the DPR of the project.

The consultant will have to conduct a study, including Environment Impact Assessment, and finalise the alignment of the pipeline along

## Cauvery water for Bengaluru

■ Cauvery water being supplied to Bengaluru now: **1,450 MLD or around 19 tmcft** annually

■ Cauvery V stage to supply water to **110 newly** added villages

■ Cauvery V stage to be commissioned by **May 2024**

■ Cauvery V stage will deliver **770 MLD** or around **10 tmcft** annually

■ Cauvery VI stage to supply water to towns around Bengaluru

■ Cauvery VI stage to supply **500 MLD** or around **6 tmcft** annually

■ Total usage of Cauvery water after completion of VI stage: around **35 tmcft** annually

## Areas expected to get water under Cauvery VI stage

■ Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Bengaluru

■ Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, Bengaluru

■ Nelamangala town  
■ Devanahalli town ■ Hoskote town  
■ Anekal town  
■ Bidadi town

**Under the VI stage, water will be supplied to two new BDA layouts – Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout – apart from towns around Bengaluru – Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Bidadi, Anekal, among others, sources say**

with the cost. BWSSB has set the cost of preparing the DPR as ₹95 lakh. February 21 is the last date for submitting bids.

Sources in BWSSB said there were no discussions yet on the cost of the project, financing options and as to who will execute the project. Towns around the city that are supposed to get water under the VI stage are not under BWSSB jurisdiction.

## Cauvery V stage

BWSSB is in the final stages of completing work on Cauvery V stage.

BWSSB has committed itself to a trial run in April, and full commissioning of the supply line in May 2024.

Under the V stage, 110 villages newly added to the city's civic administration in 2008 will finally get piped water supply from Cauvery.

The project was taken up at a cost of ₹5,500 crore with a loan from Japan Infrastructure Cooperation Agency (JICA).

However, of the targeted 3.5 lakh properties that will benefit from the Cauvery V stage, only 1.5 lakh property owners have paid the Beneficiary Contribution Charge (BCC) and Establishment of Tools and Plants (ETP) charge, and availed water connections.

“It is too early (to seek water connection). People will avail connections once we start supplying water,” a senior BWSSB official said.

There are many who had paid in 2019 and are still waiting for water supply, creating a trust deficit on whether BWSSB will supply water as per the latest deadline of May 2024.

Meanwhile, many have also demanded that the ETP charge is hefty, and it should be abolished.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Feb. 9, 2024**



# Over 20,000 turn up with 12,372 petitions at second Janaspandana

While many petitions were addressed on the spot, Chief Minister set one-month deadline for officers to dispose of the rest

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he second edition of the State-level Janaspandana, a public grievance redressal programme held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Thursday, evoked massive response with over 20,000 people attending it with 12,372 petitions on various grievances.

On-the-spot redressal was provided to 246 petitioners at the event held on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha, while the remaining 12,126 petitions have been forwarded to authorities concerned for resolution.

The highest number of grievances were related to the Revenue Department as it received 3,150 petitions while the Housing Department stood second with 1,500 petitions, followed by Women and Child Welfare Department that received 903 petitions.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who attended to the people at the day-long event which



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving petitions from the public at the Janaspandana programme at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday and (right) people submitting applications at the event. SUDHAKARA JAIN



stretched past late evening, gave a deadline of one month to the officials concerned to dispose of the remaining petitions.

He instructed Deputy Commissioners and district in charge Secretaries to redress the grievances of petitioners coming under their jurisdiction in a time-bound manner. He put the onus of redressing grievances on the administrative authorities of districts, particularly DCs, CEOs of zilla panchayats, and SPs,

while reminding them that people would not come all the way to Bengaluru seeking resolution of their problems if their applications are disposed of locally.

## **Govt. to doorstep**

Emphasising on the need to “take the government to the doorsteps of people”, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the district in charge Ministers had already held 108 Janaspandana programmes at district- and taluk-levels so far. He told the general pu-

blic that they could bring their petitions to the Janaspandana programme to be chaired by him if they do not get a resolution at taluk and district-level meets. He said that if it is not possible within the legal framework to resolve the issues mentioned in the petitions, then an endorsement with appropriate reasons would be issued to applicants.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that 98% of the petitions received in the first State-le-

vel Janaspandana held on November 27, 2023, had been disposed of. As many as 4,030 applications had been received during the first event.

He also used the occasion to appeal to people not to pay heed to the claims by the BJP that the guarantee schemes of the government would be stopped later. He said the government had taken up such programmes as it believed in Constitutional values.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Feb. 9, 2024**

# Police to introduce instant SMS alerts for traffic violations

**Part of efforts  
to go paperless  
in fine payment**

**UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**he Karnataka Traffic and Road Safety wing of the state police is planning to introduce an immediate text message mechanism to alert motorists as soon as they have committed a traffic violation.

Mysuru city and the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, where AI-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are being deployed, will be pushed first to have this system integrated on the back-end by the end of March, Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic and Road Safety, Karnataka, told *DH*.

"Messages will go to the mobile number linked to the vehicle registration numbers that are

detected on cameras," he said, adding that they plan to implement this in ANPR projects in cities such as Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Belagavi and Davangere soon.

This is an attempt to increase traffic rule compliance by creating an immediate deterrence effect and potentially reduce traffic violations by increasing vehicle users' awareness.

This is also a part of the police's efforts to go completely paperless in the traffic fine issuing process – which Alok Kumar claims makes Karnataka the first state to do so – and increase transparency of all transactions made.

A total of 1,766 e-challan devices have been deployed in 722 law and order police stations and 64 traffic police stations outside Bengaluru for e-challaning. Orders have been placed to procure 483 body cameras already, with another 250 body cameras in the pipeline, he noted.

"Cash payments for traffic fines will be the last preference. Currently, people can pay via UPI, debit and credit cards, and

can pay via cash only if these options cannot be accessed due to some reason," he said.

In case of physical drives, all authorised officers must compulsorily wear a bodycam or stand at junctions where they are under camera surveillance so everything is recorded, explained Kumar.

The police are also working with the Department of Treasuries to create a link to route all payments directly to the government. The link is expected to be generated within the next 10 days. Once the system is up and running, police also plan to do away with all challan books by March 1.

However, a senior police official from Bengaluru explained why this wouldn't work in Bengaluru. "Discrepancies in Vahan data means that vehicle registration numbers are not linked to current owners' details and they might not be the violators themselves. Besides, even if a violation is detected, it must be validated by human beings because AI cannot be 100% accurate," the officer said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3D, Feb, 9, 2024**



# Govt to reduce minimum service years for promotions of KAS officers

BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**he Cabinet on Thursday approved to amend the Karnataka Administrative Service Rules to reduce the minimum years of service for promotions in KAS (super-time scale) and KAS (selection grade) from the existing 13 years to 10 years as one-time measure.

For KAS (selection grade), it will be reduced from 10 years to 7 years, for promotions under senior-scale KAS grade.

After the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil told reporters that the proposed amendment will help as many as 45 KAS officers get promotions under super-time scale.

The minister said the present rules mandate that a KAS officer must serve 13 years, including serving 1 year as selection grade to get promoted, to super-time scale, while to get promoted under senior grade, a KAS officer must complete 10 years service, of which 4 years in senior scale.

“With the amendment, to qualify for promotion under super-time scale, the officer needs to serve 10 years including 1 year selection grade, while for senior-scale promotion, an officer will now have to compete 7 years, including 2 years in senior scale,” Patil explained.

The minister said that the Cabinet approved to set up ‘Unity Mall’ to promote traditional handicrafts, handlooms and Geographical Indications (GI) products at Mysuru Dasara exhibition grounds.

The minister said the Unity Mall will come up at a cost of Rs 193 crore as part of One District One Product (ODOP) that will be funded through interest-free loan from the Centre.

He said that the Cabinet approved changes to Special Marriage (Karnataka) Rules, 1961, to make marriage registration online. “Now, applicants can also remit the fees online,” he said.

## Other Cabinet decisions

- Regional driving training centre for women to be established jointly with AWAKE at a cost of Rs 10.5 crore at Bidadi.
- 150 bed-cancer hospital at a cost of Rs 106 crore in Kalaburagi
- 114 modular operation theatres in 18 medical college hospitals and super-speciality hospitals in the state that come under Medical Education department at a cost of Rs 176.7 crore.
- Purchase of 75,938 smart phones at a cost of Rs 89.61 crore to be distributed to anganwadi workers under Integrated Child Development Project’s ‘Poshan Abhiyan’.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3D, Feb, 9, 2024**



# ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಜಾರಿ

## ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ನ್ಯಾಯದ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆ | ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹತ್ವದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಪಾಲಕರ ವರದಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಘಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನವನ್ನು ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಚಿವರು (ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್) ವಿಧೇಯಕ-2024ಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 25 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ಮೀಸಲಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಮಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲು ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ತರಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಹಳ ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಕಾಣಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಈ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಎಸ್. ಎಸ್. ಮೀಸಲು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಇದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇದೆ. ಇತರ ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆ ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೂ ಮೀಸಲು ಈಗ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಗುರುತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ಇಲ್ಲೂ ಮೀಸಲು ಕ್ರಮವೂ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಷ್ಟು ಮೀಸಲು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದೆ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಗಡ, ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆ ವರ್ಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಿಕ, ಭೇದರಹಿತ, ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವು ಪಡೆದ ಸಂಘದ ಪರಿಣಾಮವನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಕೆಲಸ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಸಭೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕೈ ಪಡೆದು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೂ ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಮತದಾನದ ಹಕ್ಕು ನೀಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಕಾರ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಭೆಗಳು ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ನಿಯಮ ಸಡಿಲಿಕೆ: ಕೆಎಎಸ್ (ಸೂಪರ್ ಟ್ರೇಡರ್ ಸ್ಕೀಂ) ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಎಎಸ್ (ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಕ್ರೀಡೆ) ಮುಂಬಡ್ತಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಹತಾವಯವ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸೇವೆಗಳು



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ತುರ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡುವ 104 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸೇವೆ ಮರು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು, 75 ಕಿಲೋನ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಅರಣ್ಯಗಳು ಸೇವಾಧಾರದವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಲೆಂಡರ್ ಕರಡು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(ಸೇವಾಕಾತಿ) (ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್) ನಿರ್ದೇಶನವು 2024ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲಾಂಛನ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಬಹಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಒಂದು ವಾರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಸ್ಪಂದದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಇವೆಂದು ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಬಂದಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಂಗಸದಾತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರು ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಿ: ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಸಮಗ್ರ ತಿರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಕಿಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಗಸದಾತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರಿಗೆ ಪೋಷಣ್ಣೆ ಅಭಿಯಾನವಡಿ 75,938 ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಿ ಪೋಷಣ್ಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. 89.61 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಡ್ಡೆಲ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸ್ಪಂದನದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಅಪರೇಷನ್ ಥಿಯೇಟರ್: ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 18 ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಆರ್ಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸೂಪರ್ ಸ್ಪೆಷಾಲಿಟಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 114 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಮಾದ್ಯುಲರ್ ಅಪರೇಷನ್ ಥಿಯೇಟರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು 176.70 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಬೆಡ್ಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಯೂನಿಟಿ ಮಾಲ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ: ಒಂದು ಬೆಟ್ಟ.

### ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ

ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಹುಗ್ರಾಮ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ದತ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ 21 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ 121 ಜನವಸತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ 1 ಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ 285 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಪೆಟ್ಟಾಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 18 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ 28 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗೋಕಾಕ್ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹಂಪರಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ 21 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ 26 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಿಗೆ 92 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಕುಶ್ಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 19 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಿಗೆ 13.83 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಸರಗೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮನುಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 58 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಿಗೆ 49.82 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಫರಾಹತಾಬಾದ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 21 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಿಗೆ 85 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., ಪೇಟರ್ಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಯಲ್ಲಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು 20 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 79 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಕುಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 11 ಜನವಸತಿಗಳಿಗೆ 27 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಆಲಂದ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕೋಲಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 5 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 36 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಒಂದು ಕುಶಲ್ಯ (ಒಡಿಎಸ್) ಹಿರಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಕರಣಕರಣ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯೂನಿಟಿ ಮಾಲ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನೀಡುವ 193 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಡ್ತಿ ರಹಿತ ಸಾಲದ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗೆ ಮಾಲ್ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಮೈಸೂರು ವಸ್ತ್ರ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಅರು ಎಕರೆ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿಶೇಷೋತ್ಸವ ಟ್ರಾಫಿಕ್: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕುಲಾಂಕರಿ ಮತ್ತು ತಳಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮಾವಾಳಾಡದ ಹತ್ತಿ ಬೀಜಗಳ ವಿರೋಧಕ ಕುಂಪನಿಯು ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ವಿರೋಧಕ ತರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ

### ಇತರ ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ತರಬೇತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಗಡದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೂಲ್ ಕಟ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು 45.28 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಳಸಲು ಅನುಮತಿ.
- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ 106 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅಂದಾಜು ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೈಸೂರು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ 10 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ರೀನಿಯರ್ ಆಕ್ಸಿಲೆಬರ್ ಯಂತ್ರ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮತಿ.
- ಪಟ್ಟಣ-ಉರಬಾದ್ ಮಹಾದ್ವಾರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕುಂಬಗೋಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ 39 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಪಟ್ಟಣೀಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಧಿಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು, ದುರಗು, ಸಿರಿಯ, ಅಡಳಿತ ಕಚೇರಿಗಾಗಿ 30 ವರ್ಷ ಅಂದಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೀಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ.
- ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಿಡಬಿದ್ರಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಲಾಂಛನ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನ್ನು ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರದ ಅಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ 10.50 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅಂದಾಜು ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.
- ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಸವ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವನ್ನು 17.50 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಅಂದಾಜು ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ.

ಇಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿವಾಹ ಪಿಡ್ಲುವಿಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ: ವಿಶೇಷ ವಿವಾಹ (ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್) ನಿಯಮಗಳು-2024ಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ವೋದಾಣಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ, ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಆವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಲಹೆಬರಗಿ ಬಾಸ್: ನಿಗಮ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಬತೆಗೆ ಇತರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ರದ್ದು ಪಟ್ಟವೇ ನೀಡುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಂದ ನೋಟೀಸ್‌ಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪಡೆದು ತಡೆಮಾಡುವ ಸೇವಾ ಮಹಿಮೆಯ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.

Source: Vijayavani, p.07, Feb.09, 2024



# What is Karnataka government's new uniform fare structure for cabs?

The government notification issued on February 3, 2024, states that cab aggregators are not allowed to charge any extra fees beyond what is officially set, thus banning surge pricing

## EXPLAINER

**Darshan Devalah B.P.**  
BENGALURU

### The story so far

The Karnataka government has introduced a new uniform fare for all cabs in Bengaluru, including those operating using aggregator platforms like Ola and Uber, and traditional city taxis.

The new fare system introduces a simple three-tier structure based on the car's value, eliminating the previous flexible pricing. This new order from the government came following numerous complaints from both passengers and cab drivers regarding the "exorbitant fares" imposed by cab aggregators.

### What the new rule says

The government notification issued on February 3, 2024, states that cab aggregators are not allowed to charge any extra fees beyond what is officially set. This means surge pricing is now banned. The notification emphasizes that fares should only be based on the rates set by the government, and any unauthorized charges are strictly not allowed.

Under the revised structure, the base fare for a distance of up to four kilometres starts at ₹100 for vehicles valued up to ₹10 lakh, with an additional charge of ₹24 per kilometre thereafter. For vehicles priced between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh, the initial four-kilometre fare is set at ₹115, with a subsequent per-kilometre rate of ₹28. Vehicles exceeding the ₹15-lakh mark will have a minimum fare of ₹130 for the first four kilometres, with each additional kilometre priced at ₹32.

The order also specifies



The new fare system for cabs has introduced a simple three-tier structure based on the car's value, eliminating the previous flexible pricing. FILE PHOTO

### Cab drivers and traditional taxi operators have expressed approval for the uniform fare

Concerns about ride aggregators overcharging, and drivers reported that the aggregators were imposing higher commission fees, he added.

In August, 2023, Reddy has convened two rounds of meetings involving cab and auto unions and one of the important agenda of these discussions was the matter pertaining to cab aggregator applications.

During the meeting, unions representing auto drivers and owners called for a prohibition on aggregators imposing commis-

sions exceeding 5% of the total fare. They also raised concerns about aggregators charging exorbitant fares from commuters while simultaneously imposing high commission fees on cab and auto drivers.

### Will cab aggregators adhere to the new fare structure?

Following the announcement of the new fare structure by the Transport Department, the primary concern revolves around its execution. The true repercussions of the revised fares will only become apparent once cab aggregators put the new fare structure into practice.

According to the order, the new fares were sup-

posed to be implemented immediately; however, cab aggregators are yet to implement it (as on Thursday).

Reddy has warned that aggregators must comply with the order, or they will face consequences. "Aggregators must adhere to the new fare structure, or we will take action. This has been a long-standing demand from drivers and passengers," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Radhakrishna Holla, President of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA), said, "It is doubtful how the government order will be implemented as the rate fixing directive has been given not only for Bengaluru city but also for the en-

minimum fares depending on the presence of air conditioning and this ride-hailing app seldom adhered to these regulations, persistently implementing surge pricing, alleged both commuters and cab drivers.

In 2021, the fare structure was as follows: for vehicles priced up to ₹5 lakhs, the initial fare was ₹75 for the first four kilometres. For vehicles with a cost ranging from ₹5 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs, the fare was ₹100 for the first four kilometres. For those priced between ₹10 lakhs and ₹16 lakhs, the initial fare was ₹120 for the first four kilometres. Vehicles exceeding ₹16 lakhs incurred a fare of ₹150 for the first four kilometres.

Hemanth Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Transport Department, and Secretary, Karnataka State Transport Authority, said that the new system replaces the previous setup, which included minimum and maximum fares for different categories. Moreover, the new structure removes the non-A.C. category, citing the standardisation of air-conditioned amenities across all vehicles.

### Did the new fare rules precede the government's app launch?

The rule of standardised fares for cabs holds significance, given that the Karnataka government is gearing up to introduce its own ride-hailing app soon. Reddy said, "We are currently in the development phase of the app, and it is scheduled for launch in a month or two. This government-run app will adhere to the fare regulations set by the government, with a comparatively lower commission charged from drivers in contrast to existing private aggregator apps."

In response to an increase in complaints from taxi and auto drivers against private ride-hailing platforms, in August 2023, the government initiated the development of its own app. The primary reason behind launching this ride-hailing app is the discontent among cab and auto drivers with the practices of private ride-hailing platforms, particularly concerning what they allege are substantial commissions the companies impose.

### Do cab drivers support the new rule?

Cab Drivers and traditional taxi operators have expressed approval for the uniform fare rule, stating that it will be advantageous for both drivers and passengers. Holla said, "Previously, the transport department provided cab aggregators with flexible fare options, and now it has introduced a fixed fare. We appreciate the initiative and hope that proper implementation of the rule will be beneficial for both drivers and passengers."

Tanweer Pasha, president, Ola Uber Drivers' and Owners' Association, welcomed the government bringing in a uniform fare structure. "Under the previous system, there were concerns over both driver's earnings and costs to the passengers," he said, while appealing to the government to ensure driver welfare and price consistency for passengers while enforcing the new fare structure.

### What do cab aggregators say?

Ola and Uber, leading players in the market, are yet to respond to queries from *The Hindu* regarding the new directive. This report will be updated if a response is received.

**Source: The Hindu, p.11, Feb. 9, 2024**

# **EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES** Caste-Based Quota Aimed At Ensuring Sc **Reservation for nominated, elected posts in co-op firms**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** With the stated objective of ensuring social justice in the cooperative sector, the state govt is set to bring in caste-based reservation for elected and nominated posts of cooperative societies. The cabinet, on Thursday, cleared a proposal to bring in legislation to this effect.

HK Patil, minister for law and parliamentary affairs, who briefed reporters after the cabinet meeting, said the council of ministers approved a proposal to table The Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024

## **CABINET MEETING**

to usher in a quota system for elected posts such as chairman and director besides nominated posts. The minister said the amendment bill will be introduced in the legislature session scheduled to start Tuesday.

"Ensuring social justice in the cooperative sector is a long pending demand and the government has responded positively," said Patil. "The idea is to ensure equitable opportunities to the underprivileged classes. The modalities will be spelt out in the bill."

While the new legislation will be applicable for all 25,000 cooperative societies across the state barring societies of



**RISING TEMPER:** About 50 members of National Students Union of India, on Thursday, smeared black paint on the nameplate outside Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's office in Bengaluru. They alleged she was biased against Karnataka in allocation of funds. Police detained protesters and the paint was removed by office staff

the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the quota for SCs, STs, OBCs and women will be based on a roster. Patil said while reservation is meant for only elected and nominated posts, membership will be open for all and the government will decide on the quantum of quota of communities and other modalities.

The cabinet also cleared an amendment bill envisaging relaxation of minimum length of service for promotion of Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) across grades. At present, a KAS officer must complete a minimum tenure of 13 years across grades like junior scale officer and senior scale

officer to be eligible for promotion to selection grade officer, and a selection grade officer must complete three years to be eligible for promotion as a super time officer.

The govt has proposed to reduce the minimum tenure for junior and senior scale officers to 10 years and the minimum tenure for selection grade will be reduced to one year. The department of personnel and administrative reforms will pilot The Karnataka Administrative Services (Recruitment) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the legislature during the upcoming session.

**Online marriage registration**  
The cabinet also cleared the

## **OTHER DECISIONS**

➤ Withdrawal of Karnataka Transgenic and Genetically Modified Cotton Seeds Act, 2015, in view of the Union govt's proposal to bring an identical legislation

➤ Setting up Unity Mall — a product encouragement exhibition centre — under 'One-District, One-Product' in Mysuru at an estimated cost of ₹193 crore

➤ Driving training centre for women in Bidadi, Ramanagara district, an estimated cost of ₹10.5 crore

➤ Revival of 104 helpline

➤ Drinking water projects for villages in select taluks in Kalyana and Kittur Karnataka regions

➤ Court complex in Basavakalyan of Bidar district at an estimated cost of ₹17.5 crore

Special Marriage (Karnataka) Rules, 2024 seeking to allow online payment of fee and to send registration notice for marriages through email. At present, the notice can only be delivered in person or through registered post.

## **Smartphones for anganwadis**

The cabinet also approved a proposal to provide smartphones to all 75,938 anganwadi workers. The government will spend Rs 89.6 crore on this.

**Source: The Times of India, p.8, Feb. 9, 2024**

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## Social Issues

# 40 districts in India have over one lakh Kannada speakers each

Researcher analyses language-related data to shed light on distribution of Kannada speakers on south Indian landscape; Basavaraj Kodagunti says his study can help govt. design programmes focusing on such speakers outside the State

**Kumar Buradikatti**  
KALABURAGI

A language should have at least 10,000 speakers to be listed in the census, with anything less getting clustered under the head of "Others". Spread across south India, 67 districts have Kannada listed as a category, which includes 30 districts in Karnataka, 16 in Tamil Nadu, nine in Maharashtra, five in Telangana, three in Andhra Pradesh, two each in Kerala and Goa, when the 2011 census is taken into account.

Basavaraj Kodagunti, linguist and researcher at the Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, has analysed the language-related data to shed light on the distribution of Kannada speakers on the south Indian landscape.

Only 17 districts in Karnataka have more than 10 lakh Kannada speakers each. Bidar, Yadgir, Gadag, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Chickballapur, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar districts have less than 10 lakh Kannada speakers.

### DK and Kodagu

If you consider the districts that have more than five lakh and less than 10 lakh Kannada speakers, all the districts in the State except Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu fall in the category. If you take districts that have more than four lakh and less than five lakh Kannada speakers, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu still remain outside, but interestingly

### Only 17 districts in Karnataka have more than 10 lakh Kannada speakers each

Solapur in Maharashtra enters this category. When districts which have more than two lakh and less than four lakh Kannada speakers are considered, Solapur of Maharashtra and Coimbatore and Krishnagiri of Tamil Nadu come in and Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu still remain outside the category.

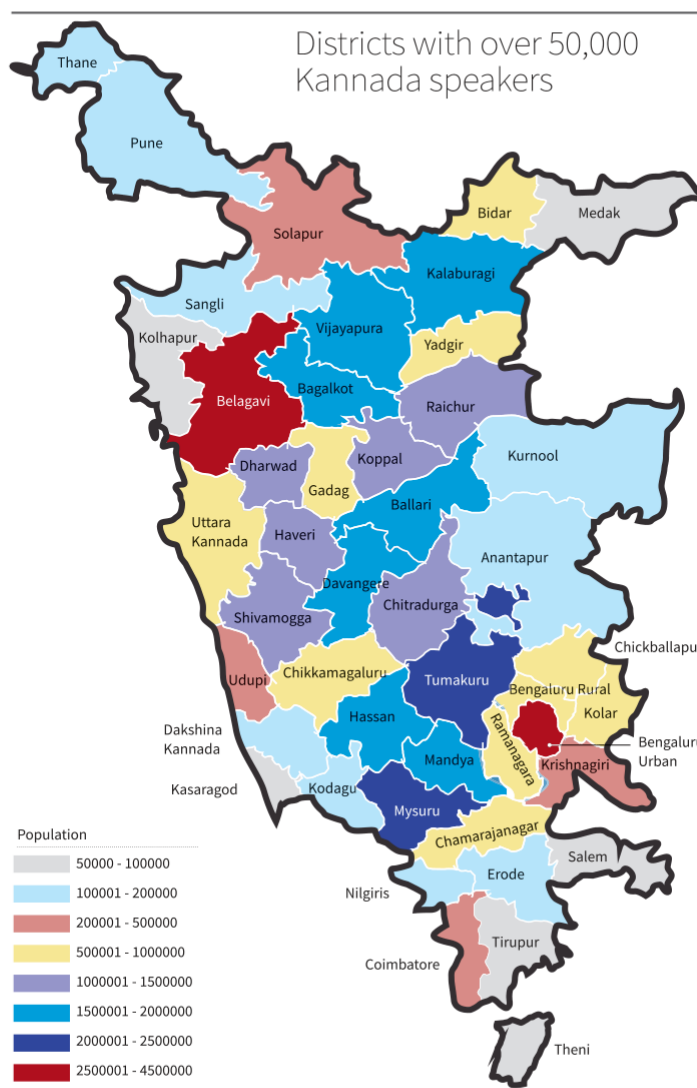
In all, 40 districts in the country have more than one lakh Kannada speakers each, which include all the districts in Karnataka, four districts in Maharashtra (Solapur, Sangli, Pune, and Thane), four districts from Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Erode, and Nilgiris) and two districts from Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur and Kurnool).

### No shared borders

Interestingly, of the 10 districts outside the State having more than one lakh Kannada speakers, three districts - Pune and Thane in Maharashtra and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu - don't share borders with the Karnataka

There are 46 districts in the country that have more than 50,000 Kannada speakers, including 30 districts in Karnataka, seven districts in Tamil Nadu, five districts in Maharashtra, three districts in Andhra Pradesh, and one district in Kerala.

Mr. Kodagunti says that his study gives a view of the distribution of Kannada speakers outside the State and can help the go-



vernment design policies and programmes focusing on the Kannada speakers outside the State.

"Since there was no decadal census in 2021, I had

to rely on the 2011 census data to analyse the distribution of Kannada speakers. The analysis showed interesting facts about the significant distribution of

Kannada speakers around Karnataka," Mr. Kodagunti told *The Hindu*. He plans to compile his analytical essays based on linguistic data into a book soon.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Feb. 5, 2024**

# ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಶೇ.36ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ | ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲು, ಪತ್ತೆ ನಡುವೆ ಭಾರೀ ಅಂತರ ಎಚ್ಚರ, ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ!

■ ನಾಗಪ್ರಶಾನ್ತನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
nagappa.narayanaappa@timesgroup.com  
ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ನಗರವೆಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಅತಂಕ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಾಗ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ಶೇ. 36ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದ್ದು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸರೇ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳು ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಳಕು ಚೆಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಪೊಲೀಸರೇ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2021ರಿಂದ 2023ರವರೆಗೆ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಪತ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಜಾಗರೂಕತೆಯಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ.

2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾದ 12,627 ಅಪರಾಧ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದು ಕೇವಲ 3,603 ಮಾತ್ರ. ವರದಿಯಾದ ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪತ್ತೆ ನಡುವೆ ಶೇ. 71.48ರಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಲೆ, ದೇಹಾಂತ್ಯ, ದರೋಡೆ, ಸರ ಕಳ್ಳತನ, ಮನೆ ಕಳ್ಳತನ, ವಾಹನ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 29,447 ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಧದಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗದಿರುವುದು ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವೈಖರಿಗೆ ಒಡಿದ ಕಣ್ಣಿನಿಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 36ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ:** 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಾಗ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು ಶೇ. 36ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ನಾನಾ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಪರಾಧಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಆಗಿವೆ. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲೆ 3260 ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ 3121 ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲಾಭದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಡೆದಿರುವ ಕೊಲೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಗಣನೀಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ, 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಕೊಲೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಶೇ. 31ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿವೆ. ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಪ್ರಚೋದನೆ, ಅನ್ಯತಿಕ ಸಂಬಂಧ, ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ಕಲಹಗಳು, ವೈರತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆಯೇ ಹತ್ಯೆಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ.

ದರೋಡೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕೂಡ 2022ಕ್ಕೆ



ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಾಗ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 41ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. 673 ದರೋಡೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 385 ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಕಿತ್ತುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸುರಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳೆಂದು ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಬಲ, ಗಸ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸಿಟಿವಿ ಕ್ಯಾಮೆರಾ ಕಣ್ಗಾವಲಿದೆ. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ, ಅಪರಾಧ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗದಿರುವುದು ಅಚ್ಚರಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಕಾರ್ಯವೈಖರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಅನುಮಾನ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳ್ಳತನ, ವಾಹನ ಕಳ್ಳತನ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಅಪರಾಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ನಿಲ್ಲದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ:** ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಿರುಕುಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪತ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 4.29ರಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಾಗ ಶೇ. 23.94ರಷ್ಟು ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿವೆ.

2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 176 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲೆ ಅತ್ಯಾಚಾರ, 1135 ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ವರದಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಿರುಕುಳದಿಂದ 25 ಮಂದಿ ಸಾವಿಗೀಡಾಗಿದ್ದು, 1007 ದೂರುಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಪತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಪರ ಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಥರಿಂದ ಕಿರುಕುಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ 696 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯು 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 560 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈವರೆಗೆ 538 ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅಪರಾಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

## ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗದ 1800 ಮಂದಿ

2021 ರಿಂದ 2023ರವರೆಗೆ 15,065 ಮಂದಿ ಹಾಗೂ 2,923 ಬಾಲಕರು, ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು, ಪ್ರೌಢರು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ನಾಪತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಪಹರಣ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ನಾಪತ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ 1,549 ಹಾಗೂ ಅಪಹರಣಕ್ಕೀಡಾದವರಲ್ಲಿ 251 ಮಂದಿ ಪತ್ತೆಯೇ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು 2023ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿ ಇವೆ. ಯುವಕಿಯರ ಅಪಹರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ 780 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈವರೆಗೆ 112 ಯುವಕಿಯರು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

## ಅಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು, ಪತ್ತೆ ವಿವರ

ಅಪರಾಧ ವಿಧ	2021		2022		2023	
	ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ	ಪತ್ತೆ	ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ	ಪತ್ತೆ	ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ	ಪತ್ತೆ
ಕೊಲೆ	145	143	156	156	205	200
ಲಾಭದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹತ್ಯೆ	8	8	17	17	2	2
ದೇಹಾಂತ್ಯ	35	35	23	23	36	34
ದರೋಡೆ	364	317	478	414	673	437
ಸರ ಕಳ್ಳತನ	166	166	151	139	153	114
ಮನೆ ಬಗೆಯ ಒಡೆದು ಕಳ್ಳತನ (ಹಗಲು)	135	82	179	99	265	118
ಮನೆ ಬಗೆಯ ಒಡೆದು ಕಳ್ಳತನ (ರಾತ್ರಿ)	654	361	702	333	879	264
ಮನೆಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳ್ಳತನ	591	290	912	339	1692	376
ನೌಕರರಿಂದ ಕಳ್ಳತನ	177	132	205	146	320	141
ವಾಹನ ಕಳ್ಳತನ	4124	1563	5062	1965	5909	1437
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಕಳ್ಳತನ	1167	482	1369	531	2493	480
ಒಟ್ಟು	7566	3579	9254	4162	12627	3603



2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪರಾಧ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾದವರು		
ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು	ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾದವರು	ಶಿಕ್ಷೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ
48	65	ಜೀವಾವಧಿ (14 ವರ್ಷ)
11	21	10 ರಿಂದ 14 ವರ್ಷ
18	19	7 ರಿಂದ 10 ವರ್ಷ
28	30	3 ರಿಂದ 7 ವರ್ಷ
56	68	1 ರಿಂದ 3 ವರ್ಷ
41	46	1 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗೆ

Source: VijayaKarnataka, p.13, Feb.06, 2024



# Kuvempu's call for critical thinking

**K**uvempu is an iconic figure in the tradition of rationality, critical thinking and scientific temper in modern Kannada culture. Throughout his extraordinary career as a poet, novelist, dramatist and essayist, Kuvempu remained unflinching in his bold criticism of narrow sectarian beliefs, irrational superstitious practices and blind, unquestioning slavery to authority of every kind. The sources of his rationalism are not European ideas of enlightenment, which were introduced to the Indian elite through English education.

It has more to do with the rationalism advocated by Vivekananda in his critique of the religious priest class and the superstitious practices and rituals of contemporary Hinduism.

Like Vivekananda, Kuvempu believed in the universal ideas which imbued the Upanishads and opposed the *varna* and *jati* systems. Kuvempu was free from the orientalist binary categorisation of a materialist West and a spiritual East, a problematic element in Vivekananda's thought.

In 1974, Kuvempu gave two speeches which reiterated his rationalist attitude to religion and his critical engagement with contemporary social issues. The first one was his inaugural speech at the historic conference of the Karnataka Bahagagana Matta Kalavidara Okuta, an association of progressive writers deeply



Kuvempu speaks at the Bangalore University convocation in 1974. DH FILE PHOTO

influenced by Lohiate socialism and the anti-caste movements. Later, this grew into the Bandiya Sahitya Sanghatana, an association of rebel writers. Kuvempu addressed some of his major concerns in his speech and also admonished writers not to be swayed by the uncritical blanket rejection of everything.

## Need for reinterpretation

While he agreed with the writers that the literary and cultural texts of the past were problematic, he urged them against a wholesale rejection of the past works. Just as one does not throw away gold ornaments just because they are heirlooms of the past, but they are smelted to make

ornaments suiting present taste, texts of the past cannot be thrown away.

No rebellion can succeed unless writers aim at educating and transforming the minds of those who willingly accept the hegemony which enslaves them. He uses an extraordinary analogy, saying that when you shoot a tiger you need a double-barrel gun and a sharp aim. In this case, the gun has to be trained at your head and your brain to cleanse them of blind beliefs and uncritical thinking.

Kuvempu refers to the famous 'Boosa episode', triggered by the statement made by Basavalingappa, a minister in Devaraj Urs cabinet saying that much of Kannada literature was mere cattle

feed or fodder. The protest against Basavalingappa's remarks turned violent. Kuvempu argues that a major portion of all literary traditions in the world is worthless cattle feed. Truly great works are always small in number. He argues that Basavalingappa was evaluating Kannada literary tradition on the criterion of representation of the Dalit experience. He agrees that mainstream Kannada literary tradition has not provided space for Dalit expression.

That same year, in the convocation address delivered at Bangalore University, Kuvempu mourns the demise of the Gandhian principles used during the freedom struggle but with freedom abandoned. He says that the Nehruvian economy aspired to imitate that of the developed western countries and ignored the actual status of the Indian economy, impoverished by colonial rule. This led to greater inequality and destruction of the rural economy.

The hegemony of the corrupt political class and bureaucracy and centralisation of power created a political class of 'scoundrels and criminals' (Kuvempu's words) who vitiated the democratic electoral processes, thus killing the true spirit of democracy. Therefore, democracy has become a mockery in India with its history of autocratic rulers and compliant subjects. He says that unless

we free ourselves from 'matha' (sectarian thinking), there is no possibility of true democracy. Prophetically, Kuvempu also predicts that these anomalies in our democratic system and practices could usher in an 'electoral autocracy'.

The anti-caste, pro-Dalit movements in Karnataka have acknowledged the legacy of the *vachanakaras* of the 12th century and Kuvempu.

Every resistance or movement begins with the iconic poems of Kuvempu. He is probably the only major Kannada writer who is claimed as a mentor by movements as diverse as the Dalit, Bandiya and left-leaning democratic movements. His speeches, interviews and conversations continue to invigorate myriad collective initiatives against communalism, regressive traditionalism and obscurantism. Later generations have been rediscovering Kuvempu through the writings of Prof M D Nanjundaswamy, P Lankesh and Poornachandra Tejaswi.

Kuvempu is a contemporary, a mentor and an intellectual comrade to the youth of the present generation. And also probably the one trustworthy guide amid the present collective frenzy and the destruction of the idea of a pluralist India.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.12, Feb, 8, 2024

## ನೀರ ದಾಹ ತಣಿಸಲು ಬೇಕು ಮಾಸಿಕ 1680 ದಶಲಕ್ಷ ಲೀ. | ಖಾಸಗಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಮೊರೆ 257 ದಾಹ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಯೋಜನೆ

■ ಬಿ.ಎನ್.ಧನಂಜಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

dhnananjaya.gowda@timesgroup.com  
ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಒನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಉಲ್ಬಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಪಾಪಾಕಾರ ಉಂಟಾಗಲಿರುವ ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯು 257 ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ದಾಹ ನಿಗಿಳಿಸಲು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 1680 ದಶಲಕ್ಷ ಲೀಟರ್ (ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ) ಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಆದದ್ದರಲ್ಲಿ 257 ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವವನ್ನು ನಿಗಿಳಿಸಲು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಗಾತ್ರದ ಪಾಲಿಬಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ನೀರಿನ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಿಸಿದ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

**530 ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ:** ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1.30 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರು ನೆಲೆಸಿದ್ದು, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯು 10.37 ಲಕ್ಷ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದೆ. ನಿತ್ಯ 100 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾವೇರಿಯಿಂದ 1450 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿಯಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಿ, ಜನರ ನೀರಿನ ಬವಣೆ ತಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, 10,995 ಕೋಶವೇವಾಂಗಳಿಂದ 400 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿಯಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 1850 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಎಲ್ಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ನಿಗಿಳಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಒರಗಾಲದ ತೀವ್ರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಪಾತಾಳ ಸೆಲುದ್ದು, ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ವೇಳೆ



### ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಿನ ವಿವರ

■ ನಗರದ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಪೈ-1.30 ಕೋಟಿ	■ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಉಳಿತಾಯದ ನೀರು-730 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ
■ ಒಟ್ಟು ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ-10,37,620	■ ನಿತ್ಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ನೀರು ನೀಡುವ ನೀರು-110 ಲೀಟರ್
■ ನಿತ್ಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ನೀರು ನೀಡುವ ನೀರು-110 ಲೀಟರ್	■ ನಿತ್ಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ನೀರು ನೀಡುವ ನೀರು-110 ಲೀಟರ್
■ ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕ ಪಂಚಿಕೆ ನೀರು-19 ಟಿಎಂಎ	■ 110 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು-775 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ
■ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಪಂಚಿಕೆ ನೀರು-1.58 ಟಿಎಂಎ	■ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯ ಬುಡ್ಡೆ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಿರುವ ನೀರು-9.48 ಟಿಎಂಎ
■ ನಿತ್ಯ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ನೀರು-1450 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ	

ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ 10,995 ಕೋಶವೇವಾಂಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 1240 ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳು ಬತ್ತಿ ಹೋಗಿರುವುದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರ ಎದುರಿಸಲಿರುವ 257 ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಕೋಶವೇವಾಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿಯಲಿರುವ, ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನಸಂದಣಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನೇ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 1680 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ ನೀರಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಒನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯು ತನ್ನ ಬಳವಡು

### ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ತತ್ವಾರ

ಬಾಪುಜನಗರ, ಕವಿತಾ ಲೇಔಟ್, ರಾಜಾಜನಗರ 6ನೇ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ, ಮಾದರ್‌ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮಮೂರ್ತಿ ನಗರ, ಡಿ.ಜೆ. ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ವೈಯಾಲಿಹಾಸರ್, ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 257 ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತಲೆದೋರಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ತುರ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ.



ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಒನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಗತ್ಯ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಪುತ್ರಿ ಕೊಡೆಯಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಡಾ. ರಾಮ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಮನೋಹರ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ

### ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ನೀರಿನ ವಿವರ

1	ಮುಸ್ಲಿಮರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ-10995
2	ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ನೀರು-400 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ
3	ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಿಂದ ಬತ್ತಿಹೋಗಿರುವುದಾದ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳು-1240
4	ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳು-257
5	ಈ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯ ನೀರು-1680 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ
6	ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿರುವ ನೀರು-950 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ
7	ಉಳಿಕೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಬೇಕಿರುವ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ -160

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನೀಡಿ, ಗೃಹೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ವ್ಯಯ ಮಾಡಲೇಡಿ ಎಂದು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಡಾ. ರಾಮ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಮನೋಹರ್ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ನೀರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉಳಿಸಿ' ಎಂಬ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕಾಡಾ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.09, Feb.08, 2024

# Bill to usher in reservation in cooperative societies across State cleared by Cabinet

The reservation will come into effect for all nominations to administrative boards of middle-level, federal, and apex body of cooperative institutions, says Minister H.K. Patil

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**o introduce reservation matrix to members from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative (Amendment) Bill-2024 will be tabled by the State government in the Budget session starting Monday.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here after the Cabinet meeting that once the Bill is passed, reservation will be implemented in more than 25,000 cooperative societies and institutions across the State.

"The reservation will come into effect for all nominations to administrative boards of middle level, federal, and apex body of cooperative institutions," he said, adding that the at least one women will get a chance to be nominated in each of the more than 25,000 cooperative institu-

## 'Unity Mall' to promote traditional craft, handloom

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Cabinet approved setting up "Unity Mall" to promote traditional handicraft, handloom, and Geographical Indications (GI) products at Mysuru. It will come up on 6.5 acres at the Dasara Exhibition Grounds at a cost of ₹193 crore and is part of One

District One Product (ODOP) that will be funded through interest-free loan from the Centre. The project was announced in the 2023-2024 Union Budget. The project is to promote heritage products of the State and economic opportunities as part of tourism, and will introduce the State's rich heritage to the tourists.

tions besides representation for SCs/STs and OBCs going up. He, however, said that the quantum of reservation will be part of the Bill.

### Equal voting rights

The Cabinet also approved the Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to provide equal voting rights to all members of the societies and seeks to abolish Karnataka Cooperative

Election Authority. It seeks to create Election Department under Director of Cooperative department.

The Cabinet decided to withdraw the Karnataka Transgenic And Genetically Modified Cotton Seeds (Fixation of Sale Price and Payment of Compensation) Bill, 2015, which was pending awaiting Presidential assent.

The decision was taken since the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Department felt that the State law was not needed since the sale of seeds is inter-State and price control rule 2015 had been notified.

### Phone for anganwadi workers

Among other decisions, it also approved purchase of 75,938 smart phones at a cost of ₹89.61 crore to be distributed to anganwadi workers under the Integrated Child Development project's Poshan Abhiyan. Each phone will cost ₹11,800 and will aid in tracking the implementation of Poshan Abhiyan that will integrate nutrition projects for women and children.

It also approved changes to Karnataka Administrative Service Rules to reduce the minimum years of service for promotion in KAS (super time scale) and KAS (selection grade) as a one-time measure. The proposed amendment will help as many as 45 KAS officers to get promotions.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Feb. 9, 2024**

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Places offering paying guest accommodation are often run in buildings flouting municipal bylaws, while low-cost ones find commercial classification challenging

# Who keeps an eye on PG facilities?

SHREE D N  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**R**amesh (name changed), an upcoming actor from Devanahalli, stays in a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru. He pays Rs 4,500 monthly for his three-sharing accommodation, including three meals a day. He packs his food every morning, leaves for work, and returns at night to hit the sack after supper.

Bengaluru is home to lakhs of such youngsters aspiring to make a living or students focused on studies. Post-Covid, such migration to the city has increased, and Bengaluru is grappling to cope with demand for accommodations, leading to a PG boom.

There are low-cost facilities in the city that start from Rs 4,500 per month. Depending on the rent, the infrastructure varies. The ones who pay minimum rent get a three- or four-sharing room, with common bathrooms and toilets for the entire floor and no privacy. Facilities like Wi-Fi, TV, etc., are sometimes a problem. Almost all PG accommodations offer food, which is included in the rent.

There are also corporate-run PG facilities, with apps for inmates, security features, flexible timings and better facilities. Such facilities generally are

priced high, ranging from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000, with tags such as co-living spaces or executive PGs. These have offices in other cities and hire managers to run the facilities.

### Concerns aplenty

Due to booming office space market and inadequate residential spaces, the Whitefield area has seen exponential demand for low-cost accommodations post-Covid. In the absence of adequate regulation by the government, landlords convert land parcels and bifurcate them into smaller plots without approvals, common amenities, parking, parks, water treatment, garbage segregation facilities, etc., says a resident of Whitefield involved in studying the illegal PGs in the area.

Most such lands have B Khata, and the ward engineering department oversees construction on these lands. Ultimately, due to legal loopholes and bribery, illegal multi-floor structures are constructed with no regard to setbacks and BBMP's building bylaws, says the resident. They are later converted into PG accommodations.

The owners who build such facilities either operate them themselves or rent them out. Sometimes, they outsource the operations. Usually, the ground floor parking is converted into a cafeteria; other floors become PG units.



A view of Whitefield. Many mass co-living units are mushrooming in the area with no regard for municipal laws. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT/WHITEFIELD WARD COMMITTEE

Providing parking spaces, good food, and facilities becomes a big challenge for operators amid the city's limited resources and how the buildings are planned. As a result, many such facilities fail to get trade licences, which are the only mandatory requirement to run a PG, issued by the Public Health Department in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The central GST commission has categorised PGs as commercial, making GST of 18% mandatory. However, the BBMP does not define the right category for PG accommodations. Many PGs operate under the residential category, without commercial water or electricity connections, and do not treat sewage or segregate garbage even if a unit houses more than 30-40 people.

Many PGs avoid sharing PAN cards and collect rentals in cash to avoid taxes, leading to the circulation of black money.

The government intervention can change a lot with many PG accommodations. Despite generating more than 100 kg of waste daily, not getting qualified as a bulk waste generator is yet another issue.

### Taking a toll on resources

Source segregation of waste is a problem with many PG accommodations. Despite generating more than 100 kg of waste daily, not getting qualified as a bulk waste generator is yet another issue.

One auto collects waste from 750 residential houses. One PG where 30-40 people live is considered as one unit, leading to unmanageable garbage in one auto. All these problems lead to commercial properties taking away facilities meant for residential purposes.

"The quality of life of residents living near PGs gets affected," says R



### Number of PGs in city (Zonewise)



Data: BBMP (November 2023)

Rajagopal, Convenor of Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association, the BBMP, being the urban local body, is supposed to act decisively, but it does not, as there are vested political interests behind the money that comes out of PG business, he adds.

"The primary issue is zoning, where and how they can operate a multi-dwelling unit, which affects density, parking, garbage collection, etc.," explains Rajagopal. The Association has written to the BBMP asking the body to fix many of the issues around the PGs, such as their license to operate, zoning, taxation, and enforcement of rules.

"They were coming up in new areas like HSR Layout or Sarjapur; old buildings in old Bengaluru areas also make way for PGs. People apply for trade licences using a category called hostel, which has fewer restrictions. Zoning is not looked at when the license is given," adds Rajagopal.

Though the BBMP wants to work on fixing a framework to regulate PGs, sources say nothing much has been done so far.

Restricting the maximum number of guests per room, the number of washrooms/toilets, safety and health matters were to be looked into, and a framework has yet to come out.

BBMP officials say that as of November 2023, 2292 PG accommodations have taken trade licences from the BBMP.

They claim to be visiting and checking the licences of PG accommodations and bringing more of them under the licence ambit. However, the city police say there are a minimum of 5,000 PGs in the city.

### The case for low-cost PGs

The PG Owners Welfare Association claims to have over 2,000 members. But it estimates the number of people residing in PG accommodations is about 13-14 lakh. The Association president, Arunkumar DT, says that the body stands for the owners of affordable PGs that range between Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 per month, focusing on students and unemployed or people with part-time jobs trying to settle in the city.

The association had reached out to the chief minister thrice, demanding that water and electricity bills should be residential, not commercial. The CM's office directed them to the respective authorities, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, who refused to consider the request.

There are people who try to mint money investing in PG business, while there are also people who take up the PG business for livelihood, with smaller units and fewer people. We stand for the second category," he explains.

He says the bigger units with corporate structures and remote management are coming up in the areas where corporate entities have offices and premium education institutions run.

Arunkumar argues that smaller PGs should be classified as semi-commercial units.

"Those who live in PGs need not be well-off. People from various backgrounds, unemployed youth, students and people taking free government coaching for IAS or KAS examinations come and stay in such facilities. The burden of commercial rates cannot fall on such inmates; they cannot afford it," he says, explaining the rationale behind the demands for semi-commercial charges. PG owners also must consider it as a social service, he adds.

Feedback? Ideas? Suggestions? pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

## Cops to register PGs and inmates by March 30

**B**ayananda, Commissioner of Police for Bengaluru City, says a private portal is being used to update the details of paying guest accommodations in the city. The police did a successful trial in the Marathahalli area. Out of 1100 PGs in the Whitefield division, about 900 have been onboarded.

"This is the first such effort in the city. The city has over 5,000 PGs, and over 1,000 have been added to the portal. There is uniformity of data now. Until now, nobody knew who was staying in these PGs, who is going out. Now, this information is available in the portal," says Raman Gupta, Additional Commissioner of Police (East), Bengaluru.

The data on the private portal is accessible to the



police, though not to the public. Now, the police aim to complete the registration of all the PGs in the city by March 30 by proactively approaching all the PGs in the city.

The police verification of inmates and registration is not mandatory yet. The police have issued a guideline as well, according to which:

- BBMP's trade licence is mandatory
- PGs must collect the

identification cards of inmates and the numbers of their relatives and maintain visitor logs

- CCTV installation and fire safety steps are mandatory

- Consumption and storage of drugs is prohibited
- Background checks for the staff hired and maintenance of information

- Providing information of foreigner inmates to the nearest police station through Form C

- No use of loudspeakers between 10 pm to 6 am
- Essential phone numbers (local police station, emergency response (112), medical services (103), cybercrime (1930) must be displayed; First aid kits must be readily available.

- The concerned owner or manager is responsible for any untoward incidents.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 3, 2024



# Bengaluru is now in the sixth place in global traffic congestion ranking

It was ranked two in 2022. Police say slight improvement in travel time, average speed due to prioritising traffic management over enforcement

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**  
BENGALURU

In 2023, Bengaluru was adjudged the sixth most congested city in the world in terms of traffic on its streets, as per the traffic index from TomTom, a Dutch location technology firm. However, this marks an improvement in the city's traffic congestion as the same report for 2022 ranked Bengaluru as the second most congested city for that year. Despite this improvement, Bengaluru remained India's most congested city in 2023.

According to the report, the average duration to traverse 10 km in Bengaluru was 28 minutes and 10 seconds in 2023, showing a slight enhancement from the 29 minutes recorded in 2022. The average speed during peak hours in 2023 was 18 kmph, up from 14 kmph in 2022.

The report reveals that



In 2023, the most challenging day for commuting in Bengaluru was September 27, requiring an average travel time of 32 minutes and 50 seconds to cover 10 km. This was the day when the Outer Ring Road was jam-packed.

an average Bengaluru commuter spent a total of 257 hours on the road during peak hours in 2023, of which 132 hours could be attributed to congestion. Specifically, on Fridays between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.,

the average time to drive 10 km in Bengaluru was 36 minutes and 20 seconds.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, drew attention to the fact that Bengaluru stands alone among the

## Traffic Index Ranking 2023

World rank	City	Average travel time per 10 km	Change from 2022
1	London	37 min 20 sec	+1 min
2	Dublin	29 min 30 sec	+1 min
3	Toronto	29 min	+50 sec
4	Milan	28 min 50 sec	+20 sec
5	Lima	28 min 30 sec	+1 min 20 sec
6	Bengaluru	28 min 10 sec	-1 min
7	Pune	27 min 50 sec	+30 sec
8	Bucharest	27 min 40 sec	+20 sec
9	Manila	27 min 20 sec	+20 sec
10	Brussels	27 min	+20 sec

Source: TomTom

top 10 cities in having decreased the average time to cover 10 km by one minute when compared with 2022. Other cities added more minutes in 2023.

### Five corridors

Mr. Anucheth attributes the improvement to the emphasis on traffic management rather than enforcement. "The entire resource is now deployed for

traffic management in the city. Additionally, we have identified five corridors with high traffic density, addressing issues through measures such as adjusting signal timings, relocating bus stands, and leveraging technology to identify congestion factors. Our response mechanism has improved, allowing us to identify and resolve on-ground issues," he added.

In 2023, the most challenging day for commuting in Bengaluru was September 27, requiring an average travel time of 32 minutes and 50 seconds to cover 10 km. This was the day when the Outer Ring Road was jam-packed and internationally renowned stand-up comic Trevor Noah cancelled his show in the city.

As per the report, other congested cities in India include Pune, securing the seventh position worldwide. While Delhi holds the 44th position, Mumbai holds the 54th position in the world rankings.

In 2023, London is in the top position among the world's most congested cities, registering an average speed of 14 kmph during peak hours. It is followed by Dublin in Ireland, Toronto in Canada, Milan in Italy, and Lima in Peru, all with average speeds of 16 kmph, 18 kmph, 17 kmph, and 17 kmph, respectively.

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Feb. 4, 2024**



### ಭಾರತದ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಗರಗಳು (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 10 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಯ)

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	ಪುಣೆ	ನವದೆಹಲಿ	ಮುಂಬೈ
ಸಿಬಿಡಿ 24 ನಿಮಿಷ	23 ನಿಮಿಷ	22 ನಿಮಿಷ	19 ನಿಮಿಷ
ಇತರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ 22 ನಿಮಿಷ	22 ನಿಮಿಷ	19 ನಿಮಿಷ	23 ನಿಮಿಷ



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರಾಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ  
10 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ  
ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಯ

ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 46 ನಿಮಿಷ  
ಸಂಜೆ 54 ನಿಮಿಷ

2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಟ್ಟಣೆ  
ಕಂಡುಬಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ  
ರಾಜಾರಾಮ್  
ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಯ್ ರಸ್ತೆ  
(ಕಂಠಿಲವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ  
ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ)

# ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೊದಲು

ಟಾಮ್ ಟಾಮ್ 2023ರ ವರದಿ • 10 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಸಂಚರಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಸಮಯ 28 ನಿಮಿಷ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತದ ನಗರಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ವಿಶ್ವದ ನಗರಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 6ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ವಿಶ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಭಾರತದ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದ ಲಂಡನ್‌ನ 'ಟಾಮ್ ಟಾಮ್' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು 2023ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶ (ಸಿಬಿಡಿ) ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದ ನಗರಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಪುಣೆ, ನವದೆಹಲಿ, ಮುಂಬೈ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಎರಡು, ಮೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ವಿಶ್ವದ ನಗರಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯ ಸಿಬಿಡಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 6ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ, ಇತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 3ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಲಂಡನ್, ಡಬ್ಲಿನ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೊರಂಟೊ ನಗರಗಳು ಮೊದಲ, ಎರಡನೇ ಹಾಗೂ



### 2ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಿಂದ 6ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ

2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವದ ನಗರಗಳ ಸಿಬಿಡಿ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 2ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಬಾರಿ 6ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ, 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಅವಧಿ 1 ನಿಮಿಷ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 14 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಸಂಚರಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 18 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ.

ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದ್ದ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ / ವೈಕಾಂತ್ ಎಂ.ಜೆ.

ಮೂರನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಟಾಮ್ ಟಾಮ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಗಳು 55 ದೇಶಗಳ 387 ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ವರದಿ ಸಿದ್ಧ ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಿಶ್ವದ ಪಟ್ಟಿ (ಸಿಬಿಡಿ)			
ನಗರ	10 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಯ	ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಮಟ್ಟ	ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೇಗ (ಕಿ.ಮೀ/ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)
ಲಂಡನ್ (ಯುಕೆ)	34 ನಿಮಿಷ 20 ಸೆ.	45 %	14
ಡಬ್ಲಿನ್ (ಐರ್ಲೆಂಡ್)	29 ನಿ. 30 ಸೆ.	66 %	16
ಟೊರಂಟೊ (ಕೆನಡಾ)	29 ನಿ.	42 %	18
ಮಿಲಾನ್ (ಇಟಲಿ)	28 ನಿ. 50 ಸೆ.	45 %	17
ಲಿಮಾ (ಪೆರು)	28 ನಿ. 30 ಸೆ.	61 %	17
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು (ಭಾರತ)	28 ನಿ. 10 ಸೆ.	63 %	18
ಪುಣೆ (ಭಾರತ)	27 ನಿ. 50 ಸೆ.	57 %	19

ವಿಶ್ವದ ಪಟ್ಟಿ (ಇತರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ)			
ನಗರ	10 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಯ	ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಮಟ್ಟ	ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೇಗ (ಕಿ. ಮೀ/ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)
ಮೆನಿಲಾ (ಫಿಲಿಪೈನ್ಸ್)	25 ನಿ. 30 ಸೆ.	52 %	19
ಲಿಮಾ (ಪೆರು)	24 ನಿ. 20 ಸೆ.	47 %	20
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು (ಭಾರತ)	23 ನಿ. 50 ಸೆ.	53 %	21
ಸಪೋರೊ (ಜಪಾನ್)	23 ನಿ. 30 ಸೆ.	32 %	23

Source: Prajavani, p.II, Feb.04, 2024

# ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಮಾಧಾನ, ಜನಸಂಪರ್ಕ ದುಸ್ತರ 17,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಸಬರ್ಬನ್ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ

■ ಎಂ. ಕೀರ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

keerthi.prasad@timesgroup.com

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ರೋಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಯುವ ಸಂಸದ ಕೇಜ್ರು ಸೂರ್ಯ ಸಂಸತ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿ ನಡೆಸುವ ಮೇಲಿನ ಚರ್ಚೆ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ-ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಮನ್ವಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

## ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ



ಜತೆಗೆ ಸಂಸತ್ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸ್ತರದವರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ-ಸ್ಪಂದನ, ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ನೆರವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಜನಪರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಳೆದ ವಾರಾಂತ್ಯದ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ನಡೆಸುವುದು ಕಂಡುಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

ದೂರದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಿದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನದ ಮಾತುಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೇಜ್ರಿಗೆ ಕಾಣುವಂತಹ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬಹುದೆಂದು ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಜನಸಂಪರ್ಕ, ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆ ಆಲಿಸಲು ಸುಧಾರಿತ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೇಜ್ರು ಸೂರ್ಯ ಸಂಸದರಾಗಿ ವರ್ಷ ಕಳೆಯುವುದರೊಳಗೇ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಎದುರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಯಿದೆ.

## ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಸೇವೆ

- ಜಯನಗರ ಪಾರ್ವಣಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಪಿಲಾಡ್ ಅನುದಾನ, ದಾಖಲೆ ನೆರವು, ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನ 3.5 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 6 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಾಲೆಯು ಘಟಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಾರಂಭ.
- ಜಯನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂಟುವರೆ ಮಳೆದಿಂದ 25 ಯುನಿಟ್ ಗಳ ಉಚಿತ ಚಯೋಚಿತ ಘಟಕ.
- ದಾಖಲೆ ನೆರವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂಸದರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ 700 ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 5,000 ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಔಷಧ ವಿತರಣೆ.
- ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ, ಉತ್ತಮ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ, ಬಹುಮಾನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಮನವಾತ, ಜತೆಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವೇತನ.

ಕಿರಿಯ ವಯಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಸಂಸದರಾದ ಕೇಜ್ರು ಸೂರ್ಯ ಅವರಿಂದ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇತ್ತು. ಈಚೆಪ್ಪರ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಸಿದಾಗ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಸಂಸದರು ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಕ್ರಿಯಾಶೀಲವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಪದ್ಮಿನಿ ಬಲರಾಂ ಕೋರಮಂಗಲ 1ನೇ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಕ್ಷೇಮಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸದರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದ ಫಲವಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ದೋಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಜನ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ- ನೆರವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರನ್ನು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗುವುದೇ ಕಷ್ಟ.

- ಪ್ರೊ.ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ ಪದ್ಮನಾಭನಗರ



## ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಯ ಭಾಷ್ಯ

ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಒತ್ತು: ಸಿಬ್ಬಿಡಿ ಬಂಡ್ ಬಂಕ್ಸ್ - ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪುರ- ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಹಂತ- 2ಎ, ಹಂತ- 2ಬ ಯೋಜನೆಗಿದ್ದ ಅನುಕೂಲ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಸಿಎಂ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಜತೆಗೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ.

ಸಮನ್ವಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 30 ಮಹಗಳಿಂದ ಸೇರಿರುವ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದ 17,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಸಬರ್ಬನ್ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜನೆ ಚಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೆಟ್ರೋ - 3ನೇ ಹಂತದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಿಟಿಯಿಂದ ಗಾಯಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮೆಂಬರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇದೆ. ಆರ್.ವಿ. ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಮಾರ್ಗ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರೊಂದಿಗೆ 8- 10 ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಘಾಗಿಯಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಉಪನಗರ ಮರ್ಗಲ ರಸ್ತೆ: ಉಪನಗರ ಮರ್ಗಲ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವ ಗಟ್ಟಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನಿದಂತರ ಘರೀಬ ಆವ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಶೇ.40ರಷ್ಟು

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ವೆಂಚೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಡದವರಿಗೆ ನೆರವು: ಬಸವನಗುಡಿಯ ಗುರು ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಸಮಕಾಲ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಹಗರೊಂದಿರ 47,000 ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡರ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಸುಲಂಕಿದ್ದರು. ಇವರ ನೆರವಿಗೆ ಧಾಮಿಸಿದ ಸಂಸದರು, ಒಹುಪಾಲು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡರಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಒದಗಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜಾನಗಿ ವೆಂಚೆ

ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ಕೊಡಗಿ ತೊಂದರೆಗೆ ಸುಲಂಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದವರ ಕಾನೂನು ಹೋರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಬಲಿಸಿ ಅಂಥವರಿಗೆ ಫ್ಯಾಟ್ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

ಕೋವಿಡ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ: ಬದಲೊಂಟಿ ಹಣ ಹಗರೂ ಒಂದುರಿಗೆಂದು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವರಿಕಾಮ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಸಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರಕಿತೆ ಬೆಡ್. ಸ್ಥಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ 4 ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳನ್ನು 40 ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೆಟ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ 320 ಬೆಡ್‌ನ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿವರ್ತಿ ಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಎಂಪಿ ಅಕ್ಟಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ತಿ 3,000 ಅಕ್ಟಿವ್ ಕಾನ್ಸ್ಟ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಾಕಿ ಹಣ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಪಿ ಬಾಸ್‌ಪೋರ್ಡ್ ರಚಿಸಿ ಡೆರಿವರಿ ಆವಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಒಪ್ಪಗೊಡಿಸಿ ಮನೆ ಮನೆಗೆ ವಿತರಣೆ, ಅಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯ, ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



## ಎಂಪಿಲಾಡ್ ಬಳಕೆ

ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ, ಯೋಗ ಕೆರೆಗತಿ, ವಿಶ್ವಾಂಶ

ಕೊಡಡಿ, ಹಯಾಲಿಸ್ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ, ಸದಕಾರ ಕಾಡಾ- ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕೊಡಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೌಟಾಲಯ, ರಿಫ್ರೈ ಸಿಟಿವಿ ಕ್ಯಾಮೆರಾ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, ಬಂದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದವ, ಆಯುರ್ವೆಡ್ ಖರೀದಿ, ಕುಡ್ಡ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 150ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಧಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ. ಎಂಪಿಲಾಡ್‌ನ ಬಹುಕೆಲಸ ಆನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಬಳಕೆ.

## ಸಂಸತ್ ಕಲಾಪ



ಸಂಸತ್ ಕಲಾಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.77ರಷ್ಟು ಹಾಜರಿ. 36 ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಚರ್ಚೆ. 375 ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಕೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಸ್ವಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಮೊದ್ಲೆ ಬಳಕೆದಾರರ ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಸಲಹೆ.



# Doubting the lens: City's CCTV cameras under scrutiny

In many areas, residents notice dysfunctional or unmonitored cams

SNEHA RAMESH & CHETAN B C  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru boasts close to three lakh closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, but residents remain unconvinced about the safety they offer. Some believe that there is a need for more cameras, considering the population density and the growing crime rate. Others raised concerns about the functionality of the existing cameras.

In many areas, residents noted dysfunctional or unmonitored cameras. The CCTV cameras are installed by various stakeholders, and as a result, there is no single authority overseeing their functioning, they said.

"There are a few cameras in the area but we definitely need more. We have also written to the police requesting more, especially in areas that report more crimes and thefts. There are numerous examples of these cameras helping crackdown on offenders and prevent crimes," said Saud Dagastir, Vice President of the Fraser Town Residents' Welfare Association.

Christopher Cruz, an executive member of the North East Resident Welfare Association (NERWA), shared a similar view.

"In instances of chain snatching or mobile snatching, we have worked with the police to source CCTV footage. It was then that we realised that many of the cameras, especially those installed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), are not working. Many times, there are cameras but nobody knows who is monitoring them or how we can get the footage."

While most residents were satisfied with the working of the cameras installed by the police, they pointed out that those installed or maintained by the BBMP were of no help.

"A few years ago, we got close to 15 cameras installed using the funds from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and these were handed over to BBMP for maintenance. However, in just a few months, they stopped functioning since the BBMP did not pay the power bills. Now, we residents have taken the initiative and connected them to one of the houses nearby to ensure they don't go defunct," said Sneha Nandihah, a member of 'I Change Indiranagar'.

Residents pointed out that the majority of the CCTV cameras in Whitefield, Marathahalli, and the Outer Ring Road were not functioning, and they emphasised the importance of functional cameras in tracing missing people.



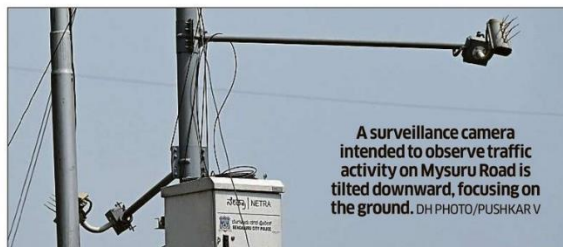
CCTV cameras on Airport Road near Ganganagar are obstructed by tree branches. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN



Non-functional CCTV cameras in front of BengaluruOne Centre in Sampangi Rama Nagar and Shanthi Nagar BMTC bus terminal. DH PHOTOS/S K DINESH



A surveillance camera intended to observe traffic activity on Mysuru Road is tilted downward, focusing on the ground. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V



ple. A volunteer with the Whitefield Rising citizens' group said that the footage is crucial, especially in instances that involve tracing missing people.

"Over the last month, we received reports of three missing children and four missing adults. If the cameras are functional, it will make tracing missing people easier and faster, along with addressing many other law and order, safety, and security issues," the volunteer said.

Acknowledging that some CCTV cameras may not be functioning, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda told DH that the police could not interfere with the working of cameras installed by private parties.

"Although there are dysfunctional cameras, the numbers are minimal. In cases where MLAs and Resident Welfare Associations have installed cameras, many of them are out of service. We can neither maintain them nor force them to do it," he said.

## Aim to improve surveillance

The police department is collaborating with citizens and commercial establishments to enhance coverage. The department plans to increase the number of CCTV cameras to at least 500,000 by the end of the year.

To expand the area under CCTV coverage, the police will enforce the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act, 2017. This act mandates that commercial establishments, schools, hospitals, or any public places with a footfall of 100 at a time or 500 in a day install CCTV cameras.

Police inspectors have been directed to regularly inspect all the establishments in their jurisdiction and maintain a report. The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), in charge of that jurisdiction, has been instructed to penalize them with Rs 5,000 for the first offense and Rs 10,000 for subsequent violations until they implement the rule.

Acknowledging the role Resident

## New tech soon

The Bengaluru City Police have installed 7,500 cameras under the Safe City project, of which 2,700 are yet to be operational. Along with surveillance features, these new cameras are Artificial intelligence enabled and have the ability to recognise faces and number plates.

Going ahead, these cameras will allow the police to track suspects by feeding their images to the system. Once the system is fed with the image of the suspects, the police can identify their location if they pass through any of these cameras and also track them live on the map until they are moving in the areas covered by the AI-enabled cameras. This will help the police to act swiftly.

The system will also be fed with a database of habitual offenders and this will help them track their movements. Using their locations and camera visuals, Police can both detect and predict crimes they might get involved in.

Division	Cameras installed under public safety act	Notices issued to commercial establishments under public safety act
Central	12,338	472
East	48,274	2,680
West	41,734	7,949
North	33,523	3,185
South	39,085	5,402
North East	22,574	2,767
South East	50,590	4,956
Whitefield	44,703	2,866
Total	2,92,821	30,277

SOURCE: BENGALURU CITY POLICE

Welfare Associations (RWAs) play, police are also approaching them to partner and set up CCTV cameras. Recently, RWAs in Thalaghattapura police station limits partnered with the police and installed 300 cameras in their area.

"Such initiatives are welcome. When people set up such infrastructure, they display their responsibility towards the city, and this also inspires the police personnel and holds us accountable," Dayananda said.

## Cameras geotagged

To ensure they have the location of every CCTV camera at their disposal, the police have geotagged every public camera. This will help them identify the CCTV cameras available at the crime spot within a few minutes using the Mobile Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (MCCTNS). The investigating officers can then reach out to the owner and obtain access to visuals from these cameras.



# Only 5,000 of 7,500 CCTV cameras installed under Safe City project working in city

**Jahnavi T.R.**  
BENGALURU

Out of the 7,500 CCTV cameras installed by the Bengaluru city police under the Safe City project, only 5,000 are working as of now. The remaining 2,500 are expected to become functional by the end of February.

"There are some technical problems with the remaining cameras, and they are being fixed. They will start functioning within a month," a senior police official said.

Even as the police claim that 5,000 cameras are working, citizens from across the city have expressed their disappointment about these cameras being non-functional.

Recently, when a 12-year-old boy went missing from Whitefield, many in the city came together to coordinate the search efforts for the boy. What surprised the volunteers who were directly involved in the search was the fact that



Citizens from across Bengaluru have expressed their disappointment about several cameras installed under the Safe City project being non-functional. FILE PHOTO

most cameras installed by the police were not working.

"The majority of CCTV cameras in Whitefield, Marathahalli, and Outer Ring Road areas are not operational. With footage from just one camera from near Kauvery Hospital, the search team was able to track the missing child better. If all the CCTV cameras were operational, perhaps

the child could have been found sooner, along with many who are reported missing every day," said a member of the search team for the boy.

Similarly, the residents of Talaghattapura alleged that all the 40 cameras installed in the locality under the Safe City project are not working. "They are all high-end cameras, but none is working. No one even knows where the feed from the cameras goes," said Vajapeyam Srivatsa of Changemakers of Kankapura Road.

## Residents' initiative

Taking matters into their own hands to have cameras that do not need the involvement of the government, members of the Changemakers of Kankapura Road pooled in around ₹6 crore to ₹7 crore to procure over a hundred CCTV cameras for Talaghattapura.

"With Talaghattapura's proximity to NICE Road, there were major safety is-

ssues near the entry and exit points. We discussed with the local police inspector who said there was a need for around 300 cameras in the locality," Mr. Srivatsa said. Under the project executed entirely by the residents' welfare associations (RWAs), 101 cameras have already been installed while 30 to 40 more are in the pipeline.

As an example, for the importance of the workings of these CCTV cameras, the Talaghattapura police have solved a couple of crimes in the last few months (since before the formal inauguration of the control room in Talaghattapura police station), with the help of these cameras, the residents said. "There was a murder at Chikkegowdappalya and a daylight robbery, and in both cases, the police could recognise the number plates of the vehicles involved and catch the culprits because of these cameras," Mr. Srivatsa said.

With the need for safety measures increasing, many RWAs from the outskirts of the city are taking the same approach of installing CCTV cameras by themselves. Along with this, many local police stations, apartment complexes, educational institutions and commercial establishments have installed CCTV cameras. Further, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the offices of some MLAs have also installed CCTV cameras at various places.

However, the question remains what is the use of safety infrastructure put up under government initiatives, if it is not functional? "CCTVs are meant for safety and security. Yet, when the need to review footage comes up many do not work. How then is this expense of public money to install CCTVs justified? Why are those that are supposed to be using it, such as the police, not acting on fixing this?" asked a resident from Whitefield.

**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Feb. 4, 2024**



# Govt. announces new uniform fare structure for cabs

The new fare system has brought in a simple three slab structure based on the value of the car and has done away with flexible pricing

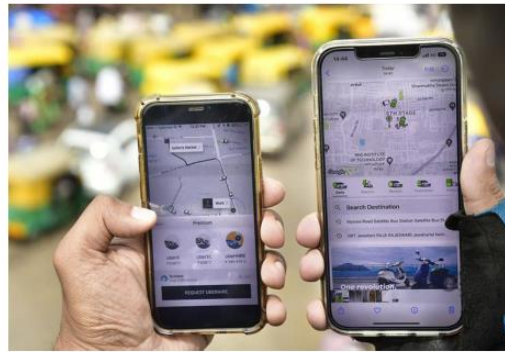
**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The State government has introduced a new uniform fare for all cabs in the city, including those operating using aggregator platforms, like Ola and Uber, and traditional city taxis. The new fare system has brought in a simple three slab structure based on the value of the car and has done away with flexible pricing.

The government's notification issued on Saturday, explicitly prohibits aggregators from collecting any fee additional to what is prescribed, effectively banning surge pricing. The notification says that fares will be calculated solely based on the government's prescribed rates.

Under the revised structure, the base fare for a distance of upto four kilometres starts at ₹100 for vehicles valued upto ₹10 lakh, with an additional charge of ₹24 per kilometre thereafter. For vehicles priced between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh, the initial four-kilometre fare is set at ₹115, with a subsequent per-kilometre rate of ₹28. Vehicles exceeding the ₹15-lakh mark will have a minimum fare of ₹130 for the first four kilometres, with each additional kilometre priced at ₹32.

Hemanth Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Transport Department and secretary, Karnataka State Transport Authority, highlighted the elimination of different fare structures for app-based cabs and city taxis. He said the new system replaces the previous setup, which included mi-



## Cab rates

Type of vehicle		Fixed fare (for a minimum of 4 km)	Per km
Value of the vehicle	Below ₹10 lakh	₹100	₹24
	Between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh	₹115	₹28
	Above ₹15 lakh	₹130	₹32

**Luggage rates:** Free for the first 120 kg, ₹7 for the next 30 kg or a part thereof

**Waiting charges:** Free for the first 5 minutes and ₹1 for every minute later

**Night fare:** 10% additional fare can be collected for trips between midnight and 6 a.m.

Taxi aggregators can collect GST and toll from passengers

No flexible charges can be collected, aggregators can only collect the prescribed charges by the government

nimum and maximum fares for different categories. Moreover, the new structure removes the non-AC category, citing the standardisation of air-conditioned amenities across all vehicles.

The order also specifies that waiting charges are free for the initial five minutes and thereafter will be billed at ₹1 per minute. App-based aggregators will collect a 5% Goods and Services Tax from passengers, and toll charges may be passed on to riders. Night-time fares, applicable from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m., will incur a 10% surcharge.

Previously, the fare structure was revised for app-based cabs in 2021 and categorised into four slabs based on the value of vehicles. Non-app-based city taxis were subject to varying minimum fares depending on the presence of air conditioning.

Tanveer Pasha, president, Ola Uber Drivers' and Owners' Association, welcomed the government bringing in a uniform fare structure for all cabs in the city. "Under the previous system, there were concerns over both driver's earnings and costs to the passengers," he said.

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

# What is white-topping of Bengaluru roads, cleared by Cabinet, all about?

Even though it is done to avoid frequent accidents, the priority given to white-topping over many other pending works has not been taken well by many commuters and citizen activists

## EXPLAINER

Yemen S.  
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet last week approved ₹1200 crore action plan for white topping of roads in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. Prior to that, the BBMP had proposed white topping of 43 roads, with over 35 of them located in the Central Business District (CBD) area of Bengaluru. M.G. Road and Race Course Road, both of which are in good condition, were included in the list of roads slated for a comprehensive makeover. The allocated funds for this project are ₹45 crore for M.G. Road and ₹13.16 crore for Race Course Road. Though the finished white-topped roads have to an extent eased traffic and reduced frequent accidents in the city, the priority given to white topping over many other pending works has not been taken well by many commuters and citizen activists.

### What is white-topping of roads?

White-topping involves the removal of conventional blacktop or bitumen asphalted roads, replacing them with a layer of concrete. The durability of the concrete used is thought to be superior, aiming to prevent the development of potholes. Concrete roads, with a promised lifespan ranging from 15 to 20 years, offer durability compared to asphalt roads, which require re-tarring every three to four years. Advocating for white-topping, the BBMP started white-topping roads in Bengaluru in 2016 following the TenderSure model, asserting that it



Mysuru road flyover down ramp closed for white-topping works in August 2021. K. MURALI KUMAR

provides a long-term solution to the persistent pothole issues that Bengaluru has been facing for several decades.

### What are TenderSure roads?

The concept of TenderSure roads, formulated by the non-profit Jana Urban Space in 2011, encompasses a holistic design approach for streets that includes spaces for essential utilities like power, water, sewage, drainage, telecom, and gas lines. The TenderSure initiative was conceived to tackle the prevalent issues that contribute to the notoriety of Indian roads, such as chaotic traffic, potholes, deteriorated footpaths, overflowing drainage, poorly positioned power transformers, and the intricate tangle of electrical wiring and telecom fixtures.

In 2016, the BBMP had announced that 12 roads would be white-topped, designated for TenderSure works across two packages, with an additional 50



Dust during white-topping work on Sanjayanagar Main Road on September 2021.

roads, totaling 103.60 kms, slated for elevation to TenderSure standards. As on 2019, various roads in the CBD area, including Church Street, Richmond Road (General Thimmaiah Road), Residency Road (Field Marshal Cariappa Road), Commissariat Road, Museum Road, Nrupatunga Road, and Kempegowda Road, have undergone various renovations under

the TenderSure project.

### Phases and cost of white-topping roads in Bengaluru

In 2016, the BBMP initiated the white-topping of a combined 94.5 kilometers of roads in Bengaluru under two separate packages, with an estimated project cost of ₹986.64 crore. The second phase of white-topping, covering a 63-kilome-



A portion of Old Madras road closed on one side, between Catholic Cemetery and Indiranagar 100 ft road junction, for white-topping work by BBMP, in March 2023. K. MURALI KUMAR

and increased expenses. In 2022, the BBMP submitted a new proposal (third phase), requesting grants and approval from the government. The project included 39 roadways, including the 19-km Outer Ring Road in K.R. Puram that runs between Central Silk Board and Lowry Junction, at a cost of ₹ 1,449 crore.

### More Bengaluru roads to be white-topped

In December 2023, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that white-topping would be employed to develop more roads in Bengaluru and that a meeting with all city legislators will be held soon over the issue. Mr. Shivakumar had said that for the white-topping project, ₹1,000 crore was available with the State government, noting a demand to extend such roads across the city. The Deputy Chief Minister said that roads were being dug in-

discriminately in the city for installing cables and other works; So, white-topping should be taken up in a planned manner. He said that the government was prioritising white-topping, as such roads have a lifespan of 25 to 40 years.

Less than a month after the Bengaluru Development Minister's announcement, the BBMP announced that it would white top 43 major roads in the CBD area. On average, the BBMP has estimated the cost of white-topping one kilometre at ₹12 crore. Some of the roads included 100 Feet Outer Ring Road (Jalahalli Cross to TVS Cross), Dinur Main Road, Bull Temple Road, Race Course Road, West of Chord Road, Sarjapur Road and Jakkur Road.

M.G. Road, the prominent thoroughfare in Bengaluru, is one of the 43 roads earmarked for white-topping. The proposed white-topping of the 2.2-km segment from the Mahatma Gandhi statue (near the cricket stadium) to

Trinity Circle is anticipated to incur a substantial cost of ₹45 crore. However, the idea of white-topping M.G. Road has faced criticism by commuters and citizen activists, as all adjacent roads, including Residency Road, Brigade Road, and Queen's Road, were originally developed using the TenderSure model and are currently in excellent condition. Several citizens expressed concerns about white-topping M.G. Road, which is already in good condition. There is also fear that white-topping in the CBD area could lead to traffic gridlocks, given that Kamara Road is already shut down due to the ongoing Metro work.

### Work cannot be revoked, says BBMP Chief

Defending the necessity of white-topping a segment of M.G. Road in Bengaluru, BBMP's Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath, emphasised that the issued work order cannot be revoked.

Despite facing criticism, he asserted that BBMP is committed to proceeding with the white-topping of the specified stretch. Tushar Giri Nath said, "People have the right to criticise and we cannot stop them from doing so. As far as the white-topping works are concerned, we will be going ahead with the work for the roads marked for white-topping, including the stretch on M.G. Road."

"The white-topping of roads is a long-term plan and it boosts the longevity of roads without the need for fixing them frequently. Work on the other road stretches that have been identified for white-topping according to the recommendations given by a senior engineer's report are also in line," he further added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Feb. 5, 2024**



# Now, commuters in city demand a uniform fare structure for autos too

'While auto aggregators claim to adhere to the minimum fare fixed by the govt., they still impose driver pick-up charge and other charges'

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**  
BENGALURU

**A**fter the Karnataka government notified uniform fares for all cabs and taxis, commuters are now calling for a comparable uniform fare system for autorickshaws. Although the Transport Department limited the convenience fee charged by app-based auto-rickshaw aggregators to 5% of the government-fixed fares, along with the applicable 5% GST, commuters claim that different auto aggregators display varying fares for the same distance.

The minimum autorickshaw fare in the city is ₹30 for the first 2 km and ₹15 for every kilometre thereafter. While the auto aggregators claim to adhere to the minimum fare, they still impose a driver pick-up charge and other charges, said Keshava Murthy, a regular auto commuter. "A few apps display an additional charge attributed to the driver, which is to compensate for traffic and other issues. It remains unclear whether the government is monitoring these extra charges that the aggregator is levying,"



M. Manjunath, president of the Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, said a uniform fare structure for autorickshaws would benefit both passengers and auto drivers. FILE PHOTO

he said. Ranita Sharma, another commuter, pointed out that a particular auto aggregator charges additional fees while waiting for an auto, calling it 'tipping the driver' to book the ride soon. She questioned the legality of such a practice, emphasising that it's high time that the government brought uniformity in auto fares booked through aggregator apps. "We have the option to tip, ranging from ₹10 to ₹100. Even if we tip ₹10 and wait, it often takes a considerable amount of time. Eventually, we end up tipping ₹50 or more before getting a ride. If the aggregator is

imposing such charges, what distinguishes getting an auto through the app from getting one directly from an auto stand or the roadside?" Ms. Sharma questioned.

"We have received complaints from the public, and we will look into this thoroughly. Auto drivers have also raised concerns about aggregators collecting excessive commissions, and we are examining the matter," said Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

M. Manjunath, president, Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, said a uniform fare structure for

## 'Aggregators will face action if uniform fare rule is not followed'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

After the government notified uniform fare structure for cabs and taxis, the aggregators are yet to implement the new fares, raising a question mark on its implementation.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has warned that aggregators must comply with the order, or they will face consequences.

"Aggregators must adhere to the new fare structure, or we will take action.

autorickshaws would benefit both passengers and auto drivers. "Private apps charge us hefty commissions. Before these companies entered the market, there was a harmonious relationship between customers and drivers. Regrettably, this connection has been disrupted by the imposition of excessive charg-

This has been a long-standing demand from drivers and passengers," he said.

K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said, "It is doubtful how the government order will be implemented as the rate fixing directive has been given not only for Bengaluru city but also for the entire State. The order does not specify the monitoring mechanism for implementing the fare structure, and it lacks details on the nature of action if the rule is not adhered to."

es on our behalf. They charge ₹100 for a 2-km ride, only allocating ₹30 to the drivers. We object to such practices, as both customers and drivers should not bear unnecessary burdens," he said.

### Govt. app soon

Notification of standard fare structure for cabs is

significant given that the State government is gearing up to introduce its own ride-hailing app soon. "We are currently in the development phase of the app, and it is scheduled for launch in a month or two. This government-run app will adhere to the fare regulations set by the government, with a comparatively lower commission charged from drivers in contrast to existing private aggregator apps," Mr. Reddy said.

In response to an increase in complaints from taxi and auto drivers against private ride-hailing platforms in August 2023, the government initiated the development of its own app. The primary reason behind launching this ride-hailing app is discontent among cab and auto drivers with the practices of private ride-hailing platforms, particularly concerning the substantial commissions these companies impose. Unions advocating for cab and auto drivers have persistently asserted that the commissions charged by cab aggregators for each trip are excessively high, significantly impacting the earnings of drivers.

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

# 91% of tunnelling completed, Pink Line will open in 2025: DyCM

**TBM Bhadra achieves breakthrough; only 1.87-km tunnel remains to be built**

BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 91% of tunnelling has been completed on Namma Metro's longest underground section, which is slated to open in 2025.

A thunderous applause swept through the KG Halli metro station as Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Bhadra emerged at 6.08 pm on Thursday.

The German-made Herrenknecht EPB machine (S-840B) bored a 1,186-metre, north-bound tunnel from Venkateshpura to KG Halli in 357 days, or 3.3 metres per day on average. This was the second tunnel bored by Bhadra and the 22nd of the total 24 on the Pink Line.

Bhadra's breakthrough was witnessed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who has championed the building of tunnel roads to address Bengaluru's traffic problem.

Shivakumar stated as much. "We have planned tunnel roads in Bengaluru. I am here to get a first-hand understanding of tunnel drilling and its challenges," he told reporters.

Replying to a question from DH, Shivakumar said the gov-



Workers at the construction site of the Kadugondanahalli (KG Halli) metro station on the Pink Line on Thursday. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

ernment was sparing no effort to expedite the metro work. However, he didn't specify if the Pink Line would open in March 2025, the existing deadline. "The line will open in 2025," he said.

The 21.26-km Pink Line, which will connect Kalena Agrahara to Nagavara, has a 13.76-km underground section and a 7.5-km elevated section. The underground section involves constructing 20.992-km twin tunnels. The construction of 18 stations (12 underground, six elevated) is 75% complete.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) deployed nine TBMs to construct the tunnels. Seven of

them (Urja, Varada, Avni, Lavi, Vindhya, Vamika and Rudra) have finished their job.

The eighth one, Tunga, embarked on its final drive (KG Halli-Nagavara, 935 metres) on February 2.

Bhadra was the ninth machine. After Thursday's breakthrough, it will be relaunched for its final assignment — a 939-metre northbound tunnel from KG Halli to Nagavara — on April 7, 2024.

An executive of ITD Cementation Limited, which is building the 4.591-km underground metro line from Tannery Road to Nagavara, said Bhadra's relaunch would take anywhere between 30 and 60

days depending on the amount of welding needed for its cutter head.

While the BMRCL said Tunga and Bhadra would complete their final tunnelling drives in August, December seems more realistic.

A senior BMRCL official said the geology in the KG Halli-Nagavara section comprised a mix of weathered rock and sandy silt/clayey sand, making it relatively easier to tunnel, but added that nothing could be said with certainty about Bengaluru's soil profile.

"Some of our TBMs tunnelled 200 metres a month while Bhadra averaged only 100," the official said.

## 'Bengaluru metro better than the one in Delhi'

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Namma Metro was better than the Delhi Metro because "we never compromised on quality".

On the airport line, he said land acquisition was 98% complete, civil work 53% and the construction of 17 stations was going on.

Shivakumar said all future metro lines in Bengaluru would have two-level viaducts — one for the road and the other for the metro. "The BBMP will bear the fly-over cost, while the BMRCL will fund the metro work. I have seen such projects in Nagpur."



Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Bhadra emerges out of the Kadugondanahalli metro station.

## Kamaraj Road to reopen in April

The Kamaraj Road stretch connecting Cubbon Road and MG Road will reopen for traffic in April. It was closed in 2019 for the construction of the underground MG Road metro station.

## Feasibility studies for new lines

Feasibility studies are underway for extending the metro to Anekal, Tumakuru Road and Bidadi. "I will give details once the reports are ready. We have to consult the Centre before announcing new lines," Shivakumar said, when asked if the government would announce new lines in the upcoming state budget.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Feb, 9, 2024**



# BBMP proposes 'Light TenderSure' model for footpath redevelopment

BBMP officials says this initiative will primarily focus on major roads that connect Green Line metro stations. The project aims to enhance last-mile connectivity for public transport

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

To fix the poor condition of footpaths near metro stations in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now proposed the redevelopment of footpaths using the 'Light TenderSure' model along the Green Line of Namma Metro.

The BBMP officials said that this initiative will primarily focus on major roads that connect Green Line stations (Sampige Road, Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Peenya, Jalahalli, Dasarahalli, and Nagasandra), to improve last-mile connectivity and creating pedestrian-friendly footpaths. Officials said



A file photo of the poor condition of the footpath near Jayanagar metro station in Bengaluru.

that the BBMP will allocate ₹60 crore for the improvement of footpaths on roads connecting the metro stations within the West and the South divisions of the BBMP limits.

"The footpaths leading to metro stations are not in a good condition. Hence, we have decided to take up footpath redevelopment under the Light TenderSure model which is a sim-

pler version of the regular TenderSure footpath," a senior civic official said.

Officials further explained that the 'Light TenderSure' model involves widening footpaths and re-

modelling drains, but it excludes the installation of underground cables found in the regular TenderSure model, contributing to a quicker completion of the project.

The project aims to enhance last-mile connectivity for public transport by creating broader and more functional footpaths. The officials hope that this kind of road will improve pedestrian experience and will encourage people to choose walking as their preferred mode of transport. Last year, under the BBMP Budget, ₹450 crore was earmarked for the comprehensive development of 350 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads on the 'Light TenderSure' model.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Feb. 9, 2024**

## B'luru experts create transparent battery for smart glass

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Researchers in Bengaluru have developed an innovative transparent battery that can turn ordinary windows into affordable energy-storing smart glass.

The new technology, created by scientists at Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) — an autonomous institute of the department of science and technology — fea-

tures a smart window design that remains transparent while storing solar energy during the day. At night, the stored energy can power electronic devices in the room, and the window gets a dark blue tint that ensures privacy.

"The key breakthrough enabling this smart window technology is the engineering of a high-performance aqueous transparent battery with adaptive colour-changing ca-

pabilities," DST said in a statement issued late Wednesday.

Stating that transparent batteries require careful optimisation of the thickness of the electrochromic layer to balance transparency and energy storage, the department said: "After systematic testing, researchers determined the ideal thickness of the electrochromic tungsten oxide cathode at 170nm. This thickness strikes the right balance

between energy capacity and light transmittance."

To further enhance the capacity, switching speed and transparency contrast of the battery, the researchers optimised the electrolyte solution and opted for an aluminium anode configuration. The aqueous electrolyte enables rapid charging, fast switching and elevated safety compared to conventional non-aqueous electrolytes, the department

added. Ashutosh Kumar Singh, lead scientist of the project, said the use of cost-effective aqueous electrolytes allows transparent smart window batteries to offer high performance, safety and adaptive transparency at minimal investment. "We aim to collaborate with smart glass manufacturers to commercialise this technology for integration into modern building infrastructure," he added.

**Source: The Times of India, p.9, Feb. 9, 2024**

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