



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



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



CONTENTS



[Agriculture](#)

[Decentralisation](#)

[Economy](#)

[Education](#)

[Environment](#)

[Health](#)

[Gender](#)

[Governance](#)

[Social Issues](#)

[Urban Affairs](#)

AGRICULTURE

Centre rejects ₹2,594-crore proposal

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Centre has rejected the Karnataka's State government's proposal for ₹2,594 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojane meant to benefit dry land areas in the State to extend irrigation coverage and increase water use efficiency.

Revealing the recent development, Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Bose Raju on Friday told the Legislative Council that the Centre has conveyed to the State that due to non-availability of funds, the proposal has not been accepted.

"However, the only project under the scheme has been approved for the constituency (Dharwad) of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi at a cost of ₹76 crore," he said.

He said that the Centre has conveyed its decision on February 9. About 60% of the project cost is to be borne by the Centre while the rest will be the responsibility of the State. "The proposal that would have improved dry land cultivation and improve ground water level had been submitted to the Central Water Commission, and delegations by the State, including the Central Ministers, had met Water Resources Minister," he added.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, Feb. 24, 2024

Drought-hit areca growers buy water to save their plantations

On an average, a farmer will have to spend ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre of areca up to April this year, say growers

DROUGHT DISTRESS

Sathish G.T.
CHEERANAHALLI
(CHIKKAMAGALURU
DISTRICT)

Deficient rainfall during the south-west monsoon in 2023 has left areca growers in parts of Malnad region hard and dry. Worried about safeguarding their plantations through summer, many are purchasing water on a daily basis and carrying it using private tankers, as hundreds of borewells have dried up in parts of the region known for its lush green environs and heavy rainfall.

The State government declared both taluks of Chikkamagaluru - Ajjampur and Kadur - as severely drought-hit on September 13 last year, after taking the ground reports. The people in the taluks recall that they are facing a drought of this magnitude for the first time since 2013. With no alternative remedy, the growers are spending huge money to keep the decade-old plantations alive.

Kiran, a former member



An areca grower at Cheeranahalli in Ajjampur taluk buying water from a tanker for his plantation. SATHISH G.T.

of Cheeranahalli gram panchayat in Ajjampur taluk, owns about four-and-a-half acres of areca plantations. After the borewells drilled in the plantation dried, he has made arrangements to bring water from two borewells located a few kilometres away from his farm. He has hired three tankers to carry water daily. "Safeguarding the plantation is crucial for us now. If we neglect, we will lose the plantation that we have cultivated for over 30 years," Mr. Kiran said.

Areca is a major planta-

tion crop in several parts of Malnad districts. With sufficient water, the growers can get up to seven quintals of arecanuts per acre. "Areca growers have to work hard and invest money regularly for years to get the yield from the plantations. During drought, we have to spend lakhs of rupees to lay fresh pipelines and carry water regularly from available sources," said Praveena, also a grower.

Those people with borewells in good condition are now selling water, with a

tanker of water (20,000-litre) costing ₹8,000. "On an average, a farmer will have to spend ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre of areca up to April this year. We are hoping for rain by the end of April. If there are no rains in April and May, we have to spend another two-three lakhs of rupees up till June, the month when monsoons are expected to set in," said Chetan, an areca grower.

Coconut farms too

Similarly, coconut growers are also facing the heat of

drought in the region. The yield has already come down on many farms due to disease that affects coconut leaves. Paramesh of Yagatipura in Kadur taluk said of the 150 coconut trees on his farm, only 40 have survived. "The yield has come down abysmally. I am worried about a further decrease in the yield due to drought. My borewell in the coconut field has dried up," said a distraught Paramesh. He is now relying on an eatery that he runs along with his wife for his livelihood.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Feb. 24, 2024

Centre grants permission to procure 7,000 tonnes of ball copra following State's appeal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the State government's appeal, the Centre has granted permission to procure 7,000 tonnes of ball copra at minimum support price, said Minister for Agricultural Marketing and Sugar Shivananda Patil.

Speaking at a press conference here on Saturday, the Minister said the Centre would also be urged to grant permission to procure milling copra from growers. Earlier, the Union government had given approval for the procurement of 62,500 tonnes of copra.

Demand

The State has urged the Centre to grant permission to procure copra from growers following a demand from legislators from 14 coconut growing districts during the ongoing legislature session as well as from growers to open centers to procure copra for a few more days.

The Centre has fixed MSP for milling copra at ₹11,160 per quintal and for ball copra at ₹12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season. Milling copra is used to extract oil, while ball copra is consumed as dry

fruit and used for religious purposes. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra while ball copra is used largely in Karnataka.

The registration for copra procurement that began on February 5, 2024 ended within three days, even though a large number of coconut growers had not registered their names. This led to protests by farmers in coconut growing districts. Moreover, legislators have alleged that the officers of NAFED joined hands with a few merchants and ended the registration process abruptly. MLAs also alleged that many merchants registered in the name of farmers.

Mr. Patil said six procurement centres would be opened and steps would be taken for prevention of misuse of the facility.

On APMC Bill

The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, has been passed in the Legislative Council on Friday and it is being implemented for the benefit of farmers and traders. Earlier, the Bill was referred to the select committee of the

Council and committee members visited various districts and suggested 27 points and all of them have been included in the Bill, he said. The Opposition BJP and JD(S) supported the Bill.

Mr. Patil said the department was planning to reduce APMC cess for the benefit of farmers and revenue would be generated by trading more commodities. More than 70% of farm goods are being traded outside the APMC premises. The reduction of cess would also aim to encourage farmers to bring their produce to APMC yards, he added.

Indira Canteens

The Minister said Indira Canteens would be opened at Agricultural Produce and Marketing Committee (APMC) yards across the State. Already, canters have been opened in Ballari and Mysuru APMC yards.

**OBITUARY &
REMEMBRANCE**

DEATH



Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Feb. 24, 2024

Monitor drone parameters

Drone revolution, from Page 1

Numerous forecasts predict that drones will be the future of agriculture. Recognising this, in 2022 Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that having a drone on every field would be a game changer for the agriculture economy. Since then the government has been encouraging 'Kisan Drones'.

The advent of new technology into agriculture has begun, but what will this transformation mean for the 144.3 million labourers in the sector, or the environment and economy? These are some questions that loom large.

One such concern with drone usage has been about the aerial spraying of harmful pesticides.

"The use of drones to spray chemicals will result in contamination of soil and water. Today, we may find it as a solution but in the future, it is bound to harm humans," says Nandini Jayaram, a Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha leader. There must also be a focus on the irreversible damage to soil and water.

Known as pesticide drift, experts fear that drone-based application of chemicals for farming could spread to non-target areas, contaminating water bodies, soil and even human settlements nearby.

"Due to aerial spraying of chemicals, there is a higher chance of the chemical being spread to a larger area," says Kavitha Kuriganti, the convener of Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA).

Scientific studies in the USA found that spray drones produce a significant amount of pesticide drift. Employing swathe offsets and specialised nozzles can cut this spread.

"The flying and spraying parameters of drones significantly influence droplet deposition and spray drift," says T Kiran Babu of Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (TJSAU).

Babu is part of a team from the state's agriculture variety that had developed standard operating procedures (SoPs) for drone-based pesticide applications in rice. PJTSAU also established a drone academy to train aspiring pilots and to conduct research on drones in farming.

Spray height, volume, drone flight speed, droplet parameters, application rate and spray solution properties are all important parameters that are to be taken into consideration while taking up aerial spraying using drones.

Following the SoPs is paramount as in such cases there is negligible environmental effect.

However, it is unclear how many users keep these guidelines in mind and who regulates or monitors them. "Who is going to monitor if SoPs are strictly followed or not? Currently, there is no such mechanism. Governments should also look into this very important aspect," a farmers association leader told DH.

While there have been multiple applications of drones in agriculture that include water, plant health soil assessments and field mapping, currently their use is mostly to spray pesticides. In fact, according to a report by the American consulting firm, spraying operations have more than 50% of the total market share.

"It is difficult to find a skilled workforce to spray pesticides. Not many are keen due to the health hazards associated with it. It is here that drones can be employed and where farmers can reap maximum benefit," says Prem Kumar Vislavath, CEO of a drone tech start up.

His company designs and manufactures small and medium-category agricultural drones. Vislavath says that there is high demand from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, and Haryana. In these states, governments have adopted agriculture drone-specific policies that help farmers access bank loans to purchase drones.

Impact assessment

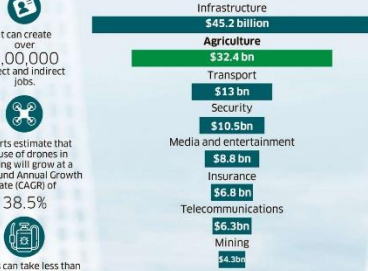
Some scientists say that using drones is beneficial for agriculture labourers who have extended contact with such chemicals. "Spraying pesticides is a tedious and hazardous job. Getting labourers to spray fertilisers has an impact on them too. Drones are the solution as they reduce the cost, time and risk to humans," says a scientist with the University of Agricultural Sciences Bengaluru. He says while a labourer takes nearly two days to spray one acre of land, drones can spray two-and-a-half acres in just 12 to 15 minutes.

Currently, the Karnataka government has permitted the spraying of chemicals using drones only on 10 crops. Various agricultural universities are conducting studies on the



Drones take off in Indian agriculture

Potential value of drone-powered solutions sector-wise



Number of drones registered in India



Drones useful in surveying land, property

Apart from agriculture, drones are being put to use in other sectors too. Karnataka has made use of drones to conduct surveys and map revenue lands. The Police Department also uses drones to maintain law and order and to manage traffic. Disaster relief forces use them in rescue operations in the event of floods, landslides or other natural disasters. Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue) Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, says the use of drones has ensured that survey of properties in Bengaluru was completed in just two years for a project that would have taken 20 years. "The use of drones has minimised human error and brought in transparency as it works through GPS coordination," he says. Experts say the margin of error is minimal while conducting aerial surveys and it could be easily rectified.

₹

The drone industry can improve India's manufacturing potential to approximately \$50 billion by 2030.

It can create over 5,00,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Experts estimate that the use of drones in farming will grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 38.5%.

Drones can take less than 10 minutes to spray pesticides over one acre of land.

Agricultural drones cost about Rs 7.5 lakh to 12 lakh for basic models and start at Rs 15 lakhs for high-tech agricultural drones.

The total number of certified drone pilots in the country saw a 1365% increase between 2022 and 2023.

India's GDP can be increased by 1-1.5% through precise interventions in agriculture like using drones in agriculture, according to a report from the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Source: Market research, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Digispy

CH GRAPHIC SAGAR M S

COMPILED BY VARSHA GOWDA

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

Pros of agri drones

Precision agriculture

Equipped with sensors, drones can provide detailed data on soil health, moisture levels, and crop health, allowing farmers to make precise decisions about irrigation, fertilisation, and pest control.

Cost-effective

Compared to traditional methods of aerial surveillance, drones are often more cost-effective, especially for small and medium-sized farms in India.

Time-saving

Drones can significantly reduce the time required for field scouting and monitoring and even pesticide spraying, freeing up farmers' time to focus on other important tasks.

Exposure to chemicals

Drones can limit human exposure and use of pesticides by spraying large swathes of land evenly and with precision.

Early detection of crop stress

Thermal imaging cameras can detect areas of crop stress caused by water scarcity or pest infestation before they become visually apparent, allowing farmers to take proactive measures.

Cons of agri drones

High initial investment

The cost of purchasing drones and equipment can be a significant barrier for adoption, especially for small-scale farmers.

Technical expertise required

Operating drones demands specialised knowledge and training, which may not be readily available among farmers.

Limited payload capacity

Drones often have restrictions on the weight they can carry, limiting their functionality.

Limited battery life

Drones have short flight times due to battery limitations, requiring frequent recharging.

Data processing challenges

Managing and analysing large volumes of data collected by drones can be complex and resource-intensive.

Privacy concerns

Drones equipped with cameras raise privacy issues among nearby residents.

Dependency on infrastructure

Effective drone use relies on supporting digital infrastructure, which may be lacking in rural areas.

impact of drones on soil and water. "So far, the results have been encouraging. We need to collect data for one more year before coming to any conclusion on this," the scientist says.

The problems have been framed incorrectly according to Kavitha. "The question is not about preventing farm labourers coming in contact with harmful chemicals while spraying pesticide, our efforts should be to minimise the use of chemicals itself in the sector," she says.

Labour loss

In the present form of spraying chemicals, two labourers are employed over a week. With the advent of drones, only one drone pilot can complete the task.

Such mechanisation has led to employment loss fears among agricultural labourers, says Kalaburagi-based economist Sangeetha Kattimani. "There is a fear among the farm labourers that the use of drones can snatch their jobs and could lead to greater distress among the peasants," she says.

On the other hand, there is also a pool of skilled youths who have found new opportunities. "There is a trend of youth coming back to agriculture as smart technology has helped them make a better living. Drone pilots are making a decent living by operating the machinery on a rental basis," she says.

In Telangana, Rathod Satish of Narayankhed is one such trained drone pilot. He charges about Rs 500 per hour to operate a spray drone which he purchased a few years ago under the Centre's Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.

"Sometimes, I work at least eight hours a day, still I cannot take the load of requests. Now, I do not have to go to cities to eke out my living," says Satish. After finishing his graduation, Satish underwent training at PJTSAU's drone academy.

Technical expertise, expenses

Even with such training programmes and new opportunities, a lack of technical expertise hinders the uptake of drones in farming. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, the response to the usage of drones in agriculture has been mixed. While farmers in the fertile Cauvery Delta region, the rice bowl of the state, are slowly adapting to the latest technology to overcome perennial labour shortage, their counterparts in other parts of the state are yet to embrace drones for spraying nutrients, pesticides and fungicides.

"We do not have the expertise to operate the equipment. Since a lot of private companies offer the service, we prefer to rent the drones rather than buy them," says Mohan, a farmer from Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu.

Arivu, a farmer from Budalur in Thanjavur, says he has yet to purchase the equipment because of the expenses involved. "I cultivate on 10 acres but I am still apprehensive because I feel this might add additional expenses. The companies which offer drone services should reduce the rates so that more farmers can use it," he adds.

In Kerala, drones are yet to gain popularity and traction in agriculture. Even as farmers admit that it is a cost-effective and time-saving alternative, they highlight the lack of awareness and support through subsidies to purchase drones.

Long way to go

"The lack of awareness among farmers and a lack of proper coordination between the Centre and states on policy issues has also led to slow adoption. For instance, agriculture is a state subject, and the state governments should encourage the schemes announced by the Centre like Rs 10 lakh unsecured loans from the Agri Infrastructure Fund at minimal interest rates," Vislavath says.

Policy considerations around monitoring pesticide use and drone parameters are also of utmost importance. Modernisation of technology and advancement of machines in the farming sector compounded by the disparity in payment of wages in white and blue-collar jobs are all factors pushing farmers and labourers out of the agricultural sector, Nandini Jayaram says. The advent of modern technology is only a stop-gap measure and there is a need to address persisting issues as well, she adds.

(With inputs from Pavan H Kumar in Hubballi, ETB Sivapriyan in Chennai, Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai and Arjuna Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 25, 2024

Read the subtext of farmers' unrest. Solutions lie outside agriculture

ILLUSIONS & DELUSIONS



TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
✉ @tarta

Farmers' unrest is again making news. Interestingly, the farmers of the well-irrigated and more prosperous northern belt are more vociferous nowadays. The grievances, we must note, are about the management of surpluses, not shortages. Also, the agitation is being viewed by everyone as a Farmer vs Centre dispute, although as per the Constitution, agriculture is a state subject.

Decades ago, when the Centre intervened, it was to tackle the then persistent droughts and famines. It undoubtedly succeeded. In the next three decades, the Green (food crops), White (milk) and Blue (fisheries) revolutions happened. Food growth outstripped population growth. We became a major exporter of wheat, rice, and other agricultural products. We are the largest producer of milk and milk products, rank second in horticulture and floriculture products, third in poultry products, and fourth in fishery-related products. These achievements have not, however, translated into rural prosperity or contentment. We need to introspect on the 'why' of this.

There are two principal factors at work. One relates to system design. Unlike most countries, India did not use urbanisation as the principal instrument for securing economic develop-

ment. Instead, imitating the erstwhile Soviet Union, it tried to promote autarkic manufacturing systems. This approach did not succeed either there or here. Though some track changes occurred with liberalisation, the basic system structures, thought processes and policy reflexes have remained unchanged. Our current urbanisation index of 35% is significantly below the global average of 57%. Advanced economies are above 70% and competing emerging market economies, including China, are in the mid-60s. Thus, our dependency on agriculture for providing employment is higher than that of our peers.

Our population growth played out in this faulty structure. Consequently, rural population increased from 280 million at Independence, to almost a billion at present. And 80% of our rural households are either landless or hold less than 1 acre. Another 10% hold up to 2 acres. So, at least 90% need supplementary survival wage income.

Further, worldwide, just as automation/AI are eliminating manufacturing jobs, mechanisation in agriculture via myriad devices, such as tractors, tillers, seeders, harvesters, and increasingly drones, etc., are eliminating varieties of farming jobs. Currently, our mechanisation

levels are below global standards. As mechanisation picks up, the labour needs of our farms will reduce further. Also, the irrigated belts are mechanising faster, and thus unemployment levels and consequent frustrations may be growing faster there despite growing surpluses.

The other factor relates to policy signalling mechanisms in play. Despite liberalisation, wide inter-regional diversities, and existence of increasing agri-surpluses (with pockets of shortages), the Centre did not change its role. Our commodity markets are still not as free, nor as deep, as our stock markets. This diminishes investment potential for improving agri-logistics, notwithstanding wide gaps between farm gate and city retail pricing. Export bans on a variety of agricultural products, to protect the interests of domestic consumers, continue to be announced, regardless of the impact on farmers' profitability.

Meanwhile, climate change is aggravating crop prospects. Situations of adverse income volatility have increased. A history of farm loan waivers to mitigate rural anguish also exists. Alongside, increased travel, mobility, and use of social media are reducing information gaps that existed in the past, thereby increasing rural aspirational levels. This is adding salt to the

existing sense of injustice. Multiple stories of similar or lesser-skilled farm workers creating better life-trajectories for themselves in Canada/US/EU than their India-based relatives are often heard nowadays. Likewise are the stories of desperate efforts at emigration, including illegal (*Dunki* type) emigration, and of the use of narcotic drugs as an alternate escape route.

Earlier, media reports of large-scale farmer suicides were rife. Now, agitations have replaced them. The current agitation has started even though the announced Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for some Rabi season crops, including wheat, are apparently already higher than the demanded formula of 'cost of production plus 50%'. Forest fires, one must note, start only if the grassy undergrowth is excessively dry!

Long-lasting solutions to this crisis will thus require reducing the systemic dependence on agriculture for providing employment. The only practical method would be to promote widespread urbanisation, as done elsewhere. It is cities that create jobs because this is where the local consumption multipliers play out, creating varieties of jobs/income streams. This is the reason why our better developed cities are literally bursting at their seams! Creating de-

sirable cities requires creating strong USPs, as recently done for GIFT City or Ayodhya.

Several different types of city creation may be needed. The number of additional cities required is large because of the size of our population, the extant sub-continental diversity, and prolonged neglect of this important developmental need. Since, a new Finance Commission has been set up, it could perhaps be asked to take cognisance of these issues and prioritise the urbanisation drive. Also, since our current share of 'local government expenditure' to 'total government expenditure' is in the low single-digits, quite unlike other peer country practices, we could also think of creating a third tier of 'autonomous cities' below the existing Centre/state tiers, somewhat on the lines of the Chandigarh and Puducherry models. This will create a better-balanced system.

However, all this will take time. Short-term fire extinguishers also need to be in place. Various sector experts have suggested a variety of market related/non-market solutions. 'Ease of cultivating' as also per-acre profitability are what will interest the farmers with large holdings, while the landless/marginal farmers may better value income security schemes. A careful but compassionate balancing act will be beneficial.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.11, Feb, 25, 2024

Dry chilli sets Byadgi market on fire with record arrivals

On Feb 15, APMC got single-day record of 83.5k quintals

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Notwithstanding extreme weather conditions, Byadgi chilli, a prized spice known for its vibrant red color, medium heat, and distinctive smoky flavor, is still a popular crop among farmers of north Karnataka.

On February 15, the famed Byadgi red chilli market in Haveri district received a record 83,568 quintals of chilli. This is the highest ever arrival in the market since its inception in 1948.

Steady demand and remunerative prices are the major reasons for the popularity of the crop.

According to data, the Byadgi market has been registering a steady rise in the turnover in the last five years.

In 2023-24, (till February 22), the Byadgi APMC

received 10,13,479 quintals of dry chilli. Another four lakh quintals are expected in the next one-and-a-half months. Last year, the total arrivals were 9.9 lakh quintals.

There is a slight increase in the area under red chilli cultivation in the state as well - from 1.27 lakh ha in 2022-23 to 1.30 lakh ha in 2023-24. Though red chilli is generally an irrigated crop, the rain deficit resulted in 20-30% less yield, according to the Horticulture Department.

Byadgi Chilli Merchants' Association secretary Raju Morigeri said the market has received the highest load of dry chilli ever in the last two months.

The Byadgi market sells three varieties of chillies - Byadgi Dabbi, Byadgi Kaddi and Guntur chilli. The standard dabbi chilli is sold at Rs 45,000 to Rs 57,000 per



A file photo of dry chilli market in Byadgi of Haveri district.

Of arrivals & turnover

Year	Quintal	Bags	Turnover
2019-20	8,42,230	33,66,188	Rs 1,260 Cr
2020-21	11,22,802	52,12,816	Rs 1,997 Cr
2021-22	15,84,878	63,01,071	Rs 2,046 Cr
2022-23	9,90,552	39,44,362	Rs 2,281 Cr
2023-24	10,86,650	43,08,810	(Till Feb 22)

quintal, kaddi at Rs 40,000 to Rs 45,000 per quintal and Guntur is priced at Rs 13,000 to Rs 18,000. The prices have been consistently good.

There is always good demand for chilli compared to

other commercial crops.

"This time we are getting good quality Byadgi chilli compared to previous years. The absence of incessant rain might have aided this. We used to get 200-230 colour

values in the previous years, but this year the colour value is between 240-260, which is higher than the previous years," he added.

Brisk buying

Usually big buyers including MDH, MTR and others used to procure chilli between March and April. As drought hit the state this year, they began buying chillies in the first week of February fearing that the quality might take a hit later. According to chilli traders, the arrivals have been sold to buyers and no stock went to cold storages. There are 25 cold storages in Byadgi and around 30 in Ballari. Whenever there is a drop in the price of chillies, farmers make use of the cold storage facility.

Karnataka State Spices Development Board Managing Director B R Girish said, the quality of Byadgi chilli cannot be compared to other varieties.

Byadgi chilli is known for medium spice, good colour and essence and it has export quality. Apart from food, Byadgi chilli is being used in the pharmaceuticals and cosmetics industries.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, Feb, 26, 2024

692 suicides in 10 months as drought crisis persists

N B HOMBAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 692 farmers killed themselves in Karnataka between April 2023 and January 2024, Revenue Department data shows, highlighting acute rural distress in the wake of persistent drought conditions. Haveri, Belagavi and Chikkamagaluru had the highest suicide rates, the data shows. The state also reported 548 accidental farmer deaths in the same period.

All in all, 1,240 farmers lost their lives in the last 10 months, with an average of more than four deaths a day.

The data furnished by the state government attributed suicides to farm loan distress and drought. Karnataka has already declared 223 of the 236 taluks as drought-hit. Of these, 196 taluks are categorised as severe drought-hit and 27 as drought-hit.

As many as 22.59 lakh farmers have taken medium-term and short-term loans from cooperative institutions to the tune of Rs 17,534 crore till Jan 31, 2024, and 8.5 lakh have secured loans from nationalised banks to the tune of Rs 1,7424

Bleak stats

Accidental deaths include snake bites, fall from trees, haystack catching fire, etc.

548
accidental deaths

223 of 236 taluks
declared drought-hit

22.59 lakh farmers have taken loans



crore till Dec 31, 2023. The data further revealed that only 238 farmers have repaid their loans (Rs 3.07 crore) in cooperative institutions.

A senior official who wished to remain anonymous told *DH* that farmers who repay loans from cooperative institutions are under great pressure to do so, but several lakh farmers depend on private money lenders, where the distress is higher and leads to suicides.

► **Farmers, Page 6**

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Feb, 26, 2024

ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಅರ್ಧಕ್ಕಿಳಿಕೆ: ಆವಕ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಸಹ ಅಗ್ಗ: ಕೆಜಿಗೆ 10-15 ರು.ಇಳಿಕೆ

ನಿ. ಐ. ಎಚ್. ಕೂವ್ವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಗಗನಮುಖಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ 'ಬಿಳಿ ಬಂಗಾರ'ದ ಬೆಲೆ ಈಗ ಇಳಿಮುಖವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ನಿಟ್ಟುಸಿರು ಬಿಡುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಆವಕ ಏರಿಕೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೆಲೆ ಅರ್ಧಕ್ಕರ್ಧ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ತೀವ್ರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕೊರತೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಕೆಜಿಗೆ 500 ರು. ಗಡಿ ದಾಟಿತ್ತು. ರೈತರು ಹೊಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾನುವಾರದವರೆಗೂ ಗಸ್ತು ಹಾಕುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಸೋಮವಾರದ ಬಳಿಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಮೊದಲು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 4-5 ಸಾವಿರ ಚೀಲಗಳ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 12-13 ಸಾವಿರ ಚೀಲ ಏಕಾಏಕಿ ಬಂದು ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ.

ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೆಲೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಉತ್ತರಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಗುಜರಾತ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷ ಶೇ.30 ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹಳೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಬೆಳೆ ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ ಬೆಳೆ ಕಟಾವು ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ರೈತರು ದೌಡಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದೇ ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಸಗಟು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು.

ಹಿಂದೆ ಸಗಟು, ಕೆಜಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ದಪ್ಪ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ 400 ರು, ಮೀಡಿಯಂ ದಪ್ಪ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 300 ರು.ವರೆಗೂ ದರ ತಲುಪಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ದರ ಉತ್ತಮ ದಪ್ಪ 160-180 ರು. ಮಧ್ಯಮ ದಪ್ಪ 120-140 ರು. ಸಣ್ಣ 90-100 ರುಗೆ



ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಆದರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೆಜಿಗೆ 180-250 ರು. ಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನು ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿ ಜಯಕುಮಾರ್.

ಉತ್ತರ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಕಟಾವು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ಆವಕ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಬೆಳ್ಳುಳ್ಳಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಸಾಯಿಬೃಂದಾವನ ಟ್ರೇಡರ್ಸ್ ಶಿವಪ್ಪಮ್ಮ.

ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಅಗ್ಗ

ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಬೆಲೆ ಕೂಡ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗ್ರಾಹಕನಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಸಂತಸ ತಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಏರಿಳತ ರೈತರನ್ನು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕೋಲಾರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ

ಭಾಗದಿಂದ ಹೊಸ ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಬೆಳೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಆವಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ 30-40 ಸಾವಿರಗಳಷ್ಟು ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ (12 ಕೆಜಿ) ಬರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ 40-50 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು.

ಕಳೆದ ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ನಾಟಿ ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಬೆಲೆ 250-300 ರು. ಇತ್ತು. ಈಗ 100-150 ರು. ಗೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಸಿಡ್ 300-400 ರು. ಇದ್ದದ್ದು 200-250 ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಕೋಲಾರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಟಿ 15 ಕೆಜಿ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್‌ಗೆ 350-450 ಇತ್ತು. ಈಗ 200-220 ರು. ಗೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಕಳೆದ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 10-15 ರು. ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಜಿಗೆ 10-20 ರು. ಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಸಸಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 40 ಸಾವಿರ ರು. ವರೆಗೆ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುವ ರೈತರು ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಳತ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದ್ಯ ಟೋಮೇಟೋಗೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 5-6 ರು. ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ಹಾಕಿದ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಕೂಡ ಕೈಸೇರುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ರೈತ ದ್ವಾರಕಾನಾಥ್.

ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, 'ಹಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೆ ಕಡಲೆಯಿಲ್ಲ, ಕಡಲೆಯಿದ್ದರೆ ಹಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎನ್ನುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಉತ್ತಮ ಬೆಲೆ ಸಿಗುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಫಸಲು ಕೈಕೊತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಾಗ ಫಸಲು ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಟೋಮೇಟೋ ಬೆಳೆಯುವಾಗ ಯೋಚಿಸುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ರೈತ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಆಳಲು.

Source: Vishwavani, p.13, Feb,27, 2024

ಬರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ನೀರು, ಮೇವಿನ ಕೊರತೆ ಭಯ | ಅರ್ಧ ದರಕ್ಕೆ ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳುವವರಿಲ್ಲ ದನಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ರೈತರ ಹಿಂದೇಟು

ನಿ ಅಭಿಜೇತ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ಬರಗಾಲದಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಡಿ ನೀರು, ಮೇವು ಕಮ್ಮಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಮನ್ನಾಗಿ ದನ ಮಾರಬೇಕಂತ ಬಂದೇವಿ. ಆದ್ರೆ, ಜಾತ್ಯಾತ್ಮಕ ದನಕ್ಕೆ ರೊಕ್ಕಾ ಸಿಕ್ಕಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕಮ್ಮಿ ಕೇಳಾತಾರ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಮ್ಮೂ ದನ ಹೊಡೆಕೊಂಡ ಊರಕಡೆ ಹೋಗಬೇಕಂತ ಮಾಡೇವು ಎಂದು ಅನೇಕ ರೈತರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಾತಿರು.

ಇಂತಹ ಸೋವಿನ ಮಾತುಗಳು ಕೇಳಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಮೋಟಗಿ ಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಜಾತ್ರೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೀಪದ ಕೇಸನೂರಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಾನುವಾರು ಜಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿರುವ ಜಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಭಾಗದಿಂದ ರೈತರು ತಮ್ಮ ಎತ್ತುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ವರ್ಷ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳು ಬಹಳ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಮಿಸಿವೆ. ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡುವ ರೈತರ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿದರೆ ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇವು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ ಎಂದು ರೈತರು ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ ಜಾನುವಾರು ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿರುವ ರೈತರು ಬೇಸರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಜಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋರಿ ಸಹಿತ ಉತ್ತಮ ಎತ್ತುಗಳಿವೆ. ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ದರವನ್ನು ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಖರೀದಿದಾರರ ಅಭಾವದಿಂದ ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ದರವನ್ನು ರೈತರು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಸಂಕಟದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬರದಿಂದ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು



ಯರಗಟ್ಟಿ ಜಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ಹೋರಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಂಗಳು ಬೆಳೆಸಿ, ಅದನ್ನು ಜಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ 1 ಲಕ್ಷ ರು. ದರ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರೈತರು ಕೇವಲ 40 ರಿಂದ 50 ಸಾವಿರ ರು.ಗೆ ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಂದುವರೆ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಿರುವ ಹೋರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಧ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಮನಸ್ಸು ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ದರವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ತಂದಿರುವ ಹೋರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಹ ಮರಳಿ ಊರಿಗೆ ಒಯ್ಯುತ್ತೇನೆ.

-ಕಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ ಕರಿಗಾರ, ನರಗುಂದ ರೈತ



ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಜೋಡಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ರು. ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕೊಳ್ಳುವವರು ಮಾತ್ರ 1 ಲಕ್ಷ ರು.ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆಗೆ ಜೋಡಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ? ವರ್ಷದ

ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ಬೋಪಾನ

ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮಳೆಯ ಅಭಾವದಿಂದ ಸಾಲ ಸೋಲಾ ಮಾಡಿ ನಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಬೀಜಗಳು ಕಮರಿ ಹೋದವು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಮೇವನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಆರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವು. ಸದ್ಯ ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ಕೃಷಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಇಂತಹ ಬಿರು ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಎತ್ತುಗಳ ಜೋಪಾನ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ ಎಂದು ಅರಿತು ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಜಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇವು. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬೇರೆ ಇದೆ. ಮಾರು ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ದರಕ್ಕೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾನುವಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೆ ಸಾಲ ಸೋಲಾ ಮಾಡಿ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಜೋಪಾನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆ ನಮ್ಮದು ಎಂದು ಜಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ರೈತರು ಪತ್ತಿಕೆ ಎದುರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅಳಲನ್ನು ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡರು.

ಹಿಂದೆ 2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರು.ಗೆ ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುವ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಬರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಂದರೆ ಈ ದರ ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೊಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಎಂದನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ರೈತ ಭೀಮಪ್ಪ ಬಿರಾದಾರ ಪಾಟೀಲ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.08, Feb.28, 2024

A riverside harvest

Anandateertha Pyati describes how farmers continue to cultivate in the lands they once owned in the Tungabhadra backwaters, decades after the area got submerged

The backwaters of the Tungabhadra have receded three months early this year, says Yankanna, a boatman who helps transport people, as well as bikes, scooters and bicycles daily in his small ferry. "This made big changes in farming in the area as farmers started cultivating early," he adds.

Usually, the areas submerged under the Tungabhadra backwaters start to appear in January and for farmers, this would be the suitable time for sowing. This season, they have sown Bengal gram, groundnut, sorghum and cowpea in October itself. These crops will be harvested soon. An interesting aspect of the cultivation process here is that it does not involve much human intervention.

Rangappa Chigari, a farmer from Bannigol village in Vijayanagara district, holds sorghum earheads with great happiness. "Last year, there was no rain. So, we completed sowing a bit early as compared to previous seasons. Now we are confident of getting a good yield before summer starts," he says. Beside his field, the Bengal gram crop is in good condition.

Rehabilitation

When the construction of the Tungabhadra reservoir was planned eight decades ago, the government acquired farmland on both riverbanks. Several villages were relocated and people were provided with basic amenities. During the acquisition process, the government also provided compensation to farmers.

During the monsoon, due to the increased inflow of water, the level of the river rises significantly. Water is released from the reservoir around January for irrigation, and the level of the river starts to recede. Farmers whose ancestors gave up their lands to the government, start sowing in the same fields, once the water recedes.

"After one or two decades, farmers started cultivation in the same lands and the government departments and officials neglected this issue then. Somehow the farming practice became popular because it requires no inputs, other than seeds. Now, hardly a few officials



A farmer in a jowar field; (Top) Jowar fields by the river.



A ferry transports people to areas where crops are grown, after water levels of the Tungabhadra recede.



Groundnut crop grown by the river. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

or department representatives try to stop the cultivation. Of course, it is all about the question of survival for farmers," says an officer from the Agricultural Department who did not wish to be named.

"Our fathers and grandfathers received only a few rupees as compensation for this fertile land. Though we are not the owners anymore, we have been cultivating the fields regularly for more than five decades," says Sunkappa of Budihal village.

Nutrient-rich soil

The process of cultivation happens along both shores of the Tungabhadra. As the receding of the water starts in January, fields become visible and farmers mark their boundaries by putting up a small bund around their fields.

Once the seeds are sown, neither chemical fertilisers nor organic compost is used for cultivation. "Every year, during the rainy season, the river brings the most fertile soil with it and dumps it on both banks. This is more than enough to grow plants," points out organic farmer Shankar Raddy of Katralli village in Koppal district.

Since the plants get rich nutrients from the soil, they are strong enough to withstand various types of pests and diseases, say farmers in the region. The crops do not need growth promoters or additional nutrients to give good yield.

Every year, around 1.5 lakh hectares of land come under this type of cultivation. Until five

years ago, farmers here only grew cowpea, but now, they are sowing Bengal gram, sorghum and groundnut. "To harvest cowpea pods, we need many labourers. But for Bengal gram, different types of harvesters are available easily. So, we turned towards this crop along with jowar, which is our staple food," says Sharanabasappa, an elderly farmer who has been cultivating crops in the area for more than four decades. He adds that because of the excellent quality of soil here, the yield is higher than in other places.

When the harvesting process starts, traders from nearby markets come to the villages for procurement. This 'farm gate' system of purchase has helped the farmers to a great extent. "But they buy at a minimum price and sell it with a huge profit. For us, the direct market is not easy to access, so we sell it locally to buyers and local farm produce agents," says Rangappa. He earned Rs 2 lakh last year selling Bengal gram grown in three acres. This year, he has taken eight acres of land on lease for cultivation.

Concerns

Environmentalists object to this form of cultivation and express their concern over silt accumulation in the Tungabhadra reservoir. The erosion of the topsoil presents a major risk. "The top layer of soil is eroded in this method. Strong bunds must be constructed so that fertile soil can be held in place," says soil expert P Vasu.

"If hazardous pesticides are sprayed on the crops, the residues directly mix with the water and get collected in the dam. Usually, reservoir water is used for drinking purposes and supplied to thousands of villages as well as towns throughout the year. As of now, in the Tungabhadra backwaters, the cultivation of crops does not include many chemicals. But, during the whole process, tonnes of topsoil gets loosened due to cultivation and flows towards the dam, thus decreasing the capacity of water storage," says Badari Prasad P R, a professor at Gangavati Agricultural College, Koppal district.

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Source: Deccan Herald, p.14, Feb, 29, 2024

ರಾಜ್ಯದ 7412 ಗ್ರಾಮ ಹಾಗೂ 1115 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 1602 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ 7108 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗುರುತು

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಭೀಕರ ಬರದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 7,412 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ 1,115 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಗಂಭೀರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದು, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂಜಾಗತಾ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ 7,108 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಭೈರೇಗೌಡ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆದು ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇವಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಿತು.

ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ 15 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಲ್ಲು ಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಫೆ.28ರ ಅದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 117 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 181 ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ 354 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ 419 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆದು ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 9 ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ 57 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ 17 ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ 29 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ 17 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ತುರ್ತು ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ



ಮೇವು ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ

ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿರುವ ಗೋಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇವು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಮೇವು ಖರೀದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇವಿನ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ದರವನ್ನು ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಣಗಿದ ಜೋಳದ ದಂಟು ಪ್ರತಿ ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 6000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 7000 ರೂ., ಒಣಗಿದ ಮುಸುಕಿನ ಜೋಳದ ದಂಟು ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 6000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 7000 ರೂ., ಬಾಡಿದ ಕಬ್ಬು ಸೋಗೆ ಸಹಿತ 2000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 3000 ರೂ.ಭತ್ತದ ಹುಲ್ಲು ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 6000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 7000 ರೂ., ರಾಗಿ ಒಣ ಹುಲ್ಲು ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 6000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 7000 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ದರವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಮೇವು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿಮೀಗೆ 1.50 ರೂ.ಗಳಿಂದ 1.75 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬರ ಪೀಡಿತ ತಾಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮೇವು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕು. 300 ಕಿಮೀ ತನಕ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗೆ ದರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಂತಹವನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಭೆಯ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದರು. ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ: ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ 930.14 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರ ಪೈಕಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ

ಪಾಲು 697.60 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪಾಲು 232.54 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಅನುದಾನದ ಜತೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅನುದಾನ 885.67 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1810.81 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಹಮತ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೆ 1602.45 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 725.92 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಾಗೂ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 135.40 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 861.32 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನವು ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ.

ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಭೆಗಳು: ಬರ ಘೋಷಿತ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ಮೇವು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಶಾಸಕರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 15 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೆ ತಾಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ 566 ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಭೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಭೆಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಬರ ಘೋಷಿತ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು 15 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಈವರೆಗೆ 262 ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಚಲುವರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಶ್ರೀಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ, ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಅಂಶಗಳು

■ ಭೂಮಿ ಡಾಟಾ, ಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಸರ್ವೇ ಡಾಟಾ ಮತ್ತು ಫ್ಲೋಟ್ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ 33.25 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ 631.12 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ

■ ಅಂತರರಾಜ್ಯ ಮೇವು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸಿ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 22 ರಂದು ಅದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

■ ಮೇವಿನ ಕಿಟ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಆರ್ ಎಫ್ ಆಡಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನಾಪತ್ರ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ 20 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 7.62 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಿನಿ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಿಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು 4.19 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

■ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 144 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಮೇವು ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು ಮುಂದಿನ 27 ವಾರಗಳ ಬಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.09, Mar.01, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Decentralisation

Fifth SFC recommends hiking funds for local bodies

Asks state govt to hold elections to ZP/TPs, ULBs soon

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 5th State Finance Commission, in its report tabled in the Assembly on Friday, recommended that the state government should increase devolution to local bodies, Panchayat Raj institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies (ULBs), including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

It has also asked the state government and state election commission to take immediate steps to hold elections to taluk and zilla panchayats and the BBMP. The delay in holding elections to these bodies has forced the Central Finance Commission (CFC) to put on hold Rs 2,100 crore grants.

In its recommendations, the Commission took a dim view about the state govern-

ment not holding elections to local bodies. "It is relevant to mention that neither the Constitution nor the provisions of Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act provides any scope to extend the term of any Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) or ULBs by appointing administrators after the expiry of five-year term.

Although a provision exists to appoint administrators when PRIs are dissolved prior to completion of their five-year term but with the condition of constituting this body within 6 months. But, there are several zilla and taluk panchayats and BBMP which have not been duly constituted. If elections are not held within CFC's award

period, then the state will not be able to secure Rs 2,100 crore grants from the commission," the report underscored.

The Commission said that though Non-loan net own revenue receipts (NLNORR) and devolution of funds between 2018-22 increased for PRIs but in respect to ULBs it has come down to 10.4% from 12% recommended by 4th SFC, which is much below the accepted devolution. "It appears that by depriving the ULBs of funds, the government has curtailed the funds for basic municipal services which is reflected in the demands and concerns of ULBs," the report slammed.

Going by this, the 5th SFC has recommended a

fund-sharing formula of 51:49 against the existing 52:48. Out of 49% for all Local Bodies, 35% is for PRIs and 13% to all ULBs but BBMP will get an additional 1% extra (14%). "With rapidly changing urban landscape owing to migration and other factors, the demand for basic municipal services such as water supply, sanitary, streetlight and infrastructure has necessitated higher allocation for ULBs including BBMP," the report explained.

According to the report, the BBMP did not receive any additional amount of 1% of NLNORR under the 4th SFC. Even the full share of devolution to ULBs was not released by the government.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Feb, 24, 2024

All electrical installations of GPs should be metered, recommends 5th State Finance Commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 5th State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended to the State government that all electrical installations of gram panchayats (GPs) should be metered and the present arrears of power consumption charges be settled with electricity supply companies (ESCOs) through the intervention of the government.

The 5th SFC headed by former MP C. Narayanaswamy prepared its report for the year 2024-25 and submitted it to Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and it said that “unreasonable” power consumption billing by ESCOs for street lighting, drinking water supply systems, and panchayat buildings in the absence of metered units, by levying flat rates for defunct borewells and unmetered streetlights, had resulted in huge arrears of ₹8,323.25 crore as on December 2023.

“This is happening despite payment through Escrow accounts out of SFC grants of the GPs,” it said. During 2015, the arrears of GPs of ₹2,960.23 crore as principal and ₹806.59 crore as penalty/

interest, totalling ₹3,766.82 crore, were settled through securitisation by the government.

Through the intervention of the government, the SFC report said the huge amount of interest/penalty could be avoided and the same could be used for development works. “Whatever there are conflicting claims between the ESCOs and the GPs, the GPs could be advised to avoid such mounting bills by reconciliation through joint verification of bills by EO of TP, AEE of ESCO, and president and PDO of GP periodically,” the report suggested.

The report, which was tabled in the Assembly on Friday, recommended sharing of resources at the ratio of 51:49 between State and local bodies for the year 2024-25.

The own source revenue of GPs from 2016-17 to 2022-23 has increased from ₹306 crore to ₹771 crore and the collection was 90%. However, the outstanding dues was ₹1696 crore in 2022-23. The collection of arrears was poor, it said, and recommended that GP should maintain the same tempo in the collection of arrears too.

Source: The Hindu, p. 8, Feb. 24, 2024

Fifth SFC recommends equal distribution of funds in all BBMP wards, city corporations

The commission suggests BBMP should adopt latest guidance value-based assessment of property tax at the earliest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 5th State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended to the State government on equal distribution of funds ward-wise in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and city corporations for equal development of all wards.

The 5th SFC headed by former MP C. Narayanaswamy, who prepared the report for 2024-25 and submitted it to Governor Tawarchand Gehlot, said that "Many of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not allocate funds equitably among their municipal wards, which results in uneven development across ULBs."

The report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, suggest-



The 5th State Finance Commission report noted that the own source revenue of the BBMP in respect of property tax has increased marginally in the last six years. FILE PHOTO

ed that devolution of funds to bigger ULBs such as BBMP and city municipal corporations should be "ward-wise" to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

It said that BBMP (Fiscal

Responsibility and Budget Management Rules, 2021) came into effect on March 10, 2022.

The rules provide for preparation of the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan along with the annual budget.

The commission recommended that BBMP should prepare MTFP every year along with the budget.

The 5th SFC report noted that the own source revenue of BBMP in respect of property tax has increased marginally in the last six years.

The property tax in the BBMP area was yet to be assessed based on the latest guidance value principle which might fetch a substantial increase in the property tax revenue. It is reported that the process of survey of properties is underway which is expected to give a tax jump of about 30%.

Non-tax revenues

The non-tax revenue of the BBMP has declined from ₹1306 crore in 2016-17 to ₹1161 crore in 2021-22 reflecting inadequate efforts by the BBMP authorities.

The commission suggested that the BBMP should adopt latest guidance value-based assessment of property tax at the earliest and enhance efforts of the agencies for collection of intended non-tax revenue and in cases, it needed updating of existing laws, necessary action should be taken by the government.

'Improve revenue'

It suggested that all the ULBs should levy, revise and collect the property tax based on the guidance value revised periodically, to improve own source of revenue.

The SFC's role is to examine the financial situation of the PRIs and framing a formula for division of tax revenues such as taxes, duties, fines and toll fees between a state and its PRIs and ULBs.

Source: The Hindu, p. 7, Feb. 24, 2024

ZONES OUT, TAX LINKED TO GUIDANCE VALUE

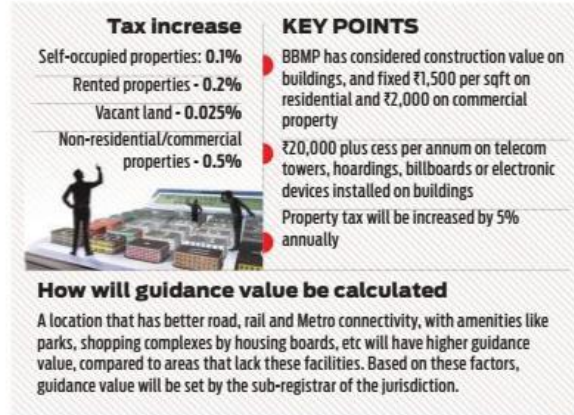
Location, amenities, infra will be key; govt claims new regime must for finance panel funds

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will do away with the current practice of determining tax based on 'zonal classification' (A-E) under its limits, and will levy property tax based on the new 'Guidance Value-based' tax system, from April 1, 2024. Under the new system, property tax will be calculated based on the property location, type of usage, amenities and infrastructure development.

This move is expected to drastically increase annual property tax paid by property owners. However, BBMP is arguing that it will not get any funds under the 15th Finance Commission until property tax is linked to guidance value. State municipalities, other than BBMP, are already collecting property tax based on guidance value.

According to officials, the existing tax system is not rational. Citing an example, the official



cial said, "In one zone (one of five classifications from A to E), a property owner pays more tax on his house built on the same area, compared to an owner in a different zone. Hence the new system is proposed to bring uniformity in property taxation."

BBMP revenue officials also

said that under the proposed system, more revenue will be generated as there will be no scope for undervaluation of properties. He also recalled that the Palike was losing out on a huge chunk of revenue due to undervaluation of properties by land mafia, while purchasing them.

Talking about the proposed tax system, Srikanth Narasimhan, president, Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP), said that under the old system, he was paying Rs 3,864 for his 1,660 sqft built-up area under 'E' zone, and under the new guidance value system, he will have to pay Rs 5,171. "The actual picture will emerge only after BBMP publishes the final notification after settlement of claims and objections on March 6," said Narasimhan.

BBMP also fixed Rs 20,000 plus cess per annum on telecommunication towers, hoardings, billboards or electronic devices installed on buildings. Under the new system, tax will be increased at 5 per cent annually, from the next financial year. The new directive will rake in revenue, which can be used for development projects.

For more details or to send in objections, visit the BBMP revenue office or reach out to the BBMP revenue commissioner at spcomm.rev@bbmp.gov.in.

Source: The New Indian Express, p. 4, Feb. 28, 2024

BBMP Budget focuses on shoring up revenue base, infrastructure development

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Budget (2024-25) proposes several policy shifts with the aim of shoring up the civic body's revenue base, besides promising allocation for programmes tagged under the ambitious Brand Bengaluru campaign.

The Budget was presented by Special Commissioner (Finance) Shivananda H. Kalakeri on February 29. This is the fourth consecutive Budget presented by officials in the absence of an elected council since September 2020.

Mr. Kalakeri presented a ₹2.7 crore revenue surplus Budget with an outlay of ₹12,371.63 crore and an estimated expenditure of ₹12,369.46 crore. The key highlight in the outlay is

Budget at a glance

Total expenditure ₹12,369.46 crore	Total receipts ₹12,371.63 crore	Revenue surplus ₹2.17 crore
BBMP's own revenue ₹8,294.04 crore	Central and State government grants ₹4,077.59 crore	

the proposed capital expenditure of ₹6,661 crore, which amounts to 54% of the total Budget.

As acute water shortage has gripped the city, the civic body proposes to drill 1,000 new borewells but, apart from that, does precious little about water conservation.

Brand Bengaluru

The theme is 'Brand Bengaluru', and ₹1,580 crore has been allocated for initiatives with a promise to maintain these funds in an escrow account.

While ₹200 crore was allocated as seed money for

building two tunnel roads on a pilot basis, ₹50 crore will go towards building a sky deck – two pet projects of Deputy CM and Bengaluru Development Minister D. K. Shivakumar. Other initiatives championed by him, including 'Hasiru Mitra', 'Hasiru Rakshaka' and 'Udayana Mitra', have found pride of place in the Budget.

The Budget makes significant allocations for roads, including widening roads, developing new roads as proposed in the Revised Master Plan 2015, and two new alternative roads to Kempegowda In-

ternational Airport. BBMP has allocated ₹300 crore to the ongoing white-topping of roads.

It has opted for Public Private Partnership mode to build optic fibre cable ducts along arterial roads. The civic body is looking to raise ₹2,000 crore through a loan from the World Bank to construct concrete retention walls for storm-water drains.

However, earlier PPP initiatives to build 100 SHE toilets has failed to take off, the budget indicates.

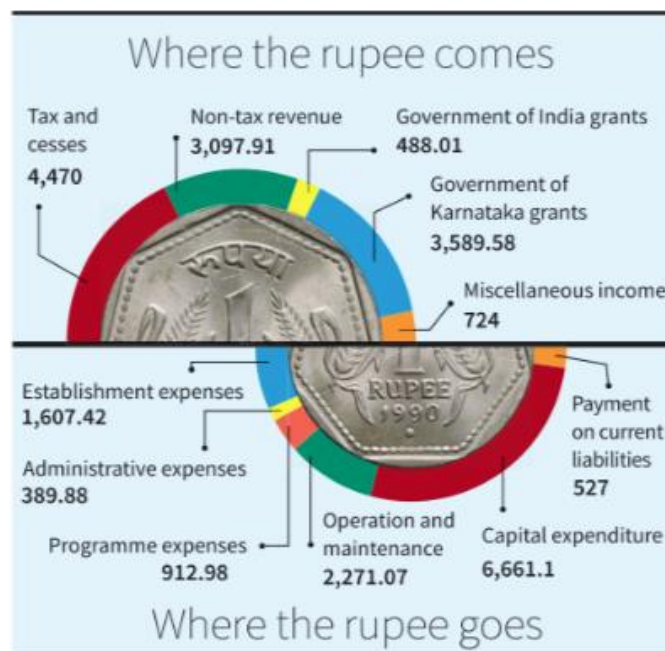
The BBMP will provide ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Company. It proposes allocating ₹100 crore to purchase four land parcels on the outskirts of Bengaluru to set up integrated waste processing centres.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 15

The Budget has proposed to set up 50 new Indira Canteens, including mobile canteens, for which ₹70 crore has been allocated. venues. ₹100 crore has been allocated to invigorate health services.

There is a proposal to introduce a pension scheme for pourakarmikas (civic workers) from the next fiscal, and ₹137.50 crore has been allocated for the same. BBMP proposes to set up night shelters for the protection of transgenders.

Apart from setting a higher target for property tax, the Budget proposes to introduce a new advertisement policy, which is expected to generate ₹500 crore. The civic body hopes to generate another ₹1,000 crore by selling Premium FAR across Bengaluru.



Source: The Hindu, p. 1 &15, March. 1, 2024

Beauty and business in Brand Bengaluru push

Small pie for big projects, heavy spending on maintenance

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BBMP on Thursday presented its annual budget for 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs 12,369 crore. Anticipating an increase in revenue from internal sources, the civic body has earmarked funds for many big-ticket projects such as white-topping of roads, sky tower, ornamental lighting, alternate roads to the airport etc. Generally, such works—requiring a huge capital outlay—are funded by the government.

In the absence of an elected body, BBMP's special commissioner (finance) Shivanand H Kalakeri, delivered the budget speech in the presence of senior officers of the civic body here in the Town Hall.

A significant portion of the budget — amounting to Rs 6,661 crore — has been ear-

marked for public works, mostly for maintenance of existing infrastructure and little for big-ticket projects. About 21% of the total budget (that is Rs 2,596 crore) has been set aside for employee salary, administrative expenses and holding property tax, followed by new advertisement licenses, premium floor area ratio (approval for high-rise buildings) etc.

As per the budget, the BBMP hopes to earn a total revenue of Rs 12,371 crore largely from property tax, followed by new advertisement licenses, premium floor area ratio (approval for high-rise buildings) etc. Besides employing more people to plug leakages in property tax, the BBMP plans to upgrade its IT infrastructure to improve its services, particularly relating to property transactions.

Tall projects
The civic body, which antici-



Shivanand H Kalakeri, special commissioner (finance) of BBMP; Rakesh Singh, Administrator, BBMP; and Tushar Girinath, Chief Commissioner of BBMP, at the 2024-2025 budget presentation in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

pates the revenue collection to nearly double, has decided to create a separate account for funding large infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,580 cr, packaged as 'Brand Bengaluru' (refer table). As the government provided capital outlay for new projects, the BBMP has earmarked grants for building the tallest tower in Baiyappanahalli, seed funds for tunnel roads, a circular skywalk at Banashankari etc.

A sum of Rs 100 cr has been provided for widening the stretch between Kanakapura main road and Bannerghatta main road as well as Hennur and Bagalur Road, which connects Kempegowda Interna-

tional Airport. The civic body also announced an alternate road to the airport from Bal-lari Road (Sadahalli gate) via Begur but no funds have been allocated.

Other than big projects, the BBMP has earmarked Rs 2 crore to each of the 225 wards for undertaking works such as desilting drains, filling potholes, maintenance of footpaths and establishing a monsoon control room.

BBMP's Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath later told reporters that the civic body had achieved close to 81% of the progress in implementing the budget of 2023-24, which had an outlay of Rs 11,880 crore.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

Opening balance:	Rs 2.13 cr	
Receipts:	Rs 12,369.5 cr	
Total receipts:	Rs 12,371.63 cr	
Payments:	Rs 12,369.46 cr	
Income		
Tax and cess:	Rs 4,470 cr	36%
Non-tax income:	Rs 3,097.91 cr	25%
Central government grants:	Rs 488.01 cr	4%
State government grants:	Rs 3,589.58 cr	29%
Extraordinary income:	Rs 724 cr	6%
Expenditure		
Establishment expenses:	Rs 1,607.42 cr	13%
Administrative expenses:	Rs 389.88 cr	3%
Programme expenses:	Rs 912.98 cr	7%
Operations and maintenance:	Rs 2,271.07 cr	18%
Capital expenditure:	Rs 6661.03 cr	54%
Current liabilities:	Rs 527 cr	4%



ALLOCATION

PROJECT	FUNDS
Solid waste management	Rs 1,000 cr
White topping of roads	Rs 300 cr
Widening of CDP roads	Rs 100 cr
Tunnel roads	Rs 200 cr
Skywalk at Banashankari	Rs 50 cr
Ornamental lighting	Rs 100 cr
Skydeck (tower)	Rs 50 cr
Acquisition of land	Rs 50 cr
Tech upgradation	Rs 50 cr
Rajakaluve improvement	Rs 100 cr

Focus on welfare programmes

- Rs 5 crore to implement the e-Sarathi scheme for the welfare of women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward minorities, and the transgender community by providing financial assistance for the purchase of approximately 250 electric autos or goods e-autos.
- Rs 12 crore for the free distribution of electric

- two-wheelers to working women and pourakarmikas.
- Rs 10 crore for the economic development of the transgender community and other economically backward classes. The BBMP will provide 50% of the project cost or a maximum of Rs 1.5 lakh as a helping hand to establish small enterprises.
- Rs 5 lakh subsidy under

- the Individual Housing Scheme for the construction of houses for homeless poor people belonging to SC/ST, OBC specially-abled, and EWS categories in the city.
- Rs 4 crore to establish 8 old-age homes.
- Rs 4 crore to establish 8 'Savitri Vasathi' hostels for working women.

Health sector

- 27 new physiotherapy centres to be opened.
- 100 laboratories at Namma Clinics to be upgraded to conduct 20 additional investigations.
- 14 advanced ALS ambulances are to be procured.
- Rs 1 crore allocated to set up a daycare centre for specially-abled children.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- For the first time, BBMP has proposed filling vacant posts through direct recruitment instead of going through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).
- Underground parking areas to be developed under BBMP playgrounds in a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.
- Rs 70 crore allocated to set up 50 new Indira Canteens, including mobile canteens.
- Rs 130 crore for the widening of three road stretches: Kanakapura Main Road to Bannerghatta Main Road, Hennur to Bagalur, and an important stretch in Pa-

- darayanapura.
- Rs 2 crore allocated for setting up OFC (Optical Fibre Cable) ducts under a PPP model.
- Rs 100 crore allocated for an Integrated Metro and Road Flyover (Double Decker Road).
- 160 public toilets to be upgraded.
- 204 new public toilets to be constructed.
- A comprehensive solid waste management system to be implemented at Ramashree Layout in Begur for a period of one year as a pilot project. 250 households will be selected to convert raw waste into compost at



- their own houses and convert dry waste through recycling.
- Rs 100 crore allocated to enhance Bengaluru's attractiveness with coloured electric lights on flyovers, underbridges, road junctions, and parks.
- 'Techthon' event to invite startups and innovators to present climate sustainability solutions.

Policies in the pipeline

- Park Conservation Policy
- Community involvement for Lake Conservation Policy
- BBMP Advertisement Policy through BBMP Advertisement Rules, 2024
- BBMP Estates or commercial property lease policy
- Transparent Transfer policy

Every ward gets Rs 2 cr

- Rs 30 lakh for desilting and maintenance of drains
- Rs 15 lakhs for pothole filling
- Rs 25 lakh for footpath maintenance
- Rs 5 lakh for maintenance of Monsoon Control Room.
- Rs 1.25 Crore grant to undertake developmental works.



Source: Deccan Herald, p.II, March, 1, 2024

Infrastructure gets lion's share in outlay

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP Budget has proposed to spend a large portion of capital expenditure on infrastructure development, including road infrastructure in an aim to ease traffic congestion in the city.

For the ambitious tunnel road project, the Budget has allocated ₹200 crore and a pilot tunnel will be built in two high-traffic density areas. However, places have not been identified yet.

The BBMP has proposed to widen the connecting road from Kanakapura Main Road to Bannerghatta Main Road and the road from Hennur to Bagalur connecting Kempegowda International Airport. Besides,



For the ambitious tunnel road project, the Budget has allocated ₹200 crore. K. MURALI KUMAR

the BBMP is also developing Padarayanapura road in Chamarajpet. For the same, ₹130 crore is set aside in the Budget. The Budget has also allocated ₹50 crore towards the sky-deck project.

The Budget has also proposed to acquire and develop lands on TDR basis to build alternate routes to

Kempegowda International Airport from Ballari Road (Sadahalli Gate) via Begur and another road from Sathanur Meesagahalli. Also, to build a railway overbridge in collaboration with the Railway Department to connect the Kengeri Suburb with Mysuru Road, a DPR will be prepared, it said.

Under the Sancharayukta roads project, the buffer area of rajakaluves on the outskirts of the city have been acquired on TDR basis and it is now proposed to construct road lanes for light vehicular traffic and cycle lanes on both the sides. A total distance of 300 km of roads will be undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹600 crore over a period of three years.

Under the Sugama Sanchara scheme, it is proposed to undertake white-topping of 145 km of roads over a period of two years and ₹300 crore has been set aside for this.

Under the Clean Air Scheme, ₹135 crore has been allocated to build long pedestrian friendly walkways of 45 km.

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

Elections needed to strengthen Brand Bengaluru

GUEST COLUMN

Srinivas Alavilli

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is a major contributor to Karnataka and India and yet, it is short-changed when it comes to funds. Unless a State Finance Commission works out a revenue sharing formula, all cities and villages in Karnataka will be at the mercy of the State government for grants instead of a fair share of tax revenues.

That's not an excuse for the BBMP to not strengthen its own finances, and this Budget clearly shows that BBMP is going all out to make the most of the limited opportunities it has - premium FAR, advertising policy, rationalising property tax are all efforts to bring in more revenue.

It is a pleasant surprise to see the intent to decentralise governance at zonal and ward level. It is impossible to govern a city of 1.4 crore population, larger than many countries in the world, in a centralised model. The continued allocation of ₹2 crore to each of the 225 wards, of which ₹25 lakh is earmarked for footpaths, ₹30 lakh for drains, ₹15 lakh for potholes is much appreciated. BBMP has been taking this progressive measure for the last three years to devolve funds at ward level so decisions can be made locally on projects that can be undertaken in the year.

However, as the ward committee meetings have now all but disappeared, it's not clear how citizens can participate. The Budget says Zonal Committees and Ward Committees will be empowered to take decisions but without BBMP elections, these are meaningless. It is imperative that the State government holds BBMP elections immediately, so that zonal

committees and ward committees can come to life, not to mention, the Council itself and 225 councillors who can be held accountable by the citizens.

Regardless, the outer wards of BBMP deserve a lot more than ₹2 crore as the infrastructure gaps relative to core city areas are huge and cannot be ignored.

The Budget gives a much needed boost for Indira Canteens which we need a lot more of.

Instead of decentralised processing of waste within the city limits, the approach seems to be about buying land around Bengaluru to set up four plants. The goal should have been to reduce the distance garbage needs to travel by localizing the processing having seen the horrors of Mandur and Mavallipura. Brand Bengaluru shines when everyone segregates waste at source and ward level composting and dry waste processing units get established. We need to rethink our approach in this regard.

The big news is Climate Action Cell to coordinate activities under Bengaluru Climate Action Plan with ₹10 crore funds and various actions have been listed. Though this is a small step it is significant as we now have a commitment to meet our goals.

Bengaluru City Comprehensive Mobility Plan seems to be yet another comprehensive mobility plan; we already have a Comprehensive Mobility Plan and it is unclear what this plan is expected to do without a Master Plan for the city. BBMP has a limited role in planning mobility of the city and the right organization for any mobility plan is Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority.

(The author is a civic activist)

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

₹100 crore set aside to buy land for waste processing units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget, with emphasis on Solid Waste Management, has set aside ₹100 crore to purchase four parcels of land measuring 50 to 100 acres to set up Integrated Waste Processing Centres (IWPC).

With setting up of IWPCs, the BBMP aims to process waste on the outskirts of Bengaluru to keep the foul smell away from the city.

The Budget said to make Bengaluru a clean city, Integrated Solid Waste Management Comprehensive Action Plan will focus on collection, transportation and processing to be handled by a single agency.

For BSWML

In the Budget, the BBMP has proposed to allocate ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) for collection, segregation of waste, development of landfilling sites and main-



The BBMP aims to process waste on the outskirts of Bengaluru to keep the foul smell away from the city. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

tenance of solid waste treatment.

The BBMP will select 250 households to convert raw waste into compost at their own houses. A comprehensive solid waste management system will be implemented at Ramanaashree Layout in Begur for a period of one year as a pilot project.

Filling up posts

Action will be taken to fill up 3,673 posts of poura-

karmikas through direct recruitment and 11,307 posts of supernumerary pourakarmikas.

The Budget has set aside ₹135 crore for the pension scheme under which retired civic workers under direct payment will receive pension from this year. The BBMP has also proposed to provide ₹5 lakh subsidy to the pourakarmikas under the housing scheme for construction of homes.

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

50 new Indira Canteens, old age homes, and night shelter for transgenders

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Indira Canteens that had lost its sheen over the last few years are all set to make a comeback. Shortly after the civic body called for tenders worth ₹150 crore to revamp Indira Canteens with a new menu, the Budget presented on Thursday announced that 50 new Indira Canteens will be built at a cost of ₹70 crore, including at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and BBMP head office.

The civic Budget proposes to build one 'Shravana Vasathi Old Age Home' and a 'Savitri Vasathi Hostel' named after Savitribai Phule for working women in every zone. Eight old age homes and eight working women hostels will come up. The Budget also proposes to build a night shelter dedicated to transgenders and revamp 48 existing night shelters in the city. The Budget also al-

locates ₹10 crore to fund 50% of the project cost or up to ₹1.5 lakh to transgenders and other economically backward classes to start small enterprises.

Last year, the civic body announced that they will build 100 SHE toilets in public private partnership. However, private players did not come forward over viability issues due to ban on hoardings over these toilets.

This has prompted the civic body to build 50 SHE toilets from its own resources this year.

The BBMP has also proposed to build "Pink Rooms" to make sanitary napkins and restrooms available for women during menstruation at bus stations, malls, and toilets.

For the first time, BBMP has launched a new welfare scheme to distribute e-scooters to working women and pourakarmikas and has earmarked ₹12 crore in the Budget for the purpose.

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

[Back to Contents](#)

ECONOMY

RAW DEAL? K'taka Received ₹25K Cr Less Under 15th Finance Commission: Report | L

State finance panel report affirms 'economic injustice' to Karnataka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In what appears to be an affirmation of the govt's stand on devolution of taxes by the Centre, the fifth State Finance Commission, in a report presented in the legislative assembly on Friday, said Karnataka received Rs 25,435 crore less than what was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

In its report for 2024-25, the commission said Karnataka suffered a significant reduction in its share of central taxes and duties, plummeting from 4.7% to 3.6% due to a decision of the 15th Finance Commission. It says Karnataka faces further dep-



ON THE STREETS: BJP workers, in Bengaluru on Friday, held a protest to condemn CM Siddaramaiah for his stand on devolution of taxes

rivation of approximately Rs 16,000 crore until the conclusion of 2025-26.

The commission emphasised the importance of equitable distribution of finances

to states in the spirit of cooperative federalism, stating that it should be "just, fair, and appropriate".

It criticised the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions

for basing devolution solely on population (90%) and geographical area (10%), while neglecting other crucial indicators considered by previous commissions.

It said this approach favoured states with larger populations and geographical areas, disadvantaging those who have managed population growth and achieved higher human development indices.

The panel, established in Nov 2023, also recommended the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) adopt updated guidelines for value-based assessment of property tax to bolster its revenue. This suggestion follows a marginal rise in BBMP's own source revenue and a notable decline in non-tax revenue over the past six

years, dropping to Rs 1,161 crore from Rs 1,307 crore.

The panel proposed the expansion of grama thana areas in villages and regularisation of house construction and other development activities within those areas to generate additional revenue for gram panchayats. It noted that residential areas in villages have expanded beyond the original grama thana boundaries established years ago, necessitating the provision of basic civic amenities by gram panchayats without corresponding revenue collection. This expansion, the report asserts, would address these challenges.

To address efficient governance, the report also recommended that the govt expedite filling all vacant posts in urban and rural local bodies.

Source: The Times of India, p.6, Feb. 24, 2024

After a 11-year gap, Centre discloses key consumption expenditure survey data

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

For the first time in about 11 years, the government on Saturday released the broad findings of the All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey carried out between August 2022 and July 2023.

The data will play a key role in reviewing critical economic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty levels, and the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years. However, findings of the last survey, conducted in 2017-18 soon after the de-

Food spending

Share of cereals and food in average monthly per capita consumption expenditure decreased in both rural and urban areas



Period	RURAL		URBAN	
	% share of cereals	% share of food	% share of cereals	% share of food
1999-00	22.23	59.4	12.39	48.06
2004-05	17.45	53.11	9.63	40.51
2009-10	13.77	56.98	8.16	44.39
2011-12	10.75	52.9	6.66	42.62
2022-23	4.91	46.38	3.64	39.17

monetisation of high-value currency notes and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), were never released after the government cited “data quality” issues.

As per the survey, the average monthly per capita consumption expendi-

ture (MPCE) in Indian households rose by 33.5% since 2011-12 in urban households to ₹3,510, with rural India’s MPCE seeing a 40.42% increase over the same period to hit ₹2,008.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Continued...

Centre discloses key consumption survey data

Importantly, the numbers show that the proportion of spending on food has dropped to 46.4% for rural households from 52.9% in 2011-12, while their urban peers spent just 39.2% of their overall monthly outgoes on food compared with 42.6% incurred 11 years earlier. This reduction could translate into a lower weightage for food prices in the country's retail inflation calculations.

The MPCE numbers do not take into account the imputed values of items received free of cost by individuals through various social welfare programmes such as the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) or State-run schemes, which were calculated separately, while including a few non-food items received through such schemes, including computers, mobile phones, bicycles, and clothes.

The average MPCE, at 2011-12 prices, was a tad higher when these items were included while excluding free education and healthcare sops – at ₹2,054 for rural households, and ₹3,544 for urban homes.

The Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry released a factsheet on the summary of the Survey findings and said a detailed report on the survey will be brought out subsequently. The estimates of the MPCE are based on data collected from 2,61,746 households, of which 1,55,014 were in rural areas, spread over all States and Union Territories, the Ministry said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1 & 8, Feb. 25, 2024

Poverty levels below 5%, claims NITI Aayog chief

CEO of Centre's think tank extrapolates Household Consumption Expenditure Survey findings to argue that growth is inclusive and broad-based, while urban-rural inequality in India is shrinking

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Less than 5% of Indians are now expected to be below the poverty line, and extreme destitution has almost gone away, a top government official asserted on Sunday, citing the findings of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23. Retail inflation has also likely been overstated in recent years, he added.

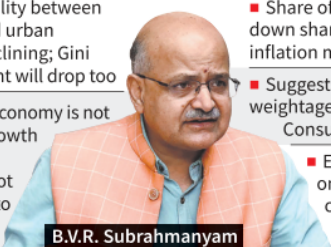
Dismissing the narrative that rural economy is weak and India's growth story is "restricted to a few people", B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, chief executive officer of the Centre's think tank NITI Aayog, averred that growth is "broad-based" with rural Indians' incomes and spends rising

Expert view

Niti Aayog CEO presents his take on consumption trends

- Inequality between rural and urban India declining; Gini coefficient will drop too

- Rural economy is not weak; growth is broad-based, not 'limited to a few'



B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

- Share of food spending down sharply; retail inflation may be overstated

- Suggests lower weightage for food in the Consumer Price Index

- Expects an impact on GDP growth calculations for the economy

faster than their urban peers.

The urban-rural consumption divide has narrowed to 71% in 2022-23 from a peak of 91% in 2004-05, so inequality is declining, the official said, even as rural households' spending on food has dropped below 50% of total expenditure for the first time.

Lower spends on pulses and cereals – which dropped below 5% of per capita consumer expenditure as per the latest survey – and higher expenditures on conveyances, consumer durables, and consumer services indicate that people are earning more and need to spend a lesser share of their income on food, Mr. Subrah-

manyam argued.

"It's not that consumption levels of food are going down in absolute terms, but the relative spending on food is declining, while consumption of products like TV sets, fridges, mobile phones, and cars have increased. This not only means there is a change in incomes for the better, but also a change in lifestyles," he said.

"Within food, we see the consumption of beverages, processed food, milk, and fruits is going up, an indication of more diverse and balanced food consumption," he added.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 12**
LEG-UP FOR GROWTH
» **PAGE 12**
SPENDING PATTERNS
» **DATA POINT**

Continued...

Poverty levels below 5%, claims NITI Aayog CEO

Mr. Subrahmanyam noted that this was the first official data since 2011-12 and was much-awaited as there were inconsistencies in the 2017-18 survey data, which was “just preceded by demonetisation”.

Citing the Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) averages across fractile classes in 2022-23, Mr. Subrahmanyam noted that ₹1,373 was the average consumption level for the bottom 5% of rural households, while it was ₹1,782 for the next 5% of households.

“Poverty lines and estimates are derived from this. We have had four, five different informal estimates for poverty in the absence of the 2017-18 survey findings. If we go by ₹32 a day, which was the last accepted poverty line as of 2011-12, and factor in inflation trends since then to double that level to about ₹60 a day, then you will see that poverty is less than 10%, as ₹1,782 is the average spending by those in the bottom 5% to 10% fractile class in rural India,” he said.

“I am convinced poverty in India is certainly in the low single digits, and below 5% is what this data shows, if you add the imputed value of food transfers and subsidies received by households under schemes like the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana or subsidised gas cylinders,” Mr. Subrahmanyam underlined.

Moreover, benefits like healthcare under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, and free education have not been factored into the consumption expenditure survey. “In a way, destitution and deprivation have almost gone,” he said. As per the NITI Aayog’s multi-dimensional poverty index, 11% of the population was below poverty line last year. “The big picture is, there is a sharp rise in urban and rural consumption by over 2.5 times from 2011-12 levels in current prices, and the big story is that India’s growth is not restricted to a few, but is very broad-based,” Mr. Subrahmanyam said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1 & 12, Feb. 26, 2024

Spending on processed food and commute to work surges

The share of monthly expenses on home-cooked food has come down, while spending on durables has risen

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese
& Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The household consumption expenditure survey 2022-23 has confirmed the various changes in food consumption patterns that India has been witnessing over the past two decades. Indians have been spending more on processed food (including cooked meals purchased outside), beverages, and refreshments by reducing money spent on home-cooked food, which is prepared using cereals, pulses, and vegetables. While there are subtle variations in rural and urban areas, the pattern in general is valid across both regions.

Table 1 shows the share of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in urban and rural areas across various periods. In urban areas, in 1999-2000, cereals formed over 12% of expenses, followed by vegetables (5%), and grams and pulses (3%). Only 6.4% was spent on processed food. As of 2022-23, cereals formed only 4.5% of expenses, followed by vegetables (3.8%), and grams and pulses (1.4%). In contrast, 10.5% was spent on processed food. The trend in rural areas was even sharper, with the share spent on cereals reducing sharply from more than 22% to 7% and the share of processed food more than doubling from 4.2% to 9.4%.

Interestingly, the amount spent on fruits has risen significantly. There has also been a considerable increase in spending on egg, fish, and meat. So, while Indians have diversified from cereals and pulses by spending more on nutritious options such as fruits and meat, that share pales in comparison to the amount spent on processed food. Notably, the share of milk, edible oil, and spices in total expenses has remained almost the same over the years. These trends are true for rural and urban areas.

These trends pertain only to the amount spent on food in total household expenses. It is important to note that the amount spent on food itself has been reducing over the years, which means that money is being spent on other purchases/activities. The 2022-23 data too confirm this trend. Both in rural and urban areas, the share of food in total expenses reduced and in non-food expenses increased in 2022-23 compared with 2011-12 (Chart 2).

The second part of Table 1 shows trends pertaining to the amount spent on items other than food as a share of the total expenses. The amount spent on conveyance, especially work-related, shot up in 2022-23 in rural and urban areas. This is due to the incessant increase in the price of petrol and diesel in recent years. It is important to note that the 'fuel and light' component of the expenses have decreased because they do not include petrol and diesel used for conveyance. This component is majorly a measure of electricity, LPG and kerosene charges.

The share spent on consumer services other than conveyance, such as househelps, tailors, laundry, telecom, and Internet have also gone up, whereas the share spent on clothing, bedding, and footwear have decreased. Notably, the share spent on durable goods such as televisions, handbags, utensils, washing machines, refrigerators, laptops, cars, scooters, and mobile phones, which had been gradually increasing, recorded sharp increases in 2022-23. The amount spent on sin goods have also increased, possibly due to higher taxes. These trends are true for rural and urban areas. However, while urban Indians continued to spend a significant amount on rent, rural Indians spent an insignificant share on that.

The MPCE of urban Indians continued to be much higher than their rural counterparts, but the difference reduced in 2022-23 compared to 2011-12 (Chart 3).

Spending patterns

Data for the charts are sourced from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23 and 2011-12



Table 1: Share of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) in urban and rural areas. Figures in %

Item	Urban areas					Rural areas				
	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12	2022-23	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12	2022-23
Cereal & substitutes	12.4	9.6	8.2	6.7	4.5	22.2	17.5	13.8	10.8	6.9
Grams, pulses & products	3.0	2.1	2.5	2.0	1.4	3.9	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.0
Sugar & salt	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.2	0.6	2.6	2.5	2.3	1.8	0.9
Milk & products	8.7	7.5	6.9	7.0	7.2	8.8	8.2	7.6	8.0	8.1
Vegetables	5.1	4.2	5.7	4.6	3.8	6.2	5.9	8.3	6.6	5.3
Fruits (fresh & dry)	2.4	2.1	3.2	3.4	3.8	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.6
Egg, fish & meat	3.1	2.6	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2	4.7	4.8	4.8
Edible oil & spices	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.5	6.5	6.7	7.1	7.2	6.4
Beverages, processed food	6.4	5.9	8.0	9.0	10.5	4.2	4.4	7.4	7.9	9.4
Pan, tobacco & intoxicants	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.4	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.7
Fuel and light	7.8	9.5	6.9	6.7	6.2	7.5	9.8	8.0	8.0	6.5
Toiletries & household items	5.5	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.0	4.0	5.0
Education	4.3	6.7	8.1	6.9	5.7	1.9	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.2
Medical (out/in patient)	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.3	5.4	6.7	7.0
Conveyance	5.5	6.2	5.6	6.5	8.5	2.9	3.6	3.5	4.2	7.4
Services excluding conveyance	4.7	6.7	6.3	5.6	5.9	3.0	3.7	4.2	4.0	5.0
Rent	4.5	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8
Entertainment	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1
Other taxes & cesses	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Clothing, bedding & footwear	7.2	6.6	5.8	6.4	5.4	8.0	7.8	6.2	7.0	6.0
Durable goods	3.6	4.5	4.3	5.6	7.1	2.6	4.0	3.7	4.9	6.8

Chart 2:

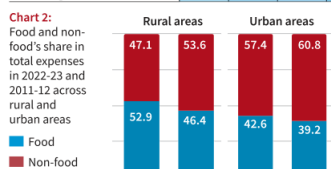
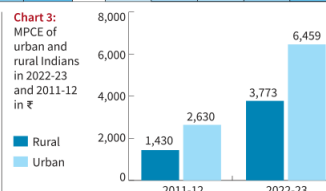


Chart 3:



Source: The Hindu, p. 11, Feb. 26, 2024

Once the leader, Karnataka slips in renewable energy production

Govt plans slew of projects on PPP model for the sector

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka, which in 2021, had the highest installed capacity for renewable energy production in the country, has fallen behind in the last two years.

Renewable energy-rich states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, in the last two years, have surpassed Karnataka by increasing their installed capacity by at least 9,000 MW, while Karnataka has been able to add up only 3,000 MW of capacity. Karnataka now stands in the fourth place with respect to installed capacity.

The new Renewable Energy (RE) projects taken up in the government sector have come down drastically over the last few years. According to data by the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limit-

ed (KREDL), the number of RE projects commissioned in the state has declined over the years.

Data showed that RE projects of capacity 1,317.36 MW were commissioned in 2019-20 and this dropped to 236.83 MW in 2020-21. Though there has been a nominal increase in the new projects commissioned after 2020-21, it has remained close to 500 MW.

The officials opined that this was because the state had already met the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO).

"We improved our capacity drastically in 2019-20 to meet the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO). As a result, we turned power surplus and later, the projects may have slowed down," said K P Rudrappaiah, Managing Director of KREDL.

Yet another official from the KREDL said that the projects need to be planned considering

Renewable energy in Karnataka

State	INSTALLED CAPACITY AS ON		
	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	Dec 2021
Rajasthan	25,711.05	23,113.43	16,485.90
Gujarat	25,107.01	19,339.48	16,219.36
Tamil Nadu	23,624.47	19,768.64	18,048.42
Maharashtra	17,710.73	15,009.86	13,898.03
Karnataka	22,766.28	19,969.69	19,418.80

FIGURES IN MW

RE projects commissioned by KREDL

Year	RE projects commissioned
2019-20	1,317.36
2020-21	236.83
2021-22	383.08
2022-23	584.62
2023-24 (upto Jan 31, 2024)	421.95

the demand.

"Once the RPO is reached, ESCOMs will not purchase more. We have to consider this as well," the official said. On the other hand, the private installations also seem to have remained low, compared to other states and this calls for a push, the industry experts said. "The consumers, espe-

cially industries, are ready to move towards open access solar projects and captive generation. However, the policies and the implementation should be supportive. Now, the open access consumers have to pay up additional cross subsidy charges, wheeling, and transmission charges which run high. Implementation is not

Dept chalks out plan for future

Following the increasing demand in the state, the department is chalking out a robust plan for improving RE production in the state. Though the recent state budget did not allocate much funds for RE projects, the state government has announced a number of projects on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, giving a big push for the sector.

"The demand has increased and the government has also acknowledged this. We are now chalking out a robust plan for the future," K P Rudrappaiah said.

holistic and the authorities have failed to see the bigger picture. This has created hurdles in the path of smooth transition to RE," said M G Prabhakar, Advisor for the Energy Committee, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Feb, 26, 2024

Karnataka's four RTCs shell out ₹20.55 crore monthly in toll payments

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said in the Legislative Assembly that the National Highways Authority of India declined a government request to grant concession on toll payments

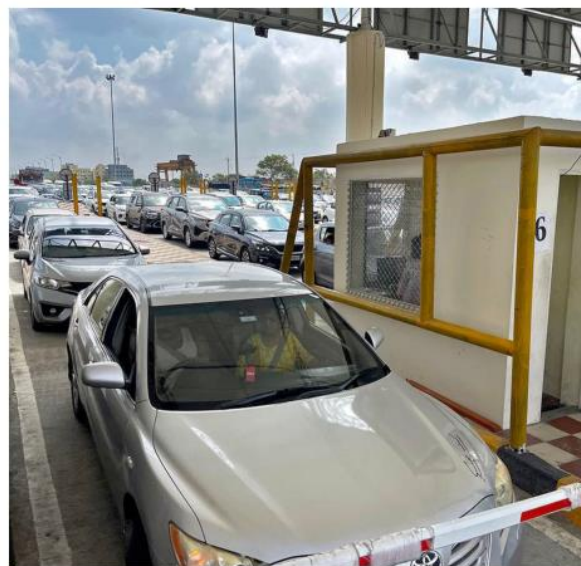
Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The four road transport corporations (RTCs) have made toll payments of ₹20.55 crore on an average every month, according to data from the Transport Department.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said in the Legislative Assembly recently that the government requested the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to grant a concession on the toll payments, but NHAI declined the request.

Mr. Reddy said: "Earlier, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) had requested the NHAI for toll concessions for corporation buses, given its status as a State-run public service company. However, the NHAI responded, stating that no such concession would be granted to KSRTC buses."

In addition to this, the corporations have submitted a proposal to the State Public Works Department requesting an exemption of toll charges for buses operated by the four corporations on State highways. The Minister mentioned



A file photo of vehicles at a toll booth.

Average monthly toll expenditure incurred by RTCs

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation: ₹10.13 crore	Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation: ₹1.3 crore	North West Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation: ₹4.54 crore	Total toll payment: ₹20.55 crore
	Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation: ₹4.58 crore		

Source: Transport Department

that as of now, they are yet to receive a response to the proposal.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) has separately urged the NHAI to grant

concessions for its buses. This request stems from the fact that a significant number of BMTTC buses utilise NHAI highways to travel from the city towards areas and villages

near the Mysuru and the Tumakuru highways, for instance, towards Bidadi and other nearby areas. Mr. Reddy said that the NHAI has not responded to this specific request so far.

Mr. Reddy stated that last November 22, the BMTTC submitted a request to Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd. (NICE) Road seeking toll charge concessions.

The BMTTC runs buses from Madavara near BIEC on Tumakuru Road to Electronics City via NICE Road. Approximately 40% of the ₹60 ticket price paid by passengers is allocated towards toll charges.

An official from the BMTTC said that in line with the current policy, the toll expenses are being directly passed on to the commuters.

Despite the travel cost being ₹35 for a 44-kilometre journey, the BMTTC is imposing an extra ₹25 to offset the toll charges.

According to data from the Transport Department, the KSRTC averages a monthly toll payment of ₹10.13 crore, the BMTTC ₹1.3 crore, the NWKRTC ₹4.54 crore, and the KKRTC's toll payment amounts to ₹4.58 crore.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Feb. 26, 2024

Self-sustained 300-kW capacity green hydrogen plant in the works

Project to be taken up on a pilot basis at a cost of ₹10 crore with funds from Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; State government is also drafting a dedicated green hydrogen policy

Jahnvi T.R.
BENGALURU

With growing interest among industries in green hydrogen as an energy source, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL) has decided to set up a 300-kW self-sustained green hydrogen plant in the State. The plant is expected to bring in more investments in the sector and was announced during this year's Budget.

The project will be taken up on a pilot basis at a cost of ₹10 crore using funds from the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

KREDL is looking at Pavagada and Kalaburagi as potential sites for the project, as along with water, a treatment plant for water, an electrolyser machine, and a tanker, the plant will also need a source of green energy, like solar or wind, a KREDL official said.

"Green hydrogen can avert carbon dioxide emissions and as a nodal agency for it, we have to showcase those benefits. Initially, we will tie up with customers who want to purchase green hydrogen like multinational companies based in Bengaluru," K.P. Rudrappaiah, Manag-



A file photo of the Pavagada solar park in Tumakuru. Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. is looking at Pavagada and Kalaburagi as potential sites for the project as the green hydrogen plant will also need a source of green energy, like solar or wind.

ing Director, KREDL, told *The Hindu*. The project is expected to be commissioned in six months as currently the process for preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) and acquiring board approval is in progress.

Demand

When asked about the demand for green hydrogen in Karnataka, Mr. Rudrappaiah said that the primary consumers are mostly industries as of now.

"For now, our primary consumers are petrochemical refineries, fertilizer manufacturers, steel manufacturers, and such industries. Then there are also segments like transportation which are

evolving for the usage of green hydrogen," he said.

However, affordability seems to be the concern when it comes to green hydrogen. "Companies which are trying to put up green hydrogen plants are more focussed on exporting energy especially to European countries owing to the affordability factor. Even here, the costs will eventually come down," Mr. Rudrappaiah said.

Green hydrogen policy

The Karnataka government is also drafting a dedicated green hydrogen policy, as announced by the Chief Minister in the Budget. Sources said that five companies have already signed Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) for the policy. Earlier in the month, Energy Minister K.J. George and M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, chaired a meeting to discuss the policy.

Facilitation of the development of green hydrogen capacity of at least 2.5 million tonnes per annum; attracting investments qualified under strategic interventions for green hydrogen transition; fostering demand for the energy resource and its derivatives through fiscal incentives, and generation of employment through skilling programmes and strategic tie-ups with stakeholders were discussed as the key objectives of the policy.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Feb. 26, 2024

Toward a new paradigm of fiscal federalism

Set 'floor' and 'ceiling' levels for devolution to 'rich' and 'poor' states, reform GST, and do away with the cess-surcharge route to revenues

GURUCHARAN GOLLERKERI

The resolution passed by the Karnataka Assembly on the unfair tax devolution treatment to the state by the Union government is not without significance. It echoes the sentiments of other similarly placed southern states. It draws attention to the asymmetry in tax devolution and the principles determining the states' share of taxes. The concerns of the South have been summarily dismissed by the Union government, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi alluding to attempts by some parties to divide the country. Such a response is naive at best and myopic at worst.

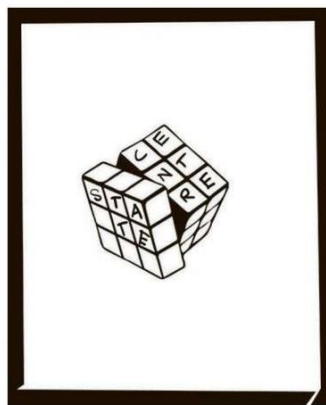
India is on a growth trajectory now, not unlike the miracle economies -- the 'Asian Tigers' -- in previous decades. This growth has been driven by science and technology, demographic transition, and the accumulation of human and physical capital built up over decades. But above all, we must credit our democracy, and within it federalism, for this remarkable progress. The states of India have contributed in substantial measure to the India development story, as much as the Union government has. Therefore, while acknowledging regional disparities in the country, in our quest to strengthen the weak states, we must not weaken the strong states. Simply put, don't kill the geese that lay golden eggs.

Fiscal federalism constitutes one of the most important bridges for the allocation of rights and duties related to taxation and expenditure and helps address vertical and horizontal imbalance. Vertical imbalance reflects the fiscal asymmetry in the powers of taxation vested with the Union and the states in relation to their expenditure responsibilities as mandated by the Constitution. The Union government has a far wider domain to raise taxes: income taxes -- personal and corporate, taxing consumption of goods and services (CGST), taxing foreign transactions (exports/imports), and capturing natural resources rents, such as on telecom spectrum auction. In contrast, post-GST, the state governments may only tax the consumption of goods and services (SGST).

Consequently, the Union government mobilises about 60% of the taxes

while its expenditure to discharge its constitutionally mandated responsibilities, such as defence, external affairs, etc., is estimated at about 40% of the total public expenditure.

The states in India are the theatres of development action, with responsibilities for agriculture, education, health, women and child development, rural development, and social protection and welfare. This casts considerable fiscal demands on the states. Horizontal imbalance arises because of the vast regional imbalances in terms of incomes, infrastructure, and social capital endowment. This is exacerbated by the differences in the levels of effective governance. Therefore, India's



fiscal transfer principles adopted by successive Finance Commissions -- giving priority to equity over efficiency is inarguably progressive; and by using population and income distance as the criteria, they advance the dictum 'from each according to its ability, to each according to its need'.

But within the broad equity principle, efficiency and performance parameters plummet so low in the devolution formula that two regressive facets emerge that should not be lost sight of:

First, when the equity principle is applied in the aggregate, it often misses ground truths that are iniquitous. But let me first get the untenable argument out of the way: The argument that Karnataka, for instance, gets back only 46 paise for every rupee it contributes while Uttar Pradesh gets Rs 1.79 against each rupee it contributes is specious simply because in per capita terms, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar get much less than Karnataka or Kerala. However, it is worth noting that there are regions within states such as Uttar Pradesh which are richer compared to some sub-regions in the South. Paschim Pradesh or even Awadh Pradesh, for instance, is richer in per capita consump-

tion terms (an indicator for income) than the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Second, as in the case of the Union, the states too have development expenditure responsibilities that require a certain minimum fiscal resource value regardless of the population, and that should not be predicated on per capita calculations. In addition to the demand for welfare spending, the fiscal needs of the southern states have been rising rapidly owing to the ageing population, considerable in-migration from the poorer states and regions of the country, and increasing pace of urbanisation. Just as the Union places a 40% pre-emptive weight to its commitments, it is time that floor-level devolution is defined for every so-called rich state also, guaranteeing a minimum share of, say, 40% against the contribution it makes. This can be the premium on efficiency. And per contra, a ceiling is defined for every so-called poor state of, say, 150% against the contribution it makes. This can serve the equity principle.

Third, the introduction of the GST was a 'grand bargain'. However, the current GST regime is a weak pillar of fiscal federalism and needs reform. The move from the principle of origin of goods and services to the principle of destination has reconfigured the balance of power amongst states. Yet, the federal fiscal transfer system continues to be designed for, and is based on, the principles of jurisdictional separation that is germane to the era of origin-based taxation.

This dichotomy between the operational tax regime and the principles of tax sharing is inimical to fiscal federalism. It is time to rethink the architecture and the operational principles of the GST. The GST must have comprehensive coverage, and one single rate for both goods and services. Adopting a single rate of, say, 12%, equally shared as CGST and SGST, will also be in line with best international practice. This will improve compliance, remove distortions, and promote growth.

Finally, there has been a 133% rise in collection of major cesses and surcharges levied by the Union government on various products during the five-year period between 2017-18 and 2022-23. Surcharge on taxes and duties and cesses account for about 25% of the total taxes but are excluded from being distributed to the states. This tendency to grow the cess-surcharge route runs counter to fiscal federalism.

There is much for the Union and the states to think about; perhaps a new paradigm for fiscal federalism in India.

(The writer is Director, School of Social Sciences, M S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, Feb, 28, 2024

Central govt committed to investing more in K'taka: FM

ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
BENGALURU, DHNS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Wednesday, said that Karnataka had exceeded its targets for the financial year in terms of direct tax collections, and added that the central government is committed to investing in the state.

“Money doesn’t just go away from Karnataka. It comes back as well. It comes back for roads, it comes back for connectivity, it comes back for metro, it comes back for rail, it comes back for the suburban railway system, It comes back for Mangaluru port, it comes back for the ‘Kalyana’ Karnataka (region) and so on,” Sitharaman said, emphasising on the investments made by the Centre. She was speaking at the foundation laying ceremony of a new apartment complex for tax department officials in the city.

Sitharaman’s comments come at a time of tussle be-



FM Nirmala Sitharaman at an event in Bengaluru, Wednesday. PHOTO: PTI

tween Karnataka and central government over devolution of funds. The Siddaramaiah government has alleged that Karnataka has lost Rs 1.87 lakh crore under the 15th Finance Commission due to the union government’s policies. The state government has claimed that it receives only Rs 12 for every Rs 100 that goes into the central tax kitty.

“I want to highlight the fact that Department of Revenue’s entire national faceless scheme

runs from Bengaluru and you can imagine therefore, the scale of investment which would have happened for that,” the finance minister, who is a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, said.

In an interview with *DH* earlier this month, Sitharaman had accused the state government of creating an environment of suspicion in people’s minds over the devolution issue.

“Are you serving your state or not with this petty politics? Such things will affect the image of Karnataka as a forward looking, very well-governed state. You want the state to be perceived as a forward looking or that which is only going to be bickering about things,” Sitharaman had said about the Siddaramaiah government.

She had also said that the Centre has the right to levy cesses and surcharges, the proceeds of which are being used in projects in all states, including Karnataka.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.13, Feb, 29, 2024

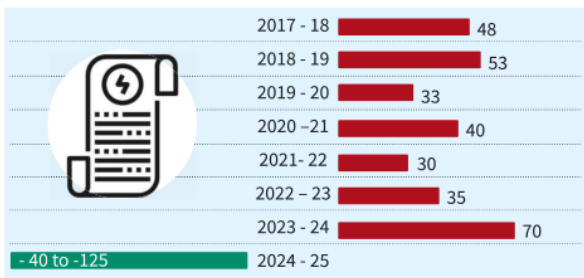
Power tariff down for first time in 15 years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) made an early tariff revision announcement for the financial year 2024-25 on Wednesday. For the first time in nearly 15 years, there is a significant reduction in energy charges of electricity tariff across different categories.

This comes after the KERC approved one of the steepest hikes in tariff, 70 paise a unit, in the previous year (FY 2023-24). The new tariff structure

Changes in power tariff (in paise)



will come into effect from April 1.

The commission has announced a reduction of 110 paise a unit (energy charges) for LT - 1 domestic lighting category consumers, who consume over 100 un-

its of electricity. However, for consumers of less than 100 units, who are essentially the beneficiaries of the Gruha Jyothi scheme, energy charges will go up by 115 paise a unit. The KERC has also merged LT -

1 Bhagya Jyothi/Kuteera Jyothi category and LT 2 (a) domestic category into LT - 1 domestic lighting category this time. This was based on the government's decision to merge the categories in the wake of the introduction of Gruha Jyothi. For HT commercial consumers, energy charges have been reduced by 125 paise a unit and for HT industrial, the charges have been reduced by 50 paise a unit. Demand charges have been reduced by ₹10 per KVA for both categories.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 6**

Power tariff down for first time in 15 years

“Marginal surplus found for the financial year 2024-25 has been utilised for readjustments of tariff across different tariff categories,” the tariff order said.

To bridge a revenue gap of ₹4,864.34 crore, the electricity supply companies (Escoms) had requested an average tariff hike of 66 paise for this year. Further, while Escoms had proposed ₹69,474.75 crore as the annual revenue requirement (ARR), after scrutiny of the applications, the commission approved an ARR of ₹64,944.54 crore.

Source: The Hindu, p. 1&6, Feb. 29, 2024

Consumer-friendly power tariff order has something for all

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission's decision to direct Escoms to set up the required systems to allow optional prepaid metering from June 1 has been lauded by consumers

Single slab for energy charges

Jahnvi T.R.
BENGALURU

After writing to the State government about reducing the burden of cross subsidy on Commercial and Industrial consumers, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) in the tariff order for Financial Year 2024-25 has reduced the extent of cross subsidy to these consumers by reducing energy charges.

The HT - 2 (a) industrial consumers were cross subsidising to the extent of 12.39% as per the previous year's tariff order, whereas HT - 2(b) commercial consumers were cross subsidising to the extent of 53.04%. The commission has now reduced it to 6.08% and 36.28% while also reducing the energy charges by 50 paise per unit and 125 paise per unit, respectively.

"It has been a fact that over the years the industrial and commercial consumers are bearing the burden of cross subsidies to meet the subsidised cost of power to irrigation pump sets in the State. This is essentially resulting in payment of cross subsidies to the government by these industrial and commercial consumers," the tariff order says.

The order also says, "It has been the commission's endeavour to progressively reduce cross



The last time a reduction in electricity tariff was approved by the KERC was in 2008. FILE PHOTO

Revised tariff structure (in paise)

Category	Existing tariff	Newly approved tariff
LT - 1 Domestic	475 (0-100 units), 700 (100 - all units)	590
HT - 2a Industrial	740	690
HT - 2b Commercial	925	800



subsidies in terms of the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the Tariff Policy of 2016, notified by the Government of India. In this order also the commission has attempted to reduce the cross subsidies payable by industrial and commercial consumers, to encourage industry and trade in the State."

The last time a reduction in electricity tariff was approved by the KERC

was in 2008. Back then, a 50 paise per unit reduction was announced. However, following protests by all the electricity supply companies (escom), the order had to be withdrawn.

Hence, this year's power tariff order, which has provided significant relief to consumers across categories, has been welcomed by all. "The tariff order issued by KERC

marks a significant milestone in fostering industrial growth and providing substantial relief to the distressed industry and trade sector in Karnataka who had already gone through various challenges due to local and global factors beyond their control," said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

"The reduction in energy charges, especially for industrial and commercial categories, is a welcome move. FKCCI regards this decision by KERC positively, particularly noting the significance of this action after a gap of 15 years," Mr. Lahoti added.

The commission's decision to direct escoms to set up the required systems to allow optional prepaid metering from June 1 and the continuation of Special Incentives Scheme by changing the rate of incentive for night consumption from ₹2 per unit to ₹1 per unit has also been lauded by consumers.

'Best order'

M.G. Prabhakar, former member of the advisory committee, hailed it as one of the best tariff orders in recent times. "All categories have gotten a reduction in per unit charges. This is a thoroughly rationalised, meticulously done tariff order," he said.

The KERC removed the system of slab-wise consumption and introduced single slab system for all categories of consumers in the new tariff order. In the wake of this, LT consumers will now be able to avail multiple connections on their premises.

ToD extended

Time of the Day (ToD) tariff has been extended to morning peak hours from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. in addition to the existing evening peak hours from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This ToD tariff will also be applicable for the power supply of HT installations in all four Road Transport Corporations for charging their e-vehicles.

Billing demand

After noticing that while the overall expected recovery of fixed costs is 71%, the recovery from HT installations was only 58% and it was between 69% to 88% among LT consumers, to bring parity of fixed charges recovery, the commission has decided to increase the billing demand from the current level of 85% of the Contract Demand (CD) to 90% of the CD. This would result in a marginal increase in the fixed charges recovery from all the HT consumers.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Feb. 29, 2024

MORE INJUSTICE Karnataka Has Got Fewer NH, Rail

After tax disparity, CM slams Centre over infra funds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah intensified his criticism of the central govt on Thursday, asserting that Karnataka continues to face injustice not only in allocation of taxes and central funds but also in sanctioning of infrastructure projects.

During a two-hour response to the debate on the state budget for 2024-25, the chief minister highlighted disparities in infrastructure allocation, revealing Karnataka received significantly fewer national highway and railway projects compared to other states under the Narendra Modi govt.

Opposition members from BJP and JD(S) had walked out in protest over the pro-Pakistan slo-gans sometime during the speech.

Siddaramaiah said since 2014, Karnataka has been allotted only 1,861km of national highways, while Maharashtra received 12,210km, Uttar Pradesh 4,314km, Madhya Pradesh 3,989km, and Gujarat 3,191km. He said the state got only 2,234km of new railway lines in the past decade.

He went on to question the fairness in allocation of infrastructure projects, even while the state's contributed significantly to the Union govt's coffers. "Despite Karnataka being the high-est contributor to the GST kitty, is it not injustice?" he asked. "Are we at fault if we question this injustice?" The CM also highlighted the decline in funds allocated to Karnataka under centrally sponsored schemes.

"Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), the Centre provides only Rs 1.5



FIERY MOOD: Chief minister Siddaramaiah delivers his response to the debate on the state budget in the assembly on Thursday

lakh per house, while the state contributes Rs 3 to 5 lakh," he said. "Interestingly, the Centre reclaims Rs 1.4 lakh through GST. Effectively, it amounts to only Rs 12,000 per house from the Centre."

Similarly, he said, the state's contribution surpasses that of the Centre in various centrally sponsored schemes, indicating a significant disparity in funding allocation.

Siddaramaiah accused Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman of misleading the public by suggesting taxes col-

lected in Karnataka are reinvested in the form of new highways, railways, and other infrastructure projects. "This shows BJP functionaries always peddle lies," he said.

In his inimitable style, Siddaramaiah criticised BJP MPs from Karnataka for keeping quiet while injustice was being meted out to the state. "Are you not ashamed to defend the Union govt despite this grave injustice?" he asked. "You are betraying the people of the state by being silent spectators."

Source: The Times of India, p.8, March. 1, 2024

Shakti effect: 6,100 buses to be inducted

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ABOUT 6,100 buses will be inducted into service over the next 12 months, as the Shakti scheme has meant more passengers using buses. This, and a host of other decisions were taken by the Cabinet, which met late Thursday evening.

Approval was given to buy 260 buses, of which 100 will be Pallakki non-AC buses, 120 will be non-AC buses for North Karnataka and 40 will be AC buses. The government will take up centres of industrial excellence across the state, besides initiatives to encourage startups at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

The Rs 200-300 crore scam in Keonics between 2019 and 2023, which surfaced just days after new chairman Sharath Bache Gowda took over, was discussed. The government had taken note that accounts were frozen and salaries not paid.

The cabinet said those who did honest work but whose salaries were held up, will be given their dues, and those found guilty will be dealt with legally.

With summer round the corner, the government has taken up tank filling works in drought-prone areas through the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam, and maintenance works of lift irrigation schemes across the state, especially in South Karnataka.

Approval was accorded for civic works in Hubballi-Dharwad area listed by the urban development department. The medical

education department had also listed important works for building health infrastructure, and got approval. Administrative approval was given to CV Raman Hospital in Bengaluru, Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru and nine other hospitals where basic intensive care facilities are being set up at a cost of about Rs 135 crore.



Source: The New Indian Express, P.5, March, 1, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

EDUCATION

For 3 annual exam system, question paper pattern will be student-friendly: Manjushree

The Chairperson of KSEAB clears doubts of students who are set to take SSLC and II PU examinations

THTALKSBENGALURU

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

"The three annual examination system for SSLC and II PU and the question paper pattern will be student-friendly. Do not stress yourself in the name of examination," advised N. Manjushree, chairperson, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

Participating in THTalksBengaluru, an online interaction organised by *The Hindu* on Monday in which she answered questions from readers, she said, "There is internal assessment, where the schools and colleges will award 20 marks. Even in the theory exam, there are multiple choice questions, match the following, fill in the blanks and other one-mark questions for 20 marks. Students should go with confidence and faith in themselves for the examination."

Changes in exams

Speaking about the changes in exams, she said, "This year, as students are aware, we are introducing the 80:20 pattern of examination. Until this year, only science subjects had practical examinations and theory. But this year onwards, all subjects will have the component of internal assessment, and the remaining marks will be through the theory exam."

Along with this, competency-based questions have also been introduced, which will be helpful for entrance tests like



N. Manjushree, chairperson of the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board, during the THTalksBengaluru online interaction.

CET and NEET. The model question papers are already available on the board website, she said.

To give an opportunity to students to improve their marks and go for higher education and job opportunities, the government has introduced the three annual exam scheme instead of two supplementary exams, she said.

To improve marks

"This three examination concept has been introduced mainly with the purpose of giving an opportunity to students to improve on their marks. There may be students who may not deliver their best on that particular day of examination, but that doesn't mean that the student has not prepared well for the exam or put in his or her best efforts in that academic year. With that intention, we have introduced this concept. All the exams will have the same kind of question

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Annual exams 1 and 2 for II PU will be held before NEET and CET. Exam-3 will be held immediately after the CET results. The KSEAB is also planning to declare exam-1 result between April 10 and 15, and exam-2 results between May 15 and 20.

■ Registration for SSLC and II PU exam-1 is compulsory for all students. They will have to register either as regular or private candidate. But once a registration is done, a student is free to take either exam-1 or exam-2 or exam-3.

■ If a student does not pass in a subject in exam-1, s/he can choose to take exam-2 or exam-3 for that particular subject. If s/he wants to skip exam-2 and prepare for exam-3, that is also possible. In the unfortunate case where a student cannot clear all three examinations, s/he may register for the next year and take up the exam.

■ The board has requested KSRTC and BMTC to provide free transportation to students of SSLC and II PU during the examination days and both transport corporations have responded positively. Students will have to show their admission tickets and will be entitled for free transport.

■ If the student has taken exams 1 and 2, and the CET results are announced after exams 1 and 2, the board will share the best among the two exam scores with the KEA. Marks of students who take exam-3 will also be shared with KEA, but that may not be considered for the first round of CET counselling.

■ Students can take two subjects in each exam, but they are better judges of what they want to do. If they want to apply for a PU college immediately after exam-1, they will have to wait for exam-2 and 3 and it may go on until August.



papers and toughness," she added.

She also clarified that it is not compulsory for all the students to write all three examinations. This option is given to

students who want to improve their marks and for students who have not qualified in the first examination, and the best marks will be considered, Ms. Manjushree said.

Marks cards in 30 days

The KSEAB Chairperson said after the exam-1 results are announced, there will be a window of one week for students to register themselves for exam-2.

Barring those students who choose to take exam-2, all the other students' marks cards will be made available to them in 30 days and in the meantime, the board will also upload their marks sheets in Digilocker that can be accessed even before receiving the marks cards in the colleges, she said.

No full-sleeve shirts

This year, the board has decided to restrict full-sleeved shirts in the exam halls.

"There is no particular dress code, but better to wear the uniforms of their schools and colleges. Avoid wearing long sleeves because invigilators would want you to roll up your sleeves. And, II PU students must follow the Supreme Court order in this regard," she said.

Special care for special children

Speaking about students with disabilities, Ms. Manjushree said while the earlier policy of giving extra time and a scribe for blind students will continue, this year, students with autism will be given adult prompters.

This is in line with what the CBSE has done and the adult prompter can be either a teacher, parent or guardian, she said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Feb. 27, 2024

ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ದಾಖಲು | ಎ.ಐ. ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಕಣ್ಗಾವಲು
ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್ ಖರೀದಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಇಳಿಕೆ | ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿವಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ವಿನೂತನ ಕ್ರಮ

ಪೇಪರ್‌ಲೆಸ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

■ ಜಿ.ಆರ್.ಗಿರಿಶ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

girish.jr@timesgroup.com

ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳ ತಡೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜೀವ್‌ಗಾಂಧಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವು (ಆರ್‌ಜಿಯುಎಚ್‌ಎಸ್) ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿ.ವಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 1,400 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆಯುವ ಪರಿಪಾಠವಿದೆ. ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಣಿ ದಿನವೇ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸರ್ವರ್‌ಗೆ ರವಾನಿಸಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ (ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ) ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನೇ ಕೊಡದೆ ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪಾವಿತ್ಯತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಸೋರಿಕೆ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ನಕಲು, ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ತಿದ್ದಿಪ್ಪುದೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣಿ ಹಾಕಲು ಈ ನೂತನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ನಡೆಯುವ ಫೆಲೋಶಿಪ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ನ 180 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಫಿಸಿಯೋಥೆರಪಿ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ನ ಸುಮಾರು 1,800 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕವಾಗಿ ಎದುರಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸ್ಕ್ರೀನ್‌ಲರ್ ಪೆನ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಬರೆಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಅಡಕವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸರ್ವರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪರಿಣಿ



ಎಣಿ ಬಳಕೆ

ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃತಕ ಬುದ್ಧಿಮತ್ತೆ (ಎ.ಐ.) ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬ್ಲೂ ಟೂತ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಕ್ರಮ ಎಸಗಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರೆ ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎ.ಐ. ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನವು ಸುಳಿವು ನೀಡಲಿದೆ. ಎ.ಐ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನವು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮುಖಚರ್ಯೆ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಕ್ರಮ ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ.

ಮುಗಿದ ಮರುಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಉತ್ತರದ ದತ್ತಾಂಶವು ಸರ್ವರ್ ಗೆ ರವಾನೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ತಗ್ಗಲಿದೆ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ: ಆರ್‌ಜಿಯುಎಚ್‌ಎಸ್ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ವಿವಿಧ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಸರಾಸರಿ 50 ಸಾವಿರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಬರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, 18 ಲಕ್ಷ ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್‌ನ ಬೆಲೆ ಸುಮಾರು 40 ರೂ. ಇದ್ದು, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ 7ರಿಂದ 8 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹೊರೆ ತಗ್ಗಲಿದೆ.

ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯು ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಾಗಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು

ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕವಾಗಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪಾವಿತ್ಯತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕವಾಗಿ ಎರಡು ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣಿ ಬೀಳಲಿದ್ದು, ವಿ.ವಿ.ಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಬುಕ್‌ಲೆಟ್‌ಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹೊರೆ ತಗ್ಗಲಿದೆ.

-ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಕೆ.ರಮೇಶ್ ಕುಲಪತಿ, ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

24 ತಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ

ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯ ಹಾಲಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕಾಗದರಹಿತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆದು 24 ತಾಸಿನೊಳಗೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿ ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ನ ಬೆಲೆ 8ರಿಂದ 10 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದೆ. ಟ್ಯಾಬ್ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಹಣ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೇ ಅಥವಾ ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಬೇಕೇ ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ವಿ.ವಿ.ಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಬಳಸಿ ಟ್ಯಾಬ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದರೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ಶುಲ್ಕದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಕೆಂಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ಟ್ಯಾಬ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೂ ಮರು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.08, Feb.27, 2024

State inks pact with British Council to train students in govt institutions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The higher education department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with British Council and Wadhwani Foundation to provide skill training for students in government degree, engineering colleges and polytechnics, and to strengthen communication skills of teachers.

Janaka Pushpanathan, director of South India British Council, said, “English for employability in higher education institutions, mobility for both student and faculty and projects on gender equity and inclusion, these are focus areas. The agreement functions at 3 levels: systemic, institutional and individual.”

Systemically, it involves policy dialogues and delegations between Karnataka and UK to expand educational and research opportunities between the state and UK's higher education sector.

Institutionally, it includes capacity building of international relations officers, knowledge sharing, guidance on grants, transnational education partnerships between Karnataka and UK varsities and collaborative learning communities, she said.

After signing MoU, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said, “With continued collaboration with UK, we aim to empower higher education institutions to enhance skills and confidence of young people. We aspire to create advanced research

and development facilities, aiming for tangible positive impact on students. This collaboration with British Council highlights our commitment to raising education standards, enhancing learner experiences, improving employability and positively influencing socio-economic landscape of the state.”

With this agreement, British Council and Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will collaborate to provide opportunities for youth, enhancing access to globally recognised educational qualifications and promoting cultural exchange and creativity. British Council's support will focus on building international collaboration, including research and mobility initiatives. Leadership development among teaching faculty will also be prioritised, enabling education and creating new prospects for youth in both regions.

K G Chandrashekara, executive director, KSHEC, Chandru Iyer, British deputy high commissioner to Karnataka & Kerala, Srikar M S, principal secretary of higher education department and others were present.

British Council also ran a pilot ‘scoping study’ higher education universities, aimed at training international officers within institutions. The pilot will be expanded to other state-run universities by April.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Feb, 27, 2024

ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಕಳವಳಕಾರಿ ಡ್ರಾಪಾಟ್ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ದ್ವಿಗುಣ

■ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ ಎಗನೂರು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ
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ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲಾ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು (ಡ್ರಾಪಾಟ್) ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲೇ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ 9,461 ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಈ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬಲ್ ಆಗಿರುವುದು ಅಂಕಿಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಗುರುತಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಎಷ್ಟೇ ನಿಗಾವಹಿಸಿದರೂ ಡ್ರಾಪ್ ಔಟ್ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನವರೆಗೆ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಂಕಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಅಂಕಿಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳೇ ಸಾಬೀತುಪಡಿಸಿವೆ.

ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಎಷ್ಟು? ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 6ರಿಂದ 14 ವರ್ಷದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 9,461 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದು 2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ 9,111ರಷ್ಟು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿದ್ದರೆ 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ 4,245 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೋಬ್ಬರಿ 5,216 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿರುವುದು ತೀರಾ ಕಳವಳಕಾರಿ ಅಂಶ ಬಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು? ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ,



ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳು

9,111	4,245	9,461
2021-22	2022-23	2023-24

ಧಾರವಾಡ, ಗದಗ, ಹಾಸನ, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ತರುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ

ಸರಕಾರ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ತರಲು ನಿರಂತರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಳಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದು ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ತರುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳು ಕಾಗದದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ 3,915, 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ 4,092 ಹಾಗೂ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 7,896 ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಡ್ರಾಪಾಟ್‌ಗೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳೇನು?

- ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಂತರ ಪಾಲಕರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜತೆ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋಗುವುದು
- ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡತನ, ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ
- ಬಾಲ್ಯವಿವಾಹಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದಿಂದ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಡುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ
- ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ, ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ಆವೃತವೆನಿಸಿರದೆ ಇತರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು
- 14 ವರ್ಷ ದಾಟಿದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಮಕ್ಕಳೂ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವುದು
- ಪಾಲಕರು ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳೇ ಕೇರ್‌ಟೇಕರ್ ಆಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವುದು

■ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುಳಿದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿ ತರಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 606 ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುಳಿದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

- ವಿ.ಎಂ.ಪತ್ತಾರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಉಪ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

■ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಡ್ರಾಪಾಟ್ ಸಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಗುಳಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು, ಬಾಲ್ಯವಿವಾಹ, ಬಡತನ ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ, ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳ ಕೊರತೆಗಳಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹೊರಗುಳಿಯಲು ಕಾರಣಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

-ಸಂಗೀತ ಕಟ್ಟಿಮನಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ತಜ್ಞರು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.07, Feb.28, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

42

7k villages, 1k wards in K'taka stare at drinking water crisis

Govt Identifies 6k Borewells, Firms Up Deals With 2.6k

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Bengaluru: With the summer expected to be more severe this year, some 7,082 villages across Karnataka and 1,193 wards, including in Bengaluru Urban district, are vulnerable to drinking water crisis in the coming months as per an assessment made by the govt as of Feb 10.

A report by the revenue department has identified the most number of villages in Tumakuru district (746) and the most number of wards in Uttara Kannada. In Bengaluru Urban district, 174 villages and 120 wards are shown as vulnerable.

All 31 districts have vil-

746 TUMAKURU VILLAGES DRY

District	Villages	Wards
Tumakuru	746	--
Uttara Kannada	509	181
Kolar	493	78
Vijayanagara	473	46
B'luru Urban	174	120

Figures of vulnerable villages and wards | Source: Revenue dept assessment (As of Feb 10)



lages likely to be affected but there are nine districts — Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Mysuru, Mandya, Raichur, Bidar, Chikmagalur and Kodagu — where zero wards are shown as being vulnerable.

According to revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda, to counter this, the government has identified 6,416 borewells across districts other than Bengaluru Urban and formalised agreements with 2,654 of them to supply water, albeit as

a short-term measure.

He said that as per an Oct 10, 2023 order, Rs 324 crore has been disbursed to the deputy commissioners of districts for emergency drinking water and livestock conservation. As of Jan 2024, Gowda said, the district calamity personal deposit (PD) accounts together have Rs 736 crore, while the calamity PD accounts operated by tahsildars have Rs 131.9 crore.

► 12 lakh citizens, P 2

Continued...

12 lakh citizens to depend on tankers, borewells until May

► Continued from page 1

Also, as of Feb, the govt said 46 taluks spread across 18 districts were facing drinking water problems already and that services of 58 tankers and 183 private borewells are being used to supply water to 156 villages in these taluks. Of these 183 private borewells, most are in Haveri (39) while Vijayapura is using the services of 36 tankers. A similar exercise is under way in 12 wards of four urban local bodies — Benga-

luru Urban, for instance, is using 20 tankers — as per the revenue department.

Bengaluru's woes are also being addressed by the BBMP and BWSSB. That Cauvery Stage V, providing 775MLD of water to the 110 villages annexed in 2008 — the most affected parts of the city — could be commissioned only in May means around 12 lakh residents here will have to suffer a harsh summer depending on water tankers and borewells that are drying up quickly.

Source: The Times of India, p.1 &2, Feb. 26, 2024

Illegal construction threatens vital ecosystem of Subedeharana Kere

BENGALURU, DHNS

Even though the 30-metre periphery of the lake is considered as buffer zone or no construction zone, a large structure is coming up very close to Subedeharana Kere on Begur Road (behind SNN Raj Serenity apartment). The builder has dumped truckloads of debris and soil into the waterbody to raise the foundation, threatening the ecosystem of the waterbody.

Although the residents of the area have been complaining about the illegal construction with the BBMP's zonal engineers, they have not received any help. Some suspect that the engineers are hand in glove with the builders as no joint survey has been conducted to ascertain the lake's boundary.

"For the last couple of weeks, we have been finding it difficult to get water as borewells are getting dry. When the crisis is staring at our face, the authorities are not show-

ing any urgency in ensuring that the lake is protected. If all sides of the waterbody is covered with cement, how will the rainwater flow into the lake," the residents said, visibly upset with the BBMP's negligence to protect the lake.

Earlier this month, *DH* had reported that the earthmovers were being used to push the soil into the lake, which was filled with water. Residents had also complained that there was one truck dumping soil into the waterbody every five minutes. The encroachment of the lake, they feared, would destroy the ecology of the area, leading to further depletion of the ground water table.

Speaking to *DH*, a senior BBMP official said the builder is claiming ownership of the area where the structure is coming up.

"We will initiate a joint survey of the lake but there has been a delay on the part of tahsildar. We will also inspect the work tomorrow," he said.



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

Karnataka has 1,879 leopards in 5 tiger reserves, more outside

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AT least 1,879 leopards roam free in the five tiger reserves of Bandipur, Bhadra, Nagarahole, Dandeli-Anshi and BRT in Karnataka, according to the report 'Status of Leopards in India 2022' by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, released by Union minister Bhupendra Yadav on Thursday.

As the report shows the count of the spotted wild cats inside forest areas, Karnataka forest officials said an equal number, or even more, is wandering outside tiger reserves. This is not just in Karnataka, but in other states too.

As per the report, in 2018, 1,783 leopards were counted and documented in Karnataka, and now there are 96 more. The report showed that the entire Western Ghats landscape documented 3,596 leopards in 2022, while in 2018, the number was 3,387. India houses 13,874 leopards, against 12,852 in 2018.

In this fifth cycle of leopard estimation, the populations in 20 states in India were studied on foot surveys spanning 6.41 lakh km. Researchers from the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India in the report quoted: "Although the leopard population in Western Ghats is widely distributed, it faces the repercussions of habitat loss and fragmentation and poaching.

Leopards in Western Ghats often inhabit human-dominated spaces, leopard-human conflict is prevalent in the entire landscape and has increased in recent times. While the Nilgiri forests harbour high-density leopard populations (13 leopards per 100sqkm), leopards occur in much lower densities in the scrubland, open forest mosaics of central Karnataka or the evergreen patches of southern Western Ghats (1 per 100sqkm). In central and northern Western Ghats, leopard populations are distributed in higher densities inside the Tiger Reserves (Bhadra, Kali, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam) while moderate to low densities are outside protected areas."

Subhash Malkhade, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Karnataka, said these are the minimum numbers and the same number or more are outside. He explained that the leopard population assessed in the report was based on camera trap images in the reserves. "More than the numbers, the trend is important. The carnivore population is increasing and shows there is also a healthy prey base inside the forests. Leopards are highly adaptive animals, they survive in urban areas because of the street dog population and meat strewn around slaughter houses, which is available in abundance now," he said.



Leopards are highly adaptive animals, they survive in urban areas because of the street dog population and meat strewn around slaughter houses, which is available in abundance now

Subhash Malkhade,
Chief Forest
Conservator

Source: The New Indian Express, P.5, March, 1, 2024

Lake funding dries to Rs 35 crore

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The development of lakes does not seem to be the priority for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) since the fund allocation for the development and maintenance of lakes has come down significantly. While the civic body had earmarked Rs102.32 crore in the 2023-24 budget, this has come down to Rs 35 crore in the budget presented for FY 2024-25.

Lakes play a crucial role in flood mitigation and hence development of lakes is especially important given the floods the city witnesses every monsoon. According to BBMP, of the 205 lakes in the city, only 114 have been developed over



Lakes play a crucial role in flood mitigation. DH FILE PHOTO

the last few years.

The allocation of Rs 35 crore is to be used towards the devel-

opment and improvement of lakes by taking up the fencing work, installation of aerators,

development of wetland, installation of trash barriers, and construction of toilets and security rooms at the lakes, the budget proposed.

While the budget allocation has been meagre, the civic body is planning to introduce a new policy- 'Community Involvement for Park Conservation Policy (CIPC)' to attract investments from corporates, the public, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) for lake development.

"The policy will enable corporates, the public, and RWAs to build facilities and assets for lakes. The policy has been presented before the High Court and will be implemented as soon as we get approval," said Preeti Gehlot, BBMP Special Commissioner (Lakes).

Source: Deccan Herald, p.II, March, 1, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Health

ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.30 ರಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ಮಾತ್ರ ನೋಂದಣಿ | ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಗುರಿ ಮುಟ್ಟದ ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಭಾರತ್

■ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾನಂದ ಎ. ನಿಡಗುಂದಾ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

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ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಆಶಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರದ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾದ 'ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಭಾರತ್ ಪಿಎಂಜೆಎವೈ ಸಿಎಂ' ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗದಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ವಗೂ ಉಚಿತ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ಸಿಗಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ 2018ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಭಾರತ್ ಪಿಎಂಜೆಎವೈ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರುನಾಮಕರಣ ಮಾಡಿ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಶೇ.31ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಗಿರುವುದು ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸ. ಇಲ್ಲಿವರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಕೋಟಿ 59 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ 3 ಕೋಟಿ 56 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಇದೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿ ಅವಕಾಶ

ಗ್ರಾಮ ಒನ್, ಕಾಮನ್ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಸೇರಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೇವಲ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್, ಬಿಪಿಎಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಧಾರ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಇರುವ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂಬರ್ ಇದ್ದರೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು. ಕೆಲವು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಜನ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಕೈಗೊಂಡರೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸ್ಪಂದನೆ ಸಿಗಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಶರಣಪ್ಪ ಎಂ.

ಎನೇನು ಉಪಯೋಗ

ಬಿಪಿಎಲ್ ಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಥರಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯ ಭೀಮಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ



ನೋಂದಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊನೆಯ 5 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಗುರಿ	ಶೇ.
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ	4.69	48.91	9.6
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	2.10	10.10	20.9
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	5.56	22.90	24.3
ತುಮಕೂರು	6.05	24.15	25.1
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	12.82	47.63	26.9

ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಶೇ.50 ದಾಟಿಲ್ಲ

ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಆಗುವ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿವರೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ನೋಂದಣಿಯ ಗುರಿ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡದಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಎಂದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 3,69,255 ಜನರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಶೇ.41ರಷ್ಟು ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ 4,69,166 ಜನರು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಶೇ.9.6ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುರಿ ತಲುಪಿದೆ.

ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ.

ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಹ ಪಾವತಿಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಎಪಿಎಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಪಿಎಲ್ ಆದರೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 1.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಹೊಂದಿಲ್ಲದ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ.30ರಷ್ಟು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು	
■ ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಭಾರತ್ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಗುರಿ	5.09 ಕೋಟಿ
■ ಫೆ.21ರ ವರೆಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು	1.59 ಕೋಟಿ
■ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	3.56 ಕೋಟಿ

ಆಯುಷ್ಯಾನ್ ಭಾರತ್ ಪಿಎಂಜೆಎವೈ ಸಿಎಂ ಯೋಜನೆ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಹಲವು ಅನುಕೂಲವಿದೆ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿದೆ.

- ಡಾ.ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಿಎಂಜೆಎವೈ ಸಿಎಂ ಯೋಜನೆ

ನೋಂದಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟಾಪ್ 5 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಗುರಿ	ಶೇ.
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾ.	3.69	8.51	43.3
ಬಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	3.68	8.98	41
ಉಡುಪಿ	5.19	12.66	41
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	4.94	12.17	40.6
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	4.31	10.68	40.4

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.06, Feb.24, 2024

No stock of 50% essential drugs in govt hosps; min blames officials

Rao Says Corpn Functioning Ineffectively

Mini.Thomas@timesgroup.com

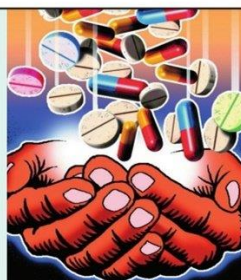
Bengaluru: Karnataka has no stock of 190 — or nearly 50% — of the 410 essential medicines in its govt hospitals, as per the data presented in the legislative council recently. Officials said these drugs include anaesthetics, anti-allergy drugs, and diuretics.

Health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told **TOI** that the reason for short supply is due to "the ineffective functioning" of the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd (KSMSCCL). "We should have better people working there and better systems," he said.

The state has directed hospitals and primary health

"To state that there is a shortage of drugs at hospital level is incorrect as the centralised supply through KSMSCCL is only one of the ways of ensuring drug availability at hospitals, which are expected to access the open market and do local procurement wherever the central supply is falling short or isn't supplied in time

D Randeep | COMMISSIONER, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES



centres to use their own funds to buy medicines at the local level but there is no transparency in the system.

"We can't monitor it. They will call some local tenders and buy them (drugs). The costs would be much higher than the rates at which we would have bought them over here. But we can't blame them also. If the volume is smaller, prices will be higher," he said. Rao sounded apologetic

while replying to a query on the shortage of medicines in the legislative council recently. He said the state has failed in its primary responsibility of providing medicines to the poor. "This is the reality and we are not hiding anything," he had said.

The state has also invited tenders for the purchase of medicines.

Rao said efforts are being made to ensure an adequate

supply of medicines in government hospitals by the first week of April.

The tender process for essential drugs is yet to be completed as per the State Therapeutic Committee (STC) report for 2023-24.

As per STC recommendations, 301 essential drugs are to be procured for primary health centres (PHCs), out of which stocks are there for 177 in warehouses as of now. "About 124 of these essential drugs such as Tramadol Capsules are yet to be procured for the PHCs," KSMSCCL managing director Chidananda S Watare confirmed.

According to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022 guidelines, 171 essential drugs are to be kept in PHCs, out of which 139 are recommended by the STC.

"Out of 139, 59 drugs have zero-stock status. Out of these drugs, the tender process concluded for 33; the remain-

ing 26 drugs are being procured," Watare told **TOI**.

"The supply for the 470 essential and desirable drugs will be completed by March 2024 to the extent of 50% of the annual indent. Tender evaluation is a lengthy process involving technical and financial stages which will take 120 days from the last date of bid submission. The average time taken for completing the evaluation for one tender is 120 days for completion," he added.

"In terms of 100% supply of all the medicines from KSMSCCL, it would happen from April first week onwards. Almost 60% of the drugs have already been under the tender process and are at the final stage of conclusion. The remaining medicines will also get into the supply mode from April first week," D Randeep, commissioner of health and family welfare services told **TOI**.

Source: The Times of India, p.5, Feb. 26, 2024

Infant deaths in Karnataka set to hit a 4-yr low

Mysuru: At 4,546 deaths, Karnataka is set to record a four-year low in infant deaths for the 10-month period from April 1, 2023 to Jan 31 this year on the back of many initiatives taken by the state health department at both community and institutional levels,

Continued..

Audit is carried out to find out reasons for infant deaths: DHO

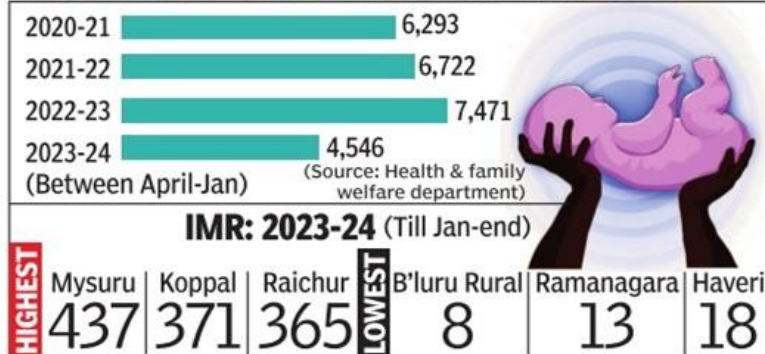
► Continued from page 1

For 2023-24 (till Jan-end), Mysuru registered most infant deaths at 437, Koppal (371), Raichur (365), and Kalaburagi (363). On the other hand, Bengaluru Rural had the least infant deaths at eight, Ramanagara 13, and Haveri 18. According to Mysuru district authorities, the district data includes deaths of infants referred from neighbouring district hospitals like Mandya, Chamara-janagar and Kodagu.

The data presented by health and family welfare minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, in reply to a question by Kalaburagi Rural MLA Basavaraj Mattimud in the assembly, said the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of the state is currently at 14 for 1,000 live births. In 2020-21, Mysuru had recorded 598 infant deaths. It was 695 in 2021-22, and dropped to 578 in 2022-23.

Mysuru district health officer (DHO) PC Kumaras-

INFANT DEATHS IN KARNATAKA



wamy said IMR of the district has now plunged to a low of 10.5. "It is the happy outcome of our many initiatives to bring down the IMR, and MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate)."

The DHO said the antenatal care coverage is above 120% in Mysuru district. "Special focus is given to those with high-risk pregnancy. Initiatives like Newborn Care Corners at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Newborn Stabilising Units (NBSU) at general hospitals, efforts to sensitise

people on the importance of breastfeeding, 100% institutional deliveries and over 98% immunization coverage are the major interventions which helped us bring down the IMR," he said.

Kumaraswamy said every infant death—regardless of the emergency or circumstances—is treated with the seriousness it deserves, and a death audit is carried out to find out reasons. "We're working on segregating deaths of infants from home and neighbouring districts," he said.

Source: The Times of India, p.1& 5, Feb. 26, 2024

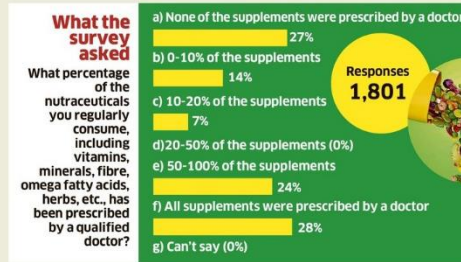
Survey reveals widespread use of unsupervised supplements

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consumption of nutritional supplements such as vitamins and minerals without consulting a medical practitioner is a common practice among people, a survey by LocalCircles, a community social media platform has revealed.

According to the survey results, of the 1,801 respondents from Karnataka, 27% of them said that they take several supplements without a doctor's advice and another 45% of them said that a few of the supplements they take were not based on a prescription. Only 28% of them said that they were taking supplements only after consulting a medical practitioner.

While a few of these supple-



ments may get washed out of the body without having much of an impact, consumption of fat-soluble supplements could lead to ill effects in the long term, experts said. "There are two types of sup-

plements, the water-soluble ones, and the fat solubles. The patient needs to understand these details before taking supplements. While water-soluble supplements may leave the system without much

problem, unnecessary consumption of fat-soluble supplements could result in deposition of the supplement," explained Dr Rajashekar Y L, Vice-President of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA).

In the long run, such accumulation could lead to serious health hazards and it is important to regulate their consumption, doctors opined. "Unchecked use may result in hypervitaminosis, where excessive levels of certain vitamins, especially fat-soluble ones like A and D, accumulate in the body, posing toxicity risks. Additionally, it may also contribute to conditions such as pseudotumor cerebri, characterised by elevated pressure within the skull, and associated symptoms

like headaches and vision disturbance," said Dr Subrata Das, HOD, Internal Medicine and Diabetology, Sakra World Hospital.

Doctors also pointed out that there were two types of supplement doses- the maintenance dose and the therapeutic drugs and it was important not to consume supplements beyond a period prescribed by the health practitioner. "We usually prescribe a therapeutic dose when the reports show deficiency of a particular vitamin or mineral. However, many patients tend to continue taking these supplements beyond the time we prescribe them for. Though it is a doctor-prescribed medicine, it is advised considering the patient's state and should not be consumed beyond the said period," Dr Rajashekar said.

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

'State's doctor-patient ratio better than WHO recommendation'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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At least 50 per cent of the population will get national health insurance in the coming years and all the hospitals should use this opportunity to improve their services, said the Chairman of National Medical Commission (NMC), Dr BN Gangadhar, while speaking at the 26th Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), on Tuesday.

He added that Karnataka has reached the doctor to patient ratio of 2 : 1,000 which surpasses the WHO's recommendation of one doctor per thousand population. "However this is not enough, as developed countries



Students celebrate their graduation ceremony during the 26th Annual Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science in Bengaluru on Tuesday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

have a ratio of 3 : 1000 and our patients should not fall back on receiving optimum treatment. We need more human re-

source," he said.

He further said that in the last 10 years NMC has aided in doubling the number of MBBS

and PG courses. Speaking about integrative medicine, he said it will be the future of healthcare and the medical infrastructure is shifting towards it.

"Each college and each faculty member needs to introspect on improving research and patents in the medical field. 1.75 lakh people have entered the field this year and we have about 1.85 lakh faculty in the country. We ought to produce better research quality," he added.

During the convocation Dr GK Venkatesh G, Dr Prakash Biradar, and Dr Pinki Bhatia Topiwala, were bestowed with honorary doctorates by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. Gehlot emphasised the signifi-

cance of medical service and the Karnataka government's efforts in aligning healthcare provisions with global standards.

Sharan Prakash Patil, Medical Education Minister said, "The government will continue to extend all necessary support to RGUHS in ensuring enhanced quality of Health Science Education..."

At the convocation ceremony, 88 candidates secure 100 Gold Medals. The ceremony saw 44,525 undergraduates, 7,815 postgraduates, 17 PhDs, 156 super specialty candidates, 122 fellowship candidates, 8 completed their certificate course, and 7 completed their post graduation diploma.

Source: The New Indian Express, p. 4, Feb. 28, 2024

‘Koosina Mane’ turns a boon for rural working women in Mysuru district

29 more will be added by March-end, to the existing 80

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

Koosina Manes (creches) have turned out to be a boon for rural working women of Mysuru district. At least 443 children (214 girls, 229 boys) are being taken care of in 80 Koosina Manes, established by the district administration and the zilla panchayat, under the funds allotted by the state government.

These creches take care of nutrition, health and safety of children, whose mothers are majorly employed under the MGNREGA, or, are serving in various capacities at the gram panchayat-level. Total 351 MGNREGA women job card holders have been trained in

the first phase to take care of children.

“Taking up work along with my husband under the MGNREGA was essential to support my family, amid drought. There was no one to take care of my two-year-old son. Thanks to Koosina Mane at my village Mosambayanahalli in Mysuru taluk, I am able to work peacefully,” said Saakamma, a daily wage worker.

“The government releases Rs 1.9 crore every year to each district under the Panchayat Raj Commission funds and the MNREGA, to establish and maintain creches. The district administration and the zilla panchayat are planning to establish 29 more by March-end,” said ZP deputy secretary M Krishnaraju. The creches are



A Koosina Mane at Bherya gram panchayat in Saligrama taluk of Mysuru district. PHOTO BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

functioning from schools, community halls and GP buildings.

They have been beautified with paintings, provided with toys and have a child-friendly atmosphere. Children are given milk, nutri-mix for breakfast, groundnut laddus as an evening snack, while lunch comprises dal khichdi, sweet pongal and sprouted wheat payasa.

There are total 3,267 Koosina Manes in the state, that take care of 22,445 children of rural working women. At least 4,000 creches

have been planned by March end. Mobile Creches, which has signed an MoU with the RDPR department, has trained 20,172 caretakers in the first phase and plans to train 32,000 caretakers, with four of them in each centre.

Belagavi boasts of 288 Koosina Manes, the highest in state, while Kalaburagi boasts of total 3,515 children admitted in 185 Koosina Manes, the highest number in state, B N Manjunath, Thematic Lead - Karnataka State Project, Mobile Creches.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Feb, 28, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Gender

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಮಾದರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡಿದ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯ್ತಿ

ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಗೆ 'ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ'

• ಬಾಲಚಂದ್ರ ಎಚ್.



ಒಳನೋಟ

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯ್ತಿಯು ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಾಡಿನ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಲೆಂದು ಪಾಳು ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಬೆಳೆದ ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಉಡುಪಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕುಚಲಕ್ಕಿ ಬ್ರಾಂಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಒಂದೆರಡು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಲೆಯೆತ್ತಿದೆ...

ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ರುಚಿಸುವುದೇ ಎಂಬ ಆತಂಕ ಅರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಡುತ್ತ. ಆದರೆ, ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಹುಸಿಯಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನಿನ' ಸಿಹಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಹಿಡಿಸಿತು, ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಕೈಯನ್ನೂ ಹಿಡಿಯಿತು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನಿನ' ಯಶೋಗಾಥೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿಚ್ಚಿಟ್ಟರು ಫರಿಹಾ ಬಾನು.

ಈ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು' ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಲ್ಲವ್ವಕ್ಕ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿರುವ ವಿನೂತನ ಜೇನುತುಪ್ಪದ ಬ್ರಾಂಡ್. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಡಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಮಾದರಿಯಾದ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು' ಕೂಡ ಒಂದು.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ



ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಜೇನುಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿರುವುದು - ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ / ಫಕ್ರುದ್ದೀನ್ ಎಚ್

155 ಗ್ರಾಮ

ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಗಳು

9,458

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಗುಂಪುಗಳು

1,04,858

ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸದಸ್ಯೆಯರು

ಬಚ್ಚೆಪ್ಪು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಮಧುವನದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜೇನು ಸಾಕಣೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ, ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್, ಮಾರಾಟ, ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಹೀಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೇ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕರಾವಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟಗಳ ತಪ್ಪಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಂಭವಾಗಿರುವ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನದ ಬದುಕಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. 2023, ಅ.14ರಂದು ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನು' ಮೂರ್ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆಯುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾತ್ರವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆರಳೆಣಿಕೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಶ್ರಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿಯಿಂದ ತಯಾರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹೆಬ್ಬಿ ಜೇನಿನ ಸಿಹಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತುಂಬೆಲ್ಲ ಹರಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಇದುವರೆಗೂ 2.5 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಜೇನು ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದೆ.

7 ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮಾರಾಟ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧ

ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ರೂಪುರೇಷೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕರಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಯಾರಾಗುವ ಕೆಲವು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಜೀವ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸೆಳೆಯಲು ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್, ಆಹಾರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ, ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡಲು ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಪ್ರತೀಕ್ ಬಾಯಲ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಸಿಇಒ

Continued...

ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಗೆ 'ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ'



ಒಂದೇ ಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ

ಅರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪರಿಧಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಜೀನಿನ ಸವಿ ಇದೀಗ ರಾಜ್ಯ, ದೇಶಗಳ ಗಡಿ ದಾಟಿ ವಿದೇಶಗಳಿಗೂ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಹೆಬ್ಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಿಸಲು ಹಲವು ಕಾರಣಗಳಿವೆ. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಜತೆ ಬೆಳೆದಿರುವ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೊಮ್ಮಿ ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಜೀನು ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿವಾಗಿರುವ ಹಿಜ್ಜೇಯ ಗುಣಗಿರುವ ಸಸ್ಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮರಗಳಿದ್ದು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಪರೀತವುಳ್ಳ ಜೀನು ತಯಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತವಾದ ಸ್ಥಳವಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕುತೂಹಲಕರ. ದಶಕಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಟ್ಟವು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಎಕರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಜೀನುಸಾಕಾಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಮಧುವನ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಜಾಗ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅಂದಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಅವರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿನೀಡಿದಾಗ ಮಧುವನ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿತ್ತು. ಇದೇ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ರುಢಿರಾಜ್‌ನಿಂದ ಜೀನು ಕೃಷಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಿಸಲು ಮಧುವನದೇ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ನಾಲ್ಕು ಎಕರೆ ಜಾಗವನ್ನು ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಮಧುವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಕದಿದ್ದಿದ್ದ ಹಳೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಕೆಕೊರೆ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀನು ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾದ ಹೂ, ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉಗ್ರಮೀಸಣಾ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ(ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಆರ್-ಎಂ) ಹಾಗೂ ಕೋಟಗಾಂವಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೆಬ್ಬೆಯ ಜೀನು ಬೆಟ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಕಸನಗೊಳಿಸಿತು. ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಅಗತ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಕೊಡಲಾಯಿತು.

ಮಾಧುಕ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಜೀನಿನ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತ ಆವರಣವಾದ ಬಾಲ್ಕನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇಖರಣಾ ಕರಾರುಕೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಜೀನಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಪಾರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡಿಸಿತು. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ನ ಕಾಳಜಿ, ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ, ಬೆಂಬಲದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ 'ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ, ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾತ್ರವಾಯಿತು.

ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿರುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಜೀನಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯವೂ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿದೆ. ಹಿಂದೆ ಮನೆ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಕೈಪಾಟಿಯಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. 'ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು' ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭವಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಸ್ವಂತ ಖರ್ಚು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುವುದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೂ ಹೆಗ್ಗುಲಕ್ಕೂ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಇದೆ ಎಂದರು ಫರಿಹಾಬಾಯಿ.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಎಂದರೆ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ, ಪುಡಿಗ, ಉಪ್ಪಿನಕಾಯಿ, ಸಾಂಬಾರ್, ಪುಡಿಗ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವಾಗ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದು ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕೊಡುಗೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತಂತ್ರ, ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಕೊಡುವ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರವಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಲಿಗಲು ಎಂಬ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು ಅವರು.

ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ: 'ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಹಬ್ಬೆ' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆ (ಪಾಕ) ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಉದುವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿಯ ವಿವರ

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ನಾಟ ಭೂಮಿ	ಬೆಳೆದ ಭತ್ತ	ಸ್ವಂತ ಬಳಕೆ	ಮಾರಾಟ
ಉದುವಿ	121	831	416	20
ಕೋಟ	210	1,284	549	13
ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ	96	416	224	6
ಕುಂದಾಪುರ	121	472	362	118
ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾವರ	185	1,303	444	80
ಕಾವು	141	80	58	10
ಬೈಂದೂರು	26	80	58	10

4,466 ಸಿಂಟರ್
ಬೆಳೆದ ಭತ್ತದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ

2,111 ಸಿಂಟರ್
ಸ್ವಂತ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಬಳಕೆಯಾದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ

257 ಸಿಂಟರ್
ಮಾರಾಟವಾದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ

ಕುತೂಹಲಕರ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ, ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ನಷ್ಟದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ರೈತರು ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಮುಖರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಯುವಕರು ಕೂಡ ಕೃಷಿಯತ್ತ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರದೆ ದೂರದ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉತ್ತೇಜಕ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಳಿಮುಖವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಶಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಅರ್ಧದಷ್ಟು ಕುಗ್ಗಿತ್ತು. ಪರಿಣಿತರ ಹಿಗ್ಗು ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ಮುಂದೊಂದು ದಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯೇ ಕಣ್ಮರೆಯಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಆತಂಕ ಹಬ್ಬಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಅರಂಭಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯಾಯಿತು.

ಈ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಅರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಅಂದಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಅವರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಜೇಗಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಅವರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಿಸಿತು.

ಬಳಿಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಹೋಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಮುಖಿಸಿತು. ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳ ಜತೆಗೂಡಿ ಕೊಂಡ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಿಸಿತು.

ಬಳಿಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಹೋಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಮುಖಿಸಿತು. ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳ ಜತೆಗೂಡಿ ಕೊಂಡ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಿಸಿತು.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಎಂದರೆ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ, ಪುಡಿಗ, ಉಪ್ಪಿನಕಾಯಿ, ಸಾಂಬಾರ್, ಪುಡಿಗ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವಾಗ ಜೀನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ ಅರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದು ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕೊಡುಗೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತಂತ್ರ, ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಕೊಡುವ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರವಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಲಿಗಲು ಎಂಬ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು ಅವರು.

ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ: 'ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಹಬ್ಬೆ' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆ (ಪಾಕ) ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ: 'ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಹಬ್ಬೆ' ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಹಬ್ಬೆ (ಪಾಕ) ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.



ಉದುವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಜೀನು ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿರುವುದು.

ಹಬ್ಬೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1,050 ಎಕರೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಭೂಮಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದರು. ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ಮನವೊಲಿಸಿ 900 ಎಕರೆಯಷ್ಟು ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು.

ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಹಣದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾದಾಗ ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ ಸುತ್ತುವರಿಯುವ ₹25,000 ಬಡ್ಡಿಕೊಡ ಸಾಲ ನೀಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಬೆಳೆದ ಭತ್ತವನ್ನು ದಲ್ಲಾಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡದೆ ಹೆಲ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ 'ಉದುವಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಕೆಲೆ' ಹೆಸರಿನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಕುಲಕೃಷಿ ದಿವ್ಯದ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಧಾರಣೆ ಬೆಲೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಕೆಲೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇದ್ದು ಇದುವರೆಗೂ 257 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳು, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಶ್ರಮ ಬೇಡುವ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಎಂಬ ಅತಂಕ ಇತ್ತು. ಗದ್ದೆ ಉಳುಮೆಯಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ನಾಟ, ಕೊಯಿಲು, ಅಕ್ಕಿ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯ ಹಂತದವರೆಗೂ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಸಾಂಘಿಕವಾಗಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅತಂಕ ದೂರವಾಯಿತು. ಭತ್ತದ ಕೃಷಿ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಷ್ಟು ಲಾಭ ತಂದುಕೊಡಲಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ ಹಬ್ಬೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿಯಾದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂತುಷ್ಟ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತಿ.

ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ತೆರೆದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ: ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮೇಳ, ಮಧ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊತ್ತುಕೊಂಡು

ಕಿರುಗುಲೇಕಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆ ಇತ್ತು. ಮಳಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ, ಕೂಲಿ, ಖರ್ಚು ಕೆಲವೆರ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಉಳಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ದಿವ್ಯಗಮನ.

ಈಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಉದುವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಂಭಕ್ಕೆ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಈ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯ.

ಉದುವಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಂಭವಾಗಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೊದಲ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸೆಳೆಯುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಜೀವೋದಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಸದಸ್ಯರು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ.

ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು, ಯಶಸ್ವಿವಾದ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾದಗಳು, ಕೊರಗಿ ಸಮುದಾಯ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ವಿಶೇಷ ದಿನದ ಬುಟ್ಟಿಗಳು, ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಹ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಬ್ಯಾಗ್‌ಗಳು, ಉದುವಿ ಕೈ ಮಗ್ಗಿದ ಸೀರೆ, ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಮಡಕೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನುಪಟ್ಟ, ಸಾವಯವ, ದೇಸಿ ಗೋ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು, ಚಿಕ್ಕಿ, ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ, ಹಪ್ಪಳ, ಉಪ್ಪಿನಕಾಯಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 260ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ.

ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದ್ದು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಯು ಶೇ 5ರಿಂದ 10ರಷ್ಟು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿ ಕಡಿಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಉಳಿದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮುಂದೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ತಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಅರಂಭಿಸುವ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಸಿ.ಎಂ. ಪ್ರಜೇಶ್ ಬಾಯಲ್.

ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ನಮಾಫ್ 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಸಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬ್ರಾಂಡಿಂಗ್, ಲೇಬಲಿಂಗ್ ಸಹಿತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ತಂತ್ರಗಳ ಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಾವಯವ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು, ಗೋಮದಿಂದ ತಯಾರಾದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಖಾದ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇದೆ.

ಅರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖ್ಯಯೋಗಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 30 ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದವು. ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಸದ್ಯ 200ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ವಸಂತಾ ಕೆಟ್ಟೆ.

ಉದುವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮುಖವರ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹೆಬ್ಬೆ ಜೀನು, ಪಾಕ ಭೂಮಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಮುದಾಯದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ದೊರೆತರೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಹೆಸರು ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

Source: Prajavani, p.01 & 7, Feb.25, 2024

Women-driven e-rickshaws for last-mile connectivity from Yelachenahalli and Indiranagar metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is one of the world's most congested cities and has the highest number of private cars in India. While the metro service has rapidly expanded over the years, a recent WRI India survey revealed that 70% of commuters were deterred by poor last-mile connectivity to metro stations in the city. Amidst these commuting hassles, Alstom, a multination manufacturer in smart and sustainable mobility, has introduced Low Emission Access to

Public Transport (LEAP), a programme under its CSR initiative, supported by World Resources Institute (WRI) India, that aims to boost last-mile connectivity, encouraging greater public transport usage.

The programme was inaugurated on Wednesday by Olivier Loison, Managing Director, Alstom India, Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, WRI India, Rajeev Gowda, Vice-Chairman, State Institute for the Transformation of Karnataka, and Kalpana Kataria, Executive Director (Connectivity and Asset

As a step to encourage and include women in the urban mobility landscape, MetroRide has trained around 25 of them to ride electric rickshaws

Management), Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL).

As part of the pilot phase, MetroRide, a start-up mentored under the Alstom's sustainability incubation programme, will have electric autorickshaws deployed as last-mile service from Yelache-

nahalli and Indiranagar Namma Metro stations. As a step to encourage and include women in the urban mobility landscape, MetroRide has trained around 25 women drivers to drive the electric rickshaws in the said region. The rides can be booked through the MetroRide app.

Among these women were those working as house helps and tailors, among other professions, who are now licensed autorickshaw drivers. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ashwini Satish, a last-mile connectivity driver at In-

diranagar, said it was hard to be a woman driver in the initial days but now she enjoys the job. "I worked as a house help for many years, but with the help of an NGO, I secured a driving licence and I have been an auto driver for more than three years now. When I joined, there were just two women in our team, and now we have so many. Initially, I was scared to drive, and I used to be bullied by male auto drivers, but with the help of my bosses and their motivation, I love driving so much now".

Bhuvaneshwari, a former tailor, and a last-mile connectivity driver in Konanakunte, said, "I always dreamt of driving, and now it has become a dream come true. Last year, I approached a female auto driver at the Konanakunte metro station and expressed my passion for driving. She referred me to MetroRide and for the last six months, I have been working for them. We only drive at a 5-km radius from the last-mile stations, and our autos have a tracking system too, so the job is safe for women drivers".

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Feb. 29, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Governance

Survey to identify ineligible members of construction workers welfare board

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will conduct house-to-house survey to identify ineligible persons who have enrolled as members of Karnataka State Construction and Other Workers' Welfare Board, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said on Friday.

"As many as 39 lakh workers have been added in the last few years. From 12.91 lakh in 2018, the numbers had gone up to 51 lakh of which six lakh has been removed already. The State-wide audit of workers would be taken up through Ambedkar Karmika Seva Kendra and the audit to identify ineligible workers would be completed in the next six to seven months," the Minister told the Legislative Council in response to a question from Congress member U.B. Venkatesh. "People owning luxury cars, land owners, GST number holders, and lecturers among others have been found to have become members," he said.

In Haveri district alone, Mr. Lad said 2.7 lakh mem-

bers of the Board have been found ineligible during the departmental audit. "Since we do not have enough personnel, house-to-house survey will be done through the Ambedkar Karmika Seva Kendra," he said.

Reduction in scholarship

To a question from BJP member Prathap Simha Nayak on steep downward revision of the scholarship amount for children of construction workers, Mr. Lad said: "The scholarship amount had been increased three to ten times in 2021. Without downward revision, ₹2,500 crore was needed for 13 lakh applications. In the last four to five years, ₹6,500 crore has been spent. Currently, ₹6,500 crore is available in the corpus and 14 other programmes have to be implemented besides scholarships. We would have closed the Board in two years if scholarship was not revised as annual receipt is only about ₹1,000 crore." Efforts are also being made to increase the annual receipts to around ₹2,500 crore, he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, Feb. 24, 2024

ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ನೀಗಿಸಲು ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಿ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ರಾಕೇಶ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಸಲು 131 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಅನುದಾನ: ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ತುಷಾರ್ ಗಿರಿನಾಥ್

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತೀವ್ರಗೊಂಡು ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಜನ ಪರದಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯೂ ಆಗಿರುವ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ರಾಕೇಶ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಉದ್ಭವವಾಗದಂತೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಜಂಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಕುರಿತು ಶನಿವಾರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸಮನ್ವಯ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುವ ಕಡೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಜತೆ ಸಮನ್ವಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಆಗದಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಲಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಅವರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದೆ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಅನುದಾನದ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ? ಎಂಬುದರ ಮಾಹಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ವರದಿ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ ಅವರು, 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಲು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ವಲಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಸಲು 131 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.:

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ತುಷಾರ್ ಗಿರಿ ನಾಥ್ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗಬಾರದು. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡಲೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ಎಲ್ಲೆಯೂ ನೀರಿನ ಅಭಾವ ಬಾರದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಮಹದೇವಪುರ, ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ನಗರ, ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಲಹಂಕ ವಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ (110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ) ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಯಲು 131 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಿರುವ ಕಡೆ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಯಬೇಕು ಎಂದರು.

ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಡಾ.ಕೆ.ಹರೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಲಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ವಲಯ ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದರು.



ನಗರದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ರಾಕೇಶ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸಮನ್ವಯ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು. ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ತುಷಾರ್ ಗಿರಿನಾಥ್, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ರಾಮ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಮನೋಹರ್ ಮತ್ತಿತರರು ಇದ್ದರು.

ಜುಲೈವರೆಗೆ ನಗರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 9.48 ಟೀಎಂಪಿ ನೀರು ಅಗತ್ಯ

ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ರಾಮ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಮನೋಹರ್ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ 19 ಟೀಎಂಪಿ ನೀರು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯ ಸುಮಾರು 1472 ಎಂಎಲ್‌ಡಿ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಿಂದ ಜುಲೈ 2024ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು 9.48 ಟೀಎಂಪಿ ನೀರು ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ 10.84 ಲಕ್ಷ ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 10,955 ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1,214 ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳು ಬತ್ತಿದ್ದು, 3700 ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಅಂತಹವುಗಳನ್ನು ಫ್ಲಷಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರೀಡಿಲ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದರು. ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುವ 257 ಸ್ಥಳಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು 68 ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ 18 ಹೊಸ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು 200 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಕಾವೇರಿ 5ನೇ ಹಂತ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕಡೆ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಯಬೇಕು. ಜತೆಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎದುರಾಗದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. 110 ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ 40,000 ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು

- ಮಹದೇವಪುರದ 16, ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ನಗರದ 25, ಬೊಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ 5, ಯಲಹಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಸರಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಲಾ 3 ಕಡೆ ಸೇರಿ 58 ಕಡೆ ನೀರಿನ ತೀವ್ರ ಅಭಾವವಿದ್ದು, ಕೂಡಲೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ನೀಡಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಸಬೇಕು.
- ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಘಟಕಗಳು ಸ್ವಗತಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಡೆ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿ ಆರ್.ಒ ಫ್ಯಾಂಟ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅದುವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ನೀರಿನ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.
- ನಗರದ 51ಎಂಪಿ, 11ಎಂಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೋರ್‌ಪರಿಯಾಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಕೊರೆದಿರುವ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದರೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯೇ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಸಬೇಕು. ಆ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ನೀಡಲಿದೆ.
- ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಂಟಿಕ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಸೇರಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಂಟಿಕ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಳವಡಿಸಬೇಕು.

Source: Vishwavani, p.03, Feb.25, 2024

Demand of forestry graduates comes to fore with students set to stage protest today

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The long-pending demand that a degree in forestry sciences should be prescribed as the minimum qualification to fill posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests, Range Forest Officer, and Assistant Range Forest Officer has gained steam now with over 500 students of all the three forestry sciences colleges of the State set to stage a protest in Bengaluru on Monday in this regard.

The Bengaluru protest of the forestry sciences graduates has come after their protest for some time on the campuses of the three forestry colleges at Ponnampet, Sirsi, and Iruvakkki.

The students and graduates of the forestry sciences colleges are upset that though they study a professional course related to forestry management for four years, the government is allowing graduates from other streams who do not have any knowledge about forest management to occupy these field posts.

A former dean of a forestry college explained that the State introduced the system of reserving 50% of these jobs to the forestry sciences graduates in 2003. The reservation for these graduates for the RFO posts was increased to 75% in 2012 as the government felt that they were

They want degree in forestry sciences to be fixed as minimum qualification to fill posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests, RFO, and Assistant RFO

ideal to handle the responsibilities associated with the post, he noted.

However, the reservation for the RFO posts for forestry sciences graduates was reduced to 50% in 2018. This caused anxiety among the graduates of these courses, who have been running from pillar to post since then, seeking restoration of the earlier system.

However, now they have stuck to their old demand that the three posts in the Forest Department should be earmarked to them on the lines of the Agricultural Department earmarking certain posts for the graduates of agricultural courses.

The former dean justified such a demand by observing that generally, those who get admission for the forestry courses are meritorious students with good ranks in the CET with the purpose of serving in the Forest Department.

Meanwhile, the protesting students and graduates of forestry sciences colleges have met various people's representatives seeking their help.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, Feb. 26, 2024

MGNREGA workers in state reel from delayed payments

Beneficiaries not paid for three months' work

RISHIKA KASHYAP
RAICHUR/BENGALURU, DHNS



“It is quite natural that bad financial planning and allocation of man days at the grassroots levels have affected people. As we speak, we have more than Rs 702 crore pending (to be released). It is complete mismanagement by the Centre.”

—Priyank Kharge
RDPR Minister

Over a million households that worked under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

in Karnataka in the past three months are awaiting payments for the work they finished as far back as December, underscor-

ing one of the vexing loopholes in the job scheme.

Payments for the work completed have to be settled within

a reasonable timeframe, typically within 15 days.

However, MGNREGA beneficiaries across the state have found their payments delayed for the past three months, with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge citing the Centre's financial “mismanagement” as the reason for the mess.

MGNREGA beneficiaries DH spoke to were irked over the delays.

Gouramma, who is from Raichur, said “this year has been difficult” and bristled at

the delayed payment.

“We had to protest in August

last year to get paid for the work completed in the first half of 2023. Now, we're again waiting for our payments for the work completed after that. We don't get paid until we protest, how do we lead our lives like this?” she told DH.

Another MGN-

REGA beneficiary Bhagyamma, a resident of Vijayanagara,

wondered “what is the whole point” of having the scheme if they can't get money to eat. “Will the officials give us food if we stand in front of their houses?” she told DH. Abhay Kumar, founder of Grameena Koolikaarmikara Sanghatane (GRA-KOOS), which aims to implement MGNREGA effectively, said this year the payments have



WATCH
MGNREGA
crisis,
Karnataka's
rural reality

been “delayed thrice”.
► MGNREGA, Page 6

MGNREGA, From Page 1

“Beneficiaries under the scheme are getting paid after 3-4 months of work completion even though they should be paid once in 15 days,” he told DH. Officials at the gram sabha level passed the buck to the government and blamed inadequate disbursement of funds.

“We try to process payments in the given time, but inadequate allocation of funds from the government's side could lead to delayed payments,” said Hanumanthappa, a Panchayat Development Officer in Vijayanagara district.

Minister Priyank targeted the Centre. “It is quite natural that bad financial planning and allocation of man days at the grassroots levels have affected people. As we speak, we have more than 702 crore pending (to be released). It is complete mismanagement by the central government,” he said.

Ironically, real-time data available on MGNREGA website says that 99.48% payments for beneficiaries in Karnataka were generated within 15 days of work completion in financial year 2023-24.

Rajendran Narayanan, co-founder of LibTech India, which has produced several research papers on MGNREGA over the years, had an explanation for this.

“There is a 15-day window between work completion and getting paid,” said Narayanan.

“The state government is supposed to send an electronic invoice to the Union government with details related to the work completion within 8 days. The Union government then has 7 days to process all these electronic invoices and transfer the payments to the account of the beneficiary.”

But the MGNREGA Management Information System (MIS), Narayanan said, makes “misleading claims that 99% of the wages are processed within 15 days”. “In reality, what this means is that 99% of the invoices are sent to the Union government within 15 days.”

While the state government takes a week extra to process the payments, the Union government takes much longer to transfer the wages to workers.

“This is in violation of the Act and the Supreme Court orders,” said Narayanan.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&6, Feb, 26, 2024

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟರಿಗೆ ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ? ಶಾಸಕರ ಅಂದಾಜು ಸಮಿತಿ ಅನುಮಾನ

■ ಮೈತ್ರಿಜಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಕೋಶಿತ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಭೂರಹಿತ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಜಮೀನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಅಪ್ರವಚಾರ, ದುರ್ಬಳಕೆ ಸುಳಿಗೆ

» ತಪಾಸಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸಿಲುಕಿರುವುದು ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಗಂಭೀರ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಶಾಸಕರ ಅಂದಾಜು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಜಮೀನು ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಂಜೂರು

ಮಾಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಜಮೀನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಅನುಮಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆ ದುರ್ಬಳಕೆ ರೀತಿಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ, ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿದ ನಂತರವಷ್ಟೇ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಥಳ ತಪಾಸಣೆ, ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಉನ್ನತಮಟ್ಟದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದು, ರೋಪಗಳಿಗೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಯ ಭೂರಹಿತ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಕೃಷಿ ಜಮೀನು ಹೊಂದುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಸಮಾನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. **■ ಪುಟ 2B**

ಉನ್ನತಮಟ್ಟದ ತನಿಖೆಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧ

ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಅಧಿವೇಶನವಲ್ಲೂ ಈ ವಿಚಾರ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತ ಮಾಹಿಯಾ ಕೈಗೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಸರಳಗೊಂಡಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯ ಡಾ.ವೈ.ಎ. ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಸಂಕಯ ಕೋಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಉನ್ನತಮಟ್ಟದ ತನಿಖೆಗೂ ಸಿದ್ಧವೆಂದು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ. ಎಚ್.ಸಿ. ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಜಮೀನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಶಾಸಕರ ಅಂದಾಜು ಸಮಿತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಮಿತಿ ಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಿದ ಸ್ಥಳ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತ ಜಾಲದ ಶಂಕೆ

ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಅಧಿವೇಶನ ನಿಗಮಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಲ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತ ಜಾಲವು ಯೋಜನೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶವನ್ನೇ ಬುಡಮೇಲು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಶಂಕೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಭಾವಿಗಳ ಕೃಪಾಕಾಶದಿಂದ ಕೆಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಹಸ್ತಕ್ಷೇಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದರೆ, ಹಣದ ಅಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಇಂಕುಹಾಕಿದರೇ ನೆಚ್ಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆರೋಪಗಳಿವೆ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ನಂಬರಿಸ್ತರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜಮೀನು ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಂತರ ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಇದೇ ಜಮೀನು ಖರೀದಿಯಾಗುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯ ಸಮಿತಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ದರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಜಮೀನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು, ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಆಯಾ ನಿಗಮಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬೇನಾಮಿ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ಜಮೀನು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥನಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ ಮೂಲ ಜಮೀನು ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ್ದಿದೆ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಜಮೀನು ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಇತ್ತ ಹಣ, ಅತ್ತ ಜಮೀನು ಬೇನಾಮಿಗಳ ಸುಪರ್ದಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪಗಳಿವೆ.

ಭೂಮಿ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ?



ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕ ಜೀವನ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುವು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುವುದು 'ಭೂ ಒಡೆತನ ಯೋಜನೆ'ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಎರಡು ಎಕರೆ ಅಥವಾ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಒಂದು ಎಕರೆ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಕೋಟಗಾಲಿಕೆ (ಭಾಗಾಯ್ತು) ಜಮೀನು ಅರ್ಧ ಎಕರೆ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಭೂರಹಿತ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಜಮೀನು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 27 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಘಟಕ (ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ) ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ 25 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಘಟಕ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಸಹಾಯಧನ, ಉಳಿದ ಕೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇ.6ರಷ್ಟು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಯಾ ನಿಗಮಗಳು ಸಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟುತ್ತವೆ. ನಂತರದ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು ಈ ಸಾಲವನ್ನು 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ತನಕ ಸಮಾನ ಕಂತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇ.6ರ ಬಡ್ಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮರು ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೋಶಿತ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಯೋಜನೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಲವೆಡೆ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ: ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜಮೀನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೇರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜನರಿಲ್ಲವೆ ? ಎಂಬ ಕುತೂಹಲವನ್ನು ವೈ.ಎ. ನಾರಾಯಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ, ಉಡುಪಿ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕನ್ನಡ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಶಾಸನಸೀರಿತಲವುಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಕೊಂಚವೆಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯುತ್ಥ ಗಮನಿಸಿದರು. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾದ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 25 ರಿಂದ 30 ಸಾವಿರದಷ್ಟು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಯವರಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಸಮಾಚಾರವಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಈ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗಮನಹರಿಸಿ ಕಿಟ್ಟಿಸಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಸಿಹಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ | ಏ.1ರಿಂದ ಹೊಸ ದರ ಅನ್ವಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಅಚ್ಚರಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಎರಿಕೆ ಆತಂಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಯಂತ್ರಣ ಅಯೋಗ (ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ) ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಿಹಿ ಸುದ್ದಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಒಂದೂವರೆ ವರ್ಷದ ಬಳಿಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಇಳಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ, ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ದರ ಎರಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಖಾತೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

100 ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವ ಗೃಹ ಬಳಕೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಗೆ 1.10 ರೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ ದರ ಎಕ್ರಿಲ್ 1ರಿಂದ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬರಲಿದೆ.

» ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಖಾತೆ

ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪಿ. ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಬುಧವಾರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದ್ದು, ದಿವ್ಯಾಂತ್ ಕುಲ್ಕರಣಿಯೂ ಶೇ.10 ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಎಸ್ಯಾಂಗಳು 50 ರಿಂದ 163 ಪೈಸೆ ಎರಿಕೆ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಸಮ್ಮತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಸುವುದನ್ನು ಕಂಟ್ರೋಲು, ಆ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷ 2024-25ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗಗಳ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ದರ ಮರು ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ಗೃಹ ಬಳಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣನೀಯ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈಗ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಸಂಜೆ 6 ರಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ 10 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಸಮಯಾಧಾರಿತ ದರವನ್ನು (ಟೈಮ್ ಆಫ್ ದೇ-ಟಿಎಡಿ) ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 6 ರಿಂದ 9 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗಿನ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೂ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹದ 1 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ: ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ ದರವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗೂ 20ರಿಂದ 1ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸಿ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಎಸ್‌ಐಎಸ್) ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2026ಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇರುತ್ತದ್ದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ಟರ್ ಸಬ್ಸಿಡಿ ದರವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸ್ವಯಂ ರೀಡಿಂಗ್‌ಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ: ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ತಾವೇ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮೀಟರ್ ರೀಡಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಹೊಸ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಎಲ್.ಟಿ. ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ (ಲ್ಯಾಪ್ ಮೂಲಕ) ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಥವ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಈಗ ಒಂದೇ ಸ್ಟಾಪ್ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.



ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ಎಲ್.ಟಿ. ಗೃಹಬಳಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 100 ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುವವರಿಗೆ 1.10 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಎಚ್.ಟಿ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 1.25 ರೂ. ದಿವ್ಯಾಂತ್ ಕುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆವಿಎಗೆ 10 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ
- ಎಚ್.ಟಿ. ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ: ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 50 ಪೈಸೆ, ದಿವ್ಯಾಂತ್ ಕುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆವಿಎಗೆ 10 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ
- ಎಚ್.ಟಿ ಅಸ್ತತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ವವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 40 ಪೈಸೆ, ದಿವ್ಯಾಂತ್ ಕುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆವಿಎಗೆ 10 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ
- ಎಚ್.ಟಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಏತ ವೀರಾವರಿ ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್ 2.00 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ.
- ಎಚ್.ಟಿ ವಸತಿ ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಗಳ ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆವಿಎಗೆ ದಿವ್ಯಾಂತ್ ಕುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು 10 ರೂ.ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಇಳಿಕೆ.
- ಎಲ್.ಟಿ.ಖಾಸಗಿ ಅಸ್ತತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ವವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 50 ಪೈಸೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ
- ಎಲ್.ಟಿ. ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳ ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯುನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 1.00 ರೂ. ಇಳಿಕೆ
- ಎಲ್.ಟಿ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳ ಇಂಧನ ಬಳಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 50 ಪೈಸೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ

ಎಸ್ಯಾಂಗಳ ನಿಲುವೇನು ?

ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ 2008ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗೆ 50 ಪೈಸೆ ಇಳಿಸಿದರೂ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ವಂಚಿತರಾದರು. ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಸ್ಯಾಂಗಳು ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ತಡೆಯಾಜ್ಞೆ ಕಂದಿದ್ದವು. ಈಗ ಎಲ್ಲ ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ದರ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಎಸ್ಯಾಂಗಳು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಅಥವಾ ಹಿಂದಿನಂತೆ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗಲಿ ಬೇಯಿ? ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಕಾದು ನೋಡಬೇಕಿದೆ.



ನೀತಿಸಂಹಿತೆ ತೂಗುತ್ತಿ

ಎಕ್ರಿಲ್ 1ರಿಂದ ಅಸ್ವಯವಾಗುವ ಹೊಸ ದರವನ್ನು ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪುನಾವಣೆ ನೀತಿಸಂಹಿತೆ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗುವ ಆಶಾಯವಿತ್ತು. ಸಾಲದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಸೇರಿ ಮೂವರು ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಪೈಕಿ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ನಿವೃತ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅವಧಿ ಮಾ.12ಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಗಿಯಲಿದ್ದು, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೊಬ್ಬರೇ ಉಳಿಯಲಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಮಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಯಿತು ಎಂದು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

All water tankers must compulsorily register with civic body by March 7

BBMP says any vehicle not registered by then will be seized, and they will be used to supply water to dry pockets free of cost in 110 villages

WATER WOES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid complaints of water tanker prices breaching the ₹2,000 mark for the first time in the city, the State government has made self-registration of the vehicles mandatory by March 7 as a first step towards regulating the industry.

Following meetings with multiple stakeholders over the next two days, the government will also fix prices for tanker loads, said Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Wednesday.

"Following several complaints of water tanker prices skyrocketing over the last 15 days, we have decided to regulate the industry," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shiva-



As the water tanker business is not categorised as a trade, tankers haven't been registered either with the BBMP or the BWSSB. K. MURALI KUMAR

kumar recently said in the Assembly that 25% of the city's water needs were being met by water tankers, and the government was mulling fixing the maximum price for water tankers.

Mr. Giri Nath said as the water tanker business is not categorised as a trade, tankers haven't been regis-

tered either with the BBMP or the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). But data from the Transport Department show that over 3,500 water tankers are operating in the city.

"We are developing an online platform which will go live on March 1. All water tankers have to self-re-

gister on this platform by March 7. From that date, all unregistered water tankers will be seized by the civic body and will be used to supply water to dry pockets free of cost in 110 villages," he said.

Maximum price

Mr. Giri Nath said the BBMP is calling up all wa-

ter tanker operators, and they will hold a consultation meeting with them over the next two days on the price-fixing mechanism. "We do not want them to make losses. But in some pockets, the pricing has been very predatory. We will ask them to submit their costs, while we are also calculating the same based on market intelligence. Based on both inputs, we will arrive at a maximum price range for water supplied through tankers in the city. Any deviation from this will be penalised," he said.

When quizzed on the legal basis as to how these norms will be enforced, he said that since the State government had declared three taluks of Bengaluru Urban district as drought-hit, they had special powers under The Disaster Management Act, 2005, which will be invoked to take stringent action.

Dealers unhappy

Water tanker operators

The Hindu spoke to, on condition of anonymity, said there was widespread opposition to the government fixing the price of water tankers.

"Contrary to popular perception, we are not making money unwarrantedly. We are travelling 50 km both ways to deliver a tanker of water and the price of water extraction has gone up several times. It is wrong to portray us as a 'mafia' and try to shift blame from the government's failure to provide water supply infrastructure to us," a water tanker businessman from East Bengaluru said.

Another dealer from South East Bengaluru said that they did not have a pan-city level association or union to argue their case, and that had now come to bite them. "We are a very unorganised sector. I think the time has come for us to form a union to negotiate with the government and protect our interests," he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Feb. 29, 2024

Each ward to have two nodal officers to manage water supply

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's civic body will appoint a ward engineer exclusively to manage the water supply for every ward in the outer zones not serviced by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). An Assistant Engineer (AE) rank officer from BWSSB will also be deployed as a coordinator in these wards. The two will serve as nodal officers for managing the drinking water supply in these areas.

"We will publish the names and contact numbers of all these personnel on our website and at ward offices. The public can reach out to them regarding their water woes, and they will address them," Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said.

These officials will be in charge of the distribution of free water to dry pockets dominated by the poor in these wards, address complaints about local water supply schemes of BBMP from borewells and enforce the maximum price for water tankers that will be fixed soon, Mr. Giri Nath said.

Meanwhile, BWSSB has written to the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru (Urban), requesting him to commandeer 200 water tankers invoking The Disaster Management Act, 2005, for BBMP and BWSSB to use them to supply free water in the outer zones. "Of these 200 tankers, 100 tankers will be handed over to the BBMP, and we will supply free water to 110 villages. This initiative is not for every house but will focus on where the need is high and on slum pockets and areas dominated by the poor. Using another 100 tankers, BWSSB will supply water to erstwhile 7 City Municipal Councils (CMC) and Town Municipal Council (TMC) areas, based on the same criteria," Mr. Giri Nath said.

BWSSB has 68 tankers which it is using to supply free water to 257 dry patches in core city areas. "To increase efficiency, we are fixing high-density plastic tanks with taps at such points and refilling them using tankers. A total of 108 tanks have been established," said Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman of BWSSB.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Feb. 29, 2024

ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಿಂದ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಆಡಳಿತ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲೇ ಭಾರಿ ವಿರೋಧ | ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಗಣತಿ
ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ | ಕೆಲ ಸಚಿವರು, ಶಾಸಕರು, ಶ್ರೀಗಳಿಂದ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪ

ಬಿಸಿ ತುಪ್ಪವಾಯಿತೇ ಜಾತಿಗಣತಿ ವರದಿ?



ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕೆ.ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು. ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಖಾತೆ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ ತಂಗಡಗಿ ಇದ್ದರು.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಆಯೋಗ ವರದಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ (ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ) ವರದಿ ಇದೀಗ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕೆ.ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ, 13 ಸಂಪುಟಗಳ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಸಚಿವರು, ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಶಾಸಕರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಆಡಳಿತ ಪಕ್ಷದವರಿಂದಲೇ ವರದಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಪಸ್ಮರ ಕೇಳಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವರು, ವರದಿ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ, ವರದಿ ನೋಡಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ, ಅಡ್ಡಗೋಡೆ ಮೇಲೆ ದೀಪ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ, ತುಮಕೂರಿನ ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗಾ ಮಠದ ಸಿದ್ಧಲಿಂಗ ಸ್ವಾಮೀಜಿ ಕೂಡ ವರದಿ ಅವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪರೋಕ್ಷ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟು ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮುಂದಿನ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವರದಿಯ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಲು ಸರಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ ಮೂಲಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಜಾತಿಗಳ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕಾಂತರಾಜು ಆಯೋಗ ನೀಡಿದ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನೇ ಅಂತಿಮಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಗಡ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದವರು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರು ಸೇರಿ ನಾನಾ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಕೈಕೆಳಗೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಮಾನದ ಕುರಿತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದೆ.

ಜಾತಿ ಗಣತಿ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟು ಚರ್ಚೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಬಳಿಕ ಮುಂದಿನ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ಸಿಎಂ

ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲೇನಿದೆ?

- ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ 1.08 ಕೋಟಿ
- ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ - 40.45 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಮುಸ್ಲಿಮರು - 70 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ - 65 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ - 60 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಕುರುಬ - 45 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಕುಡಿಗೆ - 15 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ವಿಶ್ವಕರ್ಮ - 15 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಬೆನ್ನ - 15 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣ - 14 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಗೋತ್ರ (ಯಾದವ) - 10 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಮಡಿವಾಳ ಸಮಾಜ - 6
- ಆಲೆ ಆಲೆಮಾರಿ - 6 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಕುಂದಾರ - 5 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಸಮಾಜ ಸಮಾಜ - 5 ಲಕ್ಷ



ವರದಿಯ ಸಾರಾಂಶ

- 2011ರ ಜನಗಣತಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ನಡೆದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ
- ಒಟ್ಟು 5.98 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಂದಿಯ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ
- ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುಳಿದವರು 32 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ದಲಿತರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು
- ಕುರುಬರು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗ
- ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ - 1,351
- ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಾದ ಜಾತಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ - 192
- ಸರಕಾರ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಇತರ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಜಾತಿಗಳು - 816

ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿದವರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಜನರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಲೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರ ಹಲವು ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಗೊಂದಲಗಳಿವೆ.

ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳೂರ್, ಸಚಿವೆ

Consumers can soon generate their own power bills in State

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A meter reader from a power utility going to a consumer's house to read their electricity meter and provide them with a bill will be a thing of the past from June. In the tariff order that was passed for the financial year 2024-25, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has asked distributing companies to develop digital modalities (software) for self-reading meters to help consumers generate their own bills.

Self-billing will be effective in Karnataka from June 1 for LT consumers as per the Commission's directives. "With the removal of slabs, it has become easier for consumers to read their meters.

The consumers can take a photo of the meter, upload it on the software and upload their reading details. Accordingly, their bill will be generated and then can make the payment," said P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC.

With the self-billing mechanism, the norm of paying bills only once a month will not be so rigid anymore.

"Consumers can check and pay their bills once in 10 or 15 days or they may choose to pay it the usual way of once a month. It will be compulsory to pay



The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has also asked Escoms to set up systems that are required for optional prepaid metering from April 1. FILE PHOTO

the bill at least once a month. Instead of going every month, meter readers from electricity supply companies (escom) can go once in six months and verify," Mr. Ravikumar said.

The Commission has also asked Escoms to set up systems that are required for optional prepaid metering from April 1.

Speaking about the self-billing mechanism, M.G. Prabhakar, a former member of the advisory committee, KERC, said, "We are moving into the era of smart meters where everything will become automatic. In such times, this self-billing will help consumers at places where meter reading is not done regularly. It can help consumers manage their energy requirements. This is also one way of ensuring energy conservation as consumers will be more aware of their usage when

they regularly check their meters."

Reduce tussle

A senior from Bescom said simplification of tariffs by reducing the slabs will also curb the tussle between Escoms and consumers. "This (simplification) will take away the discretion at the lower level regarding slab classification. More importantly, this will reduce harassment and litigation regarding tariff classification," said Darshan. J, Director of Finance, Bescom. "Sometimes when the electricity bill goes higher than our expectations, we immediately think if there was some mistake with the meter reading. If there is a mechanism where we can do it ourselves, we will be relieved of our doubts and also help us trust power distributing companies more," said Suhas P., a resident of R.R. Nagar.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, March. 1, 2024

Assembly passes Bill that provides welfare schemes for motor transport workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024, for providing social security and benefits to motor vehicle drivers, conductors, cleaners, supervisors, station staff, line checking staff, booking clerks, cash clerks, depot clerks, time-keepers, watchman/attenders, and other unorganised workers engaged in motor transport.

The Bill aims at providing welfare measures to those working in garages, tyre retreading and resoling units, puncture shops, wheel balancing and alignment units, water washing units. The facilities provided would be similar to those provided for construction workers now.

It seeks re-appropriation of funds from the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957, to finance social security and other welfare measures; and

constitute a board for disbursement of the funds under schemes. The Bill also encompasses persons working in automobile body building units, tinkering electrical and AC units.

The government will constitute the Karnataka State Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Board for implementing welfare measures. The Minister for Labour will be chairperson of the Board while the Additional Chief Secretary of the department will be the vice-chairperson.

How fund accrues

The fund will be created through levy of cess, surcharge and taxation, sums received through CSR and grants from the State government. Every motor transport and other allied workers should register his or her name soon after the Act came into force, the Bill said.

Besides accident benefit to motor transport and other allied workers, the fund would be used for

providing educational assistance to the children of deceased workers, maternity benefit, reimbursement/payment of registration fee for Karnataka government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka Pension Scheme and benefits during death, disability and medical reimbursement, the Bill said.

The Assembly passed the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for levying 5% additional cess on transport vehicles for the purpose of the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy tabled the Bill and said it was introduced to give effect to the amendment made by the Centre in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, and levy life time tax on motor cars, jeeps, omni buses, and private service vehicles which runs on electricity having cost of the vehicle which exceeds ₹25 lakh.

Source: The Hindu, p.12, March. 1, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Instant loan app harassment: Organised racket continues to prey on fear

Primary targets are students, homemakers, young professionals

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The process is simple: download the application, approve a few "mandatory" app permissions, fill in your bank and other details and voila you are eligible for an instant loan. This is how a well-organised racket, which the police believe is equipped with tech and operates, in many cases, outside the country, traps an unsuspecting victim.

Then it begins. The constant calls, threats, harassment and blackmail by using the victim's, in some cases even their family's "morphed" explicit photographs, which the loan sharks flood their contact list with.

The modus is not new. But despite regulations, these instant loan apps continue to creep into the social media feeds of victims, enticing them into availing a not-so-huge loan. Their targets are students, homemakers, young professionals and those who wish to skip the hassle of applying for a bank loan.

Since January this year, *DH* reported three such cases where the victims were blackmailed by loan sharks. In two of

those cases, the victims claimed they never availed a loan and the sum was automatically credited into their bank accounts after they entered their details on the app.

Cases galore

City police's data revealed that in 2023, 353 loan app cases were reported in Bengaluru. The most (144) were in the northern division.

While the police concluded that they couldn't detect 35 cases, bank details were awaited in 27. A large number of cases were being investigated. The total cases, however, saw a massive dip from 2022 (586).

In July 2023, a 22-year-old Bengaluru student died by suicide after facing harassment from loan agents. Similar cases were reported in other parts of the state and the country.

Well-oiled machine

While Play Store (Google) and App Store (Apple) remove suspicious apps periodically, investigators say there was no check on dubious loan apps being advertised on social media. Recent government statistics showed that between April 2021-July 2022 and September 2022-August 2023, Google removed over 4,700 loan apps from the Play Store.

In December 2023, the Union government directed social media platforms to not host fraudulent loan app ads.

Despite this, the dubious loan apps have a free run on social media advertising platforms, senior police investigators the *DH*



Loan apps under scanner

- Hero Rupee
- Cash Fish
- Indikash
- Lightning Rupee
- Happy Cash
- Cash Guru
- Legend Rupee
- Glory Loan
- Candy Cash
- Cash Machine

How to be safe

- Never download/install third-party apps
- Never click on suspicious links/ ads on social media
- Verify the regulatory approvals/ authenticity
- Do basic research on the internet to verify the legitimacy
- Be wary while giving access to gallery, contacts
- Borrow from legitimate sources
- Report suspicious activity to police immediately/ call 1930

CASES IN THE CITY IN 2023

Division	East	West	North	South	Southeast	Northeast	Central	Whitefield
Cases	40	29	144	31	39	8	53	9

spoke with said, adding that the scamsters use targeted advertisements and Search Engine Optimised (SEO) keywords like "quick loan, loan, easy loan and EMI" etc., to appear on user feeds.

"The racket is well organised," a senior Bengaluru police officer told *DH*. "This involves huge investments and manpower: one needs to develop the apps, collect data, morph photographs, make threatening calls, send messages etc. The apps also need to be hosted on servers to run — so it is not something every person can do."

The officer said that in many cases, the banned apps were found again "repackaged with fresh looks and user interfaces (UI)".

"Since the amount being borrowed is small, people don't think much," the of-

ficer, who requested anonymity, added. "The interest charged is much lower than regular channels and hence people get enticed."

Karunakar Prasad (name changed), a Bengaluru college lecturer, paid the agents of Digital Bank and Money Pocket Rs 5.69 lakh for availing a loan of Rs 56,550 in October 2023. Prasad, who was harassed for nearly three months with his "explicit" photographs, had told *DH* the interest rate offered was 0.7% and the repayment period was 120 days.

According to CK Baba, DCP Southeast, fraudsters almost copy the features of genuine loan apps to make the UI appear authentic and manage to bypass firewalls on social media.

"Social media platforms lack du-

ble checks and the availability of targeted advertisements makes the job easier for scamsters," Baba, who oversaw several loan app probes, told *DH*. "They will also make sure the data fed to the algorithm appears genuine so that they can breach the checks."

Officers also said that since these apps operate illegally, they don't wait for the victim to avail a loan "and automatically credit the sum". Probes have led the investigators to China, Dubai and some Indian states, where the perps continue to operate.

Technicalities

A cybercrime investigator, who was not authorised to comment on the record, said that loan apps were programmed in such a way that they would not function without giving a set of mandatory permissions to access contacts, files, gallery and phonebook.

"In a hurry, the victims grant access without realising the repercussions," the investigator, who is probing a recent loan app case in Bengaluru, told *DH*. "Scammers then use the photographs, morph them into explicit content and blackmail the victims."

Another key factor is for Android users where the installation of third-party applications — those not verified on Play Store — is easy. "All they have to do is accept a prompt during the app installation process, which they downloaded from a third-party link on social media or any other dubious website."

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Feb, 25, 2024

ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಂತರ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ದೇಶದ ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬವು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮನೆ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೆ ಸರಾಸರಿ ₹6,521 ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡಿದೆ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಕುಟುಂಬವು ₹3,860 ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಾದರಿ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಕಳೆದ ಒಂದು ಗ್ರಹವು ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2011-12ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕೂ 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಎರಡುಪಟ್ಟು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಾಗಿದೆ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಿರುವ ಏರಿಕೆಯು ಒಂದೇ ದಿನವು ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಜನರ ಖರೀದಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನೂ ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬಡವರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಿರಿವಂತರ ನಡುವೆ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಮೊತ್ತದ ನಡುವಣ ಅಂತರವು ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿಯೇ ಇದೆ. ವಿವಿಧ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ನಡುವಣ ಈ ಅಂತರವೂ ಫಾರ್ಮಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವಿಷಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಾಗಿಯೇ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಇದು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

'ಕುಟುಂಬ ಗ್ರಹವು ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ'ಯು ದೇಶದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಹಿಡಿದ ಕೈಗನ್ನಡಿ ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿ, ಹಣದುಬ್ಬರದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಜಿಡಿಪಿ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ, ಜನರ ಜೀವನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯು ವರದಿ ತೆರೆದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇಶದ ಜನರ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದಂತೆ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡುಪಟ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಬಡವರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಿರಿವಂತರ ನಡುವೆ ಇದ್ದ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಅಂತರವು ಹಾಗೆ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

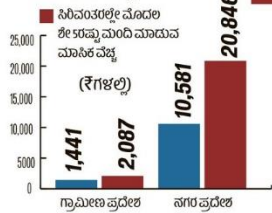
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮನೆ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿರುವ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ನಡುವಣ ಅಂತರವೂ ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ. ಜಾತಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಇರುವ ಈ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಂತರವೂ ಹಾಗೆ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉಚಿತ ಪಡಿತರ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಉಚಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸೇವೆ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಜನರ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದವರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ ಜೀವನಮಟ್ಟವನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವಂತಹ ಸರಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಜನರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿರಿವಂತರು ಮಾಡುವ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಅಂತರ ಹಾಗೆ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ.



ಶೇ 11.28ರಷ್ಟು ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಬಡವರು

ಈ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಕೆಲವು ಮಾದರಿಗಳ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷಗಣಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದ್ದ ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು, 'ಈ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡತನ ರೇಖೆಗಿಂತ ಕೆಳಗಿರುವವರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 5ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಇದು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಕೀಯ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಇದೇ ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗವು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವರದಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಡವರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಶೇ 5ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚೇ ಇದೆ. 2022-23ರ ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಬಡತನ ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಬಡತನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 11.28ರಷ್ಟು. ಭಾನುವಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲೂ 'ಬಡತನ ರೇಖೆಗಿಂತ ಕೆಳಗಿರುವವರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 5ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ' ಎಂದು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

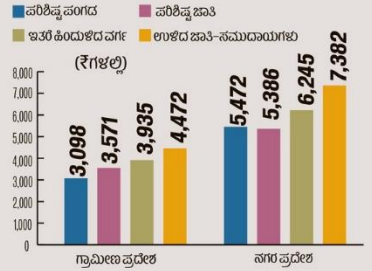
■ ಬಡವರಲ್ಲೇ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಶೇ 5ರಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಮಾನಕ ವೆಚ್ಚ



ಜಾತಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಂತರ ವಿಪರೀತ

ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ-ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಮಾಜದ ತಳ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯು ಅಂಕಿಅಂಶಗಳು ನಿರೂಪಿಸಿವೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಇವೇ ಜಾತಿ-ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಕುಟುಂಬವು ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಆ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಎಷ್ಟು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸ್ತರವನ್ನಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ಸ್ತರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಾತಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ (ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇವನ್ನು ಉಳಿದ ಜಾತಿ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ) ಹೋಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ತಳ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ. ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ವರ್ಗ ಅಥವಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ ಅದು ಸುಮಾರು ₹3,000ದಿಂದ ₹3,950ವರೆಗೆ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದೇ ಉಳಿದ ಜಾತಿ-ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದು ಸುಮಾರು ₹4,500ರಷ್ಟು ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವಸ್ತುಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಭಿನ್ನವೆನಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಗೃಹವೆಚ್ಚ



ನೈಜ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವೆಷ್ಟು...

ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದು ಜೀವನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿರುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಎರಡು ಮಾದರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಲ, ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕೆಲವು ಬೆಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇಂಥ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ದಾಖಲೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ, ಉಡುಗೊರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವುಗಳ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನೂ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂದರೆ ವಾಸ್ತವವಾಗಿ ಆ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವು ಇನ್ನೂ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿಯ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಉಚಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ತೋರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ, ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವು ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ್ದೇ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 80 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಪಡಿತರವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇಳಲಾದ ವೆಚ್ಚದಿಂದ ಈ ಪಡಿತರದ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕಿಸಿದರೆ, ಜನರ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮನೆವೆಚ್ಚ: ಬಡವರು-ಸಿರಿವಂತರ ನಡುವೆ ಭಾರಿ ಅಂತರ

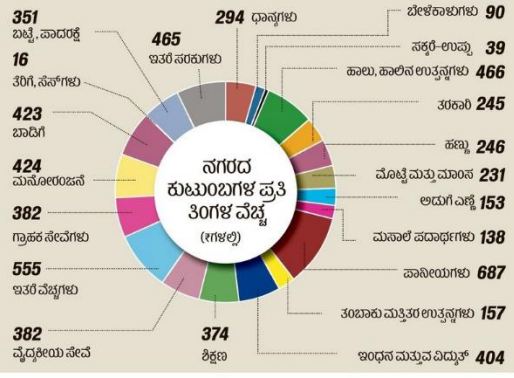
ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ವರ್ಗದ ಜನರು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮನೆ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೆ ಮಾಡುವ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರಿ ಅಂತರವಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಬಡ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮಾಡುವ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವು ₹1,400ರ ಅಸುಪಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಿರಿವಂತ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮಾಡುವ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವು ₹10,000ಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ಈ ದತ್ತಾಂಶ. ಅಂದರೆ ದೇಶದ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡೆಯ ಶೇ 5ರಷ್ಟು ಬಡ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮಾಡುವ ಸರಾಸರಿ

ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕಿಂತ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸಿರಿವಂತರಲ್ಲೇ ಮೊದಲ ಶೇ 5ರಷ್ಟು ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮಾಡುವ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವು ಶೇ 63.4ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು, ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯೂ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಭಿನ್ನವಾಗೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂತಹ ಅಂತರದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಶೇ 89.8ರಷ್ಟು ಇದೆ. ಈ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರವು ಸರಾಸರಿ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣ, ನೈಜ ಚಿತ್ರಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬಡವರು ಮಾಡುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸಿರಿವಂತರು ಮಾಡುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇರಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸ್ತವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತೋರಿಸದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ

ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಮಾಡುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಎನ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಒ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆತ ವೆಚ್ಚ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಸರಾಸರಿ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಸರಾಸರಿಗೆ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾದ ಇಂತಹ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಇದೇ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇವಲ 2 ಲಕ್ಷದಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ನೀಡುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು 140 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ, ಈ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳು ವಾಸ್ತವಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತಿರವಿರುವ ಚಿತ್ರಣವನ್ನು ಕೊಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ: ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬವು ಮನೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಸರಾಸರಿ ₹424 ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತದೆ ಈ ವರದಿ. ಆದರೆ ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಮನೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ಎಂದು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ಕಲವರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆಧಾರ: ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಬಡತನ ಸೂಚಕ-2023, ಕುಟುಂಬ ಗ್ರಹವು ವೆಚ್ಚ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ: 2022-23, ವಿಟಿಬಿ



As DSS turns 50, its legacy of awakening Dalit consciousness still resonates in Karnataka

Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, which went on to play a significant role in shaping Karnataka's political and cultural sensibilities, took shape in 1974

Sathish G. T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Back in the day, the management of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) in Bhadravathi in Shivamogga district offered coffee to its employees during work-shift breaks. However, for the workers belonging to the Scheduled Castes, a separate container was placed. They were not allowed to touch the container. Instead, they had to wait for someone from the 'upper' caste to pour coffee into their individual cups.

For years, this discrimination continued in the factory. A few employees raised their voices against the untouchability practices on the factory campus. Professor B. Krishnappa, who was teaching at Bhadra College in the town, was the guiding force behind the protesting employees. It was under his leadership, Dalita Sangharsha Samiti (DSS) -- that went on to play a significant role in shaping Karnataka's political and cultural sensibilities -- took shape in 1974 with its office in the Old Town of Bhadravathi.

The ground was fertile

By then, Karnataka had witnessed many events that forced the oppressed castes to come together and oppose atrocities. The anti-caste movement was gaining ground, and the Samajvadi Yuva Sabha was also active in the early 1970s. B. Basavalingappa, a senior minister in the Devaraj Urs-led cabinet, attracted criticism from the 'upper' castes for his comment on Kannada literature. In a seminar in Mysuru in November, 1973, the minister described Kannada literature as *boosa* (rice husk, a cattle feed). There were a series of protests across the State against his statement, and in several places the protests turned violent. Finally, Basavalingappa was forced to resign as minister.

The issue gave enough impetus to writers and artists from deprived sections to join hands. They convened a conference in Mysuru and invited noted poet and Jnanapeeth awardee Kuvempu to inaugurate it.

Meanwhile, in Bhadravathi, Krishnappa had begun organizing people from oppressed sections. He wrote pamphlets condemning injustices done to employees of VISL in Bhadravathi. He registered Dalit Sangharsha Samiti in January, 1974. N. Giriappa, who was an employee of VISL, was the president, while Krishnappa, became secretary.

Creating awareness

The DSS conducted workshops for the students. Experts took classes on the rights of the oppressed castes and introduced students to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's speeches and writings in these workshops. Through many such workshops, hundreds of youths, particularly college students, joined the DSS.

"Prof. Krishnappa regularly met students in hostels and spoke to them about practices of untouchability and the ways to achieve emancipation. That motivated many students to join him," recalled M. Gurumurthy, State convener of Karnataka DSS. He joined the DSS in 1981 as a student in Shivamogga, and took part in many movements that organization led. Now, he leads the 50-year-old DSS.

Protests over land issues

The youth who came into contact with the organisation in their student days motivated like-minded people to join the forum in their villages. A few, including Chandraprasad Tyagi, who was an employee at VISL, gave up jobs to lead the organization in their native places. Hence, within a span of a few years, the DSS grew as a strong pressure group in the State. In due course, the DSS drafted a constitution and adopted it. It defined the word Dalit as a group of people who are untouchables and discriminated against on the basis of caste. Its primary objective was the liberation of Dalits from cultural, sociological, and economic inequalities through the path of non-violence.



Savita Ambedkar, wife of B.R. Ambedkar addressed the first convention of the Dalit Students Federation in Kolar. B. Krishnappa, founder of DSS, Ramdas Athavale, and writer Devanur Mahadeva participated. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Besides protesting against the atrocities against Dalits and women, the DSS motivated its workers to engage in land-related struggles. The DSS led a series of protests for the Dalits of Siddipura in Bhadravathi taluk and Bidare Kaval in Hassan and many other places. An industrialist had acquired land that belonged to Dalits in Siddipura. The Samiti staged protests in favour of the landless for several months and succeeded in the protest.

This movement culminated in the State government passing a law to prohibit the transfer of certain lands -- Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978.

Protests in many hues

"In many cases, either through ignorance or coming under pressure, the Dalits lost land granted to them for a paltry sum. This law ensures they retain their land. This was the historic agitation that prompted the government to bring in the law. Similarly, Krishnappa was the first to raise a voice for the grant of land to bagair hukum cultivators," said Mr. Gurumurthy. He also recalled how he and his associates fought with members of the Hindutva organisations, condemning the assault on Dr. Polanki Ramamurthy, a professor of English, during his lecture in a college in Shivamogga in the early

1980s. Ramamurthy faced criticism from Hindutva factions after he wrote the book *Seethayana*. The DSS did not restrict itself to questioning atrocities against Scheduled Caste alone, but stood against various other forms of oppression. For instance, when a person who belonged to the Kumbara, potter community, a backward class, was murdered, and his daughter was raped in Kolar taluk in 1979, the DSS took out a historic march from Kolar to Bengaluru, seeking justice for the victims. The family was tortured as they refused to give their land to a landlord. Hundreds of workers from different parts of the state took part in the march and suffered injuries in police lathi-charge.

Another major protest that the DSS led was in March 1986, when the organization decided to convince devotees of Renukamba at Chandragutti in Soraba taluk, not to offer *bettale seve* (Nude worship). Under the leadership of Prof. Krishnappa around 300 activists from different parts of the state had gathered on the bank of the Varada River to convince the devotees to wear clothes to offer their prayers. Their gesture did not go well with the people, who were in support of the custom. They targeted DSS workers and the police, who were also in support of the activists. The angry mob tortured the police. The incidents forced the State



B. Krishnappa (in the left corner with spectacles) and other leaders of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti in Chitradurga in the 1990s. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Large crowd during 'apolitical' convention named 'Dalits Cultural Resistance' on the occasion of B.R. Ambedkar's Mahanirvan Diwas at the National College Grounds. FILE PHOTO



Devanur Mahadeva



Siddalingaiah



K.B. Siddaiah

The DSS and Kannada literature

The DSS and Dalit movements have contributed immensely to Kannada literature. Writers including Dr. Siddalingaiah, a noted poet, and Devanura Mahadeva, novelist and storyteller, have been involved in the activities since the early 1970s. They were instrumental in organising the conference of Dalit Writers and Artists in 1976. Along with Krishnappa and others, they played a role in holding the first convention of Dalit students in Kolar in 1983.

Siddalingaiah's poems reached a larger audience through the activists of the DSS. His poems were instant hits, becoming anthems of sorts of the movement. The activists of DSS would begin their programmes singing Siddalingaiah's poems.

Noted critic D.R. Nagaraj, in his *The Flaming Feet*, says, "There are two different modes of Dalit

writing and they can be called the schools of 'social rage' and 'spiritual quest'." He puts the writers - Siddalingaiah, Mullur Nagaraj, Mogalli Ganesh, Aravind Malagatti, Ma.Na. Javariaiah, Munivenkatappa, Gangaram Chandala, Chinnaaswamy and Indudhara Honnapura - in the school of "social rage", which concentrates "basically on the experiences of anger, agony, and revolutionary hope."

Dr. Nagaraj includes Devanura Mahadeva, K.B. Siddaiah and Govindaiah in the school of "spiritual quest" because their works tried to "understand the world of poverty and untouchability in terms of metaphysical dismay over the nature of human relationships." These writers have not only enriched Kannada literature through their creative works, but also worked towards bringing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's writings into Kannada.

Government to hold a judicial probe by Chikmagalur district judge G. Channaveerappa. The risk the activists took did not go to waste. The tradition of naked worship was stopped.

Fights and their outcomes

The organisation fought against atrocities against Dalits reported across the state. "The activists hit the streets opposing the bonded labour system, resulting in violence against them in many instances. But these efforts resulted in the passing of the law on the prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1989. The DSS and its activities have brought about significant changes in the state," said Prof. B.L. Raju, who teaches English at Ripponpet in Shivamogga district.

Devanura Mahadev, Siddalingaiah, N. Venkatesh, Kotaganahalli Ramaiah, M. Venkataswamy, Mavalli Shankar, Sridhar Kaliveer, Lakshminarayana Nagavara, Guruprasad Keragodu, Indudhar Honnapura, Chandra Prasad Tyagi, M. Jayanna and many others have led the movement, shouldering responsibilities at different stages.

The leaders had differences over joining politics and facing the elections, and other issues. Gradually, many senior leaders left the organization to form their own factions. Hence, at present, there are many forums that are splinter groups of the original DSS.

Gurumurthy said that their unit is planning to hold many events to mark the 50th year of the organization.

Source: The Hindu, p.14, March. 1, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)

Urban Affairs

BMRCL initiates feasibility study for Namma Metro expansion to city outskirts

In the 2024-25 Budget, CM had outlined plans to expand metro to Tumakuru and Devanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on February 23 issued bids for consultancy services to prepare a feasibility study report for the expansion of Metro rail corridors to the outskirts of the city.

The expansion is divided into two packages. The first package, spanning 50 km, will include three corridors: Challaghatta - Bidadi, Silk Institute - Harohalli, and Bommasandra - Attibele.

The second package will cover a 60 km corridor, encompassing Kalene Agrahara (Gottigere), Jigani, Anekal, Attibele, Sarjapur, Varthur, and Kadugodi Tree Park.

According to BMRCL officials, the feasibility study will evaluate crucial elements such as the choice of trains like Normal Metro, Metrolite or Metro Neo projected ridership, alignment, station placements, and construction expenses. In the recent 2024-25 Karnataka Budget, Chief



In November last year, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar instructed the BMRCL to formulate a Detailed Project Report for the extension of the metro network up to Bidadi. FILE PHOTO

New metro lines

- The first package, spanning 50 km, will include three corridors: Challaghatta - Bidadi, Silk Institute - Harohalli, and Bommasandra - Attibele.
- The second package will cover a 60 km corridor, encompassing Kalene Agrahara (Gottigere), Jigani, Anekal, Attibele, Sarjapur, Varthur, and Kadugodi Tree Park.

Minister Siddaramaiah had outlined plans to expand the Namma Metro to Tu-

makuru and Devanahalli. "The feasibility report for extending the metro rail from Bangalore International Exhibition Centre to Tumakuru and from Kempegowda International Airport to Devanahalli on a Public-Private Partnership basis will be prepared," Mr Siddaramaiah had said.

DPR Reoprt

In November last year, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar instructed the BMRCL to formulate a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the

extension of the metro network up to Bidadi.

Meanwhile, the corridors for which BMRCL sought a feasibility study on Friday are not included in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) of 2020. The CMP proposed an expansion of the Metro network in Bengaluru to 317 km, outlining corridors such as J.P. Nagar 4th Phase-Kempapura along ORR West, Hosahalli-Kadabagere along Magadi Road, Whitefield - Domlur Line, Katamnallur Gate - Sarjapur Road - Hebbal, and Inner Ring Metro.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Feb. 24, 2024

Just 907 public toilets for 1 crore B'lureans

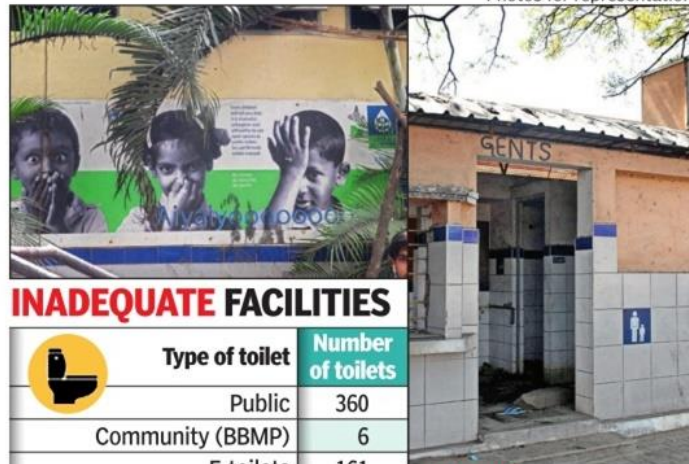
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Bengaluru: After having recorded its best ever Swachh performance only a month ago, Bengaluru cuts a sorry figure when it comes to public sanitation facilities. The city, with a population of slightly over 1 crore, has only 907 public toilets, according to the latest data made available by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). That would translate into every 11,000 Bengalureans having to manage with one public toilet.

No consolation can be drawn from the fact that the 907 toilets are spread across Bengaluru's 800-sqkm area. This doesn't translate into more than a toilet for every sqkm area, as 181 toilets are reserved for the civic workers (pourakarmikas) who keep the city clean and tidy.

An analysis of BBMP data on public toilets shows that Bengaluru has seven types of public toilets across its eight administrative zones. While there are only 360 public toilets, the civic body has also set up six community toilets for groups of households that don't have access to individual toilets. This apart, the city has 161 e-toilets at major commercial locations, 17 modular toilets, and 10 eco-friendly and precast toilets. Further, 172 Indira Canteens also have toilets used by the public.

But if you are wondering about the condition of these toilets, a big disappointment awaits as there is no end to the complaints. "Public toilets for women in Bengaluru are nothing but a mess. Shortage of water, poor lighting and arrogant staff, these toilets ha-



INADEQUATE FACILITIES

Type of toilet	Number of toilets
Public	360
Community (BBMP)	6
E-toilets	161
Modular	17
Eco-friendly ODF + precast	10
Restrooms for civic workers	181
Indira Canteen	172
Total	907

Source: BBMP

LACKING: On Friday, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar admitted the glaring disparity between population growth and public sanitation facilities

ve all the problems. People just avoid these toilets as a result," said Bharati Shetty, BJP MLC.

'372 more toilets planned'

On Friday, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar admitted the glaring disparity between the population growth and public sanitation facilities. "We're planning to build 372 additional public toilets in the coming days. Private investors have also evinced interest in building toilets in Bengaluru. We'll discuss with them and build efficient toilets," he said, adding that recently Bengaluru secured the 'Water Plus' distinction in the latest Swachh rankings. "Water Plus is a parameter to assess the sanitation facility and Bengaluru has scored well," he said.

"A total of 15 state-of-the-art model eco-friendly precast toilets with five-year ma-

intenance will be built under the first phase of Shubra Bengaluru, and 46 such toilets will be built in the second phase. A total of 246 new public toilets will be built under SIP (structural insulated panels) and 15 more community toilets are also on the cards. Under Amrutha Nagarothana, another 50 toilets (restrooms) have been planned for civic workers as well," a senior BBMP official said.

Shivakumar also revealed that tenders have already been floated for building 100 she-toilets in places where there is huge footfall of women, including garment-textile hubs, and shopping areas on a public-private partnership model. "These will have feeding rooms, resting rooms, mobile charging points, sanitary vending machines, automatic sensors, solar lighting, security system and other facilities," the deputy CM said.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Feb. 24, 2024

Although low-cost houses are in great demand in Bengaluru, the government has allotted just 10% of such available houses. Political interference is among the many reasons for non-implementation of the plan

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

The need for low-cost housing is dire in Bengaluru, which houses lakhs of new poor migrants every year. Lack of appropriate housing makes people face substandard living conditions. The government is indeed aware of the issue. Under one such attempt to solve the problem, the state government in 2017-18 announced the construction of 1 lakh houses for the economically backward sections in Bengaluru Urban district. Named Chief Minister's Multi-storey Bengaluru Housing Scheme, this aims to build apartments with flats with one bedroom, hall and kitchen (1BHK) measuring 320 sqft.

The scheme

The scheme was revised, the land was allotted, and the work is in progress even after six years. The apartments range from the ground floor and three to 14 floors. Each flat costs Rs 11.78 lakh. Out of this, for SC/STs, the state will subsidise Rs 2 lakh under the Ambekar Housing Scheme, and Rs 1.5 lakh will come from the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY).

For the general category, Rs 1.2 lakh will come from the Vijayapuri Urban Housing Scheme, and Rs 1.5 lakh subsidy will be provided from Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY), thereby giving a subsidy of Rs 2.7 lakh for the beneficiary.

The process is completely transparent, say officials. People can apply online using the format, giving unique numbers related to their identity card numbers, caste certificates, electricity bills and ration card numbers. These numbers are matched against the same data from other departments, such as the Revenue or Food and Civil Supply Departments, to weed out illegal beneficiaries.

"We have availed web services, which means the details they submitted will be tallied against the data from other departments to check their eligibility," says an official from Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited, which is in charge of funds for affordable housing schemes in the state. "More than 56,000 applications have been received for the scheme," he says.

Once the beneficiary's eligibility is finalised,



Lifts were reportedly dismantled in the houses built by the Slum Board near the Mysore Road Satellite Bus Stand. These houses suffer from many problems, including a lack of piped water supply and poor quality of construction. DH PHOTO/SHREE D N



they get a message stating it. Then, a virtual bank account is opened, and they are asked to deposit an initial amount of Rs 50,000. This deposit enables them to open the website to choose a house from the available flats. The balance fund must be deposited before the completion of the project, after which they are given the possession certificate.

Demand high, allocation poor

The scheme has a 30% allocation for scheduled castes and 10% for scheduled tribes. A reservation of 10% is available for minorities, and 50% of houses go to the general category. People with disability have 2% of the flats reserved for them, which are located on the ground floor.

About 50% of the houses under the scheme are reserved for the local people from the constituency where the project is being planned. Local Ashraya Committees select the beneficiaries for this category, even though the application is submitted online. Ashraya Committees are headed by local members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) and have Executive Officers from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department as member secretaries.

The rest is for non-local people from other parts of the city who want a low-cost house. The data shows that 7,942 flats are yet to be allotted out of the 18,016 available for the public in this category. The number of unallotted flats is much higher for the local category—14,644 flats remain to be allotted out of 16,546 flats. What is the reason for this?

Sources say many beneficiaries do not pay the initial deposit. "The reason is political most of the time. Some local leaders promise the beneficiaries that the price will be reduced or deposit money will be waived. So people prefer to wait rather than pay," says an official preferring anonymity.

To date, under the scheme, 57,735 flats have been commissioned to be built 35,578 flats are open for selection 11,976 flats have been allotted. There are also 2-BHK units under the same scheme. Priced at Rs 14.7 lakh, these get no subsidy from the government even though they fall under CM's Multi-Storey Bengaluru Housing Scheme. Among the 1 lakh houses, there will only be 6,700 2-BHK units.

Jonson Puloor, a social worker who has applied

1BHK flats under CM's 1 lakh housing scheme

Area	Total public flats	Available under public category	Total flats for constituents	Available for constituents
Bangalore South	290	13	292	217
Byatarayanpur	952	308	951	904
Dasarahalli	566	26	566	271
Krishnarajapuram	288	5	288	272
Mahadevpur	2,102	809	2,097	2,074
Yelahanka	5,533	2,421	5,532	4,279
Yeshwantpur	6,258	3,287	4,803	4,631
Anekal	2,027	1,073	2,017	1,996
Total	18,016	7,942	16,546	14,644

2BHK flats under CM's 1 lakh housing scheme



for a 2BHK home under the scheme, says the scheme has come to a standstill, with the website not showing any status.

"These houses have no subsidy, and the state government does not help us get bank loans. We have to find loan sources on our own," he says, adding that it will help if the state government

steps in with low-interest loans from nationalised banks.

Rumours that the government will increase the price of such flats is yet another cause of concern for the applicants trying to find a home. Officials say that the decision to hike the price lies in the hands of the government.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

The challenge of funding single-floor houses

Every urban municipality is supposed to dedicate 22.75% of funds from the Budget for the development and welfare of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe community. Under this money, funds are also given to SC/ST people who own lands to build single-floor houses on sites measuring less than 20 feet X 30 feet.

The demand for the Onti Mane scheme is high, says Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Special Commissioner in charge of the Welfare section at BBMP. However, the scheme's implementation lies in the hands of BBMP's Zonal offices.

As a result, there is no consolidated data on the number of beneficiaries, applicants and funds disbursed available with the BBMP's Welfare section as of date.

All the joint commissioners were asked to share the data for the scheme since 2016-17 after a review meeting held in January, as the BBMP figured out there was some mismatch and irregularity with the numbers. However, the data is yet to reach the BBMP head office.

However, the scheme allows only one floor. Since the land is at a premium, many who avail of the scheme also build vertically, more than the sanctioned area. The rules prohibit the beneficiaries from renting out the houses built using SC/ST funds, but extra floors are built illegally with their own funds and rented out.

"The city needs a minimum of 8 lakh houses for the urban poor who cannot afford housing," says Ashwin Mahesh, an urban expert working on issues in Bengaluru. He explains that when the land is at a premium and houses are unaffordable, the government should consider increasing rental housing even for the poor and create a path to ownership in the scheme. He feels the schemes that allow only one floor in the city are flawed and make no economical sense.

Sources say many buildings with extra floors have no plan sanctioned by the BBMP and pay taxes under the Bkhatra. Some buildings built under the Onti Mane scheme near the Mysore Road Satellite Bus Stand were found to be close to drains, with four floors in 20X40 sites, and some of them have not been given the letter of possession.

The BBMP officials, off the record, admit that the space limit of 600 sqft allowed to be constructed under the scheme is small. However, there is no policy decision yet that allows a larger area to be constructed using the funds.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Feb, 24, 2024

Building a safer Bengaluru

Ensuring public safety is imperative to sustaining the city's economic momentum

RAMAN GUPTA

Crime and violence present a significant challenge to the economic development of any city. Bengaluru, slated to be the fastest-growing city in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023, works round the clock as the Silicon Valley of India. The city has become home to people from diverse geographies, cultures, and nationalities, creating unique challenges for its urban safety ecosystem.

The Bengaluru Safe City project is envisaged as a solution to address issues related to urban safety and policing. Creating a safe city necessitates a comprehensive and integrated approach to information technology systems. Key elements of urban safety include:

- Surveillance systems: Monitoring technologies like CCTV cameras help deter and detect criminal activities.
- Lighting: Well-lit streets and public spaces increase safety by reducing hiding spots and improving visibility.
- Emergency Services Integration: Quick response times from police, fire, and medical services.
- Public transportation security: Ensuring the safety of commuters through measures like surveillance, emergency buttons, and security personnel.
- Community policing: Building relationships between law enforcement and the community to enhance trust and cooperation.
- Smart infrastructure: technology integration to manage traffic, monitor public spaces, and respond to emergencies.
- Public awareness and education: awareness about safety measures and promoting community involvement in maintaining security.
- Environmental design: planning urban spaces with safety in mind, such as designing streetscapes to discourage criminal activities.
- Cybersecurity: protecting digital infrastructure from cyber threats to maintain the safety of critical systems.
- Disaster preparedness: Plans and infrastructure in place to handle natural disasters or other emergencies.

The Bengaluru Safe City project comprises various elements mentioned above:

- Surveillance systems: The project comprises the installation of 7,500 cameras at around 3,000 important and sensitive locations. The cameras are equipped with artificial intelligence-based video analytics capabilities and data retrieval capabilities based on pre-defined criteria. More than 600 body-worn cameras are operational, with officers encouraged to wear them during public interactions.
- Emergency response support system: A dedicated centre equipped with trained personnel to receive and process

emergency calls, dispatch appropriate response teams, and coordinate overall emergency response efforts. Namma 112 is the emergency response number of the Bangalore city police, with location-based services for faster response.

■ Command and control centre: A state-of-the-art Command and Control Centre (C&C) is established with cutting-edge technologies, including AI and data analytics, to collect, process, and analyse information from diverse sources in real-time. The feed from all 7,500 cameras will be stored and can be viewed on a real-time basis from here, and all 250 Hoysala vehicles that are patrolling around the clock in the city are also controlled and managed by this C&C centre.

■ Public awareness and education: Under this project, various training programmes, conducted by top academic and research institutions like NIMHANS and NLSIU, focus on gender sensitization, good behaviour, and soft skills for policemen on duty as well as other stakeholders.

■ Focus on women's safety: The project has a special emphasis and focus on women's safety as it was initiated out of Nirbhaya funds. Certain schemes, like the women's help desk in all police stations, critical care response units in government hospitals to help women in distress, and an integrated Nirbhaya centre for providing shelter and emergency help to victims, are operational. Another innovative feature is the creation of 50 women's safety islands in crime-prone areas where women in distress can contact control room with a mere touch of a button.

■ Cybersecurity: The Bengaluru Police Cybersphere Centre of Excellence (CoE) represents a forward-looking vision aimed at creating a modern R&D and think tank for research on emerging technologies and combating cyber crimes. This CoE will be established in collaboration with leading IT companies in Bengaluru.

■ Mobile Forensic Units: Forensic units play a crucial role in crime scene investigations and law enforcement. These specialised vehicles have the tools and equipment needed for forensic analysis. Eight such mobile forensic units have been made operational and are manned by scene-of-crime officers, who are trained for the purpose. The opening of a high-tech C&C centre for Bengaluru City Police is a big leap in that direction. The next challenge before us is to integrate the crime database, police IT, and camera feeds for real-time monitoring and analysis. Utilising data analytics to predict potential crime hotspots based on historical patterns will enable the police to allocate resources proactively. Expected to be completed in three months, this project will contribute to creating a safer environment for the citizens of Bengaluru.

(The writer is Additional Commissioner of Police, East, Bengaluru City)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Feb, 24, 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

He directed the officials to call tenders to dig borewells to supply water. He also told the BWSSB offi-



People queue up for potable water at a 'water ATM' at Rajarajeshwarinagar on Saturday. People in many parts of Bengaluru are facing difficulty owing to water scarcity and depleting levels in borewells. K. MURALI KUMAR

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said that there were 10,995 government borewells in the city and of them, water levels had decreased in 3,700 borewells and 1,214 borewells had completely dried up. He further said

Apart from 68 water tankers the BWSSB presently has, they have rented over 200 more tankers and are in the process of

Meanwhile, the city needs 9.48 tmcft of water from Cauvery between February and July 2024, which the city's civic agencies hope will be prioritised and provided for.

73

₹850-crore skydeck likely to come up on NGEF land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The proposed 250-metre-tall skydeck is likely to come up on a 10-acre land at NGEF in Byappanahalli and initial estimates have put its cost at Rs 850 crore, according to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah in his recent budget said that internationally renowned architects have been invited to prepare a novel design for the skydeck that will become a landmark tourist destination in Bengaluru.

The BBMP has floated a tender to hire agencies to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) and allotted Rs 3 crore for the purpose. The officials said the skydeck will be built using funds from the state

With an initial cost of Rs 850 crore, the skydeck will be the tallest view tower in the country

govt and the project wing of the BBMP will implement the project without going for a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

A senior official said the palike had initially identified two properties — the NGEF land and the Mysore Sandal Soap Factory land at Yeshwanthpur — for the project. But, now it has finalised the NGEF land to implement the project and an official announcement will be made soon.

He said the BBMP's initial estimates put the cost of the project at Rs 850 crore — around Rs 350 crore to construct

the skydesk and another Rs 500 crore to build its commercial portions.

"We will implement the skydeck project in two divisions. We will construct the skydeck in part A and will establish its commercial portions including hotels and a theatre subsequently," the officer explained. "The exact cost for the project would be released soon after the preparation of the DPR," he said.

According to the BBMP officials, the skydeck will be the tallest view tower in the country. The base part will have facilities such as a shopping area, restaurants and a theatre. The top portion will feature a roller-coaster station, an exhibition hall, a sky lobby, a skydeck for panoramic view, restaurant and bar and a VIP area.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Feb. 26, 2024

South Western Railway to develop 15 stations in Bengaluru division

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South Western Railway (SWR), under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), is set to develop 15 railway stations in Karnataka, with the Prime Minister scheduled to launch the programme on Monday.

According to SWR, the enhancement of stations will be done in Bangarpet, Channarayana, Dharmapuri, Doddaballapur, Hindupur, Hosur, Kengeri, K.R. Puram, Kuppam, Malleswaram, Malur, Mandya, Tumakuru, Ramanagara, and Whitefield.

The improvements include the installation of escalators, smart parking facilities, upgraded toilets, and other amenities.

As part of the ABSS, the launch will incorporate the commencement of the redevelopment of 554 railway stations and 1,585 road



Malleswaram station has been chosen to get a facelift under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. FILE PHOTO

overbridges (RoBs) and road underbridges (RUBs) throughout India.

An official stated that development and infrastructure projects totaling ₹372.13 crore will be implemented in 15 stations within the Bengaluru division.

“The ABSS is a significant initiative of Indian Railways designed to improve stations by identifying specific stations, establishing comprehensive objectives, devising masterplans, and executing

them in phases to enhance various station facilities,” the official added.

These enhancements, in the first phase, encompass bettering station accessibility, waiting areas, toilet facilities, lift and escalator installations as needed, cleanliness, offering free Wi-Fi, setting up kiosks for local products through initiatives like ‘One Station One Product’, enhancing passenger information systems, establishing executive lounges, de-

signating spaces for business meetings, incorporating landscaping, and catering to the unique requirements of each station, according to SWR.

The second phase of the scheme emphasises upgrading station structures, integrating stations with the surrounding city areas on both sides, promoting multi-modal connectivity, providing facilities for individuals with disabilities (Divyangjans), implementing sustainable and eco-friendly solutions, introducing ballast-less tracks, incorporating ‘Roof Plazas’ when required, and considering the feasibility and phasing of improvements.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the commencement of development projects for 554 railway stations and 1,585 road overbridges/underpasses.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Feb. 26, 2024

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಮರ ಕಡೆದಿರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ | 7 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಸಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋದಿಂದ 15 ಸಾವಿರ ಸಸಿ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವೇಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಹಳಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ವೇಳೆ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡೆದಿರುವ ಬಿಎಂಆರ್‌ ಸಿಎಲ್ ಈಗ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯಾಗಿ ನಗರದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಸಸಿ ನೆಡಲು ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿದೆ.



ಸಸಿ ನೆಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಪರಿಸರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ, ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 15,000 ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಡಲು ಪ್ಲಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಮೂರು

ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ 5 ಸಾವಿರದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 15 ಸಾವಿರ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಟ್ಟು ಪೋಷಿಸಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸುಮಾರು 7 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ 2.03 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಸುಮಾರು ಏಳು ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಬಸ್ ಪೇಟೆ 4ನೇ ಕ್ರೆಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಇರುವ ಇತರ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಜಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ನೆಡಲಿದ್ದು, ಎರಡನೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕೆಬಿಎಡಿಬಿಎಂ 2, 12 ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಬಫರ್ ವಲಯ ಜತೆಗೆ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಇತರ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಜಾಗ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಸಿ ನೆಟ್ಟು ಪೋಷಿಸಲು ಜಾಗ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಮೆಟ್ರೋಗಾಗಿ 3,600ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮರ ಕಟಾವ್

ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋಗಾಗಿ 2021 ರಿಂದ 2023ರ ನಡುವೆ 3,600ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿಯಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಆರಣ್ಯ ಉಪ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಂತ-2 ಮತ್ತು 2ಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಂತ-2ಬಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತ 3,626 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮರಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 856 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು 2021 ರಿಂದ 2022 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿವಿಧ ಭಾಗಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಹೊರ ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಂತ-2 ಮತ್ತು 2ಎ ಗಾಗಿ 2,461 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2022 ರಿಂದ ಜನವರಿ 2023 ರವರೆಗೆ 107 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 1,193 ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಬೇರೆಡೆ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹತ್ತು ಸಸಿ ನೆಡಲು ಸೂಚನೆ

ಒಂದು ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತು ಗಿಡ ನೆಡಲು ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋಗೆ ಪೈಕೋರ್ಡ್ ಸೂಚನೆ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ (2022) ರಲ್ಲಿ ಷರತ್ತು ವಿಧಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಮರ ಕಡಿದರೆ ಒಂದು ಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಹತ್ತು ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಡುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹಸಿರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ನಗರದಾಚೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ: ಟೆಂಡರ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: 118 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಉದ್ದದ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಮಾರ್ಗದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಹಂತದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಬಿಡ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 50 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಚಿಲ್ಲಘಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಬಿಡದಿ, ಸಿಲ್ಕ್ ಇನ್ ಟೆಕ್ಸ್ಟೂಟ್ ನಿಂದ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬೊಮ್ಮ ಸಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆಯವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ 1ರ ಮೂರು ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 50 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಉದ್ದದ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ 2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 68 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ಉದ್ದದ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ರೈಲು ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳು ಚಿಲ್ಲಘಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಬಿಡದಿ, ಸಿಲ್ಕ್ ಇನ್ ಟೆಕ್ಸ್ಟೂಟ್ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬೊಮ್ಮ ಸಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆಯವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಡಿಸಿಎಂ ಡಿ.ಕೆ.ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುವ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರರಿಗೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ರೈಲು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಉಪನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದು ನಗರದಾಚೆ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಅನು ದಾನ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿದ್ದರು. ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜ ನೆಯ ಹಂತ-2 ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು 61 ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ (49 ಮೇಲೇತುವೆ ಮತ್ತು 12 ಭೂಗತ) ಒಟ್ಟು 72.095 ಕಿಮೀ ಉದ್ದದ ಎರಡು ಹೊಸ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ 27.36 ಕಿಮೀ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಮತ್ತು ಉಳಿದವು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಯೋಜ ನೆಯ ಹಂತ-2ಎ (ಒಆರ್‌ಆರ್ ಮಾರ್ಗವು 13 ಮೇಲೇ ತುವೆ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ 19.75 ಕಿಮೀ ವ್ಯಾಪಿಸಿದೆ) ಮತ್ತು ಹಂತ -2ಬಿ ಕೂಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.04, Feb.26, 2024

Water tanker prices breach ₹2,000 mark in parts of city

There are instances of tankers charging as high as ₹2,500, for a load of 12,000 litres, in Whitefield and Varthur areas

WATER WOES

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

As the water crisis worsens by the day in the city, especially in the outer zones, the prices of water tankers are skyrocketing. The cost of 12,000 litres of water has for the first time crossed the ₹2,000 mark in parts of the city.

In the absence of any regulatory mechanism for pricing of water tankers, the prices are random and extremely variable.

There have been instances of water tanker businesses charging even as high as ₹2,500, for a load of 12,000 litres in Whitefield and Varthur areas, worst affected by the water shortage this summer, sources in the water tanker business said.

Even a tractor of 4,000-litre capacity is being sold in the range of ₹700 - ₹1,000, and a 6,000 litre tanker load costs in the range of ₹1,200 - ₹1,500, said Ajay Gowda, a water tanker dealer in South East



The high demand for water and the low supply, as many borewells have gone dry, has driven the prices northwards. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Bengaluru.

The high demand for water and low supply as many borewells have gone dry owing to failed monsoon, have driven the prices northwards.

"We are now going as far as 25 km away from the city to get water. The area of commercial exploitation of water is shifting further away from the city. Every trip the tanker travels over 50 km. While we were able to fill a 12,000 litres tanker in under half an hour ear-

lier, it now takes more than 3 hours as the water levels have gone down and become thin. This limits the extent to which we can extract water in a day," explained Praveen Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Doddanekkundi.

Jayalakshmi, a homemaker from Varthur, said that the water tanker supply was erratic and there was no regulation on them. "If one needs a tanker load of water, we need to book it 2-3 days ahead and even

then there is no guarantee that we will get water. It's like an open bid. When we call tanker drivers, they often say the prices have gone up and give the load we booked for someone who is ready to pay a higher cost," she said.

However, the prices of water tankers are not the same across the city. A crowdsourced survey by Bangalore Apartments' Federation showed that on an average 1,000 litres of water in a tanker costs ₹131

in the city ranging from ₹100 in Electronics City to ₹238 in R.R. Nagar. However, the survey doesn't include responses from all areas.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently acknowledged that 25% of the city's water needs were being met by water tankers and said the State government was mulling on a regulatory mechanism to cap the prices of water tankers.

This has not gone down well in the water tanker industry.

"Our costs have skyrocketed and we cannot be forced to do business incurring losses and pay the price for the government's failure to provide water to residents. We have suffered huge losses during the pandemic and this year too, though there is high demand we are not able to meet it. There are talks of a water tanker strike in the industry, if the government goes ahead with price regulation," a senior in the industry said, but wished to remain anonymous.

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

Bescom records all-time peak demand for February

The peak demand of 8,128 megawatts was recorded on February 23

Jahnvi T. R.
BENGALURU

As an indication of the impending situation in peak summer months, the electricity demand in the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) region peaked at an all-time high of 8,128 megawatts (MW) for the month of February.

The peak demand was recorded on February 23. Interestingly, even in the previous year, the peak demand for February – at 7,496 MW – was recorded on the same date. In the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ), while the previous year's peak demand for February was 3,259 MW, this year, it was 3,518 MW.

"There are three main reasons for the increase in demand – rising temperature, agricultural and industrial requirements," said S.R. Nagaraj, General Manager, Consumer Relations, Bescom. "As the weather has already become hot, consumers have increased their usage of fans and air conditioners. The same is the case with large industries. Moreover, without rain, agricultural pump sets are also using more electricity. Hence the peak demand has shot up,"



Even in the previous year, the peak demand for February – at 7,496 MW – was recorded on the same date. FILE PHOTO

he added. The peak demand for March is estimated to be 8,300 MW and it may continue climbing in April and May.

However, if there is good rainfall before that, the demand may reduce, the official said. He also assured that despite increased demand, there will be no load shedding as the government has made arrangements for adequate power supply.

"There is no need for farmers, industries, students (who are writing examinations) and any other consumers to worry as there will be no load shedding this year," Mr. Nagaraj added.

Even as Bescom officials

continue to claim that there are no unnecessary power cuts, consumers report otherwise.

Power cut complaints

Hundreds of complaints have been pouring in on social media pages of the power utility and the consumer helpline number. I

In fact, on February 28, the helpline received 19,678 calls out of which docket was registered for over 9,400 power-supply related complaints. The helpline gets around 10,000 complaints a day, of which most are related to power supply according to officials.

"They claim every year that there will be no power

cuts during summer. But, as the days go by, we experience the same kind of unofficial load shedding every year. There are frequent power cuts and officials always say that it is related to maintenance," said Shravani. M, a resident of BTM layout.

Mr. Nagaraj said that as it is the examination season, Bescom is not even taking up quarterly maintenance to not cause inconvenience to students. "Unless it is emergency maintenance, we are not cutting power supply in any area. If they are experiencing power cuts, consumers can complain to us and we will resolve it immediately," he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 9, March. 1, 2024

[Back to Contents](#)