



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News

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## AGRICULTURE

# Drought-hit farmers in State lost crops worth ₹33,000 crore: CM

He was addressing a packed audience at the inaugural of Krishi Mela 2023 on Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra campus

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**F**armers in Karnataka have incurred crop and harvest losses of a whopping ₹33,000 crore so far this year due to drought, erratic weather conditions, and other vagaries of nature, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here on Friday.

He was addressing a packed audience of agri fraternity comprising farmers, agri/horti scientists, and students of agriculture and horticulture at the inaugural of Krishi Mela 2023 on Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus at Yelahanka in the city.

Of the losses, farmers could be compensated only up to ₹17,000 crore and therefore the net loss of farmers due to drought and subsequent crop losses has been ₹16,000 crore, he further said.

Commenting on the economics of farming, Mr. Siddaramaiah stated farming has to be made profitable and economically viable and that was the only way to retain farmers on their farms.

"Today, young children



Visitors at the Krishi Mela on GKVK campus in Bengaluru on Friday.  
SUDHAKARA JAIN

of farmers do not want to pursue farming and are aspiring to leave their farms for cities. We should make agriculture an attractive field for all. The University of Agriculture Sciences has

a critical role to play in this context," he insisted. He said agriculture universities are no more mills that produce agriculture graduates year after year, but should be R&D centres and



innovation hubs that developed newer, drought and pest resistant varieties of crop. "Developing robust crop varieties are important especially when our State has been facing drought in every 4 to 5 years gap," Mr. Siddaramaiah observed.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said farmers in Chickballapur, Kolar, Ramanagara, and Bengaluru Rural districts were very progressive and growing their crops with limited availability of water. They were also exporting their produce to other states and thereby increasing their incomes. Our farmers in other districts

too should learn how to use water judiciously, he said.

### Awards

Five farmers and one agri scientist were recognised for their work at Krishi Mela under various categories. The farmers were Manjunath B.R., Rajendra H.T., Manjegowda B.G., B.P. Vasu, and Ratnamama A.V. M.A. Dhananjay, Principal Scientist at IIHR, was recognised as best agri scientist.

The opening day of the four-day Krishi Mela received over 1.31 lakh visitors and visitations are expected to cross 2 lakh on Saturday and Sundays. It closes on Monday.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov.18, 2023**



# Karnataka records 34% northeast monsoon deficiency

Seasonal cumulative rainfall in State  
From Oct. 1 to Nov. 17 (in mm)

Sub-division	Actual rainfall (until Nov. 17)	Normal rainfall	Departure from normal
Coastal Karnataka	212.7	240.2	-11
North Interior Karnataka	34.9	119.4	-71
South Interior Karnataka	134.5	175.8	-23
Total (Karnataka)	101	158.6	-36

Source: IMD

**Jahnavi T.R.**  
BENGALURU

After a poor southwest monsoon season, the northeast monsoon, which arrived in Karnataka in October, has also failed to gain pace, resulting in 34% deficient rainfall in the State, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru.

Other than Hassan, Mysuru, and Kodagu districts, which have received above normal rainfall, most districts have recorded rainfall deficiency during the northeast monsoon.

The Coastal Karnataka region, with a total rainfall of 212.7 mm between October 1 and November 17, has seen deficiency of -11, while North Interior Karnataka has recorded deficiency of -71 with 34.9 mm rainfall. All districts in the regions have deficiency. In South Interior Karnataka, there is a departure of -23 mm from normal with a total rainfall of 134.5 mm.

## Bengaluru Urban

Despite a few spells of rain last week, Bengaluru Urban district also has a deficiency of 18 mm rainfall. While the normal quantum of rainfall for the period is 182.8 mm, so far, the district has received 149.3 mm rainfall.

A. Prasad, scientist at IMD Bengaluru, said: "If the State gets above normal, heavy rainfall only then would the deficiency reduce. However, according to our forecast, there will be normal rainfall in

the next few weeks in the State. Moreover, a deep depression in Bay of Bengal, which has now transformed into cyclone Midhili, which is crossing over to the Bangladesh coast, has also absorbed moisture, resulting in less rains here."

He also said that while there might be isolated rainfall in Coastal Karnataka over the next few days, on November 19 and 20, there would be light or normal rainfall in South Interior Karnataka.

## No chills this winter

On November 14, the maximum temperature in Bengaluru fell to 25°C with many experiencing a cool nip in the air. The weatherman pointed out that this sudden drop in temperature along with cloudy conditions and gusty winds from the east brought a bout of cold, cough, and fever.

While the IMD officially considers January 1 as the starting date of winter, in the State, the effects of the setting in of the season can be felt from December second week. Although the official winter bulletin is yet to arrive, the weatherman said that this year's winter will be less cool than the previous year's due to El Nino.

"It is doubtful that the temperature will drop to 15°C or 16°C. It might not be too cold. It would just be normal winter temperature or a little more than that," Mr. Prasad said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov.18, 2023**



# Drought-hit state appeals for 150 MGNREGA days

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said the Karnataka government has appealed to the central government to increase the guaranteed man-days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from 100 days to 150 days, as over 200 taluks have been declared drought-hit in the state.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Krishi Mela 2023 at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra campus in Bengaluru.

Shivakumar urged the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore to undertake greater research to help farmers increase their yield so that they can continue farming and not sell their lands under any conditions.

“The farmers of Bengaluru

Rural, Chikkaballapura and Kolar districts are role models for the entire country as they have achieved considerable success in farming of vegetables, fruits and flowers, besides revolutionising silk and milk production,” he said. The farmers in these districts are making use of scarce resources to earn great returns, he added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who inaugurated the mela, urged farmers to keep the “green revolution” going. “For this to happen, new varieties, new medicines, improved soil fertility, technological innovation, fair prices to farmers and godowns for storage need to be set-up. Sustainable farming and agriculture growth is possible only then,” he said, emphasising the need to develop climate and disease-resistant crops.

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**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Nov.18, 2023**



# Farmers air their grievances and submit a slew of demands to CM

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MYSURU

A delegation of farmers from Karnataka State Sugarcane Cultivators Association met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his residence in the city on Saturday and submitted a slew of demands including a higher Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for the crop.

The delegation was led by the association president Kurubur Shanthakumar who said that private sugar mills in the Mysuru-Chamarajanagar belt were denying the farmers a remunerative price on crop procurement.

"This was in contrast to the situation elsewhere in the State where private sugar mills were procuring the crop at a higher rate as the demand had exceeded supply," he added. Though as many as four meetings had been conducted between the authorities and the factory management, the issue was yet to be resolved and the district in charge minister H.C. Mahadevappa has not responded, said Mr. Shanthaku-



A delegation of farmers with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his residence in Mysuru on Saturday . M.A. SRIRAM

mar.

Nearly 25,000 farmers from Varuna assembly segment supply sugarcane to the private factory in the region and yet their interest was not being upheld by the government, he added. The delegation came down heavily on the State government attitude towards the farmers and said that it was similar to that of the Union government's which tried to suppress the farmers agitation against farm laws in Delhi last year.

"You were in the Oppo-

sition and had described the Modi's government's tactics to break farmers agitation as anti-democratic and had supported the farmers' cause. But now the administrative machinery of the State was displaying similar highhandedness," said Mr. Shanthakumar in his interaction with Siddaramaiah.

The farmers were airing their grouse on their preventive detention by the police at midnight on Friday. "The police should be

cautioned against resorting to such tactics which is reserved for anti-social elements," Mr. Shanthakumar added. The delegation urged the Chief Minister to take steps to release funds to the farmers as drought relief measure. Farmers are in distress and an immediate release of funds will help them tide over the crisis, said the members of the delegation.

It is not enough to declare the State as drought-affected and relief measures should be in place, the delegates added.

Other demands included the supply of 10 hours of electricity during day and, higher Fair and Remunerative Price for sugarcane to match the cultivation cost. In response to the farmers, Mr. Siddaramaiah assured the farmers that the government would uphold their collective interests. The Chief Minister also said that a meeting of sugar mills will be convened on November 21 to thrash out the issue. He assured the delegation that the police would be directed to be more thoughtful dealing with the farmers.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Nov.19, 2023**



# Danger looms as pesticides rule India's farms

**Deadly pesticides continue to be indiscriminately sold and used in the absence of legislation, regulatory processes and food testing mechanisms**

**CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI**  
BENGALURU, DHNS



**A farmer spraying pesticides on groundnut and maize crops in Kondajji village, Davangere district. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER**

**O**n November 14, the European Commission sounded an alarm. The import of turmeric powder from India into the EU territories posed a 'serious' risk, it said. The notification came after residues of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide banned in several countries, were found in a sample tested in Germany. Chlorpyrifos was banned after scientific evidence found that it posed a direct threat to the health of children.

Interestingly, chlorpyrifos was one of 27 deadly pesticides that the Union government proposed to ban in 2020. However, it soon made a u-turn, choosing to limit the ban to four pesticides. The Centre's volte-face was the result of heavy lobbying from the agrochemical industry, activists who have worked on the issue for decades said.

The unmitigated and unregulated use of such toxic pesticides persists today. Data from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Wel-

## INSIGHT

fare shows about 60,000 tonnes of chemical pesticides were used annually between 2017-18 and 2021-22. Farmers are waging a multi-pronged war, forced to contend with new pests and diseases. For them, spraying more pesticides is a measure taken to "avoid the risk" of losing the crop.

Parvataiah, a paddy farmer from Hosahalli near Gangavathi of Koppal district, said the situation has changed drastically in the last few years. "We are advised by companies to spray chemicals even before planting. Seeds are coated with one chemical or the other before sowing. This started about four years ago. You have to understand that no farmer is in a position to take the risk of a lower yield," he said.

Paddy farmers more or less engage in a gamble when they begin cultivation due to the high input costs, Parvataiah

explained. The situation of those who cultivate RNR 15048, a variety dubbed 'sugar-free rice' by marketers from Tamil Nadu, illustrates the monumental change in the use of pesticides.

"While the department issues correct information, companies come to the village and hold a camp where pesticide usage is promoted on an LCD screen. The screen shows images of rich green crops. Regardless of what officials recommend, farmers are convinced by the advertisements or shops selling pesticides. So, in the place of 60 gram fungicide or pesticide, more than double is sprayed just to make sure that they get the best crops," he said.

The consequence is that consuming food contaminated with pesticides has devastating short-term and long-term impacts. In fact, a study by Pesticides Action Network-India (PAN-India) found that 56 pesticides used in India were carcinogenic.

► **Pesticide use, Page 2**

**Continued...**



## PESTICIDE USE ON THE RISE

Globally, almost **3 billion** tonnes of pesticides are deployed annually, with a total cost of approximately **\$40 billion**.

India stands **third** in pesticide use in the continent.

More than half of these pesticides are utilised in Asia.



**35%** of total crop yield in India is lost due to pests.

The pesticide market in India is expected to touch **Rs 31,600 crore** in 2024, growing at an annual rate of 8.1%.



The production of pesticides has grown by **19%** in the last five years.



Import of pesticides has grown by **14.7%** since 2018.

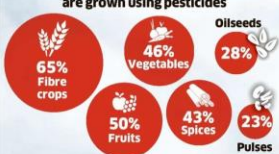


Around **40%** of the total cultivated area is treated with pesticides.

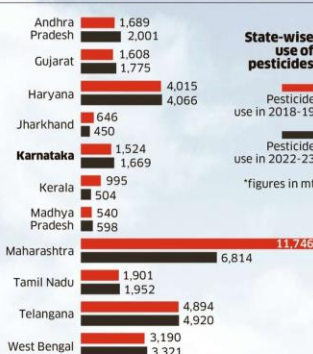
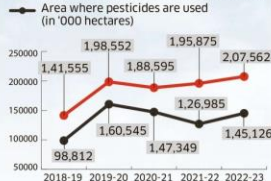
Insecticides form the highest share in total pesticide use in India.

During the last five years, the incidence of pesticide residues in various commodities has increased from 1.2 to 2.6%

### Nearly half of all fruits and vegetables are grown using pesticides



— Total area of cultivation (in '000 hectares)  
— Area where pesticides are used (in '000 hectares)



### Sales of the most-used pesticides have risen in Karnataka

	Sales in 2021 (in cr)	Sales in 2022 (in cr)
Glyphosate 41% SL	154	162
Emamectin Benzoate 5% SG	82	91
Coragen 18.5% SC	54	76
Glyphosate 71% SC	59.91	64.01
Pexalon 10% SC	57	62

### Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to

- Respiratory disorders
- Cancer
- Congenital malformations
- Problems in the reproductive system
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases
- Respiratory disorders
- Neurodegenerative disorders

### Regulation

As of 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has banned or phased out **46 pesticides** and **4 pesticide** formulations for import, manufacture or use in the country.

In addition, **8 pesticide** registrations have been withdrawn. **9 pesticides** have been placed under restricted use.

# Ban spurious pesticides

## Pesticide use from P1

Close to 38 insecticides had immunotoxic effects and 81 caused disruption in endocrine and hormone function. "Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of pesticides as they can affect brain development and cognitive functions," the report said.

Food contamination presents both immediate and long-term danger to consumers. It is vegetables, more than foodgrains and pulses, that contain more residue, reveal tests conducted by the Pesticide Residue & Food Quality Analysis Laboratory, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur.

### Residue monitoring

Prabhuraj A, professor of agricultural entomology, and the head of the lab, said that the results were sent to the Centre, which is involved in a national-level project to study residues. "We test about 100 samples every month, of which at least 40 are vegetables. Cereals and pulses make up the rest. About 30% of the vegetables contain residues. In a sample, the presence of one pesticide may be below the maximum residue level (MRL) but what is concerning is results that indicate the residues of multiple pesticides, sometimes four to six kinds," he said.

The professor said the most commonly found insecticides belong to the class of monocrotophos (acutely toxic to birds and humans, banned in September 2023), pyrethroids (which cause dizziness and convulsions among other serious health issues), as well as fungicides (affecting skin and eyes).

The reason behind the concurrent use of multiple pesticides, according to Sujay Hurali, an entomologist at UAS Raichur's research station at Gangavathi, owes to farmers' hope to better protect crops. "In rice samples, we are seeing an increased fungicide residue. Farmers, especially those in Andhra Pradesh's Godavari belt, spray it 10 to 15 days before the harvest. They believe it gives a polished look to the grain and helps in marketing," he said.

Though the Union government launched the Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level programme in 2005-06, very little data is available to understand the depth of the problem. The scheme is steered by the All India Network Project on Pesticide Residue (AINP-PR) under the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi.

2019 marked one of the first years that AINP-PR's work was made public after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) reported on the testing of the 23,660 samples of vegetables, fruits, spices, curry leaves, rice, wheat, pulses, egg, meat and water. About 20% of the samples (4,510) tested positive for pesticide residues. Of the 12,821 vegetable samples tested, 18.7% had residues. Of the 2,274 samples of fruits, 21.7% had residues.

The FSSAI claimed that pesticide residues exceeded the safety limits (MRL) in only 2.2% of the 23,660 samples. However, activists have long pointed out problems in India's MRL when compared with safe

er limits set by countries like the United States of America and those in the European Union. The difference in standards for pesticide residue is one reason why many consignments originating in India are red-flagged as contaminated food.

Additionally, research has shown that the use of pesticides banned elsewhere but for India, even within 'recommended' or 'safety' levels, also contributes to biodiversity loss. Continued use was found to impact invertebrates and fungi that promote soil health. For farmers caught in uncertainty and battling inflation, climate change and a volatile agriculture market, the long-term importance of biodiversity has not yet hit home.

Opacity in proceedings related to the reporting and regulation of pesticide use has not helped matters. In January 2023, the FSSAI filed a report before the National Human Rights Commission in a matter pertaining to pesticide contamination in food crops. The statutory body had issued a notice to FSSAI to curb the excessive use of pesticides. An official in the FSSAI's head office told *DH* that the report was part of the NHRC proceedings and could not be shared.

In the absence of data regarding regular monitoring within the country, alerts sent out by bodies like the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) or the Food and Drug Administration of the United States serve as regular reminders.

Chandra Bhushan, an expert who has studied the issue for years, noted that the products under testing in the EU and the US were supposed to be of superior, 'export quality'. "Unfortunately, within India, there is a lack of information about regular tests. Testing of random samples is key to understanding the quality of the food products we are consuming," he said. The RASFF has raised more than 100 alerts annually on pesticide residue in rice, cereals, fruits and other food products from India. This year alone, 128 alerts were issued. Of the 802 alerts raised between 2020 and 2023, the RASFF classified 589 (73.4%) as serious, 22 as potentially serious and 15 as a 'potential risk'. Only 34 were 'non-serious' alerts.

### Legislation

It was accidental contamination of food samples in 1958 that resulted in over 100 deaths, that prompted the government to put the Insecticides Act 1968 in place. However, currently, the law has been found to be highly inadequate in dealing with the growing number of agrochemicals flooding the fields, as desperate farmers pin their hope on the toxic chemicals to protect their crops.

Based on the information obtained under RTI, activists from the PAN-India revealed that a whopping 62 pesticides that are used widely in India were only 'deemed to be registered' with no specified MRL.

Narasimha Reddy Donthi, policy expert and honorary director of PAN-India, said India is in urgent need of a pesticide bill which would address the challenges of the current situation. "The first draft of an updated bill came in 2008 but nothing happened. The latest one is the Pesticide Management Bill of 2020 which had some good provisions but it has been put aside

due to the pesticide industry lobby. So, we are not only accepting pesticides that were there before 1968 but also new ones which are only 'deemed to be registered' without the necessary safety precautions," he said.

Donthi said the proposed bill has been pending ever since it was referred to a standing committee. The bill still contains the provisions that allow deemed registration. "The new bill should clarify several legal matters to ensure hazardous agrochemicals are checked," he said. PAN-India has been highlighting India's poor record in regulating pesticides.

An expert committee set up in 2013 by the Union government to review 66 pesticides banned or restricted in other countries, but used in India, made recommendations in 2015 to check the serious health impacts caused by the use of pesticides. However, there has been little progress on the recommendations.

Bio-pesticides promoted as 'natural' alternatives to chemicals, have also posed a major challenge due to poor regulation. Parvataiah said a cocktail of chemicals is often sold under the tag of biopesticides and small and marginal farmers in villages often fall for the scam.

### Spurious pesticides

The farmer's claim is backed by the data from the Agriculture Department where the vigilance wing is seeing a steady increase in the number of use cases of spurious pesticides (illegal or non-genuine pesticides), including some sold as bio-pesticides.

In 2019-20, officials recorded three incidents and seized 629 litres and 816 kg of spurious pesticides. Until last month, the number of cases has increased to 70 with seizures going up to 9,119 litres and 14,534 kg. "Spurious pesticides are increasing because the demand continues to grow. We are creating awareness among farmers," a senior official told *DH*.

However, even this crackdown on spurious products, Donthi noted, spurious products was aimed more at protecting patented formulas of 'big companies'. "We need a structural change and that has to begin with rules that prioritise health and safety. Implementation of such regulations will reveal the truth about the real quality of food products we are consuming," he said.

Some developed countries have woken up to the challenge, with the EU banning and the US restricting several neonicotinoids, a group of widely used insecticides found to be hazardous to pollinating bees. The EU went a step further, adopting a resolution in February 2023 to restrict the import of products that contain traces of neonicotinoids above a set MRL.

While the restriction will come into force after 36 months, India has already raised concerns at the World Trade Organisation and urged the EU to defer the matter to ensure that the export of agricultural and horticultural products is not affected.

### Have your say

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, Nov.19, 2023



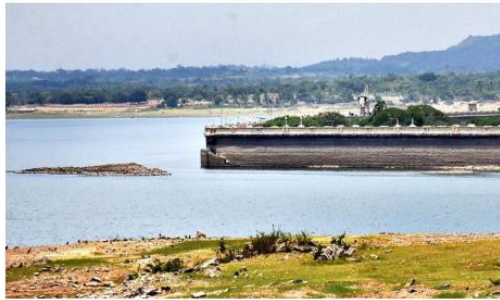
# Concern over water levels in Cauvery basin dams

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MYSURU

The water levels in the four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin of the State have dipped to nearly half of their cumulative gross capacity and is a pointer to the unfolding crisis in the weeks ahead.

The available quantum should not only meet the drinking water requirements of major towns and cities, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, but should last till the onset of monsoon next year which is sometime in June.

The cumulative storage in Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), Kabini, Hemavathi, and Harangi was 59.07 thousand million cubic ft (tmcft) as on Saturday 18 as against the gross capacity of 114.57 tmcft or 51.56 per cent of the storage capacity.



A file photo of water level at the KRS which was hovering at 100 feet as on Sunday.

ty. The storage position in the reservoirs during the same period last year was 100.69 tmcft.

Water level at the KRS was 100.62 ft on Saturday as against the full reservoir level of 124.80 ft and the live storage was 23.30 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 49.45 tmcft. The storage position on the same day last year was

46.84 tmcft. At Hemavathi reservoir, the level was 2,893.73 ft as against the FRL of 2,922 ft. The live storage was 16.23 tmcft as against the storage capacity of 37.10 tmcft, and the storage position on the same day last year was 32.92 tmcft.

The gross storage capacity of Kabini is 19.52 tmcft as against which the available

storage on Saturday was 14.32 tmcft while at Harangi the quantum of water available was 5.23 tmcft as against the storage capacity of 8.50 tmcft.

Having suffered a 26 per cent rainfall deficiency during the southwest monsoon season, the northeast monsoon pattern shows a 31 per cent deficiency in south-interior Karnataka.

Though the region is not a major beneficiary of northeast monsoon, it has not received even the nominal quantum that could have increased moisture index and helped recharge groundwater level to an extent and reduced the dependence on dam.

As against the normal rainfall of 178 mm for the period October 1 to November 19, the region received 124 mm.

Though the period No-

vember 1 to 19 was relatively better with the region receiving 75 mm of rains as against the normal of 40 mm, the overall rains continue to be 31 per cent below normal. The cumulative deficiency since June 1 is now 28 per cent, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Of the 11 districts in the region only Mysuru district has received rains that is 9 per cent above normal for the period October 1 to November 19.

It received 205 mm of rains during the period as against a normal of 188 mm while Mandya has received 180 mm as against a normal of 194 mm during the same period, the deficiency being 7 per cent.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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## Concern over water levels in reservoirs

But with respect to other districts that include Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Kolar, Tumakuru, Davangere, Chitradurga, and Bengaluru Urban the deficiency ranges from 26 to 55 per cent which will accentuate the drought conditions.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1&3, Nov. 20, 2023**



# Krishi Mela sees 15.6 lakh visitors; captures wallet share of ₹5 crore



Visitors at demonstration fields at the Krishi Mela in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

## **The Hindu Bureau** BENGALURU

Despite a drought-like situation throughout Karnataka, Krishi Mela 2023, a four-day farming exposition, which concluded here on Monday, received an encouraging response from the farmers' community, said S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS).

The mela, held at Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus here between November 17 and 20 cumulatively received 15.6 lakh visitors, mostly farmers, who purchased seeds, plants, millets, poultry items, ornamental fish, and machinery/equipment for farming, harvesting and irrigation and also tractors, tillers and other items worth ₹5 crore, he told *The Hindu*.

This year's farmer turnout was slightly lower than last year's 17 lakh. However, he said the response to this year's mela was certainly overwhelming especially when most farmers were reeling under drought.

"We are very happy to see that farmers came in large numbers despite drought-triggered challenges. The numbers were

quite encouraging and they were keen to explore all innovative technologies and devices displayed at Krishi Mela," he said.

According to him, the theme was quite suitable to the existing ground reality in agriculture and it helped farmers to understand how to farm better during drought-like situations. A large number of small and medium farmers have shown interest in farming and harvesting machinery to reduce the drudgery involved in agriculture practices, he observed.

Some 150 farmers from 10 districts, including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Hassan, Tumakuru, Chamarajpet, and Ramanagara, which come under UAS-B, were honoured and cash awarded for their best practices and contribution in farming.

"One young male and one female farmer from each taluk and district were recognised," he added.

According to Dr. Suresha, a large number of farmers visited the crop museum at Krishi Mela that showcased diverse technologies supported by on-the-field experience.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 21, 2023**



# A case for urban farming in the city

Many Bengalureans are discovering the allure of urban agriculture, taking pleasure in getting their hands dirty for better access to more nutritious food, and reducing environmental impact

**Preeti Zachariah**  
BENGALURU

**B**rijinder Kathuria remembers being conflicted between growing more organic food or planting more forests for a long time. "A lot of deforestation happens because people chop off forest land to farm," says the Bengaluru-based Brijinder, a passionate eco-enthusiast who works in the technology sector. Then, he stumbled upon permaculture farming, a way of creating synergetic, sustainable agriculture systems that closely resemble natural ecosystems—in short, you're making food forests. "That hit the sweet spot," says the former hotelier, who went on to cultivate a food forest with perennial plants like bananas, coffee, coconut and jackfruit on his 5000 sq ft plot, enough to sustain himself for anywhere between 1.5 to 2 months, he says. "Freshly plucked food takes taste a new level," says the former hotelier, who admits to always being drawn to fresh food and ingredients.

Like Brijinder, many Bengalureans are discovering the allure of urban agriculture, taking pleasure in getting their hands dirty, for many or all these reasons: better access to more nutritious food, creating communities, reducing environmental impact, managing mental health and connecting to nature. As a recent publication by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), the result of a three-year-long research project titled *Sowing Sustainable Cities* points out, "urban and peri-urban agriculture is gaining in popularity and impact, and can become a critical strategy for transitioning towards sustainable urban futures."

So, where does Bengaluru stand as a city when it comes to creating urban foodscapes? What are the inherent advantages offered by this former gar-

den city when it comes to cultivating green spaces? What challenges do city slickers face when it comes to growing their own food? And how does succeeding in doing so change their relationship with the food on your plate and the earth



from where it springs? This is what the city's urban farmers have to say.

## Farming and the city

"It is difficult to kill a plant in Bengaluru," says Sheetal Patil, a senior research consultant at IIHS who was part of the research project. The soils, she points out, are fertile, while the weather is favourable throughout the year for growing. "The weather is not extreme," agrees agriscientist and entomologist Dr. Rajendra Hegde of Garden City Farmers, a city-based trust founded by the late B.N. Viswanath, which promotes urban farming. The humidity and number of rainy days in the city are also favourable for gardening, says Dr. Rajendra, adding that today, lakhs of people have food gardens in the city.

"We can grow things all through the year here," says Bengaluru-based artist Suresh Kumar G., the founder of Sarjapura Curries, a city-based community farm that seeks to revive forgotten native plants and



Urban farming helps people connect more deeply with their food and nature.

weeds. Moreover, as he points out, the city has always had an active garden culture right from the days of Hyder Ali. "The British experimented in Lal Bagh, too," says Suresh. "It made sense to grow vegetables here."

Not surprisingly, there is a large, well-connected gardening community in the city who "chat, exchange ideas and take pride in how good their garden is," says Sheetal. "Seeing and following some of the practices is inspiring." Dr. Rajendra, whose organisation has

played a pivotal role in increasing awareness about the practice through workshops and lectures, says that there are today over 25 terrace gardening groups in the city, each having a minimum of 50-60 members. "They meet every month, share information, purchase materials for gardening together, and so on," he says.

The city's agro-climatic zone, cosmopolitanism and sprawl have also played a role in driving the movement, believes Shameek Chakravarty of Farmizen, a farm-to-fork mar-

ketplace that connects organic farmers to consumers which, among other offerings, allows you to rent a mini-farm to grow your own food. "There are some nice peri-urban farms that are very accessible since the city has been growing," he says, adding that many small farms are also found inside the city. And yes, it helps that the awareness and interest around health is high in Bengaluru. "If you go to a party in Mumbai, everyone is talking about real estate. But if you go to a party in Bengaluru, they will be

**The city's agro-climatic zone, cosmopolitanism and sprawl have also played a role in driving the movement**

post made of wet waste such as dried leaves, kitchen waste, fruit peels, and coffee grounds is a great source of plant nutrition. "Composting is an easy and complementary activity,"

Similarly, it can also be a



Terrace farming.



talking about intermittent fasting," says Shameek with a laugh. "This also has a role to play," he believes.

## Why garden

Urban farming isn't just about growing your own food. "It is about expanding our imagination," says Siddharth Lakshman, Partner, Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC), who has been deeply involved in developing the hydroponics, aquaponics and permaculture food forest at BCC.

"Agriculture is not just about yield but about creating ecosystems you can learn from, appreciate and experience," he says, pointing out that it is also about participating in a natural cycle where nothing is wasted and the output of one system becomes the input of another. Com-

posting is a great way of recycling water. "You should not be using drinking water for gardening; use grey water," says Dr. Rajendra, who has also actively been involved in Oota from your Thota (OfYT), a regular event held all across the city for gardening enthusiasts. According to him, urban gardening ensures cleaner, more nutritious food, promotes greenery and fosters biodiversity. "It provides an opportunity for children to learn and elders to spend time in the garden," he says.

It also is a way to drive awareness about a more sustainable, healthier lifestyle. "No one bothers if you tell people that their lake is getting polluted. But if you tell people that there is zinc in their palak or some other chemical in their cabbage, they will be more conscious," says Suresh, an opinion shared by Shameek.

"People who home garden are more sensitised as a family," he says, pointing out that growing one's own food offers people the chance to take control back to a certain extent, giving food the importance

it deserves. "If you take care of your food, you will spend less on hospital visits."

## Challenges and solutions

Admittedly, the average person foraging into urban farming for the first time can find the process challenging. Pest and disease are a problem, as is labour scarcity, availability of resources and simply awareness about how to start.

Akshayakalpa Organic's CEO, Shashi Kumar, who has long championed the need for sustainable agricultural practices and cleaner food, agrees that the high setup costs, lack of experience, expert guidance, time, and awareness can act as a deterrent. "Integrating farming into academic curricula from a young age is essential, fostering skills and awareness," he says. Shashi firmly believes that addressing challenges in sustainable living requires collective action and governmental intervention.

"Communities should unite for larger shared spaces, urging the government to enforce rules mandating adequate space, rainwater management, solar energy utilisation, and restrictions on cars per home, emulating successful practices like those in Australia."

It helps, he says, that innovative approaches such as aquaponics, hydroponics, vertical and rooftop gardening, microgreens, and technology-integrated solutions are gaining popularity for their space efficiency and water conservation. Additionally, in-situ composting has become more accessible, complemented by community garden initiatives where apartment residents collectively participate in urban farming and composting.

"This collaborative effort promotes sustainable practices and nurtures a shared responsibility for environmental well-being," says Shashi.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Nov. 22, 2023**

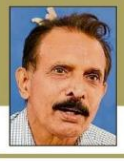




25 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಮುನ್ನೋಟ

• ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಸುರೇಶ್

'ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳು ಆಧುನಿಕ ಭಾರತದ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳು' ಎಂದು ಪಂಡಿತ ಜವಾಹರಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರೂ ಕರೆದಾಗ ಅದೊಂದು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಹೊಸ ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನವಾಗಿತ್ತು. 60 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಬಳಿಕ ತಾನು ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಶಿಥಿಲವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ ಆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳೂ ಸೇರುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ನೆಹರೂ ಕೂಡಾ ಊಹಿಸಿರಲಾರರು.



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 230. ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 15 ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ನೂರು ವರ್ಷ ದಾಟಿದೆ. ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶ ಕೃಷಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗೃಹೋಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ 634 ಬಿಸಿಎಂ (ಬಿಲಿಯನ್ ಘನ ಮೀಟರ್) ನೀರು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು 2050ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 800 ಬಿಸಿಎಂಗೆ ಏರಿತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ತಕ್ಕ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರವೂ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ನಿಜ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಎಷ್ಟು ಎಂಬ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪರಿಶೋಧನೆ ನಡೆದರೆ ಈ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಲೆಕ್ಕವೂ ಮನುಷ್ಯನಿಂದ ಹೊರಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬಹುತೇಕ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುವಾಗ ಕ್ರೈಮು ಮಾಡಿದ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಅರ್ಧದಷ್ಟನ್ನೂ ಈ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಸಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಪಾಲು ಹೂಳು ತುಂಬಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಸರಗಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆಯನ್ನು

ನೆಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆ ಕೊಚ್ಚಿ ತರುವ ಹೂಳು ಈ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಖರವಾದ ವಿವರಗಳೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರೆಯ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟಿನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟು ಕುಸಿದಿದೆಯೆಂದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಈ ಕುಸಿದ ಟಿಎಂಎ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕಿ ಅದರ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಧಾವಂತದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ (ಐಸಿಐ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವರದಿ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಅಂದಾಜು 31 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ (ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮರ್ಥನೆ ಇದು). ನೀರಾವರಿ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಕೇವಲ 16 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್. ಈ ಉದ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು, ಜಲಾಶಯದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಹಿಗ್ಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರ ತಕ್ಷಣದ ಲಾಭ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಚಿದಂಬರ ರಹಸ್ಯವೇನಲ್ಲ.

ದಶಕದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಕಟ್ಟಾರ್ ಅವರು ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಂದಾಜು 2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಬೆಳೆ ಭೂಮಿಯಾಗಿ ರೂಪಾಂತರಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಮರುಪಡೆಯಲು ಕಾರ್ಯೋದೇಶನೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ವಿವರ ಇದೆ. ಇದೇವೇಳೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾದ ಉತ್ತರದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಒಂದರಲ್ಲೇ 1 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಜಮೀನು ಬೆಳೆ. ಈ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶ ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷ ಹಳೆಯದು. ಸದ್ಯದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಅತಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ತಂದಿರುವ ವೈರುಧ್ಯ ಇದು.

ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಶೇ 80ರಷ್ಟು ಭತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಕಬ್ಬು ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಳೆ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ನಾಶವಾಗಿ ಭತ್ತದಂಥಾ ಬಕಬೆಳೆ ಹರಡಿ ಕೂಡಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುವ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಗೊಬ್ಬರ,

ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಹುಂಬ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆಯೇ ಎನಿಸಿ ಈಗಿರುವ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ಅದು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ನೀರುಳಿಸುವ ಉಪಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಂಭೀರವಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂವಾದಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಿಮಿ/ ಕೀಟನಾಶಕಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದರೆ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿರುವ ಬಹು ಆಯಾಮದ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಗಳ ರಾಕ್ಷಸ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಕೀಟನಾಶಕಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದೂ ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ).

ಇನ್ನು ಈ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ರೂಲುಬಹು ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಬೆಳೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳಿವೆ. ಇದೇನಿದ್ದರೂ ಮುದ್ರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳಷ್ಟೇ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 20 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಬೆಳೆ ಬಿಡಬೇಕು ಧಾನ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಸಬ್ಸಿಡಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಂಡರೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನದರೇ 60 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಇದರಿಂದ ಉಳಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದದ್ದು. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಬೆಳೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಟ್ಟಿನ ಫಲವತ್ತತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗುವ

ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದದ್ದು.

ಮುಂದಿನ 25 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ನೀರಿನ ಉಪಯೋಗದ ಮೇಲೆ ದೀರ್ಘ 3-ತರಗತಿ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಅನಾಥ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಾಕ್ಷಸಾಕಾರವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಅದರ ದಾಹ ತಣಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತೆ ಕಾವೇರಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಧಾವಂತ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಬಹುದು.

ಆಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಹೇಗಿರಬಹುದು? ನೀರಾವರಿಗಿರುವ ಹಾರಂಗಿ, ಕಬಿಣಿ ಹೇಮಾವತಿಗಳು ನೇರ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಚ್ಚಿ ತರುವ ಮುಟ್ಟಿನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಗಾರಗಳೇ. ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟದ ಮಳೆ ದಿರುಸು ನಂದಿರುವ ಜಲ ವಿವೃದ್ಧಾಗಾರಗಳನ್ನೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕಿದರೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ನೆಲ ಕಚ್ಚುವುದು ಖಚಿತ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಜಲಾಶಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಹುಂಬ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದೆಯೇ ಎನಿಸಿ ಈಗಿರುವ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ಅದು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ನೀರುಳಿಸುವ ಉಪಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಂಭೀರವಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂವಾದಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಚಿಂತೆ ವರ್ತಮಾನದ ದುಗುಡವಾದರಷ್ಟೇ ಹೊರತಾಗಿರಬಹುದು. ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಗಿಡಿಯು ಈ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಮುಂಗಾಣ್ಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಅಡಳಿತದ ಹೊಣೆ. 5ಜಿಯಿಂದ 10ಜಿಗೆ ಜಿಗಿಯುವುದೇ ಪರಮ ಸಾಧನೆ ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದರೆ ಆಸ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆವ ಜಮೀನು ರಾಕ್ಷಸವಾಗಿ ಬಂಜೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ ಗತ ಯೌವನ' ಎಂದು ಭರ್ತೃಹರಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಸಾವಿರ ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ. ಭೂಮಿಯ ಯೌವನ ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಯಿತು ಎಂದು ನಾವು ನಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಹೇಳುವುದು ಮಹಾ ಸಂಕಟದ ವಿಷಯ.

ಲೇಖಕ: ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ 33

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.10, Nov. 22, 2023

## ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಸುಮ್ಮನಾದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ | ಆರಂಭವಾಗದ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಸಿಗದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯ ರಕ್ತ

■ ವಿಳ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೋಕ ತುಮಕೂರು

ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಕುಸಿಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಘೋಷಣೆಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮೀನಮೇಷ ಎಣಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ದಿಕ್ಕು ತೋಡದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ತಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ಹೊರಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಕ್ವಿಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 11,730 ರೂ. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ ನಂತರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 1 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಧನವನ್ನೂ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಈಡೇರಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ವಿಫಲವಾಗಿವೆ. ನೆಪಮಾತ್ಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಕ್ವಿಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ ಸರಾಸರಿ 16,750 ರೂ. ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ವಿಟಾಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ದರ 8000 ರೂ. ಆಸಪಾಸಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಗಿರಿಕೆ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹಾಕಿದ ಬಂಡವಾಳವೂ ಕೈಗೆಟುಕದೆ ರೈತರು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

12 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಬೆಳೆ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಂಗು ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಬೆಳೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ತುಮಕೂರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ

ತೆಂಗು ಸಾರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ಬೆಳೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ವರ್ಷವಿಡೀ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆದಿಡಬೇಕು. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದರೆ ಸಾಲದು ಖರೀದಿಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕಲ್ಲವೇ? ಜತೆಗೆ ಎಫ್‌ಪಿಒ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು.

-ಗಂಗಾಧರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಿಸಾನ್ ಸಂಘ-ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ (ರಿ)

₹ 18,000

ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಕ್ವಿಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 18 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ವರೆಗೂ ತಲುಪಿತ್ತು. ಆ ನಂತರ ದರ ಕುಸಿಯುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಮಧ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ 12 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ. ವರ್ಷಪೂರ್ತಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ರೈತರ ಆಗ್ರಹ. ರೈತ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕ ಸಂಘ (ಎಫ್‌ಪಿಒ)ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಸಲಹೆಯನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ರೈತರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಹೋರಾಟ ತುರು

ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆರಂಭಿಸದೆ ರೈತರನ್ನು ನಂಬಿಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಎಸಗುತ್ತಿವೆ ಎಂದು ರೈತರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ಭುಗಿಲೆದ್ದಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಯ ಕಾವು ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹರಡುವ ಸೂಚನೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ. ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಕಲ್ಲತ್ತರು ನಾಡು ತುಮಕೂರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಿಸಾನ್ ಸಂಘ-ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ (ರಿ) ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ರೈತರು, ನಗರದ ಜ್ಯೂನಿಯರ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮೈದಾನದಿಂದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿವರೆಗೆ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಳಿ ಡಿಸಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.9, Nov. 22, 2023



# ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಒತ್ತಡ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರಗಾಲದಿಂದ ತೀವ್ರ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ₹17,901.73 ಕೋಟಿ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಗುರುವಾರ ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವ ಎನ್. ಚಲುವರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

'ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ 2015ರ ಅಂಕಿಅಂಶದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಅತಿಸಣ್ಣ ರೈತರು ಶೇ 44ರಷ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಶೇ 70ರಷ್ಟು ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಅತಿಸಣ್ಣ ರೈತರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. 2015ರ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ ಪರಿಗಣನೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹1,500 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ನಷ್ಟ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪರಿಹಾರ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಿನ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ ಗಣನೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂ-

## ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್‌ಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ
- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 70ರಷ್ಟು ಸಣ್ಣ, ಅತಿಸಣ್ಣ ರೈತರು
- ರೈತರ ಖಾತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಹಣ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ

ತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಚಿವರು ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ರೈತರ ಖಾತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆದಿವೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತಂಡವು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಸಚಿವರ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಈ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದೆ.



ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಸೀತಾರಾಮನ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಎನ್. ಚಲುವರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಹೂಗುಚ್ಚ ನೀಡಿದರು

ಬಳಿಕ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಇದೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಚಲುವರಾಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, 'ರೈತರ ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಮೆ ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲು ವಿಮಾ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು ತಡ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ರೈತರು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರಿಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ರೈತರು ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.5B, Nov.24, 2023

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## Decentralisation

# BBMP to bring PGs under regulations

### Move Follows Complaints Against Shared Accommodations In Residential Areas

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**Bengaluru:** With paying guest (PG) accommodation numbers having crossed 20,000 in Bengaluru and still counting, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to bring these establishments under a regulatory framework.

The BBMP move follows complaints from several resident welfare organisations and citizen groups about how many residential neighbourhoods are slowly being turned into commercial areas with a spurt in PG accommodations.

"It is a segment that has not been touched by any government agency. Many buildings get converted into PGs to cash in on the demand for housing, mostly triggered by outstation students and young working professionals. Some PGs, which operate from ramshackle buildings or are overcrowded, collect hefty rents from occupants," a BBMP official said.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, while stating that there are currently no guidelines governing PGs, said: "We are working on a framework to regulate them. The new rules, among other things, would



Photo for representation

**The owners of some PG accommodations, which operate out of ramshackle buildings or are overcrowded, collect hefty rents from occupants. It is high time the operations of PGs were streamlined, a BBMP official said**

look at restricting the maximum number of guests per room, the number of washrooms/toilets that need to be provided by the operators, safety and health matters."

He added: "We learned there is no limit on the number of guests and that the owners accommodate more people than what a room or facility could [ideally] hold."

He added that people had complained to BBMP against PGs and sought action against those overcrowded facilities. A resident had once complained about a foul

smell emanating from the window of a PG accommodation next door. The stench was later attributed to an unhygienic toilet at the shared accommodation.

While complaints are primarily against a few specific PGs only, the BBMP's move will impact all such facilities. According to the PG Owners' Association of Bengaluru, the city has more than 20,000 such facilities that accommodate over 17 lakh working professionals and students. Association president Arun Kumar told TOI there

were multiple agencies that were already looking into the operations of PGs.

"Most PG owners have taken trade licences. We don't know why BBMP has suddenly turned its attention on us; separate rules or guidelines are not necessary. In fact, BBMP and other government agencies should support our business as it provides accommodation and security to working professionals and students," he said. "With rents in Bengaluru skyrocketing, making residential arrangements for in-

dividuals without PGs is impossible. PGs are economical for working professionals and students," Kumar said. However, BBMP officials pointed out that PGs were not contributing to the exchequer despite collecting hefty rents from the occupants. "PGs located on the city outskirts operate from buildings that do not have khata. A few PGs pay tariff at domestic rates for water and power consumption by not declaring themselves as commercial establishments," a BBMP official added.

#### PG FACILITY COST STARTS FROM ₹5,000

PG accommodations usually come up in residential pockets located close to colleges and tech companies. A large number of these facilities can be found on the Outer Ring Road, in Whitefield, Mahadevapura, BTM Layout, SG Palya, and Koramangala.

Monthly PG rentals in Bengaluru were hiked by around Rs 2,000 over the last two years. The monthly average rent ranges between Rs 8,000 and 10,000, with 90 per cent of these accommodations run by locals. A PG typically has around 20 rooms. Cramped

**Source: The Times of India, p.2, Nov. 18, 2023**



# ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್, ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಗೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆಯಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಆದಾಯ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ

■ ರುದ್ರಣ್ಣ ಹರ್ಷಿಕೋಟಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸ ಮಾರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂದಿನ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರಲು ತಯಾರಿ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ.

ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ನೀರಿನ ಕರ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಸ್ವಂತ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯೂ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಸೂಲಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನೇ

» ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ನಿಚ್ಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಳ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೂ ಪರದಾದುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 1,338 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮಾತ್ರ ತೆರಿಗೆ ವಸೂಲಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವಿವಿಧ

ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು, ಸಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 6,500 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಹೊರೆ ಇದೆ. ಅಕ್ರಮ-ಸಕ್ರಮದ ಮೂಲಕ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಜತೆಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಮಾರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ.

**ಏನಿದು ಹೊಸ ಮಾರ್ಗ?** ಎಲ್ಲ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್‌ಗಳಿವೆ. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಹೋರ್ಡಿಂಗ್‌ಗಳಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆದಾಯ ಹೋಗಲಿ, ಹಿಡಿತವೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ತರಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಎಷ್ಟಿವೆ?** ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ನೂರಕ್ಕೆ ನೂರು ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ತಲುಪಿವೆ. ಟವರ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಅದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಡೀ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಅತೀಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್‌ಗಳಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ, ಉತ್ತರಪ್ರದೇಶ, ದೆಹಲಿ ನಂತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ 50 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಟವರ್‌ಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 9,000 ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೆ, ಉಳಿದವು ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟಿವೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಂದಾಜು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿರುವ ಫಲಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿಯವರು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅನೇಕ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಇವು ಹಾಳು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಥವಾ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಟವರ್‌ಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಆ ಮೊತ್ತ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ವೇತನ, ಕಚೇರಿ ಆಡಳಿತ ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕಾದರೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಹೊರೆ ಅಪ್ಪರಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ.



ವಸೂಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು (ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ವರ್ಷ	ಮೊತ್ತ
2020-21	1,028.53
2021-22	990.60
2022-23	1,338.63

ಎಷ್ಟಿರಲಿದೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ?

ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ. ಲಭ್ಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್‌ಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 25 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಗಳ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಬಹುದೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟದ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ತೆರಿಗೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಆಧಾರ ಎಂಬುದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿದೆ. ಏಕರೂಪವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಒಂದೇ ದರ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

» ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಐವತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಟವರ್, ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಇಲ್ಲ

» ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಗಳಿಗೆ 17,500 ರೂ. ಶುಲ್ಕ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ



ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟು

1	ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ
10	ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ
61	ನಗರಸಭೆ
124	ಪುರಸಭೆ
115	ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ
4	ಸೂಚಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು

ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಟವರ್ ಗಳಿಗೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿತ್ತು, ಆದರೆ, ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿವೆ.

ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ತೆರಿಗೆ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಂಪನಿಗಳೇ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಏಕರೂಪತೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ. ಲಭ್ಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್‌ಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 25 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಗಳ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಬಹುದೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟದ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ತೆರಿಗೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಆಧಾರ ಎಂಬುದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿದೆ. ಏಕರೂಪವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಒಂದೇ ದರ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಪೌರಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸದೃಢ ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಸ್ವಂತ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನಲೇಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ-ಸಕ್ರಮದ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಬೇರೆ ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಟವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಫಲಕಗಳಿಗೆ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

! ರಹೀಂಖಾನ್ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಸಚಿವ

Source: Vijayavani, p.1, Nov. 19, 2023

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## ECONOMY

# KSRTC to venture into logistics business with 20 trucks

The trucks, each with six-tonne capacity, are intended to cater to diverse clusters in Karnataka

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is set to enter the logistics business by deploying 20 fully-equipped trucks with the aim of enhancing non-ticket revenue. Based on its extensive connectivity and resources, including depots across Karnataka, the State-owned corporation will diversify into the logistics business, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told *The Hindu*.

In 2021, the KSRTC launched 'Namma Cargo' services, enabling State road transport corporations, excluding the BMTC, to transport parcels in buses as a revenue-generating initiative. Expanding upon this established cargo service, the KSRTC will further get into the logistics sec-



The KSRTC will launch 'Namma Cargo' with the aim of enhancing non-ticket revenue. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tor by inducting trucks into its fleet.

"We used to outsource our parcel services to external agencies, generating approximately ₹4 crore in annual revenue. Then we introduced Namma Cargo, where we exclusively operate the service and offer a 20% commission to external agencies. We have achieved a monthly reve-

nue of ₹1.1 crore. Now, as a pilot initiative, we are adding 20 trucks with the anticipation of expanding the size of this fleet in the coming days. Our goal is to reach an annual income of ₹100 crore from the logistics business," said Mr. Reddy.

According to the Minister, the KSRTC purchased the trucks at a price of ₹17

lakh per vehicle. These fully-equipped trucks, each with a six-tonne capacity, are intended to cater to diverse clusters, such as fruits, vegetables, textiles, and pharmaceuticals.

V. Anbukumar, Managing Director of KSRTC, said: "KSRTC, built on trust and respect from the people, is stepping into the logistics sector. We anticipate success for the new venture and our trucks will serve various clusters in the State, particularly in agriculture, textiles, and automobile, where five to six-tonne loading vehicles are in demand for transporting goods."

KSRTC has crafted a logo featuring dark blue branding for its trucks. According to officials, this choice symbolises reliability, authority, and knowledge, highlighting the significance of the dark blue colour in KSRTC trucks.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 18, 2023**



# ₹20cr to 100 startups; K'taka 1st to give aid sans equity: Min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Under the Elevate Karnataka programme, the government will fund around 100 startups with a committed budget of Rs 20 crore this year. The startups that need funding and mentoring to scale up can apply till December.

The government will provide a one-time grant of up to Rs 50 lakh to each startup to



encourage innovators who may need early-stage funding. "Karnataka is the first

state in the country to provide grant-in-aid to startups without taking equity in return. We have also done better than private venture capital firms at a time when the funding industry is still talking about slowdowns due to funding winter," said IT&BT minister **Priyank Kharge**.

Started in 2015, the government has so far funded Rs 197 crore to 874 startups, including Bounce, an electric scooter manufacturer, and Shuhari Tech Ventures, a fintech company run by women. Of these startups that got funding, 24% are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, and 30% were founded by women. "This shows the state's commitment to encourage

## '100mn using digital ID systems enabled through IIT-B initiative'

More than 100 million people globally have embraced the Aadhaar-like digital identities enabled through the Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) initiative being spearheaded by IIT-Bangalore. The number is expected to touch 1 billion in the coming years, said iSPIRT (Indian Software Products Industry Round Table) Foundation co-founder Sharad Sharma on Saturday.

At the 'Ethics of Disruptive Technologies' session at Dialogue-2023 organised by the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government of India and IISc, he said: "So far, 11 coun-

tries like Morocco and Philippines are using it. Delegates from other countries are discussing policies and practices."

Sharma said the implementation of identity systems like Aadhaar in India highlight the legal and technological framework preventing misuse. "The government, with exceptions, can retain Aadhaar numbers, but banks use a virtual token system, ensuring privacy and preventing surveillance. India's approach is seen as a global gold standard, attracting interest for its privacy-preserving design globally, and some countries have adopted it," he said. TNN

women entrepreneurs and those outside Bengaluru," Kharge added.

Under Elevate Unnati, a part of the Elevate Karnataka scheme, the government is encouraging startups by SC and ST communities. So far, 91 startups founded by SCs and STs have been given funding. Similarly, 18 startups from the Kalyan-Karnataka region have been given Rs 3.5 crore, the minister said. Kharge said the govern-

ment has adopted a rigorous and thorough evaluation and selection of startups for funding. The process involves four states that include data sufficiency and eligibility, offline pitching (only for Bengaluru Urban), multi-city pitching, and the grand finale. The grand finale for the current fiscal year, where the winners for the funding will be announced, will be held in January-February 2024.

**Source: The Times of India, p.4, Nov. 19, 2023**



## 33 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ | ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಿಂದ ಅಂಕಿ- ಅಂಶ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ 3 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 8 ಸಾವಿರ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಕೇಸ್

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿ (ಬೆಂಸಾಂ) 8,000ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ 33.11 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಂಡವನ್ನು ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ದೀಪಾಲಂಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಎಚ್.ಡಿ. ಕುಮಾರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ 68 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಬೆಂಸಾಂ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಿಚಾರ ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಸಾಂನ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ರೀತಿಯ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಮೊದಲನೆಯದು, ಬಿಲ್ ಬಾಕಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು (ಬಿಬಿಸಿ) ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು (ಸಿಸಿ). ಸಿಸಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಬಿಬಿಸಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೂರು ಪಟ್ಟು ದಂಡವನ್ನು ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಬಹುದು. ಬಿಬಿಸಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾದ ದಂಡವು ಬೆಂಸಾಂಗೆ ಹೋದರೆ, ಉಳಿದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ದಂಡದ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಪ್ರಕರಣ		
ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ವರ್ಷ	ದಾಖಲಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ	ದಂಡ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ
2021-22	4,166	₹13.92 ಕೋಟಿ
2022-23	2,829	₹12.63
2023-24 (ಅ.)	1,191	₹6.55
ಒಟ್ಟು	8,186	₹33.11 ಕೋಟಿ

**ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ**  
ರಿಕವರಿಯಾದ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇರ ಸಂಬಂಧವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ರಿಕವರಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೂ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಬಹುದು. ಖಚಿತ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನ ತಡೆಯಲು ಬೆಂಸಾಂ ಜಾಗೃತ ದಳ (ವಿಚಕ್ಷಣಾ ದಳ) ಪ್ರತಿವಾರ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ದಾಳಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನಗಳ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**3,369 ಬಿಬಿಸಿ-797 ಸಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ**  
ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷ 2021-22 ರಲ್ಲಿ, ಬೆಂಸಾಂ 3,369 ಬಿಬಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು 797 ಸಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ 13.92 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದಂಡ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದೆ. 2022-23 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 2,268 ಬಿಬಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 560 ಸಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ 12 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದಂಡ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 31ರವರೆಗೆ, 955 ಬಿಬಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 235 ಸಿಸಿ ಅಡಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ 6.55 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದಂಡವನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಬೆಂಸಾಂ ಒದಗಿಸಿದ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

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**Source: Vijayavani, p.7, Nov. 20, 2023**



# State getting far lower allocation from Centre under Samagra Shikshana

Compared to A.P., Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, Karnataka receives the least both in terms of total allocation and per-child cost

**Sathish G.T.**  
SHIVAMOGGA

Children of Karnataka have been getting much lesser allocation from the Union government under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka programme, compared to their counterparts in other States that fall in the same category in terms of student enrolment and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The programme whose objective is to provide quality education for children involves funds from both the State and the Centre.

Karnataka's letter to the Union government flagging this issue has so far yielded no results.

## Other States

Compared to Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana States, Karnataka gets the least both in terms of total allocation and per-child cost.

This has been the case since the scheme was launched, by merging Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, in 2018-19, according to the State government.

The Union government's budgetary state-



The Samagra Shikshana Karnataka programme, whose objective is to provide quality education for children in government schools, involves funds from both the State and the Centre. FILE PHOTO

## In numbers

State	Govt. Schools	Enrolment	Tentative total estimates (in crore)	Per child cost
Andhra Pradesh	45,137	46,96,207	₹2,930.88	₹6,240.95
Gujarat	34,699	55,70,875	₹2,194.55	₹3,939.33
Maharashtra	65,639	58,53,094	₹2,203.16	₹3,764.09
Tamil Nadu	37,636	53,14,845	₹3,585.99	₹6,747.12
Telangana	3,0023	33,03,699	₹1,913.91	₹5,793.23
Karnataka	49,679	54,45,989	₹1,537.9	₹2,823.91

ment (tentative total estimates) for 2023-24 suggests that per-child cost allocated for Andhra Pradesh is ₹6,240. In other words, the Centre spends that sum on each child in that State in the

year.

Similarly, the per-child cost in Gujarat is ₹3,939.33, in Tamil Nadu ₹6,747.12, in Maharashtra ₹3,764.09, and in Telangana ₹5,793.23. However, in case of Karnataka, the per-

child child allocated is only ₹2,823.91.

The cost allocated was by and large the same in 2022-23. Then, the cost per child in Karnataka was only ₹2,853.68 against ₹5,913.72 (Andhra Pra-

desh), ₹7,011.30 (Tamil Nadu), ₹3,840.67 (Gujarat), ₹3,676.62 (Maharashtra), and ₹6,168.19 (Telangana).

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa told *The Hindu*, "This was the same last year, when the BJP was in power. The then Minister did not raise the issue with the Centre. Now our department has taken up the issue with the Union government."

## Letter to Centre

Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education, wrote to Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of School Education of the Union government earlier this year, in this regard. In his letter, Mr. Ritesh Kumar stated that the proposed Central share for SSK in 2023-24, as indicated through the letter in December 7, 2022, was ₹1,538 crore.

"The outlay is quite less considering the number of government schools in Karnataka and enrolment figures, when compared with other comparable States," he said.

The officer, along with the letter, attached two fact tables comparing the allocations made to Karnataka and other States in

2022-23 and 2023-24. The allocation to Karnataka had been significantly less than what was allocated to other State with similar GSDP and enrolment numbers, it stated. "The short allocation has been persisting since the inception of SSK and has made it extremely difficult for the State to carry out intended activities under the programme."

The officer noted that the average per-child cost allocated to five other States in 2023-24 was ₹5,297. "As per the average, the reasonable expectation of allocation for Karnataka would be ₹2,885 crore, compared to the existing allocation of ₹1,538 crore," he stated.

## 'Under examination'

"If I raise this issue, it may take a political colour. Our officers are pursuing it. They have written to the Centre, seeking our due," said Mr. Madhu Bangarappa.

Asked if there was any progress following the letter, Mr. Singh said, "We have requested the Union government to revise the allocation for Samagra Shikshana Karnataka and it is under examination. Discussions are ongoing. We will follow this up."

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov. 20, 2023**

## Govt. to evaluate funds spent on welfare of SCs, STs during last decade

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

As the Karnataka government spent close to ₹2 lakh-crore for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last one decade, it has been decided to conduct an evaluation on the actual use of funds by SCs and STs.

Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa said the Institute for Social

and Economic Change (ISEC), Karnataka Evaluation Authority and the department would conduct the evaluation jointly in the next six months.

The erstwhile Congress government (2013-18) led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah enacted the Karnataka Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan Act, 2013 to ensure that the grants were not scientifically distributed and did not reach the desired be-

neficiaries. Under the pioneering law, the State has to spend 24.1% of its total budget on SC/ST welfare.

## Allocation

The allocation under the plan increased from ₹8,988 crore during 2013-14 to ₹34,294 crore, which included ₹24,333 crore for SCs and ₹9,960 crore for STs for 2023-24.

The evaluation would clearly indicate whether the money spent really be-

nefited the SCs and STs and what extent the families have benefited from the government schemes, Mr. Mahadevappa said.

The department and two agencies have been asked to conduct the evaluation and submit the report to the government in six months to plug the loopholes, if any, and effective implementation of schemes.

In some cases, funds had been diverted to other

works under section 7 of the Act. The government has decided to amend the Act during the winter session of the State legislature in Belagavi which would start from December 4 for preventing diversion of funds.

During the previous BJP government, a sum of ₹10,000 crore has been diverted to other departments for various purposes, he alleged.

On the occasion of the

Congress government completing six months, Mr. Mahadevappa said the funds earmarked for the welfare of SCs and STs would be spent in a time-bound manner.

Close to 15 lakh SC/ST families cultivate lands in the State. But 50% of them had not received legal documents (podi). Denial of podi led to non-availability of Fasal Bima scheme and other benefits of the union government, he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov. 21, 2023**



# Peak demand in summer likely to touch 18,000 MW

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

After a record peak demand of over 16,000 MW earlier this year in August, in the upcoming summer season, the peak demand in Karnataka is expected to go up to 18,000-18,500 MW, officials in the Energy Department said on Tuesday.

The expected average power demand for February, March, and April would be around 15,500-16,500 MW. However, the department is confident of catering to the higher demand, Energy Minister K.J. George said at a press conference, adding that the preparations have already begun.

## **Current demand**

While the power demand in the State currently is around 14,000 MW, there is no shortfall of power due to all the measures taken, the officials said. "We already know our power sources well (to supply to the higher demand). We are deficient in hydel, but in thermal plants we are looking to generate more. We currently have an installed capacity of 5,020 MW and have generated up to 3,400 MW. In the last 40 days, there has been no shortfall of power," said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

He added that with tender in place for the import of 2.5 lakh tonnes of coal, which would then be blended with an average of 10% domestic coal, it might

increase the generation by 600-800 MW.

## **Barter agreements**

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, MD, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., said that with barter power agreements with Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and Section II and other factors, the State is currently self-sufficient, and no power has been purchased from the exchange as of now.

Mr. George said that to improve the power situation in the State further, the Yelahanka gas plant, which has a capacity of 370 MW, would start functioning in around two months while the Bidadi waste plant would be functional in three months.

## **Waiver of arrears**

The Energy Minister also announced that the State government has decided to waive outstanding arrears to the tune of ₹389.66 crore pending from beneficiaries of Bhagya Jyothi and Kuteera Jyothi who are now beneficiaries of Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Mr. George also said that the Chief Minister has given his nod in principle for the waiver of the accumulated interest levied on coffee growers with 10 HP and below IP sets in Kodagu, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru districts once they pay the outstanding principle. The outstanding dues of these farmers was ₹64.24 crore with a principle amount of ₹47.7 crore and interest of ₹16.47 crore as on September 30.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Nov. 22, 2023**



# Bengaluru bucks national trend of robust demand for office space

## Sees 28% annual decline in leasing in Q2 FY24

SHAKSHI JAIN  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Global slowdown in the information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services (ITeS) has now told on Bengaluru's realty sector. The city, which has been topping the absorption of commercial space, saw a 28% decline in office space leasing in the July-September quarter, according to a report tabled on Monday by the property consultancy firm, Vestian.

Remarkably, new supply in the city plummeted 25% to 2.7 million square feet, during the period.

Bengaluru has effectively

debunked the otherwise robust trend seen, with the top seven markets reporting the highest ever quarterly absorption since the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall office space leasing in the quarter ended September 2023 rose 21% year-on-year, across the seven major cities of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi-NCR and Kolkata. New office space supply also, increased 26% annually to 13.4 million square feet during the period under review.

The sector also reported healthy vacancy levels with an appreciation in average rentals, Vestian chief executive Shrinivas Rao said. "This showcases

DEMAND-SUPPLY DYNAMICS IN THE TOP-7 MARKETS				
City	Absorption (Mn sq ft) Q3 2023	Y-o-Y Change (%)	New supply (Mn sq ft) Q3 2023	Y-o-Y Change (%)
Hyderabad	3.7	270%	5.5	175%
Bengaluru	3.6	-28%	2.7	-25%
NCR	3	-14%	0.5	-82%
Mumbai	2.3	21%	0.9	125%
Chennai	2	82%	1.2	71%
Pune	1.1	83%	1.9	73%
Kolkata	0.2	NA	0.7	NA
Total	15.9	21%	13.4	26%

the robust fundamentals of the sector and a healthy demand for quality office spaces in India," he added.

With 15.9 million square feet in total absorption across the seven markets, Hyderabad led the trend, increasing its share in the overall pie to 23% during the period, as against 8% in Q2FY23.

Strikingly, though Bengaluru saw its share falling to 23%,

from 38% in the corresponding period last year, the city accounted for the second highest absorption area during the period at 3.6 million square feet.

Vestian expects office demand in Bengaluru to improve with IT conglomerates calling employees back to office. Sudhir Pai, chief executive of property portal Magicbricks agreed. He listed a slowdown in hiring and campus recruitment by IT

companies as the top reason. But he sees this as a temporary blip in Bengaluru's office market.

The southern markets of Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai cumulatively contributed 58% of total office leasing and 70% to new supply during Q2 of FY24.

Delhi NCR also reflected a dim performance during the period with a 14% y-o-y decline in leasing, at 3 million square feet.

### Occupier profile

Despite a marginal decrease of 1% sequentially, the IT-ITeS sector dominated office leasing activity during the period with a 25% share. The banking, financial services and insurance sector came in second, with a 20% share in total absorption during the quarter.

Lastly, manufacturing & engineering and flexible space sectors accounted for 17% and 16%, respectively.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.10, Nov.21, 2023**



# Toyota to invest Rs 3,300 crore for new plant in Karnataka

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Tuesday, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to set up a third plant in its Bidadi facility in an investment worth Rs 3,300 crore.

This investment would increase the car maker's production capacity by 1,00,000 units annually and create around 2,000 jobs.

TKM, which makes cars such as Innova and Fortuner and is a joint venture between Toyota Motor Co and Kirloskar Group, currently operates two plants in Bidadi with a combined production capacity of up to 3,42,000 vehicles. The new plant is set to start operations in 2026.

The new plant could also be used to make electric vehicles.

"The government is coming up with a new clean mobility policy that aims to position Karnataka as the premier destination for EV manufacturing. With this, the



**Industries Minister M B Patil, CM Siddaramaiah and MD & CEO TKM Masakazu Yoshimura in Bengaluru.**

government aims to attract investments of Rs 50,000 crore across the entire EV value chain, generating approximately 100,000 new jobs," said Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil.

The additional capacity is also expected to reduce waiting time for cars like Innova Hycross and Hyryder, which can now go up to about a year.

"Today's MoU will contribute through employment generation and expand adoption of advanced technologies," said TKM MD and CEO Masakazu Yoshimura.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Nov.22, 2023**



ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 15,500ರಿಂದ 16,500 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ: ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಜಾರ್ಜ್

# ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಈಗಿಂದಲೇ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಶುರು

ಸಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ತೀವ್ರ ಬರದ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗತ್ಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೂ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಜಾರ್ಜ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, 2024ರ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಮತ್ತು ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸುಮಾರು 15,500 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ನಿಂದ 16,500 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ತಲುಪುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿದ್ದು, ಅಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಹಲವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ರೈತರ ಪಂಪ್‌ಸೆಟ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ತಾಸು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಸುವಂತೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಗಮನ ಹರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಇಂಧನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಜಾಬ್ (300ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ.) ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಿಂದ (100-600ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ.) ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಖರೀದಿಯು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಉಷ್ಣ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯನ್ನು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ಎಂ.ಹೆಚ್ ಜನರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ಪುನಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕೆಪಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನ ಉಷ್ಣ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯನ್ನು 3,500 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದು. 370 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಯಲಹಂಕ ಅನಿಲ ಸ್ಥಾವರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲೇ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 1500 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕೆಇಆರ್‌ಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು, ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಇದರ ಜತೆಗೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು ಹೊ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 11ರ ಜಾರಿ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಷ್ಣ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳಿಗೆ 2023ರ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್‌ನಿಂದ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಕೂಡ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಡಿ. 1ರಿಂದ



ಪತ್ರಿಕಾಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಜಾರ್ಜ್, ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತಾ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಪಿಟಿಎಲ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಪಂಕಜ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾಂಡೆ ಇದ್ದರು.

## 2.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು ಆಮದು

ಉಷ್ಣ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸ್ಥಾವರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶೀಯ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಮದು ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು ಮಿಶ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರವೂ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಶೇ. 6ರಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಶೇ. 10ರಷ್ಟು ಆಮದು ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು ಮಿಶ್ರಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2.5ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿ ಟನ್‌ಗೆ 86 ಡಾಲರ್‌ನಂತೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಸಲು ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಡೋನೇಷಿಯಾ ದಿಂದ ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತಾ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೂಡಲೆ ಉಷ್ಣ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸ್ಥಾವರದಲ್ಲಿ 150 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಪುನಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಥರ್ಮಲ್ ಜನರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮತೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲು ದೇಶೀಯ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಮದು ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲನ್ನು ಸರಾಸರಿ ಶೇ. 10ರಷ್ಟು ಮಿಶ್ರಣ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ



ಗೃಹಚ್ಛೇದಿತಿ ಯೆಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ 1.61

ಕೋಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ನೋಂದಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, 1.50 ಕೋಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಸರಾಸರಿ 780 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತಾರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ನಾಲ್ಕು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2,900 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಬಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಜಾರ್ಜ್, ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವ

ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಎನರ್ಜಿ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾದಿಂದ 1100 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ (ಪವನ, ಸೌರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ) ಇಂಧನ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗ್ರೀನ್ ಹೈಡ್ರೋಜನ್ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ನವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಧನ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೃಹತ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪ್ರಸರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಮುಂದೆ ಹಸಿರು ಶಕ್ತಿ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಲು ಯೋಜಿಸಿದೆ. ತರಾವತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದ 2000 ಮೆ.ವ್ಯಾ. ಪಂಪ್ ಸ್ಟೋರೇಜ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲೇ ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

**Source: Vishwawani, p.4, Nov.22, 2023**



ಲೇಬರ್ ಲೈನ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೆ 2,780 ದೂರು

# ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ವಂಚನೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

• ವರುಣ ಹೆಗಡೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ವಂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ ರೂಪಿಸಿರುವ 'ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲೇಬರ್ ಲೈನ್' ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯಡಿ 2,780 ದೂರುಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ.

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಪೀಪಲ್ಸ್ ಚಾರ್ಟರ್ (ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯುಪಿಸಿ) ಮತ್ತು ಅಜೀವಿಕ ಬ್ಯೂರೋ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಜಂಟಿಯಾಗಿ 2021ರ ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿವೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ 10ರಿಂದ 15 ಕರೆಗಳು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಂದ ಬರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲೇಬರ್ ಲೈನ್ ತಂಡವು ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಸತ್ಯಾಸತ್ಯತೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ತಂಡವು ವಕೀಲರು ಸೇರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ತಜ್ಞರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

2020ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದವು. ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಧಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹಲವರು ಕೆಲಸ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ವೇಳೆ ವೇತನ ವಂಚನೆಯಂತಹ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಹಲವರಿಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ ವೇತನ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲೇಬರ್ ಲೈನ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸದ್ಯ ದೇಶದ 16 ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ವೇತನಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ: ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಭಾರತ ಹಾಗೂ

## ಯಾರೆಲ್ಲ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು?

'ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ವಲಯಗಳಾದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ, ಮನೆ ಕೆಲಸ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ, ಗಾರ್ಡಿಂಗ್, ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳು, ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು, ಭದ್ರತೆ, ಸೇವಾ ವಲಯಗಳಾದ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್, ಹೋಮ್ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರು ಈ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಸೋಮವಾರದಿಂದ ಶನಿವಾರದವರೆಗೆ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 8ರಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 6ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಇರಲಿದೆ. ಬೇರೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ, ಕಾರ್ಯಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯನ್ನೂ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಯೋಜಕ ಮುನಿರಾಜು ಟಿ. ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಉಚಿತ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 18008339020, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080 46805780

## 1,160 ದೂರು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ

ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲೇಬರ್ ಲೈನ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯಡಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ದಾಖಲಾದ ದೂರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1,160 ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಅಡಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ₹ 2.62 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಮರಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (ಪಿಎಫ್) ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಬ್ಯುಟಿ (ಉಪಧನ) ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ವೇತನ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ, ಕೆಲಸದ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂಸೆ, ಅಧಿಕ ಅವಧಿ ದುಡಿಮೆ, ಅಪಘಾತ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿರಾಕರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವೇತನ ವಿಳಂಬದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಾಲೀಕರ ವರ್ತನೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ, ವೇತನ ಕೊಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಸೇರಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ನೆರವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೆಲ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಭಯದ ಕಾರಣ

ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ದೂರನ್ನು ವಾಪಸ್ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಅಡಿ ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಸೇವೆಯೂ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ನಾವು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಯೋಜಕ ಗಾಯತ್ರಿ ರಘು ಕುಮಾರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.3A, Nov.23, 2023



# Free bus travel: Govt to spend addl Rs 1,200 cr to Rs 1,700 cr

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress government will spend an additional Rs 1,200 to 1,700 crore this financial year on its flagship Shakti scheme that allows women to travel for free on non-premium state-owned buses within Karnataka.

Launched on June 11, the scheme has been highly successful with 100.8 crore women making use of it in the first six months alone.

It has already cost the government Rs 2,397 crore, just short of the Rs 2,800 crore budgeted for the financial year 2023-24.

An average, the government spends Rs 15 crore daily to keep the scheme going. At this rate, the Rs 2,800 crore will run out in less than a month.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the budgetary funds were inadequate to run the scheme until March 2024.

"The scheme requires another Rs 1,200 crore, and the government will provide it. We have made a request, and the Finance Department is looking into it," he told DH.

According to Reddy, the government had budgeted Rs 2,800 crore for the scheme

based on the Road Transport Corporations's (RTCs) previous average daily ridership.

The scheme has pushed the ridership from 84-85 lakh to 1.1 crore.

A well-placed source in the government said the expenditure on the scheme in the current fiscal year would rise to Rs 4,500 crore. "The government will revise the allocation and pass it in the upcoming assembly session," the source added.

V Anbukumar, Managing Director of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), said the RTCs' average daily ridership had increased by 17% because many women travelled with their husbands or male relatives. "The non-Shakti revenue has gone up, and we are assessing the overall impact of the scheme," he said.

Reddy denied "large-scale" fake ticketing under the scheme. "RTC buses do 1.58 lakh trips per day. It's possible that some conductors may be generating fake tickets but their numbers are negligible," he explained.

Reddy said no final decision had been made about the smartcard requirement for women travellers. The government had stipulated that women would need to get



Launched on June 11, the Shakti Scheme has registered 100.8 crore bus rides by women in the first six months. DH PHOTO

smartcards on its Seva Sindhu portal after three months but the requirement has been withheld indefinitely.

Reddy said that the smartcards might not be workable on BMTC buses, where many passengers travel only short distances. "We need to simplify the process. We are working on it," he added.

Anbukumar echoed him,

saying the smartcards' financial and technical aspects were being examined.

"We need smartcards to determine the cost and distance of travel but we still need to figure out how this would work on city and rural bus services. Conductors need time to examine smartcards and issue tickets. This may not be workable in all bus services," he added.

## Bus scheme financials

- Funds allocated in the budget: Rs 2,800 cr
- No of beneficiaries (June 11 to Nov 22): 100 cr
- Cost so far: Rs 2,397.8 cr
- Funds required until March 2024: Rs 4,500 cr

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5A, Nov.24, 2023

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ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

## ನುಡಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಲು ಬೇಕು ಸೃಜನಶೀಲ ಕ್ರಮ

• ಪಿ.ಎನ್. ದೇವಿ

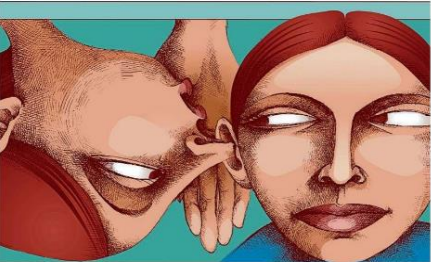
ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಅಥವಾ ಹಿಂದಿ ವಿರೋಧ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕೇವಲ ಘೋಷಣೆಗಳು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗದು. ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಎಂಥ ಸೃಜನಶೀಲ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೋ ಅಂಥದೇ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತುಳು, ದಖನಿ, ಕೊಂಕಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೂ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಭಾಷೆಯ ಉಳಿವಿಗೆ ಬಹುಭಾಷಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನ ನಡೆಸುವ ಕಾಲ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ



ಈ ಜಗತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ, ಜನರು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕಿದರೆ ಸುಮಾರು 7,000 ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ಒಂದು ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ಎಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೊಂದು ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕ ನೀಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡುವುದಾದರೆ, ಮೊದಲ 30 ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 11 ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಹಿಂದಿ, ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾ, ಮರಾಠಿ, ತೆಲುಗು, ಪಂಜಾಬಿ, ತಮಿಳು, ಉರ್ದು, ಗುಜರಾತಿ, ಮಲೆಯಾಳಂ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಒಟ್ಟಾರ್-ಫಾಜಿ ಆ 11 ಭಾಷೆಗಳು. ಒಂದರನ್ನು ಈ 30 ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಭಾಷೆಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಡುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಹೊರಟ ಅಂಥವರಿಗೆ ಸುಮಾರು 10 ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಸಿಗಬಹುದು. ಆ 10 ಭಾಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತದ ಮೂರು ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತವೆ- ತಮಿಳು, ಮರಾಠಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ.

ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪರಿಚಯ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕೆಲವರ ಯಾವ ಕಾರಣ ಬೇಕು ಹೇಳಿ, ಭಾಷೆಯ ಆತ್ಮವು ರಿಪರ್ಜನಾದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನರು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಭಾಷೆ- ಈ ಎರಡೂ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿವೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಪರಂಪರೆ, ತತ್ವಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಪದಕೋಶ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಕಿಪೀಡಿಯಾಗಳಂತಹ ಪಾಂಡಿತ್ಯಪೂರ್ಣ ಕೆಲಸಗಳೂ ಈ ಭಾಷೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ರಂಗಭೂಮಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿನಿಮಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲೂ ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿವೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟಾದರೂ ಆತ್ಮೀಯವಾದ ಸಂಗೀತ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೂ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪಥವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಸು ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ಕೊಂಡುಹೋಗಿ.

ಭಾರತದ ಸಂವಿಧಾನವು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 1950ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ವಿಂಗಡಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಜವಾಗಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಂವಿ ಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬಳಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ದಖನಿ, ತುಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಂಕಣಿ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗಿಂತಲೂ ತಮಿಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮರಾಠಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲವು ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಚತುರ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಾದವು.

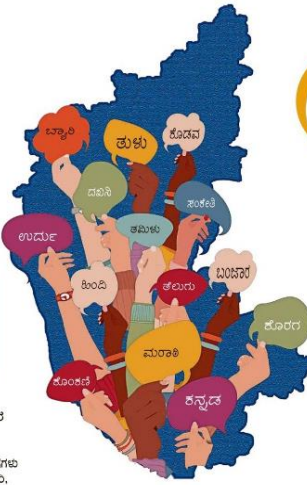


ಇದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಭಾಷೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಹೊರತಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಇತರ ಕೆಲವು ಭಾಷೆಗಳು- ಕೊಂಕಣಿ, ಹಿಂದಿ, ಮರಾಠಿ, ತೆಲುಗು, ತಮಿಳು, ಉರ್ದು ಅಥವಾ ದಖನಿ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 8ನೇ ಪರಿಚ್ಛೇದದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿವೆ. ಇನ್ನಿತರ- ತುಳು, ಮೈಸೂರಿ, ಕೊಡವ, ಸಂಕೇತಿ, ಬಂಜಾರ, ಕೊಂಕಣಿ, ಇರಾವ್, ಸಿಬ್ಬಿ, ಬಜ್ಜಿ, ಸೋಲಿಂಗ, ಕಡಪ್ಪಿ, ಎರವ, ಗೌಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುರು ಭಾಷೆಗಳು 8ನೇ ಪರಿಚ್ಛೇದದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಜಾತಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ, ಆಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ, ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸಲ್ಪಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಳಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ, ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹುಭಾಷಾ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ-ವಸ್ತುಗು ಮಾಡುವಿಕೆ, ಜೊತೆಜೊತೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನೇ ಆದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಭಾಷೆಯೊಂದಿಗೇ ಎನ್ನುವ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಾರಗೊಂಡಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡವು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮೈಗುಲಂತ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನರು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಭಾಷೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ಬೇಗ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಂಟುವಾಗ ಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. 1961 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಕನ್ನಡವು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಭಾಷೆ ಎಂದು ಭಾರತದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಈ 3.96ಎಂಪಿ ಜನರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ದಶಕದಿಂದ ದಶಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬುಧನ್. ಈ 50 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರು ಭಾರತದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವು ಈ 3.96ಎಂಪಿ ಜನರ ಈ 3.61ರಷ್ಟು ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಇದು 2011 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಮೂಲಕ 121 ಕೋಟಿ (2011 ಗಣಕ ಪ್ರಕಾರ) ಜನರನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟು ಈ 00.35ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಅದು ಹಲವು ಕಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿದೆ.

ಹಿಂದಿಕ್ಕೂ ಗಣಕೀಯ ನಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ, ಕೆಲವು ಜನರಷ್ಟೇ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಭಾಷೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರು ಎಂದೇ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು 2011 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು 4.37 ಕೋಟಿ, ಬಡಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು 1.33 ಕೋಟಿ, ಕುರು ಭಾಷೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು 24.189 ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಶ್ಚಾತ್ಯ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು 12.257 ಮತ್ತು "ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಇತರ ಭಾಷೆ" ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು 30.244 ಜನರೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದರು.

ಭಾರತದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಇಳಿದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತಿಯ ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೂ ಅಂಥದೆ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿ-ಅರ್ಯನ್ ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ (ಈ 78.05) ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಭಾಷಾ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಭಾಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು (ಈ 19.64) ಹೀಗೂ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಭಾಷಾ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಒಂದು ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನಾದರೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರು 23.78 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರು 2011 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ ಕುಟುಂಬದಿಂದ ಹಲ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೂ



ಅಂತರ ಕನ್ನಡವು. ಮೊದಲ ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಾಗೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನೇ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಷಾ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯದ ಕುರಿತು ಒಂದು ಸೇಷ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದಾದರೆ, 2001 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಒಂದನಾದ್ದು. ಆ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಪ್ರತಿ 10,000 ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ 6,626 ಜನರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದಿದ್ದರು. 1,054 ಜನರು ಉರ್ದು, 703 ಜನರು ತೆಲುಗು, 357 ಜನರು ತಮಿಳು, 360 ಜನರು ಮರಾಠಿ ಹಾಗೂ 250 ಜನರು ಹಿಂದಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಇದೇ ಸಂದೇಶವನ್ನು 2011 ರ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬಾಳ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಹೋದರು. 2021 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ಗಣಕೀಯ ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಈ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ನಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಭಾರತ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಏನಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವಿಷಯವೆಂದರೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೋದುದು. ಹಿಂದಿ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಆ ಮೂಲಕ್ಕೆ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಇರುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡು ಬಳಸುವ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಜನರು ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಕಾರಣ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಹಿಂದಿ, ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾ, ತೆಲುಗು ಹಾಗೂ ಮರಾಠಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಭಾರತದ ಇತರ ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿ ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿರುವುದು ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲೇಬೇಕಾದ ಬದಲಾದ ಇದುವುದು ತಿಳಿಯುತ್ತದೆ.

ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಅಥವಾ ಹಿಂದಿ ವಿರೋಧ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕೇವಲ ಘೋಷಣೆಗಳು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗದು. ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಎಂಥ ಸೃಜನಶೀಲ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೋ ಅಂಥದೇ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತುಳು, ದಖನಿ, ಕೊಂಕಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೂ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಭಾಷೆಯ ಉಳಿವಿಗೆ ಬಹುಭಾಷಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನ ನಡೆಸುವ ಕಾಲ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಡಿಸಾ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿವೆ. ನಾವೂ ಇದನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಲೇಖಕ: ಅಲ್ಲೂ, ರಿ ಎಚ್‌ಎಲ್‌ ರಾಜ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್

### ಲೋಕಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕನ್ನಡ



**ಕಣಿವಾಗಲಿ**  
ನನ್ನ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ವರ್ಗಾ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಎಂಬ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇರಬೇಕಾದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಬೋಧಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ದೋಷ ಇದ್ದಂತಿದೆ. ಇದು ಕಲಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಭಾಷಿಕ ಕೌಶಲಗಳು ತುಂಬಾ ದುರ್ಬಲವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಣಗುಣವಾಗುವ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬೆಲೆಯು ಖೋಟಾಗುವುದನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಮೊದಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕಲಿಕೆಯ ಗುಣವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸಂತತ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿಭಾಷಾ ಬೋಧನೆಯ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಇರುವ ಕಡತವು ಸರಿಯಾದ್ದು ಬದಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ತನ್ನದಾದ ನುಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀಡುವುದು ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಭುತ್ವದ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುವುದರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಧುನಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಸುವ ಬೇಕಾದ ಬೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಜನರು ಹೆಚ್ಚುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲವು ಕುಲಕುಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಬದಲಿಸಿದರೆ, ಇಂದು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಬದುಕಿನ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಅಧಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಬಳಸುವ ಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಸರ ರೂಪಿಸಬೇಕು. ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಗುಣಗುಣಿಸುವ, ಅದನ್ನು ಬದುಕಿನ ಭಾಗವನ್ನಾಗಿ, ಲೋಕಜ್ಞಾನದ ಕಣಿವಾಗುವುದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿಕ್ಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

**ರಂಗನಾಥ ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ**, ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಕೋಟೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

### ಕಾಲ-ದೇಶಗಳ ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಜ್ಜುಗೊಳ್ಳಲು



ನುಡಿಯ ಉಳಿವು ಎಂದರೆ ಸಾವು ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಆಚರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿರುವ ಕೊಡಣೆ. ದೇಶಭಕ್ತ, ಆತ್ಮಮಾನದ ಸೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದು. ಕಾಲ-ದೇಶದ ಆಗತ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ನುಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಜ್ಜುಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಆಯಾ ಸಮಾಜಗಳನ್ನು ಬದುಕಿನ ರಹಸ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ರೂಪಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದನ್ನೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಆಯಾ ಸಮಾಜಗಳಿಗೆ ಆತ್ಮಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೇಕಾದ ಬದುಕಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕೇವಲ ನುಡಿಯನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದಾದರೆ, ಎಲ್ಲ ಮೂಲಕಗಳ ಸರ್ವಪ್ರಭುತ್ವವನ್ನು ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ಕುಶಾಲತೆಗಾಗಿ, ಕೇವಲ ಕೆಲವು ಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ ಕುಶಾಲತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡುವ ಮನ್ನಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹೊಸಗಲಾದ ಆಧುನಿಕತೆಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಣ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲ ನುಡಿಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮ್ಮ ತಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳು ಕಂಡರಿಸುವ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾವು ಕಾಣುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಅದೇಲ್ಲದಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಸಹಜ ರೂಪಗಳಾಗಿ ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ನಮಗೆ ಕೇವಲ ಆಂತರ್ಯದ ಪರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದೇ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ಅಂತಹದೊಂದು ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ನಾವು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಎಂದರ್ಥ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧವು ಹೇಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

**ಮೇಟಿ ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ**, ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋಟೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

Source: Prajavani, p.9, Nov. 18, 2023



# 16 schools working to earn ISO certificate for kitchens

Stamp Will  
Assure Quality,  
Add Credibility

Sruthy Susan Ullas  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** If all goes as planned, 16 schools in Karnataka will soon get their school kitchens ISO-certified. These government schools in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Ramanagara are in the process of getting themselves certified, assuring children of the quality of food served.

The government schools provide midday meals to students under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme. ISO (International Organisation for Standardization) certification will assure quality and add credibility to the product delivered, and in this case, the 'bisi ootta' served.

The government higher primary schools in Hebbal, Anekal, Hoskote, and Devanahalli, and high schools in Hoskote and Doddaballapur are among those selected from the city for the exercise. Four NGO facilities have also been included in this process from Bengaluru.

During an initial visit by

**All the schools, randomly selected for the exercise, have completed the first audit and are awaiting the second one. They provide midday meals under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme**



**FOR BETTER STANDARDS:** ISO officials with the staff of Government Higher Primary School, Harohalli, Kanakapura

an auditor from SIS, an ISO certification body, the areas that need improvement are identified. Schools are asked to comply and send a report on the corrective action. In stage 2, the auditor will conduct the final certification audit. An audit will be provided within a week. Schools will have to further take corrective measures and a certification process will ensue. The schools have to send a testimonial in video form.

All the schools have completed the first audit and are awaiting the second one. The

schools, the department said, were randomly selected for the exercise. The observations SIS made included finding insects and lizards in kitchens, stove burners being dirty, no pest control, expired medicines and spices, no cleaning schedule, wall paint flaking off, and watery sambar. The checklist also encompasses food and water testing.

Cooks also need to follow norms. These range from having clean fingernails, with no nail paint or bangles, to wearing aprons and head caps. "Some of the common

challenges at the schools are safety regarding gas cylinder and absence of mesh and exhaust fan in the kitchen. Each of the schools received a different set of observations," said an official.

"The scale of the midday meal programme is huge. Food is being prepared in around 40,000 kitchens for lakhs of children. In order to reduce the margin of error, a systematic and efficient approach is required. Certification helps," said Subha Kalyan, director of the PM Poshan scheme.

## TRAINING FOR COOKS

The directorate of midday meals is initiating a massive training programme for the cook-cum-helpers at school kitchens. Starting Wednesday, around 1.3 lakh cooks will be trained by the cluster resource persons (CRPs), who have already been trained by the department using resources provided by Azim Premji University.

The training is being done under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. "While training is a routine affair, to conduct one on such a large scale in a very systematic way is one of its kind," said Subha Kalyan, director of the PM Poshan scheme. Each school will send two cooks, in rotation, for the training after lunch hours, so that routine activities are not affected.

The cooks will be paid transportation fees while the CRPs will receive an honorarium.

**Source: Times of India, p.5, Nov. 21, 2023**

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## Clean air funds: A status check

The latest clean air plans remain unapproved, and over half the funds remain unutilised. The city needs better coordination among various departments to implement the plan

PHOTO: B K JANARDHAN

SHREE D N  
BENGALURU, DHNS

While air pollution becomes a focus during Diwali festival season, Bengaluru has been focusing on monitoring air pollution for a long time. The city has a network of 11 high-end Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and manual monitors installed based on the 2011 census.

With a push to have clean air with a dedicated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched by the Union government in 2019, the focus towards air pollution control has only increased. However, the implementation of various programmes mentioned in the action plans for the city has been delayed due to reasons best known to bureaucracy.

The NCAP micro plans for all cities must be uploaded to the Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment cities (PRANA), an action tracker set up by the Central Pollution Control Board. Only one approved microplan can be seen, while the rest are yet to be approved and uploaded for Bengaluru.

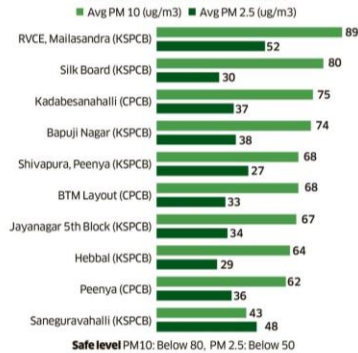
### Funds released, utilised

Overall, Rs 689.1 crores are available—either released or waiting to be released, for NCAP under the Fifteenth Finance Commission. While work is in progress for the first two sets of funds, the following two sets are yet to be approved due to various reasons, including elections, say sources.

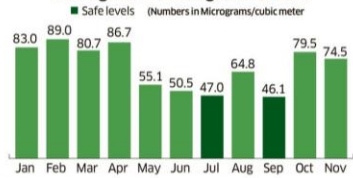
While the allocated funds can be carried forward, the new allocation will be reduced if the action plan to spend money does not meet the standards, checks and balances. Therefore, using the money available becomes crucial, say sources. Here goes the status check:

■ **First tranche - Rs 279 crore (2020-21):** Of this, Rs 53 crore was allocated to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSP-

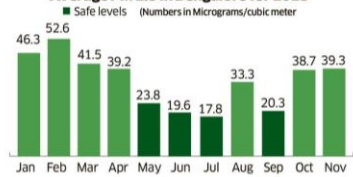
### TOP 10 POLLUTED LOCATIONS



### Average PM 10 in Bengaluru for 2023



### Average PM 2.5 in Bengaluru for 2023



PM10: Particulate matter 10 micrometres or less in diameter  
PM2.5: Particulate matter 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter  
Data sourced from: PCB monitors Analysed by: NCAP Tracker

CB). The pollution control body has submitted a plan to use this, involving the procurement of new monitoring machines and systems, which is yet to be approved by the government. Procurement of sweeping machines, improvement of pedestrian facilities and public transport, greening measures and removal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from public places are among the things to be done using this fund.

■ **Second tranche - Rs 147.3 crore (2021-22):** Electrification of bus depots, procurement of five double-decker buses, paving footpaths, increasing the number of metro feeder buses, procuring mechanical sweeping machines, creation of a system to collect and transport C&D waste from generation point up to the processing facility etc are among the proposed actions using this fund. The fund remains unutilised as the plans are yet to be approved.

■ **Third tranche - Rs 108.75 crore (2022-23):** A proposal was sent to the Urban Development Department in March for this set of grants, with an emphasis on greening the city, development of parks and nurseries, pedestrian infrastructure and garbage. The procurement of 100 electric buses is also in the plan. Once the state government approves this, it will be submitted to the Union government. The entire fund remains unutilised, as the plans are yet to get a go-ahead. Including this amount, Rs 535 crore has been released under NCAP until now.

■ **Fourth tranche - Rs 154 crore (2023-24):** Another proposal was sent to UDD in September for this batch of funds. Major proposals include replacing diesel generator sets with an automated power distribution system in the Peenya Industrial Area and solar systems in BBMP premises. Other items include eliminating street dust, improving pedestrian infrastructure

and reducing fire hazards. As only 75% of the funds will be given under NCAP, only Rs 115.5 crore is expected to be released.

The Union government decided to allocate NCAP funds based on the achieved reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 levels. Bengaluru scored 75 points, with the number of "good days" (days where the Air Quality Index is less than 200) increasing by more than 15%, but the annual average concentration is less than 15%. Based on this, the city qualified to get 75% of the funds going forward.

### Tracking the levels

NCAP tracker (ncaptracker.in) is a project by Respirer Living Sciences (a Pune-based start-up) and Climate Trends (a research-based consulting and capacity-building initiative). It tracks the progress of NCAP fund usage and action plan progress.

Their analysis of pollution control board data shows that the average PM10 values from January to April are at a 'poor level' (more than 80) in 2023. The quality improved in rainy months, dipping up to 46 in September. October and November levels have not crossed 80. The same trend is observed for PM2.5 as well.

February is the most problematic month, with peak levels of PM10 and PM2.5. "The winter months have a lower level of dispersion. Therefore, particulate matter is unable to settle down. This is why the pollution level peaks," explains a scientist associated with the KSPCB.

"The data for Bengaluru looks relatively lower than cities in the north. However, the PM10 levels are still a cause of concern. Only eight monitors by the PCB showed consistent data. Regular progress on compliance with the action plans has to be made public," says Aishwarya Sudhir, an independent researcher working on air quality.



Many factories are located within city limits.  
DH PHOTO/BI SHIVAKUMAR

### There is hope

"We had an average air quality of 63 last year and have maintained it this year as well so far," says an official, adding that Bengaluru can do even better, with better facilities to manage C&D waste, street dust and vehicular pollution.

"In 2020 and 2022, air pollution saw a marginal reduction in the city for various reasons, including Covid," says Shanthi A Thimmaiah, chairman of KSPCB. The annual average for 2023 will be calculated at the end of the year to see the actual reduction.

"Long-term and mid-course actions are being discussed in review meetings involving all line departments such as BBMP, BMTC, BESCOM, BWSSB and Urban Development Department, and the progress is tracked regularly," he says.

A source, preferring anonymity, said that actions in Bengaluru are slow for various reasons, including elections, lack of coordination and planning, and bureaucratic hurdles.

However, now things seem to be moving at a faster pace. Officials are hopeful of more progress in another three weeks, as plans will be firmed up and micro plans approved, after which the city's NCAP implementation will advance faster.

### SMOG TOWERS: ONLY FOR LOCAL USE

Initially, smog towers, air purifiers and water fountains were under consideration for Bengaluru. However, Thimmaiah says that experts were called to study the impact of smog towers. While they have given technical specifications, they have found them not encouraging enough.

He adds that it is ineffective on a mass scale and can control only localised pollution. Another official says that for this reason, it is unlikely to be used on a mass scale in Bengaluru, even though the microplans approved at the beginning of NCAP had smog towers as one of the action points.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Nov. 18, 2023



# Better water quality: KSPCB for dropping 5 rivers from 'polluted' list

**CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**A** year after getting five rivers out of the list of 17 polluted rivers in Karnataka, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has now cited the test results showing better water quality to remove Aghanashini, Sharavathi, Thenpennai and Gangavali from the list.

Last year, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) removed Malaprabha, Asangi-Krishna, Yagachi, Kumaradhara and Kali from the list of polluted rivers. However, the authority added Aghanashini, Sharavathi, Thenpennai, Dakshina Pinakini and Gangavali to the list.

In a detailed submission to the central authorities, the KSPCB stated that the average biological oxygen demand (BOD) of Aghanashini, Sharavathi and Gangavali were within the permissible limits of below 3.0 mg/litre for four years between 2019-20 and 2022-23.

The member secretary of KSPCB has requested the CPCB to remove the three rivers from the list of the polluted rivers. "The KSPCB has instructed the regional officers to prepare action plans for newly identified polluted river stretches," the member secretary's letter said.

Regarding Thenpennai river stretch

flagged for pollution, the KSPB said that the stretch along Kodiyalam was not in Karnataka. "Thenpennai does not come under the boundary of Karnataka and the same river is known by the name of Dakshina Pinakini in the state of Karnataka which has been identified as a polluted river stretch under priority 1," the KSPCB said, requesting the removal of the river from Karnataka's list.

## **Sewage challenge**

Following a CPCB report highlighting the pollution in the rivers across the country in 2018, a committee set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been monitoring the restoration of the rivers. Preventing sewage joining the rivers has been the biggest challenge faced by the authorities as most of the towns do not have the necessary infrastructure like the underground drainage and sewage to treatment plants (STP) while the existing STPs were underutilised.

The KSPCB estimates that 817.31 mld of sewage is generated in areas along the stretch of the 12 polluted rivers. The KSPCB submitted that 24 STPs with a capacity to treat 199.41 mld of sewage were under construction for areas along the 12 polluted river stretches. An additional 16 STPs with 53.28 mld capacity was proposed, it said.

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**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4B, Nov. 19, 2023**



# Immersion of idols during Ganesha festival degrades quality of over 30 lakes

All parameters show high-risk pollutants

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The immersion of idols in the aftermath of Ganesha Chaturthi dealt a big blow to the lakes as acidity, turbidity, total dissolved solids (TDS), suspended solids, chemical oxygen demand (COD) levels worsened between September 18 and 30, data by the KSPCB shows.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) tested the quality of more than 30 lakes in Bengaluru on September 15 and compared it with the daily tests conducted on five days - September 18, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 29. A total of 23 parameters, from acidity (pH at

25 degrees C) to heavy metals like zinc, lead and copper.

As expected, turbidity units worsened in most of the lakes with many lakes showing an increase of five digits. For instance, turbidity in Jakkur Lake went up from 0.2 on September 15 to a five-day average of 44.2 units, an increase of 22000%.

In Sankey Tank, the increase went up from 1.2 units to 32.5 units. In Sankey tank, the COD reached a peak of 200 mg/litre on September 24. The five-day average stood at 115 mg/litre, an increase of 188% compared with the 40 mg/litre before the immersions began. The alkalinity of water went up from 68



Most of the lakes witnessed a doubling or tripling of turbidity levels. DH FILE PHOTO

mg/litre to 190.7 mg/litre.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has classified water into five categories from Class A (drinking water) to E (industrial cooling), based on the safety limits of various parameters. However, the festival pushed several lakes beyond Class E.

Most of the lakes witnessed a doubling or tripling of TDS levels. In Ulsoor, the TDS went up from 278 mg/litre to 1546

mg/litre on September 29 with the average of five days settling at 781 mg/litre, an increase of 181%. The hardness of the water went up from 96 mg/litre to an average 448.7 mg/litre.

Total suspended solids also increased in all the lakes. In Mallathahalli the suspended solids went up from 2 mg/litre to 42 mg/litre on September 29. In Yelahanka, it increased from mg/litre to 44 mg/litre on September 24.

## Rise in toxicity

Following the festivities of Ganesha Chaturthi, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) surveillance of over 30 Bengaluru lakes revealed a stark environmental impact, with a troubling surge in pollution levels. Comparative analyses before and after the idol immersions indicated a concerning escalation in total dissolved solids

(TDS) and water hardness, among other parameters, signalling the urgent need for environmental management. For instance, Ulsoor Lake experienced a TDS spike to 1546 mg/litre from 278 mg/litre and a hardness increase to an average of 448.7 mg/litre from 96 mg/litre, reflecting the broader ecological stress on the city's aquatic ecosystems.

Among the heavy metals, zinc showed an uptick in two lakes in Peenya. Karihobanahalli Lake and Shivapura Lake had 0.256 mg/litre and 0.322 mg/litre zinc before the festival. It crossed 1.5 mg/litre in both lakes, with the five-day average settling at 0.400 mg/litre.

A senior KSPCB official said the government's strict stance

against plaster of paris idols has brought down the pollution compared to the previous years.

"Once the ban is total, the lakes will fare much better. At the same time, the colour used to paint the idols needs to be checked. We need to ensure that only organic colours are used," the scientist said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Nov. 22, 2023

## CONSERVATION

# Bandipur ESZ study hints at human demands exceeding supply

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a first-of-its kind attempt to understand the future of wildlife conservation in Karnataka, the Forest Department has commissioned a study to gauge the carrying capacity of Bandipur Tiger Reserve's Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), with researchers finding a slightly higher demand of ecological resources than supply.

One of the nine tiger reserves established in 1973 as part of a project to conserve the fast-declining tiger population, Bandipur boasts a high density of tigers. The 2022 census counted 150 unique tigers in the 1,456

sq km area. It also hosts over 3,000 elephants and 200 leopards.

The 479.18 sq km ESZ of the reserve, which includes the ESZ of Nugu wildlife sanctuary, acts as a shock absorber to mitigate the mutual impact of wildlife and the surrounding human habitat. The ESZ, however, comprises 12 villages with private and revenue lands, giving scope for man-animal interaction. To "give effect to the principle of sustainable" in such areas, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had in March 2020 ordered a study of carrying capacity of at least one ESZ in each state.

Environmental science professor at Bangalore University Nagaraj BC



and director of Gubbi Labs Sudhira HS who authored the study adopted ecological footprint analyses and a system dynamics modelling approach, respectively, to assess the current situation and challenges.

The study looked into economic

activities, including farming, grazing, fishing, built-up and others, to assess the demand of human population on the resources.

The footprint is measured in global hectares (gha), a unit which quantifies a year's biological production for human use as well as waste generation per hectare of land.

Select villages with random sampling were used to estimate the total ecological footprint at 94,440.98 gha, which translated into a per capita footprint of 0.59 gha. In comparison, the biocapacity of the area was 0.58 gha, indicating the demand surpassing the supply.

► Bandipur, Page 5

Continued...



# Bandipur ESZ study hints...

## Bandipur, from Page 1

The study noted that to be strongly sustainable, resident population should have an environmental impact that on average is same as or less than footprint. "Such deficit, if not managed, is likely to increase due to the degradation of ecological resources," it said.

Adopting the systems dynamics modelling approach, Sudhira looked into grazing pressure, land consumption for human activity, and air, water and noise pollution. "The current situation does not have any major red flags. However, systems analyses and data and insights from the ground reveal certain aspects that should be monitored," he said.

The study cited increasing commercial crops (sugarcane, tobacco and cotton), dependence on groundwater irrigation and rearing of goats besides rising incidents of

man-animal conflict as issues that need to be monitored closely.

Speaking to *DH*, Sudhira said conservation measures can be complemented by incentivising people who experience restrictions due to the prevailing ESZ rules. "Since livelihood opportunities are restricted by rules limiting land-use change, it would be ideal to support such people with a mechanism that compensates them for the restrictions. This will go a long way in balancing development and conservation," he said.

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Kumar Pushkar said the study was taken up as per NGT orders. "At present, ESZ rules focus on limiting activities that are detrimental to conservation. We will submit the study to NGT and wait for orders related to implementation of the recommendations," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 5, Nov. 23, 2023**



# ಏಕ ಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ನಿಷೇಧ | ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಎನ್‌ಜಿಟಿಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸೂಚನೆ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋ ಗ್ರೀನ್ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿ ಜಾರಿ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಬಾಹು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮಾಹಾನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ 'ಗೋ ಗ್ರೀನ್ ಅಭಿಯಾನ'ವನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವಂತೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಸಿರು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧಿಕರಣದ (ಎನ್‌ಜಿಟಿ) ರಾಜ್ಯಮಟ್ಟದ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಸುಭಾಷ್ ಬಿ. ಅಡಿ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಯಮಗಳ-2016ರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಕುರಿತು ಬುಧವಾರ ವೀಡಿಯೋ ಸಂವಾದದ ಮೂಲಕ ನಡೆದ ಸಭೆ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು.

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ಟರ್/ಕಚೇರಿಗಳು, ಟೆಕ್

ಪಾರ್ಕ್, ಕ್ಲೆಪ್‌ಶೆಕ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಸಹಿತ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿತ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋ ಗ್ರೀನ್ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ನಿಷೇಧ, ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗುವ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ, ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು, ಇಂಧನ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಕ್ರಮ

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಮಂಟಪಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಗಾ ಇರಿಸಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಮಂಟಪಗಳಿವೆ. ಆಯಾ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಪಟ್ಟಿಮಾಡಿ, ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಮುನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಸೇವಾ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕು. ಇದರಿಂದ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯನ್ನು ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ನ್ಯಾ. ಸುಭಾಷ್ ಅಡಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದರು.

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿತ್ಯ 5,500 ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕಡೆ ಹಸಿ, ಒಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ನಾನಿಟರಿ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ವಿಂಗಡಿಸದೇ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅನುಸರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಶೇ.100 ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಂಗಡಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಕೇಂದ್ರಿತ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಒತ್ತುಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಮುಕ್ತ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ ಎಂದರು. ಏಕ ಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಿ: ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಆಯಾ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕಬಳಕೆ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನಿಷೇಧಿಸಬೇಕು. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು-ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಮಳಿಗೆ, ಹೋಟೆಲ್, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸೇರಿ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಕಡೆ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಜಪ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಬೇಕು. ಅದನ್ನು ಮೀರಿಯೂ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಬಳಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಲು ಹಿಂಜರಿಯಬಾರದು ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು.

ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ರೇ, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಡಾ. ಕೆ. ಹರೀಶ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್, ಎವಲಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಕಟ್ಟಡ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿರಲಿ

ನಗರದ ರಸ್ತೆಬದಿ, ಪಾದಚಾರಿ

ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ

ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಭಗ್ನಾವಶೇಷ ಸುರಿಯುವಿಕೆ

ತಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು

ಭಗ್ನಾವಶೇಷ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ,

ಸಾಗಾಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯು

ಕುರಿತು ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ

ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ

ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು

ನಿಯಮವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಯಾ ವಲಯ

ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು

ನಿಗದಿತ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ

ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು

ಸುಭಾಷ್ ಬಿ ಅಡಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು.

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# From Nov 22, 13L PU students to undergo anaemia screening

Pearl.DSouza@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** With Karnataka among the states with the highest anaemia burden, the government has decided to get into correction mode: It will subject first and second pre-university college students to a finger-prick test to check for deficiency.

The health department will cover around 13.6 lakh students from both government and private educational institutions from November 22. This will comprise the first phase of a comprehensive anaemia screening for Karnataka as part of the Anaemia Muktha Poushtika Karnataka, a central and state initiative, said an official.

So far, the state depended on sample surveys and projected figures for the population. The testing was also done through a manual method, which was tedious. However, this year, with the digital hemoglobinometer which can give results in a few minutes, testing will be at a much larger scale, the official added.

As per statistics from the department of PU education, there are 13,65,480 stu-

**Plans are also afoot to provide folic acid and iron tablets to those detected with anaemia**



dents in classes 11 and 12 enrolled in government and private institutions.

Health workers will visit colleges for testing. Later, a door-to-door survey will also be held. The drawbacks of the current method of survey will be analysed and rectified while holding a state-wide screening, said the official. "A comprehensive testing was planned as the state and the Centre noticed that over the years, despite implementation of programmes to counter anaemia, its prevalence was not dropping."

Plans are also afoot to provide folic acid and iron tablets to those detected with anaemia. Younger children, pregnant and lactating mothers and women of reproductive age group will be tested later.

**Source: Times of India, p.7, Nov. 19, 2023**



# '70% of antibiotic formulations in market in 2020 unapproved'

**SNEHA RAMESH**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

An analysis of the Indian pharmaceutical market has found that 70.4% of the fixed-dose antibiotic formulations present in the market in 2020 were either unapproved or banned. These drugs accounted for 15.9% of the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) antibiotic sales, reveals a research paper titled 'Regulatory enforcement of the marketing of fixed-dose combinations in India: a case study of systemic antibiotics' published in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice on November 10.

The researchers tried to analyse two major regulatory initiatives taken by the Central Drug Regulators in 2007 and 2013 to remove centrally unapproved systemic antibiotic FDCs from the market. Experts concluded that these drugs remain in circulation and are also being sold over the counter.

The paper said that the initiatives

had limited impact. "Regulatory enforcement has been slow and weak, with many unapproved and even banned FDCs remaining in the market," it said.

The report has raised concerns among the medical fraternity, especially since Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is increasing by the day. AMR occurs when path-

ogens change over time and stop responding to medicines, making infections harder to treat.

Incidentally, November 18 to 24 is observed as the World AMR Awareness Week.

"Several FDC formulations were banned considering the fact that they did not have a scientific backup. The use of such drugs results in AMR and other side effects. Though they were banned, enforcement has failed and there is a need to chalk out a common structure with coordinated effort from state and central agencies," Dr Abdul Ghafour, Infectious Diseases Consultant, told *DH*.

► **Antibiotics, Page 4**

## Research findings

■ Despite regulatory initiatives in 2007 and 2013, many fixed-dose combinations are available in the market

■ The use of such drugs results in antimicrobial resistance, making infections harder to treat

■ States have failed to chalk out action plan



Dr Vishal Rao, a member of Karnataka State Vision Group for Biotechnology, said it is important that hospitals come up with a stringent antibiotic policy and doctors need to champion the cause. "Times have changed and we are aware of the damage that such antibiotics could cause. Now, many of us are moving towards personalised medicines which are evidence-based," he said.

Considering that AMR could be the next global threat, a National Action Plan regarding the same was prepared in 2017. Though states were supposed to chalk out plans, many have failed to do so. Even today, in many states, antibiotics are available over the counter and drug controllers have failed to control their use, Dr Ghafour said.

"There is a need for a strong policy. Many doctors tend to avoid detailed clinical analysis, and prescribe FDCs. Unless and until regulators control the manufacture and availability of these combinations, many doctors will continue to prescribe them," he added.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao recently directed officials to develop a plan that would focus on chalking out a strategic road map to combat AMR in Karnataka, which he said will be rolled out soon.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 & 4, Nov. 20, 2023**



ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ನಾಳೆ ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಚಾಲನೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮಗು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ತಪಾಸಣೆ

# ಅನೀಮಿಯಾಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಭಿಯಾನ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆಯಿಂದ (ಅನೀಮಿಯಾ) ಬಳಲುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಅನೀಮಿಯಾ ಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ನ.22 ರಿಂದ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಳ ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ



ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕ್ಷೀರಭಾಗ್ಯ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮಾತೃಪೂರ್ಣ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಅನೇಕ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅನೀಮಿಯಾಮುಕ್ತ ಭಾರತ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಯೋಜನೆ ತರಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅನೀಮಿಯಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದಂತೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಳಲುವುದು, ಆಪ್ತೈಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜನನ, ಶಿಶು ಮರಣ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಅನೇಕ ಗಂಭೀರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಎದುರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅನೀಮಿಯಾ ಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಬುಧವಾರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 0 ಪುಟ 5



## ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ಅನೀಮಿಯಾ?

ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆ 6 ರಿಂದ 55 ತಿಂಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.61, ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.45, ಪುರುಷರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.18 ರಷ್ಟು ಇದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಅಧ್ಯಯನವೊಂದರ ಅಂದಾಜು. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈಗ ಈ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ತೊಡೆದು ಹಾಕಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

## ಎನೇನು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ?

ಅನೀಮಿಯಾಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಾಡಲು ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರೂಪಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ, ಔಷಧ ನೀಡುವುದು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮಗು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ತಪಾಸಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ವಿಟಮಿನ್ ಡಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೇರಿ ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಔಷಧ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಿಸಿಲಿಗೆ ಮೈಯೊಡ್ಡದಿರುವುದು ಅನೀಮಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಎಲ್ಲ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಅರ್ಧ ತಾಸು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಬಿಸಿಲಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ತಂದು ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಗೆ ಮೈಯೊಡ್ಡುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ನಿಯಮ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅನೇಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನಗಳೇ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಅಂತಹ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುತ್ತಲೂ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಿಸಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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# ಅನೀಮಿಯಾಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಭಿಯಾನ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಹಿಂದೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅನೀಮಿಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ 17ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು, ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಶೇ.3ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

**ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಭಾಗಿ:** ಅನೀಮಿಯಾಮುಕ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಆಹಾರ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಜತೆಯಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಿವೆ. ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆ, ಅಪ್ತೈಕತೆಯ ಪತ್ತೆ, 3 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಎರಡು ಬಾರಿ ವಿಟಮಿನ್ ಎ ಮಾತ್ರೆ ನೀಡುವುದು. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸವಪೂರ್ವ ಆರೈಕೆ, ಎರಡನೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ದತ್ತಾಂಶಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಗಾ, ಮೂರನೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣಾಂಶ, ಪೊಲೀಕ್ ಅಮ್ಲಿನಿಯ, ಜಂತು ಹುಳು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಾತ್ರೆಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 102 ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

**30ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸ ಆಂಬುಲೆನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು:** ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ 165 ಹೊಸ ಆಂಬುಲೆನ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ ನ. 30 ರಂದು ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

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Source: Vijayavani, p.3& 7, Nov. 21, 2023



# NGT takes up suo motu case on presence of heavy metals in vegetables

BENGALURU, DHNS

The presence of heavy metals above safety limits in vegetables sold in Bengaluru has prompted the National Green Tribunal to take a suo motu case while the state government has begun taking a serious look into the issue by involving different departments that have stakes in the matter.

In its October 25 edition, *DH* published a report on the findings by the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI),

whose year-long research found that heavy metals like cadmium, nickel, chromium, lead and others exceeded the maximum permissible limits in many of the vegetables, including those bought from organic stores.

With the NGT's southern zone set to hold a hearing in the matter on Tuesday, EMPRI has submitted that a larger sample size covering all seasons would be required.

"The project encompassed a preliminary study for indication of heavy metal presence in select vegetable

samples involving one-time sampling in one season, it is opined that a larger sample size covering all seasons with control sample would be statistically significant and also indicate reliability of concentrations of heavy metals," it said, adding that its report would be reviewed by subject experts.

## Statewide survey

Authorities at the FSSAI, which began a special drive on October 25 to collect samples for testing, said they were taking up the matter as per the general guidelines issued

by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"We took suo motu action on the date of the media report. As of now, 199 legal samples have been drawn and testing is going on. Besides covering Bengaluru, we are looking to extend the project to the entire state of Karnataka," Commissioner of Food Safety Nagaraja N M told *DH*.

Meanwhile, sources in the government said the chief secretary held a meeting where officials from the agriculture, horticulture and environment departments,

besides the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), discussed the contamination of the vegetables.

"The chief secretary has instructed the departments to coordinate on the matter and take up corrective measures. The KSPCB has been told to look into the issue of contamination of water used by farmers. The Environment Department is set to hold a meeting soon. The government has advised a multi-pronged approach to resolve the issue in view of health concerns," the source said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 4, Nov. 21, 2023**



# Health Dept. steps up work on developing action plan for AMR

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Stepping up work on developing a State action plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Karnataka's Health Department has set out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR. The action plan has been pending for nearly five years.

World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) is observed from November 18 to November 24. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated a State-level sensitisation workshop for health officials on Tuesday, said Karnataka will adopt a "one health approach" by involving various stakeholders in its efforts to check AMR. "The State action plan will not merely be restricted to listing priorities and objectives but will also set out a strategic implementable roadmap to combat AMR in Karnataka," the Minister said.

AMR, declared by the UN as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, occurs when pathogens change over time and stop responding to medicines, making infections harder to treat. Overexposing pathogens to antimicrobial drugs due to abuse, misuse and/or overuse, enables the pathogens to acquire resistance against the drug.

Swetavalli Raghavan, One Health expert who is advising Karnataka's Health Department on developing the action plan, said India is considered as the epicentre of the global AMR crisis, with unprecedented antimicrobial consumption, production, and "misuse." Ms. Raghavan said the battle against AMR requires a collaborative effort from multiple stakeholders. "To make the action plan deliverable, comprehensive strategies that focus on responsible antibiotic use, education, and surveillance should be implemented. Improved infection control and prevention programmes including vaccination against multi-drug resistance bugs and sub-area wise vaccination profiles should be created to feed into surveillance systems," she said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Nov 21, 2023**



# Health Department sets goal to make Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Bringing health services to the doorsteps of people in Karnataka is the goal of the Congress government, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Launching the “Anaemia Muktha Pousthika Karnataka” (anaemia-free Karnataka) programme organised by the State Health Department, the Chief Minister said ensuring good health for people is not possible without eradicating poverty and illiteracy. “Addressing these issues is the first priority of our government. Our government’s aim is to reach health benefits to everyone’s doorstep. The government is ready to provide the required funds for this,” he said.

Referring to the rising malnutrition index in the country and falling health index of Gujarat, Mr. Siddaramaiah ridiculed the much-talked about Gujarat model. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who refers to himself as Vishwaguru, ruled Gujarat for 10 long years. He must answer why Gujarat’s health index is falling. This is based on a comparison of data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and NFHS-5. Can this situation in Gujarat be a model for the entire country?” he asked.

Health Minister Dinesh



Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao interacts with students during the 'Anaemia free and Nutritional Karnataka' programme in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ANI

Gundu Rao said the goal is to make Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025. “The Chief Minister has earmarked ₹185.74 crore for the programme,” he said.

“Under the programme, the government aims to reach 52 lakh children in the 6-59 months age group, 58 lakh children in the 5-9 years group, 127 lakh adolescents in the 10-19 years group, 12 lakh pregnant women, 11 lakh lactating mothers, and 133 lakh women in the reproductive age group (20-49 years excluding pregnant women and lactating mothers) in a phased manner,” he said.

The programme will include mass screening for anaemia and malnutrition, strengthening the tracking and monitoring system, providing Iron and Folic acid (IFA) supplementation and deworming, providing take home ration and diet advisory, information, education and communication (IEC) and counsell-

ing services apart from capacity building.

Under the first phase, screening for anaemia began on Wednesday for adolescents in government and government aided colleges. Students of private PU Colleges in the State will be covered by December 2023.

While students of government and government aided high schools, higher primary schools and lower primary schools in the State will be covered by January 2024, anganawadi children will be screened by March 2024. Subsequently, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and women in the reproductive age group will be screened in all public health care institutions simultaneously, the Minister said.

The data will be uploaded on the RBSK-Swasthya Kirana portal on a real-time basis and will be further periodically uploaded on HMIS portal, he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Nov 23, 2023**



# Aim to bring anaemia figures below 30% by 2030

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government aims to reduce the incidence of anaemia among women aged 15-49 from 47.8% to below 30% by 2030, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the launch of the Anaemia Muktha Poushtika Karnataka Action Plan on Wednesday.

The plan proposal was developed by the Department of Health and Family Welfare along with the Department of Women and Child Development. After approval by the cabinet, the government issued an order

on October 13 approving a budget of Rs 185.74 crore for the plan.

Quoting statewide figures from the National Family Health Survey-5, the minister said that nearly 65.5% of children aged between 6-59 months (5 years of age) were anaemic, and 45.7% of pregnant women, besides 47.8% of the women between 15-49 years of age were anaemic.

The plan to screen, test and treat people across the state will be rolled out in a phased manner, beginning with screening all adolescents across the state in December.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Nov. 23, 2023**



## ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳು ಉಲ್ಬಣ | ನಗರಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಮತ್ತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಡೆಂಘೆ ವೈರಾಣು ಜ್ವರ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಏಕರೂಪ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ವೈರಾಣು ಜ್ವರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡಲು ಗೊಂದಲವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಗ ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಬಹುತೇಕರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವೈದ್ಯರು.

**ಯಾರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೊಂದರೆ?:** ಮಧುಮೇಹಿಗಳು, ಹೃದ್ರೋಗಿಗಳು, ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್, ಮೂತ್ರಪಿಂಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವವರು, ಅಸ್ತಮಾ, ಅಲರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದೀರ್ಘಕಾಲ ಅರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ವಹಿಸುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ವೃದ್ಧರು, ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಣಂತಿಯರು, ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಶರೀರ ಹೊಂದಿರುವವರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು: ನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಇರುವ ಕಡೆ ವೈರಾಣು ಜ್ವರ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವರದಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ವಾತಾವರಣವೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಧೂಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಾನಿಕಾರಕ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಗಾಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆರೆತು ವಿಷಾನಿಲವಾಗಿ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ದೇಹ ಸೇರಿ ವೈರಾಣು ಒಬ್ಬರಿಂದ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಹರಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

**ನಾನಾ ರೋಗಗಳನ್ನು ದೂರವಿಡಲು ಕೋವಿಡ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳಾದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಅಂತರ, ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸುವುದು, ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮೊದಲಾದವು ಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲ ರೀತಿಯ ವೈರಾಣು ರೋಗಗಳಿಂದ ಮುಕ್ತರಾಗಬಹುದು.**

**|| ಡಾ.ನಿಜಗುಣ ||** ಇಂದಿರಾಗಾಂಧಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ತಜ್ಞ ವೈದ್ಯ



### ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ

- ಡೆಂಘೆ ಚಿಕೂನ್ ಗುನ್ಯಾ ಸೇರಿ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ರೋಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುಂಜಾಗತೆ ಒಂದೇ ಮದ್ದು.
- ಜ್ವರ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಾಗ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷಿಸದೆ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ.
- ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಕಚ್ಚಿದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರವಹಿಸಿ.
- ಶುದ್ಧ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುದಿಸಿ ಆರಿಸಿದ ನೀರು ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಉತ್ತಮ.
- ನೀರು ಶೇಖರಣಾ ತೊಟ್ಟಿ, ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳ ಮುಚ್ಚಳ ಭದ್ರಪಡಿಸಿ.
- ಪಾತ್ರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಂದಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಿನ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿಡಬೇಡಿ.
- ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳಿಂದ ದೂರವಿರಲು ಪರದೆ, ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕ ಔಷಧ, ಕೀಮುಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ.
- ರೋಗನಿರೋಧಕ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಕುಂದದಂತೆ ಸಮತೋಲಿತ ಆಹಾರ, ಶುದ್ಧ ನೀರು ಸೇವಿಸಿ
- ಮಲ ವಿಸರ್ಜನೆ ನಂತರ ತಪ್ಪದೇ ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು ಸೋಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಳೆಯಬೇಕು.
- ಕೆಮ್ಮುವಾಗ, ಸೀನುವಾಗ ಕರವಸ್ತ್ರ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ.

### ರೋಗ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು

#### ವೈರಲ್ ಫೀವರ್

ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನಾ ವಿಧಗಳಿವೆ. ನೆಗಡಿ, ತಲೆನೋವು, ಕೆಮ್ಮು, ಮೈ-ಕೈ ನೋವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಜ್ವರ. ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ವಾಂತಿ-ಭೇದಿಯೂ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ.



#### ಡೆಂಘೆ

ಡೆಂಘೆ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಘೆ, ಹೆಮರಾಜಿಕ್, ಶಾಕ್

ಸಿಂಡ್ರೋಮ್ ಸೇರಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವಿಧಗಳಿವೆ. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಡೆಂಘೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಗುಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 2ನೇ ಅಥವಾ 3ನೇ ಬಾರಿ ಬಂದರೆ ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದಿಢೀರ್ ಜ್ವರ, ತಲೆನೋವು, ಮೂಗು ಸೋರುವಿಕೆ, ಗಂಟಲು ನೋವು, ವಾಂತಿ, ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ನೋವು, ತೋಳು, ಮೈ-ಕೈ ನೋವು, ಅತಿಸಾರ ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು. ಗಂಭೀರ ಹಂತ ತಲುಪಿದಾಗ ಕರುಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ತಸ್ರಾವ, ಮೈಮೇಲೆ ಕೆಂಪು ಬರ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ, ಇವು ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ.

#### ಚಿಕೂನ್ ಗುನ್ಯಾ

ವಿಪರೀತ ಮೈ-ಕೈ ನೋವು, ತಲೆನೋವು, ಮಂಡಿ, ಮೂಣಕ್ಕೆ, ಮುಂಗೈಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರತರ ನೋವು, ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ.

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Source: Vishwavani, p.4, Nov. 24, 2023

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## Gender

# B'luru home to 1,783 women-led startups

## Mumbai Is 2nd With 1,480 Women-Led Cos

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Bengaluru is home to 1,783 women-led startups followed by Mumbai and Delhi at 1,480 and 1,195 respectively, showed data from startup data platform Tracxn. Noida, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad, took the eighth, ninth and tenth spots, with 324, 184 and 181 women-led startups.

India's startup ecosystem has added more firepower becoming the third-largest hub globally after the US and China. India has more than 61,400 startups. Bengaluru has been one of the top startup ecosystems in India that has catalysed risk-taking among entrepreneurs with a conducive policy framework. But the gender divide is still very stark. A slew of initiatives from incubation programmes, grants and fellowships offered to women-founded startups are trying to address the gender gap, but it requires a giant leap.

### LEADING THE INDUSTRY

City	No. of firms
Bengaluru	1783
Mumbai	1480
Delhi	1195
Gurgaon	649
Pune	456
Hyderabad	437
Chennai	369
Noida	324
Kolkata	184
Ahmedabad	181

Source: Tracxn

Karnataka, for instance, is the first state in the country to provide grant-in-aid of Rs 50 lakh to encourage innovators who need early-stage funding to startups without taking equity in return. This programme has put the spotlight on women entrepreneurs resulting in 30% winners being women founders.

Tracxn counts Zomato, Byju's, Ofbusiness, Upstox, Lenskart and Open among

the top 10 women-led startups in the country. The funding landscape for women-led companies showed a significant surge in the number of rounds, rising from 171 in 2014 to 460 in 2022. However, there was a sharp decline in 2023, with the number of rounds dropping to 185. The funding into women-led startups has decreased from 183 startups in 2014 to a mere seven this year.

The number of women-led unicorns from 2008 to 2018 was 14, the data showed. Bengaluru-based neobank Open, which became the 100th unicorn, has two women co-founders –also its COO Mabel Chacko and CFO Deena Jacob. Nykaa, Mamaearth, Hasura, Pristyn Care, OfBusiness, Mobikwik, The Good Glamm Group, Livspace are the other Indian unicorns with at least one women co-founder. Recently, Mamaearth's parent entity Honasa Consumer went public earlier in November.

**Source: Times of India, p.1, Nov. 20, 2023**



# ಶೇ 48ರಷ್ಟು ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಹೆಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಸಿಗಲಿ

• ಡಾ. ಎಚ್. ಎಸ್. ಅನುಪಮಾ

ಹೆಣ್ಣೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಅದಿಮ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಹಲವು ನೆಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅವಕಾಶವಂಚಿತರು. ಅವರು ಎದುರಿಸುವ ತಾರತಮ್ಯಗಳೂ ಒಂದೇ ಪ್ರಕಾರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ದಲಿತ, ಅದಿವಾಸಿ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತ, ಅಸಂಘಟಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ, ನಿಯದ್ದೋಗಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಂಕಟಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಾಧನವು ಇದನ್ನು ಗಮನದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡೇ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಂದ ಅನುಭವಿಸುವ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ತಾರತಮ್ಯವನ್ನು 25 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವಾದರೂ ನಿವಾರಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ? ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಿರುವ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾವುವು



ಎಂಬುದನ್ನಿಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಧುನಿಕತೆಯ ಜೊತೆಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾಪೂರ್ವಕ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಹುಟ್ಟುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಮೊದಲ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಾಗಬೇಕು. ಹೆಣ್ಣುಬ್ರೂಣ ಹತ್ಯೆ, ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಶಿಶುಹತ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ರಂಗದ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾದ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಗಂಡು, ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುವ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪರಿಸರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಬೇಕು. ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆ, ಲೋಕಪ್ರವಾಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಚಲಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಂತೆ ಬೆಳೆಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಮಾತರಿ ಕಿವಿಯಾಗುತ್ತ, ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುತ್ತ 'ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ'ದಂತೆ ಬದುಕುವ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಕುಟುಂಬ, ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ರೂಢಿಸಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಯಜಮಾನನಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವನ್ನು ಆಳಿದ/ಆಳುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಲಿಂಗಾಧಾರಿತ ಪೂರ್ವಾಗ್ರಹ ತುಂಬಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಹಿಳಾ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾಸಿಸುವ, ಓದುವ, ವಿಹರಿಸುವ, ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮಾಡುವ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಹಿಂಸೆ, ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ, ಹತ್ಯೆಗೊಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಾಲ್ಯವಿವಾಹ, ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ, ವಧುದಹನ, ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿವೆ. ಮಹಿಳಾಪರ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳೇನು ಕಡಿಮೆಯೇ? ಅದರ ಈಗಲೂ

ಮನೆವಾರ್ತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗೃಹಿಣಿಯರಿಗೆ ಮನೆಯಿಂದಾಚೆ ದುಡಿಯುವವರು ಗಣಿಸಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಭಾಗ ಸಲ್ಲುವಂತಾಗಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಬರಿಯ ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯಾಗದೇ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕಾಣುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ತಾರತಮ್ಯಗಳ ಯಥಾಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿರುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳ ಪಾಲು ದೊಡ್ಡದಿದೆ. ಸಿನಿಮಾ, ಧಾರಾವಾಹಿ, ಜಾಹೀರಾತು, ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯ ತುಣುಕು ಸುದ್ದಿ-ವಿಡಿಯೋಗಳು ಲಿಂಗ-ಜಾತಿಮತ ತಾರತಮ್ಯವನ್ನೇ ಉಸಿರಾಡುವ, ಪೋಷಿಸುವ ಯಜಮಾನ (ಗಂಡು) ಮನಃಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸುವಂಥವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇಂಥದ್ದನ್ನು ಬಿಂಬಿಸುವ ದೃಶ್ಯ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ-ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಂಡಲೆ ರಚಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕತೆ, ಸರಳ ಬದುಕು, ದಿಟ ನಡೆಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಅದರ ಬಯಲಿನೆಡೆಗಿನ ಹಾದಿ ಸುಲಭವಿಲ್ಲ. ಗುರಿಯುತ್ಪನ್ನ ನಡೆಯಲಾಗದಂತೆ ಕುಟುಂಬ-ಜಾತಿ-ಪಕ್ಷ-ಧರ್ಮ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಗಳು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಮೂಹವನ್ನು ಒಡೆಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಅರಿವೂ ಅವರಿಗಾಗದಂತೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಮಾಯಾಜಾಲವನ್ನು ಹೆಣೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಹುಸಿಪರದಗಳ ಆತ್ಮ ಸರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮುಳ್ಳುಬೇಲಿಗಳ ಕಿತ್ತೋಗಿಯಬೇಕು. ಕಾಯ್ದೆಕಾನೂನು, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೆರವಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯಿದೇ ಈ ನೆಲದ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಗಳು ಕೈತ್ತೆ ಹಿಡಿದು ನಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಉದಯಿಸುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು ಈಗಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತಹ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸಾಮರಸ್ಯದ ಬಾಬು'ಯನ್ನು ಕುಂಡದಲ್ಲಿಟ್ಟು ಪೋಷಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ತಂತಾನೇ ಆರಳುತ್ತದೆ, ಬೆಟ್ಟದ ಹೂವಿನಂತೆ.

ಮನೆಗೆಲಸವು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗುವುದನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸಲು ಮನೆಗೆಲಸವೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲ್ಪಡಬೇಕು. ಮನೆವಾರ್ತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗೃಹಿಣಿಯರಿಗೆ ಮನೆಯಿಂದಾಚೆ ದುಡಿಯುವವರು ಗಣಿಸಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಭಾಗ ಸಲ್ಲುವಂತಾಗಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಬರಿಯ ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯಾಗದೇ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕಾಣುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ತಾರತಮ್ಯಗಳ ಯಥಾಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿರುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳ ಪಾಲು ದೊಡ್ಡದಿದೆ. ಸಿನಿಮಾ, ಧಾರಾವಾಹಿ, ಜಾಹೀರಾತು, ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯ ತುಣುಕು ಸುದ್ದಿ-ವಿಡಿಯೋಗಳು ಲಿಂಗ-ಜಾತಿಮತ ತಾರತಮ್ಯವನ್ನೇ ಉಸಿರಾಡುವ, ಪೋಷಿಸುವ ಯಜಮಾನ (ಗಂಡು) ಮನಃಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸುವಂಥವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇಂಥದ್ದನ್ನು ಬಿಂಬಿಸುವ ದೃಶ್ಯ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ-ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಂಡಲೆ ರಚಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ**

25 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಮುನ್ನೋಟ

## ಹೂಳು ತುಂಬಿದ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ

Source: Prajavani, p.9, Nov. 22, 2023



# CM: Fix all glitches of guarantees by Dec

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday directed authorities to set right glitches in the implementation of the flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme and ensure all eligible women receive payments by December.

Siddaramaiah held back-to-back meetings to take stock of the four guarantees.

Under Gruha Lakshmi, the woman head of a household receives Rs 2,000 per month.

At the meeting, Siddaramaiah was told that 1.17 crore women had registered till date and 1.10 crore of them had received payments. The remaining beneficiaries are not receiving payments due to confusion in their bank account details and Aadhaar linkage.

Siddaramaiah was told that Anganwadi workers were being roped in to take beneficiaries to the banks and to sort out the problems.

The CM said that Gruha Lakshmi Adalats must be conducted in every gram panchayat to address problems related to the bank accounts and the Aadhaar linkage.

On Gruha Jyothi, under which 200 units of power is free, Siddaramaiah noted that 12 lakh Revenue Register (RR) numbers are not enrolled. Under this scheme, 1.62 crore citizens have registered and 1.50 crore households are drawing benefits. Since August, the government has spent Rs 2,900

crore on free power.

For Anna Bhagya, in which every BPL member gets an additional 5 kg rice free, the government has spent Rs 2,444.11 crore, so far. Beneficiaries are being given cash in lieu of rice. In October, 1.10 BPL card holders have received money. Around 12.95 lakh beneficiaries have been covered by getting them to link Aadhaar with their bank accounts. Another 2.60 lakh have been made to open new accounts at post offices.

There are 7.67 lakh ineligible ration cards. In most cases, the head of the family is not available at the given address, the CM was told. In such cases, the second senior member of the family must receive the money. The CM asked authorities to place this proposal before the Cabinet. By December 31, all eligible beneficiaries must get covered, Siddaramaiah said.

## Shakti scheme reviewed

The CM also reviewed the Shakti scheme under which free travel is provided to women in government buses. Up until November 21, a total of 99.75 crore tickets were issued for free travel under the scheme.

The figure is expected to touch 100 crore in a couple of days, Siddaramaiah noted.

The monthly number of passengers has risen from 84.17 in April (before Shakti) to 1.08 to 1.15 crore now, officials told the chief minister.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Nov. 23, 2023**



# Under Shakti, women clock 100 crore rides

## Over 60L Avail Facility A Day Across K'taka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The Shakti scheme, which provides free travel for women in government buses, achieved a significant milestone on Wednesday, with the number of rides taken by beneficiaries crossing 100 crore.

The scheme — one of the five guarantees announced by the Congress when it ascended to power — was launched on June 11. On average, 60 lakh women are availing the free travel facility in the state daily. In the last five months, the four road transport corporations have incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,397 crore to provide free travel to women travellers in their ordinary bus services.

While over 32.7 crore women passengers travelled on buses operated by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), more than 30.1 crore took rides on Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses, 23.4 crore on North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) buses, and 14.3 crore on Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) buses.

KSRTC managing director Anbu Kumar told TOI, "When the scheme was launched in June, it received an overwhelming response. Everyone thought the numbers

## PASSENGERS FROM JUNE 6 TO NOV 22

	KSRTC	BMTC	NWKRTC	KKRTC	Total
Total passengers who travelled	53.4	58.1	39.7	27.3	178.5
Total rides taken by women passengers	30.1	32.7	23.4	14.3	100.5
Ticket value for women travellers (Rs)	900	420	600	475	2,397

All numbers in crores | Source: KSRTC | Ticket values rounded off

would gradually fall, but that didn't happen. On an average, 60 lakh women passengers are using the facility and 56% passengers travelling on buses are women. Prior to the Shakti scheme, about 85 lakh people would travel a day on RTC buses; the number has now touched 1.08 crore."

Providing free travel facilities was not an easy task for the RTCs, considering their fleet size and crew shortage. Moreover, RTCs were recovering from financial distress induced by the Covid-19 pandemic, and free travel has huge financial implications.

Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "RTCs have successfully executed the scheme, and crossing the 100-crore mark is an achievement. Previous governments failed to add buses to the fleet of RTCs, which had a crew shortage of 13,000. Opposition parties were sceptical about the execution of the project and ridiculed the government. We'll continue the scheme with all necessary support to the corporations."

Asked about a pending grant from the state govern-

ment towards the scheme's expenses, he said, "The state government is clearing the bills after scrutinizing the documents submitted by the corporations. A reimbursement of Rs 800 crore is pending. At a recent meeting, the chief minister gave directions to the finance department to clear the bills."

### Smart cards for women?

Meanwhile, the authorities are studying the feasibility of issuing smart cards to the scheme's beneficiaries, which will help generate more accurate data on distance travelled and expenditure incurred. At present, conductors issue tickets (zero cost) to the women passengers after verifying their ID cards.

After the Shakti scheme was launched, the RTCs faced criticism from various quarters for not operating an adequate number of buses. In rural areas, there were several instances of students protesting against the authorities. Anbu Kumar said that the corporations have already started inducting new buses to address this issue.

**Source: Times of India, p.4, Nov. 24, 2023**

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## Governance

# Tourists need better facilities at Hampi, says Karnataka HC

Requests Advocate-General to convey its suggestion to the State govt. to take necessary steps as tourism yields good revenue to the exchequer

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**S**tating that the World Heritage Site of Hampi needed better tourism infrastructure and facilities for tourists, the High Court Karnataka on Saturday requested the Advocate-General to convey its suggestion to the State government to take necessary steps as tourism would also yield good revenue to the exchequer.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, made these observations orally while hearing a PIL petition filed in 2016 on the issue of illegal buildings in prohibited and regulated zones of Sowmya Keshava temple, an ancient monument, situated at Nagamangala in Mandya district.

Karnataka was number one in tourism in the 1990s, and now perhaps Madhya Pradesh was in the



The government can consult experts for creating better facilities by adhering to the norms attached to World Heritage Sites, HC said.

top position, the Bench said.

Hampi required better tourism facilities as the existing facilities were not sufficient for tourists and the government had to do something to address the issue, it added.

The government could always consult experts for creating better facilities by adhering to the norms attached to World Heritage Sites, the Bench said.

### **Small countries**

Pointing out that there were several small coun-

**Hampi requires better tourism facilities as the existing facilities are not sufficient for tourists and the government has to do something to address the issue, says the court**

tries in the world whose Budget depended entirely upon the income from tourism in the absence of industrial and other sources for generating revenue, the Bench said the State go-

vernment could adopt best practices in tourism as Karnataka had a large number of tourism destinations that could generate good revenue if proper facilities were provided for tourists at such places.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to issue notices to owners and occupants of 1,566 buildings, as found in ASI's survey, existing around the Sowmya Keshava temple to verify whether the buildings were built illegally in violation of the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

During the earlier hearing, the Bench had expressed displeasure over the slow pace of action by the Mandya district administration and the ASI in surveying constructions around the temple, and initiating further action despite a direction issued in this regard by the court in 2020.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Nov. 19, 2023**



# ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟ ಅನುದಾನ ಇತರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಬಳಕೆ ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ-ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಕೆ; ತನಿಖೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇದೀಗ, ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ-ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆಯೂ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒದಗಿಸಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ ಹೇಗೆ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸೋಮವಾರ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಸಿ.ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಭೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಅವರು, ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ, ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಹಣ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆಯೋ? ಇಲ್ಲವೋ? ಎಂಬ ಅನುಮಾನವಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ 35 ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಗಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸದಿಂದ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ,ವರ್ಗದವರು ಸಮಾಜದ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ಬರಲು ಎಷ್ಟರ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಿದೆ? ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಈ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನದ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಬಹುದು.ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾದ ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಹೇಗೆ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ? ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಲು ಐಸೆಕ್, ಕೆಇಎ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಈ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ



**ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಹದಿನಾಲ್ಕು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧೆಡೆ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿಟ್ಟ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಇತರೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿವೆ. ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟರಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕೆಲಸ**

ಎಂದು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ತೋರಿಸಿವೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಮಾಡಿ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೂವತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಎಷ್ಟರ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗತವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ವರದಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

- ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಸಿ.ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ

ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನದ ವರದಿಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಎಸ್ .ಸಿ.ಪಿ-ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲು ಬಯಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

**ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 7ಡಿ ತೆಗೆಯಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ?:** ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ, ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿಟ್ಟ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬೇರೆ ಕಡೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 7 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡ ಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕುರಿತ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ವಿಧೇಯಕ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದರು.



# Amid drought, a political slugfest

Allegations and trivial issues have taken precedence over the issue of drought

## STATE OF PLAY

**R. Krishna Kumar**

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**D**uring a year of unprecedented drought, which has accentuated the agricultural crisis in Karnataka, the political response to the farmers' economic distress has come under the scanner.

This year, the south west monsoon was one of the worst in recent years. The State was left with a 25% rainfall deficiency as it received 642 mm of rain against the normal of 852 mm between June 1 and October 31. Rainfall was skewed. Rainfall was neither uniformly distributed nor timely. This resulted in crop loss and a decline in yield.

The cumulative storage in the major reservoirs was 452.91 thousand million cubic (TMC) feet against the gross storage capacity of 895.62 TMC ft (50.56% of the installed capacity) as on November 17. The crop loss has been pegged at more than ₹30,000 crore. Though the Congress government has declared 223 taluks out of 236 as drought-affected, the farmers are peeved that it has not announced any drought-relief measures to attenuate their hardship.

The Opposition comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (Secular) continue to be in confrontational mode. They have faulted the State government for prioritising the implementation of the five guarantee schemes – Gruha Jyothi (200 units of free electricity to every household), Gruha Lakshmi (₹2,000 to woman household-head in the BPL or below poverty line category), Anna Bhagya (10 kilogrammes of rice to each person in the BPL



category), Yuvanidhi (₹3,000 and ₹1,500 for unemployed graduates and diploma holders, respectively), and Shakti (free bus travel for women in public buses) – that will cost the exchequer nearly ₹58,000 crore per annum. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in turn questioned the Opposition's "deafening silence". He said that BJP MPs have not argued Karnataka's case before the Prime Minister or secured funds for drought relief. In fact, the guarantees are providing succour in a drought year, he argued.

Instead of engaging with the government on providing relief to the drought-affected people or highlighting the hardship of the farmers, the BJP and the JD(S) are accused of raking up trivial subjects which divert attention from drought.

Over the last few days, former Chief Minister and JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has been levelling allegations of corruption against the government based on a short video in which Yathindra, son of Mr. Siddaramaiah, is seen issuing instructions over phone. Though the conversation in the video clip lacks any context, the Opposition sought to implicate Mr. Siddaramaiah by arguing that Mr. Yathindra's conversation revolved around cash-for-posting. The Congress strongly rebuffed this allegation. The Opposition also

speaks every now and then of the "imminent collapse" of the government "within six months" or of a change of Chief Minister, in an attempt to needle the Congress. This resulted in another round of rebuttal from the ruling party.

The Congress, meanwhile, mocked the BJP's drought study tour. Dubbing it a "photo opportunity", it said that a Central government team had already conducted a tour.

While the Centre has undeniably delayed the release of funds to provide for drought relief, the State government has come under flak for not being proactive by announcing a few policy measures to help farmers. This includes announcing support price for drought-tolerant crops such as millets and jowar, backed by an assured purchase mechanism for distribution under the Anna Bhagya scheme. Such a policy initiative would have also encouraged farmers to cultivate millets and jowar and bailed them out of their financial distress to a considerable extent. Besides, it would have discouraged farmers from growing paddy or sugarcane, which are water-guzzling crops. The political establishment should also have spent time discussing climate change, which has altered rainfall patterns, and prepared farmers to deal with it.

But none of this has been touched upon; instead, a political slugfest involving the release of funds along with a host of allegations and counter-allegations have taken precedence over the actual handling of drought. The unending acerbic war of words between the Congress and the Opposition alliance is set to echo in the winter session of the State Assembly that will be held in Belagavi from the first week of December.

**Source: The Hindu, p.9, Nov. 21, 2023**



# To tackle fake marks cards, govt. makes digital academic documents for recruitments official

Higher education institutions have been directed to store UG and PG mark sheets, certificates, and other documents in NAD-DigiLocker

**Javanth R.**  
BENGALURU

**T**o avoid the menace of fake marks cards, the State government has decided to make digital marks cards and educational certificates official for recruitments.

The government has issued an order that recruiting authorities and institutions should consider the marks cards and educational certificates in the National Academic Depository (NAD)-DigiLocker as official during recruitment.

In addition, from the academic year 2023-24, subordinate departments under the Department of Higher Education, public universities, and all educational institutions have been directed to compulsorily store graduation and postgraduation marks sheets, certificates, and other academic documents in digital form on NAD-DigiLocker.



A file photo of the fake marks cards and certificates seized in Kalaburagi.

Higher education students have also been advised to register their credits in the 'Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).'

The Union government has set up NAD, a digital depository of educational awards (certificates), to bring about administrative and educational reforms in the education sector.

Since the launch of NAD, educational institutions, including Central universities, State universi-

ties, private universities, Central higher education institutions, school boards, are uploading their educational awards in NAD. Many users are using NAD services through DigiLocker to get their academic awards online.

The UGC has informed all universities, higher educational institutes, and stakeholders concerned to use NAD services through DigiLocker for institutions seeking to verify academic

records. The original documents available on DigiLocker are valid documents as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2020. Also, higher education institutions have been asked to accept digital academic documents, as attested documents are available on DigiLocker.

On the other hand, under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) the Union government has launched the Academic Bank of Credit Scheme (ABC) for higher education students. ABC is a system in which students accumulate credits earned at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and credits can be transferrable when students shift from the institution.

## **Budget announcement**

The State government announced in the 2023-24 Budget that to avoid the menace of fake marks sheets, steps will be taken to make it mandatory for

all higher education students to register with ABC and for recruitment, marks cards, and educational certificates in NAD-DigiLocker.

Although steps have been taken by the State government to store marks cards and other educational documents in NAD-DigiLocker through the Unified University College Management System (UUCMS) portal, no university has uploaded the academic documents of the previous years' students on DigiLocker. Students are also not aware of the move.

The government has now ordered the storage of all degree and postgraduation marks cards and academic certificates of students of higher educational institutions on NAD-DigiLocker. The students have been told to register and store the credits obtained with ABC compulsorily.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vidyashree, who aspires to join the government ser-

vice, welcomed the move. "I am working in a private company and applied for a government job and successfully wrote the competitive exam recently. Online applications are being invited for government jobs. All the original documents including the mark sheets should be scanned and uploaded online. Many times, the files are not uploaded due to server and Internet problems. Getting our academic documents through DigiLocker will be more convenient for candidates and recruitment authorities. Even private organisations are asking for digital records these days."

Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University, called it a good reform. "We have already completed two convocations and uploaded all the educational documents, including marks cards, on DigiLocker. Students and recruiting authorities can use these as per requirement."

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Nov. 23, 2023**



ದೇವರನ್ನು ದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡಲು ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಧ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಚಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಇದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ರಾಮಮಂದಿರ ಈಗಿನ ಪ್ರವಾಸಿಗರಿಗಿಂತ 10 ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜನರನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸಲಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರಗಳಿವೆ. ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಈ ಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಹುದೊಡ್ಡ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯೇ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಜಿಡಿಪಿಗೆ ಇದರ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟಿದೆ.

ತೃತೀಯ ಅರವತ್ತು ದಿನ... 2024ರ ಜನವರಿ 22. ಸರಿಯೂ ತುಂಬ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಾಮಮಂದಿರ ದೊಡ್ಡದಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದೆ. ಬಳಿಕ ದೇವರ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಭಕ್ತರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಯತ್ತ ತಿರುಗಲಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ದೃಷ್ಟಿರೂಪುಗೊಂಡೇ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಯೋಗಿ ಅಧಿನಿವೇಶನ್, "ರಾಮಮಂದಿರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತ 10 ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರಾಗುವ ಅನುಮಾನವಿದೆ." ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಭಕ್ತರಿಗಿಂತ ಸುಮಾರು 1.5 ಕೋಟಿ!

ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಘನವಾದ್ದು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ, ಈ ಯಾತ್ರೆಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಹುದೊಡ್ಡ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯೇ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಧ್ರರ ಹೊರತಾದ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರು ಬಸ್ಸು, ರೈಲು, ವಿಮಾನ, ಟ್ಯಾಕ್ಸಿ, ಕಾರುಗಳು ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ದೇಗುಲದ ಮಠದಲ್ಲೂ, ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ತುಂಬುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕಾಫಿ, ತಿಂಡಿಯೂ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಮೊದಲೇಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಫಾರ್ವೆನು. ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಭಾಗವತ ಹಾಡುವ, ಎಣ್ಣೆ ತುಂಬ, ದೀಪ, ಬಳೆಗಳು, ಕುಂಕುಮವುಳ್ಳದೆ, ಮಿಠೈ, ಮನೆಗೆ ಮೆಲೆಯಾಗುವ ದೇವರ ಪೂಜೆ, ಬಟ್ಟೆ ಖರೀದಿಯನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡುವರು. ಇವೆಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಅನುಭವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ಅಥವಾ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿದಾಗ, ಸೋದರಿಯಾಗಿ "ಇದು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಚಾರ," ಅಂತೆನ್ನುವುದು. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಾದರಿ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌) ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರ ಈ ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ ಬರೋಬ್ಬರಿ 3.02 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳು! ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಅಮದು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು (1.52 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.) ಬಂದಿಟ್ಟರೆ, ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯು ದೇವರ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ಗೆ (3.7 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.) ಬಹುತೇಕ ಸಮ!

ಹಾಗಾದರೆ, ಭಾರತದ ನಷ್ಟ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದಲ್ಲಿ (ಜಿಡಿಪಿ) ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಪಾಲು? ಈ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮುನ್ನ...

### ಕಾಲಾ- ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಗುಲಗಳೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು!

ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 30 ಲಕ್ಷ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿವೆ, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಲಾ- ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಸುಮಾರು ಕೇವಲ 21 ಲಕ್ಷ! 2011ರ ಜನಗಣತಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ 1 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜನರಿಗೆ 53 ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಕ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಸರಾಸರಿಯು ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆಯೇ ಇದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯವಾರು ದೇಗುಲಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡುವುದಾದರೆ...

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ	34,500
ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು	3,90 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಉತ್ತರಪ್ರದೇಶ	3,54 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ	2,78 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಪಿ. ಬಂಗಾಳ	2,57 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಕೇರಳ	2,778

### ಯಾತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರಕಾರದ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ

ಕೊರೋನಾ ಪೂರ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ತೀರ್ಥಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರ ಪ್ರವಾಹವಿಲ್ಲದಾದರೂ, ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಿರ್ದಾಣ್ಣೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸತ್ಯ. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಚಾರ್ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡವರು ಬರೋಬ್ಬರಿ 30 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಈಗಿನ ಸರಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಯಾತ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡೆನ್ಸ್ ತುಂಬುವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ "ಕಾಶಿಯಾತ್ರೆ" ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರಿಗೆ 7,500 ರೂ. ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹದರ್ಶ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶತ್ರು ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾರುಗೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ ದೇಗುಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 3.30ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿದೆ. ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಕಾಪಿರಿಸುವ ತೆಲಂಗಾಣದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬಹಳ ತನ್ನ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹವನ್ನು ತಾವು ಅಧಿ ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೆ ಉಚಿತ ಅಯೋಧ್ಯ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಕೂಡ ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ಪೂರೈಕೆವಾಗಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವನ್ನೇ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

# ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ

ದೇಶದ ಜಿಡಿಪಿಗೆ ದೇವರ ಕೃಪೆ ಎಷ್ಟು?

ಏಕ ಪೋಕಸ್



### ಯಾವ ದೇಗುಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದೇವಿಗೆ?

ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅಂಕಿಅಂಶಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, 2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತದ ವಿವಿಧ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿಗೆ 143.30 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ಜನ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಮದೇಹಿಗೇ 66.40 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಂದಿ! ಇವೆಲ್ಲರಲ್ಲ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಯ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ದೇಗುಲದ ಹಿಂದಿಗ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದು ಬರೋಬ್ಬರಿ 1.34 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದೇವಿಗೆ! ಈ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಸುತ್ತ ಸುಳುಗಾಡಿದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯೂ ಇದ್ದು, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮದಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಆದಾಯ 3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ! ಅಂದರೆ, ಭಾರತದ ನಿವ್ವಳ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದ (ಜಿಡಿಪಿ) ಶೇ.3.2ರಷ್ಟು ಕೊಡುಗೆ ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರಿಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಜಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

### ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಗುಲಗಳು ಗಳಿಸಿದ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಲೆಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡುವುದಾದರೆ...

- ಪದ್ಮನಾಭ ಪ್ಲಾಹಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ, ಕೇರಳ: ಸುಮಾರು 15,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.
- ತಿರುಮಲ ತಿರುಪತಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ, ಅಂದ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ: ಸುಮಾರು 13,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.
- ವೈಷ್ಣೋದೇವಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ, ಕಾಶ್ಮೀ, ಜಮ್ಮು 500 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.
- ನಾಯಬಾಬಾ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ, ತಿರತಿ, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ: 400 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.
- ಸಿದ್ಧಿ ವಿಣಾಯಕ ಮಂದಿರ, ಮುಂಬಯಿ, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ: 125 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.



### ದೈನಂದಿನ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರ ಭೇಟಿ

ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥ ಮಂದಿರ, ಕಾಶಿ	1,05,000
ಮಂಟಪೇಶ್ವರ ದೇಗುಲ, ತಿರುಮಲ	70,000
ರಾಮಮಂದಿರ, ಅಯೋಧ್ಯೆ	50,000
ಮಾತಾ ಪೈಶ್ವೋದೇವಿ, ಜಮ್ಮು	36,000
ಸಾಯಿಬಾಬಾ ದೇಗುಲ, ತಿರತಿ	25,000
ಆನಂದಪದ್ಮನಾಭ ದೇಗುಲ, ಕೇರಳ	20,000
ಧರ್ಮಾಸ್ಥ/ಕುಳಿ ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯ	12,000

### ಒಟ್ಟು ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರ ದಿನದ ಸರಾಸರಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವೆಷ್ಟು?

2014-15ರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ ರಾಶಿ ವೇಳೆ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವವರ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿತ್ತು. ದೇಶದ 25.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಗೊಂಡು, 5.84 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸುಮಾರು ಶೇ.8.8ರಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಶೇ.8.29ರಷ್ಟು ಮಂದಿ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಒಟ್ಟುರಾಗುವಾಗ್ಗೆ.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ, ಈ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಇದ್ದಷ್ಟು ಹುಟ್ಟಲ ಕುಡಿದಿರಲೂಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸುವ ತೆರಳುವ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು, ಸರಗ ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರಿಗಿಂತ ದುಟ್ಟು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪ್ರವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಜನ ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೆಲೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಮಂಡನೆವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ: 2,717 ರೂ.

ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ: 2,286 ರೂ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ: 1,068 ರೂ.

(ಸಿ.ಒ.ಎಸ್‌.ಸಿ.)



### ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ 97% ಆಸ್ತಿಕರು

ಭಾರತೀಯರಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವರ ಮೇಲಿನ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಗಾಢವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು 2021ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಯಾ ಸೆನಿಸಿದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವರದಿ ಹೇಳಿತ್ತು. 29,999 ಮಂದಿಯು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ರಾಖರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಈ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಭಾರತೀಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.97 ಮಂದಿ ದೇವರನ್ನು ನಂಬುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ದಿಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲದ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸ್ಟಡಿ ಆಫ್ ದೇವಲಿಂಗ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಪ್ರತಿ ಮೊದಲ ಭಾರತೀಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಮುಂದಿನ 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಥಯಾತ್ರೆಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದೂ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.



## Police jobs: Re-test by KEA right decision

**T**he Karnataka government has taken the right decision in entrusting the conduct of re-examination for recruitment of police sub-inspectors (PSI) to the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA). The High Court, which disposed of a batch of petitions challenging the re-examination, had held that a re-test should be held for PSI recruitment since the earlier test was rigged, and that the re-test should be conducted by an independent agency. The KEA fits the bill since it has been conducting entrance tests for lakhs of students aspiring to get admitted to professional courses including medical, dental and engineering colleges, since 1994. In 2006, the government had converted KEA into an autonomous body by registering it under the Societies Registration Act (1960). The re-examination to fill the 545 vacant posts of PSIs will be held on December 23.

The examinations were first held by the recruitment wing of the police department in October 2021 when the BJP government was in power. With several cases of malpractice and irregularities coming to light, the then government had annulled the entire process. The accused were allegedly found to have used bluetooth devices to commit malpractices, while some others had tampered with the OMR sheets. While 52 candidates were debarred permanently, investigations led to the arrest of the then Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul and several other police officers. Over 54,000 candidates had appeared for the examinations. Candidates who were selected provisionally had challenged the Government Order annulling the entire selection process and had demanded that a fresh test be conducted only for tainted candidates. The court held that such segregation was not possible as the selection of the petitioners too was not free from suspicion as the question paper had also been leaked before the examinations. The arrest of a top-ranking police officer who was in charge of recruitments had also eroded public trust and confidence, the court said and held that the option exercised by the government to order re-examination was based on sound reasoning.

The controversy also draws attention to the role of the Karnataka Public Service Commission, which was set up to conduct recruitment tests for government jobs. With the body facing a credibility crisis following charges of corruption in its functioning, different government departments and bodies prefer to conduct recruitments on their own. But the cure has turned out to be worse than the disease, as the PSI recruitment scandal showed. If the purity of examinations has been maintained, to use the words of the High Court, the government should completely revamp KPSC and appoint personnel of highest integrity. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should give this his immediate attention.

**Govt should  
revamp KPSC  
and conduct  
all recruitment  
through it**

**Source: Deccan Herald, p 8., Nov. 24, 2023**

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# K'taka Lokayukta sees 80% rise in number of cases

**CHETAN B C**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**here is an 80% rise in the number of cases registered by Karnataka Lokayukta, the anti-corruption watchdog. The spike follows the scrapping of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the subsequent handover of its powers to the Lokayukta.

According to data accessed by *DH*, the Lokayukta registered 8,664 cases in the financial year 2022-23, a jump from 4,793 cases during 2021-22. It has already registered 5,135 cases from April to the first week of November this year, and officials expect the cases to reach the 10,000-mark.

Lokayukta B S Patil attributed the rise in cases to proactive action and frequent surprise checks by officials. He said that people's trust in the Lokayukta may also be another reason. Patil acknowledged that the ombudsman is understaffed but said vacan-

cies are being filled up.

The authority is facing a staff shortage of at least 25%-30%, said an official who spoke to *DH* on condition of anonymity.

Patil told *DH* that posts of three superintendents of police and seven deputy superintendents of police in the state are yet to be filled. This apart, a fair number of support staff vacancies are to be filled. Patil said a separate committee was formed and deliberations were held on the issue of shortage. "We have written to the government and vacancies are being filled up," he said.

### Proactive measures

"I have sent a circular to all senior officials which mandates surprise inspections and slapping of cases without compromise if violations are seen," Patil said. "During surprise checks, people reach out to us and file complaints on the spot. It shows that people trust the Lokayukta."

► **Lokayukta, Page 4**

**Continued...**



# K'taka Lokayukta sees 80% rise in number of cases

**Lokayukta, from Page 1**

He noted that since the Lokayukta took over from the ACB, it has cleared a lot of legacy cases. The efficiency and effectiveness of Lokayukta is leading to the fast disposal of cases.

The Lokayukta sleuths recently raided 43 BBMP offices, 23 sub-registrar offices and a few RTO offices, catching government officials unawares. The sleuths followed up the raids with another round of surprise checks. "When we went to the same offices again, we learned that a fair number of pending works were cleared. Our raids are yielding results," Patil said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p 1 & 4., Nov. 20, 2023**



# 'ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ' ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಂತಿ ತುಳಿದು ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗು ಸಾವು: ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಂತಿ ತುಳಿದು ತಾಯಿ - ಮಗು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಎದ್ದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಘಟನೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಸಂದಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ದೂರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಘಟನೆಯಿಂದ ಆತಂಕ ಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು, ತುಂಡರಿಸಿ ಬೀಳುವ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಂತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಗಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬಗಳ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ' ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ 9 ತಿಂಗಳ ಮಗು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಬಾಗ, ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೇವಲ 100 ಮೀಟರ್ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಘಟನೆ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ ವಿಷಯ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ತುರ್ತಾಗಿ ಯಾರೊಬ್ಬರೂ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು. ನಸುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವು: 'ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ, ತಮ್ಮ ಪತಿ ಸಂತೋಷ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಗು ಸುಖಾ ಲಿಯಾ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಸುಕಿನ 3.50ರ ಸುಮಾರಿಗೆ ಹೋಜ್ ಫಾರ್ಮ್ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ತಂಗುದಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದಿಳಿದಿದ್ದರು. ತಂಗುದಾಣ

## ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ: 6 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 70 ಸಾವು

ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ 6 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅವಘಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 70 ಮಂದಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು, 11 ಮಂದಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಕೋಲಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅವಘಡಗಳು ಮೇಲಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಡೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಎದ್ದು ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ದೂರಿದರು.

'ತುಂಡರಿಸಿ ಬೀಳುವ ತಂತಿಗಳು, ಮನೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಾದು ಹೋಗಿರುವ ತಂತಿಗಳು, ಕಂಬಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವಹಿಸುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಘಡಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇಂಥ ಅವಘಡ ತಡೆಗೆ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು.

## ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ನೌಕರರ ಬಂಧನ, ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂನ ಐವರು ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದು ಕಾಡುಗೋಡಿ ಠಾಣೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು, ಠಾಣೆ ಬಾಬೀನು ಮೇಲೆ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಆರೋಪದಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಶ್ರೀರಾಮ್, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಚೇತನ್, ಕಿರಿಯ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರಾಜಣ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ಅವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

'ಆರೋಪಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ (304ಎ) ಆರೋಪದಡಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದೊಂದು ಠಾಣೆ ಬಾಬೀನು ಇರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಆರೋಪಿಗಳ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಪುನಃ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಬರುವಂತೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಸಹ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ದಿಂದ ಒಂದೂವರೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ ದೂರ ದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಎ.ಕೆ.ಗೋಪಾಲ್ ಕಾಲೋನಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೋಷಕರ ಮನೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ನಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೊರಟಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ದೀಪ ವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪತಿ ಸಂತೋಷ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಕತ್ತಲಲ್ಲೇ ಮುಂದೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು, ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ಮಗು ಎತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡು ಅವರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಕತ್ತಲಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಂತಿ ಗಮನಿಸದ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ, ಅದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು. ಕ್ಷಣಮಾತ್ರ ದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಗುಲಿ ಬಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಬೆಂಕಿ

ಹೊತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡು ಉರಿಯಲಾರಂಭಿ ಸಿತ್ತು. ಪತಿ, ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವಷ್ಟ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಕಿಯ ಕೆನ್ನಾಲ್ ಹಚ್ಚಾಗಿತ್ತು. ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಪತಿ ಚೀರಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ದಾರಿಹೋಕರು ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೂ ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗುವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಆಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗು ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲೇ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟರು' ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು.

7 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ: 'ಘಟನೆ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲ ನಿಮಿಷಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೂ ತಿಳಿಸ



ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟ ಹೋವ್ ಫಾರ್ಮ್ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಬಳಿಯ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ

-ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

## ತಾಯಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ಶಾಸಕಿ ಭೇಟಿ

ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ: ಮೃತ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ಅವರ ತಾಯಿ ರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ಅವರ ಮನೆಗೆ ಮಹದೇವಪುರ ಶಾಸಕಿ ಮಂಜುಳಾ ಅರವಿಂದ ಲಿಂಬಾವಳಿ ಅವರು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ, ಸಾಂತ್ವನ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಮಗಳ ಸಾವಿಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದ ತಾಯಿ ರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ, 'ಬಡವರ ಜೀವದ ಜೊತೆ ಚೆಲ್ಲಾಟ ಅಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಿಸದೇ, ಕಿರಿಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತವಲ್ಲ. ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಅಮಾನತು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದರು.

ಶಾಸಕಿ ಮಂಜುಳಾ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, 'ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಅವಘಡಗಳು ಜರುಗದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ವಹಿಸಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ತಪ್ಪರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗು ಸಾವಿಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು' ಎಂದು.

ಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಆಕ್ರೋಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

'ಬೆಳಗಾಗುವವರೆಗೂ ತಾಯಿ-ಮಗುವಿನ ಮೃತದೇಹಗಳು ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವು. ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 6.30ಕ್ಕೆ

ಕಾಡುಗೋಡಿ ಠಾಣೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರು. ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 7 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರು. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವರ್ತನೆಯನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು, ಅವರನ್ನು ತರಾಟೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಮುಗಿಲು ಮುಟ್ಟದ ಆಕ್ರಂದನ: ತಾಯಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಗುವಿನ ಮೃತದೇಹವನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸಿ ಮರಣೋತ್ತರ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಯಿತು. ನಂತರ, ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರಿಗೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಬಳಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರ ಆಕ್ರಂದನ ಮುಗಿಲುಮುಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು.

'ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ನಗರ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ತಂತಿಗಳು ತುಂಡರಿಸಿ ಬಿದ್ದರೂ ತೆಗೆಯುವವರು ಇಲ್ಲ. ನನ್ನ ಪತ್ನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಬರಬಾರದು. ತಪ್ಪಿತಸ್ಥ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಥ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯದಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ಪತಿ ಸಂತೋಷ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದರು.

ಬೆಸ್ಸಾಂ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಯಾವ ವರ್ಷ, ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಾವು		
ವರ್ಷ	ಸಾವು	ಗಾಯಾಳು
2018-19	11	1
2019-20	10	3
2020-21	9	3
2021-22	13	2
2022-23	19	2
2023-24 (ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ ವರೆಗೆ)	8	0



ಬಸವನಗುಡಿಯ ಪಾಡೆ ವಿಲಾಸ ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೀದಿನೀವ ಕಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸುತ್ತಲಾಗಿರುವ ಕೇಬಲ್‌ಗಳು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ/ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ. ದಿನೇಶ್

**ಕೇಬಲ್ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ..**

**ಚಿತ್ರ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ**

ನಗರದ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಬಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸುತ್ತಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ ಇವು ನಂಕಷ್ಟ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡಿವೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಳಾಸದೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಾಟ್ಸಾಪ್ ಮಾಡಿ...

**96060 38256**



# Kantharaj panel's original report goes missing

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**  
BENGALURU

Amid misgivings by the dominant Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaliga communities over the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, another controversy has erupted over the missing documents from the erstwhile H. Kantharaj Commission that conducted the survey. However, the data collected for the census, for which signatures of Mr. Kantharaj, commission members, and member-secretary were affixed, is intact, commission sources said.

It now emerges that the original report of the Kantharaj commission has been missing following which the commission communicated with the then commission's member-secretary N.V. Prasad, seeking his response. Commission sources said that despite reminders, it has not received any response. While the printed copies of the Kantharaj commission report had scanned signatures of Mr. Kantharaj and other members, the signature of the member-secretary is missing, the commission's official communication, copies of which are with *The Hindu*, show.

Following the 214th special meeting of the commission in August 2021 during which it was decided to open four sealed trunks containing the Kantharaj commission's findings, the current commission is learnt to have found printed books containing the data, the main report and two compact discs. The commission, it is learnt, had decided to seek additional information from the then member-secretary since his name figured in the report. In the absence of a reply, the commission in August 2022 wanted to know from Mr. Prasad if he had dis-

## Govt. seeks new report

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Congress government, in a communication to the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, is learnt have sought a new report based on the data collected as part of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) in 2015 by the then H. Kantharaj commission.

"This (Congress) government has asked for a new report. Though the old report (Kantharaj commission report) is not needed now, it would have helped the current commission to hasten the process. If the old (original) report was available, it would have helped us with indicators and weightage that the previous commission had given to each caste." Since the original data is intact, are in the process of readying the report, sources said.

sented with the report findings as he had not affixed the signature. Commission sources said they did not receive response for both communications.

### Data intact

Meanwhile, commission sources said the data in the printed copy and the soft copy that has signatures of the then commission chairperson and members besides the member-secretary is intact. "What is missing is only the original copy of the commission report. When we sought to know details from the then member-secretary, we did not get any response." Commission sources said that since data is available, providing report will not be affected.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday told reporters that he was not aware of the missing report in the commission.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Nov. 23, 2023**



# Caste census report to be delayed; BC panel chief's tenure to be extended

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**  
BENGALURU

The report of the much debated socio-economic survey (caste census) will be delayed as the State government is set to extend the tenure of the current chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, K. Jayaprakash Hegde, as the work on the survey report is yet to be completed. The State government has been under pressure to act on the survey after the Bihar government published the caste census recently.



K. Jayaprakash Hegde

Mr. Hegde – whose three-year tenure is set to end on November 25 – had earlier said that the report would be submitted before November.

However, he is now learnt to have sought time

from the government to do so. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the term of the chairman would be extended till the time the report got ready for submission. The Cabinet meeting scheduled for Thursday would discuss the issue before a decision is taken on the length of the extension of the tenure, sources said.

The development comes in the backdrop of hectic lobbying by the two land owning dominant communities – Veerashai-va/ Lingayats and Vokkaligas – who have opposed

release of the commission's report based on the data that they have termed as "unscientific".

Though the Congress at the national level is seeking a caste census to determine the status of OBCs, sources aware of the developments indicated that the government was set to extend the tenure in the light of the "perceived anger" of these communities that could impact the electoral outcome in the Lok Sabha elections next year.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 6

The BJP recently appointed a Lingayat leader, B. Y. Vijayendra, as its state unit chief while R. Ashok, a Vokkaliga leader, has been appointed as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

On Wednesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters that the government would continue Mr. Hegde till he submitted the report.

"He has met me once and sought two to three months time. I have told him to give the report before January."

Replying on the opposition by caste groups to the report, the Chief Minister said: "Some are opposed to the report even before seeing it. The Cabinet will discuss the report after it is submitted."

Asked about the opposition by the Vokkaligara Sangha, he said: "They met me on Tuesday. I have asked them why they were against the report since no one, including me, has seen the report yet."

On news reports about Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar being opposed to it, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "The Deputy Chief Minister has not spoken about the issue with me."

## Conducted in 2015

Though the survey was conducted in 2015 when H. Kantharaj headed the commission, the report could not be submitted as the member-secretary had not affixed his signature even as Chief Ministers, including Mr. Siddaramaiah, had dithered on accepting the report.

However, a large number of most backward castes that have hardly had any reservation benefits either in public employment or education, are eagerly awaiting the report that can throw light on their status in comparison to other backward classes.

## Survey report

Sources in the backward classes commission said that the panel had sought time to complete the socio-economic survey report. "The commission felt that the report has long-term ramifications and that it should not be done in a hurry. Hence, more time has been sought," they said.

The sources claimed that about 90% of the work on the report was ready, and that the commission would be in a position to submit it to the government in the next few weeks.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1&6, Nov. 23, 2023**



# Don't oppose socio-economic survey based on wrong assumptions: CM

**'Let the commission submit the report'**

BAGALKOT, DHNS

**I**t is not right to oppose the socio-economic survey (caste census) report without knowing the content, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday. He asked the political leaders across party lines not to draw conclusions on the Kantharaj-led BC panel's report based on the wrong assumptions or hearsay.

Speaking to reporters here, Siddaramaiah said, "Let the backward classes commission submit the report. Let's discuss the issue and decide on the next course of action."

Rejecting H D Kumaraswamy's charge that the caste census was a ploy by Congress to divide the society, the chief minister said, "Caste census needed to remove inequalities in the society. No one really

**BJP to wait and watch**

Amid a row over the ongoing tussle over the implementation of the caste census report, the Opposition BJP has decided to adopt a wait-and-watch policy regarding the implementation of the caste census report in the state.

Former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai said that the party should take a stand on the issue only after the government decides to implement it.

knows what's in the report. It is unjust to talk about it without knowing its content. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has accepted the report. Has he divided the society there," he questioned.

When asked about the original copy of the report going

missing, Siddaramaiah said he was not aware of it and that he would talk to the Backward Classes Commission chairman Jayaprakash Hegde.

The previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah in 2015 had commissioned the social-economic and educational survey, at an estimated cost of Rs 170 crore in the state, the findings of which have not been made public yet.

The state Backward Classes Commission under the then chairperson H Kantharaju was tasked with preparing a caste census report. The survey work was completed in 2018, towards the end of Siddaramaiah's first tenure as Chief Minister, but was not accepted or made public.

The opposition parties have been sternly opposing the survey saying that it is unscientific and half-baked. Even a couple of Siddaramaiah's Cabinet colleagues, including his deputy D K Shivakumar, have signed a petition of the Vokkaliga community opposing the caste census report.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p 6., Nov. 24, 2023**

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## Urban Affairs

# Eight companies provide land to metro free of cost

**Firms request govt to complete project as per deadline**

**NAVEEN MENEZES**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

At a time when land values are soaring, eight private firms have ceded their prime land for the Metro project in Bengaluru, amounting to nearly 16,000 square meters, free of cost. This gesture has enabled the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) to save a significant sum, estimated at least Rs 175 crore. Normally, landowners are compensated with an amount that is two to four times the guidance value.

Among these firms, four have parted with their land unconditionally. They include A Munireddy, owner of the AMR Tech Park on Hosur Road; Total Environment Building Systems; Prestige Notting Hill Investments on Bannerghatta Road; and Vikas Telecom Pvt Ltd, located at Kadubeesana-halli on the Outer Ring Road. These entities have foregone any monetary compensation

entirely.

Munireddy's grandson Sharath told *DH* that they did not mind parting with the land free of cost as the Metro project would help over 10,000 employees working in their tech park.

"The long expressway along Hosur road does not help us at all as it does not have any up and down ramp near our campus. We have all been waiting for the Metro. Our only request is that the officials should ensure the project is completed well within its deadline," he said.

### Nominal lease fee

In cases where land was not donated outright, Namma Metro has arranged to lease either all or part of the 'gifted' land back to the private firms. The lease fee is Rs 1,000 per year for a period of 99 years. The firms involved in these lease agreements include Bengaluru-based Infosys, Biocon, and RMZ Infotech, as well as the Nettur Technical Training

Private firms	Land parted free of cost (in sqm)	Leased out for nominal fee (in sqm)
RMZ Infotech Pvt Ltd	728.6	728.6
Infosys	2889.4	2447.7
NTTF	1784.17	1703.03
Biocon Ltd	2614	1751
A Munireddy	279	-
Total Environment Building Systems Pvt Ltd	2722	-
Prestige Notting Hill Investments	3715	-
Vikas Telecom Pvt Ltd	1194.1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15926.27</b>	<b>6630.13</b>

Foundation (NTTF).

While some believe that this arrangement allows private firms to maintain indirect control over their property, officials have clarified that the land is leased back under the stipulation that it must be used for non-commercial purposes. Such uses include creating access points to campuses or developing the land as green spaces or parking areas after Metro construction is completed.

"The land of RMZ Infotech, for instance, falls in between two Metro pillars. Since there is no utilisation value for us, we gave it back as it is needed for vehicles to enter their campus," Channappa Gowdar, special land acquisition officer at BMRCL told *DH*. "In other cases, only part of their land is given back. Accessibility to

their campus was the primary reason. There is no monetary gain for the companies," he said.

Besides donating their land, Infosys and Biocon are also sponsoring the construction of two separate Metro stations on Hosur Road. Given the distance between their campus and the forthcoming Konappana Agrahara Metro station, Infosys plans to construct an air-conditioned footbridge for employee use over the 'leased' land.

Although it is not specified how the Biocon campus will be accessible from the Metro station, officials have indicated that the Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) intends to utilize its adjoining vacant land for parking because the Metro viaduct cuts through its property.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3, Nov. 18, 2023**



# Bosch to pay Rs 30 cr for metro subway to its campus at Lakkasandra

BENGALURU, DHNS

**B**angalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Bosch Limited on Friday signed a 30-year agreement for providing direct access to the German multinational's Adugodi campus from the Lakkasandra underground metro station.

Bosch will fund the underground walkway while the BMRCL will construct it. The walkway will be 70 metres long and 5.5 metres wide. It will cost Rs 30 crore to build, according to the BMRCL.

Authorities hope that the walkway will help more than 12,000 Bosch employees as they wouldn't have to cross the road to reach the metro station.

The agreement was signed by BMRCL boss Anjum Parwez and Aravind Maiya, Senior General Manager, Bosch Limited, in the presence of other senior officials from both sides, according to a statement from Namma Metro.



**BMRCL boss Anjum Parwez and Bosch Limited's Senior General Manager Aravind Maiya sign the agreement on the Lakkasandra metro walkway on Friday.** SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This is the first such agreement on the 21.26-km Pink Line, which will connect Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara and will have Bengaluru's longest metro tunnel at 13.76 km.

The Lakkasandra metro station will have two entrances, providing access to

opposite sides of the arterial Bannerghatta Road, according to officials.

Tunnelling has been completed between Dairy Circle and Venkateshpura. The station work at Lakkasandra is going on at a brisk pace.

The Pink Line is targeted to be ready by March 2025.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 3, Nov. 18, 2023**



# To steer Bidadi growth, K'taka upgrades planning body

Authority gets more teeth to okay new development plans

NAVEEN MENEZES  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The long-pending plan to develop Bidadi as Bengaluru's own Gurugram has received a shot in the arm with the Congress-led state government upgrading the eight-year-old planning authority with powers to approve new development plans and

undertake civil works.

The move, insiders say, is aimed at reviving the Bidadi Township project, which is spread across 39 villages totalling 10,000 acres of land.

On Saturday, the Urban Development Department (UDD) issued an order to rename and upgrade Bidadi Smart City Planning Authority as Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA). This is expected to pave the way for faster implementation of government directions including acquisition of land as the "empowered" GBDA can function independently.

Besides upgrading the authority, the government has

## 'Bidadi to be new Bengaluru'

**Bidadi Smart City Planning Authority renamed Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA)**

■ Sources say govt is planning to revive Bidadi Township project by creating facilities for people to work and live without travelling long distances (Bidadi is 35 km from Bengaluru)

■ Bidadi will be a 'new Bengaluru' but at a smaller scale, they say  
■ The township project is spread across 39 villages



posted the commissioner of Bangalore Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (BMRDA) as the head of GBDA while the planning director of BMRDA will be the member secretary.

Earlier this month, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had announced an extension of Metro to Bidadi, which is 35 km from Bengaluru. Recently, the DyCM along with his brother DK Suresh — who is also the Member of Parliament from Bengaluru Rural constituency — had visited the yet-to-be-formed township, triggering speculations of the project's revival.

► Bidadi, Page 5

The push to steer growth towards the southern part of Bengaluru's outskirts comes almost a decade later. In June 2016, the government had created a local planning region in Bidadi to develop 38 villages of Ramanagara district as 'new' Bengaluru. The plan did not take off. Almost a decade before that, reality firm DLF Group was given the contract to develop Bidadi as a knowledge park but the company backed out citing delay in acquisition of land and low sentiment among the real estate sector.

On both occasions, the ambitious plan was seen as an alternative to Whitefield, Electronic City and Sarjapur Road, where all the IT majors are located.

A senior official told *DH* that the government is seriously considering the plan to revive Bidadi Township by creating facilities for people to work, live and play without travelling long distances.

"The purpose of creating GBDA is very different from Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). Bidadi will be a new Bengaluru but at a small scale," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 1&5, Nov. 22, 2023**



# Now, AI-driven tool to beat Bengaluru's traffic

**Predictive analysis  
to help cops plan for  
congestion**

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**T**he Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) are now using AI-powered predictive analysis to study, predict and prepare for congestion on major high-traffic corridors in the city. Soon, this will be made available to the public

in real-time so they can plan their commute.

DH accessed data from the police for one such junction -- Iblur on the Outer Ring Road where the experiment is currently on. Scraping data from camera feeds and third-party sources to assess the vehicle volume at any hour on any day of the week, BTP is drawing upon AI-powered predictive analysis to arm themselves against a potential gridlock situation.

Throughout September, Iblur junction, which links the Sarjapur Road and the Outer Ring Road, saw an average of about 79,310 metres of con-

## Corridors under study

- Old Madras Road
- Hosur Road
- Tumakuru Road
- Outer Ring Road (east and west)
- Inner Ring Road
- Ballari Road
- Mysuru Road



gestion, with about 4 km of congestion per day. At peak hours, roughly 800 to 900 metres of traffic congestion was recorded at the junction. Similarly, October saw about 2 km of congestion per day, peaking

at an average of 800 metres at 6 pm on any given day.

They have also recorded congestion at the junction on three days in the past week to get an hourly and daily average of traffic congestion expected

at the junction. Surprisingly, last Saturday saw about 3 km of congestion all day, compared to about 435 metres and 853 metres on Wednesday and Friday, respectively.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic South) Shiva Prakash Devaraju told DH that they are using data from companies along the Outer Ring Road to understand how to manage the ripple effects on Iblur junction.

"Over the past month, we have recorded between 1.5 and 2 lakh vehicles entering and exiting the campuses during the weekdays," he said.

► **B'luru's traffic, Page 6**

## B'luru's traffic, from Page 1

"This is important because there is a correlation between these numbers and the traffic impact at Iblur junction," he said. He added that he plans to conduct similar simulations at Dairy Circle, Central Silk Board, and Sarakki junctions.

Besides prediction, he said that such analyses will help the police understand why congestion has occurred and decide on preventive measures, such as changing the timings of traffic signals, restricting heavy vehicles, opening or closing U-turns in real-time and preparing alternative routes for future situations, if necessary.

Going forward, the police plan to superimpose this data

with feed from AI cameras on some high-traffic corridors to get an exact vehicle count passing through each junction each hour.

Speaking to DH, M N Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), explained that this project, for which tenders have been floated, will soon be made available to the public in real time. "At the end of the day, we want to create APIs that anybody can use. We are looking at a way to share our data on a live basis on our website so people can see real-time traffic flow and congestion. We have a detailed requirement from companies for doing this and they will do so in a phased manner once the work order is given," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 1&6, Nov. 24, 2023**

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