



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



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## AGRICULTURE

# 31 farmers get relief after a decade-long fight

**Praveen B. Para**  
KALABURAGI

After well over a decade of patient and sustained legal battle, 31 farmers in Aland taluk in Kalaburagi district have won compensation for substandard seeds supplied to them by the Agriculture Department.

The dispute, which began in 2010, has come to a close by the fag end of 2023. However, three of the farmers died before the final order came.

The Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (KSCDRC) recently passed an order directing the department to compensate the distressed farmers of Madiyal village for the loss of black gram crop owing to supply of substandard

seeds by the department through the Karnataka State Seeds Corporation (KSSC).

They had sown black gram crop on nearly 195 hectares, but suffered huge losses as the seeds failed to germinate in 2010.

### How dispute began

The then Kalaburagi Deputy Commissioner had directed the Joint Director of Agriculture to conduct inspection of fields and take steps to provide compensation to farmers.

A team of agricultural scientists from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, visited various fields and submitted a report in September, 2010. They noticed that 70% to 80% of the fields were affected.

The scientists found that black gram crop on these fields stood at 2.5 ft to 3 ft height but did not germinate. Following the report by UAS-Raichur, and directions issued by the State government in October, 2010, the Commissioner of Agriculture Department conducted an inquiry and concluded that the farmers had suffered huge losses because of supply of defective seeds.

He ordered providing compensation of ₹1,500 per acre, and released ₹2,92,500 in November 2010.

But the department failed to disburse the compensation until the farmers approached the District Consumers Dispute Redressal Forum in May 2012. The forum then ordered

compensation of ₹5,000 per acre (deducting the ₹1,500 already paid to them), along with interest of 9% per annum from the date of filing of the complaint till its release, and also ₹250 to each of the 31 farmers towards cost of the proceedings.

### Appeal filed

However, the KSSC filed an appeal in the Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in July 2012 against the order passed by the district forum.

It was after 11 years that the commission issued orders dismissing the appeal and upheld the order passed by the forum.

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It directed that the amount deposited shall be transferred to the commission concerned to pay the same to the farmers.

Advocate Vaijnath Zhalki, who led the legal fight of farmers, expressed displeasure over KSCDRC's delay in passing the orders. He also argued that the compensation ordered by the commission to the farmers, after waiting for over a decade, was not satisfactory.

"It took so many years for the commission to pass an order and three of the complainant farmers have died because of old age and health-related issues. And the irony is that the KSSC and Agriculture Department, who have to protect the interests of farmers, went against them and filed an appeal. Supply of substandard seeds is punishable under the Consumer Act," Mr. Zhalki added.

Sharanabasappa Mamshetty, district president of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, demanded that the commission order a higher compensation.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1&5, Jan. 1, 2024**

# Delay in interim drought relief angers farmers

Anil.Gejji@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Despite the state government's announcement of up to Rs2,000 interim relief for every farmer affected by crop loss due to drought, a month has passed without the funds reaching their accounts.

The state cabinet, led by chief minister Siddaramaiah, declared the interim relief on November 30, with assurances that the remaining compensation, following the guidelines of the Natural Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), would be disbursed

after the central government released the funds. However, the delay has left farmers in a state of distress.

Farmer leader Sidagouda Modagi from Belagavi expressed frustration, stating, "In the first place, whatever interim relief the government has announced is a meagre amount. On top of it, making farmers wait for months is like inflicting insult on them. The government must disburse relief immediately."

The opposition BJP and JD(S) have joined in the criticism, accusing the state go-



**TOUGH SEASON:** Farmers are in dire straits as Karnataka is seeing one of its worst droughts in recent years

vernment of insensitivity towards farmers. Former CM HD Kumaraswamy said, "Siddaramaiah often claims his government walks the

talk. But in this case, it has failed to keep its words."

Officials attribute the delay to the implementation of a new system for disbursing

input subsidies. Rashmi Mahesh, principal secretary, revenue (disaster management), explained, "We are integrating data from Parihaar and Bhoomi portals and also crop survey data in the FRUITS (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) database, which is going to be more scientific and comprehensive. Under the new system, farmers need not even apply for input subsidies or give details about their land holdings and crops."

The process, covering about 68 lakh farmers, is 80%

complete, with verification ongoing in Chalkere taluk, Chitradurga district, on a pilot basis. Mahesh expressed hope that the entire data integration and verification process would conclude by the next weekend, with relief disbursement commencing in the second week of January.

The severe drought, labeled the worst in the last 125 years, has affected over 48 lakh hectares of crops in Karnataka, with 223 out of 236 taluks declared drought affected. The state government has sought Rs 18,177 crore in relief from the Centre.

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

**ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ**

## ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ತಂದ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಗಾಬರಿ

■ ಸೋಲರಂವಾಪ್ತಿ ಶೀಘ್ರವಾಗಿ ತುಮಕೂರು ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಅಡ್ಡಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಮೂಲಭೂತವಾಗಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಕುಸಿದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಹಾನಿವೆದರಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೂ ತೊಡಕು ಬಿದ್ದಿದೆ. ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಒತ್ತಡದ ನಂತರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ 12 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ 11,180ರೂ.ಗೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಸಫಲ್ತರಾಗದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಎನ್‌ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಐಸಿ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರೂ, ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ದೊರಕುವುದು ಕನ್ನಡಿಯೊಳಗಿನ ಗುಣವೇ ಸರಿ. ತುಮಕೂರು, ಹಾವೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 17 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪಾವತಿಕೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಕುಸಿತ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪೆಟ್ಟು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಫಲ್ತರಾಗದೆ ಮೂಲಕ 62,500 ಟನ್ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅಂಚ್ಚೆಯು ಶೇ.30ರಷ್ಟಾದ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯು ಗಣಿ ಎನ್ನುವಂತಿರುವುದು.

ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ರೈತರು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕಿತ್ಯಾದುವ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಈ ವರ್ಷವೂ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದ್ದು, ಚಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಿದರಷ್ಟೇ ರೈತರ ಉಳಿವು ಎಂಬಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಅಂಚ್ಚೆಯ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳೇ ರೈತರ ತಲೆ ನೋವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿದೆ. 7ಕಿವಿಎಂ ತೇವಾಂಶದ, 75ಎಂಎಂ ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗಾತ್ರದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಫಲ್ತರಾಗದೆ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾದರಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅರಂಭಕ್ಕೂ ಮೊದಲು ಗಾತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾಗಿರುವ, ಸುಕ್ಕಾಗಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ತಿಲ್ಲುರಿಸಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾದರೀಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಆಗ್ರಹ.

● ಪ್ರಟ 3

### ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ರಹ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ 11,180ರೂ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆಯಾದರೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, 75ಎಂಎಂಗಿಂತ ಸಣ್ಣ ಗಾತ್ರದ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಕ್ಕು ಬಂದಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಅನಾಥವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಕಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 12 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ನೀಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಫಲ್ತರಾಗದೆ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಫಲಾನಿ ಜಿ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಚಿವರೇ. ಮಾದರಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಪ್ರಳಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿ ಕೇಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಂತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಉಂಡೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸುವ ಆಗ್ರಹ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.1-3, Jan.2, 2024

**ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ**

## ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಗಾಬರಿ

### ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ತಿಪಟೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 2.11 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.30 ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯೂ ನಫೆಡ್ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿರುವ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಈ ಶೇ.30 (50 ಸಾವಿರ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್) ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರ ಸಿಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಶೇ.70 ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಲಾಭವಿಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

### ಕೇರಳ ಹಾಗೂ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಡೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಫೆಡ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೇವಲ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷವೂ ದೊಡ್ಡ ನಷ್ಟ ತಂದೊಡ್ಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಗಾತ್ರದ ಸುಕ್ಕು ಗಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಿಲ್ಲಿಂಗ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಆಡಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕು.

**! ನಾಗೇಶ್ ಬೆಲೆಕಾವಲು ಸಮಿತಿ**



# State plans to double its millets export, building on international trade fair

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Karnataka has set a target of doubling its millets export, hoping to build further on the Millets and Organics International Trade Fair being organised from January 5 to 7.

Disclosing this to media-persons in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy said Karnataka had exported 7,764 tonnes of millets and their value based products, amounting to about ₹36 crore during 2022-23.

Now, the State wanted to increase exports by a minimum of two folds in about a year, he said, while observing that there was a huge potential for Karnataka as the State accounted for nearly 40% of the country's millet production.

The major export destinations included U.S., Australia, UAE, Canada, Qatar, Thailand and Singapore, he noted.

The major products that had been exported include sorghum, jowar, ragi and their value added products. They had been mostly sourced from the districts of Ballari, Koppal, Bengaluru Rural, Haveri and Chitradurga, the Minister said.

Karnataka had exported



Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, Special Secretary to Government (Food Processing and Harvest Technology), Agriculture Department, Rohini Sindhuri, and other officials showcasing products made of millets in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

agri and allied produce to the tune of ₹25,287 crore during 2022-23, he pointed out.

## **Purpose of fair**

The Minister said the fair was being held for the fifth time by Karnataka mainly to provide marketing avenues for the millet and organic produce besides bringing all stakeholders under a common platform. The intention was to promote the use of these healthy millets on the one hand and to provide market for farmers on the other, he explained.

Karnataka State Agricul-

tural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Limited is the nodal agency for organising the fair which is being held at Bengaluru Palace Grounds, in partnership with several national and international research institutes including Indian Institute of Millet Research and GIZ of Germany. A total of two lakh persons were estimated to participate in the fair which would have 300 stalls.

Companies and stakeholders from various countries including Germany, Australia, U.S., Oman, Spain, Indonesia, France,

Vietnam, UK, UAE and Bangladesh had confirmed their participation in the fair, said the Minister. As many as 100 stalls have been reserved for Karnataka Pavilion in which FPOs, farmers' groups, Universities and research organisations.

The fair would have an exhibition, buyer-seller-meets and international conferences. Farmers' workshops would also be organised on methods of cultivation, packaging and certification, he said. The visitors can relish a variety of millet delicacies at the food court.

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

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# Decentralisation

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

## ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಶೇ.71.50 ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆ 15,675 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಇನ್ನೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಮಂದ

■ ಶ್ರೀಕಾಂತ್ ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ದೇಶದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ 2024ರೊಳಗೆ ನಳದ ಮೂಲಕ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಕಳೆದ ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂದಗತಿಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದು, ನಿಗದಿತ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರಿ ಮುಟ್ಟುವುದು ಅನುಮಾನವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಶೇ.71.6ರಷ್ಟು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಉಳಿದ ಶೇ.29ರಷ್ಟು ಯೋಜನೆ ಮುಗಿಸಲು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷವಾದರೂ ಬೇಕಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಅಂದಾಜಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳೆದ ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂದಗತಿಯ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಕಾರಣ ಎಂಬ ವಾದವೂ ಇದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಲಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು 2019ರ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿತ್ತು. ದೇಶಾದ್ಯಂತ ಶೇ.72.10 ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಂಡಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ. **ಪುಟ 6**

» ಯೋಜನೆ ಮುಗಿಯಲು ಇನ್ನೂ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಅಗತ್ಯ?

- 9 ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಶೇ.100 ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿವೆ ● ಶೇ.75ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು 11 ● ಶೇ. 50ರಿಂದ 75ರ ವರೆಗಿನ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು 11. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆರನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ● ಬಂಗಾಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಶೇ.40ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ, ಜಾರ್ಖಂಡ್ ಕೂಡ ಬಹಳ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದಿವೆ
- ಕೇರಳದಲ್ಲೂ ಸಹ ಶೇ.51ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.



ತನಿಖೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ

ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಳಪೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ಅನೇಕ ಶಾಸಕರು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತನಿಖೆಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಒಂದೂವರೆ ಸಾವಿರದಷ್ಟು ಸ್ಯಾಂಪಲ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಡೆದಿದೆಯೇ ಎಂದು ವರದಿ ತರಿಸಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಮಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಇನ್ನೂ ದೂರುಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ತಮಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಸಕರನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಕೋರಿದ್ದರು.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಪ್ರಗತಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1,01,17,000 ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಮನೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಜಲ ಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ 2019ರ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 1ರವರೆಗೆ 24.51ಲಕ್ಷ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ 46.98 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 71.50 ಲಕ್ಷ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ 160 ಬಹು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 45,559 ನಳ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 14,839 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, 12,045 ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಉಳಿದ 15,675 ಕಾಮ ಗಾರಿಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿವೆ.

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅನುದಾನ

# ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು ಅಲ್ಪ, ಬರಬೇಕಿದೆ ಅಧಿಕ

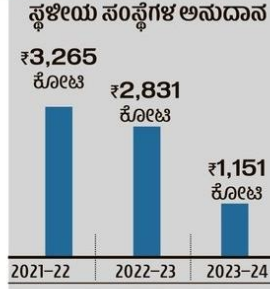
• ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾರ್

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ದಿಂದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ ಕಡಿಮೆ. ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಇದೆ.

2021ರಿಂದ 2026ರ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ₹29,110 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು (ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಯೋಗ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ₹11,449 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟೇ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ಬಳಿಕ ಆದಾಯ ಕೊರತೆ ಅನುದಾನವೂ (1,631 ಕೋಟಿ) ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಈ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 2021-22ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲೇ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅನುದಾನ ₹14,630 ಕೋಟಿ ಬರಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ

ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಅನುದಾನ



ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಅನುದಾನ



(ಮಾಹಿತಿ-ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ)

15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಡಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ.

‘ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 243 ಇ ವಿಧಿಯ ಅಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್

ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ (ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)

₹1,631 ಕೋಟಿ

ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯ ಬಳಿಕ ಆದಾಯ ಕೊರತೆ ಅನುದಾನ

₹21,877 ಕೋಟಿ

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅನುದಾನ

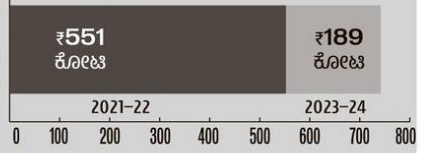
₹4,369 ಕೋಟಿ

ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅನುದಾನ

₹1,233 ಕೋಟಿ

ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಅನುದಾನ

ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಅನುದಾನ



\*2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿಲ್ಲ

ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವುದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಹೊಣೆ. ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಅಡ್ಡಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ತೊಡಕುಗಳನ್ನು ನಿವಾರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ 2023ರ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

5ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

Continued....



# ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು ಅಲ್ಲ, ಬರಬೇಕಿದೆ ಅಧಿಕ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

‘ಆದರೂ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಉಳಿದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ ಬಾಕಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ’ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

**ಬಾರದ ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಹಣ:** ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನ ಅನುಸಾರ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ (ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್) ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ ₹1,623 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಾಗೂ 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ₹939 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, 2023-24ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ಅನುದಾನ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯತನಕ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಶೀಘ್ರವೇ ₹18,177 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಕೋರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಬಾರಿ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 23ರಂದು ಉನ್ನತ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವ ಅಮಿತ್ ಶಾ ಅವರು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 23ರಂದು ಸಭೆ ನಡೆದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಬರ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಕುರಿತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಅನುದಾನದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ (ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್) ಐದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹4,369 ಕೋಟಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದು ₹1,803 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾತ್ರ. ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ₹929 ಕೋಟಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಜುಲೈ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಕಂತಿನ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ₹348 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಎರಡನೇ ಕಂತು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಎರಡು ಸಮಾನ ಕಂತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ಗೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕಂತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರದ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್ ನಿಂದ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ವರದಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಕಂತಿನ ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

**Source: Prajavani, p.1-5, Jan.04, 2024**

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## ECONOMY

# State gets two Vande Bharat and one Amrit Bharat trains

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MANGALURU

Karnataka got three new trains, two Vande Bharat Express and one Amrit Bharat Express, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off six VB and two AB services in virtual mode from Ayodhya while inaugurating the redeveloped Ayodhya Dham Railway Station on Saturday.

Train No. 20646/20645 Mangaluru Central-Madgaon-Mangaluru Central VB Express (except Thursdays) was flagged off in the presence of Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kattel and others. The service was accorded ceremonial reception at Udupi, Karwar and Madgaon. Regular services of this train will start from December 31 with Train No. 20646 leaving Mangaluru Central at 8.30 a.m. to reach Madgaon at 1.15 p.m. Train No. 20645 leaves Madgaon at 6.10 p.m. and reaches Mangaluru Central at 10.45 p.m.

The Coimbatore Junction-Bengaluru Cantonment-Coimbatore Junction VB Express was flagged off in the presence of MP P.R. Natarajan, MLA Vanathi Srinivasan and others at Coimbatore Junction. The inaugural special was accorded ceremonial recep-



The Mangaluru Central-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express ready for the inaugural run on Saturday, at Mangaluru Central Railway Station. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

tion en-route. Regular services (except Thursdays) will start from January 1. Train No. 20642 leaves Coimbatore at 5 a.m. to reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 11.30 a.m. Train No. 20641 leaves Cantonment at 1.40 p.m. to reach Coimbatore at 8 p.m.

Mr. Modi also flagged off Train No. 13434/13433 Malda Town (West Bengal)-Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Weekly Express from Malda. Train No. 13434 leaves Malda Town on Sundays at 8.50 a.m. to reach SMVT Bengaluru at 3 a.m. on Tuesdays via Kharagpur, Bhubaneswar, Vijaywada, Nellore and Katpadi. Train No. 13433 leaves SMVT

Bengaluru at 1.50 p.m. on Tuesdays to reach Malda Town at 11 a.m. on Thursdays.

Amrit Bharat is an LHB push-pull train with locomotives at both the ends and non air-conditioned coaches with special facilities for passengers.

Though the flagging off was scheduled to take place at 11 a.m., the programme was advanced to 10.30 a.m. However, finally, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the services and the trains began their journey, it was 12.10 pm. Invitees, including dignitaries, had to remain confined inside the rakes from 10.30 a.m. onwards.

**Source: The Hindu, p.8, Dec. 31, 2023**



# Rs 1,000-crore action plan to develop minority colonies: CM

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday sought a Rs 1,000-crore action plan to develop minority-dominated localities.

The directive came after Siddaramaiah, at a public event earlier this month, promised that he would gradually increase budgetary allocation for minorities to Rs 10,000 crore. At a meeting to review the minority welfare department, Siddaramaiah said the action plan should cover minority colonies and areas where their population is large.

Siddaramaiah also said that his government was ready to pay scholarship for minority students as the Centre had stopped it.

“The government is ready to pay scholarships to 6.4 lakh students. While Rs 60 crore is earmarked in the budget, another Rs 40 crore must be arranged with funds available with the department through re-appropriation,” the CM said, according to a statement

from his office.

It was also decided to increase allocation for various schemes meant for minorities.

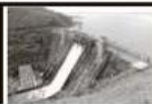
“A huge number of applications are being received online for these schemes,” the CM noted.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, Siddaramaiah has allocated Rs 2,101.19 crore for minority welfare.

In a statement, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said Siddaramaiah had instructed officials to submit a proposal on funds required to complete 52,189 houses meant for the poor under the PM Awas Yojana through the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation.

Siddaramaiah was briefed that beneficiaries had not paid their contribution amounting to Rs 2,013 crore. Beneficiaries have paid only Rs 134 crore. “Most of the beneficiaries are poor and not in a position to pay Rs 4 lakh each. They don’t get loan from banks. As was done for the Karnataka Slum Development Board, if each beneficiary pays Rs 1 lakh and the rest borne by the government, this housing project would be completed,” Zameer said.

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**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5C, Dec.30, 2023**



# K'taka plans to checkmate Centre with mega job fair ahead of LS polls

## High-level ministerial team to oversee event

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has planned a mega job fair in Bengaluru towards the end of January.

Politically, the event will underline the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's pet narrative on unemployment against the BJP government going into the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress government hopes to earn brownie points by delivering jobs to youngsters at the state-level event.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a preparatory meeting on the proposed employment fair (Udyoga Mela) with his Cabinet colleagues and officials.

A team, comprising Industries Minister MB Patil, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharage, Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar, Youth Empowerment & Sports Minister B Nagendra, Labour Minister Santosh Lad and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, has been constituted to oversee the employment fair.

In a statement, Siddaramaiah said the ministerial team will hold meetings with employers from various sectors and get them to participate in the job fair.

"The BJP government couldn't provide employment. Rahul Gandhi highlighted this



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah holds a preparatory meeting on the proposed employment fair, in Bengaluru on Friday. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Home Minister G Parameshwara and Industries Minister M B Patil are seen.

during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. We want to provide employment to Kannadigas, for which we've planned a programme," Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said after the preparatory meeting.

The government does not want this to be a regular job

fair. "It will be a mega job fair with a new design," Shivakumar said. "It'll be held first in Bengaluru. It'll be taken to other places later," he said, adding that the job fair will cover sectors such as hospitality, manufacturing and IT/BT. "We want to help rural candi-

dates as much as possible."

According to Siddaramaiah, the ministerial team will also recommend long-term programmes to bridge the gap between job seekers' skills and employers' needs.

Siddaramaiah also wants overseas job opportunities to be considered. "Moreover, there is a need to have an employment policy to improve job opportunities for the state's youth," the chief minister said and sought "necessary ground-work" on this.

### 10K applications for Yuva Nidhi

The government has received 10,834 applications for the Yuva Nidhi scheme as of 6 pm Friday.

Under this scheme, unemployed graduates and diploma holders will get a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 and Rs 1,500 for two years. Payment of the allowance will start with a public event in Shivamogga on January 12.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5C, Dec.30, 2023

# ArcelorMittal on verge of exiting state

## Govt Stuck With 2,643 Acres Of Land, Searching For Another Purchaser

Sandeep Moudgal  
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**Bengaluru:** The state government, after persisting with steel behemoth Arcelor-Mittal for the last 14 years, will now have to find an alternative to the steel company's project as it is being learnt that it is on the verge of exiting Karnataka.

Having already placed on record in the Supreme Court that it is willing to forgo the deposit of Rs 267 crore, which it had given to Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB), and also "desirous" to return the entire 2,643 acres, the Karnataka government is caught in a fix over what to do with the land when it is returned.

The situation was discussed in detail by CM Siddaramaiah, the industries department and a delegation of the land losers in Belagavi earli-

### 14 YEARS LATER...

- Awarded in June 2010, ArcelorMittal had proposed to set up a 6 MTPA capacity steel project in Sandur, Ballari district, and envisaged Rs 30,000-crore investment
- Land acquisition issues turn complicated as farmers approach courts for enhanced remunerations
- ArcelorMittal tries to turn their project into a solar power park which is turned down by KIADB citing SUC rules
- On February 2023, SC gives verdict favouring land losers which may force the company to pay close to Rs 1 crore per acre in a few cases and setting precedence for other land losers



FOR RELIEF: Land losers met CM Siddaramaiah along with Sandur MLA E Tukaram in Belagavi recently

- Company files writ petition where it claims it is "desirous" of returning the land and forfeit its Rs 267-crore deposit

er this month during the legislature session. "With enhanced compensations being awarded by the Supreme Court, ArcelorMittal is more than happy to return the land. They are trying to extricate themselves from this project with no intent of pursuing the same," said senior officials from the CMO and

the government. The Congress regime is concerned by the situation as it is neither good for the investor climate nor does it help it with such large tracts of land being returned without any alternative purchaser.

"The government can only hope for a third party to come forward and take the land

for setting up a similar industry," said another official.

Meanwhile, the government has remained "non-committal" on the issue and said it is a sub-judice matter.

"KIADB had facilitated the purchase of land for a single unit complex (SUC), which denies the land to be reused for any other purpose.

The matter is pending before the Supreme Court and is between the land losers and the company. The government cannot comment on the matter as it is sub-judice," said industries minister MB Patil.

According to Sandur MLA E Tukaram, who took the lead earlier this year to tell the farmers and land losers concerns of the company not complying with SC orders of either paying the enhanced compensations or setting up the industry, the company has more or less decided to exit from the project.

"Despite the land losers ready to negotiate with Arcelor-Mittal, in return for a slightly enhanced compensation and jobs, the company has already said it will not start operations. It has also communicated to KIADB that it is ready to forfeit even the Rs 267 crore which it had kept as deposit," said the MLA.

Source: The Times of India, p.6, Dec.30, 2023



# State begins Rs 800-cr project to save fragile coast

## Shoring up the coast

■ 4 focus areas of coastal erosion, capacity building, fishery berths, beach maintenance

■ To adopt evidence-based approach, priority for environment-friendly solutions

■ Fishery-cum-tourism berths will be constructed in Bhatkal, Tadadi, Gangolli and Padubidri

■ Local governments, NGOs will be roped in to prevent pollution of beaches, regulate tourism

■ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has shown interest in funding the project

## Coastal Resilience Programme to check erosion, boost fisheries, tourism

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major effort to begin mitigation and adaptation measures to protect lives and livelihoods from the threats of climate change in coastal areas, the Karnataka Maritime Board (KMB) has begun working on the Coastal Resilience Programme, a

project expected to cost over Rs 800 crore.

The project will adopt a multi-pronged approach where short-term and long-term measures will be taken up after studies warned that the state's shoreline is highly vulnerable to coastal erosion, flooding and other associated challenges.

KMB chief executive officer Jayaram Raipura said detailed project reports are being prepared for the works envisioned under the resilience programme. "There are four major components, from coastal erosion to capacity building and construction of fishery berths to beach maintenance. We will in-



volve subject experts in each component and work with non-government organisations in some of the activities, especially those focussed on building awareness," he said.

He said the major component of the programme was prevention of erosion. KMB will adopt an evidence-based

approach with a priority for environment-friendly solutions. The component also involves treatment of beaches with a focus on natural hazard protection.

Fishery-cum-tourism berths will be constructed in Bhatkal, Tadadi, Gangolli and Padubidri. "Here, we

are looking at boosting both the fishery and tourism sectors. The tourism sector has a huge potential to support the livelihood of the coastal communities but is yet to be explored," he said.

KMB seeks to build a robust management system to keep the beaches clean. Officials said local governments and non-government organisations will be roped in to develop a mechanism to prevent pollution of the beaches and regulate tourism.

Raipura said the Asian Development Bank has shown interest in funding the project. "We estimate the project to cost between Rs 800 and Rs 1,100 crore," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Dec.31, 2023**

## Bescom backs plea for multiple solar units on apartment roofs

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**Bengaluru:** Determined to reduce the load on the state power grid and cut down on surging monthly electricity bills, apartments have collectively demanded that Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) permit them to set up 'multiple rooftop' solar installations on one building premises.

Responding positively to the demand that would subsequently result in surplus power, Bescom has told Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) that it will seek guidance

from Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). The BAF and RWAs could also approach KERC for detailed guidelines, it said.

Faced with technical hurdles, apartment complexes were unable to install multiple solar installations even though they had ample facilities and space to do so. "Currently, the apartments or resident welfare associations (RWAs) can install solar rooftop only on the even roof-top as per the definition. Even if RWAs want to extend the panels beyond the roof on to adjoining structures or elongated platforms on the roof, Bescom will



**IT WILL BE A WIN-WIN:** Apartments say use of multiple rooftops will help in increased generation of power and reduced burden on the grid

not permit multiple installations," explained a member of an apartment RWA.

Vikram Rai, president, BAF, said: "Usually, other than the main roof, apartment

complexes have multiple structures such as community hall building, gym building or parking space with a wider roof. Despite such a wider roof area, multiple solar roof-top installa-

tions were not permitted. It was a small technical issue and we petitioned Bescom to resolve the same and help us extend the installation of solar panels beyond the main roof as this would only result in increased generation of power and reduced burden on the grid during peak load hours."

Acknowledging the demand, Mahantesh Bilagi, managing director, Bescom said they have discussed the issue at length. "We are positive on the suggestion. But any changes in rules, beyond the definition of rooftop as enumerated, require permission and approval by Karnataka Electricity Regula-

tory Commission (KERC). We have informed the apartments that they will seek guidance from the KERC and in the meantime, BAF and RWAs can also approach the KERC for detailed guidelines."

Yet another member of an RWA from Bengaluru North said, "The more such net metering units, the more will be the benefit for Bescom and the energy department. This will help reduce the peak-load demand which will impact the effective management of the grid. The more such solar installations on a building, the more energy can be added to the grid."

**Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan. 2, 2024**

# Dip in beer sales during Christmas and New Year revelry cuts excise revenue

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

A normal trend of high collection of excise duty revenue in the State ahead of Christmas and New Year revelry this year has been dented as the collection dropped in the last week of December by 5.58% compared to the corresponding period last year.

This reduction has been attributed to drop in sales of beer though the excise duty on liquor had been increased earlier this year.

While ₹744 crore had been collected between December 23 and December 31, 2022, ₹702.99 crore has been collected this year, marking a decline by 5.58%.

## Earlier years

In the earlier years, the revenue during this holiday window had seen an increase by 19.74% in 2021 compared to 2020 while

## Sales between December 23 and 31

**Total IML sales:** 22.02 lakh carton boxes; increase by 5.92% over last year

**Total beer sales:** 14.07 lakh carton boxes; decline by 7.43% over last year

**Total excise revenue collected:** ₹702.99 crore; decline by 5.58% over last year

2022 had seen an increase by 1.16% over 2021.

This excise revenue decline has been attributed to dip in sale of beer by 7.43% from 15.2 lakh carton boxes in 2022 to 14.07 lakh carton boxes in 2023.

Incidentally, the beer sale in 2022 had seen a whopping 35.23% increase during this period from 11.24 lakh carton boxes in 2021 to 15.20 lakh carton

boxes. The sale of beer had increased by 15.81% in 2020 and 5.84% in 2021.

However, the sale of IML has seen an increase by 5.92% from 20.79 lakh carton boxes to 22.02 lakh carton boxes. The growth in sales of IML in 2022 and 2021 was 6.83% and 11.33%, respectively.

## IML sale

Meanwhile, the total sale of IML in the first nine months of this financial year has been reported to be 533.04 lakh carton boxes of IML and 324.32 lakh carton boxes of beer, bringing the total revenue collection to be around ₹30,620 crore, a 13.46% growth.

While sale of IML has increased by 1.69%, the sale of beer has increased by 15.59%. In 2022, a total of 524.19 lakh carton boxes of IML and 280 lakh carton boxes of beer for a total revenue of 26,987 crore.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan. 2, 2024**



# ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ 10% ಏರಿಕೆ | ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಫಸಲು ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ₹ 1.64 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಆದಾಯ

■ **ಏಕೀಕರಣ** ಹೊಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸರಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವಾ ತೆರಿಗೆ (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ) ಸಂಗ್ರಹವು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.10ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, 1.64 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1.49 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯವು ಏರುಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷದ 9 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್-ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ನಡುವೆ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಶೇ.12ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದು 14.97 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷದ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 13.40 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು.

ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ಒಂಟು ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವು ಸರಾಸರಿ 1.66 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಆದಾಯವು 1,64,882 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ 30,443 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿನಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಎಸ್‌ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ 37,935

**14.97 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.**  
ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷದ  
9 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಆದಾಯ

**12%**

ಕಳೆದ 9 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹದಲ್ಲಿನ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಟ್ಟ

ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ, ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಟಿ 84,255 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ (41,534 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿದ ಸರಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ) ಮತ್ತು ಸೆಸ್ 12,249 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ನಷ್ಟಿದೆ (ಸರಕುಗಳ ಆಮದಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾದ 1,079 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸೆಸ್) ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 1.60 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ ಏಳೇ ತಿಂಗಳಾಗಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.



**ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ 5 ಕಾರಣ**

- ತೆರಿಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಗಳು
- ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬಿಗಿ ನಿಗಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ
- ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ವೆಂಚರ್‌ಗೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣ
- ಅಗತ್ಯ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳ ದರ ಏರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಸಹಜವಾಗಿಯೇ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವೂ ವೃದ್ಧಿ
- ದೇಶದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆ ವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

**ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ 17% ಏರಿಕೆ  
2ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಕೆ**

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವು 17% ವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, 11,759 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಏರಿತು. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷದ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 10,061 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 26,854 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟ**

ಕಳೆದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1.64 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇದು ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅನಾಗಡ್ಕಿ, ವರ್ಷದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಶೇ.10ರ ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1.67 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮತ್ತು ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1.72 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

**ಪ್ರಮುಖ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ  
ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ  
(ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)**

ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು	9,888
ಗುಜರಾತ್	9,874
ಹರಿಯಾಣ	8,130
ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ	8,011
ಮೊಗದ್ದಿ	5,121
ಸಚ್ಚಿದ್ವರ್ತಿ	5,019
ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ	4,753
ಓಡಿಶಾ	4,351
ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ	3,828
ಅಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ	3,545
ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ	3,423
ಚಾರ್ಖಿಡ್	2,632
ಛತ್ತೀಸ್‌ಗಢ	2,612
ಕೇರಳ	2,458
ಪಂಜಾಬ್	1,875
ಬಿಹಾರ	1,487
ಉತ್ತರಾಖಂಡ	1,470
ಆಸ್ಸಾಂ	1,303

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.5, Jan.02, 2024

# Electric vehicles witness record registrations in 2023

**K'taka accounted for 10% of all EV registrations in India**

**ANJALI JAIN**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

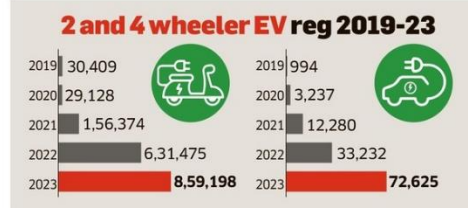
The past year saw bumper sales of electric vehicles in India as their registrations amounted to 15,29,614 units, up 49% from 10,25,123 EVs registered in the previous year, according to data on Vahan, the Centre's vehicle registration portal.

Two-wheeler sales continued

to drive a majority of registrations at 8,59,198 units. However, a larger growth in numbers was seen in four-wheelers, which surged to 72,625 registrations from 33,232 in the previous year, marking an increase of more than 118%.

Registration of electric three wheelers, which are mostly used by commercial players like fleet operators, also went up from 3,50,244 units in 2022 to 5,82,527 units in the previous year.

Some 9,270 'light' passenger vehicles, 3,003 e-goods vehicles, 2,592 e-buses, and eight tractors were also registered in 2023, along with 277 EVs in the 'others' category. As many as



114 more electric vehicles were registered in the previous year that fell in categories that are yet to see significant uptake.

Out of the total number of EVs registered in 2023, 1,52,324 were in Karnataka, making up for almost 10% of overall sales in the country.

And industry insiders say that expansion of charging infrastructure, and the continued support of the government towards the sector bodes well for 2024. "This year, India saw a record-breaking year-on-year growth in EV sales, fueled by a potent mixture of factors.

Government incentives, coupled with rising fuel prices and growing consumer awareness, have paved the way for an EV revolution," said Dinesh Arjun, co-founder and chief executive officer of e-motorcycle startup Raptee Energy.

Experts say that despite EVs being heavier on the pocket in terms of upfront cost, a big driver in India is the low total cost of ownership they provide in the long term, which is optimum for fleet operators and delivery services that have been feeling the pinch of expensive fuel rates.

► **Electric vehicles, Page 5**  
**Indian carmakers post record sales in 2023, P12**

## Electric vehicles, from Page 1

The expansion of India's charging infrastructure, improving battery technology, along with continued government incentives, are expected to continue this accelerated growth in the next year.

"The Indian government's ambitious plans, coupled with private sector participation, are accelerating the deployment of charging infrastructure, thereby addressing one of the key challenges in EV adoption," said Raptee's Arjun.

Manufacturers are already changing their strategies to attract a larger consumer section towards electric mobility. According to experts, 2023

saw original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) launch a number of affordable models, especially in the 2W category and the introduction of even more cost-effective models targeted at the mass market is expected in 2024.

"With reduced government subsidies, there will be a dual focus on streamlined, entry-level EV models and high-end variants with advanced features. The electric motorcycle segment is expected to witness a surge, intensifying competition in the 2W EV space, with established internal combustion engine manufacturers making forays into the electric market," according to Sumeru Shah, business head of EV two-wheeler at green financier Ecofy.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1 &5, Jan.2, 2024**



16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಮೇಲೆ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೇರುವ ಯತ್ನ

# ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು: ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸೊಲ್ಲು

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೊಕ್ಕಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪಾಲು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸೊಲ್ಲೆತ್ತಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಣಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

2025-26ರಿಂದ ತನ್ನ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಿರುವ 16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಮುಂದೆ ತಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯದ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ಕೇಳುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒಗ್ಗೂಡಿಸುವ ತ್ವರಿಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹಣಕಾಸು ಖಾತೆಯನ್ನೂ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರು, 'ಅನ್ಯಾಯ'ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ನ್ಯಾಯಯುತ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಡಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಾದದ ನೆಲೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲು 'ವಿಶೇಷ ಕೋಶ'ವನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ.

15 ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ ರಚನೆಯಾಗುವವರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಪಾಲು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಬಳಿಕ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು, ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಅನುದಾನ, ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಕುಸಿಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಹೋಯಿತು. '15ನೇ

ಯಾವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು*		
ರಾಜ್ಯ	ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು(ಶೇ)	ಮೊತ್ತ (ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ	3.64	37,252.21
ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು	4.07	41,664.86
ತೆಲಂಗಾಣ	2.10	21,470.84
ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ	4.04	41,338.02
ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ	6.31	64,524.88
(ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪಾಲು)		
ಬಿಹಾರ	10.05	1,02,737.26
ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ	7.85	80,183.67
ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ	6.02	61,552.47
ಉತ್ತರಪ್ರದೇಶ	17.93	1,83,237.59
ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಬಂಗಾಳ	7.52	76,843
(ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪಾಲು)		
*ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭೆಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ		

ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಮತ್ತು ಗಂಭೀರ ಸವಾಲು ಎದುರಾಯಿತು. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಪಾಲು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಯಿತು. 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಗುಣಕವು ಶೇ 1.98ರಷ್ಟಿದ್ದರೆ, 2021-26ರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 15 ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 1.5ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಎರಡು ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕವು

ಅನುದಾನದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರ* (ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)			
ಅನುದಾನ	ಎಲ್ಲ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ	ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ (%)
ರಾಜಸ್ವ ಕೊರತೆ ಅನುದಾನ	2,94,514	1,631	0.6
ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ	4,36,361	21,877	5.0
ವಲಯ-ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಅನುದಾನ	1,29,987	4,560	3.5
ವಿವಿಧ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅನುದಾನ	1,22,601	4,369	3.6
ರಾಜ್ಯ-ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಅನುದಾನ	49,599	6,000	12.1
ಒಟ್ಟು ಸರಾಸರಿ	10,33,062	38,437	3.7
*ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕರಣ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ			

## ವಿಶೇಷ ಕೋಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರು?

ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರಚಿಸಲಿರುವ ವಿಶೇಷ ಕೋಶದಲ್ಲಿ 14 ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಎಂ.ಗೋವಿಂದ ರಾವ್, ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂ.ಆರ್. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಯಾನ್ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಪಾಣಿ ಅವರು ಇರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 24.5ರಷ್ಟು ಕುಸಿತ ಕಂಡಿತು ಎಂದು 2023ರ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಾದ ಅಧಿಕರಣ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದೆ.	14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ 4.71ರಷ್ಟು ಪಾಲು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.
7ನೇ	ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

## 'ಇತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಸಹಕಾರ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತೇವೆ'

'ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ಒಗ್ಗಟ್ಟಿನಿಂದ ಹೋರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ, ಕೇರಳ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ ನೇರವನ್ನೂ ಕೇಳುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಈ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳೂ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ನಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿವೆ' ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರ ಅಧಿಕರಣ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ ಬಸವರಾಜ ರಾಯರಡಿ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

7ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಶೇ 3.64 ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ₹26,140 ಕೋಟಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಆಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

2019-23ರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ನಾಯಕರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರು, ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ ಕುಸಿತವಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿಯೇ ತರಾಟೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದು ಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ರಾಜ್ಯವಾರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ

ಮೋದಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದೇ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ. ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುವ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದಿರುವಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಮಾನದಂಡ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ತೀರ್ಮಾನವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಒಟ್ಟು ಜಿಡಿಪಿಯ ಮೂರನೇ ಒಂದರಷ್ಟು ಹಾಗೂ ತೆರಿಗೆಯ ಶೇ 30ರಷ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಕೇರಳ, ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ತೆಲಂಗಾಣದಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪಾಲು ನೀಡುವಾಗ, ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಬಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ತಾರತಮ್ಯದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಧ್ವನಿ ಎತ್ತಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಇದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅನ್ಯಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿರುವ ಉತ್ತರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ

ಆಲೋಚನೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ.

ನೀತಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ಮಾಜಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಲಂಬಿಯಾ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ಅರವಿಂದ್ ಪನಗಡಿಯಾ ಅವರು 16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು. 2026ರ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 1ರಿಂದ ಇದು ಕಾರ್ಯಾರಂಭ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದು, ಇದರ ಅವಧಿ ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳು.

ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಬದಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇದರ ಬದಲಿಗೆ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಲಸಿಗರು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಂತಹ 'ಗಮ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯ'ಗಳನ್ನು ಪುರಸ್ಕರಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪಾಲು ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ವಾದವನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಿದೆ ಎಂದೂ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.1 &7, Jan.03, 2024



# No response yet on K'taka's plea to hike MNREGA funds

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**Bengaluru:** Karnataka, grappling with a severe drought, has utilised 90% of its allocated 13 crore person days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Despite facing the impending harsh summer season, the state government's appeal to increase the number of person days from 100 to 150 per person and raise the allocation to 18 crore person days for the fiscal year has seemingly fallen on deaf ears at the Centre.

The MGNREGA directorate reveals that Karnataka has already exhausted 11.6 crore of the 13 crore person days allocated by the Centre. Pavan Kumar Malapati, director of MGNREGA, expressed hope that the requested addition of 5 crore person days would be accepted, con-



**DROUGHT IMPACT:** There is demand to increase person days under MGNREGA

sidering the heightened demand for MGNREGA works expected in the months of January, February, and March.

Sources in the rural development and panchayat raj department estimate a demand for person days ranging from 1 crore to 1.5 crore each month during this period. Approximately 3.5 lakh families have completed between 80 to 100 person days, with each person entitled to a maximum of 100 person days

in a fiscal, earning Rs 316 per day per person.

Meanwhile, RDPR minister Priyank Kharge criticized the Centre for what he described as "step-motherly treatment" towards non-BJP governed states, citing a lack of relief to Karnataka despite electing a significant number of BJP MPs. He expressed disappointment with the Centre's response to Mandya independent MP Sumalatha Ambareesh's query on additional person days for the poor. Minister of state for rural development ministry, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyothi, stated in response that there is no proposal to increase the number of days for guaranteed employment under MGNREGS.

Kharge countered this, highlighting Karnataka's request is already under consideration and revealing what he called the Centre's "duplicity" in helping the state during a drought year.

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



# K'taka plans bloc against 'skewed' devolution

To take joint fight with 'developed states' to 16th finance panel

**BHARATH JOSHI**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress-ruled Karnataka wants to bring "developed" states together for a strong case before the 16th Finance Commission on making devolution of taxes more equitable even as the Siddaramaiah administration is forming a special cell to burish its own argument.

Karnataka was among the states that lost heavily under the 15th Finance Commission, whose tenure ends in 2025-26.

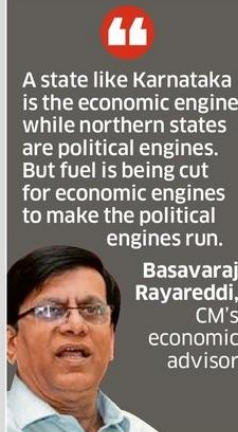
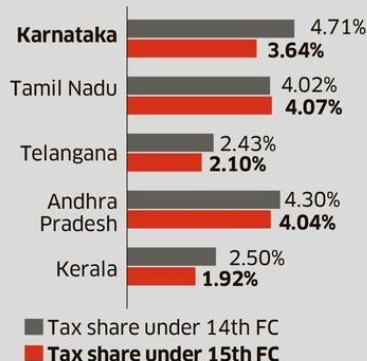
The 14th Finance Commission gave Karnataka a share of 4.71% in the divisible pool of taxes. The state's share came down to 3.64% under the 15th Finance Commission.

The reduction meant a shortfall of Rs 26,140 crore in just the last three years for Karnataka, the state government has claimed.

The 16th Finance Commission, headed by former Niti Aayog vice-chairman Panagariya, will cover a five-year period starting April 1, 2026.

"We will seek the cooperation of other states. We have to put up a united fight," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi, a senior lawmaker,

## Tax share of top states



told *DH*. He pointed out that states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and "to some extent West Bengal" suffered losses under devolution.

"The 16th Finance Commission is very important for Karnataka. We must safeguard the state's interests. Now, there is disparity (in devolution of taxes) between the developed and undeveloped states," Rayareddi said, adding that he would soon start work on the state's argument before the 16th Finance Commission. "A state like Karnataka is the economic engine while northern states are political engines. But fuel is being cut for economic engines to make the political engines run," he argued.

In March 2018, before demitting office as the CM in his first term, Siddaramaiah batted for the southern states and famously wrote on Facebook: "Historically, the South has been subsidising the North."

The government is creating a special cell to prepare

its pitch for the 16th Finance Commission. This is expected to come up before the Cabinet this Friday, sources said.

The cell is likely to have economists such as former 14th Finance Commission member M Govinda Rao, retired IAS officer MR Sreenivasa Murthy (he headed the 6th state pay commission) and Narendar Pani from the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

According to sources, Karnataka is likely to stick to its argument that "destination states" must be rewarded for receiving migrants from lesser-developed states.

The government will also seek corrections in income distance, which is the per-capita GSDP of a state compared with that of a state with the highest per-capita GSDP. Karnataka has argued that the 16th Finance Commission should look beyond cities with high per-capita income as other parts are less-developed with lower per-capita income.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1, Jan.3, 2024**

# B'luru office space leasing drops 19% in 2nd half of 2023

Only Indian city to show decline on back of tech slowdown

SHAKSHI JAIN  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's office market -- traditionally a flagbearer of commercial leasing in India -- took a hit in the back half of 2023 as third party IT services providers trimmed their leasing to 15%, from 27% in 2022 - a report by property consultancy Knight Frank India revealed on Wednesday. This comes on

the back of a larger slowdown and funding crunch in the tech and start-up space.

At 5.5 million square feet (mn sq ft) in total office leasing transactions during the July-December period, the garden city recorded a 19% year-on-year decline, the only one among the top-eight Indian cities to witness de-growth.

"Because of a compulsion to conserve resources amid recessionary pressures, Europe and America-based clients of these third party IT services companies either did not roll out contracts or entered into moderated contracts in 2023. As a result, these IT companies hired in lower numbers and resorted to work from home to save on costs," Vivek

## Office transactions in top-8 markets (in mnsf)

City	H2 2023
Bengaluru	5.5 (-19%)
Chennai	6.3 (82%)
NCR	5 (4%)
Hyderabad	5.9 (68%)
Mumbai	4.2 (23%)
Pune	4.4 (54%)
Ahmedabad	1.3 (44%)
Kolkata	0.8 (45%)
Total	33.4 (27%)
*(YoY % change)	

Rathi, who heads research at Knight Frank India, explained.

Others agreed. "The third party IT services companies did not expand much in 2023,

this decline is primarily because of that," Rohan Sharma, senior director, research, at property consultancy JLL said.

This crunch in leasing requirement was however cushioned by flexible workspaces, India facing businesses of multinational conglomerates and global capability centres, the report noted. As a result, Bengaluru retained its leadership position to top overall office leasing among the top eight markets in 2023 at 12.5 million square feet.

The city also sold 54,046 residential units in the whole of 2023 -- the highest in the past nine years, accompanied by a 7% annual surge in prices. With a fresh supply of 13.4

mn sq ft of office space during last year, unsold inventory currently stands at 215 million square feet.

According to the report, the average transacted rentals in the city grew by 6.6% year-on-year to Rs 86.4 per sq ft a month in 2023. While the micro markets of peripheral business district east and Outer Ring Road recorded significant rental growth, the central business district commanded the highest rental range of Rs 110-195 a square ft a month.

Experts who spoke to *DH* cited at least a six-month period before IT services companies may report a recovery in their share of overall office space leasing.

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"It is dependent on a change in the economic scenario globally. I see an improvement happening between 12-18 months," Sharma said.

The outlook for Bengaluru's office market remains positive. "The acceleration of return to office by firms and the growth in India facing businesses along with stable business inflow from the western developed markets into India, should support the growth in the office market demand in the near term," Shantanu Mazumder, Knight Frank Executive Director for Bengaluru, said.

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



ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ  
ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ  
ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಪಾಲು

# ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಭಾರಿ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಗುಜರಾತಿಗೆ ವಿಪರೀತ ಏರಿಕೆ

15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾದ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯು ಏಕಪ್ರಕಾರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ತನ್ನ ನೆಲೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಲಾಭವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಈ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯೇ ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಾಲು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು 10ರಿಂದ 12.5ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹೀಗಾಗಿದೆ

• ಜಯಸಿಂಹ ಆರ್.

ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ನೇರ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರೋಕ್ಷ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದ ಬೇರೆಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಲಾಭವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ತಲಾ ಆದಾಯ ಅಂತರ, ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಮಾನದಂಡಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿದಾರರ ಹಲವಾರು ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ದಿಹಾರ, ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ, ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನದಂತಹ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರಿ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಂತಹ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಪಾಲು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. 2020-21ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದವರೆಗೂ ಇದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಆದರೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ಪಡೆದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದ ನಂತರ ಈ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿದಾರರ ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು, ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ, ಆಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಒಡಿಶಾಗಳ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. 2018-19ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕಿಂತ 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ 2018-19ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದ ಪಾಲಿನ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 35,894 ಕೋಟಿ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಬರಬರಾ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರಕಿದ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದ ಪಾಲಿನ ಮೊತ್ತ ₹34,496 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಆದರೆ ಏದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪಾಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯಿತು.

## ಮೊದಲಿ ತಮಿಳು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ 51ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ

ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಗುಜರಾತಿಗೆ. 2018-19ರಲ್ಲಿ ₹23,489 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಗುಜರಾತ್, 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ₹35,525 ಕೋಟಿ ಪಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಗುಜರಾತಿನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹12,036 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಅಂದರೆ ಶೇ51ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

## 2018-19ರಿಂದ 2022-23ರ ಅವಧಿ

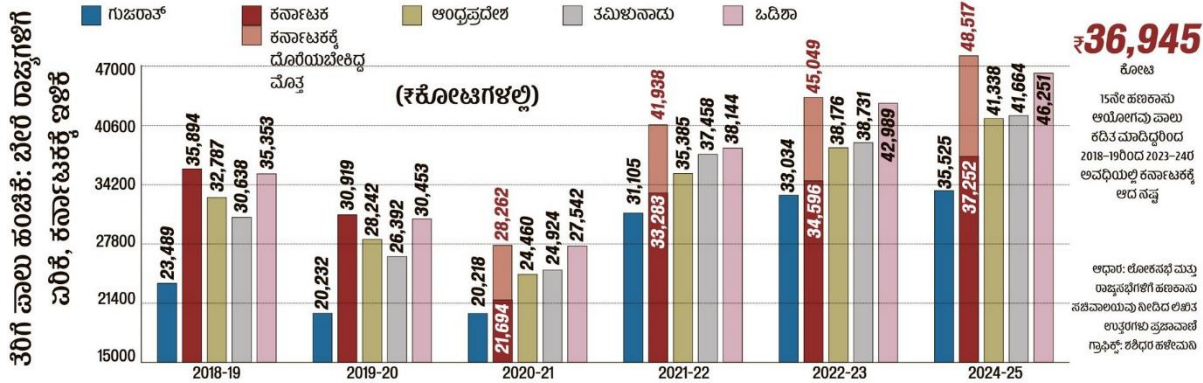


15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲೇ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯವು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಹೇಳಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ 4.74ರಷ್ಟು ಪಾಲು ಸಂದಾಯವಾಗಬೇಕು ಎಂದು 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ ಹೇಳಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ 2019-20ರವರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ 4.74ರಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪಾಲನ್ನು ಶೇ 3.64ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸಿತು. 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ಮಾಡಿದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಪಾಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮೊತ್ತ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇರಳಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಆಯೋಗವು ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೇಗೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಲಾಭವೇನೂ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂದರೆ ಅವು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಏನೂ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ತಮಿಳುನಾಡು, ಆಂಧ್ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಒಡಿಶಾಗಳ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಈ ಮೂರೂ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳು ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವು. ಈಗಲೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇವೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ನೆಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಈ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆ ಗಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಇದು ಮುಟ್ಟುಹಾಕಿದೆ. ಒಡಿಶಾವು 2018-19ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ತೆರಿಗೆ

ಬಹು ಎಂಬುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪಾಲು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಉತ್ತರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಿತರಿದ್ದ, 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನ ಮೊತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ₹10,000 ಕೋಟಿಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಂಧ್ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹8,551 ಕೋಟಿ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನವು ₹11,026 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ ₹1,358 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಶೇ 3.8ರಷ್ಟು. 2018-19ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅನುದಾನವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸಿನ ನಂತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪಾಲು ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ. 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗವು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಪಾಲಿನಷ್ಟೇ ಮೊತ್ತ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯುವಂತಿದ್ದರೆ, 2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ₹48,517 ಕೋಟಿ ಬರಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದು ₹37,252 ಕೋಟಿ. 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ನಿಶ್ಚಯದಂತೆ 2023-24ರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷವೊಂದರಲ್ಲೇ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ₹11,265 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಖೋತಾ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಿದು.



Source: Prajavani, p.9, Jan.04, 2024



# Devolution: Karnataka's tax pie shrinks

State share less in  
2023-24 compared  
to 5 yrs ago

BHARATH JOSHI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka could have received over Rs 58,000 crore under devolution of taxes this fiscal going by past allocations but the state's share is lower than what it was five years ago, an analysis of budget documents shows.

Tax share over the years					
14th Finance Commission			15th Finance Commission		
Year	Share	Received	Year	Share	Received
2015-16	Rs 24,789.78 cr	Rs 23,983.34 cr	2020-21	Rs 28,591 cr	Rs 21,694 cr
2016-17	Rs 26,978.84 cr	Rs 28,759.94 cr	2021-22	Rs 24,273 cr	Rs 33,284 cr
2017-18	Rs 31,908.05 cr	Rs 31,751.96 cr	2022-23	Rs 29,783 cr	Rs 34,596 cr
2018-19	Rs 36,215.28 cr	Rs 35,984.83 cr	2023-24	Rs 37,252 cr	Rs 21,931.74 cr*
2019-20	Rs 39,806.26 cr	Rs 30,919 cr	15th FC will continue into 2024-25 and 2025-26		

Source: Finance Department

\*up to Nov

With the Union government appointing economist Arvind Panagariya as the head of the 16th Finance Commission, which will determine how central taxes are distributed among states, the devolution

debate has sprung back to life, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, too, joining it.

On Thursday, Siddaramaiah stoked the 'north versus south' debate and said the southern states pay taxes that

are taken away by the northern states. He said that Karnataka gets back only 15 paise for every rupee it pays as tax while Bihar receives Rs 7.06 and Uttar Pradesh Rs 2.73.

► **Devolution, Page 5**

**Continued...**

## Devolution, from Page 1

"Karnataka's paradox: Second in GST collections, last in receiving grants," he said.

Between 2020 and 2022, under the 15th Finance Commission, Karnataka received Rs 89,574 crore under devolution. While this is more than the budget estimates, Karnataka has accused the Union government of shrinking the divisible pool itself.

"Out of the total collection, a large portion of money is left out of the divisible pool by considering it as cess. And cess is retained 100% by the Union government. We're asking the 16th Finance Commission to bring cess under the divisible pool," a top finance department official said.

Numbers reveal the chasm. In 2015-16, the state's share in taxes was Rs 24,789.78 crore. This rose to Rs 39,806.26 crore in 2019-20. That's a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of nearly 10%. At the same CAGR, Karnataka's share in taxes for 2023-24 should have been Rs 58,131.76 crore in 2023-24. But the state's share is Rs 37,252 crore — lower than what it was in 2019.

It must be noted that tax collections of states and the Union government dropped sharply in 2020-21 due to the pandemic-induced loss of economic activities.

While Karnataka should have received Rs 1.59 lakh crore under devolution of taxes as fixed by the 14th Finance Commission between 2015

and 2020, the state received Rs 1.51 lakh crore, a shortfall of Rs 8,299.14 crore.

The 14th Finance Commission gave Karnataka a share of 4.71% in the divisible pool of taxes. The state's share came down to 3.64% under the 15th Finance Commission.

Siddaramaiah targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said his home state Gujarat saw a 51% rise in devolution, from Rs 23,489 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 35,525 crore.

"The BJP government is cutting Karnataka's tax share to fund development in Gujarat. The southern states pay taxes, which are snatched by the northern states," Siddaramaiah said. "Is this your Gujarat model? What's in this false model for Kannadigas?"

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



# KSRTC's new year plan: 2,000 new buses and cashless travel

The corporation will also add 1,000 refurbished buses and introduce a mobile app

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has big expansion plans for 2024. It intends to induct 2,000 new buses, including 500 e-buses, and to also introduce VTMS (Vehicle Tracking & Monitoring System), a mobile app, and cashless travel this year.

Anbu Kumar, Managing Director, KSRTC, said that the KSRTC will add 20 Ambari Utsav, 20 Airavat Club Class, 100 Pallaki buses which fall in the non-AC sleeper category, 1000 point to point Karnataka Sarige buses and 500 electric buses. Apart from this Mr. Kumar added that 1000 refurbished buses will be added to the fleet in 2024.

Following the launch of Shakti that provides free travel to women in State-owned non-premium transport corporation buses, there's been a significant demand for KSRTC buses, particularly in rural areas. A senior official said that the plan to induct 1000 Karnataka Sarige buses will improve rural connectivity in the State and it will also help the beneficiaries of the scheme. After the Kar-



Currently, the four RTCs operate 23,989 buses across the State. FILE PHOTO

nataka government launched the Shakti scheme, the four corporations (KSRTC, the BMTC, the NWKRTC, and the KKRTC) planned to procure 3,888 new buses. Currently, the four RTCs operate 23,989 buses across the State with an average run of 65.02 lakh kilometres per day. Meanwhile, it is not clear as to how many buses will be taken off roads this year in light of the recent High Court order, which said KSRTC should obtain fitness certificate for its buses from the Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) every year.

## **Cashless travel**

In response to passengers'

growing demand for a cashless travel experience, KSRTC is set to transition to a cashless system in 2024. Mr. Kumar said, "We plan to introduce cashless payment options, allowing passengers to use UPI, ATM, debit, or credit cards to make ticket payments."

The corporation has outlined plans to prioritise the enhancement of information technology. To benefit passengers, it aims to implement VTMS (Vehicle Tracking & Monitoring System) across its fleet and is scheduled to launch a dedicated KSRTC mobile app this year. According to Mr. Kumar, the 'Namma Cargo' parcel services, launched last month, are set to ex-

pand from the current fleet of 20 trucks to 500 by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the KSRTC has also waived 10,364 disciplinary cases against employees with minimal penalties, facilitating the return of 425 drivers to work. Additionally, the corporation has secured 50 national and international awards in the year 2023, according to officials.

The Corporation recently wrapped up the 'Labour Welfare Year' in 2023, implementing initiatives focused on improving the welfare of its employees. During the year, ₹1 crore was allocated to the families of deceased employees as relief.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan. 5, 2024**

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## EDUCATION

# Govt. announces salary hike for guest lecturers

Now, they are getting remuneration from a minimum ₹26,000 to ₹32,000 per month and with the revision, they will get ₹31,000 to ₹37,000 per month, effective from January 2024

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he Karnataka government has decided to revise the remuneration for guest faculty working in various government first-grade colleges, government engineering colleges, and polytechnics across the State by up to ₹5,000 per month and give a lump sum amount of about ₹5 lakh as a retirement benefit if they have served for at least 10 years. Health insurance of ₹5 lakh has also been assured.

Now, guest lecturers are getting remuneration on the basis of their educational qualification and seniority, from a minimum ₹26,000 to ₹32,000 per month. With the revision, they will get ₹31,000 to ₹37,000 per month, effective from January 2024.

Speaking at a press conference after holding a meeting with guest lecturers at Vikas Soudha, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said guest lecturers have been protesting since this November 23, for the fulfilment of many demands, including their services being made permanent. This has affected academic activities in colleges. The revision will be applicable to all the guest lecturers working under the Collegiate Education Department and Technical Education Department.



A file photo of a protest rally by guest lecturers in Bengaluru.

On health insurance, he said if the premium of ₹400 per month is paid by the guest lecturers, the government will pay the remaining premium amount. "Including increasing of remuneration, health insurance and retirement benefit for the guest lecturers, a total of ₹132 crores will be burden for the government," Dr. Sudhakar said.

### 5% weightage

To help them in future government recruitments, he added that 5% weightage would be given to guest lecturers based on seniority who have served for about 10 years, while recruiting assistant professors in the Collegiate Education Department and the Technical Education Department.

partment.

The government also decided to provide one day's leave per month to the guest lecturers with 15 hours per week.

Earlier, the BJP government had said they could not retain the services of guest lecturers as per a report by an expert committee.

"There are many legal complications. But our government has honestly fulfilled their other fair demands. So, the guest lecturers should give up their strike and report to work from January 1. If it fails, the government will take strict action. Also, around 30,000 applied for the post of guest lecturer this year, and we have around 10,000 second list of guest lecturers."

He warned that if the guest lecturers continued their strike, the government would definitely appoint the guest lecturers, who are on the second list of selection.

### Protest to continue

Despite the hike, the guest faculties are not happy with the government's decision. The Government First Grade Colleges Guest Lecturers' Association has decided to continue the protest.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, association president Hanumanthagowda R. Kalmani said their major demand is job security, which has not been met. "We will hold padayatra from Siddaganga Mutt to Bengaluru on January 1, 2024," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Dec. 30, 2023**



7 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ

# 17 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ

• ಶಿವರಾಯ ಪೂಜಾರಿ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವಾರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಆವರಣ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಬೋಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 48,285 ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿದ್ದು, 17,258 ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ 7 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆಯಿದೆ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1,664, ವಿಜಯನಗರ-1,159, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-1,160, ವಿಜಯಪುರ-1,144, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ-1,089, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ-1,025 ಮತ್ತು ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1,023 ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಕೆಲ ಕಡೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮೈದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂತು ಪಾಠ ಅಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲ ಕಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಕೊಠಡಿಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಶಾಲಾ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಿಸಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿಯೇ



ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ತೆಕ್ಕಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಶಿಥಿಲಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಶಾಲಾ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು - ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ/ಚಂದಬಾಷ್

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೂರಿಸಿ ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

'ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಹಳೆಯದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಶಿಥಿಲಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಚಾವಣಿ ಬಿರುಕು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಹೊರಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೂರಿಸಿ ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಳೆ, ಬಿಸಿಲಿನ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಸಿರುಗುಪ್ಪ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಬೇಸರ



ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 295 ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲಾ

ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಫೆಬ್ರುವರಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮುಗಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಕೆಳದಿಮಠ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

'2ರಿಂದ 3 ತರಗತಿಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದೇ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂರಿಸಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಪಾಠ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಮಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಆರ್ಥವಾಗು-



ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ

ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 7,098 ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ 9,604 ಕೊಠಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ

ಮಧು ಬಂಗಾರಪ್ಪ, ಸಚಿವ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಕ್ಷರತಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೂರಲು ಸಹ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬಳಿನಮ್ಯಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈವರೆಗೆ ಅವರು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ	
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ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತೋಡಿಕೊಂಡರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.7, Dec.30, 2023

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಹಲವು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ನೆರವು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಕಾಲ ಕಳೆದಂತೆ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ದೂರವೇ ಉಳಿಯುತ್ತವೆ. ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆಗೆ ಶರಣಾದ ರೈತ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೆರವಿಗಾಗಿ ಎದುರು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ವರದಿಗಾರರು ರೂಪಿಸಿದ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ವರದಿಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿವೆ.

# ಅನಾಥರು, ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಿಲ್ಲ ನೆರವು

ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮರುಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಉದಾಸೀನ

9 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯದ ಅನುದಾನ

■ ಶೀತಾಂತ್ ತೇಜಾದ್ರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಕೃಷಿ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿ ತೀರಿಸಲಾಗದೆ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಿಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ರೂಪುಗೊಂಡ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯೊಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದಾಸೀನದಿಂದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅನಾಥರಾಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೊಟಕುಗೊಳಿಸಬಾರದು ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ವಸತಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮರು ಭರಿಸಲು ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿ, 2015ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 13ರಂದು ಅದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದು ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಚ್ಚರಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಕಳೆದ 2-3 ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಓದುತ್ತಿರುವ ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಬೋಧನಾ ಶುಲ್ಕವಾಗಿ 24 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಮತ್ತು ವಸತಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ 48 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮರುಪಾವತಿಸುವುದು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಸಾರವಾಗಿದೆ.

2020-21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತಗೊಂಡ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯಂತೆ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳ ಮರುಭರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 169 ಫಲಾನುಭವಿ ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕೋಣೆ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೂ ಅನುದಾನ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತಗೊಂಡ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯಂತೆ

## ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

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ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ರೈತರ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ

ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹಾವೇರಿ (62), ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ

(56), ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು (49),

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ (32), ಮೈಸೂರು (30),

ವಿಜಯಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ 25 ನಡೆದಿವೆ.

19 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನದ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಾ

ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಅಂದರೆ 2023-24ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ

ವರ್ಷ ಕೋಣೆ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದರೂ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ

ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಆಕ್ರಮಣ

ನಡುಸೀರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ■ ಪುಟ 5A



■ ವಿ.ಕೆ. ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ

ಅನಾಥರು, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂಘರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾದವರು, ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಏಕ ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದ 'ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ' ಯೋಜನೆ ನಿಷ್ಫಯೋಜಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ 9 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ

ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗದ ಕಾರಣ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕುಟುಂಬ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಸುವುದು, ಬಾಲಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ತಡೆಯುವುದು, ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮುಂದುವರೆಸಿಕೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ, ಭಿಕ್ಷಾಟನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ, ನಿಂದನೆ, ತುಳಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾದ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಆಸರೆಯಾಗುವುದು 'ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ' ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಿಂದಾಗಿ ಏಕ ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಮುಕ್ತ ದೇವದಾಸಿಯರ ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಸೆರೆಮನೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಪಾಲಕರ ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಬಾಲಮಂದಿರದ ಬಾಲಕರು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸದ ಕಾರಣ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ಮಂಕಾಗುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ 18 ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬುವವರೆಗೆ

## 8,768 ಅರ್ಹರು

ಒಂದು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ

ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಸಹಾಯಧನ

ಮೊತ್ತ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ

ಅಯ್ಕೆಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ನೋಡಿ

ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ

ಫರ್ಮಾನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ

ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 9 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಕಳೆದಿದ್ದು, ಈವರೆಗೆ ಅನುದಾನ

ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 8,768

ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿದ್ದು, ನಿತ್ಯ ಕಚೇರಿ

ಅಲೆಯುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

‘ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ’ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ

ಅಯ್ಕೆಯಾದವರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು

ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪಾಲಿನ

ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಕೋರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಮನವಿ

ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಶೀಘ್ರ ಅನುದಾನ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ಮಾಡುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಇದೆ.

1 ತಿಂಪುಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳದ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ

ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ‘ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ’ ಯೋಜನೆಯ

ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ■ ಪುಟ 5A

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 4 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಸಹಾಯಧನಕ್ಕೂ ಬ್ರೇಕ್ ಅನುದಾನ ಕೊರತೆಯ ನೆಪ

# ಅನಾಥರು, ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ ನೆರವು

ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮರುಪಾವತಿಗೆ ಉದಾಸೀನ

9 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯದ ಅನುದಾನ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಮ್ಮಾನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 4 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ನೀಡುವುದನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಇದೀಗ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನೆರವನ್ನೂ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅನುದಾನ ಕೊರತೆಯ ನೆಪ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

2022-23 ಮತ್ತು 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಂತದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಎಂಬುದು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿವರಣೆ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮೃತ ರೈತರ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಷ್ಟ



ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಭಾವಿಸಿದಂತಿದೆ.

ರೈತರು ಮೃತರಾದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ರೈತ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಬಳಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಷ್ಟು ಜಮೀನಿತ್ತು? ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು? ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರೈತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಮಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆದಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈಗ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸಲೂಬು.

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಆರಂಭ ವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ತಲಾ ಒಂದು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡ ಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಿಷನ್ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಶೇ.60 ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇ.40 ಅನುದಾನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಭರಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಿಂದಾಗಿ ತಂದೆ-ತಾಯಿ ಇಬ್ಬರನ್ನೂ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪಿಎಂ ಕೇರ್ಸ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೆರವು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದರೆ ಏಕ ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡವರನ್ನು 'ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ' ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ

ಅನಾಥರು, ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ನಿಂದಾಗಿ

ಪಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡವರು

ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂಘರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ

ಒಳಗಾದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆನ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ.

'ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಕತ್ವ' ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಬಾಕಿ

ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ತಕ್ಷಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

1 ಬಸವರಾಜ ತೀಲವಂತರ

ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತ

ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕದ

ಮೂಲಕ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸು

ತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳ ಅಯ್ಕೆಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿ

ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಾಲು

ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಯಾಗದ ಕಾರಣ ರಾಜ್ಯ

ಸರ್ಕಾರವೂ ಅನುದಾನ ಒದಗಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.1-5A, Jan.2, 2024



ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೋ.ಜಯಕರ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಲಹೆ | ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾಭೀತಿಗೆ ಓಪನ್ ಬುಕ್ ಎಕ್ಸಾಂ ಮದ್ದು

# ಡಿಗ್ರಿಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

■ ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಕನಕಪುರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
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ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ 'ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ' (ಓಪನ್ ಬುಕ್) ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಅಂಕಗಳ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕೆಂದು ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಖಾಸಗಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪದವಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಲು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಯದ ಅಂಜಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ತನಿಖೆಗಾಗಿ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಬುಲೆನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಈ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಡಾ.ಎಸ್. ಎಂ.ಜಯಕರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯ ಸಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಕುಲಸಭೆ ಪ್ರೊ.ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್, ನಿರ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ಡಾ. ವೀಣಾ ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಷತ್ ನ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅದು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗಷ್ಟೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈ ಭಯ ಹೊಗಳಾಡಿಸಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಪದವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ವೇಳೆ ನಕಲು ಮಾಡಿದ ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಮಾತುಗಳಿಂದ ಮನನೋದಮಿ ವಿವಿ ಅವರಣದಲ್ಲೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಈ ರೀತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನಪ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿರುವ ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

ನಾಂದರ್ಥಿ ಚಿತ್ರ



ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಕಗಳ ಬದಲು ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

**ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ:** ಹಾಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಯೂಮಿಲೇಟಿವ್ ಗ್ರೇಡ್ ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್ ಅವರೇಜ್ (ಸಿಜಿಪಿಎ) ನೀಡುವ ಬದಲು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಕದ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ವಿದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಸಿಜಿಪಿಎ ಜತೆಗೆ ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಬೇಕೆಂದು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

**ಆಪ್ತ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆ:** ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೌನ್ಸಲಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಆಪ್ತ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯಬೇಕು. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ನ್ಯೂನತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕು. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಮನೋಬಲ ಹೆಚ್ಚಲಿದೆ. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆಯಂತಹ ದೊಡ್ಡ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

## ಎನಿದು ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ?

ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೆಲವು ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ, ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿ ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ (ವಿಟಿಯು) ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಬುಕ್ ಅಥವಾ ಆಕರ ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕವಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಆಕರಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತಿರಲಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಪಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

## ಲಿಂಗ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ತೆ ಕಲಿಸಿ

- ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ದೈಹಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಕಡೆ ಗಮನ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.
- ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ, ನಡವಳಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ, ಲಿಂಗ ಅಸಮಾನತೆ ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಮನ ನೀಡಬೇಕು
- ಅನುಭವಿ ಆಪ್ತ ಸಹಾಯಕರನ್ನು ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು

● ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ತೆರೆದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಕುರಿತು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಉಳಿದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

-ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.1, Jan.03, 2024

# ವಿವಿಗಳ ಶುಲ್ಕ 10% ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು

ಡಾ. ಲಿಂಗರಾಜ ಗಾಂಧಿ, ಹರೀಶ್ ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿ ವರದಿ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಶೇ.10 ಅಥವಾ 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ.20ರಿಂದ 25 ರಷ್ಟು ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು ನೇಮಿಸಿದ್ದ ಉಪ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿವೆ.

ಇದೇ ವೇಳೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕರೂಪದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸ್ಟುಡಿಗೆ ಏಕರೂಪದ ಸಂಭಾವನೆ ನಿಗದಿಗೂ ಈ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿವೆ. ಈ ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು ನೀಡಿರುವ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಲು ವಿವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ 32 ವಿವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕರೂಪ ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸಮಿತಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬೋಧಕ ಮತ್ತು ಬೋಧಕೇತರ ಸ್ಟುಡಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಸಂಭಾವನೆ/



ಭತ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸಲು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಈ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

**ಏಕರೂಪದ ಸಮಯ, ಶುಲ್ಕ ನಿಗದಿ:** ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಹಾಗೂ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಾಗಿ ವಿವಿಗಳು ಆನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಹಾಗೂ ದೀರ್ಘ ಸಮಯ ವ್ಯಯಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕರೂಪದ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗುವ ಸ್ಟುಡಿಗೆ ಏಕರೂಪದ ಸಂಭಾವನೆ ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

## ಮೂಲ ಆಶಯದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ

ಕೆಲವು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ವಾರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ದುರ್ಬಲ ವರ್ಗದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವು ಕೈಗೆಟುಕದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಿವಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಆಶಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯುಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಜತೆಗೆ, ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಅನಿಯಮಿತವಾಗಿ ಬೋಧನಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸಹ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಹಲವು ವಿವಿಗಳು ಬೋಧನಾ ಶುಲ್ಕಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಿಧಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸದಿದ್ದರೂ ಶುಲ್ಕ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಶುಲ್ಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕರೂಪತೆ ತರುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಎಂದು ಸಮಿತಿಗಳು ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿವೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.1, Jan.04, 2024

# Karnataka orders uniform fees, allows hike by 10% annually in State-run varsities

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Following the report submitted by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), the State government has decided to bring uniformity in fees for various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and streamline the examination system to be applied equally to all 32 State-run universities. It does not, however, apply to universities teaching professional courses.

A committee of academicians and officers under the chairmanship of Y.S. Sidde Gowda, former V-P of KSHEC, was constituted to prepare a report to ensure uniformity in all the universities under the purview of the Higher Education Department and regulated under the Karnataka State Universities Act,

2000. The government order dated October 16, 2023, stated that it has accepted the report.

## **What it will cost**

According to the report, various first-year bachelor degree programmes will cost between ₹11,700 and ₹30,700, ranging from BA to BCA. The sub-committee headed by Bengaluru City University Vice-Chancellor Lingaraja Gandhi made recommendations on fee hike. It said that fee could be increased by 10% per annum or 20%-25% every two years.

Citing reasons for the need for hike, it said that due to lack of accommodation, many universities were paying rent for private building which is high.

It also noted that the cost of holding examinations was borne by universities and it has been going

up. The committee noted that the number of students in some unitary universities and new universities is less.

Therefore, income from examination fee and other sources is less, while maintenance and other costs is high. Also, big universities are now being divided and their own resources are also diminishing. The demand and need for digitisation is also an expensive proposition, it noted.

The committee also recommended different pay pattern for invigilators depending upon the institutions in A, B, and C category cities. For instance, an exam invigilator in a A category city will get ₹1,000 plus travel allowance, while those in B category will get ₹900, and C category will get ₹800. Currently, it is ₹800 for all invigilators.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 4, 2024**



# ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರೊ. ಸುಖದೇವ್ ಥೋರಟ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ | 9ರಿಂದ ಮೂರು ದಿನ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಮೂರನೇ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಕರಡು ವರದಿ

■ ಎನ್.ಎಲ್.ತಿವಮಾಡು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
ಯುಜಿಸಿ ಮಾಜಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪ್ರೊ.ಸುಖದೇವ್ ಥೋರಟ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ (ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ) ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ-2020ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಕರಡು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಇದೇ ತಿಂಗಳ 3ನೇ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವರದಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ-2020ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ದ್ದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಅಂಶ ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಾರಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಸಾಧಕ-ಬಾಧಕಗಳು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಮೇಲೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳು, ಅನುಕೂಲಗಳ ಕುರಿತ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ದೇಶದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗುವ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.



ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಗೆ ಬದಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೀತಿ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿನ ಉತ್ತಮ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆಸಿರುವ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಜ.9ರಿಂದ 3 ದಿನ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಅಂಶ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿಷಯವಾರು ಸಮಿತಿಗಳ ರಚನೆ: ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ

## 4 ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇಕೆ?

ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ 4 ವರ್ಷ ಅವಧಿಯ ಪದವಿಗಳಿವೆ. ಭಾರತದಿಂದ ಉನ್ನತ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೋಗುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗದಿರಲಿ ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4 ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬೆಳೆದಂತೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು 4 ವರ್ಷದ ಪದವಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಇದು ಅನವಶ್ಯಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ.

ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬಿಸಿಎಸ್‌ಗೂ ಮೊದಲು, ಸಿಬಿಸಿಎಸ್, ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ನಂತರದ ಪಠ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಸೇರಿ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನೀತಿ ನಿರೂಪಣೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಲು ಕಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್/ ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್‌ಗಳ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವರದಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

## ಸಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು

- 2023ರ ಅ.11ರಂದು ಪ್ರೊ. ಸುಖದೇವ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ 15 ಸದಸ್ಯರು, 8 ವಿಷಯತಜ್ಞರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆ. ನ.2, 3ರಂದು ಮೊದಲ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ರೂಪುರೇಷೆ ರಚನೆ. ಶಾಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ಕಾರ್ಯತಂಡ ಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ.
- ಆರಂಭಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅದ್ಭುತ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಇಪಿ-2020 ಜಾರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಾರ್ಯತಂಡ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಂಡವು ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ನ.17, 18ರಂದು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯತಂಡದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಭಸೂಚಿ ರಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಶಾಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ, ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕುಲಪತಿ, ಡೀನ್, ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನಾ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ.
- ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ತಜ್ಞರು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನಾ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಕಂದಾಯ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಕುರಿತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.5A, Jan.04, 2024

# With registrations low, govt. to start awareness campaign ahead of Yuva Nidhi launch

Only 32,184 candidates have registered for the scheme since the launch of the process in Dec. 2023

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**A**s the State government readies to launch Yuva Nidhi, financial assistance scheme for unemployed graduate and diploma holders, on January 12 at Shivamogga, efforts are on to register more eligible candidates under the scheme.

Yuva Nidhi is the fifth and final guarantee, promised by the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections, being implemented now.

As per government records, about 4.30 lakh graduates and diploma holders, who passed out in the 2022-2023 academic year, are eligible to apply. As many as 32,184 candidates have registered for the scheme since the launch of registration process on December 27, 2023.

While Belagavi has reported the highest registration among districts with



Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil attending a videoconference in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

3,890, Kodagu district with 120 has the least.

While the government estimates to spend about ₹250 crore this year, the scheme could cost ₹1,250 crore next year and ₹2,500 crore the year after. Graduates and diploma holders will get ₹3,000 and ₹1,500 per month, respectively, for two years.

At a videoconference with the Deputy Commissioners and chief executive

officers of zilla panchayats on Thursday, Minister for Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil sought the reason for some districts falling behind in the registration and asked officials to intensify the registration process. He also asked officials to hold meetings with the heads of educational institutions and principals of degree, engineering, medical colleges, and polytech-

**As per government records, about 4.30 lakh graduates and diploma holders are eligible to apply**

tics to increase the registration. Among others, Ministers M.C. Sudhakar, Madhu Bangarappa, and Priyanka Kharge were present in the meeting.

While directions were given to give publicity to the scheme using social media platforms to reach out to more candidates, they were also asked to utilise services of urban and rural local bodies in popularising the scheme. Besides, officials were asked to deploy publicity materials in front of colleges and gram panchayats.

The Minister also asked the officials to take steps to prevent registration on fake certificates and documents, and directed them to take strict action against those indulging in fraudulent practices.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10, Jan. 5, 2024**



# Is higher education out of touch with the skill requirements in the job market?



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## PARLEY

**R**eports by private agencies state that fewer than half of India's graduates were employable in 2021. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate among graduates is higher than in many other developing countries. Students who enrolled in college during the pandemic have now graduated and there are concerns over their employability and the quality of online education. Is higher education in India out of touch with the skill requirements in the job markets? Furqan Qamar and Santosh Mehrotra discuss the question in a conversation moderated by A.M. Jigeeesh. Edited excerpts:

### Has online learning impacted employability?

**Santosh Mehrotra:** There was a problem with employability well before this craze for online learning took off. It is important to understand that those who have acquired or are acquiring higher education are those who belong to at least the top 20-30% of the income distribution, so they are relatively well off; a vast majority of the country's youth don't even manage to enter higher education. Higher education enrolment rates are still about 27% (18-23-year-olds). In 2012, the unemployment rate among graduates was 20%; it shot up to 34% in 2021. Among postgraduates, it used to be 18% in 2012; it doubled to nearly 37%. Why am I saying this? Because even before the online boom, the problem with our education system was structural. A major reason for this was the massification of higher education between 2006 and 2018. Because of this, the number of private colleges grew and quality deteriorated. State governments, the Central government and the University Grants Commission did not have the capacity to regulate [them]. These universities just became exam-giving institutions. Online education is an additional problem, which perhaps Professor Qamar can speak about.

**Furqan Qamar:** Yes, educated people are not getting jobs and therefore unemployment is an issue. But if graduates are not getting jobs in India, that could also be because the economy is not creating any jobs. That is why we have so many graduates leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad.

Online learning did cause learning losses. We meet students who say that they missed a lot [while studying from home] and that it was a challenge to concentrate for long hours on screen. There were learning deficiencies and that has affected the abilities of these students to acquire knowledge and become more employable. Ed-tech companies are downsizing as students themselves realised that such



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companies wouldn't serve their purpose.

**You said that the economy is not creating jobs. Agriculture is still the largest employment-providing sector and the share of the manufacturing sector in providing jobs is coming down. So, how can skill enhancement in institutions of higher education bring changes in primary sectors?**

**FQ:** Agriculture in India remains largely conventional. It has not become high tech, so I don't see mainstream graduates joining agricultural professions. Even in the services sector, the jobs that are being created require a high level of knowledge. But most jobs, such as of delivery boys, are not preferred jobs for educated people although in the absence of jobs, they might be found in these jobs.

Higher education institutions are essentially knowledge institutions. When they create new knowledge, it leads to the development of new technologies, the possibilities of new businesses, innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-ups.

**SM:** There are structural problems with the higher education sector. One, our research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP is only 0.7%. In Korea, it is 4%. So, how will new knowledge get created? Second, globally, the private corporate sector accounts for about 70% of total R&D expenditure; only 30% comes from the government. In India, the public sector accounts for some 70% of the total R&D expenditure and the private sector's contribution is relatively small. Private sector jobs in research are not growing. Third, unlike in the rest of the world, where most research takes place in universities, a very small proportion of public funding goes towards research within universities. Most of it from government sources goes towards the Council of Scientific and



Industrial Training Institutes have grown in number as affiliated colleges have grown in number at a phenomenal rate. When you get this level of massification, the issue of quality arises.

**SANTOSH MEHROTRA**

Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, etc. This is problematic because these public research institutions don't have the mechanism of translating their research output into actual usable products and processes which can help ordinary people. The only way we are going to solve this problem is by creating institutions that convert patents or research scientific research papers into products and processes. Or universities have to be funded more and industry will have to be associated with this. Finally, unfortunately, our country still doesn't have an industrial policy or a manufacturing strategy. Young, educated researchers are absorbed in high-value services. There are 800 multinationals which have set up their global hubs for research here. But the value of that research flows abroad.

**Professor Mehrotra, some reports suggest that India has a higher percentage of employable women graduates than men. But participation of women in the workforce is very low. Does it have anything to do with skill enhancement and opportunities for education for women in India?**

**SM:** Indeed, it does. India's female labour force participation is among the lowest in the world. It's as low as in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. But let's remember that girls are getting better educated than before. India managed to rapidly ensure gender parity at the secondary level, which is unusual for its level of per capita income. So, more and more women became better educated and their aspirations are not to get married immediately. But what are they going to do if jobs are not growing?

**This is the fourth year of the 2020 National Education Policy, which promised integration of skills with traditional syllabi and curricula. How do you assess the impact of NEP in fulfilling these requirements?**

**FQ:** The selective implementation of the policy is a problem. Whatever is happening is happening in the name of the policy, while the policy may be providing different things. As a result, we have not seen any substantive change in the education system on the ground. Instead,

it has led to controversies and confusion about what higher education institutions should do.

Let me give an example. The policy clearly said that there should be a common basis for admitting students. It also mentioned that the National Testing Agency would hopefully have these systems and processes and that people may want to use those scores as a basis for selecting students. But then the policy underscored that the decision whether to use those scores or not would be left solely to individual higher education research institutions. That is a very good articulation as far as the autonomy of higher education is concerned. But then what we saw was that the Central University Entrance Test was introduced. Then we started talking about 'one nation, one examination'. So the higher education system is quite confused.

This takes me back to an earlier question on women. In engineering or in job-oriented courses, women are in lower numbers than boys, but on the whole, on average, there are more women. But let's talk of the larger issue of social growth equity. Are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Muslims participating more in higher education? They are now almost close to as much as reservation provides, but they are still far lower as compared to their share in the population in the country. The policy doesn't talk about specific equity actions. The intervention strategies for promoting inclusiveness and equities for different sets of people need to different.

**India's industrial training institutes (ITI) and Polytechnic colleges were helping the poor and marginalised students to learn some skills. How are they placed to address this issue of inequality in skilled employability?**

**SM:** ITIs have grown in number as affiliated colleges have grown in number at a phenomenal rate. When you get this level of massification, the issue of quality arises. This brings me back to the NEP which exhorts the country to go from the current level of 27% of gross enrolment ratio in higher education to 50% in a matter of another 12 years. This is a bizarre goal and the government has not increased allocations as to achieve this. I have an alternative: divert students at the end of Class 10 and Class 12 away from higher education towards ITIs and better vocational training institutions. And improve quality by engaging with industry and employers.



To listen to the full interview  
Scan the code or go to the link  
[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

**Source: The Hindu, p.15, Jan. 5, 2024**

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# Raj, UP, Maha, K'taka and Guj top dust emitters: IIT study

Patients Suffer Dust Mite Allergy, Respiratory Irritation: Docs

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**Ahmedabad:** At an Ahmedabad-based pulmonologist and chest physician's clinic on Friday, five of 10 patients were to see the doctor due to irritation in respiratory tracts caused by dust.

Dr Gopal Raval explained just why. "While some had come for issues due to emissions from construction sites, others were living near the roads with high traffic volume and high concentration of dust particles in the air. The primary sign of dust-related irritation is non-obstructive chronic bronchitis where the patients get a bad dry cough, which is not caused by any infection," Raval said.

Ahmedabad is not alone in battling dust-induced health problems. A study by researchers from IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur indicated that five states contributed to 60% of the country's total dust emission in terms of both particulate matter (PM) 10 and 2.5.

The study prepared a "comprehensive particulate matter road dust emission inventory" for 2022 using the vehicle registration data from 1,352 RTOs in India. States such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pra-

## 5 STATES ACCOUNT FOR 60% OF EMISSIONS

**PM10 and PM2.5 emissions (kilotonnes/year) in states of India**

State	PM10	PM2.5
Rajasthan	193	46
UP	172	41
Maha	166	40
K'taka	155	37
Gujarat	135	32
Kerala	76	18
TN	71	17
Punjab	69	16
MP	54	13



**STATES EXCEED WHO STANDARDS:** "The maximum recorded PM2.5 concentrations arising from road dust alone exceeds annual averaged WHO guidelines of 5 µg/m3 at ~75 % grids in India. Maximum PM2.5 concentrations exceed WHO limits in 55% of Indian states," says the study, suggesting some of the factors responsible for high dust particulate matters to be road conditions, geological and climate conditions, and the number of vehicles. The study also put the approximate mortality nationally due to road dust to about 10,000.

**GOOD TO USE A MASK:** Dr Shachi Dave, a city-based pulmonologist, said that about 80% of the allergy cases coming to her practice are due to dust mites. "These allergy cases do not get triggered in specific seasons such as winter, and often become a round-the-year phenomenon. Those with the condition often experience incessant sneezing, blocked nose, rhinitis, etc. As we had experienced during the Covid period, the use of masks and relatively better air quality had done well for many patients with respiratory illnesses," she said. "Thus, if you are exposed to a high amount of dust every day, the use of masks can be suggested."

desh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat emerged as the predominant contributors to road dust emissions. These

states not only exhibit elevated silt loading (SL) values but also account for a substantial proportion (43%) of the total

registered vehicles in India, underscoring the pressing imperative for effective mitigation measures, the study said.

**Source: The Times of India, p.7, Dec.30, 2023**



# ನದಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾನಿಕಾರಕ ಲೋಹ ಪತ್ತೆ | ಪಾನಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ತುಂಗಯಲ್ಲೇ 13.4 ಎಂಎಲ್ ಲೋಹದಂತೆ ತುಂಗಾ ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲೂ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ

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'ಗಂಗಾ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯ, ತುಂಗಾ ಪಾಸ್' ಎಂಬ ನಾಣ್ಯದ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನದಿಗಳ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೆ ಆರಂಭ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿ ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು ತನ್ನಿರಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಾನಿಕಾರಕವಾದ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.



ನೀರು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಗೆ ತಾಜ್ಜ ನದಿ ಹರಿವು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

**ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ?**  
ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 0.03 ರಿಂದ 0.063 ಎಂಎಲ್ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 0.021 ರಿಂದ 13.4 ಎಂಎಲ್ ವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕುಮರೇಮುಖದ ಗಂಗಾಮೂಲದಲ್ಲಿ 0.039ನಷ್ಟು ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಪರದ ದೃಶ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾಚೀನ ದ್ರವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಗೆ ತಾಜ್ಜ ನದಿ ಹರಿವು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. -ಮಹೇಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಆರ್. ಒ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಕಿವಿಮೊಗ್ಗ

ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಲೋಹ ರೂಪದ ವಿಷ. ಇದು ದೇಹಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ನಿದ್ರಾಸಮಾಧಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಂಗಾಂಗಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅತಿ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನರ ಮಂಡಲ, ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಮಾ, ಕಿವಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹಾನಿಯುಂಟು ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. -ಡಾ.ಧನಂಜಯ ಸರ್ವ ವೈದ್ಯರು, ಕಿವಿಮೊಗ್ಗ

**ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳು**  
ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಸೇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅದಿರು, ಮಾನವ ಹಸ್ತಕ್ಷೇಪ, ಅತಿಯಾದ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಅನೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು.

**ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿ ನೀರು ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲ**  
ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿ ನೀರು ಕುಡಿಯಲು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವರದಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ 7 ರಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಗಡುವು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರೂ ತುಡ್ಡವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ**  
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾದ ಬೋರ್ಡರ್ ನೀರನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ನಗರದ ಮನೆ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮೂಲದಿಂದ ನೀರನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್ 0.268 ಎಂಎಲ್ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.

ನದಿ ನೀರು ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ?	ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ (ಎಂಎಲ್)
ಶ್ರೀಗಂಗಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ	0.114
ಶ್ರೀಗಂಗಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ	0.243
ಮೇಲಿನ ನೀರು	0.633
ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಜಲಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	0.203
ಜಲಗಾಂವಿ ಜಲಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	0.394
ಗಾಜನೂರು ಜಲಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	0.365
ಗಾಜನೂರು ಜಲಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	0.070
ಶ್ರೀಮೊಗ್ಗದ ಹರಿವಿನಲ್ಲಿ	0.113
ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯುವ ನೀರು	0.160
ನಲ್ಲಿಯಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ ನೀರು	0.268
ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಜಲಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	12.126
ಸಂಪದ್ ತಾಜ್ಜ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ	13.397

**ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನದಿಗಳ ನೀರಿನ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ**

**ಅರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲಾಗುವ ಪರಿಣಾಮ**

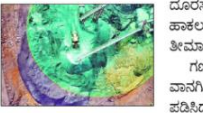
- ಮೂಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಿವಿ 0.1 ಮಿಲಿಗ್ರಾಂ/ಲೀಟರ್.
- ಮೂಳೆಗಳ ಕ್ಯಾಲ್ಸಿಯಂ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ಪಾಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಲ್ಯೂಮಿನಿಯಂನಿಂದ ದುರ್ಬಲ.
- 70-80 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರೋಗ್ಯವಾಗಲೇದಾದ ಮೂಲ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದು ಅರೋಗ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಡಯಾಬೀಟಿಸ್ ರೋಗಗಳ ಅರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ.
- ನರಮಂಡಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರಿ, ಪಾರ್ಶ್ವಾಸೀಕರಣ, ಮರಗಲಿಕೆ, ಮರಗಲಿಕೆ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ರೋಗಗಳಾಗುತ್ತವೆ.
- ದೃಷ್ಟಿ, ಧ್ವನಿ, ಕೈಕಾಲುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಟ್ಟಿ ಅನುಭವ, ಮಾನವ ಮಂಡಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.3, Dec.30, 2023

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಪುಟ 1

## ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ | ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೇಸ್ ದಾಖಲು ಅಕ್ರಮ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿಯೋಫೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ

■ ಮೈತ್ರಿಜಯ ಕಪುರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಹೊಸ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಬಳಸಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದ ಮೂಲಕ ಜಿಯೋಫೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ (ಜಿಯೋಫೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್) ಹಾಕಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ.



ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ನೀಡುವ ಗೊತ್ತುಪಡಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು, ಖನಿಜ, ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೆರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಡಿವೈಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ, ಆಯಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸುತ್ತ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಅಕ್ರಮ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಜಿಯೋಫೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಟ್ಯಾಬ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಪಡೆದ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಉದ್ದಕ್ಕೂ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯುವ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಒತ್ತುವ ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿ ಕ್ರಮಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು

**ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ**  
ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಒಟ್ಟು 16 ಟ್ಯಾಕ್‌ಗಳ 1279.10 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ 291 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು 1264 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟವಲ್ಲದ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ 1383 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು 5985 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಖನಿಜ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ. ಆದರೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ, ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಕಟ್ಟು, ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ದೂರುಗಳು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ನಿಗಾವಹಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಟಾಕ್ಸ್ ಪೋಲೀಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಒಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಿರಂತರ ನಿಗಾ, ದಾಳಿ ಮುಖೇನ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷ (2021-22, 22-23)ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಖನಿಜ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಯ 24 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿ 6.83 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಎರಡು ದಾವೆ ಹೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಯ 1,083 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. 13.98 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಿ, 354 ಮೊಕದ್ದಮೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಯ 565 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅಧಿಕ ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರೋಪಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ 147 ಮೊಕದ್ದಮೆ ಹೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಆಧಾರಿತ ನಿಗಾವಹಿವು ಇದಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಬೆರಳ ತುದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುವ ಕಾರಣ ಯಾವುದನ್ನೂ ಮುಟ್ಟಲಾಗದು. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೊಕ್ಕಸಕ್ಕೆ ನಷ್ಟ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂದಾಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಕಾನೂನು ಮತ್ತು ಸುವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಲು ನೆರವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

**ಜೋನ್ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ:** ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂ. ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದು, ಎಂ-ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್‌ಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ ಮರಳು ಅಕ್ರಮ ಸಾಗಣೆ ದಂಡಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ದೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ

ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿದೆ. ಮೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ, ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 34.08 ದಶಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಮರಳಿನ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 14.55 ದಶಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಎಂ-ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬೇರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ನದಿ ಮರಳು, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಿದ ಮರಳು ಸರಬರಾಜಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಗಣಿ/ ಗಣಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಹೊರಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಲು ಡೋನ್ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ದೂರದಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಡೋನ್ ಸರ್ವೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಮಗ್ರ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವರದಿ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಸೇರಿ ನಿಲ್ಲಲಿದೆ. ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ವರದಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಕ್ರಮಕೈಗೊಂಡು ಕೈಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಖನಿಜ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಪಡೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಖನಿಜ ರವಾನೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ರಕ್ಷಣಾತ್ಮಕ ಹಾಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು ವಿವರಿಸಿವೆ.

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Source: Vijayavani, p.2, Jan.1, 2024

# Delhi leads south Asian countries in night temp rise with a 2°C spike in last 23 years

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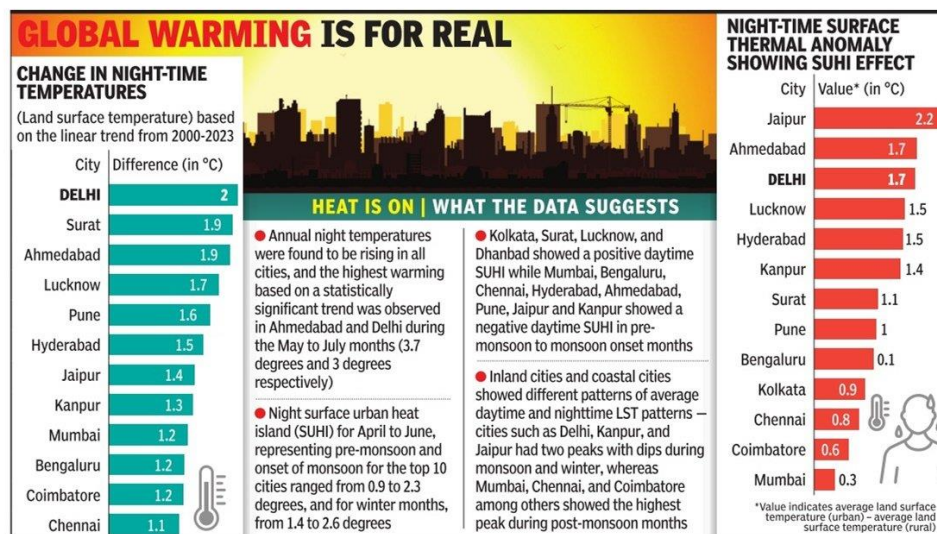
Ahmedabad: Surat and Ahmedabad have recorded a rise of 1.94 degree and 1.9 degree Celsius in night temperatures, respectively, from 2000 to 2023, according to a study that attributes the warmer winters in the two Gujarat cities and elsewhere in the country partly to a surface urban heat island (SUHI) effect.

Under this phenomenon, cities become warmer than their peripheries. The night temperature increases in Surat and Ahmedabad were the second and third highest after Delhi, which recorded a rise of 2 degrees among 20 cities in the study by a team from IIT-Dhanbad.

Little wonder then that this New Year's Day on Monday, Ahmedabad recorded a minimum temperature of 16.2 degrees Celsius, 3.9 degrees above normal. In fact, the first two months of winter in the city -- and Gujarat at large -- have not seen any cold wave. The lowest minimum temperature for December 2023 was 13.3 degrees in Ahmedabad compared to 9.2 degrees in December 2022.

That is not all -- the trapped heat in the urban environment has also given rise to the SUHI effect. On that count, Ahmedabad had the second highest value of 1.7 degrees (difference between core and periphery minimum temperatures) after 2.2 degrees in Jaipur.

The study -- titled "Spatial Characteristics and Temporal Trend of Urban Heat Island Effect over Major Cities in India Using Long-Term Space-Based



MODIS Land Surface Temperature Observations (2000-2023) -- was published recently in the journal *Applied Sciences*. Its authors included Suren Nayak, Arya Vinod, and Anup Krishna Prasad from IIT Dhanbad and Utkal University.

The study took into account data from MODIS (or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) on Terra and Aqua satellites of NASA from 2000 to 2023 for 20 South Asian cities from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

"Major cities like Delhi, Ahmedabad and Surat, which

have been rapidly expanding over the last two decades, show much higher temperatures compared to the surrounding non-urban areas. For instance, in February and March, Ahmedabad shows the highest SUHI (2.81°C and 3.09°C) compared to other cities," Prasad, associate professor at IIT Dhanbad and one of the study's authors, told TOI.

According to Prasad, the total change in night surface temperature from May to July in Ahmedabad is highest at 3.7°C among the top 20 populated cities in India and its neighbours. "Delhi was the second

highest at 3.01°C," he said.

The researchers added that even as Ahmedabad is relatively close to the coast, the highest SUHI during February and March compared to landlocked cities like Delhi is alarming. They added that another factor is rise in temperatures and SUHI even in Tier 2 and 3 cities of India with rapid expansion. Ahmedabad was the first city in South Asia to introduce a Heat Action Plan (HAP).

Public health experts caution that the rise in temperatures has a range of implications, ranging from heat fatigue to reduction in productivity.

"We do not have substantial data in heat stroke and heat-related ailments but with the overall rise in temperatures -- 2023 was one of the hottest years on record -- implications of rising heat would add to the health burden," said an expert.

Another aspect of the rise in temperatures is increased energy bills (fan, air-conditioning and coolers), especially during warmer months from March to June in cities like Ahmedabad. Experts suggested mitigating measures such as improved urban planning, better building materials and passive cooling techniques.

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



10 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 17 ಬಾರಿ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಮಾರಣ ಹೋಮ

# ವಿಷಕಾರಿ ನೀರು: ಜಲಚರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಪಾಯ

• ಅದಿತ್ಯ ಕೆ.ಎ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ದಿನದಿಂದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ನಗರದ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರು ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಜಲಚರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಟಕವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿರುವ 'ಆಕ್ಷನ್ ಏಡ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ'ಯು ಜಲಚರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಟಕ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಈ ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪದೇಪದೇ ಮೀನುಗಳು ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪುತ್ತಿರುವ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿದಿರುವುದನ್ನೂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿದೆ.

ಇದೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 8ರಿಂದ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 24ರ ವರೆಗೆ ನಗರದ 13 ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, 17 ಬಾರಿ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಮಾರಣಹೋಮ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಮೀನುಗಳ ಸತ್ತ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ವರದಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ, 2017ರಿಂದ 2022ರ ವರೆಗೆ 'ಆಕ್ಷನ್ ಏಡ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ' ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲೂ 32 ಬಾರಿ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಮಾರಣ ಹೋಮ ನಡೆದಿತ್ತು.

ಈಗ ಕೇವಲ 10 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 17 ಬಾರಿ ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀನುಗಳು ಸತ್ತಿವೆ. ಜಲಚರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರು ಕಂಟಕವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆತಂಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ನಾನಾ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕಪ್ಪಿಟ್ಟಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೊಳಚೆ ನೀರು ಕೆರೆಯ ಒಡಲು ಸೇರಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿಷವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

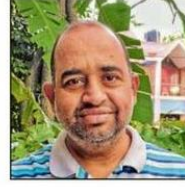


ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೀನುಗಳು

ಕೊತ್ತನೂರು ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತು ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ಬಾರಿ ಮೀನುಗಳು ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸತ್ತಿವೆ. ಸೀತಾರಾಮನಪಾಳ್ಯ ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 8ರಂದು ಅಪಾರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀನುಗಳು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದವು. ಅದಾದ ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಚೆಳಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಚಲಚರಗಳು ಸತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಉಲ್ಲಾಳ ಕೆರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಕಾಂಕಿ ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಜೀವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಪಾಯವಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೇ ಇತರೆ ಜಲಚರಗಳಿಗೂ ವಿಷಕಾರಿ ನೀರು ಅಪಾಯ ತರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮೀನುಗಳ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಸಾವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕೊಳಚೆ ನೀರು ಕೆರೆ ಸೇರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದಲೇ ಆಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ ನೀರು ಕೆರೆಗೆ:** ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರನ್ನು ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಿಸದೇ ಕೆರೆಗೆ



ಬಿಡಿಎ, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಸಮನ್ವಯತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರು ಸೇರುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಅವರು ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

**ಬಿ.ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ,** ಆಕ್ಷನ್ ಏಡ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ

ಹರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ವಿಷಕಾರಿ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು, ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮನೆ ತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕೆರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಅದರ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ

## ಅಪಾಯದ ಕೆರೆಗಳು?

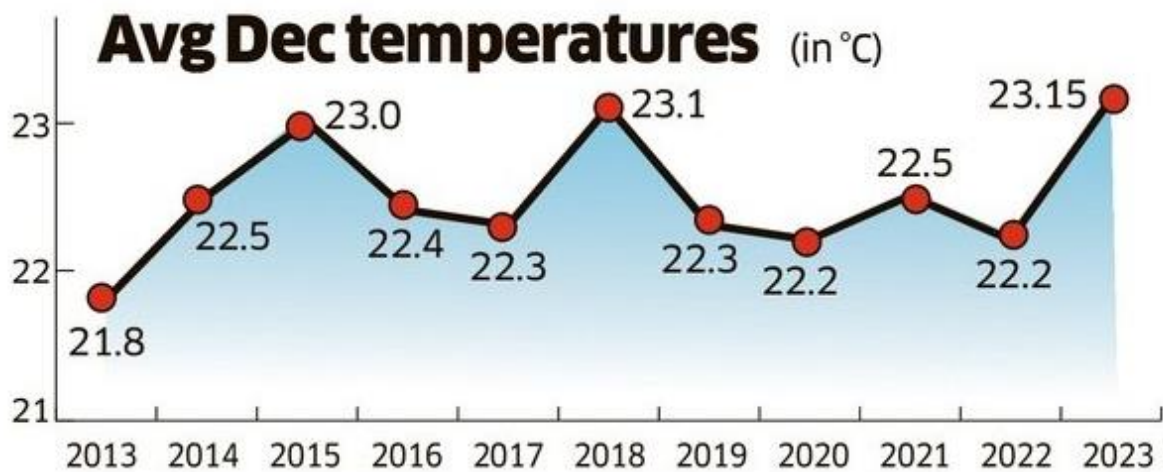
- ಕೊತ್ತನೂರು ಕೆರೆ
- ಇಬ್ಬೂರು ಕೆರೆ
- ಸೀತಾರಾಮಪಾಳ್ಯ ಕೆರೆ
- ಚೆಳಕೆರೆ
- ಮಡಿವಾಳ ಕೆರೆ
- ಕುಂಡಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆರೆ
- ದೊಡ್ಡಕಲ್ಲಸಂದ್ರ ಕೆರೆ
- ಭಟ್ಟಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕೆರೆ
- ಸೋಮಸುಂದರ ಪಾಳ್ಯ ಕೆರೆ
- ಕೊತ್ತನೂರು ಕೆರೆ
- ಅಂಬಲಿಪುರ ಕೆರೆ
- ಉಲ್ಲಾಳ ಕೆರೆ
- ಸ್ಕಾಂಕಿ ಕೆರೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ್ದು ಇದರಿಂದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಬಿಗಡಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಆಕ್ಷನ್ ಏಡ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಿ.ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

'ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆರೆಗೆ ಕಲುಷಿತ ನೀರು ಸೇರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರಕ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಜಲಚರಗಳ ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಯೋಗ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನುಷ್ಯರ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳೇ ಜಲಚರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಪಾಯ ತರುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ ನೀರು ಕೆರೆಗೆ ಸೇರುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆದರೆ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಜೀವಕ್ಕೆ ತರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಪಾಯ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.2, Jan.2, 2024





## Bengaluru sees warmest December in a decade in 2023

**SNEHA RAMESH**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru saw its warmest December in 10 years in 2023. According to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city recorded an average temperature of 23.15 degrees Celsius in December 2023. A decade ago, in 2013, the average temperature for the month hovered around 22 degrees Celsius.

While the morning temperatures remained close to 27°C, the temperature during the night seems to have increased by nearly three degrees Cel-

sus, from 15.9°C in Dec 2013 to 18.6°C in Dec 2023.

Scientists attributed the rise to the El Nino effect. "The morning temperature has more or less remained close to the average. But the night temperature is what has caused the average temperature to go up. We predict that this might be due to the El Nino effect," A Prasad, senior scientist at IMD (Bengaluru), told *DH*.

El Nino is a weather phenomenon during which the temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean rise.

► **Temperature, Page 5**

**Continued...**



# Bengaluru sees warmest Dec in a decade in 2023

## Temperature, from Page 1

While the winter temperatures have risen, monsoons have also been bad. With just 1020.2 mm of rainfall in 2023, Bengaluru recorded the lowest annual rainfall in three years.

While 474.6 mm of rainfall was recorded between June and September (southwest monsoon), 202.9 mm of rainfall was recorded in October and November (northeast monsoon). The entire year, the city had only 54 rainy days.

A few experts said that the changing weather patterns could be an indication that climate change was gripping the city. However, a few others

maintained that a few variabilities were common and a deeper analysis of the data was required.

“La Nina and El Nino seem to have an impact on the weather patterns across the globe. While the rising temperatures are an indication of climate change, there is a need for more study in the area,” said a senior researcher who did not want to be named.

The IMD has predicted that warmer temperatures might continue through January and February. Temperatures, especially in the evening hours, are expected to be at least two degrees Celsius more than normal.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 1 & 5, Jan.2, 2024**

ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲೇ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚು: ಈಶ್ವರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ | ಕಳೆದ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಕುರಿತು ವಲಯವಾರು ವಿವರ ಕೇಳಿದ ಸಚಿವರು

## ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಎಕರೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಎಕರೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯನ್ನು ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವಂತೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉನ್ನತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಜಲವಿಕಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಸಚಿವ ಈಶ್ವರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಿಶಾಸನೋದ್ದೇಶ ತಮ್ಮ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉನ್ನತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾರರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಪತ್ತಿನ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಶಾಖಾ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯದ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಸುಮಾರು 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಎಕರೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಆಗಿರುವುದು ಅಪಾತಕಾರಿ ವಿಷಯ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಯಾರೇ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ ಅದು ಅವಧಾರ್. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಪಟ್ಟಣ, ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುವ ಬೆಲೆಬಾಳುವ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ಅಡ್ಡ ತೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೊತ್ತನೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 400 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಬೆಲೆ ಬಾಳುವ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇದನ್ನು ಕಂದಾಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಎಂದು ಪರಿವರ್ತಿಸಿದ್ದ ಉಪ



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಈಶ್ವರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉನ್ನತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು.

ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬೇಲೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು ನಂದಗೋಡನ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 126 ಬೃಹತ್ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ನಾಡಿನ ಜನರೇ ಸಂಕಟಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರ ಮೇಲೋ ಆರೋಪ ಮಾಡುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಉದ್ಭವಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮರ ಅಕ್ಕಮ ಕಡಿತಲೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂಠಿ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಕರಾವಳಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಹಚ್ಚಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧವೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಜರುಗಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

- ಈಶ್ವರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ

ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಿಮಿನಲ್ ಮೊಕದ್ದಮೆ ಹೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಮಾನವ -ವನ್ಯ ಜೀವ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ:ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ

ವನ್ಯಮೃಗಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ, ಆದರೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ವನ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಮತ್ತು ವನ್ಯ ಜೀವ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು

ವನ್ಯಮೃಗ ಅಂಗಾಗ ವನ್ಯ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸಲು ಗಡುವು ಶೀಘ್ರ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಹುರಿ ಉಗುರು, ಆನೆ ಬಾಲದ ಆಭರಣ, ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಡುಮೃಗಗಳ ಕೊಂಬು, ಮುಖದ ಟ್ರೋಫಿಗಳು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲು ನಿಷೇಧಿಸುವುದು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಪಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿದೆ. ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಇಲಾಖೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, ಈ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ಒಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಮಾತ್ರ 3 ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಈಶ್ವರ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಹಲವು ಮುಗ್ಧ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಅರಿವಿಲ್ಲ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕದಂತೆ ಈ ಪರಿಹಾರೋಪಾಯ ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯಲು ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿದೆ, ತಾವು ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಬಳಿಕ 2 ಸಾವಿರ ಎಕರೆಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ ಅವರು, ಕಾಡಿನಂಚೆ ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹಲವು ದಶಕಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಬಾಳುವ ವೃಕ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿದು ಪಟ್ಟಾಭೂಮಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಕೂಡ ತೀವ್ರವಾದ ಅವಧಾರ್. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ದಂಚಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಟ್ಟರು. ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1980ರ ಜಾರಿಗೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಸುಮಾರು 13,155 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ 31,864 ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಇದ್ದು,

ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಸುಮಾರು 7 ಸಾವಿರ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಾ ಕೊಡಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು. 1980ಕ್ಕೆ ಮುನ್ನ 3 ಎಕರೆ ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮತ್ತು ಉಳಿಮೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಡ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳ ನೀಡದೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೊದಲು ತೆರವು ಮಾಡಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಲೇಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರಣ್ಯ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ವಲಯವಾರು, ವಿಭಾಗವಾರು, ವೃತ್ತವಾರು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೈಸೇರಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಕ್ರಮ ಮುಂದುವರಿದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Vishwavani, p.5, Jan.03, 2024



# Minister asks officials to remove encroachment on 2 lakh acres of forestland

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday directed officials to remove the encroachment on nearly 2 lakh acres of forestland in Karnataka and prioritise removal of large-scale encroachments.

“Despite various legislations, about 2 lakh acres of forestland has been encroached. There is a need to remove big encroachments on forestland around Bengaluru city and forestland near other cities. Already ₹400 crore worth of forestland that was encroached near Kothanur has been taken back, and criminal cases have been filed against revenue officials who had converted the land,” he told presspersons here after holding discussions with senior forest officials.

He said that while the population of wild animals is increasing, forest area is not increasing resulting in man-animal conflicts.

He said that under

## Govt. may set deadline to return wildlife trophies

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The State government is contemplating providing a three-month window to return wildlife trophies such as deer horn, tiger claw, jewellery made out of elephant hair and others to the government.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that the window for the people to declare and keep them is over decades back, and that there are views that it can only be returned to the government.

“In this background, discussions are on with law department. A three-month deadline for a last time will be given to the public to return it to the government. A prompt effort would be made to find a solution,” he said.

Sources said that opportunity has been given thrice in the past for the people to declare and keep trophies. In recent changes to legislation, keeping wildlife items has been made an offence, sources said.

## **Population of wild animals is increasing, but forest area is not: Eshwar Khandre**

the Forest Act, 1980, those applications that were submitted within the prescribed deadline for regularisation of encroachment of forestland had to be disposed off, and that

there are 13,155 cases pertaining to 31,684 acres of which patta can be given for about 7,000 acres.

Directions have been given to clear the remaining applications, he said, adding that officials have been asked not to inconvenience those who have built homes or cultivating in less than 3 acre area.

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

# Forest dept reclaims 7 acres of Turahalli woodland

Action follows  
minister's directive

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru division of the Forest Department on Wednesday reclaimed over seven acres of land, valued at Rs 60 crore, in the Turahalli reserve forest.

The land has been encroached by the head of a religious organisation for more than six years, despite eviction orders.

In an early morning operation, N Raveendra Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Urban, along with Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Suresh and Range Forest Officer (RFO) Govindaraj, razed structures on the contested land, spanning various survey numbers in south Bengaluru's BM Kaval and Mailsandra villages.

The action followed Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre's directive to recover encroached forests near urban areas.

Regarding the operation, Khandre said land prices are surging and vested interests are encroaching precious



A view of the Turahalli forest. DH FILE PHOTO

forest areas near urban areas. "The department is responsible for safeguarding forests and the environment," he said. "I have instructed officials to recover land where eviction orders have been issued."

In 2017, the ACF, Bengaluru South sub-division, issued eviction orders to Madhusudhananandapuri Swami, the head of Omkar Ashram in Kengeri, to vacate 8 acres 12 guntas of land.

Of this, 7 acres and 17 guntas lay in the buffer zone, and the remainder was within the core area of the Turahalli Reserve Forest.

Swami contested the eviction, claiming that the land was not forested, and the buffer zone had been decided without a joint survey. He alleged that the RFO reached conclusions without conducting a joint survey.

However, the RFO in Kagalipura produced a govern-

ment notification declaring the land parcels as state forest with supporting sketches.

The RFO highlighted the construction of a building in violation of forest regulations causing environmental damage, asking the encroacher to pay Rs 24.27 lakh.

The Forest Department's eviction order in 2017 followed a high-level committee report on encroachments, coupled with a joint survey revealing the extent of the encroachment.

On December 29, SS Lingaraja, the then Chief Conservator of Forest, Bengaluru Circle, dismissed the swami's appeal after verifying documents.

"The appellant has also constructed a building in violation of the forest regulations and causing damage to the natural forest," the order noted, directing officials to recover the forested area.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p. 2, Jan.4, 2024**

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## Health

# Paediatric surgeons want every medical college to have an exclusive surgery unit

### NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC SURGERY DAY

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

With birth defects and paediatric surgical issues accounting for a significant proportion (as high as 10%) of infant deaths, paediatric surgeons have proposed that a Paediatric Surgery unit be made available in all medical colleges.

December 29 is observed as National Paediatric Surgery Day. This year's theme for Paediatric Surgery Day emphasises the critical need for paediatric surgeons in all districts.

In the government sector in Karnataka, paediatric surgery units are available only in the State-run medical colleges in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Vijaynagar in Ballari and Hubballi. Although a lot of private medical colleges have such units, affordability is an issue for many.

#### Lack of recognition

Anand Alladi, Professor and Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), told *The Hindu* that paediatric surgery as a super speciality is yet to be recognised.

"The number of undergraduates choosing to specialise in Paediatric Surgery is very low. This is mainly because many hospitals do not have Paediatric Surgery units. As a result, parents consult adult surgeons for paediatric anomalies, but children are not mini-adults," Dr. Alladi said.

Pointing out that BMCRI and Indra Gandhi Institute of Child Health together conduct around 5,000



paediatric surgeries a year, the doctor said neonatal congenital anomalies, often referred to as birth defects, have a variety of causes ranging from pregnancy or birth complications to genetic malformations to viral infections in utero. In many cases, however, a congenital anomaly may have no known cause.

**ANAND ALLADI**  
Professor and Head of the  
Department of Paediatric Surgery  
at BMCRI

paediatric surgeries a year, the doctor said neonatal congenital anomalies, often referred to as birth defects, have a variety of causes ranging from pregnancy or birth complications to genetic malformations to viral infections in utero. In many cases, however, a congenital anomaly may have no known cause.

"If picked up early and treated appropriately, the potential for recovery in such children is very good," he said.

"The National Medical Commission (NMC) has allotted 10% of beds in each medical college for Paediatric Surgery, but not all colleges have paediatric surgeons. Children constitute 40% of the population, and we request the NMC to increase the Paediatric Surgery bed allotment and also ensure that surgery unit is made available for the children at peripheral areas," he said.

#### Insurance issues

According to the Indian Association of Paediatric Sur-

geons (IAPS), another pressing concern is the financial support and insurance coverage for birth defects, particularly external defects which are currently excluded by insurance companies.

"This is in contrast to developed countries where there is no such rider. Even within India, State and central insurance schemes (Ayushman Bharat) do cover birth defects. However, the packages are low and do not cover the entire surgery cost in private empanelled hospitals," Dr Alladi said. In a statement, IAPS president Ramesh Babu said that an inclusive insurance policy addressing all birth defects is imperative.

#### For prevention

Prevention of birth defects is another goal of IAPS. "A significant causative factor of many birth defects, including a few crippling ones like spine defect, is the deficiency of Folic Acid Vitamin in the expecting mother. By the time pregnancy is diagnosed and folic acid supplementation started by health centres, most of the organs of the baby are already formed, and it becomes too late to prevent defects," the doctor said.

"If folic acid supplements are given before conception, the levels needed to prevent birth defects become significant. This needs a prompt reform of fortification of certain food items. Tea with folic acid fortification is emerging as a cost-effective and game-changing strategy to prevent birth defects. We strongly recommend the government to study the feasibility of this preventive measure," he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Dec. 30, 2023**



# At life's dawn: Preterm babies suffer obstacles in medical care

SHRUTHI H M SASTRY  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**Addressing India's high rates of preterm birth and infant mortality requires urgent action on women's health and medical infrastructure**

**D**octors at the high-risk pregnancy ward (HRP) at Vani Vilas Hospital, in Bengaluru, move swiftly from one patient to another, chalking out a plan of action for women about to go into labour. The ward is filled with pregnant women with hypertension, diabetes, anaemia and other comorbidities.

## INSIGHT

A significant portion of women from this ward go into labour before the completion of 37 weeks of pregnancy, giving birth to preterm babies. Twenty-seven-year-old Vasantha from Bengaluru Rural was one of many patients recently admitted to the hospital due to high blood pressure. The doctors gave her immediate medical attention and she was able to deliver her baby safely, albeit prematurely at seven months.

"I started vomiting and had developed high blood pressure. We went to the government hospital in Nela-mangala. From there, they sent us to Bengaluru in an ambulance," says Vasantha, while she recuperates in the postnatal ward.

Vani Vilas sees hundreds of patients from in and around the city, many of whom are sent here on referrals from other government hospitals. According to the medical staff, the hospital roughly conducts about 1,200 to 1,400 deliveries every month, of which about 40% are preterm deliveries.



A special newborn care unit at the government district hospital at Chikkaballapur district.  
DH PHOTO/  
B K JANARDHAN

A recent World Health Organisation report, 'Born too soon: A decade of action on preterm birth', points out that India witnessed the highest number of preterm births in 2020 (3.02 million, accounting for more than 23% of all preterm births worldwide).

The report also cites preterm birth as the single largest cause of mortality in children under five years. "Neonatal conditions are also the leading cause of lost human capital in the most recent estimates of the global disease burden," the report says.

In 2020, an estimated one million newborns died due to complications arising from preterm birth, accounting for one baby every 40 seconds, according to the report.

Several factors may cause preterm births including, early and (when the mother is under 18) late pregnancies (above 35 years), obesity and low BMI in pregnant women, anaemia, diabetes, stress, urinary tract infections and hypertension among other reasons.

Both urban and rural women are at risk of preterm deliveries says Dr

Hema Divakar, a senior gynaecologist. "Anaemia occurs in urban women too due to dietary choices. Obesity is another problem. Further, fertility treatments such as IVF hasten the chance of multiple pregnancies and increases preterm deliveries," she observes.

Ensuring safe preterm births requires the right kind of infrastructure at the right time as such newborns are at a high risk of respiratory complications and other comorbidities.

► **Preterm babies, Page 2**

## Create neonatal transport corridors

**Preterm babies,**  
from Page 1

According to data from the National Health Mission (NHM), neonatal mortality in India is 23 per 1,000 live births at present. The global goal is to bring it under 10 mortalities by 2030. The Union government has put in place several maternal and infant care programmes to reduce mortality and improve maternal health over the past decade.

The state government has also put in place a three-level healthcare system, explains Dr Basavaraj, deputy director of child health in Karnataka. Newborn care corners are available at all delivery points. There are 169 newborn stabilisation units in Karnataka, meant to observe newborns at taluk hospitals and community health centres. "There are 50 special newborn care units (SNCUs) in the state, where round-the-clock specialised care is provided for newborns," he adds.

### Long way to go

Despite these elaborate programmes, complications leading to and arising from preterm births persist. In the past decade, there has been no measurable change in the global preterm birth rates even in regions with high burdens, according to the WHO report.

An investigation by DH of a few taluk and district hospitals revealed that even though medical institutions had the necessary machinery in place, trained per-

sonnel to operate them and interact with patients were absent. A case in point is the Gudibande Taluk Hospital in Chikkaballapur district.

The hospital has one paediatrician, a gynaecologist and an anaesthetist. One staff member explains just how stretched they are for manpower: "When the gynaecologist is off duty and a high-risk pregnancy case arrives, we immediately refer them to the district hospital as we do not want to risk the safety of either the mother or the baby."

Further, even when the doctor is present, they are forced to perform roles outside their areas of specialisation, owing to the shortage of resources. "There are 15 nurses who have to take care of pregnancy, neonatal, OT and all other wards. We definitely cannot risk neonatal care which requires round-the-clock monitoring," the staff member adds.

The Chikkaballapur District Hospital, which sees referrals from taluk hospitals and patients from the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, is almost always overcrowded. There are 14 neonatal cribs in the hospital's SNU facility. The medical staff here say that these beds are always full.

"Sometimes there are more than 25 babies, with two or sometimes even three babies in one crib. When we are full, we refer patients to Vani Vilas in Bengaluru or other private hospitals as patients can access these hospitals with Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka Scheme (AB-KS scheme) cards."

The newly-established Mother and Child Hospital in Gauribidanur is the next

resort for people in Chikkaballapur. However, the hospital has been temporarily clubbed with the Chikkaballapur District Hospital. For any preterm complications, the doctors shift patients to the district hospital.

### Regional disparities

Karnataka's hinterlands still lack quality healthcare support. Dr Tanya Sheshadri, faculty at the Institute of Public Health, works with the Soliga community in Channarayana, helping the community access healthcare. She explains how access to hospitals is a huge challenge for Soliga women living in forested areas, particularly if they develop labour pains at night. "The 108 ambulance takes 90 minutes to reach. There are only four to five ambulances for the entire district. As a result, the deliveries happen either during the transit or at home. There is a high potential for stillbirths," Sheshadri says.

Moreover, the taluk hospitals are equipped only to handle normal deliveries. "Our taluk hospitals are unable to cater to complicated caesareans or cases that require blood transfusions and have other complications. Many times, owing to lack of coordination between taluk and district hospitals, patients are referred from a Primary Health Centre (PHC) to a taluk hospital, then to the district hospital only to be finally referred to Cheluvamba hospital in Mysuru," she adds.

### Urban islands

Even in urban areas that may have a higher concentration of hospitals, protection

procedures for preterm babies may not be sufficiently accessible. Lack of awareness is a contributing factor to complications with newborns—as was the case with Sumathi (42) (name changed), grandmother to a one-year-old baby girl. Sumathi's granddaughter was born prematurely at seven months and weighed less than a kilo at birth.

Soon after delivery, the child was abandoned by the mother owing to marital issues. Sumathi shouldered the responsibility of bringing up her granddaughter. While she has been taking the baby to the doctor regularly, she has several misconceptions about preterm births. "We are afraid that vaccination will harm our granddaughter who was born too fragile," she says. Sumathi remains fearful even as local Anganwadi staff encourages the family to vaccinate the baby at the earliest.

A 2021 review of scientific literature found that although routine childhood vaccinations are recommended regardless of gestational age or birth weight, vaccination is often delayed even though infections have more serious consequences in preterm and low birth weight infants.

### Action needed

To address preterm birth-related complications, there is a need to establish preterm delivery corridors on par with heart corridors, says Dr Sheshadri. "The mother-to-be should reach a place with a functional neonatal unit at the earliest. This can happen even with the existing infrastructure, with adequate coordination," she says.

Strengthening the doctor-patient relationship will also help. In rural areas, where the primary relationship of the pregnant woman is with the doctor at PHCs, the connection ends when pregnant women are referred to taluk or district hospitals. There is a need for active communication channels among doctors at different levels of care, she says.

Dr Prathap Chandrasekhar is a neonatologist and a decision review committee member of the Neonates Foundation of India, a non-profit that coordinates neonatal intensive care units on wheels to transport babies from remote areas to partner hospitals. He advocates for the creation of hubs in different regions of the state to ensure proper transport to newborns. "If there are three medical colleges, all of them should participate in the transport of these babies. All it requires is some coordination," he says.

He adds that there is a need to upgrade government neonatal ambulances as well. "These ambulances have rudimentary incubatory services, with no ventilator facilities, which are crucial for preterm babies." As a result, there is a high dependence on private neonatal ambulances.

Nurses also need to be trained exclusively in dealing with neonatal transport, he adds. "In transporting vulnerable babies we should ensure temperatures and sugars are within normal limits. This will improve the morbidity and mortality in the newborn period," he says.

To reduce preterm births at the public health level, there is a need to improve women's health right from adolescence.

The incidence of anaemia and hypertension, two major contributing factors for preterm births, also remain high. Forty-eight percent of women in Karnataka have anaemia, and 13% of women aged 15 to 49 years have hypertension, according to data from the National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS-5).

### Women's health

Public health expert Dr Sylvia Karpagam opines that policymakers need to be aware of preventing and managing preterm labour and social determinants of health. "Pregnancy is but one event in a woman's life. You cannot address the issue of preterm deliveries without addressing the overall health of a woman and crucial social determinants of health," she says.

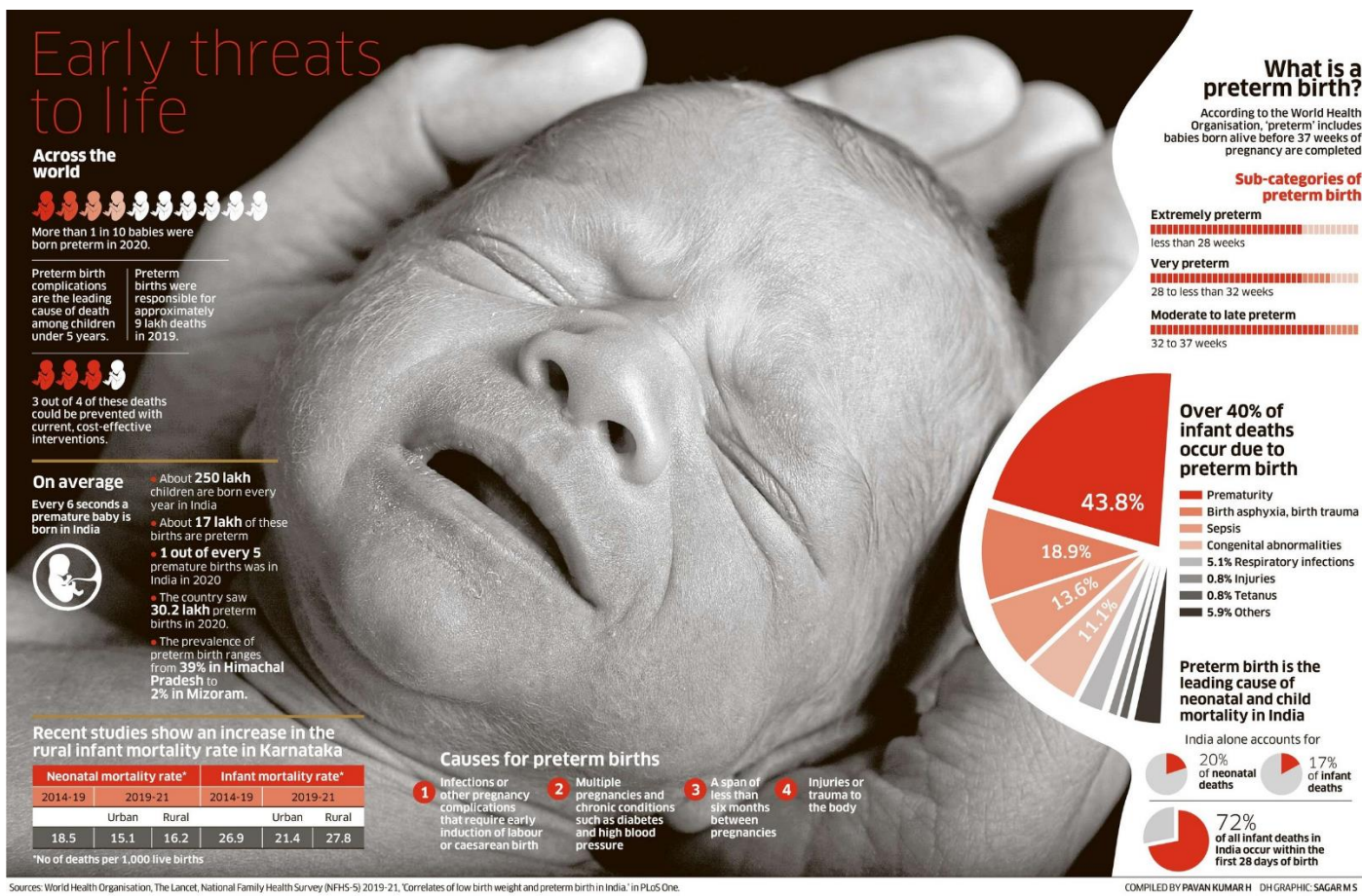
Addressing the overall health requires a comprehensive nutritional approach and it cannot be isolated interventions designed to cure anaemia or hypertension. For instance, there is an emphasis on the distribution of vegetarian food through midday meals, and maternal and child health programmes. These meals are devoid of several nutrients and proteins that are essential for the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. "The government is denying nutrition to the poor by creating a taboo around the consumption of meat and eggs," she points out.

### Have your say

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

**Continued...**





Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, Dec.31, 2023

# COVID-19 cases see 10-fold rise, but hospitalisation low

**Afshan Yasmeen**

BENGALURU

COVID-19 active cases in Karnataka have seen over a 10-fold rise in the last 10 days – from 79 on December 19 to 833 on December 30. Since December 15, the State has reported 13 deaths, of which three were infected with JN.1, the new sub-variant of Omicron.

However, there is no spurt in hospitalisations at the moment. As of Saturday, 50 patients were in hospitals, and only 15 being treated in ICUs. All the ICU patients and the 13 who died are those with comorbidities.

COVID-19 experts said this indicated that although the new variant is highly infectious, as of now, it is causing serious infection only in the elderly and in those with comorbidities. While asserting that the situation is not

alarming, experts said the next few weeks after the festive season are crucial.

## **COVID-19 incidental**

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the COVID-19 death audit committee headed by TAC Chairman K. Ravi met on Friday.

“Almost 90% of the deaths seem to be either due to comorbidities with COVID-19 being incidental or at best aggravating the comorbid conditions,” he said. “Experts believe that we are seeing an endemic surge at this stage which could not be necessarily termed as a wave. Statistical prediction models may help us project the peak, and we are awaiting the estimation of JN.1 burden by IISc and the Indian Statistical Institute,” Mr. Randeep said.

**RELATED REPORT ON**

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**Source: The Hindu, p.1, Dec. 31, 2023**



# Experts say COVID-19 wave is unlikely this time around but advise caution

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

While there has been a ten-fold rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the last ten days in Karnataka, a wave is unlikely, say experts.

TAC member Rajath Athreya said, "Going by the global trajectory, we are unlikely to see another wave. However, we will have to wait and watch for the next few weeks after New Year to understand the intensity of the surge," said Dr. Athreya, who is also a Senior Consultant and Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology at Sakra World.

## Not a 'wave'

Pointing out that this surge cannot be termed as a "wave" unless there is a sharp rise in hospitalisa-



Doctors said the number of cases was expected to go up with the higher number of COVID-19 tests. FILE PHOTO

tions and deaths overwhelming the healthcare system, Dr. Athreya said the number of cases was expected to go up with higher number of COVID-19 tests.

"With higher testing, we are expecting the new infections to rise further," he said. "This is because, in the past few months, we were not testing SARI and ILI cases. The testing stra-

tegy, as of now, is to test only symptomatic SARI/ILI patients. Also, we are not doing contact screening or quarantine-based testing for those with a travel history. Once we start doing all these, there is a high likelihood that the test positivity rate (TPR) will shoot up."

"Initially, we expect to see the surge in Bengaluru followed by semi-urban

areas and then probably to the districts," he said.

## 'Do not panic'

Virologist V. Ravi, who is a former TAC member and nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in Karnataka, said people need not press the panic button just yet, but have to stay cautious.

"We have entered a phase of endemicity where people have varying immunity to the virus by infections, exposures and vaccination. The JN.1 variant has immune escape properties due to the mutation and is highly infectious. The mutation helps it to spread faster, and infection can be caused even with a short exposure. The elderly, immunocompromised and those with comorbidities should follow precautions," Dr. Ravi said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Dec. 31, 2023**

# With COVID spike, proposal to set up female foeticide task force still remains on paper

Bengaluru police in November last year arrested a doctor and his lab technician who allegedly performed around 900 illegal abortions in the last three years

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

**A** fortnight after Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao announced that the government will set up a State-level PCPNDT Task Force to curb female foeticide, the proposal is still on paper. The Bengaluru police in November last year unearthed a prenatal sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru districts. They arrested a doctor and his lab technician who allegedly performed around 900 illegal abortions in the last three years.

Following this, the State government has ordered a



The Health Minister had announced on the floor of the Legislative Council during the Belagavi session that the government will take several measures to curb female foeticide. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

CID probe into the matter. The Minister had announced on the floor of the Legislative Council during the Belagavi session that the government will take

several measures, including setting up of task forces at the State and district levels at the earliest, to curb female foeticide.

"These task forces will

not only conduct surprise inspections and raids on hospitals and health institutions, but also gather intelligence from the ground. They will have the power to arrest wrong doers and initiate criminal action against them," he had said.

"Apart from medical experts, these task forces will have an officer of the cadre of Deputy SP or Assistant Commissioner of Police. The Health Department will work in coordination with the Police Department to get police officers included in the task forces," the Minister said.

**Focus on COVID**  
However, subsequently the

State started witnessing a spike in COVID cases caused by the new JN.1 variant. And, the focus shifted towards COVID management.

Admitting there was a delay, Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao told *The Hindu* that a meeting has been scheduled on January 4 to discuss the subject and take a final call. "As our focus shifted towards COVID control and management, this proposal has been slightly delayed. It will now be done following the January 4 meeting," he said.

## Under process

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said that the process of setting up the

task force had begun. "A decision to set up a State-level task force under the Health Commissioner and State Mission Director, National Health Mission apart from district Task Forces under the Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) has been proposed in the recent State PCPNDT Supervisory Board's meeting," he said.

"There have been discussions on constituent members, role of the State-level Task Force Vis a Vis the State Appropriate Authority, State Inspection and Monitoring Committee and State Advisory Committee. It will soon be constituted with the govern-

ment's approval," the Commissioner said.

## Regular inspections

Meanwhile, health officials said they are continuing their regular inspections on health institutions and scanning centres to check malpractices. Vivek Dorai, State Deputy Director (Medical Acts) said there has been no major case reported after the raid on a hospital and diagnostic centre in Hoskote taluk on December 14. The hospital was sealed after a female foetus was found in a dustbin during a raid. "We are regularly inspecting health institutions across the State to curb sex-selective eliminations," he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan. 2, 2024**

# JN.1 surge: Audit finds COVID-19 to be incidental in nine deaths in Karnataka

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

The State Death Audit Committee, which has analysed 10 of the 15 deaths that occurred since December 15 in Karnataka, has found COVID-19 to be an incidental finding in nine of the deceased.

Only one death from Dakshina Kannada, which occurred in a private hospital on December 20, has been attributed to COVID-19 by the committee. A 40-year-old patient from Mangaluru, who was CO-

VID-positive and admitted on December 19 with symptoms of SARI, suffered multi-organ dysfunction and died the next day.

K. Ravi, Chairman of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), who also heads the Death Audit Committee, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that the Mangaluru death is the only fatality that can be attributed to COVID-19. The other nine are due to poor management of comorbidities and late admission for complications," he said. "Although the Mangaluru

patient, brought in an unconscious condition to the hospital, also tested positive for COVID-19 on arrival, we concluded it to be due to COVID-19 because his inflammatory markers were elevated. While he did not have any pre-existing comorbidities, his blood sugar was high on admission. He was also a chronic alcoholic," he said.

C.N. Manjunath, director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, said one of the deceased, a 41-year-old patient, had undergone

open heart surgery for double valve replacement. "He was admitted to Jayadeva with tiredness and fatigue as the previously implanted valve had degenerated. He needed a repeat valve replacement, which carries a high mortality risk. Post-operatively, he had low cardiac output and difficulty breathing. He also tested positive for COVID-19 and could not survive. COVID-19 is incidental. The primary cause of death is cardiac failure due to valvular heart disease," he explained.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1, Jan. 3, 2024**

## COVID-19: Karnataka Health Dept. to soon direct doctors to focus on targeted treatment of comorbidities

**Afshan Yasmeen**  
BENGALURU

Following the State Death Audit Committee's conclusion that COVID-19 was an incidental finding in nine of the 10 deaths that have been analysed so far, the State Health Department will soon issue directions to doctors to focus on targeted treatment of comorbidities.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that early and proper triaging in comorbid COVID-19 patients is very important in the light of the Death Audit committee's analysis. "People need not panic as although the JN.1 sub-var-



Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil at a meeting on the COVID-19 situation in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

iant is highly transmissible, the virulence is not high," he said.

"Only one of the 10 deaths analysed was due to COVID-19 as concluded by the Death Audit committee. The other deaths were

mainly where COVID-19 exacerbated the pre-existing comorbidity or where COVID-19 was an incidental finding. So, doctors would have to focus more on targeted treatment of comorbidities after early and proper triaging in comorbid COVID-19 patients," he said.

Mr. Randeep said the State's Clinical Protocol Committee has now been asked to give its opinion on clinical guidelines to be issued to doctors. "Based on that we will reiterate directions," he said.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, who held a meeting on Tuesday with heads of medical institutions and

hospitals under his purview and TAC members to review COVID-19 preparedness, called upon people not to panic and instead take precautions.

Although the WHO and many health experts have stated that the JN.1 sub-variant is unlikely to cause serious health problems in the infected, senior citizens and those with comorbidities can get vaccinated at district hospitals from Wednesday, he said.

Clarifying on the availability of medicine, oxygen beds, and equipment, the Minister said there was no dearth of funds for COVID-19 management. A proposal will be sent to the Finance Department re-

garding purchase of equipment and recruitment of staff in some hospitals, he said.

### Early reporting

C.N. Manjunath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, who attended the review meeting, said it is important that those with comorbidities should focus on proper management of their pre-existing diseases. "Four of the deceased patients analysed by the Death Audit committee had diabetes while the others had chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, cerebral vascular accident,

and even schizophrenia. One of them had interstitial lung disease and was bedridden for 18 months. They were not admitted for COVID-19 but tested positive on admission," he said.

Asserting that over 80% of the deaths in the third wave were also among those with comorbidities, Dr. Manjunath said: "We had noticed that a majority of the deaths in the third wave could have been prevented if patients had reported early. The pattern of deaths in the second wave was different from the third. We saw people developing breathlessness and succumbing on the seventh or eighth day during the second wave."

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan. 3, 2024**



# ಅಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕತೆ ನೀಗಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ | ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಗೋಧಿ, ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯ ಲಾಡು ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಮೆನು

■ ಗಂಗಾಧರ್ ಭೈರಾಪಟ್ಟಣ ರಾಮನಗರ

ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮೆನುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಹೊಸ ತಿಂಡಿಗಳು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆಯಲಿವೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕೂಗು ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಕೇಳಿ ಬಂದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷವೇ ಮೆನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿದಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಐಸಿಡಿಎಸ್



ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಮೆನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

**ಎನೇನು ಮೆನು?:** ಅನ್ನ ಸಾಂಬಾರ್, ಉಪ್ಪಿಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಅನ್ನ ಕಿಚಿಡಿ ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದಲೂ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಈಗ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 25 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕದ ಗೋಧಿ ಲಾಡು, ಸಿಹಿ ಪುಷ್ಟಿ ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯದ ಲಾಡು ವಿತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಇದರ ವೆಚ್ಚ 8 ರೂ. ಆದರೆ, ಅಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಮಗುವಿನ ವೆಚ್ಚ 12 ರೂ. ಆಗಿರಲಿದೆ. 6 ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ 3 ವರ್ಷದ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ತಿನ್ನಿಸಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಬೆಲ್ಲ ಸಹಿತ ಮತ್ತು ರಹಿತವಾಗಿ ಪುಷ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಸಹ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

**ಡಿಎಫ್ ಆರ್‌ಎಲ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ:** ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಸೂಚನೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳ ಮೆನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ

ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಸಿಡಿಎಸ್

ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಆಹಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ ಮೆನುವಿನಂತೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

**! ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಕುಮಾರ್** ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಪ್ರಭಾರ), ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ

ಮೆನುವಿಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಹಾರ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿಸಿ ಮತ್ತು 3 ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಬಿಎಸ್ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಗುಂಪುಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರಾರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಗುಂಪುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಡಿಎಫ್‌ಆರ್‌ಎಲ್ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿದ ಸೂತ್ರದಂತೆಯೇ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆಯೂ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಪೂರೈಕೆ ನಿಂತಿತ್ತು:** ಹೊಸ ಮೆನು ನೀಡುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯೂ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತೆಯರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರ ಆಕ್ರೋಶಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ಹೊಸ ಮೆನು ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲುಪುತ್ತಿವೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟನೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.5, Jan.04, 2024

ಚಳಿಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ | ಇಂದ್ರಧನುಷ್ ಲಸಿಕಾ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಸಿಕೆಗೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ

## ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ ಮಂಗನಬಾವು ಸೋಂಕು

■ ಮಾಹಾಬಲೇಶ್ವರ ಕಲ್ಕಣಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಳಿಗಾಲ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಋತುಮಾನಾಧಾರಿತ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮಂಚ ಸೋಂಕಿಗೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇದನ್ನು ಕೆಪ್ಪಟೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮಂಗನಬಾವು ಅಂತಲೂ ಕರೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ಸೋಂಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಲಾಲಾರಸ ಗ್ರಂಥಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ. ವೈರಸ್ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಉಸಿರಾಟದ ಹನಿಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಸೋಂಕಿತ ಲಾಲಾರಸದ ನೇರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕದ ಮೂಲಕ ಹರಡುತ್ತದೆ. ನಿಕಟ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕದಿಂದಲೂ ಈ ಸೋಂಕು ಹರಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಜ್ಞರು. **ಇಂದ್ರಧನುಷ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ ನೀಡಿ:** ಸದ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಇಂದ್ರಧನುಷ್ ಲಸಿಕಾ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಚ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಈ ಸೋಂಕಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ತಜ್ಞರು. ಇಂದ್ರಧನುಷ್ ಲಸಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಲಸಿಕೆ ದಡಾರ ಮತ್ತು ರುಬೆಲ್ಲಾ



ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಗುಣಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಚದಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪಾರಾಗಬಹುದು. ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ ನೀಡುವುದರಿಂದ ದಡಾರ ಮತ್ತು ರುಬೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಜೊತೆ ಮಂಚ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗೂ ಔಷಧ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಭಾರತೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಂಘದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ.ಎಸ್. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್.

**ಕೆಪ್ಪಟೆಯ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು?:** ಕೆಪ್ಪಟೆಯ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಲಕ್ಷಣವೆಂದರೆ ಒಂದು ಅಥವಾ ಎರಡೂ

ಪರೋಟಿಡ್ ಗ್ರಂಥಿಗಳ ಉಬ್ಬ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಕೆನ್ನೆ ಉದಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಇತರ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ರೋಗ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು ಜ್ವರ, ತಲೆನೋವು, ಸ್ನಾಯು ನೋವು, ಆಯಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ನುಂಗಲು ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ರೋಗಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳು ಇತರ ಉಸಿರಾಟದ ಸೋಂಕುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಮಿಸಬಹುದು.

**ಚಳಿಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ಉಲ್ಬಣ:** ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಳೆಗಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಚಳಿಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ವೈರಾಣುಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕ್ರಿಯಾಶೀಲವಾಗಲು ಬೇಕಾದ ಅಗತ್ಯ ವಾತಾವರಣವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಚಳಿಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಂಟಲು ಸೋಂಕು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಗಂಟಲು ನೋವು ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಗಂಟಲು ಸೋಂಕು ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದರ್ಥ. ಸೋಂಕು ಉಂಟಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ಗಂಟಲು ಒಣಗಿದಂತಾಗಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಕೆರೆತ ಶಬ್ದವಾಗಿ ಧ್ವನಿ ಕುಗ್ಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನೀರು, ಪಾನೀಯ, ದ್ರವರೂಪದ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವೈರಾಣುಗಳಿಂದ ಸೋಂಕು ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಚಳಿಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಷ್ಟು ಬಿಸಿಯಾದ ಆಹಾರ, ಕುದಿಸಿದ ನೀರು ಸೇವಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವೈದ್ಯರು.

ಕೆಪ್ಪಟೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂಟಿವೈರಲ್ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಎಂಎಂಆರ್ (ದಡಾರ, ಮಂಗನಬಾವು ಮತ್ತು ರುಬೆಲ್ಲಾ) ಲಸಿಕೆ ಕೆಪ್ಪಟೆಯ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಲಸಿಕೆ ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿರಕ್ಷೆ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

**ಡಾ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಎಸ್.** ಭಾರತೀಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಂಘದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

ಋತುಮಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳಾದ ತೀತ, ಜ್ವರ, ಕೆಮ್ಮು, ಅಲರ್ಜಿ ಜೊತೆ ಜೊತೆಗೂಡಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಚ ಕೂಡ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆದರೆ ಇದು ಗಂಭೀರವಾದ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಯಲ್ಲ. ಮೂರಾಲ್ವು ದಿನವಿದ್ದು, ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

-ಡಾ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಣ್ಣಸಾರ್ಥಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಜ್ಞರು

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.05, Jan.05, 2024

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# A stitch in time saves nothing for women in garment factories

Bengaluru is the hub of Karnataka's thriving garment industry. Yet, the hands stitching its success, nearly half a million women, struggle with low wages, verbal and physical abuse, and a non-existent work-life balance. A new study points to gendered labour and burnout of women workers

Karnataka accounts for 20% of India's total garment production.

*Supriya RoyChowdhury & Rekha Chakravarthi*

The 2023 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Claudia Goldwin's work, published in the 1980s, was perhaps the first to demonstrate the structured character of women's economic disadvantage. Although Goldwin's work was rooted in US and American economic histories, her theoretical contribution—the gendered structuring of households and labour markets—is immensely valuable for analysing women's work in the global south.

India's female labour force participation rate (LFPR), at a mere 19%, is one of the lowest globally. Declining industrial employment has been one of the main reasons for low female LFPR, particularly for unskilled and semi-skilled labour seeking to move from rural to urban areas. In this context, global commodity and supply chains, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as Ready-Made Garments (RMG), have provided a boost to employment in the global south. On the other hand, low wages paid to labour in the backdrop of disproportionately high-priced end products sold in global north retail stores—attributed to innovative financial and marketing activities by global MNCs—have attracted much criticism.

We draw here on a recent collaborative study of apparel export companies in Karnataka. The study was conducted by CIVIDEP India and Supriya Roy Chowdhury, supported by STITCH, a consortium that seeks to improve working conditions in the export garment industry across six countries. The study highlights the connection of women workers with multi-national capital in global exports, shedding light on supply chain governance.

### **Why study the ready-made garment industry?**

While textiles contribute 15% of exports from India, 40% of it is contributed by the RMG sector, which employs more than 12 million people. Karnataka accounts for 20% of India's total garment production, with Bengaluru being the hub with around 500 units of varying scales and employing more than 5 lakh workers. The industry is now gradually shifting to suburban areas. The use of a largely female workforce with highly irregular and insecure wages and working conditions has cast a long shadow on the sector in Karnataka.

Our study combined a survey of 200 women with qualitative discussions with workers, NGOs, and trade unionists. The women hailed predominantly from districts in Southern Karnataka, where poor, lower caste households framed the absence of opportunities for girls to educate themselves beyond a few years of schooling (typically 8th to 10th grade). 81% of the women said that they had wanted to study more. Resource-poor households preferred to support the



education of their children. Early marriages (average age was 16) to men from indigent agricultural families, migration to Bengaluru, and an RMG job were typical trajectories.

### **The harsh realities**

Despite having worked in the same factory for 10–15 years, the average salary (as of December 2022) remained below Rs 10,000. Many workers seek overtime (OT) opportunities; however, the lack of regulated payment for extra hours poses a significant challenge. Some of the figures are telling. 50% of the workers serve as the sole or primary earners, being the highest or only earners in their households. 54% reported a monthly household income ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000. 17% of respondents stated they received no OT compensation, often linked to unfinished work or unscheduled leave taken.

16% of women engaged in additional work, typically investing around two hours daily in domestic service, piece-rate work in garment factories, tailoring, or selling flowers to supplement household income. Verbal abuse from line managers, used as an instrument to augment production, is a well-known feature of the RMG sector, and all respondents reported this to be a daily experience. Of the workers, 68% said that their factory has imposed restrictions on toilet visits and time, enforced through surveillance and verbal abuse. Punishments such as physical isolation were reported, as was sexual harassment. Most companies have grievance redressal committees. However, worker dissatisfaction is rarely articulated as formal complaints, as 93% of workers have not signed a written contract of employment, and their jobs may be easily terminated. In the words of Purnima, “There are so many workers who fear the violent body language of managers and thereby leave the factory.”

Annapurna does collar attachments for 80 shirts per hour. Sometimes she avoids drinking water as she will need to use the restroom, and she cannot afford to waste time. “There is production torture as well as quality torture,” she says. Sometimes she wonders whether she will have to work until she dies. Manjula says, “Managers force us to work OT during periods of heavy order; when we express unwillingness, we are asked to not come to work the next day. But even if I request a half-day leave due to sickness, they shout at me.”

### **High attrition**

RMG work is marked by short tenures. Although the maximum number of workers (98%) were in the peak years of their working lives (18–50 years of age), less than 5% had spent 21–25 years in the garments sector. Workers quit, unable to cope with the stresses of low pay, shop floor coercion, and the periodic need to withdraw provident funds or gratitude for unforeseen expenditures, combined with the responsibilities of reproduction and care at home. They then move between home-based piece-rate work, domestic service, flower stringing, and street selling.

Quitting and rejoining the factory multiple times are common. This instability keeps their wages low and prevents the growth of a stable and robust workforce. The industry’s control stretches into homes. Pushpalatha does piecework at home. Since payment is based on the number of pieces delivered, she says there is a desire to do more. “Some days I have worked from 8 am to 8 pm. Doing this continuously for five years has affected my health.”

### **Crisis of Social Reproduction**

Garment workers’ hardships take on a different colour in their homes. After working eight hours or more at the factory, they spend an additional three hours in the morning and another three in the evening at home, providing care in a space they recreate daily. This cycle allows the worker to barely snatch a few hours of sleep, preparing to resume as a producer of value both at the factory and within their home the next day.

This highly overstretched day results in severe time poverty, impacting workers and their families materially, physically, and emotionally. In the words of one worker, sometimes there is so much stress that she “really curses God for making me go through this pain.” Close to 60% said they faced violence or harassment at home.

With a work life scattered over several companies, depleted retirement benefits, and outstanding loans, retirement can mean extreme vulnerability. After working and quitting four different companies, Shashikala had only collected Rs 45,000 combined as a provident fund from two factories to face the future after 30 years in the RMG sector. Shashikala has stopped working due to ill health, and her son, aged 21, started working at the age of 13 to support her and now earns Rs 10,000.

Neelamma worked for 12 years, during which time she quit the company three times to avail of her provident fund (a total of Rs 1.4 lakh). She stopped working due to health issues. Of the respondents, 53% said that on stopping work, they planned to return to their native villages, where many retain a small piece of land or a small house. While rural economic distress pushed them out, two or more decades of urban work in garment factories did not enable them to buy a home or land. In fact, the rural economy and households sustain many migrant workers during crises (Covid-19 lockdown, critical illness, job loss, and retirement).

Equally significant is the absence of inter-generational mobility. Household earnings are not enough to afford private, English-medium schools, which most working-class parents aspire to send their children to. The vernacular medium may not provide the necessary fluency in English to gain a foothold in even the middle echelons of the urban salary structure. A demotivating school system leads to many dropouts. About 60% of adult children of garment workers were found to be employed in services, 16% in construction, receiving a monthly salary of Rs 10,000–15,000. The next generation is then produced as a class replica: unskilled, low-wage informal labour.

RMG companies have provided much-needed industrial employment to unskilled and poorly educated rural and semi-rural women.

However, low wages and harsh production targets, framed by the supervisor’s wrath, define the sector. Working extra hours alongside household responsibilities leads to self-exploitation, causing physical and emotional strain on women. Goldwin’s framework helps illustrate how constrictions imposed by both the natal family and the marital home impact women’s lives and are then carried forward into an unregulated work environment. Here we see the reproduction of culture and norms that reinforce dominant social relations in the household and workplace.

In the absence of an active presence of national trade unions, smaller unions have provided commendable leadership in wage bargaining as well as raising worker awareness. Unionisation, however, remains low, at 10%. Wage revisions have been irregular and unsatisfactory to workers, despite the existence of a Wage Board. While governments have remained indifferent to the need for regulation of RMG women’s work, this sector additionally calls into question the model of urbanisation that appears to be in place, which is to bring unskilled or semi-skilled rural communities to cities to work in low-paid informal work, provide subsistence wages, and leave them with nothing when they can no longer work.

(The writer is a visiting professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; Rekha is Director, CIVIDEP India, Bengaluru)

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



# B'luru witnessed 55% increase in molestation cases in 2023

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** There was a 55% year-on-year spike in molestation incidents in 2023 in Bengaluru city, which saw 1,135 such cases last year. Other crimes such as murders, robberies, house break-ins, servant thefts and motor vehicle thefts also saw a rise last year, according to data collated by the city police.

City police maintain that the increase in statistics is because of free registration of FIRs and a few other reasons such as personal enmity or trivial issues.

Raman Gupta, additional commissioner of police (East), said, "We need to ana-

## 1,135 CASES IN CITY

► B'luru saw **1,135 molestation cases last year**. Robberies, house break-ins, murders and vehicle thefts in the city also went up

► Of the **1,135 cases, police detected 1,004**. In 2022, 731 cases were filed & 688 detected

► **176 rape cases filed under IPC section 376 in 2023** and data by city police shows that all of them were detected

“Due to continuous efforts, more women are coming forward to report such incidents”  
**B Dayananda** | POLICE COMMISSIONER

lyse the exact reasons for increase in the molestation cases. However, we have zero tolerance to such offences in public in private spaces. We-

've issued instructions to women police stations and all law-and-order police stations in the city that such issues should be brought to the records by registering the case rather than settling the matter that the suspects don't get involved in such acts in future. The DG&IGP has also given instructions to register all the cases."

City police commissioner B Dayananda said they have set up an ecosystem the officers are continuously creating awareness among women not to be bogged down by attacks and report such incidents.

► **More report cases, P 2**

## More women coming forward to report molestation: Top cop

► Continued from page 1

Due to continuous efforts, more women are coming forward to report such incidents," he added.

"Molestation incidents are also reported during civil disputes that end in brawls between known persons, feuds within family and among relatives and friends. A very marginal number of the molestation cases involve strangers attacking women," DCP (Crime II) Srinivas R Gowda said.

Efforts to create awareness among the public to report

sexual harassment to police during public-police interactions and by distribution of pamphlets are also reasons for increase in cases, another officer said. Among 1,135 molestation cases registered in 2023, police detected 1,004 of them. In 2022, 731 cases were reported and 688 detected. In 2021, 573 cases were reported, and 559 cases detected.

The city has also witnessed increase in cases registered under IPC section 509 for insulting the modesty of women by way of words, sounds or gesture, or exhibiting any ob-

ject. While at least 60 cases under IPC section 359 were reported and 52 cases solved in 2023, the corresponding numbers were 29 and 20 for the previous year.

There was a marginal increase in rape cases registered under IPC section 376 in 2023, when 176 such incidents were reported and all of them were detected. In 2022, 152 rapes were reported and 151 of them were detected. In 2021, 116 rape cases were reported and all of them were detected. Three rape cases were reported in 2023, according to city police.

WOMEN STILL AT THE RECEIVING END						
Crime	2023		2022		2021	
	Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected	Reported	Detected
Molestation	176	176	152	151	116	116
Rape	1,135	1,004	731	688	573	559
Insulting modesty of women	60	52	29	24	19	17
Cruelty of husband, relatives	696	696	580	573	422	420
Dowry deaths	25	25	29	29	26	26
Immoral Trafficking Act	161	161	155	155	129	129
Dowry Prohibition Act	1,007	1,007	954	925	735	724

Sources: Bengaluru city police

**Source: The Times of India, p.1&2, Jan.4, 2024**

# Woman, 43, burnt alive during fight with spouse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A fight between a man and his second wife culminated in her death, while he sustained serious burns at Nagaragere in Gauribidanur Rural of Chikkaballapur district in the wee hours of Wednesday.

The victim is Sharada, 40, and her husband Shankara has been admitted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru.

Shankara, who runs a hotel in Nagaragere, married Girijamma, 43, six years ago. A few months later, he tied the

knot with Girijamma's sister Sharada and the three were living under one roof.

While Girijamma has one child, Sharada had two kids. On Tuesday midnight, Shankar got into a fight with Sharada, and in a fit of rage, poured petrol on her. When he threatened to burn her, Sharada snatched the matchbox from Shankara and lit the fire. Sharada was burnt alive, while Shankara sustained serious burns. Girijamma, who witnessed the incident, ran out of the house and alerted neighbours.

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

## 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 3260 ಕೇಸ್ ದಾಖಲು | ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಕಿರುಕುಳ, ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸೇಫ್ ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಅನ್‌ಸೇಫ್

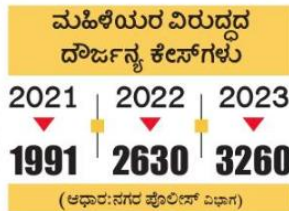
■ ವಿಕಸ್ಯೋಕ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ 400 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳಿಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತದ 'ಸೇಫ್ ಸಿಟಿ' ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಸಿರಿಕಾನ್ ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಷದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿವೆ.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಎಂಟು ಮಹಿಳಾ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಕಿರುಕುಳ, ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳದ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಗಳು ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿವೆ. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿದಾಗ ಈ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ವೇದ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 2630 ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದವು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 3260 ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಈ ವೈಕ 1135 ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಕಿರುಕುಳ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಗೌರವಕ್ಕೆ ಧಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದ 60 ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಈ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳು, ಕೆಠೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಘಟಿಸಿವೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಪ್ರಯಾಣದ ವೇಳೆಯೂ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳ ನೀಡಿರುವುದು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು.

**ಮದುವೆ ಅಮಿಷದ ದೋಖಾ:** 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ 176 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ಅತ್ಯಾಚಾರ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 115 ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ಮದುವೆ ಅಮಿಷವೊಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃತ್ರಿಮ ಎಸಗಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಿವೆ. ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣಗಳು, ಡೇಟಿಂಗ್ ಆ್ಯಪ್, ಮ್ಯಾಟ್ರಿಮೋನಿ



ತಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತೆಯರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಿತರಾದ ದುಷ್ಕರ್ಮಿಗಳು ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ಮದುವೆಯ ಅಮಿಷವೊಡ್ಡಿ ಬಳಕೆ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯವೆಸಗಿ ವಂಚಿಸಿರುವುದೂ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. 44 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತೆಯರ ಪರಿಚಯಸ್ಥರೇ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೂರು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳು ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತೆಯರಿಗೆ ಆಪರಿಚಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

**ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳಕ್ಕೆ 25 ಬಲಿ!**

ಕಿರುಕುಳದ ಪಿಡುಗು ಕೂಡ ನಿಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲ ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದಷ್ಟೇ ಗೋವಿಂದರಾಜನಗರ ತಾಣಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಡೇರಿ ಮಿಲ್ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಸೊಸೆ ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬಲಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಗಳೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 25 ಮಂದಿ ಗೃಹಿಣಿಯರು ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇವ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಥರ ವರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ ಕಿರುಕುಳದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಿಡಿದೆದ್ದ 1007 ಮಂದಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಗಂಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಆತನ ಕುಟುಂಬಸ್ಥರು ವಿವಾಹ ವಮಾನಸಿಕ, ದೈಹ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಸಂಬಂಧ 696 ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ.

**'ಸೇಫ್ ಸಿಟಿ' ಯೋಜನೆ ಫಲ ನೀಡುವುದೇ?** ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಶೇ. 60:40ರ ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ 496.57 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇಫ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಬಹುಕಾಲ ಅಂತಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನಗರದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 7500ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಎಂ ಆಫರತೆ ಸಿಸ್ ಕ್ಯಾಮೆರಾಗಳೇ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, 50 ಸೆಲ್ಫಿ ಐಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್, 60

**ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಲೆ, ಸುಲಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಕಮಿಷನರೇಟ್ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಲಿಗೆ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ಗಣನೀಯವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿವೆ. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 200 ಕೊಲೆ, 673 ರಾಬರಿ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಾಗ ಕೊಲೆ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 31ರಷ್ಟು ಸುಲಿಗೆ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ಶೇ. 57ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿವೆ. 153 ಸರಗವು ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. 200 ಕೊಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ತಕ್ಷಣದ ಸಿಟ್ಟು ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಜಗಳ, ಅಸ್ಥಿತ್ವ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ಏಳು ಕೊಲೆಗಳು ರೌಡಿಗಳ ನಡುವಣ ವೈಷಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಘಟಿಸಿವೆ. ಲಾಠಿದಳ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕೇವಲ 2 ಕೊಲೆಗಳು ನಡೆದಿವೆ. ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಕಳ್ಳವು ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸುಲಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 673 ಸುಲಿಗೆ ಕೇಸ್‌ಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ 385 ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಕಸಿಮಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದ ಕೇಸ್‌ ಗಳಾಗಿವೆ ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಹೊರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ, 96ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಮಾಂಡ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ಇದೇ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇಫ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಹಂತ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದ್ದು, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ನೀಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

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

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## Governance

# ‘Reservation of private lands for public purposes in master plans will lapse if not acquired within five-year period’

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declared that reservation of any private property for the use of parks, playgrounds and other recreation uses, public open spaces, etc., in the revised master plan notified under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961, would lapse after a period of five years from the date of notification if not acquired as per the land acquisition laws within that period.

The court also made it clear that the period of five years for acquiring the reserved private land is binding on the authorities irrespective of when the such land would be made use for the notified public purposes.

“The reservation made in terms of Section 1(c) of the KTCP Act for parks, playgrounds and other recreation uses, public open spaces, public open buildings and institutions, other than areas reserved for new street developments under Section 12(1)(b), would lapse after a period of five years in terms of Section 69(2) of the Act, if the same were not acquired within the said period by agreement or by initiating proceedings under the Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013,” the court observed.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while al-



The court has declared that reservation of Jayamahal Palace Hotel land for public purposes made in 2007 lapsed in 2012. FILE PHOTO

lowing a petition filed in 2015 by 82-year-old Maharani Kumud Kumari and 56-year-old Maharaj Himanshusinhji, the wife and the son of late Jyotendra-sinhji Vikramsinhji, who are the owners of Jayamahal Palace Hotel in Bengaluru. The petitioners had questioned about legality of notifying their land as green belt zone in the master plan for utilising it for various public purposes.

An obligation imposed on the planning authority to acquire the land designated in the master plan for public purpose under the land acquisition law of 2013 within a period of five years to bring about a balance as the owners of private land would not be able to make use of the properties other than notified purposes during the subsistence of reservation of their land in the master plan, the Court said.

The court also said that when no acquisition is made within a period of five years of such reservation, then the designation would lapse, thereby lifting the restriction on the owner subject to compliance with Section 69 (3) of the Act.

### **Automatic restoration**

On the lapse of reservation, the court said, the land would not be automatically restored to the status that existed prior to the reservation made in the master plan, but the owner of private lands would have to submit the application to the authorities under Section 69(3) of the Act to make use of the land on the basis of surrounding developments.

Further, the court said the authorities would have to consider such an application after inviting objections from the public and

grant permission on the basis of developments in the surroundings.

### **Based on surroundings**

As an example, the court said that if the surrounding is a residential area, then the land cannot be permitted to be used for commercial purposes and if the surrounding is a commercial area, then no permission for residential purposes can be granted. Such permission is different from the change of land use sought under Section 14A of the Act, the court clarified.

In the case of the petitioners, the court said that the reservation of Jayamahal Palace Hotel land, notified on June 25, 2007, has lapsed on the midnight of June 24, 2012, and the petitioners can make application for use of their land for other purposes based on the surroundings.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Dec. 30, 2023**



# 110 villages in BBMP limits to get Cauvery water from May

The BWSSB is implementing this ₹5,550-crore project, which is largely funded by the JICA

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he much-awaited water supply to 110 villages under Cauvery Stage V will commence in May 2024. This will benefit nearly 50 lakh people living in these villages that come under Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, and Byatarayanapura zones of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is implementing this ₹5,550 crore project, which is largely funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in an area of around 225 sq. km. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Stage-3), Cauvery Stage 3, has been divided into ten different water component packages.

A water treatment plant at T.K. Halli is nearly completed, according to the BWSSB press release. The plant has the capacity to treat 775 million litres of water per day.

From T.K. Halli, a transition pipeline will be laid, and



The water supply will benefit nearly 50 lakh people. FILE PHOTO

further, it will go to Vajarahalli, Eastern, and Western routes. From T.K. Halli to Vajarahalli, 75 km of pipeline work is being executed; at the eastern route, 54 km; at the western route, 56 km. From T.K. Halli to Vajarahalli, the pipeline will be 300 m in diameter. They are laid through a 3,000 mm under-

ground channel. From Vajarahalli to the eastern route (up to Kadugodi) and Vajarahalli to the western route (up to Thannisandra), it will vary from 2.2 m to 0.8 m. On the Eastern route, there are 3 Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs) and 4 GLRs on the western route. The BWSSB said the work related to the

project will be completed in March 2024, after which a trial run will be conducted in April to check the efficiency of the supply.

The supply of water to the villages will start in May. The release also said the project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a delay in permissions from NHAI

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Dec. 30, 2023**



# Cash-strapped BBMP wants to wrest power to approve building plan for industries from KIADB

Stakeholders in the industry argue that this move could take a toll on industrial development in Bengaluru

**Shreyas H.S.**  
BENGALURU

**B**ruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has sent a proposal to the Urban Development Department (UDD) seeking the power to grant building plan approvals for the industrial sector. Currently, these plans are approved by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB).

According to sources in the Town Planning Department, the civic body sees a huge potential in this. The argument in the proposal is that the BBMP is losing its due share of revenue to KIADB.

An official in the department said, "The proposal is being analysed by the UDD, and we hope the go-



vernment will be convinced. This has now become a matter of discussion between the Urban Development Ministry and Ministry for Large and Medium Industries."

A source in the BBMP said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is looking to boost BBMP revenue, is impressed by this proposal,

and has directed officials to pursue it with the government. A source privy to this development said Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil is not keen on the proposal, as KIADB is currently the sole authority to give clearances for building plans for industries. Mr. Patil told *The Hindu*, "No department had communicated with me on this issue officially. I can comment only after this proposal is communicated through official channels."

## Stakeholders worried

Stakeholders in the industry argue that this move could take a toll on industrial development in Bengaluru. KIADB grants plan approval within weeks of submission of details un-

der the ease of doing business policy.

In the BBMP, getting approval is a laborious task. "Usually, it takes at least six months to get approval for building plans in the BBMP. And this task comes with its own set of problems," said an expert. He argued that such delays might result in flight of capital to other cities, like Hyderabad in Telangana.

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, president of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCCI), said the trade body will oppose this move and he will be writing a letter to Mr. Patil.

"In the designated industrial areas, BBMP or any local authorities do not provide any facility. Hence, BBMP has no right to intervene," he argued.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Dec. 30, 2023**

# Bengaluru's pursuit of a health commissioner amid Covid crisis

BBMP's plan to appoint one in 2023-24 budget remains unimplemented

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the Covid scare gripping Bengaluru yet again, discussion on the city's health infrastructure has gained the limelight. While the previous Covid waves had exposed the gaps in administration and a need for better infrastructure, has the government learnt from them?

Well the city might be able to address Covid better but there are many other bigger problems that need to be addressed, experts opined. From a need for more facilities to accessibility for the urban poor, there is a lot more to be done, they said. Considering the need to better handle the situation, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in the 2023-24 budget had announced that the city will get a dedicated health commissioner who would coordinate with the various departments. However, the idea is yet to be implemented.

"We have discussed this with the Health Minister and a decision will be taken at the high level," said BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath.

"The administration tends to look at the health infrastructure in urban areas, especially in cities like Bengaluru, with a bias. Considering the huge number of private facilities available in the city, they do not focus on improving the government facilities and as a result, while accessibility is not a problem, affordability becomes a problem," said Dr



Previous Covid waves had exposed the gaps in administration. DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

Devadasan N, adjunct faculty at the Institute of Public Health.

While many Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and many maternity homes in the city are well-maintained, their focus is limited and this brings down the quality of service, said a health activist who has worked with the marginalised.

"In many cases, the facilities focus more on maternal and child care. Sometimes, the focus shifts to dengue and seasonal flu. However, we have to go beyond it and look at comprehensive health care. There is much more to it than just handling communicable diseases and maternal care. For instance, we all know that non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, and hypertension are on the rise. None of our facilities address these problems effectively,"

the activist pointed out.

Echoing the opinion, Dr Devadasan pointed out that most of the health officers in the BBMP are focused on sanitation and waste management.

"I personally feel that the PHCs should be handed over to the health department since they need to be handled by experienced healthcare providers," he said.

The flaws also exist because the healthcare in the city is divided among three government entities— the BBMP, the health department, and the medical education department.

"The approach is highly fragmented and hence there are coordination issues. Many times, people directly knock on the doors of tertiary care centres since they are not sure if the PHCs will be able to treat them given that the coordination between primary care and tertiary care is poor. This leaves the tertiary care centre crowded and as a result, those who genuinely need tertiary care may find it difficult to access it," said Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health professional.

She added that the timings of many primary care centres also make them useless for the workers in the unorganised sectors.

"Many of these centres close down by

## Health dept scanning proposals

Sources from the health department said that multiple proposals are being discussed to improve the healthcare services in the city. Many of the discussions were also centred around improving coordination among the various departments and assigning responsibility to each of them. The department is also gathering data on the footfall at various PHCs and the timings at which patients arrive to decide if they should be open round the clock. "In many areas, the PHCs hardly have any patients after 2 pm. Hence, we have to determine the local needs and fix the timings. We are collecting data on the footfall to decide if the timings have to be changed," a senior official from the Health Department said.

evening. However, the daily wage workers cannot afford to skip work to visit the clinic since they depend on the day's earnings to make ends meet. The PHCs should be accessible at the time of their convenience otherwise it will force the workers to visit private facilities that are not affordable" she said.

However, Bengaluru also poses unique challenges owing to the huge population and the influx of people from across the country. While techies and other workers who end up in the city can afford to visit private healthcare facilities, there is a need to address the needs of migrant workers.

"It is high time that we come up with a strategy to address the needs of migrant workers. Given that we have limited resources, many times the government facilities refuse treatment to outsiders. We have to learn to see them as patients who need care," Dr Devadasan said.

Dr Karpagam added that in many cases these workers lose the benefits of the social security schemes and are left unguided on how they can access healthcare facilities.

## Issues to be addressed

- Improve the number of healthcare facilities considering the huge population
- Run the primary healthcare facilities round the clock to meet the needs of those in the unorganised sectors.
- Shift focus from maternal care and communicable disease to handling comprehensive healthcare
- Chalk out a strategy to provide healthcare facilities to migrant workers

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3D, Dec.31, 2023



# Encroachment clearance in no man's land as pvt interests lord over public lands

**'Politician-bureaucrat-land shark nexus creating artificial land shortage'**

**N B HOMBAL**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**R**evenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda made startling revelations in the Belagavi legislature session that the state has a shortage of public land for public amenities.

The government is in possession of an estimated 63.32 lakh acres, of which 14.72 lakh acres are encroached upon.

Of this, 10.54 lakh acres fall under Akrama-Sakrama scheme (under which regularization of cultivation land is sought) and 17,686 acres have been used for public purposes.

Cases pertaining to encroachment of 11,031 acres are pending in courts. The government had to free up 3.89 lakh acres from encroachment. Of this, 2.73 lakh acres have already been freed. There are 5,507 cases pending in the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Courts.

Expressing concern, the minister said land had been indiscriminately granted over the years and the only hope is to look at safeguarding available land.

"Now, we cannot think of parting with government land for any purpose other than creating public amenities. The time has come for the government to stop giving land grants. Even if the state does so, it must be by following strict regulations," he said.

The minister said the government was taking stringent measures against officials hand in glove with encroachers and started filing FIR against them.

According to data accessed by *DH*, in



**A file photo of an encroachment clearance drive in progress in Bengaluru. In Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts combined, 51,555.31 acres of land is encroached in 23,307 cases.**

**KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA**  
Revenue Minister

**“**Now, we cannot think of parting with government land for any purpose other than creating public amenities. The time has come for the government to stop giving land grants. Even if the state does so, it must be by following strict regulations.  
**”**

Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts combined, 51,555.31 acres of land is encroached in 23,307 cases. Of this, the government has disposed of 12,434 cases, recovering 28,264.18 acres.

The minister said the government plans to operationalise the Beat App system in January, besides continuing encroachment clearance drive.

"Digitisation of land records, drone survey of properties and indexing of

revenue records will be the primary focus of the department to protect government land," he said.

Activists and bureaucrats feel measures by successive governments against land encroachment were far from satisfactory.

They say the minister's apprehensions about "shortage of government land" is far from truth.

V Balasubramanian, former chairperson of the Task force for Recovery of Public Lands told *DH* that successive governments had failed miserably in clearing encroachments.

"Even if some land is cleared, it is from poor and non-influential people. The biggest chunk of land is encroached by big land sharks whose names find mention in various government records. The existing rules, framed during British-era, are enough to clear encroachments and recover cost from encroachers. These encroachments have taken place with the tri-nexus of politicians, bureaucrats and land

sharks. If government is sincere in its approach, it should give clearance to prosecute officers who are hand in glove with land sharks," he said.

He said land encroachment in Karnataka is at a different level compared to other metro cities – Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi.

"In these cities, encroachment has not taken place in the central part or core areas, but in Bengaluru, encroachment has taken place in every possible place," he said.

Kumar Samatala, secretary of Karnataka Bhoomi-Vasati Hakku Vanchitra Horata Samiti, told *DH* that there was no dearth of land to provide public amenities, housing or cultivation purposes.

"The minister seems to be carried away by the statement provided by bureaucrats. In 1978, the revenue and forest departments entered into an agreement to plant saplings on around 15 lakh acres of kharab land. The revenue department is the real owner of this land and it has allowed forest department to claim rights. This is actually leading to multiple problems, with forest department claiming rights over revenue land," he said.

The committee plans to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Krishna Byre Gowda to appeal to them to relook into demands of landless and houseless people.

T Yeshvantha, general secretary of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha, told *DH* that the Congress rode to power in 2023, after stating in the manifesto that they would clear all pending Bagair Hukum land cases.

"Now, the revenue and forest departments have been functioning contrary to the assurances. We held a protest last month to highlight that several farmers were evicted from lands they have been cultivating for ages. The CM assured that he will give an appointment to discuss these issues, but he is yet to do so," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, Dec.31, 2023**





In that building, the first four levels house the mall and the levels above have the multiplex. Above that is a tech park. The OC has only been issued for the mall now. The current parking facilities are insufficient and not equipped for peak load.

**M.N. ANUCHETH,**  
Joint Commissioner of Police  
(Traffic), Bengaluru.



The Mall of Asia case is a good example that shows we need to do a holistic impact study of large commercial projects prior to issuing clearances. We mostly work in departmental silos and we need to evolve mechanisms to prevent this.

**V. RAVICHANDAR,**  
Civic activist

## ‘Glaring problem of a lack of coordination among agencies’

**Jahnvi T.R.**  
BENGALURU

The recent order from the city police to restrict public access to Phoenix Mall of Asia, on Ballari Road, is yet another example of the glaring problem of lack of a holistic approach before clearing big residential and commercial projects in the city, citizen activists have argued.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, in a letter to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), requested that the partial occupancy certificate (OC) issued to the mall should be withdrawn or cancelled owing to the existing issues.

He has also said that according to the findings of the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) officials, the mall building should have space for 10,000 four-wheelers and two-wheelers, while it currently only has space for over 2,300 cars and two-wheelers.

“The first four levels

house the mall and the levels above have the multiplex. Above that is a tech park. The OC has only been issued for the mall now. The current parking facilities are insufficient and not equipped for peak load,” said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

When asked if the BTP was consulted by the BBMP before issuing the partial OC, Mr. Anucheth said that it was not.

However, the existing law also doesn’t require for the civic body to consult the BTP before giving an OC to a building. However, for instance, the BBMP asks for a NOC from the BTP in certain types of trade, for instance, entertainment.

“Ideally the BTP needs to be consulted before the civic body gives an OC to all buildings that attract large footfall and vehicle population. This should be the criteria rather than the kind of trade. Such situations may arise even in a large scale

apartment,” said Mr. Anucheth.

“The Mall of Asia case is a good example that shows we need to do a holistic impact study of large commercial projects prior to issuing clearances. We mostly work in departmental silos and we need to evolve mechanisms to prevent this,” said civic activist V. Ravichandar.

These developments left citizens wondering why an OC was issued to the mall despite it posing what appears to be a slew of problems.

However, Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Civic Commissioner, BBMP, said that the partial OC was issued only after verifying that things were done according to norms at the time.

“We have not withdrawn the OC yet. We had partially issued it to the portion of the building which complied with our norms. We will now check again if they have violated the norms and diverted the space which was allotted for parking for some other purposes. We will also check if there are violations of any other regulations under which we had issued the OC and if we find that there are violations, then we will surely take action,” Mr. Giri Nath said.

Mr. Ravichandar also pointed out that the criteria for clearing such projects should be primarily based on its access feasibility through public transport (metro including stations in the basement, bus, rail) and walking modes.

“Insisting on more in-house parking is counter productive since it encourages taking out private vehicles. Shared parking solutions across the city needs a policy that incentivises it,” he said.



cted public access to Phoenix Mall of Asia. SUDHAKARA JAIN

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan. 1, 2024**



# Courts in Karnataka disposed of nearly 17 lakh cases in 2023

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**Bengaluru:** Courts in Karnataka had, as of 7pm Sunday, disposed of nearly 17 lakh cases in 2023, even as pendency continued to haunt them.

Analysis of the National Judicial Data Grid data shows that the high court disposed of 87,506 cases, while the lower courts across taluks and districts managed about 16 lakh cases. A majority of the cases disposed of — 14.7 lakh — had been filed in the past three years, while over 10,000 were older than 10 years.


## 22L STILL PENDING

With the increasing use of technology, the courts are expected to clear more cases in the coming year, as Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had said while addressing the state judiciary earlier in December 2023. Commending the Karnataka judiciary's accomplishment of disposing of cases in 2023, Justice Chandrachud had encouraged judges to become more acquainted with technological tools.

Notwithstanding the efforts, separate data shows more than 22.3 lakh cases — nearly 2.9 lakh of them in the high court — are still pending.

Of these, 153 have been pending for more than 30 years, while a majority — 19.4 lakh — have been pending for only a year. Multiple experts TOI spoke with said a key concern is the judge-to-population ratio, which is about 21 per million in India, and a similar trend is seen across the states, including Karnataka.

"While India does have a huge population compared to other countries, there is nothing that stops the govern-

YEAR IN REVIEW	
Cases disposed of	
16.9 lakh: Total cases disposed of in 2023	
16 lakh: In lower courts	87,506 In high court
14.7 lakh: Cases that were 0-3 years old	1.2 lakh: 3-5 years old
92,220: 5-10 years old	11,052: Older than 10 years
Pending cases	
22.3 lakh: Total pending cases up to Dec 31	
19.4 lakh: In lower courts	2.9 lakh: In high court
4.4 lakh: For 1-3 years	11 lakh: Cases pending for 0-1 years
3.2 lakh: For 3-5 years	2.8 lakh: For 5-10 years
	63,998: For 10-20 years
	1,808: For 20-30 years
	153: For over 30 years
— Source: National Judicial Data Grid	

ments from appointing more judges, which is not happening," one of them said, adding that the sanctioned strength itself needs a relook and the situation on the ground is that not even the sanctioned posts are filled.

Another expert, while pointing out that case pendency is a complex subject which cannot be crystallized for a ready-made solution, said: "... The inception of disputes, resolution of the same, and delivery of justice have to be dealt with very carefully and should be subjective."

**Source: The Times of India, p.5, Jan.1, 2024**

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136 ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬಡ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ತರಾತುರಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

# ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲು ನಿಯಮ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆ

• ಚಂದ್ರಹಾಸ ಹಿರೇಮಠಲಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರದ್ದುಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ 312 ನಿಲಯ ಪಾಲಕರ (ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್ ವಾರ್ಡನ್) ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಐದು ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಿ ವಿವಾದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಈಗ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆಯದ 136 ಮಂದಿಗೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸೇವಾ (ವೃಂದ ಮತ್ತು ನೇಮಕಾತಿ) ನಿಯಮಗಳು - 2019' ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಒಂದು ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಐದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ

ಒಬ್ಬ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಭಾರ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಂಥವರಿಗೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರವೇ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮರುಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಶಿವರಾಜ ತಂಗಡಗಿ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ

50ರಷ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಈ ಎರಡೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸದೇ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/ಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಯ 106 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಬಡ್ತಿ : ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೃಂದದ 19 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾದ 106 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ

## ಡಿಜಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೂ ಇಲ್ಲ ನಿಯಮ ಪಾಲನೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 31 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಡಿಜಿ) ದರ್ಜೆಯ 41 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿವೆ. ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಧದಷ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ 15 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಆ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೃಂದ ಮತ್ತು ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ನಿಯಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಒಂದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಬಾರದು ಎಂಬ ನಿಯಮವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, 20ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇವೆ. ಹಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಹುದ್ದೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡದ ಕಾರಣ ಕೆಳ ಹಂತದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ಪ್ರಭಾರ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಜೇಷ್ಠತಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಮೂರೇ ವರ್ಷ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ

ನೀಡಲು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ನಿಲಯ ಪಾಲಕರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳೂ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. 2020ರ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್, ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಡೆದವರೇ ಜೇಷ್ಠತಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉನ್ನತ ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ಜೇಷ್ಠತಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಆಯಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು (ಡಿಜಿ) ಕರೆ

213	ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು
106	ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು
107	ಬಡ್ತಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು
30	ಬಡ್ತಿಗೆ ಇರುವ ಖಾಲಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು
136	ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು

ಮಾಡಿ, ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರನ್ನು ಕಾಣಲು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾಣುವುದು ಎನ್ನುವುದಕ್ಕೆ, ಅರ್ಥ, ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನ ಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವೆ. ಬಡ್ತಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಇಂತಹ ತರಾತುರಿಯ ಹಿಂದೆ ನೌಕರರ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿಯಂತೂ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನಷ್ಟೇ ಹೇಳಬಲ್ಲೆ" ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರಿರುವ ಒಬ್ಬ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ.

Source: Prajavani, p.4, Jan.05, 2024

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## Social Issues

# The long battle to make Kannada mandatory on signboards in Karnataka

Kannada Development Authority submitted a draft of a legislation for implementation of Kannada language in the State and its holistic development in 2021

### EXPLAINER

Yemen S.  
BENGALURU

#### The story so far

**B**engaluru, a pivotal centre for IT-related services that draws professionals from various parts of the country, has long wrestled with the nuanced issue of language preference. The city's varied linguistic environment has, at times, resulted in tensions.

Bengalureans, especially its retailers, were shocked to see mobs descend to the streets vandalising non-Kannada signboards last week. This was preceded by an announcement by the city's civic body that all sign boards should have at least 60% Kannada and the rest in any language and set a February 28, 2024 deadline to implement the same. However, a Kannada organisation Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) took to streets to "enforce" this rule on December 27. The situation grew tense as some resorted to vandalism.

#### What is the confusion over rules?

Many retailers and commercial establishments were taken aback by the civic body's announcement of implementation of the sign board rule by February end next year, and said they were not even aware of such a rule being in existence, as earlier attempts by the State government to implement such a norm had faced legal hurdles.

For instance, Retailers Association of India wrote to Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Rajneesh Goel, seeking his "urgent intervention" to stop any further



Karnataka Rakshana Vedike members stage a protest rally demanding businesses to minimise the usage of English and promote the native language on banners and signboards, in Bengaluru on December 27. ANI

acts of vandalism and violence against retail outlets in the city. They further claimed that hearing a writ petition RAI filed in the High Court of Karnataka in 2019, the Court had granted a stay order on the 60% Kannada in signboards rule.

#### What is the history of this tension?

The tussle between the government keen on mandating Kannada usage in signboards and commercial establishments trying to resist it has a long history in Bengaluru.

Back in 2008, rules were framed under the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act. Rule 24-A said that Kannada should have prominence on the name board of a business establishment. Rule 26 provided for a fine to be imposed if Rule 23-A was not followed. Followed by this, in 2009, the Supreme Court had dismissed a plea

by the Karnataka government to mandate use of Kannada on sign boards. However, notices continued to be issued to shops and retailers to display sign boards in Kannada.

The State's implementation has not been taken well by all retailers and companies. In the same year, Vodafone Essar South filed a writ appeal in the Karnataka High Court. In the case of Vodafone Essar South vs State of Karnataka, the Karnataka High Court had prevented the State government from mandating language use for shops and establishments. The State had claimed that the Labour Department could enforce Kannada usage on signboards under Rule 24-A of the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961.

However, in 2018, the then city mayor R. Sampath Raj had directed shops to display boards predominantly in Kannada, with a stipulation that it

must cover two-thirds of the space while leaving the remainder for other languages. The BBMP went as far as warning that failure to comply with these instructions could result in the revocation of trade licenses for establishments. This move by the civic body triggered controversy as establishment owners argued that without a policy in place, the BBMP's decision might not be held up in a court of law. Challenging this RAI went to the High Court and got a stay order on the same move in 2019.

#### How is the government implementing the rule now?

Following repeated failures to ensure usage of Kannada in signboards in the state through Rule 24-A of the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961, the State government took another route.

Kannada Development Authority, statutory body

for the development of the language, submitted a draft of a legislation for implementation of Kannada language use in the State and its holistic development in 2021. The Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council passed the draft bill in 2022 and The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, was enacted.

Section 17 (6) of this Act states: "The Rule states that the upper half portion of boards displaying the names of commercial, industrial and business undertakings, trusts, counselling centres, hospitals, laboratories, amusement centers and hotels etc., functioning with the approval and sanction of government or local authorities, shall be in Kannada and the lower half can be in any other language."

KRV took up a campaign to implement this rule under the new law for the past three months. KRV activists have been going to



A KRV member vandalises the signboard of a business establishment during the protest in Bengaluru on December 27. ANI

various malls, shops and commercial establishments asking them to change their sign boards to those where Kannada is used prominently. However, given they did not receive an encouraging response, they announced a protest on December 27 and also met chief civic commissioner of the city Tushar Giri Nath appealing to him to implement the rule.

Following this, BBMP set the February 28, 2024, deadline directing commercial establishments to change signboards accordingly as per Section 17(6) of the The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which unlike earlier attempts has not been challenged legally.

On December 25, chief minister Siddaramaiah, who started his political career as the chairman of Kannada Kavalu Samiti, the precursor of Kannada Development Authority in

ternational Airport Road. There were also reports of vandalism from Central Business District, K.R. Puram, Rajajinagar, Chickpet, and Mysuru Road.

City Police have till date booked 13 cases and arrested nearly 60 KRV activists including its president T. A. Narayana Gowda, who led the protests. Protests have continued in the city demanding the immediate release of Mr. Gowda.

#### What necessitates Ordinance?

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah held a high level meeting to implement Kannada in sign boards and announced that the government will promulgate an ordinance making amendments to the The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, to bring clarity to the Kannada sign board rule.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that an ordinance will be brought to Section 17(6) of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, which will clearly state the ratio of 60% of content on sign boards to be in Kannada, and the rest 40% to be in other languages. Presently section 17 (6) only says the top half of the signboard has to be in Kannada and the bottom half in any language.

#### Will it stand judicial review?

While retailers have argued that such a norm mandating commercial establishments to use Kannada in signboards have repeatedly been shot down by the courts, the State government feels that this time they have a strong case as the rule emanates from a law on the comprehensive development of Kannada language and not law that governs shops and establishments.

**Source: The Hindu, p.9, Jan. 1, 2024**



# B khata-like system in urban local bodies soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

To streamline property transactions and simplify the process for the public, the state government is all set to introduce a B khata-like instrument for semi-legal properties within the limits of urban local bodies across the state. This will be on the lines of the system currently in force within Bengaluru city.

Announcing this, Rahim Khan, minister for municipal administration, said on Tuesday that without a khata, property owners faced a lot of difficulty in obtaining loans, constructing houses, or in engaging in any financial transaction.

The move aims to address the inconvenience faced by the public due to non-issuance of form no. 3 in these areas. The said form needs to be submitted by property owners in Bengaluru who do not have a PID (property identification) or a khata number.

To speed up introduction of a khata, the government had formed a cabinet sub-committee that included ministers Eshwar Khandre, Krishna Byre Gowda, and HK Patil. Khan said the sub-committee recommended expansion of A khata and B khata systems across the entire state.

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

# City police registered 68,518 cases last year, up from 46,187 in 2022

Data released by the police shows a significant rise in narcotics seizures registered in Bengaluru city

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The year 2023 witnessed a steep increase in the number of cases registered with a total of 68,518 cases compared to 46,187 cases reported in 2022. However the police attributed the significant increase to enhanced awareness and initiatives such as filing *suo motu* cases, complaints via the 112 control room leading to FIRs, and e-FIR initiatives started by them.

While the city police are yet to release the full data for crimes in the city during 2023, they released the data on enforcement on Tuesday.

The data shows a significant rise in narcotics seizures registered in the city: 3,433 cases leading to the seizure of 5,387 kg of drugs worth ₹103.21 crore during 2023. Though the number of narcotics cases regis-

## In figures

	2022	2023	
Total no. of cases reported	46,187	68,518	<b>Convictions in 2023</b>
<b>Narcotics cases</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trial completed in 21,428 cases, of which conviction and punishment given in 15,229 cases.</li> <li>■ 65 accused in 48 cases given 14 years or life sentence.</li> <li>■ 21 accused in 11 cases given punishment between 10 and 14 years.</li> <li>■ 19 accused in 18 cases given punishment between 7 and 10 years.</li> </ul>
Reported	4,027	3,433	
Seizures in kg	4,228	5,387	
Value in ₹	92.7 crore	103.21 crore	
Arrests		4,399	
<b>Cases against foreign nationals in 2023</b>			
No. of cases	No. of foreigners arrested	No. of persons deported	
92	126	247	
<b>Other highlights</b>			
■ 388 absconding accused in old cases tracked down and arrested			
■ 45 individuals externed from the city			
■ Goonda Act invoked against 14 rowdy-sheeters			
■ QR code-based feedback system introduced at all police stations			

tered has significantly come down from 4,027 cases booked in 2022, the total quantity of drugs seized and its value has shot up significantly. In 2022, 4,027 narcotics cases were booked and 4,228 kg

of drugs worth ₹92.7 crore was seized. A total of 4,399 people, including 126 foreign nationals, were arrested in 2023.

In some of the important recoveries made, the CCB busted an inter-State drug racket and seized ₹11.44 crore worth of 1,438 kg of ganja in June 2023, and recovered ₹30 crore worth of narcotics from two Nigerian nationals arrested in Ramamurthy Nagar in November 2023.

The police also invoked Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act against 30-year-old Akhilesh Kumar, a native of Bihar.

The accused was a habitual peddler with as many as six cases of drugs peddling in and around the city against him and confiscated his properties, including movable and immovable, which he had amassed through his illegal

earnings.

The city police arrested 126 foreign nationals and 247 of them staying illegally in the city were deported to their homelands. A total of 388 absconding accused in old cases were tracked down. While 45 individuals were externed from the city, Goonda Act was invoked against 14 rowdy-sheeters. Trial was completed in 21,428 cases, of which conviction and punishment was given in 15,229 cases, of which 65 accused were sentenced to life.

Some of the major cases cracked by the city police include the arrest of the accused who wrote death-threat letters to writers, busting the illegal sex determination and abortion racket, a child smuggling and sale racket, and a cybercrime network that involved cheating 5,013 individuals of ₹854 crore, the city police claimed.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan. 3, 2024**

# City saw rise in criminal offences, dip in detection rate in 2023

Bengaluru registered a total of 631 crimes against children in 2023, up from 561 cases the previous year, according to data released by the police; compared to the previous year, there was a 41% rise in robbery cases as well in 2023

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The city registered a total of 12,627 criminal offences in 2023, of which only 3,603 cases were been detected, according to data released by the Bengaluru city police on Wednesday.

While the number of criminal offences have steadily risen over the past two years, the detection rate has fallen. Detection rate in these cases in 2023 has been 28.5%, while it was 45% in 2022. Motor vehicle theft topped the list of these offences with 5,909 cases.

The city saw a rise in the number of murders by 31% from 173 in 2022 to 207 in 2023, of which 202 cases have been detected. However,

## In figures

	2021	2022	2023
■ Murder	153	173	207
■ Dacoity	35	23	36
■ Robbery	364	478	673
■ Chain snatching	166	151	153
■ House-break theft	789	881	1,144
■ Kidnapping	803	931	1,189
■ Crimes against women	2,020	2,630	3,260
■ Crimes against children	479	561	631

most of these murders were due to sudden provocation, illicit affairs, family issues, personal enmity among other reasons - murders which the police cannot prevent. Murders for gain, which reflects policing in the city, has come down drastically from a whopping 17 in 2022 to two in 2023 and both of them have been cracked. However,

er, rowdy-related murders, another litmus test for policing, has shot up from four in 2022 to seven in 2023.

Compared to the previous year, there was a 41% rise in robbery cases as well in 2023. However, of the 673 robbery cases, 385 (57%) of them were mobile-snatching cases. Chain-snatching cases

have also seen a marginal rise from 151 to 153.

Cases related to molestation saw a steep rise with 1,135 cases reported in 2023 compared to 731 cases in 2022. This, according to the police, was due to better reporting of cases. Crimes against women total to 3,260 cases, including 176 rape cases. However, of these rape cases, 115 cases were related to promise of love/marriage and in most cases the accused were known to the victim. Only in three cases were the accused unknown to the victim. Of the crimes against women, expectedly, cases registered under Dowry (Prohibition) Act and over cruelty by husband and his relatives tops the list with 1,007 cases. Police have also booked 161

cases under the Immoral Trafficking Act.

The city registered a total of 631 crimes against children in 2023, up from 561 cases the previous year. Of these, a majority of the cases 560 of them were under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, up from 480 in 2022.

Though the detection rate among POCSO Act, 2012 cases has been good and stands at 96% even in 2023 - 538 of 560 cases detected, it has dipped from 99% over the last two years.

While six cases have been booked over child marriage, four cases were booked over child labour. A total of 40 cases were booked under Juvenile Justice Act.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 4, 2024**



# Alarming rise: B'luru sees 673 robberies in 2023; wannabe rowdies on the loose

478 Reported Last Year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

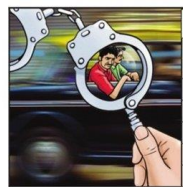
**Bengaluru:** The city's top police officer has admitted the spike in the number of robberies, house break-in thefts (HBTs) and motor vehicle thefts last year is matter of concern and promised that efforts would be made to prevent such crimes this year.

According to statistics, 673 robberies were reported in 2023 and 437 cases detected. In the previous year, 478 cases were reported and 414 solved.

Most of the robberies were committed by wannabe rowdies who attacked or threatened people with lethal weapons, especially at night, and robbed them of their valuables like gold ornaments, cash and mobile phones. While 265 HBTs were reported during daytime, 118 of them were detected. Of the 879 such cases reported at night, 264 of them were detected.

Police commissioner B Dayananda told TOI that the force's main focus was on "prevention and detection of cases."

"We have taken note of the increase in robberies, HBTs and motor vehicle thefts. We will take measures to prevent such crimes. Apart from increasing patrolling, we will analyse the pattern of crimes including the areas and timing. We will also keep a watch on the



## CRIMINALS' NETWORK IN BENGALURU

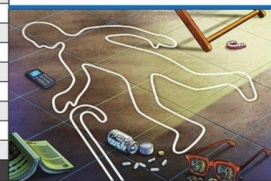
Crime	2023		2022		2021	
	Rep*	Det#	Rep	Det	Rep	Det
Robbery	673	437	478	414	364	317
HBT (day)	265	118	179	99	135	82
HBT (night)	879	269	702	333	654	361
House thefts	1,692	376	912	339	591	290
Motor vehicle thefts	5,909	1,437	5,062	1,965	4,124	1,563

\*Reported #Detected

## MOTIVE FOR MURDERS

	2023	2022	2021
Killings for gain	2	17	8
Rowdy murders	7	4	12
Illicit relationship	32	25	22
Dowry-related	2	2	5
Sudden & grave provocation	49	40	24
Domestic problems	31	30	18
Previous enmity	31	28	34
Dispute over loans, money	17	11	9
Property dispute	4	7	6
Live-in relationship	4	5	-
Love intrigue	14	4	-
Other reasons	14	-	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>153</b>

**Most robberies were committed by wannabe rowdies who attacked or threatened people with lethal weapons and robbed them of their valuables like gold ornaments, cash and cellphones, police said**



movements of the habitual offenders," he said.

### Target: Locked houses

The police commissioner advised people to take precautions while leaving their houses locked.

"They should not put padlocks on the doors and not lock the gates. They should keep one or two lights (on) when they go out of the city. They should ensure that milk packets and newspapers are not delivered when they are not in the city. They should also inform lo-

cal police and their neighbours when they are out," Dayananda said.

HBTs are the cases where burglars gain entry into houses by breaking their doors or windows. House thefts are those where burglars enter buildings without breaking in. Last year, 1692 house thefts were reported and 376 detected. House thefts could occur if residents keep the keys in flowerpots, shoe racks or other places or leave their doors unlocked.

Vehicles parked on the roadside at night due to lack

of parking space in residential buildings become targets of thieves. "People often leave keys in their vehicles and go home or to work," a police officer said.

"This year we have introduced an e-FIR registration facility for people to report vehicle thefts. So more people are reporting vehicle thefts even if the vehicles are old and worth about Rs 5,000-10,000. By reporting, they can easily claim the insurance," said Srinivas R Gowda, deputy commissioner of police (Crime-2)

## 77% increase in cybercrime cases

The IT capital of Bengaluru saw 17,623 cybercrime cases in 2023, 77% more than 9,840 such cases reported in 2022. In 2021, 6,422 cybercrime cases were seen in the city. Police commissioner B Dayananda said: "Cybercrime is the future of crime. So we have started reporting cybercrime cases at all police

stations so that all policemen will get training to register and investigate such cases. Required logistics are provided to all police stations."

Currently, there are eight CEN crime police stations, one in each division and one cyber crime police station at the office of the commissioner of police.

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

# ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಶೇಮ್, ಮಲಹೂರುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಜೀವಂತ!

■ ವಿಶ್ವ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೋಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನಿಷೇಧದ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲಹೂರುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಜೀವಂತವಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿರುವ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್, ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಬುಧವಾರ ಕಲಾಪ ಆರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ ಅಂಗ್ಲ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ವರದಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಪಿ.ಬಿ. ವರ್ಲ್ಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ನ್ಯಾ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಎಸ್. ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್ ಅವರಿದ್ದ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಪೀಠ, ಈ ವಿಷಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲು ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ್ ಜನರಲ್‌ಗೆ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಿತು.

ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಜ.8 ಕ್ಕೆ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ಗೆ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಲು ಅಮಿಕಸ್ ಕ್ಯೂರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಕೀಲ ಶ್ರೀಧರ್ ಪ್ರಭು ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿತು.

**ಜಾತಿ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ:** "ಬಡತನ, ಜಾತಿ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅನಿಷ್ಟ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಜೀವಂತವಿರುವುದು ಶೋಚನೀಯ. ಮುನ್ನಡೆದರೂ ಮೌಲ್ಯವಿದೆ, ಮನುಷ್ಯರಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಇಡೀ ಮನುಕುಲವೇ ತಲೆತಗ್ಗಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸಂಗತಿ,"



ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿತು. "ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲಗುಂಡಿಗಳ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕೆಳ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಜಾತಿ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ತೀವ್ರ ನೋವಿನ ಸಂಗತಿ" ಎಂದು ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ವೇಳೆ ಕೆಲಕಾಲ ಗದ್ದಕರಾದ ಸಿ.ಜೆ, "ಕಳೆದ 60 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಹೋದರನಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಜತೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕುತ್ತಿರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ದುರದೃಷ್ಟವಶಾತ್ ಕೆಳಜಾತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿದ್ದಾನೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ನಾಚಿಕೆಗೇಡಿನ ಸಂಗತಿ ಯಲ್ಲವೇ?" ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು.

**ಕವಿ ಸಾಹಿರ್, ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ವಚನ ಸಾಲುಗಳ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ**

ಸಿಜೆ ಪಿ.ಬಿ. ವರ್ಲ್ಡ್ ಅವರು, ಕವಿ, ಶಾಹಿರಿಕಾರ ಸಾಹಿರ್ ಲುಧಿಯಾಸ್ನಿ ಅವರ ಒಂದು ದ್ವಿಪದಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿ 'ಮಿಟ್ಟಿ ಕಾ ಭಿ ಹೈ ಕುಚ್ ಮೋಲ್ ಮಗರ್ ಇನ್ಶಾನೊಂ ಕಿ ಕಿಮತ್ ಕುಚ್ ಭಿ ನಹೀಂ, ಇನ್ಶಾನೊಂ ಕಿ ಇಬ್ಬತ್ ಜಬ್ ಬುಟೆ ಸಿಕ್ಖೊನ್ ಮೇ ನಾ ತೇಲಿ ಚಾಯೆಂಗಿ... ಪೋಹ್ ಸುಭಾಹ್ ಕಫಿ ತೋ ಆಯೇಂಗಿ..' 'ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆದರೂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇದೆ. ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಜಾತಿಗೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಕಲಿ ನಾಣ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳೆಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಬೇಡಿ. ಆ ನಾಳೆ ಎಂದು ಬರಲಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದರು.

**ಬಸವಣ್ಣನ ವಚನ:** ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ 12ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಸಮಾಜ ಸುಧಾರಕ ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ 'ನಲವೊಂದೇ ಹೊಲಗೆಲಿ ಶಿವಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ; ಜಲವೊಂದೇ ಶೌಚಾಚಮನಕ್ಕೆ, ಕುಲವೊಂದೇ ತನ್ನ ತಾನರಿದವಂಗೆ, ಫಲವೊಂದೇ ಪಡ್ ದರುಶನ ಮುಕ್ತಿಗೆ, ನಿಲವೊಂದೇ, ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ, ನಿಮ್ಮನರಿದವಂಗೆ' ಎಂದು ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದೆ.

"ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ತೊಂದರೆಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾನೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಅವರನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳಿಗಿಂತಲೂ ಕೆಟ್ಟದಾಗಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಎಷ್ಟು ಸರಿ?" ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ ಅವರು, "ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಚಂದ್ರನ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಇಡುವುದು ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ವಿಚಾರ. ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಸಹೋದರರನ್ನು ಮನುಷ್ಯರಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವ್ಯರ್ಥವಾದಂತಲ್ಲವೇ?" ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದರು.

"ಸದ್ಯ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅನುಸಾರವಾಗಿ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಮಲಗುಂಡಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವೇ ಜಾತಿಗಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ," ಎಂದು ಸಿಜೆ ಅಕ್ಕೇಪಿಸಿದರು.

ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಎಸ್. ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್, "ಇದು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇದೆ. ಅದು ಬದಲಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ," ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.03, Jan.04, 2024

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# Make it a walkable city

Tender SURE is good but what's needed are accountability, adherence to safety standards and well-designed walkable spaces, not merely well-built roads

NITHYA RAMESH

The tragic deaths of 23-year-old Soundarya and her 9-month-old child in November are a heart-breaking incident and should be unacceptable in 21st-century Bengaluru. The government must be held accountable—in a tangible way for negligence—for the electrocution incident on a footpath. Let us be clear that this was indeed a “man-made error,” literally and figuratively, given that men predominantly hold the positions of political and executive power in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru, known for its fair weather all year and urban innovations like Tender SURE (Specifications for Urban Roads Execution) and creating arguably India's longest stretch of walkable roads in a city centre, needs to have zero tolerance for pedestrian fatalities of any kind. Yet, Bengaluru witnessed 248 pedestrian deaths and 819 pedestrian injuries in 2022, an average of three per day and the second highest in India.

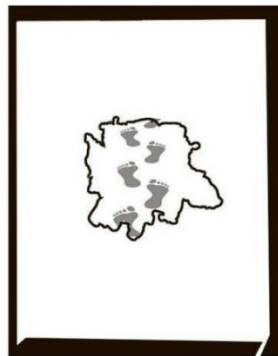
In this particular instance, a live wire of the BESCOM was lying unattended on the road. Power lines, instead of lying on the road, should be lying beneath it in HDPE/DWC/RCC pipes with RCC chambers at every alternate property. As per Tender SURE standards, naked cables are only allowed in the chambers for individual property connections. This greatly reduces the possibility of electrocution. Being buried under the earth also offers natural earthing and protection, which is further reinforced with HDPE/DWC ducting for both high-tension and low-tension (HT and LT) cables. There are also global standards for organising power cables over the ground if cities find the costs of underground ducting prohibitive.

This is frankly not just a question of power lines alone. Bengalureans deserve 14,000 km of walkable footpaths, i.e., covering every street in every neighbourhood. There has to be accountability for street construction and maintenance from a public safety perspective, whether it is tripping, falling into drains due to broken or missing cover slabs, or fatalities due to potholes or naked power cables. The core issue is that roads and public spaces in Bengaluru are treated as civil engineering projects. We need roads and public spaces to be designed, not just built, because it is urban design that will make our roads and public spaces centric rather than concrete-centric. We also need a greater number of citizen women planners, designers, and engineers to design and build our cities for them to be equitable and empathetic.

Bengaluru has the benefit of Tender

SURE, a home-grown urban design standard. Its key features include continuous and even footpaths, uniform lane widths, safe intersections, and organised underground utilities under footpaths in ducts, which prevent frequent road-cutting. To the credit of successive chief ministers and governments of Karnataka and administrations of the BBMP, 60 km of Tender SURE roads (albeit with some dilution) have been implemented in the CBD (central business district), of which 30 km were under the Smart Cities Mission.

The engineers of the BBMP have been inspired enough to separately replicate Tender SURE footpath designs on several roads in the city. Tender SURE is also



being implemented in Hubballi-Dharwad, with 11.5 km completed and 12 km in progress. Tender SURE designs are now being adapted and scaled across 20 cities in five states in India. In a recent monitoring and evaluation study conducted on the completed Tender SURE roads by Jana USP, we found walkability on Tender SURE roads to be 150% higher than control roads, i.e., non-Tender SURE roads.

Bengaluru would therefore benefit from adapting Tender SURE design guidelines to all categories of roads, innovating on overhead cabling, creating a modular approach with respect to separate standards for each of the eight components of public infrastructure passing through roads (power, water, sewerage, drain, gas, telecom, streetlighting, traffic surveillance), and most importantly, notifying design, implementation, and maintenance guidelines as mandatory for all roads.

The absence of mandatory design, implementation, and maintenance standards is no longer a nice-to-have but a must-have, given that citizens are tragically paying with their lives for the absence of such guidelines and accountability for them. Once guidelines are notified, every kilometre of road and footpath in Bengaluru needs to have a responsible engineer tagged against the same, with radical transparency in road works and budgets.

A walkable Bengaluru will yield proven benefits of better health and wellness, improved access to public transport, economic and academic opportunities,

particularly for women and the urban poor, reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, a more equitable society, and a vibrant economy. It will also prevent avoidable man-made tragedies.

It will help if the Tender SURE roads and footpaths follow the standards mentioned below:

### Design

- Continuous and evenly paved—not broken at entry exits, protected with bollards or landscapes from vehicular traffic
- Footpath to be raised above the travel lane by 150mm and sloped towards the drain.
- Designated crossings at midblock (every 200 m) and intersections. Pelican crossings to be provided at busy junctions and high-traffic areas. Ramps with a 1:20 slope to be provided for universal accessibility at crossings.
- Footpath to be finished with paver blocks or tiles with proper subgrade to prevent sinking due to rats burrowing and shifting of soil underground.
- Tactile pavers to be provided as per harmonious guidelines.
- Well-lit footpaths with no dark patches—an 8-metre pole every 24 metres, a 6-metre pole every 18 metres, or a 3-metre pole every 10 metres.
- Inclusion of landscape, public art, signage and wayfinding, street furniture, and designated vending for a vibrant public realm.
- Organised and designated spaces for amenities such as power transformers, bus stops, dustbins, and on-street parking—to ensure unhindered and safe movement of pedestrians.
- Organised underground utilities—power and telecom in HDPE/DWC ducts with chambers at every alternate property for individual property connections and maintenance.
- If over-the-ground power cabling has to be provided, safety precautions and standards are to be followed to prevent loss of life, especially during heavy rains.

### Implementation

- Standards for typical contract agreements and tender documents
- A single overarching contract to prevent dilution, in which a selected contractor can subcontract, but there is one person accountable and responsible.
- Standards for detailed project reports, bills of quantities, and good-for-construction drawings
- Standards for project sequencing
- Standards for quality check and design compliance check

### Maintenance

- Contractor to have an operations and maintenance clause of 3-5 years for all components of the road
- Maintenance manuals to increase longevity of roads
- Safety standards
- Repair standards for all components of the road

(The writer is director-urban design, Jana Urban Space)

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, Dec.30, 2023**



# Contract awarded to L&T to construct Kanaka Line

The stretch of BSRP runs a distance of 37.92 km between Heelalige and Rajanukunte

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**C**onstruction major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has been awarded the tender by the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-Ride) to construct a 37.92 km Kanaka Line (Heelalige to Rajanukunte) under the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). L&T had also bagged the contract for civil work on Corridor-2 (Chikkabanawara to Baiyappanahalli for 25.2 km) and the work is ongoing in full swing.

With the current tender award, a total length of 72.08 km of civil work (elevated and at-grade) for BSRP has been awarded, which is around 50% of the BSRP total project alignment. With this contract, work on two suburban rail lines will take off.

## **LoA issued**

The K-Ride on Saturday issued a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for this line named as Kanaka Line that connects Heelalige and Ra-



A pictorial representation of the shared alignment between BMRCL and BSRP at Benniganahalli.

janukunte. The tender price is pegged at ₹1,040.51 crore. The tender period is 30 months. The L&T is expected to commence civil works shortly.

This contract also includes the construction of double decker alignment of 1.2 km length for BSRP Corridor-1 and Corridor-4 near Yelahanka. The contract also includes the construction of a BSRP elevated viaduct of length 500 m

below the BMRCL viaduct near Benniganahalli, duly sharing the right of way between BSRP and BMRCL. This is a first of its kind in India.

## **Priority corridors**

Corridors 2 and 4 were the Phase-1 priority corridors as fixed by the Karnataka government. As the loan agreement is already signed with KfW, Germany, for 500 million Euros, and

a loan agreement for 300 million euros is expected to be signed with the European Investment Bank (EIB) in March 2024, the tender for Corridor-1 and Corridor-3 will also be invited shortly, K-RIDE said in a statement on Saturday.

South Western Railways is in an advanced stage of handing over the Railway land (115.5 acre) for Corridor-4 and is expected to be completed soon.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Dec. 31, 2023**







# Road accident fatalities rise to 909 in 2023 in city, says police report

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The year 2023 saw the highest number of road accident fatalities in the city, according to data released by Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP).

A total of 909 people were killed in 880 accidents on the city's roads last year. This is the highest number of fatalities in road accidents the city has recorded. In 2022, 772 people were killed in 752 accidents. Not just that, the total number of accidents has also risen from 3,822 in 2022 to 5,004 in 2023.

**'Fatality rate declining'**  
However, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said that while the number of accidents and fatalities were increasing in absolute numbers, the accident fatality rate for every one lakh vehicles on the streets had been declining. Over the last four years itself, the city has added over 25 lakh vehicles. "Moreover, 2020, 2021, and 2022 were



The total number of road accidents increased from 3,822 in 2022 to 5,004 in 2023, according to data released by Bengaluru Traffic Police. FILE PHOTO

## Accidents in 2023

Fatal accidents	Number of people killed in accidents	Non-fatal accidents	Number of people injured
880	909	4,095	4,201
■ Cases registered (contact enforcement): 2,49,624			
■ Cases registered (contactless enforcement): 87,25,321			
■ Fine collected: ₹184.83 crore			
■ Drunk and drive cases booked: 7,055			
■ Fatal accidents caused by drunk drivers: 16			
■ Number of green corridors created for medical emergencies: 22			

pandemic years and outliers," he said. For instance, the accident fatality rate (deaths in road accidents for every lakh vehicle population) in 2019

was 8.77 and has dipped to 7.5 in 2023, data shows.

Mr. Anucheth observed that an analysis of fatalities in road accidents in the city showed that an overwhelming 70% of these accidents involved two-wheelers. It further revealed non-usage of helmets or unscientific and partial use of helmets, he said, adding pedestrian deaths were also high and BTP was working on these areas to bring down accident fatalities.

**'Lack of discipline'**  
Traffic expert M.N. Sreehari said that while it was welcome that the BTP had adopted technology and had opted for contactless enforcement, the city's drivers lacked discipline and needed traffic police on the ground to ensure road discipline.

"There should be strict enforcement, special drives, and random checks by traffic police which will act as a deterrent. Checking violations online will not deter uncouth motorists," he said.

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



# A workable, sustainable mobility agenda for 2024 for Bengaluru

Unplanned or poorly planned projects are a recipe for chaos and disaster. The recent chaos at the new Mall of Asia off Airport Road is a classic example and a warning for future

Rasheed Kappan  
BENGALURU

**A** brand new year is upon us, and yet, Bengaluru's mobility agenda remains chaotic and clueless as ever. Is there a way to make sense of the mishmash of roads, incomplete flyovers, skeletal Metro pillars, slow-paced suburban rail work and grand tunnel visions? Can a workable, sustainable, well thought-out mobility plan take shape, freeing Bengalureans from this vicious cycle of despair?

This is possible, but only if the foundation, a strong institutional mechanism called the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Authority (BMLTA) is allowed to emerge as a strong regulatory body. Independent mobility consultant Satya Arikutharam notes that the state government has failed to constitute the body even a year after the BMLTA bill was passed.

## Constitute, activate BMLTA

The law itself, he reminds, clearly states that the Authority should be in place within six months of passage of the bill. "The BMLTA has to be professionally run, and be proactive. It should put together a comprehensive mobility plan (CMP), with accountability from all the delivery agencies including the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)," he elaborates.

The lack of a master plan and a CMP has already left the city in a mammoth mess. A course correction could be attempted this year. Satya cites the Shivaram Karanth Layout, with about 34,000 sites to



Slow movement of traffic on Ballari Road near Hebbal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

be sold over the next six months to a year. "What about the transport requirements of the layout? Nobody has a plan."

A fully functional BMLTA could direct the BMTCL to analyse the mobility demands of the new layout, prepare a plan to acquire and deliver the required buses. "The transport corporation can do some financial planning and get the buses. BMTCL is perennially trying to catch up with its finances."

Temporary, ad-hoc transport interventions and costly retrofits have left the city in deep chaos. Planning ahead is the key. As Satya puts it, "The sites will not transform into houses overnight, it could

take four to five years. That is the lead time to plan bus stops and ensure that people heading to and from the layout always use public and not private transport. So land use and transport planning should be the first priority of BMLTA."

## BMTCL, BMRCL should complement

Speeding up work on the suburban rail corridors is another big ask. Here too, the BMLTA will have a monitoring task, ensuring that the lines are well integrated with the BMTCL and Metro. But this can happen only if the two agencies do not look at each other as competitors. Satya says: "They should instead be

complementing each other to increase the pie of the public transport mode share. If the BMLTA comes in as a regulator, it has the statutory backing to ensure some sort of integration."

The Mass Rapid Transit Systems (MRTS) of the Metro and suburban rail should be the top priority for 2024, emphasizes Dr. Ashish Verma, Convenor of the Sustainable Transportation Lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). "It should remain the priority not just in 2024 but for years to come. Rest all will fall into place in the city. And zero priority to tunnel roads, although politically they are still pitching for this project," he points out.

Unplanned or poorly planned projects are a recipe for chaos and disaster. The recent chaos at the new Mall of Asia off Airport Road is a classic example. He explains, "The traffic chaos and impact have made the lives of people in the area hell. I was clear that this will happen once the mall opens. It is the result of a lack of planning and a deep nexus between the builders and government agencies. The nexus allows this to happen in spite of knowing the consequences."

## Chaos at mall

Since parking at the mall has proven to be grossly under capacity, mall visitors were allowed to park



File photo of Namma Metro on Kanakapura Road.

in the roads outside. This, done in collusion with the traffic police, inevitably led to traffic diversion, congestion and extreme chaos. Ambulances and other emergency vehicles were stuck. "Now it is too late, you can only do some course corrections. It is better to prevent this before all these happen. The tunnel road is one such project and people should wake up," warns Dr. Ashish.

For years, the city's crying need for safe, walkable footpaths and cycling paths has been left largely unaddressed. The Smart City roads, modelled after the TenderSURE roads with a pedestrian-first approach, have diluted the walkability standards. On many newer Smart City roads, space for footpaths has been narrowed down so much that pedestrians are forced to walk on the motorways, jeopardizing their safety.

So, will 2024 be any different?

## Build walking, cycling infra

Dr. Ashish says a fresh start could be made once a dense MRTS network comes into place. "Then, the immediate focus should be on building an excellent walking and cycling infrastructure in the influence area of each of these MRTS stations. This will feed and support the MRTS system, reducing the burden on other modes to ensure first and last mile connectivity. This should be a parallel planning process, as you develop a MRTS network. Only this can save the city," he says.

Seeking BMTCL feeder service buses at every Metro station, rail mobility activist Rajkumar Dugar from Citizens for Citizens puts a condition: "These services should be available on both sides of the Metro corridor. This will ensure that

40% of the city gets immediate multi-modal public transport. The same thing should be applied to suburban rail stations as and when they come up."

## Four, not two tracks

Plans are now afoot to build a Ring Rail network around the city. A pre-feasibility study is now in progress with the Railways focusing on the Devanahalli-Doddaballapur stretch. Rajkumar suggests that the ring rail should have four, not two tracks.

The message is clear: Have a long-term perspective. As he notes, "Due to the rising travel demands, they are quadrupling tracks across the city. When you are planning a new network, it is better to have more tracks. Ten years later, you will not get land and cost will go up 20 times. And also, build a station every four-five kilometer on average to help local commute."

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan. 3, 2024**

# Power disruptions in Bengaluru drop by 15%, shows data

Low during rainy season when city received poor rainfall

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city's power cuts dropped close to 15%, compared to 2022, despite shortage and surging demand.

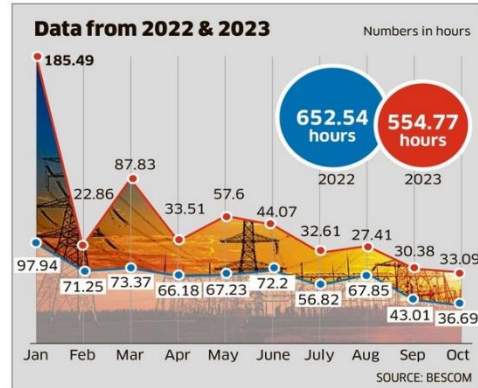
Data accessed by *DH* has revealed that Bengaluru has seen 554.8 hours of power interruption till October 2023, while disruption during the same period last year was 652.5 hours.

A few other power cuts have

been less than a minute.

Disruptions have been particularly low during the rainy season when the city received poor rainfall. "Power cuts during the rainy season were mostly due to infrastructure damage. Lower rains and wind this year meant damage to poles and other infrastructure was minimal. As a result, power disruptions have also come down," a Bescom official explained.

Another official noted that the duration of the interrup-



tions could have been much lower if not for the surge in demand. Many of the interruptions had been attributed

to an increased load.

"The infrastructure cannot handle increased demand, especially in the summer when

the load surge tripped many systems, causing power cuts," the official added.

Bescom's efforts to lay underground power cables also yielded good results, officials noted. "In 2022, only 70% of the project was completed. In 2023, however, we have completed 90% of the work and as a result, power disruptions have also come down," an official added.

Deploying technology like the Distribution Automation System (DAS) has also helped identify and rapidly fix faults. "Deploying DAS in the city's core areas meant we could detect the faults early," a senior Bescom official explained.

DAS is also being implemented in other areas to improve the quality of power supply, the official mentioned.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan.4, 2024**

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