



# Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



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



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## AGRICULTURE

# Millets to be introduced in Indira Canteens, midday meals

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced that millets would be introduced in Indira Canteens, midday meals in schools, anganwadis, and public distribution system.

Inaugurating the three-day International Trade Fair on Millets and Organics organised by the Department of Agriculture in association with various organisations in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would soon convene a meeting of officials from the departments of Food, Agriculture, Education,



A stall at the International Trade Fair on Millets and Organics at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

RDPR, and Municipalities to discuss the modalities for introduction of millets.

This was necessary considering the health benefits

and nutritional value of millets, he observed.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also directed the officials to take the initiative of ex-

porting sowing seeds of millets from Karnataka to different countries. He asked the authorities concerned to encourage farmers to produce quality sowing seeds of varieties of millets that are required by different countries. He said a separate cell would be set up to promote this.

Presently, Karnataka produces about 20 lakh tonnes of millets a year, he said, while stressing the need to increase it.

He observed that of late millets and organic foods were becoming popular due to their health benefits and Karnataka had brought out an organic farming policy.

Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni surprised everyone at the event by publicly demanding that Ms. Karandlaje should respond to Karnataka's plea for drought relief.

Mr. Kulkarni, who too was seated on the dais, walked up to Ms. Karandlaje who was addressing the gathering, and publicly asked her to respond to the State's request to the Centre to release drought relief.

Though taken aback, Ms. Karandlaje told him to desist from "indulging in politics" and sternly asked him to go back to his seat. Mr. Kulkarni went back to his seat after being chided.

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

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

## ಹಲವಡೆ 7 ತಾಸಿಗೆ ಬದಲು 5 ತಾಸು ಪೂರೈಕೆ | ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಗೆ ಸಜ್ಜು ಬರದ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬರೆ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಆದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಗಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 4 ತಾಸು ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ನಿಯಮವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಲೋಡ್‌ಶೆಡ್‌ಡಿಂಗ್ ಗಾಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬರೆ ಎಳೆದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೋರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ರೈತ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಸಜ್ಜು: ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರ್ಮಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನ 7 ತಾಸಿಗೆ ಬದಲು 5 ತಾಸು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಆಕ್ರೋಶಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ರೈತ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳು ಧರಣಿ, ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಗೆ ಬೀದಿಗಳಿಯಲು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಬೆಳೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಾಳಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಆಶ್ರಯಿಸಿರುವ ರೈತರು ಬೆಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸವಾಲಿನ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಥ ವಿಷಮ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಡ್‌ಶೆಡ್‌ಡಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ರೈತಾಪಿ ವರ್ಗದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಏನಾಗಬಹುದು? ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಏನು? ಎಂಬ ಅತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

**! ದೇವರಾಜ್** ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ರೈತ ಸಂಘ ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಘಟಕ

ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಅವಲಂಬನೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯೂ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಲೋಡ್‌ಶೆಡ್‌ಡಿಂಗ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಆದೇಶ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆಲವು ವೇಳೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಲೋಡ್‌ಶೆಡ್‌ಡಿಂಗ್ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

**! ಹೆಸರು ಹೇಳಲಿಚ್ಛಿಸದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ**

## ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ಇರುವ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲು ಸರಬರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸ ಬೇಕಾದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಹಸ: ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯ ಸ್ವಾಪಿಂಗ್ ಮೂಲಕ 300ರಿಂದ 600 ಮೆವಾ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 1250 ಮೆವಾ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆರ್ಟಿಪಿ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ, 250 ಮೆವಾ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆರ್ಟಿಪಿ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿಸ್ತಾರಗಳ ಎಂಡಿಗಳ ಸಮನ್ವಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ



ಮಾಡಲು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಶ್ರೇಣಿಯ ನೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**! ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತ** ಐಎಎಸ್, ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ

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**Source: Vijayavani, p.1-8, Jan.06, 2024**



# ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ತಂದಿಟ್ಟ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರಿತ್ಯ: ಮಲೆನಾಡು, ಕರಾವಳಿ ರೈತರು ಕಂಗಾಲು ಭತ್ತ, ಅಡಕೆಗೆ ಮುಳುವಾದ ಮಳೆ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಮೋಡ ಕವಿದ ವಾತಾವರಣವಿದ್ದು, ಗುರುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆಯಿಂದ ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾವಳಿಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುರಿದ ತುಂತುರು ಮಳೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ರೈತರು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇದೀಗ ಸಂಕ್ರಾಂತಿ ಕಾಲಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಸುಗ್ಗಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ರಡು ವಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ಬಿಸಿಲಿನ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇದ್ದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ, ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಡಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೊಯ್ಲನ್ನು ರೈತರು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಭತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಿದ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಿಸಿ ಒಕ್ಕಿ ರಾಶಿ ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕು. ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಭತ್ತವನ್ನು ಗದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಒಕ್ಕಣಿಕೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಶುರುವಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಫಸಲು ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ನೆನೆಯುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಭತ್ತದ ತೆನೆ ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಮೊಳಕೆಯೊಡೆಯುವ ಅಪಾಯವಿದೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೇ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಒಕ್ಕಣೆಗೆ ರೈತರು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಣಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಂಗಳ ಹಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎತ್ತುಗಳಿಂದ ಒಕ್ಕಣೆ ಕಲ್ಲು ಬಳಕೆಯೂ ಅಪರೂಪ. ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರ ಬಳಸಿ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಿ ಸಿಮೆಂಟ್/ಡಾಂಬುರು ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಸಿ ಟ್ರಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಒಕ್ಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದೀಗ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದ ನೀರು ಹೀರಿ ಹೋಗದೇ ಭತ್ತದ ಹೊರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಬಾಸಲು ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಮಳೆ ನಿಂತಮೇಲೆ ರಾಶಿ ಎತ್ತಲು ಹೋದರೆ, ಭತ್ತ ಉದುರುವುದು ಒಂದು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾದರೆ, ನೆಲ್ಲಿನ ತೊಟ್ಟು ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ಹುಣಮಟ್ಟ ನಾಶವಾಗುವ ಭೀತಿ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಿಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನುಚ್ಚು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವ ಭೀತಿಯನ್ನು ರೈತರು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ಕಾಫಿಗೆ ಕಾಡುವ ಫಂಗಸ್ ಭೀತಿ:** ಇನ್ನು ಕಾಫಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರದ್ದು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ನಲ್ಲೇ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಹಣ್ಣು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಕೊಯ್ಲು ದಿನವೇ ಸಿಪ್ಪೆ ಸುಲಿಯಲು ಪಲ್ವರ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದಾದ ಬಳಿಕ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ನಾಲ್ಕೈದು ದಿನ ಬಿಸಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಒಣಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಬಿಸಿಲು ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ವಾರದಿಂದ ಮೋಡ ಕವಿದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಮಳೆ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕಾಫಿ ಬೀಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಫಂಗಸ್ ಉಂಟಾಗಿ, ಕಂದು ಬಣ್ಣಕ್ಕೆ ತಿರುಗಿದೆ. ಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಣಗಲು ಹಾಕಿದ ಕಾಫಿ ನೀರಿನಿಂದ ತೊಯ್ದು ಕೊಳೆಯು



ಕಾಫಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಫಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮಧ್ಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ನೆರವಿಗೆ ಬರಬೇಕು. ನಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ನೆರವು ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

-ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬಾಳೂರು, ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ.

## ಭತ್ತದ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ವಿಳಂಬ

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಭತ್ತದ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಿದ ರೈತರ ಕತೆ ಒಂದು ತೆರನಾದರೆ, ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಬೆಳೆಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ತೆರನಾದುದು. ಏಕಾಏಕಿ ಸುರಿದ ಮಳೆಗೆ ಬೆಳೆ ನೆಲಕಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಭತ್ತದ ಕಟಾವು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್, ಜನವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗಿಯಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಿ ನಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆದ ರೈತರು ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸಾಲ ಮರುಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಪರದಾಡುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರಿತ್ಯದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿದ್ದ ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆ, ಗಾಳಿ ಹೊಡೆತಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ನೆಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾಗಿದೆ. ಉದ್ದವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆವಣಿಗೆ ಕಾಣುವ ಹಾಸನದ ಅರಕಲಗೂಡು ಭಾಗದ ರಾಜಮುಡಿ ರಾಜಭೋಗ ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಹಾಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ, ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ಹುಲ್ಲು ಕರಗಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾನಿಗೊಡಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಹುಲ್ಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭತ್ತದ ಫಸಲು ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬಂದೊದಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರೈತರು ಅಲವತ್ತುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಸಿರಿವಂತ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಡ್ರೈಯರ್ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಾರಾದರೂ ಸಣ್ಣ ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಇದು ಕಷ್ಟಸಾಧ್ಯ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಆಳಲು.

## ಅಡಕೆಗೆ ಮಾನ ಕುಸಿವ ಭೀತಿ

ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯೂ ಭಿನ್ನವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದೆಡೆ ಎಲೆ ಚುಕ್ಕೆ ರೋಗ, ಕೊಳೆರೋಗ ಬಾಧಿಸಿ, ಮರಗಳು ಸಾಯುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಮಳೆಯಾದೇ, ತೋಟಗಳ ಕಾಲುವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಹರಿಯದೇ ಕೊನೆಗಳು ಹಿಡಿಪ್ಪು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮೊದಲೇ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತದ ಭಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರಿದ್ದರು. ಅದು ಸಾಲದೆಂಬಂತೆ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಳೆ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅಡಕೆ ಕೊಯ್ಲು, ಸುಲಿತ ಮಾಡಲಾಗದೇ ಪರಿತಪಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಂಪಡಕೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಬೆಲೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸುಲಿದು, ಬೇಯಿಸಿ ಒಣಗಿಸಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಹಸಿ ಅಡಕೆಗೆ ಬಿಸಿಲಲ್ಲದೇ ಬಾಸ್ ಬರುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 80 ರಷ್ಟು ಗದ್ದೆಗಳು ಅಡಕೆ, ಕಾಫಿ ತೋಟಗಳಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿವೆ.

## ಕೈಸುಡುವ ಭತ್ತದ

### ಬೇಸಾಯ

ಕಳೆದ ಕೆಲ ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಅಧಿಕ ಖರ್ಚು ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ರೈತರು ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಮಳೆಯಾಗದೆ ಬರದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಬೆಳೆದ ಬೆಳೆ ಕಟಾವಿನ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಿರುವ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರಿತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈಗೆ ಬರದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇನ್ನು ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಅರೇಬಿಕಾ ಕಾಫಿ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದೆ. ರೊಬಸ್ಟಾ ಕಾಫಿಯೂ ಹಣ್ಣಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರೈತರು ಕೊಯ್ಲುಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆ ಗಿಡದಿಂದ ಉದುರುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಫಿ ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಮಂಗಳ ಕಾಟವೂ ಅತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಫಿ ಹಣ್ಣು ತಿಂದು ಹಾಳು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಬೆಲೆ ಗಗನಮುಖಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಲಾಗದೇ, ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಫಸಲು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟವಿಲ್ಲದೇ ರೈತರು ನಷ್ಟ ಎದುರಿಸುವ ಆತಂಕ ತಲೆದೋರಿದೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.8, Jan.06,2024

# ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯದಿಂದ ದಿಢೀರ್ ವರ್ಷಧಾರೆ | ಕಮರಿ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹೂವುಗಳು | ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತ ಆತಂಕ ಮಾವಿನ ಹೂವಿಗೆ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆ ಕಂಟಕ ರೈತರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಸಂಕಟ

■ ಗಿರಿಶ ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆ ಹಾನಗಲ್ಲ/ ಕೋಲಾರ  
ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಸುರಿಯದ ರೈತರನ್ನು ಕಂಗಡಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿದ್ದ ಮಳೆ, ಇದೀಗ ಅಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸುರಿದು ಮಾವು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರನ್ನು ಕಂಗಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂವಿನ ಗೊನೆಗಳು ಹೊಡೆಯಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷ 15 ದಿನ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಹೂವು ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಶೇ. 10-15 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೂ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸುರಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಾವಿನ ಹೂವು ಉದುರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಹೂವಿನೊಳಗಡೆ ನೀರು ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಂಟು ಇಲ್ಲದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಜೀನು ನೋಣಗಳ ಪರಾಗವರ್ಷ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೂ ತೊಂದರೆಯುಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಮಳೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇಳುವರಿ ಅಕಾರಾದ್ಯಂತವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಫಸಲು ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ದರ ಕುಸಿತವಾಗಿ ರೈತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೀಡಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಕೀತಲಗಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ದರ ಬಂದಾಗ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಲಾಭ ದೊರಕುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮಾವಿನ ಫಸಲು ಬಾರದಂತಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಕುಸಿತಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಮುಂಬರುವ ಬೇಸಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರುಹಿಸಲು



ಹಾನಗಲ್ಲ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳು.

ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಂಡಾ ಗಾಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಳಿಯ ವಾತಾವರಣದಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿ ಅರಳಿದ್ದ ಹೂವುಗಳು ಜನವರಿ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕಮರುತ್ತಿವೆ.

**ಮಾವು ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ:** ಹಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾವಿನ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂಗಡವಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಔಷಧ ಸಿಂಪಡಿಸಿ, ಕೀಟಬಾಧೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ, ಫಸಲು ಮಾರುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ನಡೆದುಬಂದಿದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಹೂವುಗಳನ್ನು



ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಭ ಬರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲವಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಬೇರೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಜಿಂತನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಮಾವಿನ ಗಿಡಗಳ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಮಧ್ಯಂತರ ಬೆಳೆ ಬೆಳೆದರೆ ರೋಗ ಬಾಧೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಮಾವು ತೆಗೆದುಹಾಕಿ ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ.

**1 ಶಂಭುಗೌಡ ಪಾಟೀಲ** ಮಾವು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರ, ಹಾವಣಗಿ



ಹವಾಮಾನ ಕಾಲ-ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾವಿನ ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ದರ ಸಿಗುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವಿದೆ. ಆತುರಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿಯುವ ದುಸ್ವಾಹಸಕ್ಕೆ

ಹೋಗಬಾರದು.

**1 ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಣಕಾರ** ಹಿರಿಯ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾನಗಲ್ಲ

ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. 2020-21ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, 2021-22ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿವೃಷ್ಟಿ, 2023-24ರ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಗಾಲ ಎದುರಾಗಿದ್ದು ಒಕ್ಕಾಡೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾವು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರ ಮಾವಿನಿಂದ ಲಾಭದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಹೊಂದದಂಥ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

**ಬೇಕಿದೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ:** ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕೆಲವು ಸೀಮಿತ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾವು ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇದೆ. ಬೆಳೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಧ್ಯತೆಯಡಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ಮಾವು ಕೈಟುಕಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಮದು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಾದರೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪವಿಲ್ಲ.

## ಅವರೆ ಫಸಲಿಗೂ ಹಾನಿ

ಕೋಲಾರ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೀಟ ಗಾಳಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅವರೆ ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಹಾನಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯಿದೆ. ಜಡಿಮಳೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಕೀಟಗಾಳಿ ಬೀಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಹೂವು ಉದುರುವ ಭೀತಿ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಜತೆಗೆ ಅವರೆಣಾಯ ಸೊಗಡು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳು ಅವರೆ ಸುಗ್ಗಿ ಇರಲಿದೆ. ಎರಡು, ಮೂರು ದಿನ ಮಳೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದರೆ ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಭಾರೀ ನಷ್ಟ ಉಂಟಾಗಲಿದೆ.



# Farmers in quicksand as govt continues to borrow time over loan waiver

**Pending from 2017 & 2018 schemes; Covid, software glitches blamed**

**N B HOMBAL**  
BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 30,733 farmers who were eligible for loan waiver through the 2017 and 2018 schemes are still running pillar to post get their waiver amount sanctioned, even as the Siddaramaiah government is gearing up to launch another farm loan interest waiver scheme and provide a compensation of Rs 2,000 to farmers.

In June 2017, in his first term as chief minister, Siddaramaiah had announced a farm loan waiver of up to Rs 50,000, under which the government is yet to clear Rs 129.67 crore.

Under the farm loan waiver scheme of up to Rs 1 lakh, launched by the Congress-JD(S) coalition government headed by H D Kumaraswamy, Rs 232 crore is pending for disbursal. From both schemes, cumulatively, Rs 361.67 crore is pending since 2021.

As many as 13,334 of the 30,733 farmers are yet to receive loan waiver benefits under the farm loan waiver scheme launched by Kumaraswamy in 2018. The remaining 17,399 are yet to receive aid under Siddaramaiah's scheme.

According to data from the co-operation department accessed by *DH*, 17.5 lakh farmers were eligible under Kumaraswamy's scheme, after rejecting 1.57 lakh loan waiver applications processed through the special loan waiver certification software.

The delay of four to five years has resulted in most of these (30,733) farmers failing to secure loans from respective co-operative banks.

On the final day of the legislature session in Belagavi last month, Siddaramaiah had announced an interest waiver on farm loans for those who have repaid the principal amount in full.

A senior bureaucrat in the co-operation department told *DH* that the entire country had come to a standstill due to the outbreak of Covid pandemic.

"BJP's tenure since 2019 was marred by the outbreak of Covid pandemic, as a result of which,



In this file photo, farmers line up to submit applications for farm loan waiver in Belagavi.



As minister, I tried my best to get this Rs 361.67 crore released to farmers. But the finance department has not taken any decision on this yet. I ensured that the 30,733 farmers' applications were sorted and did put up a file for early release of funds in 2021 itself  
— **ST Somashekhar**,  
Former co-operation minister

the government mobilised all resources to tackle the pandemic. Since then, confusion over the release of funds has remained," sources said.

The officer said the co-operation department had been pursuing with the finance department to release the arrears, besides readying a plan to roll out Siddaramaiah's latest promise of interest waiver for farm loans.

Data from the co-operation department shows that in the 2022-23 fiscal year, 28.86 lakh farm-

ers have cumulatively taken loan of Rs 21,224.05 crore from various co-operative financial institutions. In the same period, 5.48 lakh farmers have cumulatively taken loan of Rs 9,761.85 crore from various nationalized banks.

Of the 28.86 lakh farmers who have taken loans from co-operative societies, 18.64 lakh farmers repaid Rs 12,849.19 crore till November 2023, while 47,733 farmers have defaulted in their payment, to the tune of Rs 320.56 crore in the same period.

Former co-operation minister S T Somashekhar told *DH* that the registration of farmers' loan waiver applications became a tedious process with the new software during his tenure.

This resulted in the finance department not releasing funds on time, compounding problems for this small section of affected farmers.

"As minister, I tried my best to get this Rs 361.67 crore released to farmers. But the finance department has not taken any decision on this yet. I ensured that the 30,733 farmers' applications were sorted and did put up a file for early release of funds in 2021 itself," he said.

Somashekhar said the delay had caused another set of problems to these farmers as they are not able to secure loans from co-operative banks, where they have accounts. They are now forced to take loans from private money lenders.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Jan 7, 2024**



# Millet pizza, burger at mela in the city

University of Agricultural Sciences-Raichur has come out with more than 100 millet-based products, the highest for any institution in State

**B.S. Satish Kumar**  
BENGALURU

**T**he humble millets are breaking culinary stereotypes, as the ongoing international trade fair on millets and organics in Bengaluru proves. On display are various food items made from millets, ranging from pizza and burgers to chocolate items and popcorn.

University of Agricultural Sciences-Raichur has come out with more than 100 millet-based products, which is said to be the highest for any institution in Karnataka. They include millet pizza, burger, sweets, popcorn, cake, muffins, donuts, cookies, bread and flakes besides millet-based cold coffee.

## **Baked chakkuli**

UAS-Raichur has also come out with millet *chakkuli*, which is baked and not fried. UAS-Raichur Assistant Professor Sudha Devi says that this foxtail-based *chakkuli* is healthier than the conventional one for several reasons, including the fact that it is not fried.

These products do not have any preservatives or maida component. "We have used whole wheat flour instead of maida," she says. At the same time, the shelf life of some of these millet-based bakery pro-



These products do not have any preservatives or maida component.

ducts like bread are shorter when compared with the conventional ones, as they do not use preservatives. "But these millet-based products are healthier," she says.

## **Rice look-alikes**

The university has produced restructured particles of Little Millet that resemble rice grains both in shape and colour with the help of moulds. "This is mainly to cater to the interests of those who want even millets to be like rice," she says. UAS-Raichur Assistant Professor Umesh Hiremath says, "These products have been developed by the Centre of Excellence of Millets, which had been

established at the university about five years ago."

According to him, the university is the first Institution in Karnataka to have a centre dedicated to millets. The centre has been providing short and long-duration training to entrepreneurs on millet-based products.

## **Value-chain park**

The university is getting ready to set up a Millet Value Chain Park, which will cover end-to-end solution starting from sowing seeds to value addition of the produce. The proposed park, which was sanctioned in 2021, is likely to be set up in about six months, he says.

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



# Unseasonal rain during harvesting season adds to woes of Kodagu coffee planters

Darshan Devalah B.P.  
MADIKERI

Coffee planters in Kodagu district, who are grappling with shortage of labour, right now have a new problem on hand - unseasonal rain, bang in the middle of coffee harvesting and drying season.

Rain since Thursday morning in Kodagu have become a cause for worry for farmers.

The coffee growers in Kodagu have begun harvesting over the past few days and commenced sun-drying process. However,



Labourers working in a coffee plantation at Virajpet in Kodagu district. DARSHAN DEVALAH B.P.

they are concerned that cloudy and rainy weather will pose challenges in pro-

perly drying the beans.

Planter Dhyan Ponnappa of Kutta in South Kod-

gu said: "Without proper drying within the next four days, we may face signifi-

cant losses." According to a rainfall alert by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), rain is likely to continue over the next few days.

## Period of high demand

This problem is an addition to the already existing problem they face of shortage of labour. The demand for coffee-picking workers is particularly high during the December-April period since it is robust coffee harvesting season in the district.

In various parts of the district, coffee estate own-

ers are seen roaming in the city in search of labourers. In Virajpet, especially on Wednesdays, which is the market day, planters from different parts of villages visit the town to seek labourers, who, on that day, frequent the market since it is their weekly off.

A widely shared photo on social media depicts a coffee estate owner in Kodagu holding a board that reads "workers wanted to pick coffee beans."

The person has also affixed a board to his jeep, announcing the wages he is willing to pay for the

workers, indicating the severity of the crisis.

"For the past five years, we have been encountering significant labour shortages for coffee picking. Previously, labourers used to come from North Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and parts of Mysuru. However, they have stopped coming as they find employment in the city, particularly in construction work. In the last three years, we got people from Assam. This year, they are not coming until the general elections are over," Sandeep Muthappa, a planter from Viraj-

pet told *The Hindu*.

Currently, labourers are paid 45 to 56 per kg of coffee beans picked, which planters argue is a burden considering the plummeting returns.

Nanda Nanaiah from Madikeri said: "With no other options, we have to resort to outsourcing the harvest work through contract system, leading to substantial losses for coffee growers. Alternatively, paying 45 to 56 per kg for picking leads to losses for the growers. A person normally picks 100 to 150 kg of coffee beans per day."

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan. 7, 2024

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

# ಗಗನಕ್ಕೇರಿದ ತೊಗರಿ ಪ್ರಪಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಳಸಂತೆಕೋರರ ಕೈಚಳಕದ ಶಂಕೆ | ಮರೆಯಾದ ದರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದ ಖುಷಿ

■ ಜಯಶೀರ್ಷ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ದಿಢೀರ್ ಕುಸಿತದಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಚಿನ್ನದ ದರದ ಖುಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ರೈತರು ಈಗ ನಿರಾಸೆಯ ಮಡುವಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೆಲೆ ಹೊಯ್ಯಾಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಳಸಂತೆಕೋರರ ಕೈವಾಡವಿರುವ ಸಂದೇಹವಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯುವ ದುರಾಲೋಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಕೃತಕ' ದರ ಕುಸಿತ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹವಣಿಸಿರುವ ಗುಮಾಸ್ತಿಯಿದೆ.

» ಸಂಕಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರ

ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 12ರಿಂದ 14 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಗೆ ದಾಟಿದ್ದ ತೊಗರಿ ಧಾರಣೆ ಏಕಾಏಕಿ 8000-8500 ರೂ. ಗೆ ಇಳಿದು, ರೈತರನ್ನು ದಿಕ್ಕು ತೋಡದಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಕುಸಿದಾಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತೆರೆಯುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಬೇರೆ ವಿಷಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗ್ನವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ತೊಗರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ, ಜನವರಿ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೀಗ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅರಂಭಿಸುವ ಲಕ್ಷಣ ಗೋಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಬರದ ಬವಣಿಗೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿರುವ ಅನ್ನದಾತ ಆದಳಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಹಿಡಿತಾಪ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಜನವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಶಿಯಾದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 6,500 ರೂ. ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದೆ. **ಒ ಪುಟ 4**



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ತೊಗರಿ ಮೂಟೆಗಳು.

## ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿ

ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬೆಲೆ ಸ್ಥಿರೀಕರಣ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಚಿಂತನೆ ನಡೆಸಿವೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ನಫ್‌ಥೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೃಷಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮೂಲಕ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 7 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಇದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಧನವಾಗಿ 500 ರೂ. ನೀಡಿದರೆ 7500 ರೂ. ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಆದರೀಗ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರ 8000-8500 ರೂ. ಇದೆ. ಈ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಮುಂದಾದರೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರೀಕರಣ ಕಾಣಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

## ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಇಳಿಕೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ: ವಾರದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೆಜಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ 160 ರೂ. ಆಸುಪಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ದರವೀಗ 120 ರೂಪಾಯಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರತೆ ಕಂಡಿದೆ. ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಆಗಮನ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಭಾರತ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಕೂಡ ದರ ಇಳಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣ ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಡುತ್ತಾರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು. ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೆಜಿ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆ 200 ರೂ.ವರೆಗೂ ತಲುಪಿತ್ತು. ಕ್ರಮೇಣ 160 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಬಂದು ನಿಂತಿತ್ತು. ಈಗ 120 ರೂ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇದೆ. ಸಗಟು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮಾರಾಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗಿದ್ದರೆ 5-6 ರೂ. ದರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 15 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಸೇವಕರಾಂ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಮಾಲೀಕ ಅರ್ಜುನ್ ಅಗರವಾಲ್.

## ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತ

ಹಿಂದಿನ ಬಿಜಿಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ವಿದಳ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಭೀಮಾ ಪಲ್ಕೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್‌ನ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಈಗಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದೇ ಸಾಧನ ಎನ್ನಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ತೊಗರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ, ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಯಂತ್ರವೂ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು ವಿಚಿತ್ರ.

ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟ ಸೇರಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇತರ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ನಿರ್ದಾನ್ಯ ಬಳಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ನಾಡಿನ ಪೊಟೀನ್‌ಯುಕ್ತ ತೊಗರಿ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ರೈತರಿಗೂ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಧ್ವನಿ ಎತ್ತದಿರುವುದು ಅಚ್ಚರಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಾರಿಯಾದರೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತೊಗರಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಳಸುವ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ರೈತರ ಒತ್ತಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಿಸಿಯೂಟಕ್ಕೂ ಬೇಕೆ ಕೊಡಿ

ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸೇರಿ ಬೇಕೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು 3 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ 4.50 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಘಟಕದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

! ಎಂ.ಇ. ಅಂಥೋಣಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ವಿದಳ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಎಂಡಿ

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Source: Vijayavani, p.3, Jan.08, 2024

# Fair on millets and organics sees business transactions of ₹170 crore

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The three-day international trade fair on millets and organics that concluded in Bengaluru on Sunday saw total business transactions of ₹170 crore.

According to Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvayaswamy, this included B2B transactions of ₹150 crore and transactions in stalls amounting to ₹20 crore.

It may be noted that the main intention of the annual fair was to provide a common platform for all stakeholders in the sector of millets and organics to boost the exports of the State's millets and organic produce.

The idea is to make sure that the millets and organic produce reaches consumers, and to also help provide remunerative markets to farmers, observed an official.

The B2B business agreements pertained to the transaction of 17,192 MTs of produce, the officials pointed out. In all, the fair witnessed 213 B2B meetings and signing of 41 letters of intents/MoUs.

The business transactions pertained to all varieties of millets, Byadagi chilis, spices, organic jaggery, turmeric powder, and organic vegetables. The fair witnessed a huge demand for millet value-added products like cookies, malts, millets powder, ready-to-

cook and ready-to-eat items etc.

The fair, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, saw an estimated 2 lakh visitors in the last three days.

It also saw the participation of delegates from various States besides other countries, including Australia, the U.A.E., Kenya, and Kuwait. In all, the fair had 310 stalls, including 100 under the Karnataka pavilion that were dedicated to farmers, research institutes, and FPOs. It also saw the participation of 35 start-ups engaged in millets and organics business.

Addressing the valedictory function, Mr. Cheluvayaswamy said 51 subject experts had delivered lectures at the fair.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar hailed the authorities concerned for organising such an event. Union Minister for Agriculture Arjun Munda hoped that millets and organic cultivation methods would provide a solution to the country's water woes and issues with soil fertility.

Referring to the popularity of millets and organics in Karnataka and its prime position in the sector, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda observed that Karnataka had also emerged as capital of millets and organics in addition to being a IT and BT hub.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 8, 2024**



# Coffee prices at 15-year high, growers thrilled

**ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda**  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Skyrocketing prices of coffee beans, triggered by a global shortage in crop production, has offered coffee growers in the state a rare glimmer of hope. Prices are now at a 15-year high and have come as a boon for growers who have endured a tumultuous past decade.

Although the yield has been poor this year too due to drought, record prices have brought relief for growers in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and parts of Hassan.

## BEANS TO BUCKS

Mustafa, a prominent coffee dealer in Gonikoppal, Kodagu, revealed that a 50kg bag of Robusta beans goes for Rs 6,600 and 6,800, while Arabica is priced at Rs 7,750 to 7,850. This is a substantial increase from average prices since 2008, when Robusta was priced below Rs 3,000 and Arabica at less than Rs 5,000.

KG Jagadeesha, CEO and secretary, Coffee Board, said a substantial uptick in global demand, primarily influenced by Brazil, the world's foremost coffee exporter, has seen prices shoot up. He said extreme weather conditions (frost in 2021) has affected crops in the South American nation. "Growers there are currently replanting, leading to an increase in prices," Jagadeesha said.

He said despite poor



**Arabica parchment**  
₹13,700-13,900 / 50kg

**Arabica cherry**  
₹7,750-7,850 / 50kg

**Robusta parchment**  
₹10,600-10,800 / 50kg

**Robusta cherry**  
₹6,600-6,800 / 50kg

yields, coffee production is expected to touch 3.54 lakh tonnes, a marginal increase over last year's production of 3.52 lakh tonnes.

Karnataka dominates the country's coffee business, accounting for a staggering 71% of overall production, followed by Kerala (21%), and Tamil Nadu (5%). Major export markets for India's produce include Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Russia.

Over the past decade, growers had struggled with low prices and high production costs exacerbated by labour shortage, and diseases.

Consequently, many small and marginal growers abandoned cultivation and diverted their efforts towards real estate, tourism, or more lucrative crops like arecanut and pepper.

Naveen Somaiah, a second-generation coffee planter in Thithimathi, said while larger growers mitigated the impact of drought through various water management resources, smaller ones (two to 10 acres) suffered.

BC Cariappa, Karnataka Planters' Association member, said, "Growers, in general, are in distress due to multiple factors. The current price surge won't compensate for years of losses."

Although the price of coffee in India is typically influenced by international markets, traders say the local market is yet to reflect the increase in overseas prices. 'Price cartelization' by local buyers also limits earnings and quality issues (outturn) are being exploited to lower prices, growers say.

But they expect prices to rise in hotels, restaurants, and coffee shops in the second half of the year. Presently, a cup of coffee costs Rs 12 to Rs 15 in common hotels, while rates in upscale coffee shops vary between Rs 100 and Rs 800.

However, experts predict a potential decrease in demand for coffee as supply increases in January and February, although they anticipate an increase later in the year.

**Source: The Times of India, p.6, Jan 8, 2024**



# 2.75 tmcft of Krishna water to be released for chilli crop

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

The State government on Sunday decided to release 2.75 tmcft water from Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs to save chilli crop in the Upper Krishna basin.

“Water will be released immediately. Water has to flow 75 km and is expected to reach in two or three days,” Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons here on Sunday.

He said that a meeting was held with district in-charge Ministers and legislators of Kalaburagi, Raichur, Bagalkot, Yadgir districts.

“They explained the situation and urged the water to be released. Despite government’s request not to raise crops in severe drought conditions, some farmers have cultivated chilli instead of paddy. If this crop is destroyed, the estimated loss will be around ₹2,000 crore.”

Mr. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, said: “To protect our farmers, we have decided to release 2.75 tmcft of water for one last time. Protesting farmers and legislators should now ensure that the water should be used only for chilli



The Lal Bahadur Shastri reservoir at Almatti. FILE PHOTO

crops. We have released the water hoping that the farmers will utilise the water in a responsible manner,” he said.

“Earlier we had protected Mandya farmers. Later when there was an issue with Bhadra water, we had resolved that problem too. Now the chilli growers in the Upper Krishna basin are also being protected. No water will be released for agricultural purposes,” he said.

When asked about the water storage situation, he said: “Almatti and Narayanpur dams together have 47 tmcft of water. About 37 tmcft of water is needed for drinking water and 3 tmcft for other purposes. 1.5 tmcft of water will be lost during water flow.

Now we have decided to release 2.75 tmcft water due to the demand from this region.”

He said that the responsibility of monitoring water usage will be with people’s representatives and farmers’ organisations. “You have to make good use of water. We have also instructed our officials,” he said.

On the proposal over river-linking proposal, Mr. Shivakumar said: “This is a Central government project. This is a big project, and we should not deviate from the issue we are facing now. A team of 31 parliamentarians from Centre is coming to inspect Cauvery today and tomorrow. Our irrigation problems will also be discussed.”

**Source: The Hindu, p.6, Jan. 8, 2024**



# High Court bans mining within 20-km radius of KRS in Mandya district

The ban will apply even on existing mining licences that were already granted by the authorities, and will be in force till the statutory study on dam safety is conducted by an expert body

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**T**he High Court of Karnataka has banned all types of mining and quarrying within a 20-km radius of the historic Krishnarajasaagar (KRS) in Mandya district.

The ban will apply even for those mining activities within a 20-km radius for which permissions/licences were already granted by the authorities, or already operating in the area, or were permitted on the orders of the court in earlier rounds of litigation, the High Court said.

The court also said that the ban will be in force till the completion of a study by experts and the decision to be taken by the State committee on dam safety, set up as per the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the interim order by taking *suo motu* cognisance of requiring a study as per the law to access possible danger to the dam of mining activities.

The Bench took cognisance of dam safety while hearing a petition filed by C.G. Kumar, a land owner from Chinakurali village of Pandavapura taluk in



A file photo of the KRS. The High Court of Karnataka has observed that the dam serves as the main water source for lakhs of people for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Mandya district. The petitioner had questioned a restriction imposed in May 2023, by the Deputy Commissioner, Mandya district, against using the land for quarrying and mining as one of the restrictions prevented him from using his agricultural land for quarrying even after its conversion for non-agricultural purposes.

Noticing that the court, in certain petitions earlier, had permitted mining within a 20-km radius of the dam, the Bench said that such an order came to be passed as the Dam Safety Act, 2021, was not brought to its notice.

Pointing out that the Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, had rightly

banned mining using explosives around a 20-km radius of the dam, the Bench said that the petitioner cannot seek permission for allowing mining activities, whether with blasting or not, till the decision is taken by the committee as per the provisions of the Dam Safety Act.

The court observed that the dam was built under the guidance of visionaries like Bharat Rathna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and the then Maharaja of Mysore Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and serves as main water source for lakhs of people for drinking and irrigation purposes.

The court noted that the State government had

entrusted to a team of experts the task of studying the impact of mining and quarrying activities around KRS a couple of years ago, but the experimental blasting activities could not be undertaken, initially due to COVID-19 and subsequently due to want of suitable condition for experimental blasting.

Though the government said that the study would be completed within six months, the Bench said that it is not imposing any deadline for completion of the study as it is for the experts to decide the conducive period and conduct the experimental blasts and record related data to access safety threat to the dam from blasting.

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

# Onions, tomatoes, pulses bump up veggie plate prices by 12% in Dec.

Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics' monthly report on food plate costs indicates consumer food price inflation may have risen beyond November's 8.7% pace; National Statistical Office to release December retail inflation numbers this Friday

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

In an indication that food inflation pressures may have worsened in December, the cost of putting together a vegetarian food plate shot up 12% year-on-year last month, compared with 9% in November YoY, as per a monthly food plate costs' tracker compiled by Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics.

The primary source of food inflation in December were onions and tomatoes, which recorded price spikes of 82% and 42%, res-

## The 'OTP' effect

Onions, tomatoes record price spikes of 82% and 42% YoY, respectively; prices of pulses increased 24%

■ Veg. food plate cost ₹29.7 in Dec., 3% lower than Nov., but still the second steepest in 4 months

■ Sequential easing due to 14% and 3% on-month decrease in onion and tomato prices respectively



■ Non-vegetarian plate costs drop 4% YoY and 5% from November levels due to cheaper broilers

pectively, while price of pulses accelerated 24% from December 2022 levels. India's overall consumer prices had risen at a three-month high pace of

5.55% in November, while food price inflation had surged to 8.7% owing to steeper price rise in vegetables, pulses, fruits, and sugar. The Consumer Price

Index for December will be released by the National Statistical Office on Friday.

According to Crisil's research, a typical vegetarian food plate, which includes rotis, vegetables, rice, dal, curd and salad, cost ₹29.7 in December, about 3% lower than November, but still the second steepest in four months.

The sequential easing in vegetarian plate costs was due to a 14% and 3% on-month decrease in prices of onion and tomato, respectively, with the festive season coming to an end, the firm said on Monday.

By contrast, the average price of a typical non-vegetarian plate, which replaces the dal component in a vegetarian Thali with chicken, however, dropped 4% from December 2022 levels. This was attributed to a 15% dip in prices of broilers, which account for about 50% of a non-vegetarian plate cost.

## Broiler production

With broilers' production high, their prices fell 5% to 7% on a month-on-month basis, bringing the average non-vegetarian plate's cost down 5% to ₹57.6 from ₹60.4 in November 2023.

**Source: The Hindu, p.16, Jan. 9, 2024**



# Coconut farming: A tough nut to crack

Coconut farmers doubt the govt's sincerity in raising the MSP

PANDURANG HEGDE

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of coconut for 2024. The MSP for ball copra, or dry coconut, is now Rs 12,000 per quintal, an increase of Rs 250, and for milling copra, it is Rs 11,160, an increase of Rs 300 per quintal. The central government claims that this hike ensures a better remunerative price that will motivate coconut farmers to expand the production of copra.

This response follows protests by coconut farmers in southern states as prices crashed, leading to a severe financial crisis. Will these MSP hikes truly benefit coconut farmers and boost their confidence to expand coconut cultivation? The ground reality of this nut case is not only intriguing but also shows the apathy of the ruling elites in jettisoning the interest of coconut farmers.

The present hike doesn't even come close to the cost of coconut cultivation at Rs 16,670 per quintal. With such a glaring gap between the cost of cultivation and returns, coconut farmers are facing an existential crisis.

As a coconut farmer, I have faced challenges obtaining fair prices for my product. This year, I had to sell coconuts without removing the outer cover for a mere Rs 10 per nut and Rs 4 for a dried nut, failing to recover input and labour costs. Rising input costs, pest and disease control add to the cultivation cost.

Coconut, scientifically known as *Cocos nucifera*, is grown extensively in tropical areas. In India, coconut holds religious and cultural significance. The aesthetic appeal of coconut groves reflects spiritual roots, providing nutritional, economic, and ecological security. It is a living heritage of the past, present, and future for humanity, providing selfless service throughout its long life and yielding nuts and timber when it is dead.

Due to the versatile use of each and every part of the tree—leaves, nuts, husks, and the shell—it is called *Kalpavruksha*, a tree of life. This is the only tree that yields coconut water, coconut milk, cream, and oil. And all this can be produced locally in decentralised units that support the local economy.

India, the Philippines, and Indonesia are major coconut-producing countries, with India contributing to 72% of global production. India is the only country where coconut farmers invest in

systematic cultivation with capital costs like irrigation and external inputs. In the Southeast Asian region, it is grown as a wild crop without input costs. With a high cost of cultivation and a low market price, coconut farming is a loss-making venture.

About 15 million people, mostly small farmers, cultivate coconut in the southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

The central government has set up the Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with the objective of increasing productivity and product diversification. It is intended to help develop markets for coconut-based products and to recommend measures to regulate the import of coconut products. The technology mission on coconuts announced by the prime minister is another initiative. Without any dynamic outlook, both of these initiatives have failed to protect the interests of coconut farmers.

In order to understand the crisis in coconut farming, we need to see the macro-import policies of the government in the edible oil sector. Over the years, the government has reduced the customs duty on edible oil imports. These are constantly lowered from 17.5% to 12.5% and extended until March 2025 to keep the spiralling costs of edible oil down.

However, the micro-impact on the local edible oil industry is drastic, with a crash in the price of coconut oil. Though the stated objective of the government to reduce import duty is to rein in edible oil prices and inflation, in reality, it brings huge profits to the refineries that import palm oil.

Reduced import duty is the primary cause of the destruction of the 'atmanirbhar' indigenous edible oil sector in the country.

Obviously, the macro-level policies initiated by the central government have had a negative impact on coconut farmers over the years. Instead of addressing the basic issues faced by coconut farmers, just tinkering with MSP is a publicity gimmick.

This is a classic 'nut case' of ad hoc policies that demoralise the farmers, whereas in reality, they help the monopoly corporate sector reap windfall profits at the cost of decimating small-scale coconut farmers and destabilising the ecologically friendly, healthy edible oil sector that caters to the needs of common people in southern states.

Do the government and the decision-makers have the sincerity and courage to stand up to the corporate sector to address this case of the nut to bring back the dignity of *Kalpavruksha*?

(The author has been a small-scale coconut farmer for over three decades)

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.8, Jan 10, 2024**

# Millet laddu to be served instead of groundnut chikki on pilot basis in anganwadis

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has revised the menu of anganwadi children and decided to provide supplementary nutritious food, some of which are millet-based. The new menu will contain items like ready-to-eat khichdi and millet laddu. The laddu will be in the place of groundnut chikki, while milk and eggs will continue to stay on the menu.

Earlier, children between 3 and 6 years were given groundnut chikki for breakfast with milk in the anganwadis and sambar-and-rice or dal khichdi for lunch, which was made from multiple raw material supplied.

The Department of Women and Child Development used to release funds for purchasing raw material like jaggery and groundnuts for preparation of chikki. It also paid for procuring groceries such as rice, pulses, sam-



The Department of Women and Child Development has released funds for purchasing raw material like jaggery and groundnuts for preparation of chikki. FILE PHOTO

bar powder, tamarind, mustard, oil, sprouts, and so on, besides vegetables.

However, it was found in many anganwadis that the chikki was not being prepared properly. Therefore, most children didn't eat them or reportedly fell sick. There were complaints about lunch preparation too.

This led the department to revise the menu. Now, while chikki will be replaced, for lunch only rice, vegetables, and pulses will be purchased, and other ingredients required for sambar will be given in the

form of ready-to-mix powder. Sambar can be prepared cooking pulses and vegetables and adding the ready powders. The khichdi will be made from ready-to-eat mix.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development, said that quality issues had been noticed during random visits to anganwadis.

"This is a pilot project implemented for three months across the State, then it will be continued, in case the response is positive," she said.

**Source: [The Hindu, p.10 Jan. 12, 2024](#)**



# Promoting organic farmers, and produce for a decade, this Mangaluru group has shown the way

Savayava Krushika Grahaka Balaga of Dakshina Kannada has won the trust of both farmers and consumers over the last decade, keeping a sharp eye on quality and price

**Raviprasad Kamila**  
MANGALURU

Come Sunday, K. Ramanna, a farmer from Kanarpa village, near Mundaje in Dakshina Kannada district, gets up at 4.15 a.m. and drives his four-wheeler to Mangaluru which is about 80 k.m. away. The vehicle is full of vegetables cultivated organically by him and some other farmers known to him in the village. He sells them at the weekly "santhe" (weekly market) on Panje Mangesh Rao Road in the central business district of Mangaluru between 6 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. This is his routine for a decade.

Savayava Krushika Grahaka Balaga (which is a group of consumers promoting organic farm products) of Mangaluru has been organising this Sunday santhe since 2013. It is the shandy, now in its 11th year, launched by farmers who want to keep away from vegetables, fruits and other food products grown or made using chemicals and to create a market for organic farmers to promote them.

## How it began

K. Ratnakar Kulai, one of the people behind the launch of this market and who is also the Secretary of the Balaga, a registered body, told *The Hindu*, "People like me and Addor Krishna Rao began this in 2012 as 'swavalambi santhe' to promote home-made products without making any distinction as organic or chemical-based products.

"We organised 12 'swavalambi santhes', one per month at different locations, including in some houses, in Mangaluru during 2012. Then we observed that consumers' interest was more towards purchasing organic products. Consumers asked for organic vegetables and other products. The Balaga was formed next year and chose Panje Mangesh Rao Road to hold the shandy on the roadside to promote the sale of only organic vegetables and other organic products."

The organic market did not stop during the pandemic and they continued it by obtaining permission from the Deputy Commissioner, recalled Kulai.

## Review team

Not all farmers are allowed to sell their produce under the tag of "organic" in the shandy. The Balaga has formed a four-member team to check whether the farmer can be allowed to sell the produce and is indeed an organic grower. The team visits the house/farm of such seller to ascertain the authenticity.

"After the screening, 18 farmers now have been allowed to sell their produce on Sundays," Mr. Kulai said adding that all of them don't turn up every Sunday and they sell whenever they have produce.

"We did send back six sellers from the market after finding that they are not genuine. One of them was found purchasing chilly from the open market and trying to sell in our shandy. Those six persons have not been allowed to return," Mr. Kulai said.

A. A. Fazal, a retired Professor of Food Technology, College of Agriculture, Hassan, is a permanent consumer of the produce sold at the santhe. Earlier, he also served as the Secretary of the Balaga for three years. "There is no doubt about the authenticity of the produce sold at the market. We as a team did visit the farms and houses of growers and interacted with them before allowing in the market. We are aware of what is happening in the name of organic in some other places," he said.

## Uniform price

The Balaga fixed the price for each of the produce meant for sale in the shandy. All the growers will have to sell the produce for uniform rate.

Pradeep Soori, a retired bank employee and an urban farmer who used his 24 cents of land for growing vegetables and fruits in Mangaluru for



File photo of a resource person speaking in kitchen gardening and training programme organised by Savayava Krushika Grahaka Balaga (a group of consumers promoting the use of organic products and organic farmers).

teachers, advocates, doctors, engineers, retired bureaucrats and others in general.

## Lacking venue with shelter

Though a decade has passed the Balaga has not got a proper venue with roof for hosting the santhe and continues to depend on the available space in front of shops on the P.M. Rao Road as shops remain closed on Sundays. "To have a proper venue is our major requirement now," said Sharat Kumar, an ex-serviceman who is the treasurer of the Balaga.

The activity of the Balaga is not limited to only organising the santhe and acting as an interface between growers and consumers. "We distributed vegetable seeds freely to over 1,000 houses in Mangaluru to encourage them to grow their own vegetables," said Kulai.



A view of Sunday "santhe" (weekly market) organised by Savayava Krushika Grahaka Balaga on Panje Mangesh Rao Road in Mangaluru. MANJUNATH H.S.



A file photo of a demonstration on growing ornamental plants at a house in Bejai New Road in Mangaluru.

long, is among the two-member team which fixes the prices for every week. The other member is Narasimha Mayya, a grower from Bantwal who has been selling his produce/products in the market since the beginning in 2013.

Soori told *The Hindu* that the team studied the prevailing market rate and fixed the price by ensuring that it did not affect both the seller and buyer.

## No bargain

"Farmers get an assured price in the market. For example if the price of banana falls steeply in the open market the grower selling the same in Balaga's market will continue to get the assured price. Then the farmer need not sell it at throw away price in the open market. Likewise if the price of a produce goes up steeply in the open market, consumers at Balaga's market will get it at



Mini-hand books in Kannada published by Savayava Krushika Grahaka Balaga. MANJUNATH H.S.

the assured price without it being too high," Soori said.

Premananda Shetty, a former Mayor of Mangaluru and now whip in the Mangaluru City Corporation Council, is a long time consumer of the produce sold at the market. He said that consumers do not bargain while purchasing produce and pay the rates fixed. "We do get some traditional tubers, green leafy vegetables and other vegetables in this market," he said adding that the taste of food made from organic produce differed from that of produce grown using chemicals.

The consumer base of the market comprises

The Balaga has so far organised 10 demonstration-cum-training programmes for the consumers on how to grow vegetables in their own premises and in the kitchen garden, balconies of apartments or on the terraces. "More than 500 persons have attended these programmes," said Kulai.

In addition, it has organised field visits of consumers to the farm land of identified farmers. "We have made consumers work on the field by making them plant paddy saplings (at Karambar village near Mangaluru) and involving them in vegetable cultivation (in Mogaru village near Mangaluru) to experience farming," he said.

The Balaga has organised six jackfruit festivals in Mangaluru to promote jackfruit and its value added products. In addition, it has organised a millet mela. "We have distributed 30 beehive boxes of 'mujenti jenu' (stingless honey bees) to those interested in apiculture," he said.

## Books published

It has published mini hand books - on grafting, kitchen gardening, health maintenance - and distributed them among consumers. "We will publish two more mini handbooks on decorative plants and on plant disease management," he said. The Balaga has organised lectures on food habit and three demonstration-cum-trainings on preparing plant based medicines at home for treating common recurring ailments.

"We do act as an interface between urban farmers and pot mix manure makers to ensure that urban farmers got organic manure," Mr. Kulai said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.12 Jan. 12, 2024**

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## Decentralisation

# Tax defaulters urge DKS to waive 20% penalty

## 2.6K People Submit Grievances At Yelahanka Meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Property tax defaulters, who have been asked to cough up 20% of the outstanding amount as penalty, turned up in large numbers at the government's ambitious public grievance-redressal programme, "Government at your doorstep – Your cooperation for our step", held in Yelahanka on Friday.

Scores of defaulters urged deputy CM DK Shivakumar to reduce the penalty or exempt them from paying it completely. Shivakumar assured them that he will discuss it with officials.

BBMP has sent out text messages to over six lakh defaulters in the last few weeks and Palike officials estimated that they would collect over Rs 500 crore if all defaulters cleared their dues.

"There were a lot of appeals that the penalty for property tax defaults was high. I will discuss with the officials what is possible within the legal framework," said Shivakumar.

The property tax defaulters were among the over 2,600 people from Dasarahalli, Byatrayanapura and Yelahanka assembly constituencies who submitted their grievances to government agencies. Given that the event was open for residents from areas on the outskirts of Bengaluru, most of the participants sought free houses or raised issues pertaining to the revenue department like land surveys and partition.

Government agencies like BBMP, BDA, BWSSB, Bescom, BMRL, and Bengaluru Urban District administration had opened separate kiosks for receiving applications from the public. The BDA kiosk was filled with hundreds of site allottees and people affected by land acquisitions to submit their complaints.



Syed Asif

**HEARING THEM OUT:** Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar receives grievances from citizens at Ambedkar Bhavan in Yelahanka on Friday

### FERVENT APPEALS

**“**BDA allotted me a site in Arkavathy Layout in 2007 and it was registered in my name. But I couldn't take possession of it till now as the plot stood on denotified land. I have now requested the BDA to allot me an alternative site. They are saying they can arrange one in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. But I need it in Arkavathy Layout

**Venkatesh** | RESIDENT, HENNUR

BDA allotted me a site in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, but I paid the money a little late due to Covid. Now, the authority is delaying transferring ownership of the property. I am furnishing hospitalisation bills to clarify to BDA about my late payment

**Chandrika** | T DASARAHALLI

I purchased a site in a DC-converted layout at Somashettyhalli near Chikkabanavara in 2013. However, BDA acquired the land, in which my site is situated, for Dr Shivarama Karanth Layout. It is illegal to acquire legally formed layouts, but I have been unable to contact BDA officials. I have come here now to request for an alternative site in Shivarama Karanth Layout

**Mohan SS** | RESIDENT, T DASARAHALLI

BDA allotted a site to me in Arkavathy Layout but before I could get it registered in my name, it was allotted to a private firm which has constructed an apartment (complex) there. I have now requested BDA to allot me an alternative site

**BR Shetty** | RESIDENT, THANISANDRA

Deputy chief minister Shivakumar said most of the requests or complaints pertained to the revenue department and the BBMP. Several people submitted applications requesting free houses.

There is no provision to give homes free of cost. However, discussions will be held with the housing department to know whether there is any provision to increase the subsidies, he said.

"Our officials have collected the contact number of each applicant. We will form teams to resolve their problems. Our officials will

contact the applicants if there is any problem with the applications. There are a few complaints related to closing roads... I have instructed officials concerned to visit the spot and solve the issues," said Shivakumar.

He said people are dumping garbage and construction waste unscientifically and the government is planning to install cameras across the city to check the menace. The Palike will file a criminal case against those who dump construction waste in the city, Shivakumar added.

**Source: The Times of India, p.5, Jan 6, 2024**



ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಗರಂ | 16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮರ್ಥವಾದ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ನೇಮಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಸಭೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ

# ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿವಾಹಿನಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಅನುದಾನ ನೀಡುವ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪದೇ ಪದೇ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಬಂದಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇದೀಗ, ಈ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ.

ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಡೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ತೀವ್ರ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, 16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಮುಂದೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಬರಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ವಾದ ಮಂಡಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಣಯ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದೀಗ 16ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗ ರಚನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಆಯೋಗದ ಮುಂದೆ ವಾದ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಾದವನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥವಾದ ಮಂಡಿಸಲು ಸಂಪುಟದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗೋವಿಂದರಾವ್, ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸಮೂರ್ತಿ, ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಪಾಣಿ ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ, ಕಡಿಮೆ ವಾಪಸ್:** ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಸಚಿವ



ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಮುಂದೆ ವಾದ ಮುಂದಿಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಟರ್ಮ್ ಅಂಡ್ ರೆಫರೆನ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಒತ್ತಾಯ.

ಅನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸಿಎಂ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪಕ್ಷಾಂತವಾಗಿ ಮಂಡನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿಚಾರವಿದೆ.

- ಕೃಷ್ಣಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಚಿವ

ಕೃಷ್ಣಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 20 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಮಾತ್ರ ವಾಪಸ್ ಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಐಟಿ ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಮೂರೂವರೆ ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಡಾಲರ್ ವರಮಾನ ತಂದುಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಆರೋಪಿಸಿದರು.

→ 8

## ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಾದವೇನು?

- ರಾಜ್ಯದ ತಲಾದಾಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಹಾಕುವಾಗ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ತಲಾ ಆದಾಯ ಪರಿಗಣನೆ
- ಈ ನಡೆಯಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಷ್ಟ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ತಲಾದಾಯ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನೆರವು ಕೊಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಸ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.
- ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನೂ ಪೋಷಿಸಿ, ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದವರಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡ.
- ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತತೆ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ.
- ಈ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯೋಗ ಲೆಕ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.
- ಸೆಸ್ ಚಾರ್ಜ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಲು ಕೊಡಬೇಕು.
- ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ವಿಕೋಪ ನಿಧಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ನೆರವು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಿದೆ. ಅದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಬೇಕು.
- ಕಳೆದ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.
- ಈ ಬಾರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು.

**Continued..**

# ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ

← ಮೊದಲಪುಟದಿಂದ

14ನೇ ಆಯೋಗದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಡುವ ಪಾಲು ಶೇ.4.71ರಷ್ಟು ಇತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ 15ನೇ ಆಯೋಗದ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಇದು 3.64ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಅನುದಾನ, ತೆರಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪಾಲು ಶೇ. 25ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 14 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಖೋತಾ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, 2020-21ರಿಂದ ಐದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 62 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ನಷ್ಟ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ದೂರಿದರು.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರಿ ಗದ್ದಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಮಫಲಕ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಹತ್ವದ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ಸುಗ್ರೀವಾಜ್ಞೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ನಾಮಫಲಕವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಮಹತ್ವದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.60ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ನಾಮಫಲಕವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯನ್ನು ಸುಗ್ರೀವಾಜ್ಞೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯ ಬಳಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಕಾನೂನು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸದೀಯ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಸಚಿವ ಎಚ್.ಕೆ. ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಮಫಲಕ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.1-8, Jan.06, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

## ‘ಗುಳೆ’: ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ...

• ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ನಾಗರಾಜ್

ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ: 'ಮಗ-ಸೊಡ ಕಾಫಿಡಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಅಂಗಾಪ್ತ. ಒದೋ ಮೊಮ್ಮಕ್ಕನ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸವು ಹುಟ್ಟಲಿಲ್ಲವೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಅಂಗಾಪ್ತ ಹುಟ್ಟಲಿಲ್ಲವೆ. ಉಳಿ ಲೂರಿಗೆ ಬರ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಕೂಲಿ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದು ದುಡಿಯೋಕೆ ಮಗ ಯಾಕೆ ದೂರ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದ...?' ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ವು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಸೂರಮನ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸರವಿತ್ತು. ಮಗನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಗಿನ ದಿಸಲಿಗೆ ಮೈವೊಟ್ಟು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದ 75 ವರ್ಷದ ವೃದ್ಧ ನಿಧಾನವಾಗಿ ಮೇಲೆದ್ದರು. ಆಗಷ್ಟೇ ಅರುಗಿ ಮುಗಿದ ಮೊಮ್ಮಗನು ಪ್ರಾಣಾಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಡಲು ಅಣಿಯಾದಳು. ತಡಮುಖವು ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಒಳಗೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಇಡುವುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಆಸರೆಯಾದಳು. ಅರ್ಧ ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸೂರಮನ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಕೂಲಿಯೇ ಆಧಾರ. ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿಯದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ವಿತ್ತದ ಬೋಳೆ ಮೊಳಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕುಳಿದು, ಬಿ.ಜಿ.ಕೆ ಸಮೀಪದ ತೆಂಗಿನ ತೋಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗ ರುದ್ರೇಶ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ನಿರಂತರ ಕೂಲಿ ಅರಸಿ ನವೆಂಬರ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಫಿಲೋಕ್ಕೆ ಪತ್ನಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಹಾಸನ, ಕೊಡಗು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಈ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿಡಲೆಹಂದು ಜನವಾಸಿ.

ಸೂರಮನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಕಾಲೋನಿಯ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಂಡತು ಭೂಮಿ ಇದೆ. ಆದರೂ, ಕೆಲಸ ಹುಡುಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಕಾಲೋನಿ ಜನರು ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿ.ಜಿ.ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರ ಸಹೋದರ ಕೂಡ ಕೂಲಿ ಅರಸಿ 'ಕಾಫಿಡಲೆ' ಸೇರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವಿಖ್ಯಾತ ಯುವಕರ ವಸವೊಲಿಕೆಯ



ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದೇವನೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜನರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಪುಣೆ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಲು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ ಫಿಟ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಬಸ್ಸಾಗಿ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

— ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ತೆರಳುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಯುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆರೈಕೆಯ ಹೊಣೆ ವೃದ್ಧರ ಹಗಲಿರಿದೆ. ಮಧ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಲ್ಬುಜ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಳೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಅರಸಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ವಲಸೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮುಂಗಾಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿಂಗಾಯ ಪಂಗಾತಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮುಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು



ಜನವರಿ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗುವ ವಾಹಿನಿ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ಇದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮಳೆ ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟು ಬರ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದುರಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಲು' ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಗುಳೆ ಶುರುವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂಧ್ರಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಗಡಿ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ವು, ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗಿವೆ.

4ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶಗಳು

**27.87** ಲಕ್ಷ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಲಾಭೋಗ ಪಾತಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು

**31,247** ಅಧಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 100 ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಗೊಳಿಸಿದವರು

**ಮನರೇಗಾ: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜಟಾಪಟ**

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಮನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 100ರಿಂದ 150ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಾದರೂ ಸಂದಿಲ್ಲ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರ ಬರಗಾಲ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ 50 ದಿನಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಅವಕಾಶ ಒದಗಿಸುವಂತೆ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಶು ಖರ್ಗೆ ಅವರು ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂರು ಬಾರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



4ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

**Continued..**



# ಗುಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ...

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರ ಮುಂಗಡವಾಗಿಯೇ ಹಣ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಬಡ್ತಿ ಸಮೇತ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳು ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿವೆ. ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಬ್ಬು ಕಡಿಯಲು ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರಳಿದವರು ಉಗಾಡಿ ಹಬ್ಬಕ್ಕೆ ವಾಪಸಾಯ್ತಾರೆ. ಮೊನ್ನೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸಂಬಂಧಿ ತಾರದಾಬಾಯಿ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಬರಲು ಅನೇಕರಿಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತುಪ್ಪದತ್ತನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಂಡಾದ ಕಮಲಾಬಾಯಿ ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿನಿಂದ ಸುರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು.

ಮೊಳಕಾಲು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾರಮ್ಮನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಲಂಬಾಣಿಹಳ್ಳಿ, ತುಮಕೂರ್‌ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಯಾಪುರ ಮ್ಯಾಸಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮುತ್ತಿಗಾರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮ್ಯಾಸಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೇವನಮದ್ದ, ಕಣಕಪ್ಪ, ಕೋನಸಗಾರ, ನೇಲಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಜನರು ಉಗಾಡಿ ತೊರಿದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾಟನಾಯಕನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹುಚ್ಚಂಗಿಮಗ, ರಾಯಾಪುರದಿಂದಲೂ ಜನ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪಕ್ಕದ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬಾಗೇಲೂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ಭಿಸುವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಳೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಗಾಮಿನ ಬೆಳೆಯನ್ನೇ ಬಹುತೇಕ ರೈತರು ಅವ ಲಂಧಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂಗಾ, ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ, ಜೋಳ, ರಾಗಿ, ಹುರುಳಿಯಂತಹ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷ ರೈತರ ಕೈಹಿಡಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡುವಳಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ರೈತರು ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿರುವುದು ಬದಲ ತಿಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಿಂಬಿಸುವಂತಿದೆ. ಗುಳೆ ಹೋದವರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಂಗಡದ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು.

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಳೆ ಜನಜೀವನದ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ದೀದರ್, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಜನರು ಜೀವನ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಂದೈ, ಪುಣೆ, ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚಿತ್ರಾಪುರ, ಕಮಲಾಪುರ, ಚಿಂಚೋಳಿ, ಕಾಳಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಳೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರೇ ಅರಬ್ಬರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಿಂಚೋಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಒಂದರಿಂದಲೇ 15,000ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿವಾನ್‌ನ ಬಳಿಕ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸಮೇತ ಉಗಾಡಿ ತೊರಿದವರು ಮಳೆ ದಿವ್ಯ ಬಳಿಕವೇ ಮುಳುಗುವುದು. ಗೋದಾ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಫಿಟೋಪ್ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಜನರನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಿತು. ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಕೊಡಗು ಹಾಗೂ ನೆರೆಯ ಕೇರಳಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ, ಇದಾರು ತಿಂಗಳು ವಲಸೆ ಹೋಗುವುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಕಾಫಿ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಗುಂಡ್ಲುಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನಿಂದ ವಲಸೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹುನಗುಂದ, ಇಕರೇ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜನರು ದುಡಿಮೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಗೋವಾಗೆ ದುಡಿಯಲು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿದ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳು ನಿಶ್ಚಯ ಭರ್ತಿವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಬಸ್ ಮೇಲೆ ದಿಗಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಗುಳೆಯ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಹೀಗೆ ಕೂಲಿ ಅರಸ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುವವರ ಪೈಕಿ ಬಹುತೇಕರು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬೀದರ್, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಹಾವೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯವರು. ನೆರೆಯ ಕೇರಳದ ಕಾರ್ನಡೋ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯವರೂ ಗುಳೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಬಂದರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೂರಾರು ಮಂದಿ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಮನೆಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲೂ, ಪುರುಷರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ



ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ತೆಕ್ಕೂರಿನ ಆಳದ ಮೈಗಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಲಸೆ ತೋಟ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಬೆಳೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವುದು -ವೈಜವಾಳ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು/ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ರಾಜ್‌ವಂಶ್

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಣ್ಣ ಶೆಡ್‌ಗಳು, ಹೆಂಚಿನ ಮನೆಗಳು ಇವರ ನೆಲೆ. ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ ಕೊಳಚೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವವರೂ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಗುಳೆ ಕಡೆಯದ ಮನರೇಗಾ: ಗುಳೆ ಕಡೆಯದ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಮನರೇಗಾ) ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನೀಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಫಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲಸದ ಅನಿಶ್ಚಿತತೆ, ಕಡಿಮೆ ಕೂಲಿ, ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದ ಹಣ, ಅಧಾರ್ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿನ ತೊಂದರೆ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಮೂಲಾಳ, ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ... ಹೀಗೆ ಹಲವು ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಜನರು ಮನರೇಗಾ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಬದುಕಿನ ವಾಸ್ತವಕ್ಕೂ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸ ಇರುವುದು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಣ್ಣಾಡಿಸಿದ ದಿಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

'ಅಲಿಯ 30 ದಿನ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದು, ಖಾತ್ರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿದು ಎರಡುನೇರಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆದಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೆ ಕೂಲಿ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೂಲಿ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಅಲಿಯ ಬೇಸರಗೊಂಡು ಪ್ರಯೋಗದಿಗೆ ಕಾಪಿಡೇಶನ್ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ನಾನು ಮೊಮ್ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎನ್ನುವಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು-ಟಿಪ್ಪು ಬೋರನ್ನು ದುಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯನಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯು ಭಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ದೇಹ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅವರು ಕುಳಿತ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಮೊಳಕಾಲು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ರಾಯಾಪುರ ಮ್ಯಾಸಹಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ-ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ನಡುವೆ ಸಂಚರಿಸುವ ಬಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ಜನ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜನರ ಸಂದೇಶ, ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳು ಇದೇ ಬಸ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿನಿಯಮವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಜನರ ಒತ್ತಾಯದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕೆಲ ದಿನ 'ಮನರೇಗಾ' ಕೆಲಸ ನೀಡಿದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳು, ಮಾಡಿದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕೂಲಿ ನೀಡುವುದನ್ನು ಮರೆತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಭಿನ್ನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಮನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ನಿತ್ಯ 316 ಕೂಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಫಿ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್, ಅಡಿಕೆ ತೋಟ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕೂಲಿ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ರೈತರು, ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಇದು ಅಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತದೆ. ವಾಸ್ತವಕ್ಕೆ ಮನ, ಉಳು-ತಿಂಡಿ ನೀಡುವ ಕಾಫಿ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರು, ನಿತ್ಯ 4000ರಂತೆ



ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಲು ಬಂದಿದ್ದ. ಕೆಲಸ ಅರಸಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಹೊರಟುಬಂದ.



ಇಬ್ಬರು ಪುತ್ರರು, ಸೊಸೆಯೊಬ್ಬರು ಮೈಸೂರು ಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕಬ್ಬು ಕಡಿಯಲು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯುಗಾದಿಗೆ ಮರಳಿ ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ದುಡಿದು ತಂದ ಹಣದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ವರ್ತಮಾನದ ಜೀವನ.



ಕೃಷಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ₹ 200, ಬಂದೆ ಒಡೆಯಲು ₹ 300 ಕೂಲಿ ಇದೆ. ನರೇಗಾ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಾಧಿ ಕೂಲಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. 'ಕಾಪಿಡೇಶನ್'ದ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೊಂಚ ಕೈಹಿಡಿಯುವುದರಿಂದ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಆರ್.ಪಾಲಯ್ಯ, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಮಾಜಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

₹ 500 ಕೂಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

2022ರ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕೂಲಿ ₹ 289 ಇತ್ತು. ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಇದನ್ನು ₹ 309ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. 2023ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಲಿಯನ್ನು ₹ 316ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನನಾಳಕ್ಕೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಂಶ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಂದಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ತಂಡದ ಎದುರು ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕೂಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದರು.

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಕೆಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಕೆಲಸ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಾಬ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾದ 100 ಮಾಸದ ದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ಮುಗಿದು ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಿತಿ ಪೂರೈಸಿದವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ 50 ದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಆಸೆಗೊತ್ತಿನಿಂದ ಎದುರು ನೋಡಿ ಬೇಸತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತ್ರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ 100 ದಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು 200 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿದರೆ ಅನು-ಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವೇತನದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಅಸ್ಥಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಅರಸುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದರೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿ ವಲಸೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ರಾಣಿಬೆನ್ನೂರಿನ ವಸತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಎಸ್.ಡಿ. ಬಿ.ಗೌಡ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೊಟಕು: ಗುಳೆ ಹೊರಟ ಪಾಲಕರು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾಫಿ, ಅಡಿಕೆ ತೋಟ ಅಥವಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ನೆರವಾದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಆಸೆ ಪಾಲಕರು. ಗುಳೆ ಹೊರಟವರು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯದಂತೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದ ಅರಿವು ಅಷ್ಟಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ದೀರದಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಂಡಾಗಲಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸಮೇತವೇ ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲಿಕೆಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

'ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬೇರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಗುಳೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಸಮೀಪದ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ ತರಗತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕೊಡಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ, ಬೇರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸಾಧಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಗಂಜಿ ಬಬಲಾದ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಮಂಗಲೂರಿ.

ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಪೈಕಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆಶ್ರಯ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಓದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವರು ಉಲರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕ-ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ಬೊಕೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಓದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗು ತ್ತದೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಥ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಇಲ್ಲ' ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಜಯರಾಮ ಕೆ.ಎ.

ಆದರೂ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಲ್ಲೆ ಬಂದರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಾಗಿ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ದಾಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂತಹ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮುಂಗಾರು, ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಕೈಕೊಟ್ಟು ರೈತರು, ಕೂಲಿಕಾರರು ಕಂಗಾಲಾಗಿ ಸಂಸಾರ ಸಮೇತವಾಗಿ ಉಗಾಡಿ ತೊರೆಯುವಾಗ ಕೈಹಿಡಿಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನೀಡುವ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮನವಿಗೂ ಉತ್ತರವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸಚಿವರೇ ಆತಂಕಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಧ್ವಲಂತ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರದ ಬದಲು ಪರಿಹಾರ ಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

(ಪೂರಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ: ವಿ.ಎಸ್. ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯ, ಬಸವರಾಜ ಹವಾಲಾರ್, ವಿಕ್ರಂ ಕಾಂಕಿರೆ, ಮನೋಜ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಗುಡಿ, ವಿ.ಕರ್ಯಾಣರಾಯಣ, ಸಿದ್ದು ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಹಳ್ಳಿ)

## ಮನರೇಗಾ: ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜಟಾಪಟಿ

ಒಂದನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವ ಗಿರಿರಾಜ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಅವರು 2023ರ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 20ರಿಂದ ಮೂರು ಬಾರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು 13 ಕೋಟಿಯಿಂದ 18 ಕೋಟಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವಂತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೂಲಿಯನ್ನೂ ಏರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು.

'ನಾನು ಮೂರು ಬಾರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಸಚಿವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರೂ ಸಮಯಾಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೂ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಪತ್ರ ಬಂದಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಚಿವರು ನನಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗೆ ಯಾವ ಸ್ಪಂದನೆಯೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ: ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಒಟ್ಟು ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

ಹಾಗೂ ಕೂಲಿ ದರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದರೂ, ಅಂತಹ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಬೋಕಸಬ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಸಂಸದ ಸುಮಲತಾ ಅಂಬರೀಷ್ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗೆ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 12ರಂದು ಉತ್ತರ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಗಿರಿರಾಜ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, 'ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಉತ್ತರ ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಕೆಲಸ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ: 'ಮನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾಯಿದೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ 100ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

'ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ 50 ದಿನಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ವೈಶ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಹಣವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಭರಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದರು.



# Nowhere to turn: No polls for city corps

RISHVANJAS RAGHAVAN

In the heart of Chennai, on a weekday evening in November 2017, a relentless deluge descended from the heavens. Streets slowly transformed into rivers. The torrent continued unabated through the night and panic began to spread. It was a grim reminder for many. The scars of the 2015 floods were still fresh—the tragedy that claimed the lives of over 200 Chennai residents.

## INSIGHT

In their hour of need, the city's residents looked to their corporators, supposedly the most accessible elected representatives, for aid. These corridors of power lay eerily vacant—the terms of their corporators had expired and their offices remained deserted. The elections had been inexplicably delayed by the state government, leaving residents stranded.

For nearly six years, between 2016 and 2022, Chennai had no corporators elected to its 200-membered city municipal corporation.

Chennai is far from being the only city facing this issue. Bengaluru does not currently have elected corporators. The term of its municipal corporation concluded over three years ago.

In 2022, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections were con-



DH ILLUSTRATION/ DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

ducted following a seven-month delay. Mumbai, too, does not have sitting corporators as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election has been delayed for close to two years now. Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, and Indore are just a few other cities where corporation elections have been delayed at some point in the past.

“In the absence of corporators, the government officers who assume control are not accountable to the citizens as they have no concern about being re-elected. Most of them do not even

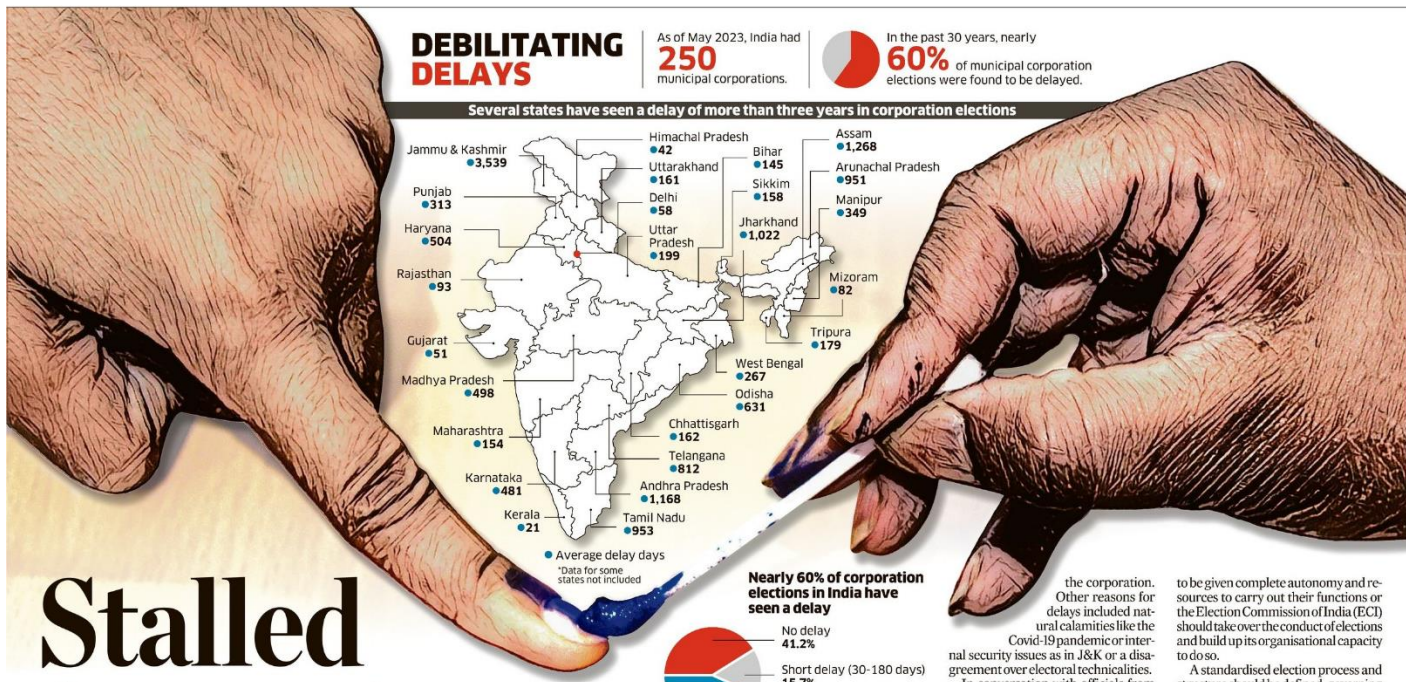
live in the areas they are posted in, so they do not care,” says Jayaram Venkatesan, convenor of Arappor Iyakkam, a people's civic movement in Tamil Nadu.

“In 2019, Chennai was hit with one of the worst droughts it had ever seen, and the severe water crisis hit slums the hardest. Without corporators, the poorer sections had no one to turn to. In such desperate moments, corporators would have played a vital role in coordinating with the relevant departments to ensure that basic needs were met,” Venkatesan adds.

► **Municipal corporations, Page 2**

**Continued..**





# Stalled democracies at grassroots

Municipal corporations from Page 1

At the peak of the second Covid-19 wave in the country, there were many corporations without elected local representatives, including Bengaluru. Civic activist Tara Krishnaswamy says, "The entire range of essential Covid-19 services, including health support, triaging, vaccination and distribution of rations had been deliberately designed to operate at the ward level so that it could reach every last person. However, without a corporator, there was no local leadership. Despite the presence of numerous volunteers willing to assist, the absence of empowered corporators hindered the city's ability to mount a coordinated response to the crisis."

Thousands of lives were lost. Many Primary Health Centres remained non-functional or operated charging unjustified fees, with nobody to question them. Access to vaccines and rations was denied to many. Underprivileged communities bore the brunt of the crisis, unable to reach their MLAs or MPs who were far removed from the realities on the ground.

Tara continues, "MLAs and MPs are overburdened, but frankly it is not even their job to tend to citizen's basic needs. Your local corporator's office is probably less than a kilometre away. That is where a citizen could reach out for basic assistance. But without an elected corporator, nobody is accountable for local services. You need to go from pillar to post, from one central office to the other. It is inconvenient and ineffective. Your local corporator could not have sent you away, for they need to get elected again. They need to deliver your needs."

The situation is not different in Mumbai. "Civic works are being hampered due to lack of corporators. The administrators are acting as per their own will. Earlier, people's representatives were available to solve the problems of

common citizens," says RTI activist and social worker Anil Galgali. "The corporators whose terms have ended now have minimum contact with the public. For civic issues, people used to contact corporators but now they have to go to various government offices," says Ajit Joshi, an expert in civic affairs.

India's trust with a formal three-tier governance system began in 1994 when the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act came into effect. The most accessible and local level of governance constituted municipal corporations. Corporators and corporations have a unique mandate that differs from that of the other elected representatives.

They have 18 distinct functions listed in the Constitution that pertain specifically to city governance — such as urban planning, construction of roads and transport infrastructure, management of drainage and water supply, provision and maintenance of public amenities such as parks and playgrounds and so on.

In India's big cities, an MP represents around 30 lakh citizens and an MLA represents about 3 lakh citizens. A corporator, on the other hand, represents about 30,000 citizens.

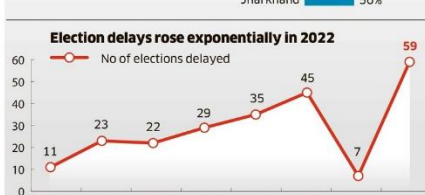
With corporators having such an impact on day-to-day quality of life, why are these elections delayed? Are there any patterns or common factors causing such delays? These are some of the questions that I set out to explore in a study.

The results were appalling. Data from 679 municipal corporation elections between 1994 and May 2023 was analysed in the study.

A whopping 58.8% of municipal corporation elections in India were found to be delayed, since 1994. A shorter delay of 1 to 6 months was observed in 15.7% of elections and a longer delay of more than six months was witnessed in 43.1% of corporation elections.

The true percentage of delayed elections could be even higher, for the study discounted elections where data was

96% of corporation elections in Karnataka have witnessed a delay



60% of elections were delayed due to issues around delimitation or reservation

Source: 'Irregularity in Elections to Urban Local Bodies in India' by Rishwanth Raghavan and Dhruva Panyam

COMPILED BY SWEETKRUTHI K DH GRAPHIC: SANKAR GANESH T

unavailable. The takeaway remains that less than half of municipal corporation elections in India are held on time.

Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka had the highest percentage of corporation elections that were delayed, standing at 97% and 96%. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh at 11% and Maharashtra and Rajasthan at 29% each, had the lowest percentage of delayed elections. While this statistic captures the number of instances of delays, the impact can be measured by the magnitude of delays, represented graphically.

A rigorous correlation analysis found that there are no significant patterns for delays across the country — either as per

geography, region, size of the corporation, economic power of its constituents or even political parties in power. This shows that delays are prevalent indiscriminately across the entire country.

The fact that more corporation elections in India have been delayed than conducted on time, is shocking for a country which takes pride in its vast electoral democracy.

**Why do elections get delayed?**

According to the study, issues of delimitation and reservation alone have contributed to 60% of the total delayed elections. Another 12% were delayed due to opposition over merging or expansion of

the corporation. Other reasons for delays included natural calamities like the Covid-19 pandemic or internal security issues as in J&K or a disagreement over electoral technicalities. In conversation with officials from State Election Commissions (SECs) across four states, all of whom wished to remain anonymous, a major reason for delaying corporation elections is a lack of political will. An official shares, "If the party in power thinks that it may lose the election, or if it wants to control the funds allotted to the corporation, they will try whatever they can to delay the election. Conflicts in delimitation, reservation and expansion are artificially created to cause delays. They are used as an excuse. Even though we know their motivations, there is nothing that we can do."

In practice, SECs are not completely empowered and depend on state governments to complete the delimitation of ward boundaries and to notify reservations for women as well as marginalised communities.

These activities are carried out by political actors, providing plenty of scope for delay in delimitation. Appeals are made in courts, often by the SEC themselves. The judiciary attempts to resolve and deadlines are given, which are eventually not adhered to by state governments. No real enforcement mechanisms exist.

Municipal corporations also have large budgets. For instance, Bengaluru's Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike spends around Rs 10,000 crore each year, while Mumbai's BMC spend is budgeted for Rs 50,000 crore of spends this year — both examples of corporations currently running without any locally elected representatives overseeing them.

It always seems to be in the best interest of the state governments and MLAs to not conduct local corporation elections. Using administrators who act as proxies, it is commonly believed that the MLAs control the lion's share of funds allocated to corporations.

**What's the fix?**

Three decades after the Nagarapalika Act was instituted to give municipalities constitutional status and an increase in autonomy for urban local bodies, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the legislation has fallen short of accomplishing its intended objectives.

The Act provided a broad framework and left it to the states to legislate further. This has resulted in more harm than good — with states accruing more power, leaving corporations fighting for funds, autonomy and relevance. In this context, the SECs either have

to be given complete autonomy and resources to carry out their functions or the Election Commission of India (ECI) should take over the conduct of elections and build up its organisational capacity to do so.

A standardised election process and structure should be defined, governing all aspects such as (a) conduct of elections before term expiry, as meticulously done for state and union elections, (b) process of upgrading and expanding municipal corporation limits, (c) carrying out the delimitation and reservation exercise for wards and (d) deciding the composition of corporations and their leadership structure.

**Do citizens care enough?**

The only way this nationwide issue can be fixed, and the above solutions can be implemented, is if the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha pass legislation to this effect. That would only happen if there is significant public demand for it.

Without such a mass public demand for strengthening local institutions, it is nearly impossible that those in power would want to change the status quo.

"People have gradually started becoming indifferent to what is happening," claims Sidharth Mishra, author of *Delhi Political*. "The powers of the lower bodies are gradually being taken away. Nobody will miss corporators if their functions are axed. This reduces the quality of corporators coming in as well."

City corporations are vital to address dilapidated urban infrastructure. In Hubballi, the lane in which Sripath Datatreya Gosavi lives is riddled with civic issues. The top of a manhole is broken, the road is not asphalted, the streetlights do not work and the door-to-door garbage collection is erratic. "In the last two years, I have complained to the corporations several times, yet no action has been taken. Earlier the officials used to say we are waiting for the corporator election and now the officials ask me to meet the corporator to get work sanctioned," he says.

The election to Hubballi Dharwad Municipal Corporation was finally conducted in 2021 after a three-year delay. On holding a meeting with the elected corporator, Gosavi and his neighbours were finally successful in getting operational streetlights for their lane, while their remaining issues are still being worked on.

(With inputs from E T B Sisupriyan in Chennai, Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai, Dhruva Panyam in Bengaluru and Pawan Kumar H in Hubballi)

**Have your say**

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, Jan 7, 2024



ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ₹750 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ • ಇನ್ನೂ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ

# 'ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ' ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ: ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗದ ನಿಧಿ

• ರಾಜೀಶ್ ರೈ ಚಟ್ಟ

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ₹750 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾಗದ ಸರ್ವಾಂಗೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ 'ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ' (ಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಿ) ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಅನುದಾನ ನೀಡಿದರೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ತಯಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿಳಂಬವೂ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ನಾನಾ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಂತೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ (2023-24) ಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ₹3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೊತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ₹750 ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು 2023ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯವಾದರೂ ಇನ್ನೂ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಂತಿಮಗೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯು ಪ್ರಕಾರದ ವೇಳೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಭರವಸೆಯಂತೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ

ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ಅನುದಾನ ನಷ್ಟ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶೀಘ್ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಮಂಡರೇಶ್ ಬಾಬು ಐಯರ್‌ನಿಗೆ ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ₹5 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಬುಲೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ಸೆ. 17ರಂದು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ್ದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ, ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಭಾಗದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನಕ್ಷೆ ತಯಾರಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದಿದ್ದರು.

ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಅನುದಾನ (₹ ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ವೆಚ್ಚ	ಶೇ
ಬೀದರ್	238.45	97.25	41
ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	631.16	262.19	42
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	180.12	57.77	32
ರಾಯಚೂರು	467.43	88.11	19
ಗೊಪಳ	169.70	48.71	29
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	198.55	33.83	17
ವಿಜಯನಗರ	211.96	53.29	25

ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಕಾರಣರಾಗುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದೂ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಶೇ 30ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ವೆಚ್ಚ: ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗದ ₹2,655.89 ಕೋಟಿ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಿ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಈ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಬಳಿ (ಬೀದರ್, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ) ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು

₹2,113.81 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ₹642.33 ಕೋಟಿ (ಶೇ 30) ಮಾತ್ರ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ (2022-23) ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡಲು, ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಾಕಿ ₹783.59 ಕೋಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ₹2,900 ಕೋಟಿ ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ₹ 3,683.59 ಕೋಟಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಲಭ್ಯ ಇತ್ತು. ಆ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ₹1,500 ಕೋಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹786.09 (ಶೇ 52) ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೈಕ್ರೋ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ₹1,400 ಕೋಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿರುವುದು ₹241.61 ಕೋಟಿ (ಶೇ 17) ಮಾತ್ರ.

## ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಭೆ ನಾಳೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಗೃಹ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ (ಜ. 9) ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಭೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವಂತೆ ಆ ಭಾಗದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಸಚಿವ ಡಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್, ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ (ಆರ್ಥಿಕ) ಬಸವರಾಜ ರಾಯರಡಿ, ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯ ಸಲಹೆಗಾರ (ನೀತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ) ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ, ಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಅಜಯ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಸಂವಾದದ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ಆ ಭಾಗದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೀಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಕೇವಲ ₹1,027.70 ಕೋಟಿ (ಶೇ 27.89) ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ' ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಎಂ. ಸುಂದರ್‌ಶಾ ಬಾಬು, 'ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಕಳೆದ ನ. 28ರಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು. 'ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಇವುದರಿಂದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಂತೆ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಹೊಸ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬುಲೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಗಸ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ, ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ₹500 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.4, Jan.08, 2024

## BBMP confident of ₹4.5k-cr property tax mop-up

**Bengaluru:** The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, which has collected more than Rs 3,320 crore in property tax between April 2023 and the first week of January is confident of mopping up Rs 4,500 crore by the end of the fiscal.

Comparatively, between April 2022 and the first week of January 2023, the Palike had collected nearly Rs 2,749

crore, while the amount for the whole of the last fiscal stood at Rs 3,155 crore.

"We have adopted several measures to collect tax from the defaulters and also taken steps to collect tax from those who evaded it. So, we have collected more tax than we achieved in the last fiscal. We may collect Rs 4,500 crore as property tax by the end of

March," said BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. Among the measures the BBMP has put in place to increase tax collection are the identification of commercial properties through the Bescm database, recovery of taxes from malls, review of a portion of self-assessment affidavits and the sealing of the commercial properties for fail-

ling to pay the tax.

Tax is collected under section 144 of the BBMP Act, 2020, which empowers the Palike to seize movable, immovable and bank accounts of tax defaulters. The BBMP's revenue department officials said they had prepared a list of property tax defaulters and in December, started sealing their properties. TNN

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan 9, 2024

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## ECONOMY

# 16th Finance Commission: Karnataka to seek sharing of cess and surcharge collected by Centre with States

Karnataka to also urge Centre to seek opinion of States before framing terms of reference for the commission

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**K**arnataka, which is readying its response to the 16th Finance Commission, formed recently, is set to seek sharing of cess and surcharge collected by the Centre with the States and urge the Union government to consider losses suffered by the States due to implementation of GST. Karnataka will also urge the Centre to seek the opinion of States before framing terms of reference for the commission and also in appointment of members to it.

"Karnataka will seek inclusion of cess and surcharge for the purpose of calculation for devolution of funds to the States and demand will be made that Centre should share the cess/surcharge with States. Currently, the Centre is sharing less than 5% of the total cess/surcharge collected with the States," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told presspersons after the State Cabinet meeting.

He said that since the last Finance Commission did not have any members from Southern States, Karnataka will seek appointment of members after consulting the States so that the needs of the States are reflected well. "The

## Cabinet relaxes age criterion

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Friday decided to relax the upper age criterion for candidates appearing for the gazetted probationers examination to be conducted by the KPSC this year as a one-time measure.

"The decision to increase the age eligibility criterion was taken in view of COVID-19 and delay in conducting the examination," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons after

the Cabinet meeting. He made it clear that it would be a one-time measure. The Cabinet also decided to provide a three-month window for people to return wildlife trophies such as tiger nails, horns, and others to the government.

Among other decisions, the State Cabinet agreed to increase the mandatory usage of Kannada in signboards through The Karnataka Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Centre consulting with States in framing terms of reference and appointment of members will build trust between the States and the Centre in the federal structure," he said. The Centre will also be urged to increase the grants given for natural disaster management, the Minister added.

### Population control

The Minister also said that the 16th Finance Commission will be urged to consider the weightage for controlling population since the previous commission had given no incentive for such measure. "The Centre considers IT in-

come of the State in calculating per capita income of the State though the State does not get tax revenue out of it. However, there are serious imbalances, which we will appeal to be considered. We will also ask for incentive for maintaining fiscal discipline. The previous commission had provided no incentive for fiscal management as those States that had violated norms had been incentivised through revenue deficit grants," Mr. Gowda said.

The Cabinet also decided to set up a technical cell with former finance commission member Govind Rao, former IAS officer

## Common platform for States

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is considering to bring all like-minded States together on the issue of devolution of funds from the Centre to the State. Revenue

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that the States that are offering employment, economic strength, and developed socially and educationally will be spoken to.

"The Chief Minister will decide on it," he said.

M.R. Srinivas Murthy and Narendra Pani to advise the State in the issue, he added.

Mr. Gowda said that while it is estimated that Karnataka contributes about ₹4 lakh crore annually in terms of taxes and cess, it receives just about ₹70,000 crore, including devolution of taxes and grants. "It means Karnataka receives about ₹12 for ₹100 collected as taxes collected from here. Karnataka contributes in a big way to nation development as it also contributes for about ₹3.5 lakh crore through IT exports earning precious foreign exchange," he said.

He, however, said that Karnataka has been losing about ₹14,000 crore annually as devolution has been reduced from 4.71% in 14th Finance Commission to 3.64% in 15th Finance Commission. "In all, between 2020 and 2026, Karnataka will lose about ₹62,000 crore. The in-

crease in cess/surcharge by reducing tax rate has also affected the States since the Centre does not share cess with States."

Stating that the total receipts of the Centre through surcharge/cess has increased from 8%-9% in the past to 23% now, Mr. Gowda said: "Karnataka is losing about ₹8,200 crore annually due to non-sharing of cess. For example, though about ₹30,000 crore to ₹40,000 crore is collected from cess on petrol and diesel in Karnataka, State does not get more than ₹1,000 crore annually."

Similarly, he said that due to GST implementation, Karnataka is losing ₹25,000 crore annually due to shortfall while the the compensation to States came to an end in 2022. "The Centre is yet to release ₹11,495 crore recommended as three special grants by 15th Finance Commission," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan. 6, 2024**

# Free power scheme takes the shine off rooftop solar

## B'uru sees dip in residential installations

SNEHA RAMESH  
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government's guarantee scheme to provide free electricity seems to be acting like a disincentive for the installation of small-scale solar-powered house lighting systems.

According to industry experts, there has been a significant dip in the number of residential solar rooftop installations in the city over the last few months since many households started receiving either a zero bill or a subsidised bill.

Members from the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA) said that many clients had backed out from installing residential solar rooftop systems since the launch of the Gruha Jyothi scheme. One of the vendors said that over a dozen clients dropped the plan in the last four months.

"There were many projects which were in the final stage and many more for which we had held discussions. However, at least 15 clients backed out saying that they received a zero bill and did not want to invest in a solar system now,"



- Several clients don't want to invest in a solar system now

- Zero/subsidised bills since the launch of Gruha Jyothi scheme act as a deterrent

- Experts say it's not a question of affordability but a feeling of lack of incentive

- Vendors say business has come down by 30%

said KLH Raya, Vice President, KRESMA.

Several other vendors said that business has come down by at least 30% in the residential solar systems sector. Deshpal KS, Managing Director, Prolight Systems, pointed out that for many clients, it was not a question of affordability but a feeling of lack of incentive.

"We have seen cases where clients have invested Rs 2 or Rs 3 crore on constructing houses but even such people back out since the general mindset is that the investment will go to waste since there is no incentive," Deshpal said.

Raya said that they were trying to convince people that they could earn by supplying the excess power to the grid. However, not many were interested, he said.

"The usual Return on Investment (ROI) period for projects up to 200 units is six years. However, since they are getting a zero bill, consumers want to wait and decide before they invest. They prefer to wait till the benefits of the scheme are applicable," he said.

► **Solar, Page 4**

## Solar, From Page 1

While installation of a solar rooftop for close to 200 units of production could go up to Rs 3 lakh, the consumers can get nearly 40% subsidy on installation charges under the 'Soura Gruha' scheme offered by the Ministry of New and

Renewable Energy, bringing down the initial investment to approximately Rs 2 lakh. "Since they already have a zero bill, the ROI period will increase. The government should have considered all these and added some conditions before announcing the scheme," yet another vendor

said, speaking to *DH* on conditions of anonymity.

According to an estimate by the government, of the 2.16 crore residential connections in the state, nearly 2.14 crore are eligible for the scheme, and this means that the market for solar rooftops will shrink, experts said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&4, Jan 8, 2024**



# GST revenues reveal a dissonance in consumption growth across States

**Vikas Dhoot**

NEW DELHI

Amid worries about weak consumer spending trends, Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues for the first nine months of 2023-24 reveal a dissonance in consumption growth across States, with Gujarat, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh among a dozen-odd States that are seeing weaker growth.

Last Friday, the National Statistical Office estimated private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) would grow just 4.4% this year, the slowest since 2002-03, barring the pandemic-affected year of 2020-21. After recovering to 6% in the April-to-June 2023 quarter from below 3% in the second half of 2022-23, the PFCE growth slipped to 3.1% in the July-September quarter.

**Continued...**

## Uneven growth

Eight States, including Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, saw more than 15% growth in GST collections so far this year. Gujarat and West Bengal are among the top 10 contributors with slower growth



### Major States with higher growth

Madhya Pradesh	18.8%
Maharashtra	18.2%
Karnataka	18.1%
Haryana	17.6%
Uttar Pradesh	17.3%
Tamil Nadu, Telangana	16.9%

### Major States with lower growth

Gujarat	9.5%
West Bengal	9.8%
Odisha	10.7%
Rajasthan	10.9%
Bihar	11.5%
Andhra Pradesh	12.5%

Source: Ministry of Finance, Bank of Baroda research

While GST revenues have been robust through April-to-December 2023, growing at 11.7%, State GST collections have grown at a sharper pace of 15.2%. As GST is a consumption-based tax that can broadly signal the consumption trends in the economy,

Bank of Baroda economists distilled the State-wise GST revenue inflows so far this year to assess if there are regional disparities in the consumption story.

**CONTINUED ON  
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# **GST reveals dissonance in consumption growth**

Among the 20 largest States that account for nearly 97% of State GST collections, two large States, Gujarat (9.5%) and West Bengal (9.8%) are the only ones to clock less than double-digit growth, while 10 others have grown at rates lower than the national average of 15.2%.

On the other hand, eight States, led by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have seen State GST revenues rise in a range of 17% to 18.8%.

“Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi and Odisha are among the top 10 GST contributors where growth was slower, while eight States have driven the overall collections with growth higher than the national average. This is indicative of consumption being uneven across geographies... and may explain why overall consumption in the country has not been growing at a higher pace,” the bank’s economists concluded in a research note on variations in State GST collections.

“Quite clearly, an improvement in consumption across some of the States that are lagging today will help boost both GDP growth and GST collections,” the bank’s researchers, led by chief economist Madan Sabnavis, noted. In States like Odisha, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, where GST revenues have grown less than 11% so far this year, tepid rural demand due to weaker farm sector outcomes could have played a factor, they reckoned.

India Ratings and Research economists flagged the lack of significant wage growth, which turned marginally negative for lower income households while rising 6.4% for their upper income counterparts in the second quarter of this year, as another critical factor for consumption growth.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1&12, Jan. 8, 2024**



# KSDL to build office space for government departments

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The State government is planning to build a well-equipped office to house various departments on the premises of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) in Yeshwantpur.

M.B. Patil, Large and Medium-scale Industries Minister and also chairman of KSDL, said available land on the KSDL premises would be utilised to construct an office complex for government departments in a phased manner. However, this would be done after considering the space required for KSDL's future expansion and growth.

Mr. Patil said KSDL has a

**MSIL to follow  
Kerala model in chit  
fund business**

mandate to grow its annual business transactions to ₹2,500 crore by 2025 and ₹5,000 crore by 2030 from the current turnover of ₹1,200 crore.

"Our priority and immediate focus is to expand foreign market presence for KSDL products and exports to predominantly to Europe and Arab countries," he said.

On KSDL's diversification, the Minister said the company's product portfolio would be expanded soon by launching groceries, handwashes, etc.

The chit fund business

of Mysore Sales International Ltd. (MSIL) will get a fillip as the State government plans to expand and grow this business in lines with similar business in Kerala, said Mr. Patil.

**Expansion**

"We have decided to diversify and expand MSIL's chit fund business taking inspiration from the model that exists in Kerala. Our aim is to achieve annual transactions worth ₹10,000 crore through chit funding. Women self-help groups will be actively involved in this venture," he said.

Mr. Patil also said State PSUs would be given a corporate image to make them more competitive and profitable.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6 Jan. 8, 2024**

## Sajjan Jindal suggests setting up industrial parks near airports

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Invest Karnataka Forum (IKF) co-chairman and industrialist Sajjan Jindal suggested on Monday to set up industrial parks in regions that are about two hours drive from airports in the State.

He participated (virtually) in the first reconstituted IKF meeting chaired by Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil and opined setting up such industrial parks would facilitate attracting increased investment.

Mr. Jindal said that being an industrialist residing in

the State, he knew very well why Karnataka stands out as a preferred investment destination.

Responding to Mr. Sajjan's suggestion, Mr. Patil said that the government also intended to set up industrial parks in an area of about 5,000-10,000 acres. To enable the operationa-

lising of industries, plug-in facilities will be established in such parks, he added.

**Confirmed investment**  
Investments of ₹55,000 crore have been confirmed in the present government and various proposals of about ₹40 crore to ₹1 lakh crore are in various stages

of the process, Mr. Patil said.

It was also decided in the meeting to form sub-groups within IKF to focus on sectoral investment. The meeting reviewed key developments in the last months and deliberated on framing the roadmap for going forward.

IKF Directors Geetanjali Kirloskar of Kirloskar Systems, and Vijay Krishnan Venkateshan of Kenna Metals were present.

Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar, Commissioner Gunjan Krishna and CEO C.T. Muddukumara were present.

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

# 'Karnataka, which is India's cash cow, must not starve'

With the debate on Centre-state financial relations back in focus, Revenue Minister **Krishna Byre Gowda**, who represents Karnataka in the GST Council, tells *DH's* **Bharath Joshi** that India's cash cow is being left to starve. Excerpts:

**From 4.71% under the 14th Finance Commission, the state's share in central taxes dropped to 3.64% under the 15th Finance Commission. What was the financial repercussion of this?**

When we were getting 4.71%, in 2018-19, our share in central taxes was Rs 35,895 crore. When it dropped to 3.64%, our share was down to Rs 21,694 crore. These are the same years when the Centre's budgets and revenues were increasing whereas our share dropped. The Union budget has nearly doubled, but our share has stayed stuck stubbornly over 5-6 years. If you look at it from any economic angle, it's a big blow to Karnataka's financial capacity.

**The CM says that for every rupee of tax, Karnataka gets back 15 paise. How is this calculated?**

We estimate that revenues from Karnataka to the Union government are in the range of Rs 4 lakh crore.

## INTERVIEW

In return, from our share in central taxes and grants-in-aid, we get Rs 50,000-52,000 crore. Our view isn't that we need rupee-to-rupee returns. We understand that the Centre has responsibilities. We also understand that well-to-do states must share their resources with not-so-well-to-do states because we're all Indians. At the same time, you must factor in the basic needs of Karnataka. You can't starve your cash cow. It is imprudent to do that. We are the second biggest cash cow in the country. If you stifle us, it'll not only hurt us, but also the entire household.

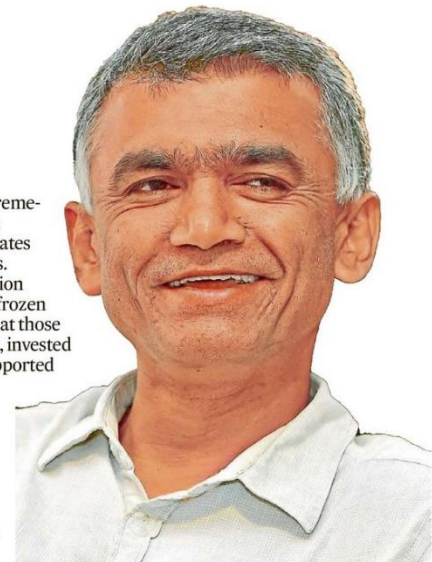
**The criticism is that it was the Congress government that failed to make a strong case before the 15th Finance Commission.**

We made a very strong pitch. The problem was the mandate given to the Finance Commission (FC) by the Union government. Since 1971, every FC took the population ratio of 1971. It was a conscious decision made by the Parliament to freeze the ratio of population at 1971 because subsequently, many Indian states made enormous efforts to control population. It was a national security issue.

Some states did extremely well in population control. But some states didn't give two hoots. The ratio of population between states was frozen at the 1971 rate so that those of us who, after 1971, invested enormously and supported the national cause by bringing down population growth rate are not penalised. However, the 15th FC, at the instruction of the Union government, shredded this consensus that existed in the country for 30-40 years and took the 2011 population as the basis. This was a major setback to states like Karnataka.

**Karnataka has argued that lack of development outside Bengaluru must be considered. Isn't it contradictory to say that Karnataka should be rewarded for being developed while you admit that not everything is good in the state.**

It's not as contradictory as you point out. We're saying that we're a contributing state. Hence, reward us for



**Krishna Byre Gowda**

our contribution. We're not hiding the fact of regional imbalance in Karnataka. Bengaluru is a growth centre for the whole country and the state. However, because of the economic assets created in Bengaluru, the overall state average per-capita income is shown as high. Per-capita income in many other districts is nowhere close to the state average. It's undesirable, but definitely not contradictory.

(Visit [deccanherald.com](http://deccanherald.com) for the full interview)

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Jan 9, 2024**

## Forest dept wakes up as planters' dues hit Rs 2k cr

**Special team formed to recover dues, reclaim land**

**Anatomy of a conflict**

Companies were paying about Rs 2 to 4 per acre till 1997 when govt increased it to **Rs 5,000 per acre**

• But several of them have not paid up and challenged the government's decision in courts



• Studies have shown that plantations have affected natural forests, fuelling man-animal conflict

• Of the 5,500 acres leased to planters in Karnataka, over 4,500 acres is in Virajpet division, which has seen scores of man-animal conflict cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

**F**orest Minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered officials to recover a whopping Rs 2,000 crore owed by planters, including the Tatas, who were leased over 5,000 acres of forest land as a de-

cade-long issue that has led to man-animal conflict is now coming to a head.

But squeezing the planters for money after years of inaction is easier said than done as the matter is in courts.

Khandre talked tough as he held an emergency meeting of senior officials on Tuesday to

understand the issue. "Some of these lease agreements have taken place before Independence," Khandre said.

"Companies were paying about Rs 2 to 4 per acre till 1997 when it was increased to Rs 5,000 per acre. However, several of them have not made the payment and challenged

the government's decision in the court. The pending amount and the interest together have now reached over Rs 2,000 crore," he said, adding that Rs 1,601 crore is pending from other planters in Kodagu district.

Studies have shown that plantations have affected for-

ests, a key element fuelling the man-animal conflict.

Over the years, plantations have been blamed for floods and droughts in Kodagu, as the loss of shade-tree diversity has affected soil fertility and resilience of natural systems.

► **Forest, Page 6**

**Continued..**



# Forest dept wakes up as planters' dues hit...

## Forest, From Page 1

Of the 5,500 acres leased to planters in Karnataka, over 4,500 acres is in the Virajpet division, which has seen a high number of man-animal conflict cases.

Virajpet has been reporting more than 1,000 cases of crop damage every year, which peaked at 2,122 cases in 2021-22. Nine persons and 21 cattle have been killed in conflict situations from 2020-21 to 2023-24.

The minister read out the names of six companies (see box) that have been given 4,824 acres on lease. Of the six, officials are yet to calculate the amount to be received by some companies for the years since 2015.

### Special team

Khandre said the department has formed a special team led by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Principal

### Major firms which were given land on lease

Name	Acres	Amount (in cr)
Mercara Rubber Limited	1,074	454
Thomson Rubber India Ltd	625	91.29
Nilamubur Rubber Co Ltd	713	130.22
Portland Rubber Ltd	1,288	536.66
Glenlawrence Plantation Pvt Ltd and Tata Coffee Ltd	943	524
Honnamatti Nilgiri Plantation Ltd	184	25.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>1,761.53</b>

Secretary (Environment) B P Ravi to look into the matter. "There are two issues before us: to recover the pending amount and reclamation of land in cases where lease has expired. Considering the legal issues involved, the special team will consult the legal experts to expedite the cases in the courts," he said.

Officials will now begin digging into files going back to the pre-Independence era as well as documents related to court cases, in which the

planters have challenged the department's notice seeking the lease fee. "This is an exercise that requires time and effort. We want to recover the money and utilise it for forestry activities," he said.

The department is staring at a tough task.

For example, Thomson Rubber Pvt Ltd, which holds a lease of 625 acres, had shown it as revenue land and pledged it in a bank. The bank had auctioned the land after the company failed to service the loan.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&6, Jan 10, 2024**

# Tardy pace of work irks Siddaramaiah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Chief minister Siddaramaiah, during a meeting to assess progress of work under the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB) on Tuesday, came down heavily on officials for the tardy pace of work.

He pointed out that of the Rs 2,106 crore funds allocated to the board, only Rs 758 crore was utilised over the past eight months. He directed officials to expedite implementation of sanctioned projects and utilize funds more efficiently. He emphasized a “mission-oriented” approach to en-

sure effective utilisation of resources.

Board officials proposed that an additional Rs 1,000 crore could be spent on ongoing projects by the end of the financial year. Siddaramaiah instructed district in-

**KALYANA K'TAKA**

charge ministers and board members

to conduct regular meetings to monitor progress. He also urged a re-evaluation of schemes that have not commenced.

The CM also directed the board to formulate an action plan for the next fiscal and submit it to the government for review. This will enhance accountability and streamline execution of projects.

**Source: The Times of India, p.4, Jan 10, 2024**



# Budget size likely to touch ₹3.7 lakh cr

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Although government departments are unlikely to meet revenue targets for the current fiscal, chief minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the finance portfolio, is likely to increase the size of the state budget for the next fiscal (2024-25). This means the government will have to heavily depend on borrowings.

With the government planning to merge the joint sitting of the legislature with the budget session from February 12, Siddaramaiah is likely to present his 15th budget — a record — on February 16. He will commence pre-budget exercises on Wednesday.

Although generating revenue has been a perennial concern, the size of the budget has steadily increased. The previous BJP government headed by Basavaraj Bommai had proposed a budget outlay



of Rs 3.09 lakh crore for 2023-24. When Siddaramaiah took over in May last year, he presented a fresh budget with a total outlay of Rs 3.27 lakh crore. Sources say he is now planning to enhance it by 13% for the next fiscal.

Noted economist M Govind Rao, however, has frowned on the move saying budget estimates have been “unrealistic”. “Not that departments are faring badly, but the targets are steep. This is why we insist budget estimates should be realistic,” Rao said.

Basavaraj Rayareddi, economic

advisor to the CM, suggested implementation of Congress’ five guarantee schemes is weighing heavily on the government. Since the schemes were launched in a phased manner, the government is estimated to have spent only Rs 20,000 crore on the guarantees this fiscal, but will have to bear the full brunt of about Rs 58,000 crore next year. “We may have to propose an outlay of Rs 3.7 lakh crore,” Rayareddi said. “The chief minister will decide after consultations and pre-budget meetings.”

Rayareddi will hold departmental meetings with principal secretaries after which Siddaramaiah will separately hold consultations with ministers and captains of industry.

But resource mobilisation will be a challenge especially since major revenue-earning departments are expected to fall short of targets. For instance,

the commercial taxes department was set a target of Rs 1.01 lakh crore, but finance officials say they may mop up only about Rs 95,000 crore. Total tax revenue was estimated at Rs 1.7 lakh crore, the officials expect to realise only Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

The government, therefore, will be compelled to borrow. As per rules, total liability of a state cannot exceed 25% of its gross state domestic product (GSDP), but since Karnataka’s GSDP had grown from Rs 25.7 lakh crore to Rs 27 lakh crore, Siddaramaiah will have more leeway to increase borrowings.

In his previous budget, he had proposed to borrow Rs 85,818 crore and officials say he may go a little above Rs 1 lakh crore.

“GSDP growth provides a cushion, but borrowings will be well within limits,” said LK Atheeq, additional chief secretary, finance.

**Source: The Times of India, p.4, Jan 10, 2024**

## NHAI calls for ₹688-crore tender ‘to ensure road safety’ on Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has called for a tender for ₹688 crore for “additional works to ensure road safety on Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway”.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the highway on March 12, 2023, just before the Karnataka Assembly elections. The expressway has drawn the ire of commuters over the lack of safety measures and saw a rise in fatal accidents. Parts of the expressway were also flooded.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had inspected the



A file photo of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway.

expressway in July 2023 and said the road had been opened for traffic hastily without completing all the work, including road safety measures. The State government had written to

the NHAI on issues plaguing the highway.

Following this, the NHAI has called for a tender. “The Government of India has entrusted to the authority the development,

maintenance, and management of additional works to ensure road safety for the six-lane Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled section of NH-275 on Hybrid Annuity Mode under NH (O) (the project) on design, build, operate, and transfer basis,” the tender document issued on January 5 said.

MP for Mysuru Pratap Simmha announced on social media that the Union government had released ₹688 crore for road safety measures on the expressway. After an increase in accidents on the highway, in July 2023 the NHAI constituted a three-member panel of experts to conduct a safety inspection.

**Source: The Hindu, p.1 Jan. 11, 2024**



# Power woes: KPTCL starts replacing old conductors

Niranjan.Kaggere  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Linked with age-old transmission lines and poor electrical infrastructure, several parts of western Bengaluru, especially areas around Magadi Road, Tavarekere and Machohalli, were reeling under regular incidents of low voltage and power cuts.

The power transmission infrastructure in the region is set for a complete makeover with KPTCL kickstarting a 20-day upgradation work on the 66 kV Byadarahalli—Magadi line spanning 35km.

## IN WEST B'LURU

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) engineers are replacing old conductors, and towers with enhanced capacity to withstand the future load. KPTCL engineers said after the work, areas in the vicinity will receive uninterrupted quality power supply, helping small and medium industrial layouts in the region.

Manjunath, chief engineer electricity (transmission), KPTCL told **TOI**, "The conductors were 40- to 45-year-old and unable to withstand the increasing load. Over the next 20 days, we will replace conductors with advanced conductors and set up new towers." Currently, the 66 kV line between Byadarahalli and Magadi can withstand up to 25 to 30 Mw of power transmis-



**FOR BRIGHT DAYS:** The KPTCL had sought clearance for 20 days to carry out upgradation work on the line spanning 35km

sion. Any increase in load would have resulted in load shedding. "There are four to five substations en route, and any disturbance would have left these sub-stations tripped affecting transmission. The upgradation involves setting up 22 new towers. Acquisition of land for setting up towers also ran into problems. But all those hurdles have been resolved and work is under progress," said an executive engineer overlooking the work.

Ramesh HJ, director (technical), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) said, "The KPTCL had sought line clearance for 20 days to carry out upgradation work. We have given them clearance without affecting the daily transmission in the region. However, there will be power cuts spanning a few minutes during the day during the work. We are also trying to minimize those power cuts by shifting the load to adjoining stations until the completion

of the work."

The work will address the power crisis around Channarayana, Yarrappa Industrial Layout, Ganakal Industrial Layout, Dodda Alada Mara Road, Kadabagere Cross, Machohalli, Kachohalli, Kalpa Industrial Layout, Forest Gate Industrial Layout, Manchanabele Colony, Seegehalli Gate, Srinidhi Layout, Spoorthi Layout, Raghavendra Layout, Arkavathi Layout, Yalachaguppe, Kempagondanahalli and adjoining areas.

## TG Halli, NPKL to benefit

The upgradation work will also boost the work on the sewage treatment plant at Thippagondanahalli. BWSSB has almost completed the work on the STP to pump water received from Yettinahole project to West Bengaluru. "We will also be setting up a sub-station at TG Halli to service the STP and the upgradation of the line will benefit that..." a senior KPTCL engineer said.

**Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan 11, 2024**



# Around 65,000 candidates enrol for Yuva Nidhi scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

As the fifth and final guarantee scheme of the Congress government, Yuva Nidhi, will be launched officially in Shivamogga town on Friday, around 65,000 candidates had registered by Thursday evening for the scheme.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will launch the scheme and the allowance will be credited to the bank accounts of the eligible candidates on Friday after the inaugural session.

## **Training to be given**

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister of Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, said that under the scheme, unemployment allowance for two years will be given to students who passed degree/diploma in 2022-2023. Unemployed graduates will get ₹3,000 per month while diploma holders will receive ₹1,500. Training will be provided



Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education

by registering them on the skill connect portal.

“Unemployment is a very big problem and it is the government’s intention to help and provide employment,” he said.

## **Online registration**

“At present, around 65,000 degree/diploma candidates have registered online under the scheme. This is a good number in the initial stage of enrolment. A total of 5.29 lakh students completed graduation/diploma in 2022-23. Those who do not get a job after six months of graduation are eligible to be beneficiaries. The online registration process is free and simple,” he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.10 Jan. 12, 2024**

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## EDUCATION

# SC stays High Court order on recruitment of 13K graduate primary teachers

**Directs to keep the final selection list in abeyance**

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has stayed the Karnataka High Court's division bench order allowing the state government to go ahead with recruitment of 13,352 selected candidates to the post of Graduate Primary School Teachers as per the list of March 8, 2023.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah ordered that any appointment letters as stated to have been issued in favour of the candidates selected in terms of the final selection list of March 8, 2023 should be kept in abeyance.

The top court passed its directions on January 3, 2024, hearing a batch of petitions filed by Leelavathi Nand others against the HC's division bench order of October 12, 2023.

The petitioners were represented by senior advocate A N Venugopala Gowda and advocate Balaji Srinivasan, senior

advocate C A Sundaram and advocate Chinmay Deshpande and advocates Shailesh Madiyal, Mahesh Thakur and others.

The court issued notice to the Karnataka government represented by DL Chidananda seeking a response within four weeks.

The petitioners were also allowed to file their rejoinder affidavit within two weeks thereafter.

"Till further orders, the directions issued in paragraphs 45 to 47 of the impugned (High Court's) judgment shall not be given effect to. Any appointment

letters as stated to have been issued in favour of the candidates selected in terms of the final selection list dated 08th March, 2023 shall be kept in abeyance," the bench ordered.

A single judge bench of the HC had on January 30, 2023 had quashed the provisional selection list of November 18, 2022, acting on a batch of writ petitions filed by unsuccessful candidates, who were treated as general merit category instead of the OBC category they applied for on the basis of caste and income certificates.

The petitioners contended the division bench of the

High Court erred in not appreciating that the caste/ income certificate are issued by competent authority in the prescribed form, it is the only authority under the Act which can adjudicate upon such certificate, and that too in the manner provided under the Act and Rule.

The DDPI in the instant case who happens to be selecting authority could not have taken upon itself the jurisdiction to decide upon the validity of the income and caste certificate that is issued in the prescribed form by the competent authority, they said.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 6, 2024**

## ನಿಯಮ ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 561 ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ತರಗತಿ ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಕ್ರಮ

■ ಶಶಿದರ್ ಎಸ್.ದೋಣಹಳ್ಳಿ  
ತುಮಕೂರು  
shashidara.ds@timesgroup.com

ಪಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಒಂದೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ತರಗತಿ ನಡೆಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹಲವು ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಗಳು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿವೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಶಾಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಅದೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಠ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಇತರ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಒಂದೇ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಅದನ್ನೂ ಪಾಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

**ಸಿಬಿಎಸ್‌ಐ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ:** ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಪೋಷಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬಿಎಸ್‌ಐ (ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಆಫ್ ಸೆಕೆಂಡರಿ ಎಜುಕೇಶನ್) ತನ್ನ ಬೈಲಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ ಹೊಂದಿ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು
ಬೆಂ.ಉತ್ತರ	16
ಬೆಂ.ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	49
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	02
ರಾಮನಗರ	01

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಇತರ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಅನಧಿಕೃತ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು
ಬೆಂ.ಉತ್ತರ	252
ಬೆಂ.ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	192
ತುಮಕೂರು	47
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	02
ರಾಮನಗರ	02

ಮಾಡಿ ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಎರಡು ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆ ನಡೆಸಿತ್ತು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಧನಾತ್ಮಕ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ವಿನಿಮಯ ಹಾಗೂ

ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳ ಚಿತ್ರ



ಎರಡು ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಬೇಡವೆಂದರೆ ಪರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇರುವ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾದ ತರಗತಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ, ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾದ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ತೊಂದರೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವಾ ಮನೋಭಾವದಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಕಷ್ಟ. ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಎರಡು ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಅವಕಾಶದ ಸಿಬಿಎಸ್‌ಐ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಗತವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

—ರಂಗನಾಥ್ ಜಿ. ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಶ್ರೀ ಶಾರದಾ ಇಂಟರ್ ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಕೇಂಬ್ರಿಡ್ಜ್‌ಸ್ಕೂಲ್, ಹುಯಿಲ್ ದೋರೆ, ಶಿರಾ

ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಐತೆಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಎರಡೂ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆಯದೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

—ಜಿ.ಪ್ರಭು ಸಿಐಐ, ಜಿಪಂ

**Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.5, Jan.06, 2024**



# Guest faculty remuneration increased by up to ₹8,000 based on their work experience

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

After Chief Minister's assurance to increase honorarium by up to ₹8,000 per month based on work experience, guest faculties of Government First Grade Colleges have withdrawn their protest of the last one and a half months on Saturday.

## Deadlock resolved

With this, the government has revised the honorarium of guest faculties twice a week. Earlier, the government had agreed to increase it by up to ₹5,000 on December 29, 2023, including providing other benefits like lump sum amount of ₹5 lakh as retirement benefit, health insurance, etc. However, multiple guest faculty associations were not impressed and continued their protest, which began on November 23, 2023. This pushed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to hold a meeting with Higher Education Minister M. C. Sudhakar and representatives of guest faculties' associations on Saturday to resolve the deadlock.

The Chief Minister said that the government has considered the demands of the guest faculties sympathetically and decided to increase the remuneration by up to ₹8,000.

Therefore, guest faculties who have less than five years of service will get a hike in the range of ₹5,000, ₹6,000, for those with five to 10 years of ser-



Guest lecturers of Karnataka government first-grade colleges protesting at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

vice, ₹7,000 for those with 10 to 15 years of service, and ₹8,000 for those with more than 15 years of service experience.

## Other benefits

He also agreed to the demand of implementing health insurance of ₹5 lakh per annum to guest lecturers and lump sum amount ₹5 lakh will be provided to the serving guest faculties, after 60 years of age.

One day paid leave per month to those with more than 15 hours of workload per week and three months paid maternity leave to women guest lecturers will be provided, the Chief Minister said.

Along with this, Chief Minister also agreed to simplify the counseling process, including giving weightage based on their experience in recruitment, continuing their service in the same place where the guest lecturer was working in the following year.

"Discussion with the Chief Minister was fruitful and we are satisfied with the his assurances. So, we have withdrawn the protest and will go back to colleges on Monday," said Hanumanthagowda

R. Kalmani, president, Government First Grade Colleges guest Lecturers' Association.

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**Source: The Hindu, p.3, Jan. 7, 2024**

# School textbook revision committee to submit its report by January-end

State govt. had tasked the panel to revise school textbooks for 2024-25, following which new curriculum framework and textbooks would be drafted under Karnataka State Education Policy

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

**T**he revision of school textbooks is in the final stage and the Textbook Revision Committee headed by Manjunatha G. Hegade will submit its final report by January-end. The committee will hold its final meeting in the second week of January and submit its report by end-of-month.

The government has tasked the committee to revise school textbooks for one academic year 2024-25, following which new curriculum framework and textbooks will be drafted under the Karnataka State Education Policy, also being drafted now.

"Since the government has already abandoned controversial texts including during the previous revision and asked teachers not to teach these lessons. The government has also substituted them with oth-



The Textbook Revision Committee also roped in 15 teachers presently teaching children in the State's schools and consulted them on all revisions and changes made. FILE PHOTO

er lessons. We haven't made any major changes to the textbooks. We have only added a few lessons and deleted some based on the curriculum, quantum of study material among other criteria. We have added a few classic poetry as supplementary reading and linked Kannada language lessons and grammar lessons in the textbook," said Mr. Hegade. He further said that there were several grammatical

errors in the textbooks and it took 15 days just to correct these errors.

The Textbook Revision Committee also roped in 15 teachers presently teaching children in the State's schools and consulted them on all revisions and changes made. "No decision was taken unilaterally except by consensus of subject experts. Even the government did not give us any suggestions during the process," Mr. Hegade said.

"The textbooks have been revised so as to reduce the burden of students to facilitate joyful learning. During the revision we have taken care not to impose any ideologies on the children. Hence, the revised texts will be student friendly and learner friendly," Mr. Hegade said.

The Textbook Revision Committee has opined that the recent announcement by the State government on dividing annual textbooks into two, to reduce the weight of school bags was "unnecessary". "The weight of textbooks is well within the prescribed norms for weight of school bags. However, the weight of school bags go beyond the prescribed limits due to private schools prescribing extra books. We will revise the textbooks as one book. The government can split them into two if it is keen on the proposal," Mr. Hegade said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan. 9, 2024**

## AICTE to regulate technical institutions offering BBA, BMS, BCA courses

**Jayanth R.**  
BENGALURU

Intending to maintain uniform quality and academic standards across Management and Computer Application programmes, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to regulate technical institutions offering BBA, BMS, and BCA courses from 2024-25.

Till now, AICTE was regulating only postgraduate courses like MBA and MCA.

University Grant Commission (UGC) has informed all the public universities to communicate this to all its affiliated institutions which are offering or intend to offer courses in BBA, BMS and BCA for compliance.

Technical education

**Bengaluru City University Principal's Association has opposed the decision and sought withdrawal of the notification**

and its related aspects are controlled and governed by the AICTE Act of 1987. According to this Act, technical education, research,

training in engineering technology, architecture, town planning, management, pharmacy, applied arts and crafts courses are regulated by the council.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S. Vidyashankar, Vice Chancellor of VTU said, "We are aware of the AICTE and UGC circulars in this regard, and if the State government has decided in this regard, our

university will henceforth regulate technical institutions that offer BBA, BMS and BCA."

### **Decision opposed**

However, Bengaluru City University Principal's Association has opposed the AICTE decision in this regard and has urged for withdrawal of the notification. It has also submitted a proposal to the Vice

Chairman of Karnataka Higher Education Council for State government's intervention. "BBA and BCA are general courses accessible to many students as it is cost-effective when compared with AICTE-affiliated colleges," the association said, demanding that they be retained under the ambit of general UG colleges. Many Arts and Science colleges are offering these

courses for nominal fees and are surviving due to higher enrolment for courses like BBA, BCA, and Commerce courses. Removing them will also harm the multi and interdisciplinary approach as mentioned in the National Education Policy and also result in a significant fall in admission to the Arts, Science and Management colleges, it argued.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 11, 2024**



# Survey exposes challenges of NEP implementation

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

THE All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) in Karnataka released a report on the challenges faced by educational institutions due to hasty implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) in the State. The report was formally submitted to Sukhdeo Thorat, Chairman of State Education Policy on Wednesday for consideration of the formulation of the new state policy.

Over 96.32 per cent of students surveyed in 24 districts of the state opined that NEP's multiple entry-exit system does not ensure jobs if a student drops. The committee has requested that the four-year degree courses should not be retained for Karnataka. "To conduct four-year classes, most colleges do not have classrooms and competent lecturers. If a four-year degree is implemented what will be the superior Bachelor of Honors or the three-year degree? Even at PhD level three would be two kinds of degree holders, how will this be addressed?" questioned the committee.

The report by AISEC defended triple major degrees as it gives students opportunities to pursue careers in different fields. The three-subject system is multi-disciplinary and also inter-disciplinary, providing comprehensive knowledge for candidates. However, NEP promotes one major, one minor and one elective subject for higher education. AISEC claimed that this approach is 'single-disciplinary' and denies students the chance for better education. Instead, the SEP committee can introduce one open elective such as computer science, AI, marketing, and digital fluency, to support the student's basic degree.

Around 97 per cent also



EXPLAINS ILLUSTRATION

To conduct four-year classes, most colleges do not have classrooms and competent lecturers. Even at PhD level three would be two kinds of degree holders, how will this be addressed?

All India Save Education Committee

said that there are no trained lecturers for their chosen subjects which has been suggested in the new policy. For the survey, 'Problems of NEP-2020' a total of 2,536 individuals from 83 colleges were interviewed, including students and teachers. The survey also highlighted that students from urban, rural, government, private and autonomous institutions were included to get a holistic view of NEP's implementation.

In universities despite NEP promising several things, they lack infrastructure. The committee wants the state government to focus on building more classrooms, introducing newer methods of teaching and promoting holistic development for all age groups. Emphasising the point, the report stated that the Centralised Admission process and Unified University College Management System (UUCMS) are responsible for denying admission to many poor students as only 30 per cent rural population have internet access.

**Source: The New Indian Express, p.5, Jan 11, 2024**

# Experts say no to 4-year honours course under NEP

## Multiple exit-entry points unviable, they feel

BENGALURU, DHNS

Several experts present in the meeting called by the SEP drafting committee here on Wednesday opined that four years' honours degree and multiple entry exit option provided in the New Education Policy (NEP) were impractical.

As many as 68 experts from various fields across the state and some from national level were invited for the discussion.

During the discussion, a majority of them said it was not viable to offer four years' honours course. They said

multiple entry exit points would not serve the purpose of higher education.

"When I was the head of the department at Bangalore University, we tried five years' integrated/honours course long back and it was a failure. Of the 38 students who got admissions, no student remained for the fifth year. Hence, the course was closed," explained one retired professor.

"How can we give a certificate after first year, diploma after second year and degree after third year? It is impractical and unscientific in engineering education. This would lead to more unemployment,"

the principal of an engineering college said.

Students who have joined higher education under NEP 2020 are in the third year now and the government has to take a decision on scrapping or continuing four-year honours course.

"This is the reason we have asked for interim report from a commission on four-year honours course. The government will decide on it as soon as the commission submits its report," said a senior official of the higher education department.

The SEP drafting committee headed by former UGC chairperson Sukhadeo Thorat has called another meeting on January 18. It will submit an interim report by the end of this month.

Some of the experts invited for Wednesday's discussion were educationist G Ramakrishna, writers K

Marulsasiddappa, S G Sidaramaiah, Baraguru Ramachandrappa, N V Varghese, director of the Centre for Public Policy Research in Higher Education, IMI Kolkata economics associate professor Sahana Roy Chowdhury and S Madheswaran of Centre for Economic Studies & Policy.

### Survey

A survey conducted by the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) showed that 94.5% of the stakeholders were not happy with the four-year honours course and 92.32% opined that multiple entry-exit would not help in getting jobs.

The committee, which released the report on Wednesday, submitted the findings to the SEP drafting committee. There were 2,536 respondents from 24 districts, 18 universities and 83 colleges.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 11, 2024**

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## Environment

# Apps launched for green cover initiatives, lakes, parks

Besides providing current information, the apps will help users to submit grievances

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**D**eputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday unveiled three mobile applications and web links dedicated to lakes, parks, and the Hasiru Rakshaka initiative. The Park and Lake Mitra apps aim to provide current information about lakes and parks in the city. Additionally, these apps offer a feature for users to submit complaints and grievances related to parks and lakes.

The Lakes Monitoring Application, created by the civic body, allows the public to actively participate in the enhancement of lakes.

Users can access details about ongoing efforts to clean the lake, improving the walking paths, and other important information pertaining to a particular lake. According to a release from BBMP, officials have the access to review day-to-day progress reports, monitor attendance of lake security personnel, and track comprehensive work details of the lake through



Users can access details about ongoing efforts to clean the lake, improve the walking paths, etc. FILE PHOTO

this application. The initiative 'Kere Mithra' allows volunteers to select their interested lake, regularly monitor the development works, and update it on the BBMP website.

This will help maintain the lakes effectively, according to BBMP. From the entire pool of registered volunteers, a monthly selection process will randomly choose 10 volunteers for each lake through an online randomisation process.

Once chosen for the respective month, the Kere Mithra will be notified via email and cellphone, re-

ceiving login credentials. Subsequently, they can utilise the web application for their designated purpose.

### New apps

Kere Mithra's has the responsibility of overseeing various activities within lakes, including sweeping pathways, cleaning bund slopes, de-weeding waterbodies, clearing inlets, cleaning wetlands, attending to jungle clearance, monitoring Home Guards' attendance, noting lake timings, and tracking officials' visits, among other tasks.

The BBMP said that it has decided to entrust the management of city parks to local residents under the Udyana Mitra initiative. With 1200 parks in the city, residents are encouraged to actively participate in their maintenance.

Through a registration process on the application, they can oversee daily tasks such as sweeping, pruning hedges, shrubs, and plants, watering, lawn mowing, borewell maintenance, gate operations in accordance with rules, garbage removal, and all elec-

trical works related to the parks.

According to Mr. Shivakumar, the Hasiru Rakshaka app and website aims to involve school children in planting trees to enhance the green cover of the city. In the fiscal year 2023-24, a total of 1 lakh saplings were planted by 52,015 students in collaboration with 224 schools and colleges. Those students who successfully nurture a plant for three years will be honored with "Hasiru Rakshaka-Green Guardian" certificates, Mr. Shivakumar added.

According to a release from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the Hasiru Rakshaka app will assign a unique tag number to students actively nurturing a sapling. This tag enables students to log in to the app and provide updates on the progress of the saplings and trees under their care.

The app offers additional information on the specific sapling, including nurturing guidelines and more. Successfully nurturing the sapling qualifies the student for a certificate.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 7, 2024**

# Survey ordered to ascertain forest encroachment by mines across Karnataka

Four teams of top officials from across departments to be set up to conduct study

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**  
BENGALURU

**T**he Forest Department has asked for a fresh survey and assessment based on satellite imagery of the extent of forest encroachment and destruction due to mining activities across Karnataka.

Four teams of higher officials from Forests, Ecology, Mines, Revenue, and Police departments are to be set up, and the current status of the land will be juxtaposed with the satellite images of 10 years to see the extent of the encroachment and destruction of forests due to mining activities, said a recent note from Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment.



In the past, forest areas in Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru districts had been found ravaged by 'C' category iron ore mines, following which mining leases of over 50 mines had been cancelled by the Supreme Court. FILE PHOTO

While adequate police protection and security to the teams have been sought, the report is to be submitted in one month's time. The fresh assessment to study the extent of forest degradation came in the light of the recent visit by Mr. Khandre to three iron

ore mines in Tanigehalli and Megalahalli in Chitradurga district. He said that sandalwood trees and other flora had been noticed in the mining area and roads had been formed by cutting trees.

In the past, forest areas in Ballari, Vijayanagara,

Chitradurga, and Tumakuru districts had been found ravaged by 'C' category iron ore mines, following which mining leases had been cancelled for over 50 mines by the Supreme Court.

A Forest Department source said that several mines have been operating for several decades now, and that a survey of forest land had not been done to ascertain the boundary for a long time. "This is for the first time that such a State-wide survey has been ordered to ascertain encroachment of forest land by various mines. We have no idea about the extent of encroachment, destruction of forests, efforts for afforestation, and whether forest clearances had been obtained or not," said the source.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan. 7, 2024**



# Notices issued to firms set to develop coffee estates near Bhadra sanctuary

**The Hindu Bureau**  
SHIVAMOGGA

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj has issued notices to six people representing firms that proposed to develop coffee estates of multiple sizes in plantations close to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamenahalli Reserve Forest and hill stations in Chikkamagaluru taluk.

The Deputy Commissioner, on January 5, issued notices to six people, who had proposed to convert a total of 242 acres of land at Gonakal and Melina Huluvatti in Jagara hobli of Chikkamagaluru taluk into multiple-sized plantations.

The Deputy Commissioner has taken note of publicity materials distributed by the companies, besides the company websites.

They have proposed to develop and manage coffee estates with all amenities.

They have invited buyers to own coffee estates with clear titles. The firms are assuring the buyers an "enchanted experience in the heart of green" where they can build their family home and "experience nature in its purest form."

## **Within buffer zone**

The Deputy Commissioner has taken a report from the Forest Department official before serving the notice.

The RFO of Chikkamagaluru, in his report, said the lands were located within the buffer zone of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. Any development activity within 10-km of the sanctuary, the buffer zone, needs approval from the Forest Department.

The officer reported that the lands were within 900 to 1,300 metres of aerial distance from Kamenahalli Reserve Forest.

"Kamenahalli Reserve Forest has been part of Mysuru Reserve Extension,

## **The RFO of Chikkamagaluru, in his report, said the lands were located within the buffer zone of the wildlife sanctuary**

where wild elephants roam. And the sites chosen for development are within five to six kilometres of Bhadra Reserve Forest," the notice said.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the lands chosen for development were plantation lands.

The Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961, keeps such lands out of the definition of agriculture. And the plantations have been kept out of the ambit of the ceiling on land ownership. Besides that, coffee plantations have been considered an industry.

## **Diversion of land**

Citing these laws, the Deputy Commissioner said that the owners were exploiting these provisions. As per the act, the owners had to obtain prior permission from the Deputy Commissioner before diverting the same for other purposes.

A majority of Chikkamagaluru taluk was a hill station that included Mullyanagiri, Bababudangiri, among others. The lands identified for development were also on the foothills of the Western Ghats.

"Any move to convert them into piece lands might harm nature and affect the waterbodies in the area," she said.

Minister for Energy K.J. George, who is also Minister in-charge of Chikkamagaluru district, told journalists at Tarikere on Monday, that he instructed the Deputy Commissioner to issue notices to the firms concerned after he learnt about the issue. "I have brought it to the notice of Revenue Minister as well. We will take action as per law," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.6 Jan. 8, 2024**

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ನದಿಗಳ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ಅದು ಆಘಾತಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ದೇಶದ 30 ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು, ಕೇಂದ್ರಾಡಳಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳು ಸೇರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 279 ನದಿಗಳ 311 ನದಿ ಹರಿವಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮಲಿನಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ 17 ನದಿಗಳು ಸೇರಿವೆ.

#### ■ ಅಶೀಶ್ ಬಿ. ಕಣ್ಣಾಳಿ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

'ಗಂಗಾ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ ತುಂಗಾ ಪಾಕ' ಸಾಧ್ಯವೆಂದು ಅಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಮಹತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಬದುಕಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಗೆ ಓಡಿದ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದು. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣ ದಿವಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಜನ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯಾದ ನದಿಗಳು ಪಾಲಾಪಾಲಾಗಿ ಮೂರ್ಛಾಹೀನವಾಗಿವೆ.

ಮನವಿನ ನಿರೂಪಕ ಅಶೀಶ್ ಕಣ್ಣಾಳಿ, ಅಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹವಾಹವೆಯುವ ನದಿಗಳು ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾತ್ಮಕ ನದಿಗಳ ಕೆಳದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕವಾಗಿವೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ (ಸಿಪಿಎಂ) 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದ 603 ನದಿಗಳ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಸಿ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 279 ನದಿಗಳ 311 ನದಿ ಹರಿವಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಮಲಿನಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನದಿಗಳು ಮಲಿನಗೊಂಡಿವೆ.

#### ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ

ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸಿಪಿಎಂ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಯೋಜಿತ ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನದಿಗಿಳಿ ಅಧಿಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ಇರುವುದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ (ಕೆಎಸ್ ಪಿಎಂ)ಯ ವರದಿಯಿಂದ ವಿಚಿತ್ರವಾಗಿದೆ. ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿ ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಗಂಗಾಪಾಲಕರಾದ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 0.01 ರಿಂದ 0.063 ಎಂಎಲ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 0.021 ರಿಂದ 13.4 ಎಂಎಲ್ ವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ.

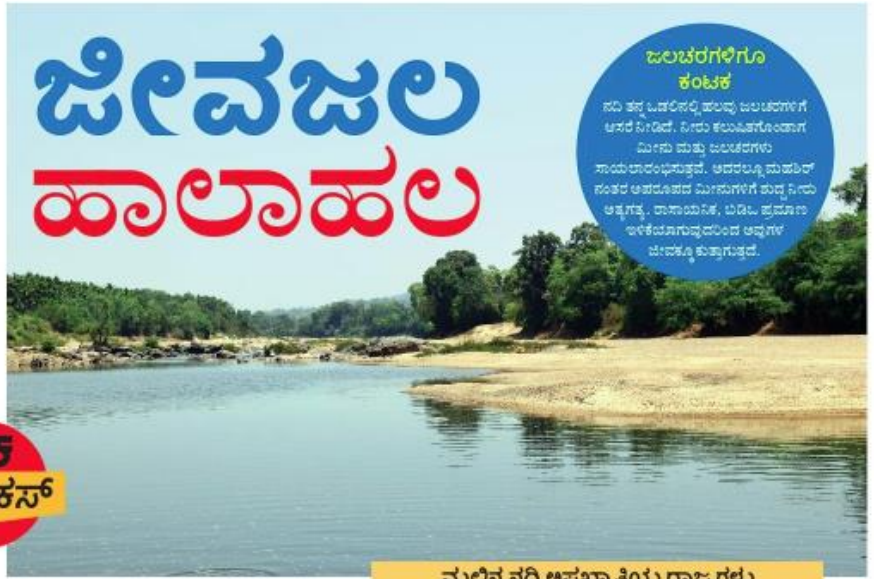
ಜಲಮಾಲಿನ್ಯದ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 0.039ರಷ್ಟು ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ 0.114, ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ 0.243, ಮೂಲ ಸೇತುವೆ ಬಳಿ 0.633, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ವಲಸುಧಿಕರಾಗ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ 0.203, ಬಾಳಾಪುರ ಮಹಾದ್ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 0.394, ಗಾಜಿನಗುರಿ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲಿ 0.365, ಗಾಜಿನಗುರಿ ಅಗ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಿ 0.070, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ನಗರದ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಿ ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾತ್ಮಕ 0.113, ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆಗಾರದಲ್ಲಿ 0.180, ನದಿಯಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 0.268, ಕ್ರಿಶ್ಚಿಯಾನಿಟಿ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಘಟಕದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 12.126 ಹಾಗೂ ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 13.397ರಷ್ಟು ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿಶೇಷವೆಂದರೆ, ನೀರು ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಿ ಮನಮನೆಗೆ ಸರಿಯು ಮೂಲಕ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 0.268 ಎಂಎಲ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಖನಿಜ ಲೋಹಗಳಿಂದ ಸರಿಯು ನೀರು ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗದ ಕ್ರಿಶ್ಚಿಯಾನಿಟಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ನದಿಗೆ ಪಾಕ ಬಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ 12.126 ಹಾಗೂ 13.397ರಷ್ಟು ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅಂಶ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ವರದಿಯೇ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದೇ ನೀರು ಮುಂದೆ ಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಘಟಕವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಳಿದ ನದಿಗಳ ನೀರನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಸರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ನೀರಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿಯನ್ನ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ.



**ಏಕ ಪೋಕಸ್**

#### ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲಾಗುವ ಪರಿಣಾಮ

- ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಪದ, ಲಂಕ್ಸ್ ಕೆಡ್, ಕೊಳೆಗೆ ಕೇ.1ರಷ್ಟು ಮಿಲಿಲೀಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಮೂಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವಸೂಚಕ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲಕಾಡೋರ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂನಿಂದ ನಿಷ್ಕಿಯಗೊಂಡು ಮೂಲ ಕುಗ್ಗಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
- 70-80 ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಬೇಕಾದ ಮೂಲ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಮುಂಚೆಯೇ ಆರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಕೆಂಪುಲಿಂಗ್ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಸರಮಂಡಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರಿ, ಪಾರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಸೆಲ್, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ (ಮರಗುಳಿಕೆ) ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್, ಪಾರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಸೆಲ್, ಮಲ್ಟಿಪಲ್ ಸ್ಕ್ರೀನಿಂಗ್ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ನಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸರಮಂಡಲದ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ.
- ಧೃಷ್ಟಿ, ಧೃಷ್ಟಿ, ಕೈಕಾಲುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚುಕ್ಕೆ ಅಥವಾ, ಮಾಂಸ ಖಂಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಟ್ಟು, ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಮೆಲೋಸಿಸ್.

-ಡಾ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಅರವಿಂದ್  
ಮನೋಜ್ಞರು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

ಮಲಿನ ನದಿ ಅಪಖ್ಯಾತಿಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳು					
55	19	18	17	14	
ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ	ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶ	ಕೇರಳ, ಬಿಹಾರ	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ	ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ	

#### ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಪಿನ್‌ಕನಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಲಿನ

ಸಿಪಿಎಂ ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ದೇಶದಾದ್ಯಂತ ನದಿ ದಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲಿನ ಬಣ್ಣ ಕೊಡುವುದು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಪಿನ್‌ಕನಿ ನದಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅತಿ ಕಲುಷಿತ ಎಂಬ ಕುಖ್ಯಾತಿ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಶುದ್ಧ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಲೀಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಎಂಪಿ ಬಯೋಲೋಜಿಕಲ್ ಆಕ್ಸಿಜನ್ ಡಿಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ (ಬಿಒಡಿ) ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಪಿನ್‌ಕನಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 111.0 ರಷ್ಟು ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿದೆ. 3.3, ಅರ್ಜುನ್ 39.0, ಭದ್ರಾ 7, ಭದ್ರಾ 4, ಕಾವೇರಿ 6, ಗುಣವತಿ 3.4, ಕಬಿನಿ 3.8, ಕಾಲಿಂಗಿ 3.1, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ 4.7, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಗರ 5.6, ನೇತ್ರಾವತಿ 6.0, ಕರಾವಳಿ 3.3, ಕಿರಾತಿ 9.5, ಭದ್ರಾಪುರ 72.0, ತುಂಗಾ 6.0, ತುಂಗಾಭದ್ರಾ 6.2ರಷ್ಟು.

**ಎನಿರು ಬಿ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ:** ಕೃಷಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ದೇಶ (ಬಿಒಡಿ) ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕಾರಕ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಳತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳೆಯುವ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಜಲ, ನೀರಿನ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಸೂಚಕವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಬಿಒಡಿ) ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕುಸಿಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ, ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿವನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಲು ಸೇವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕ್ಷೀಣ, ಮೂರು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕುಗ್ಗುತ್ತದೆ.

#### ನದಿ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳು

- ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ನದಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಬೆಲೆಗುಯಲ್ಲಿ ನದಿಯ ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾತ್ಮಕ ಹರಿವು ಇಳಿಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.
- ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಕೃಷಿ, ಕೋಟಲಾಕಾರಿ, ಕೊಳೆತೆಯು ಪ್ಲಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ.
- ತುಂಗಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾ ಮಿನಿಯಂ ಸೇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪತ್ತೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾತ್ಮಕ ಅರಣಿ, ಮಾನವ ಹಸ್ತಕ್ಷೇಪ, ಅತಿಯಾದ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು.

saish.kannalo@gmsexgroup.com

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.3, Jan.08, 2024



# KSPCB finds high level of aluminium in Tunga water

Niranjan.Kaggere@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** If one went by the adage 'Ganga snaana, Tunga paana' (bathe in the Ganges, drink from the Tunga) one would probably end up being very ill — at least as far as drinking water from the Tunga river is concerned.

Experts from Central Environmental Laboratory (CEL), Bengaluru, have found high levels of aluminium in water from the Tunga river. Scientists from CEL, which is governed by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), have recommended that the government direct the Shivamogga district administration to initiate purification measures to reduce the aluminium content.

Following a case filed by

Tunga Nadi Hitarakshana Samithi before the Lokayukta in June 2023, CEL scientists had collected soil and water samples from 16 places in Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts, including from the river bank, in November 2023.

A month-long analysis of these samples showed that besides aluminium, they also contained ammoniacal nitrogen and turbidity. A report has been submitted to the environment and ecology department for suitable action.

"Samples collected from a water treatment plant in Shivamogga town, a tap and a water sump in the city revealed aluminium content of 0.26 mg/l while all other parameters were within normal range," the report states.



**DAMNING REPORT**

The permissible level of aluminium as per IS 10500 standards for potable water is 0.2 mg/l. The aluminium levels in some of the samples was as high as 0.633 mg/l. "Since soil samples also revealed increased presence of iron and manganese content, it is natural for the river water to have high traces of these metals," the report states.

However, the high content of aluminium in treated water was

**“**We have sent findings and recommendations to the urban development department for immediate consideration to safeguard the health of citizens. I have also directed officials to carry out random sampling of water in other rivers

**Eshwar Khandre** | MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND FORESTS

the bigger worry.

"Water purifying plants along the river especially at Sringeri, Thirthahalli and Shivamogga have been using alum salt and chemicals like aluminium sulphate and poly aluminium chloride. Use of these chemicals has resulted in increased traces of aluminium in treated river water," the report said.

'Backwash' water — which is released back into the river

after the treating process — revealed a staggering 13.4 mg/l of aluminium content. "Due to insufficient use of alum salt, turbidity was noticed in many samples," the report said. "Hence, the Tunga river water cannot be consumed directly."

Officials recommended regional environment officers collect samples every month and assess seasonal variation of aluminium content.

CEL recommended that the government direct Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSD&D) and other authorities involved with supply of potable water to reduce aluminium content at treatment plants. It also recommended suitable adoption of scientific measures to discharge backwash into the river.

**Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan 11, 2024**

# FOUR-POINT PROPOSAL TO MITIGATE AIR POLLUTION

Gets in-principle approval from the state government

**BOSKY KHANNA** @Bengaluru

WITH various cities in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, seeing a rise in air pollution leading to an increase in lung-related ailments, the environment and urban development departments have chalked out a four-point mitigation proposal.

The proposal has also got in-principle approval from the state government. However, a detailed discussion with all stakeholders is yet to be held.

One most important proposal is to revise the holiday timetable for children. "We see many children suffering from health issues during winters. The air pollution is also high during winters. So, we have proposed that winter vacations be increased and summer vacations be reduced. A two-three month holiday in summer is too long. Winter vacations can be increased with homework so

that children are indoors and safe. This model is adopted in some north Indian cities," sources in the environment department told *The New Indian Express*.

Another official from the office of the environment minister said this proposal is being discussed with the education department and the state government in length. "The idea is good and the plan is to introduce it from the coming academic year. However, no decision will be taken without a detailed public consultation," the source said.

The second proposal is to bring in work from home culture for corporate employees and techies. "This is proposed to reduce the vehicular emissions, which is one of the prime causes for air pollution in cities, especially Bengaluru. This will also help boost tourism," the source added.

The third has been suggested to the energy department that there should be uninter-

rupted power supply during winters so that there is no use of diesel generators and other sources of energy.

The fourth proposal is that the annual maintenance works that industries take up round the year be restricted to a fixed schedule, like in November or December, so that emissions are easily controlled and monitored.

"Under Section-5 of the environment act, it can be imposed and directions can be given for implementation. But we want to create awareness and ask people's opinion. The idea is to give people a choice and make them take an informed decision. We want the government to take up public debates on this. Many organisations and industries can also directly start following the proposals even before the government decision is taken, so that there is some control," an official from the environment department said.

**Source: The New Indian Express, p.4 Jan 12, 2024**

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# ವೈದ್ಯರ ಕೊರತೆ ಆತಂಕಕಾರಿ

ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ವರದಿ ಆಧರಿಸಿ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ | ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್

■ ವಿಕ ಸುದ್ದಿಲೋಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸರಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 16 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ವೈದ್ಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಹುದ್ದೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ವೈದ್ಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸಿಜೆ ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ವರ್ಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ನ್ಯಾ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಎಸ್.ದೀಕ್ಷಿತ್ ಅವರಿದ್ದ ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಪೀಠ ಈ ಆದೇಶ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

**ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ:** ಭಾರತೀಯ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯೋದ್ಯಮ ಮಹಾಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟವು 2023ರ ಅ.11ರಂದು

## ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಎಷ್ಟು

723	ಎಂಬಿಬಿಎಸ್ ವೈದ್ಯರು
7,492	ನರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು
1,512	ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಷಿಯನ್ಸ್
1,517	ಫಾರ್ಮಸಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ
1,752	ಸಹಾಯಕರು
3,253	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ನೌಕರರು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಷನ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಟ್ರಿಲಿಯನ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ವರದಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಆ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ 454 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಇದರಿಂದ

ಉತ್ತಮ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸೇವೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಡಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಪಿಐಎಲ್ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮುಂದೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್, ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ್ ಜನರಲ್‌ಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಮಂಜೂರಾಗಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವೈದ್ಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಅಗತ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯ ಪರಿಕರಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ಬಜೆಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಬೇಕು. ಶೀಘ್ರವಾಗಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಪಿಐಎಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakaranata, p.03, Jan.10, 2024

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಪುಟ 1

## ಐಐಎಸ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊಸ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ

ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದ ಕರೊನಾ ವ್ಯಾಕ್ಸಿನ್ | ರೂಪಾಂತರಿಗಳಿಗೂ ರಾಮಬಾಣ

■ ರಮೇಶ್ ಮೈಸೂರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರದ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸಹಜ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲೂ ಶೇಖರಿಸಿಡಬಹುದಾದ, ಶಾಖವನ್ನು ತಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆಯೊಂದನ್ನು ಭಾರತೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ

» ಕೊರಡಿ (ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಸಿ) ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ತಾಪಮಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಳು ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳು ಇದು ಹಾಲಿ ಶೇಖರಿಸಿ ಇರುವ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಇಡಬಹುದು ವೈರಾಣುಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಭವಿಷ್ಯ

ದಲ್ಲಿನ ರೂಪಾಂತರಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧವೂ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬಲ್ಲದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಆರಂಭದಿಂದಲೂ ಇಂಥದೊಂದು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಸಿಯ ಮಾಲಿಕ್ಯೂಲರ್



ಬಯೋಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಘಟಕದ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ರಾಘವ ವರದರಾಜನ್ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಎನ್ ಪಿಜಿ ವ್ಯಾಕ್ಸಿನ್ ನಿಯತಕಾಲಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕುರಿತ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆಯಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗಬಲ್ಲ ಕೃತಕ ಪ್ರತಿಜನಕ (ಸಿಂಥೆಟಿಕ್ ಆಂಟಿಜೆನ್) ರೂಪಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಹಾಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ರೂಪಾಂತರಿ ವೈರಸ್‌ಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ದಕ್ಷತೆಯಿಂದ

ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಹರಡುವ ಮುಂಚಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಲಸಿಕೆಯ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಬಿಲ್ ಆಂಡ್ ಮೆಲಿಂಡಾ ಗೇಟ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನದಿಂದಲೂ ಧನಸಹಾಯ ದೊರೆತಿತ್ತು.

! ರಾಘವ್ ವರದರಾಜನ್ ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬಲ್ಲದು. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಇದನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲಸಿಕೆಗಳು ಸಾರ್ಸ್- ಸಿಬಿವಿ-2 (ಕೋವಿಡ್-19) ವೈರಸ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಈ ವೈರಸ್ ರೂಪಾಂತರ ಹೊಂದಿದಂತೆಲ್ಲ ಇವುಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯ ದಕ್ಷತೆಯೂ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. **○ ಪುಟ 4**

# ಐಐಎಸ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಲಸಿಕೆ

ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ...

ವಿವಿಧ ವೈರಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಡುಬಂದ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಕೋವಿಡ್-19ನ ಎರಡು ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಎಸ್-2 ಸಬ್ ನಿಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರಿಸೆಪ್ಟರ್ ಬೈಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಡೋಮೇನ್ (ಆರ್ ಬಿಡಿ) ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುವ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಎಸ್-2 ಘಟಕವು ಎಸ್-1 ಘಟಕಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ರೂಪಾಂತರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಲಸಿಕೆಗಳು ಇದನ್ನೇ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ, ಆರ್‌ಬಿಡಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧಕ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇವೆರಡು ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಆರ್‌ಎಸ್‌2 ಎಂಬ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಸ್ತನಿಗಳ ಜೀವ ಕೋಶದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠೆವಂತನೆ ತೋರಿತು ಎಂದು ಐಐಎಸ್ ಸಿಯ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾಧಿ ನಿಧಿ ಮಿತ್ರಲ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್-19 ಹೊಸ ರೂಪಾಂತರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಈ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಬಹುದು. ಬೃಹತ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

## ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಮಿತವ್ಯಯ!

ಹೊಸ ಲಸಿಕೆಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಗುಣವೆಂದರೆ ಇದನ್ನು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಕೊಠಡಿಯ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ 1 ತಿಂಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಶೇಖರಿಸಿ ಇಡಬಹುದು. ಸದ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲಸಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೈತ್ಯಾಗಾರದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಈ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಗಳ ಸಾಗಾಟ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಮಿತವ್ಯಯ ಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿರಲಿದೆ. ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳ ತಂಡವು ಎಡ್ಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್‌ಫ್ಲುಯೆಂಜಾ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗೂ ಲಸಿಕೆ ತಯಾರಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಅನುಭವ ವನ್ನೇ ಹೊಸ ಲಸಿಕೆ ತಯಾರಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

## ಸಸ್ತನಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸಿದ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್‌ನನ್ನು ಇಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಗ್ಗಣಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧಕ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಳಿದ ಪ್ರೋಟೀನ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ.

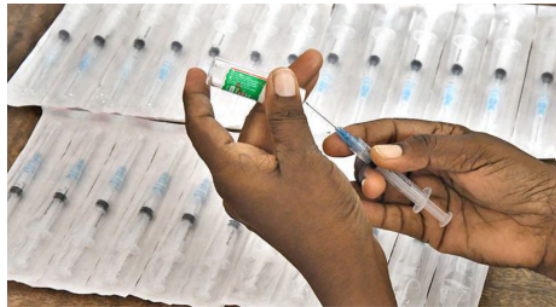


# IISc comes up with warm vaccine against current strains of SARS-CoV-2

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

A heat-tolerant vaccine developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) researchers is said to be effective against all current strains of SARS-CoV-2 besides having the potential to be quickly adapted for future variants as well.

According to IISc-Bengaluru, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prof. Raghavan Varadarajan from the institute's Molecular Biophysics Unit (MBU) and collaborators have been working on developing a heat-tolerant vaccine that can offer protection against different strains of SARS-CoV-2 - both current and future variants. In a study published in *npj Vaccines*, they report the design of a synthetic antigen that can be manufactured as a potential COVID-19 vaccine. They showed that their vaccine is effective against all current strains of SARS-CoV-2, and can be quickly adapted for future variants as well. According to IISc., while current vaccines are proven to be effective against most SARS-CoV-2 strains, their efficacy has declined due to rapid mutation by the virus. After analysing various proteins found in the virus, the researchers selected two parts of SARS-CoV-2's spike protein - the S2 subunit and the Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) - for designing their vaccine candidate. The S2 subunit is highly conserved. It mu-



In a study published in *npj Vaccines*, IISc professors report the design of a synthetic antigen that can be manufactured as a potential COVID-19 vaccine. FILE PHOTO

tates much less than the S1 subunit, which is the target of most current vaccines. Scientists have also known that the RBD can provoke a strong immune response in the host. Therefore, the team created a hybrid protein called RS2 by combining these two components.

The researchers used mammalian cell lines to study the expression of the hybrid protein.

"The protein showed very high levels of expression, and I (initially) thought that the experiment was not working properly," said Nidhi Mittal, PhD student at MBU and first author of the study.

The team then tested the effects of the protein in both mice and hamster models. They found that the hybrid protein triggered a strong immune response and provided better protection when compared to vaccines containing the whole spike protein. According to IISc., the RS2 antigen can also be stored at room temperature for a month without the need for cold storage,

unlike many vaccines in the market which require mandatory cold storage. This would make the distribution and storage of these vaccine candidates much more economical.

Varadarajan said that his team began working on the vaccine even before the pandemic became widespread in India.

Since 2000, Varadarajan's team has been working on designing several viral vaccines, including those against AIDS and influenza. They have leveraged this expertise to design their current RS2-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate in collaboration with the startup Mynvax, which was, until recently, incubated at IISc.

According to the team, the vaccine candidate can be tailored to incorporate the RBD region of any new variant of SARS-CoV-2 that might emerge. Its high levels of expression and stability at room temperature can greatly reduce production and distribution costs, making it well suited for combating COVID-19.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2 Jan. 11, 2024**

# Concerned over deaths among those with comorbidities, State to monitor patients through tele-ICUs

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Concerned over the increasing number of deaths, especially among those with comorbidities, despite a marginal decline in new COVID-19 cases, Karnataka will start monitoring all ICU patients through tele-ICUs. As of Wednesday, the State has recorded 27 deaths and 19 patients are under intensive care.

Announcing this after chairing the Cabinet sub-committee's meeting held on Wednesday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told presspersons that specialists from Victoria Hospital affiliated to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) will monitor critical patients. The State's Death Audit Committee that has so far audited a total of 21 deaths that have occurred since December 15 has concluded that only two of the fatalities are due to COVID pneumonia. A 40-year-old patient from Mangaluru and a 59-year-old woman

## 201 new cases reported

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday reported 201 new cases and one more death. An 85-year-old male from Mysuru, who was diagnosed with SARI, died on January 9 at a private hospital. With this, the total number of deaths reported since December 15 have touched 27.

As of Wednesday, the State had 974 active cases of which 59 are being treated. As many as 7,315 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours of which 6,557 are RTPCR tests.

from Mysuru, who were COVID positive and admitted with symptoms of SARI, are the two deaths that have been directly attributed to COVID. They had lung involvement with elevated inflammatory markers, according to the Death

Audit Committee.

"Of the remaining 20, 18 patients had multiple comorbidities. Their death cannot be attributed to COVID as they had developed complications due to poor management of their comorbidities," the Minister said. Asserting that there is no need for people to panic, he said the State has been conducting around 7,000 tests daily although the target was to conduct 5,000 tests. "We have directed officials to ensure that high risk symptomatic contacts of COVID positive patients are compulsorily tested. This is as per ICMR's guidelines on testing strategy," the Minister said. "Karnataka has been doing the highest number of tests in the country and it is because of this we are able to detect positive cases." The Minister said a government order on administering flu vaccine for all health workers including doctors and para-medical staff will be issued soon. "The flu shots will prevent them from getting infected," he added.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2 Jan. 11, 2024**

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## Gender

# Namma Yatri to enrol 1,000 women auto drivers in six months

### **The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Ride booking app Namma Yatri announced plans to enrol 1,000 women drivers in the next six months in collaboration with Bengaluru police and NGOs.

On Friday, the company launched Mahila Shakti in collaboration with the Bengaluru police, Parihar, and the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Health and Education Foundation. The initiative is designed to empower women from diverse backgrounds to become proficient in driving electric autorickshaws.

The Mahila Shakti initiative offers a comprehen-

sive one-month training course that covers practical driving, traffic laws, safety, and vehicle maintenance. It supports women in starting their own driving businesses. Targeting women aged 25 to 45, the programme paves the way to higher income, economic independence and flexible working hours. After the free training, Namma Yatri provides electric autos on a nominal daily rent and facilitates low-interest vehicle ownership through financial institutions.

Those interested in joining can contact Namma Yatri by calling 080-69724800 or via WhatsApp on 8618963188.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 6, 2024**

# From 25k in '13, creches for poor kids down to 3.9k in '23

## Number Of Beneficiaries Dip From 6 Lakh To Under 84,000

Rema.Nagarajan  
@timesgroup.com

In 2013, there were almost 25,000 creches with over 6 lakh beneficiaries under the National Creche Scheme. By February 2023, there were just 3,900 creches with under 84,000 beneficiaries. If even the poorest third of the estimated 25 million babies born every year in India are to be provided creche facilities, it would need several lakh creches.

From the first decade of this millennium, several studies and surveys funded by the government showed the huge unmet demand for creches and the impact that creches for children aged six months to six years could have on preventing child malnutrition and in pushing up women's work participation, which is notoriously low in India.

TOI reached out to the women and child development ministry through email for its views on the issue, but has got no response even two days after the mails were sent. The story will be updated online if we get a response.

Why did the number of creches under the scheme crash so dramatically? A combination of factors was at play. Till 2017, the funding pattern for the scheme was 90:10 with the Centre footing 90% and NGOs running the crèche providing the rest. Then came allegations of financial irregularities by the NGOs, which led to the central government cutting off funding to them and transferring the creches to the Central Social Welfare Board.

Around the same time, in January 2017, the cost-sharing formula was revised. The implementation was shifted

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Budget allocated vs spending (in ₹ cr)			Creches		Beneficiaries (lakh)
Year	BE	Utilisation			
2013-14	110	96.23	2013-14	24,970	6.02
2014-15	125	95.15	2014-15	23,588	5.75
2015-16	205.94	132.74	2015-16	21,599	5.33*
2016-17	150	33.53	2016-17	5,904	1.62
2017-18	200	48.79**	2017-18	7,930	NA
2018-19	128	29.43	2018-19	4,948	NA
2019-20	50	38.77	2019-20	3,906	0.84
2020-21	75	11.6	2020-21		
2021-22*	53	0	2021-22*		
2022-23	75	8.68 (pertaining to past liabilities)	2022-23		

\*Creches were closed during the Covid period  
\*\*Grant released to states/UTs, not utilisation

**TIMES VIEW:** Creches play a supportive role in a child's mental development and school readiness. They also help parents do their work in a relaxed manner. For single parents, especially those without back-up at home, they are indispensable. The massive shortage as well as drop in the number of creches is a cause for concern. Authorities should investigate the reasons behind their reduction and suggest ways and means to increase them. This is particularly crucial given the low level of women's participation in the workforce.

to state governments following an increase in the share of union taxes for the states from 32% to 42% in keeping with recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission. The fund sharing pattern amongst Centre, states and NGOs was changed to 60:30:10. It was 80:10:10 for northeastern states and 80:0:10 for union territories. Not all states supported the scheme enthusiastically and it progressively shrank till most creches shut down during the pandemic.

From over 87% of budget allocation being used in 2013-14, fund utilisation steadily worsened till it was less than 25% in 2018-19. That led to a slash in

allocation from the centre.

Several states which had hundreds of creches now have none, according to government data given to Parliament in February 2023. These include the states with the highest number of births, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar: UP had 2,149 creches with more than 50,000 children in 2013, Bihar had over 930 creches and more than 23,000 children.

Post-Covid, in July 2022, the women and child development ministry announced that NCS was being renamed Palna Scheme under the sub-scheme 'Samarthyaa' of Mission Shakti, which aims to strengthen interventions for

women's safety, security and empowerment. The anganwadi-cum-creches were moved to the Palna scheme and existing creches under NCS were included under it as standalone creches. The scheme seems to be struggling to get off the ground with barely 2,200 functional standalone creches as of till October 2023 and approval being given for 5,000 anganwadi-cum-creches.

"ICDS (integrated child development scheme) has the administrative outreach to reach the poorest. So the anganwadi-cum-creche model is the most viable and scalable model. ICDS already has under-three children within its mandate for providing take home rations. Now it has to additionally provide day care. But many administrative and bureaucratic challenges have to be tackled before this can run smoothly," explained Sumitra Mishra of Mobile Creches, which runs creches for children of migrant workers and works on early childhood development of marginalised children.

The new Palna scheme envisages 17,000 anganwadi cum creches in the country by 2025-26. When 22,000 creches were functional in 2013, to aim for 17,000 creches more than ten years later might be too little to meet the demand. In the 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26), a total of Rs 20,989 cr including central and state share has been allocated under Mission Shakti. There is apprehension that if enough creches do not become functional and states do not show utilisations of funds, allocation for the creche component could be cut in the 16th finance cycle.

**Source: The Times of India, p.5, Jan 7, 2024**



# Transgender quota needs an enabling environment

ROHINI PANDURANGI

The recent report of a transgender quota for postgraduate courses at Bangalore University going unclaimed made headlines in the media and has spurred the government and civil society to do some rethinking. In spite of affirmative actions taken by the government, in the form of quotas in jobs and educational institutions, transgender people are hesitant to claim what is rightfully theirs. This makes it evident that the actions taken by the government to remove social discrimination and inequality will not come to fruition unless the bias is stemmed in society.

Transgender people are looked upon as an aberration everywhere, and India is no different. However, there is a peculiarity in our society. Indian mythology accords them divine status, and they are therefore associated with mythical creatures called *kinnaras*. They are welcome at ceremonies like marriage and childbirth and their blessings are sought. It is an irony that their demi-god status ends there, and they transform into objects of ridicule. Hence, transgender children are abandoned by their parents in infancy. If they are fortunate enough to survive, they are ostracized. Lacking education and skills, they are left with no option but to become sex workers or resort to begging. Those who are brought up by their parents, having been assigned the wrong gender at birth, grow up in confusion, and when they come out, are disowned by their family and end up on the streets.

In the past decade, there has been an awakening amongst transgender people about their rights, and they have been vocal about it. Today, we are seeing members of the community blazing a trail despite the adversities they are facing. Prominent among them are Danseuse Narthaki Natraj, the first transgender person to be awarded Padmashri; Rose, a talk show host from Tamil Nadu; Apsara Reddy and Akkai Padmashali, who are activists and are associated with political parties; Manabi Bandopadhyay, the first transgender person to become the principal of an educational institution; and Dr Vibha Usha Radhakrishnan, who recently became the first trans woman to get an MBBS in Kerala.

The political system has also woken up to the fact that there are people who may not conform to the gender binary, and they need to be acknowledged. While the measures are commendable, they will not be effective unless there is a change in the attitude of society towards transgender people. At the same time, the members of the community also need to stand up for themselves and claim their space. These two changes need to happen in tandem.

The government, the transgender community, and civil society will have to work together to achieve this. The general public, especially children, needs to be sensitised about the transgender community, as they will be the new society. This education needs to be a part of their curriculum from the early years in an age-appropriate manner. Achievers from the transgender community need to encourage and instill confidence amongst their members to fight for and claim their rights. Civil society groups need to work on both fronts, sensitising people and supporting community members.

A couple of years ago, a transgender person approached me at a traffic signal for money. As I gave her a ten rupee note, she proceeded to give me a coin as a blessing, which is a customary practice. Unaware of it, I looked at her with confusion. Mistaking my ignorance for hesitation, she smiled at me and said, "*HedrkobeDi, naavu kooDa manushyare*" (do not be afraid; we too are human beings). As I fumbled for words to clarify, the signal turned green, leaving me part guilty and part thinking. The fact that transgender people must assert that they too are human beings means that they are not viewed as such. There is a need to create an enabling environment if they are to benefit from affirmative actions. Otherwise, society will be deprived of the artists, civil servants, doctors, engineers, lawyers, activists, politicians, corporate executives, and educators that the transgender community has the potential to produce. More than anything else, they will be able to live a dignified life. This can happen only if we understand that they too are human beings, just the same as us.

*(The writer is an independent researcher with an interest in the WTO)*

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.7, Jan 8, 2024**

# ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 28,657 ಬಾಲ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು!

• ಬಸವರಾಜ್ ಸಂಪತ್

ವಿಜಯಪುರ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು 18 ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬುವ ಒಳಗೆ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರಿ ಏರಿಕೆ ಆಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂತಾನೋತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ (ಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಚ್) ಪ್ರೋಟೋಕ್ಯಾಲ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, 2023ರ ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ವರೆಗಿನ 11 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 28,657 ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು ಆಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂದರೆ, 2,815 ಬಾಲಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2,254 ಮಂದಿ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2,004 ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅತೀ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಂದರೆ, 56 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿವೆ.

'ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಟೋ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2012 ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 19ರಡಿ ಪ್ರೋಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗೆ ದೂರು ನೀಡಬೇಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಶಶಿದ್ವರ ಕೋಸಂಬೆ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.



ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತೆಯರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಬೇಕು. ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂತಹ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವುದನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ತಡೆಯಬೇಕು

ಶಶಿದ್ವರ ಕೋಸಂಬೆ, ಸದಸ್ಯ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ

'ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ-ಮಟ್ಟದವರೆಗೆ 59 ಸಾವಿರ ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ನಿಷೇಧಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹ ತಡೆಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಸಹ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಕಾರಿರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಬೌದ್ಧಿಕವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಆಗದೇ ವಿವಾಹವಾಗುವ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರಿಗೆ ಹಲವು ಸ್ವರೂಪಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಕಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಾದರೆ ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶದ ಕೊರತೆ ತಲೆದೋರುತ್ತದೆ. ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಗು ಸಾವನ್ನಪ್ಪುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಜನಿಸುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಬಳಲುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

2023ರ ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ಆಯಾ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಆಗಿರುವುದು

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ವಯಸ್ಸು						ಹಾವೇರಿ	1	3	16	88	605	713
	14	15	16	17	18	ಒಟ್ಟು							
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	8	9	34	154	988	1193	ಕಲಬುರಗಿ	7	17	37	261	1189	1511
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	17	43	93	366	1377	1896	ಕೊಡಗು	4	6	9	35	216	270
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	9	17	64	386	2278	2754	ಕೋಲಾರ	3	11	42	157	656	869
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾ	2	4	17	75	368	466	ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	2	8	24	89	448	571
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ	10	19	60	367	2359	2815	ಮಂಡ್ಯ	4	6	29	113	694	846
ಬೀದರ್	16	24	65	207	831	1143	ಮೈಸೂರು	5	6	37	129	1193	1370
ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	2	3	10	31	317	363	ರಾಯಚೂರು	9	27	76	248	892	1252
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	4	3	20	71	469	567	ರಾಮನಗರ	1	4	13	51	363	432
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು	1	6	16	60	352	435	ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ	1	4	22	61	508	596
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	13	55	164	350	830	1412	ತುಮಕೂರು	4	13	44	216	1098	1375
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ	1	2	2	8	122	135	ಉಡುಪಿ	0	3	4	5	44	56
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ	8	9	39	133	668	857	ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ	0	0	4	17	163	184
ಧಾರವಾಡ	1	1	1	40	446	489	ವಿಜಯಪುರ	11	35	95	349	1514	2004
ಗದಗ	1	2	8	31	261	303	ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	19	36	78	177	611	921
ಹಾಸನ	4	14	27	113	701	859	ಒಟ್ಟು	168	390	1150	4388	22561	28657

(ಆಧಾರ: ಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಚ್‌ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್)

ಇರುತ್ತದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಆಗುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಅದ್ವಿತೀಯ ನೀಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿ ಆಗುವುದು ತಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದರೆ, ಬಾಲ್ಯ ವಿವಾಹಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ

ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಚ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಡಾ. ಗುಂಡಬಾವಡಿ ಕೆ.ಡಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಬಾಲ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ

ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಆರ್‌ಸಿಎಚ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಡಾ.ಎನ್. ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ, ಅವರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

Source: Prajavani, p.II, Jan.12, 2024

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# Yelahanka grievance meet draws 2,600 applications

Majority of complaints were about khata, govt schemes

SHRADHA TRIVENI  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents of Yelahanka, Dasarahalli and Byatarayanapura constituencies on Friday submitted over 2,600 applications at the 'Government at your doorstep' grievance redressal meet held in Yelahanka's Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan.

Many women wanted to get their names registered for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, while others complained that they had not yet received the amount as outlined in the scheme.

Kumari, a resident of Byatarayanapura constituency, said: "After a minor correction in my mother Lakshmi's name, we stopped receiving the amount."

Renuka, a 60-year-old homemaker, wanted the government to provide hearing aid for her hearing-impaired



Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar interacts with citizens at the 'Government at your doorstep' grievance redressal meet held in Yelahanka on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### DKS' directions

DyCM Shivakumar urged people to unhesitatingly report bribe demands, which he felt was increasing, assuring strict action against errant officials.

He said the government plans to fix cameras across the city to identify those dumping waste and file cases against them, while also highlighting the widespread dumping of construction debris.

husband, an autorickshaw driver, while also raising issues

about her BPL card.

"We had a BPL card earlier. But after my daughter's marriage, we added our son-in-law's name on the card. But because he pays his taxes, we do not get free ration now," Renuka told *DH*.

Shivarajamma and Usha from Siddhartha Colony, Madiwala, urged the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to sanction the construction of an anganwadi in the colony for ragpickers' children.

"About 40 to 50 children live in our colony. We are seeking approvals to start the construction of the anganwadi with the help of an NGO," said Usha.

### Deadline to process appeals

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said he has instructed officials to segregate all the appeals ward-wise and resolve them within a strict deadline. "We have taken the telephone numbers of the applicants. We will coordinate with them on each appeal. We are forming a separate team to resolve these issues," he said.

### Parking restrictions for Saturday's meet

Ahead of Saturday's redressal programme at the RBNMS High School Grounds in Sivanchetti Gardens, the city's traffic police have restricted parking on both sides of St John's Road, Gangadhara Chetti Road, and Dickenson Road.

Two-wheeler users can park on the Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, while four-wheelers can be parked at the Hasanath Women's and Evening College Grounds, RBNMS Grounds, on the premises of the Subramanya Swamy Temple at St John's Road, and behind the Thiruvalluvar statue.

### Biggest concerns

A majority of appeals were submitted to the BBMP and Revenue Department about khata issues.

"About five lakh women are not receiving the Gruha Lakshmi (scheme) amount due to some technical issues. Some women have given their husbands' phone numbers and bank account details after registering their names. This will be sorted out soon," said Shivakumar.

Many faced issues with BPL cards, Anna Bhagya, Arogya and other schemes, while others sought assistance to get their property documents in order.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3A, Jan 6, 2024**

# Crumbling comforts: Squalor suffocates Bengaluru's bus hubs

Broken toilets and stained sinks mark the sorry state of city's bus stands

UDBHAVI BALAKRISHNA & FLORA ADELINE  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bus stations in the city are more than just transit points; they're safe havens for travellers seeking rest before continuing their journeys. With their constant high footfall, especially during holidays and festive seasons, their maintenance becomes crucial. This responsibility often falls on the shoulders of transport corporations or outsourced agencies.

However, a reality check by *DH* paints a grim picture of neglect in these bustling hubs. Despite the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc) outsourcing the upkeep of essential facilities like pay-and-use toilets, waiting rooms, and feeding rooms, the reality starkly contrasts with their intended purpose. A week-long review of five such bus stations reveals a distressing state of disrepair.

The findings are alarming: toilets are unusable, broken, or dysfunctional; sinks and floors are stained; and a pervasive, unbearable stench looms over these spaces. This deterioration not only mars the city's image but also raises significant concerns about the health and comfort of thousands of daily commuters. As these stations continue to see a surge in visitors, the glaring gap between the responsibility of maintenance and its execution stands as a challenge that demands immediate attention and action.

## Shivajinagar bus station

In Shivajinagar bus station, the "Mother's Lounge" – a space dedicated to providing comfort and privacy for mothers and their children – falls short of its intended purpose. A recent visit revealed that out of four sinks in the lounge, only one was functional, and none were clean. This lack of basic hygiene is compounded by the fact that the feeding room, an essential part of the lounge, lacks both lighting and seating, making it difficult



The public toilet at Kengeri Bus Stand on Saturday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

for mothers to care for their infants comfortably. The room's floor, cluttered with cement and sand, further adds to the unwelcoming environment. Adding to the inconvenience, staff members stationed outside the washrooms charge a usage fee of Rs 10, yet the conditions inside are far from satisfactory. While the toilets are usable, the Western-style ones suffer from a non-functional flush system.

"Sometimes the sinks are stained with paan and used sanitary pads are stuffed in the gaps of the ventilator window," said Shreya Nandakumar, a student travelling to Richmond Circle every day. She refrains from using the toilet.

## Kengeri TTMC

The waiting room, constructed under the Nirbhaya scheme and primarily used by pregnant women and feeding mothers, is open 24/7. However, the toilets are soiled. Despite the presence of a signboard prohibiting men's entry, some male conductors were observed using the room's water purifier. In the women's washroom, none of the sinks were operational, and the toilets were poorly maintained and dysfunctional; one did not even have a lock. The condition of the men's washroom was similarly poor.

"The stench in the men's washroom makes it close to impossible to use," said Vinay, a regular passenger. He highlighted faulty pipe connections and clogged urinals as addition-

al issues and suggested that the washrooms should be cleaned twice a day.

## Kempegowda bus station, Majestic

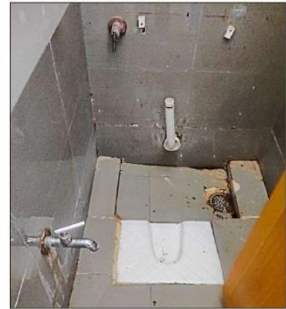
Although the four Indian-style toilets in the pay-and-use women's washroom were clean, one of the stalls did not have a lock while the edges of the commodes were cracked. Similarly, the waiting room seemed well-maintained but the toilet inside was clogged and had an unusable flush. A woman conductor who came to use the washroom suggested using the pay-and-use toilets instead of the one in the waiting room. Passengers who used the men's washroom complained of the intolerable stench and poor maintenance.

## Shanthinagar TTMC

The toilet in the waiting room was locked, and of the four stalls in one of the two washrooms, only one was functional. Workers are not provided with masks and gloves and must purchase them on their own if needed. The washroom lacked sanitary vending machines and tissues, and none of the toilet stalls had dustbins. Although workers and staff assured that the washroom was cleaned twice daily, the poor condition of the toilets deterred passengers from using them frequently.

## Kalasipalya TTMC

There is no waiting room at this station. The women's washroom, equipped with just one



A toilet lacking a flush tank at Kalasipalyam TTMC. DH PHOTO/FLORA ADELINE

## Tenders to be called soon

A senior BMTc official said that tenders are periodically called once in three years to select a housekeeping agency to maintain different stations, including cleaning the toilets. Tender documents at times only mention the requirements and area to be maintained while other times specify the number of staff required for maintenance, which ranges from 10 to 12 people per shift depending on the area of the station. Within the next month, housekeeping tenders will be called for some of the bigger stations such as Kalasipalya, Shanthinagar, and Majestic.

common dustbin, often leads users to dispose of used diapers and pads in the toilets. Out of five toilets, only three are functional, and just one of the four sinks works. The flushes in the Indian-style toilets are all non-operational. While BMTc staff can use the washrooms for free, passengers are charged Rs 5. The guards refused to respond to questions regarding the maintenance of the washrooms.

"When passengers complain about guards charging more than the fixed price, we warn the guards immediately," said Shamoon Pasha, the traffic controller, who said that the toilets were cleaned once a day.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 7, 2024**



# Drugs, waste management major concerns: East B'luru residents

They also demand better bus connectivity

CHETAN B C  
BENGALURU, DHNS

Drug consumption, unscientific waste management, and illegal constructions were just some of the concerns that were raised by the residents of Pulakeshinagar, Shivajinagar and Hebbal during the 'Government at your doorstep' grievance redressal meeting held in RB-ANMS High School Grounds on St John's Road on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar attended the meeting and heard the grievances.

DH interacted with a host of people who said there were persisting law and order issues in East Bengaluru, especially around the areas such as Pulakeshinagar, Shivajinagar, Richard town, Coles Park have risen significantly and urged immediate action from the government and the intervention of the police.

Habiba Subhan, a resident of Pulakeshinagar expressed disappointment about the condition of Coles Park and said: "Though government sanctioned funds to develop the Coles park in 2019, the work has been limited only to the marginal part of the park and public toilets. The infrastructure in Frazer Town is pathetic and has made it hard for the residents; though issues have been discussed with concerned nodal officers the problems remained unattended."

Nikhat Aman from the same vicinity says the reconstruction of Mosque Road over bridge has grown into a headache for them as the "unused" underpass has turned into an "adda" for the drug consumers and other illegal activities.



Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar during the 'Government at your doorstep' programme in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH

PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

## Govt to amend property tax payment rules

The government may extend the deadline to pay property tax in Bengaluru and bring in changes to the payment system, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said.

Speaking after receiving a few applications on the third day of the 'Government at your doorstep'—public grievance redressal meeting held at Hebbal, Shivakumar said that there were many applications regarding problems in paying the property tax.

"Many of them who submitted their application today have constructed commercial establishments in residential plots. They now say that their property tax has gone up and they need more time to pay up. We will see what we can do and also come up with changes to the system to help the citizens. The citizens should also cooperate with us by paying tax proportionate to their property value," he said.

## Three web portals launched

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar launched three web portals—'Hasiru Rakshaka', 'Udyana Mitra', and 'Kere Mitra' that will help the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) conserve the environment. While Hasiru Rakshaka will help school students adopt a plant and care for it, the other two portals will help citizens participate in the maintenance of lakes and parks in the city. In 2023-24, BBMP facilitated the planting of close to one lakh saplings in association with 224 schools with 52,015 students. If the students nourish their saplings for at least three years, they will receive a Hasiru Rakshaka certificate.

## Innocent should not be punished: DKS

DKS who received a petition requesting the release of those arrested in the DJ Halli and KJ Halli riots case said that he will consult the legal experts on the matter.

"We cannot do anything

against the law. The BJP government has booked them under a few major criminal sections and hence they are not able to come out of jail. We are not against punishing those who went against

the law. However, there are a few innocent people who are caught in this. I will discuss the matter with my officials and experts to see what best we can do within the legal framework," he said.

A resident of RT Nagar Vidya Goggi said that there is a need for better bus connectivity from RT Nagar which has been a major problem in the area. She also underscored that many CCTV cameras in the vicinity were dysfunction-

al for years and no action has been taken. The other concerns raised included water problems and bribes for issuing trade licenses. A shopkeeper on Jeweller's street, Syed Ahmed noted that he opens his shop every day in

fear as he regularly gets harassed by goons in the area. He claimed that the police always refused to help him.

At least five people claimed that after they bought a site in a public auction, they never got a sale deed from BDA.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4A, Jan 7, 2024



# Property tax payment rules to be amended, more time to pay penalties

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said that the government would amend laws to allow more time for payment of property tax penalties to citizens.

Speaking to reporters after the 'Government at Your Doorstep' grievance redressal programme held at RBANMS High School ground, St. Johns road, Shivachetty Garden he said, "There are many appeals during the grievance redressal meetings requesting more time for payment of property tax and penalties. There are also many complaints seeking easing property tax payment processes. The government will amend the rules after discussing it with the officials."

"Many people have built commercial properties in residential plots and that has attracted penalties. Many people have expressed the opinion that the penalties are too high and the deadlines are too short. In this backdrop, the government will look at extending the deadlines for payment of penalties and also simplifying the process," he said while adding



At the programme, attendees raised several grievances and concerns with the Deputy Chief Minister. He was interacting with people at Shivajinagar during the Government to your doorsteps programme in city on Saturday.

that the government will bring in reforms, however it is important that people also pay taxes promptly as per the properties they own.

## **'Three to seven days'**

When asked about how much the deadline will be relaxed for property tax penalty payment, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Notices have been served to pay up taxes and penalties within three to seven days. Though the notices are as per the law, they appear to be causing a lot of pain to people. In view of this, we will discuss this with officials and make necessary

amendments."

At the programme, attendees raised several grievances and concerns with the Deputy Chief Minister. These included the not holding ward committee meetings in certain wards, water shortage problems, issues with roads, individuals expressing grievances related to permanent employment in BBMP, health issues, and various other matters.

Mr. Shivakumar said that in the previous two similar programmes conducted in the city, he interacted with 7,000 individuals who had come to report diverse issues. He

**K.G. Halli and  
D.J. Halli  
issues**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Relatives of individuals arrested in D.J. Halli riots attended the event, urging Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to facilitate the release of "innocents framed and arrested" in the case.

Later speaking to the media, Mr. Shivakumar said, "All decisions have to be within the legal framework, I can't comment on this now. As the BJP government has pressed certain specific charges, they have not been released. The guilty must be punished but the innocent must be spared. The MLAs concerned have also spoken to me about it. We take a decision after talking to our legal team."

said that he is having a fever of 102 degrees celsius. "Despite health issues and the doctor's advice to rest, I chose to prioritize meeting with the public," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.2, Jan. 7, 2024**



# Davangere is first city to implement vendor licensing to regulate tobacco sales in shops

**Nagesh Prabhu**  
BENGALURU

Davangere has become the first city in Karnataka to implement Tobacco Vendor Licensing (TVL) for regulating the sale of tobacco products in commercial shops.

The Davangere City Corporation has begun implementing the TVL in the city with the support of the Health and Family Welfare Department under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), following sustained pressure from the Indian Medical Association, and advocates of health and child rights activists. NTCP, Karnataka, is the nodal agency in implementing the project.

There are around 2,000 shops selling cigarettes, beedi, and other tobacco products in the city. Already licenses have been issued to 30 shops having



There are around 2,000 shops selling cigarettes, beedi, and other tobacco products in Davangere city. FILE PHOTO

trade licenses. Over 100 shop owners have submitted applications seeking licenses for selling products. The license fee is ₹500 and it is valid for five years. Licenses to petty shops would be issued in the second phase with the permission of the city corporation authorities, officials told *The Hindu*.

The licensing system would curtail illicit trade,

enhance revenue to the civic body and reduce easy access to tobacco products for children aged less than 18, said officials of the Health Department. Noting that "tobacco is the gateway to drugs", health-care providers and economists have urged the State government to ensure TVL compliance.

Traders who have received licenses must strict-

ly adhere to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, rules.

As per the rules, shop owners should not display any advertisements for cigarettes or tobacco products. Rules ban the sale of tobacco products to persons below 18. The shop owners should display a minimum size board of 60 cm-30 cm containing the warning "No Smoking Area - Smoking Here is an Offence" in Kannada.

The shops should not sell matchboxes and lighters or keep ashtrays which would encourage smoking in the area. The shop owners must maintain bills related to the purchase of tobacco products.

Already rules have been framed for banning sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products, within 100 yards of educational institutions.

The violation of licensing rules would invite penalty and already 44 cases have been booked and a penalty of ₹22,000 has been collected, said officials.

"Many petty shop owners opposed the licensing system. They submitted a memorandum to the District In charge Minister and the MP too," said a project authority official.

The Union Health Ministry in its advisory to the States in 2017 had asked all the states to regulate the sales of tobacco products through proper authorisation and registration of tobacco vendors. Already several States, including Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala, have imposed restrictions. Though Karnataka was the first to initiate the process of introducing vendor licensing a decade ago, it has not become a reality still across the State.

**Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan. 7, 2024**

# ಕಾನೂನು ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಕಾರಣ | 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 77 ಕೇಸ್ ವರದಿ, 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 90ಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಬಾಲಾಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

■ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಕೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾಲಾಪರಾಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲಾಪರಾಧ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಡಿ 381 ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 77 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 90 ದಾಖಲಾಗಿವೆ. 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 13ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿರುವುದು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ. 18 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನವರು ಕಳ್ಳತನ, ಕೊಲೆ,

## ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ಪೀಕಲಾಟ

ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲ ಹಳೆಯ ರೌಡಿಗಳು, ಬೈಲಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವವರು, ಪರಿಚಯಸ್ಥರು, ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ಬಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪರಾಧ ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಬಂದಂತಹ ಹಣ, ಆಫರಣ ಅಥವಾ ವಸ್ತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಗುಂಪಿನ ನಾಯಕರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬಾಲಕರು ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸುವುದು ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ತಲೆನೋವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಳ್ಳತನ ಮಾಡುವುದರೂ ಸೇರಿ ಹಲವಾರು ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಈ ಗುಂಪು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆಪರಾಧ ಕೃತ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ವಂಚನೆಯ ಜಾಲರ ಅರಿವು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪೊಲೀಸರ ಕೈಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿ ಬಿದ್ದರೂ ಈ ವಂಚಕರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹಾರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ: ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸ್ವಾಯ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ (ರಕ್ಷಣೆ, ಪೋಷಣೆ) 2015ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, 18 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನ ಹುಡುಗ-ಹುಡುಗಿಯರು ಬಾಲಾರೋಪಿ ಕಾನೂನಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದಂತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಸಂಘರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಂದರೆ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ 1 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಸಂಘರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾಗುವವರೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕಾರಣವೇನು?: ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅಡ್ಡದಾರಿ ತುಳಿಯಲು ಬಡತನ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ, ಕಡಿಮೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಂಧಿತರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುತೇಕರು ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪಡೆದು ಶಾಲೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹಲವರು ಪಾಲಕರ ಜತೆ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಹಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವರು ನಿರ್ಗತಿಕರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಬಾಲಸ್ವಾಯ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾದ ಕೇಸ್

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	ಒಟ್ಟು
1,529	1,410	2,349	2,010	2,132	9,430

ವರ್ಷ	ಪ್ರಕರಣ
2018	50
2019	48
2020	40
2021	76
2022	77
2023	90
(ನವೆಂಬರ್ ವರೆಗೆ)	
ಒಟ್ಟು	381



## ಕೊಲೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ವರು...

ಕೋಲಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಳೇ ಬೈಪಮ್ಮದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ.3ರ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಬಾಲಕನನ್ನು ಯುವಕರ ಗುಂಪೊಂದು ಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಶಾಂತಿನಗರದ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳಾದ ವೆಂಟರ್ ಅರುಣ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಶೀಲ ದಂಪತಿ ಪುತ್ರ ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ (17) ಕೊಲೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದನು. ಇದೇ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ನಿವಾಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರು, ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ್ ಸಿಂಗ್‌ನನ್ನು ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬ ಆಚರಣೆ ನೆಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಆವರಣಕ್ಕೆ ರಾತ್ರಿ 7 ಗಂಟೆ ಸುಮಾರಿಗೆ ಕರೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೃತ್ಯ ಎಸಗಿದ್ದರು. ಆತ ಮೃತಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ತಲೆಮರೆಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಕೋಲಾರ ನಗರ ಠಾಣೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ 8 ಆರೋಪಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ವರು ಬಾಲ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದರು.



ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪೋಷಣೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಕೊಡದೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಾನೂನಿನೊಡನೆ ಸಂಘರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮಗು ಹೋರಗಡೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಅದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯೂ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಲೌನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡಿ ಸರಿದಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ.

| ನಾಗಸಿಂಹ ಜೈಲ್ಸ್ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಬ್ರಿಡ್ಜ್‌ನ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ



## ಬಾಲಮಂದಿರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್ಕೇಪ್

ವತಕ್ಕ ಪಡೆದ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಬಾಲಮಂದಿರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಬಾರಿ ಬಾಲಮಂದಿರದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗಳಿವೆ.



# ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ; 21 ಕೋಟಿ ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಳೆಕೊಯ್ಲು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದವರಿಂದ ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಅಂತ್ಯ ಹಾಕುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ನಗರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ಯಾಚೇ ಎನ್ಸ್ ದವರಿಗೆ ಜಲ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಬಿಸಿ ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸಿದ್ದು, 2023 ರಲ್ಲಿ 21.24 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ದಂಡ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದೆ.

ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರನ್ನೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಯತ್ತ ನಿರಾಸಕ್ತಿ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಲ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 2009 ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 72ಎ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, 2023ರ ಜನವರಿಯಿಂದ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ವರೆಗೂ 21.24 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ದಂಡ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದೆ.

ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಕಾಯಿದೆ-2009 ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 72 'ಎ' ಪ್ರಕಾರ (2021 ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) 2,400 ಚದರ ಅಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 1,200 ಚದರಡಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಮತ್ತು

## ಮೊದಲು ಹಳೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳತ್ತ ಗಮನ

ಈ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿರುವ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳು ನೀರಿನ ಬಿಲ್ ಎಷ್ಟು ಇರುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಅದರ ಶೇ. 50ರಷ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ನಂತರದ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 100ರಷ್ಟು ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಿದ ಬಳಿಕವೂ ನಿಯಮ ಪಾಲನೆ ಮಾಡದಿದ್ದರೆ ದಂಡದ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಈ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಬೇಕಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಹಳೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳತ್ತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಗಮನ ಪರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಅಥವಾ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬಹುಶೇಕರು ಈ ನಿಯಮವನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯಿದೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ ಬರುವ ಸುಮಾರು 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು, ಮನೆಗಳು ಇರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 10.39 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, 2009ರಿಂದ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಕೇವಲ 1,91,383 ಮಾತ್ರ. ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 19 ಟೀಎಂಎ ನೀರು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲುಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಸುಮಾರು 15 ಟೀಎಂಎಯಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ.

ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಜಲತಜ್ಞ ಡಾ.ಟಿ.ವಿ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ 700 ರಿಂದ 850ನ ಮಿ. ಮೀ. ಮಳೆ ಬಂದಾಗ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 15 ಟೀಎಂಎಯಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ

ಮಾಡುವ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಶೇ.70ರಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ತಿಂಗಳು	ದಂಡ ವಸೂಲಿ
ಜನವರಿ	1.88 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ	1.87 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಮಾರ್ಚ್	1.79 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್	1.95 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಮೇ	1.95 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಜೂನ್	1.96 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಜುಲೈ	1.96 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಆಗಸ್ಟ್	1.93 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್	2 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್	1.95 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.
ನವೆಂಬರ್	1.96 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.

ಮಾಡುವ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಶೇ.70ರಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**Source: Vishwavani, p.3, Jan.09, 2024**

# Milk with fortified millet powder under Ksheera Bhagya soon

BENGALURU, DHNS

The milk served to government and aided school children across the state under Ksheera Bhagya scheme will get a flavour. The state government has decided to provide fortified millet powder to be mixed with the milk.

The official sources from the department of School Education and Literacy said that the government has decided to tie up with the Chikkaballapur-based Sri Satya Sai Annapoorna Trust for supply of fortified millet powder.

“The trust has come forward to provide the powder free of cost. The programme will be launched officially once we enter into a memorandum of understanding,” a source in the department said.

“We are waiting for a few test reports to know the health benefits of the powder. We are yet to decide whether to serve the powder every day or twice



**A Chikkaballapur-based trust has agreed to supply fortified millet powder free of cost.**

or thrice a week” officials said.

The trust had first launched the scheme at the schools in Chikkaballapur district on pilot basis. The haemoglobin level of the children went up after one year and considering the benefit, the trust submitted a request to the department, seeking extension of the scheme to other districts.

The powder will come in

chocolate and almond flavours. The trust representatives told *DH* that it is for the first time they were using fortified millet in the powder form.

It can be recalled the previous BJP government had also shown interest in expanding the scheme in association with Adamya Chetana Trust. But plan was dropped for logistical and other reasons.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Jan 12, 2024**

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## Social Issues

### Enrich tribal life, don't disrupt

The govt must empower tribes and forest dwellers with tailored education and healthcare, avoiding alienation from their way of life

IN PERSPECTIVE

*Vatsala Vedantam*

The scene was the entrance to the Hotel Metropolitan in Mysuru. A young medical student stood at the entrance, holding a cardboard box with the words "I am a medical student. I need money to buy tetanus injections for tribal children living in the nearby forests. Please give whatever you can afford." The people coming out of the hotel willingly dropped money ranging from coins to rupee notes. By evening, Balu would have collected all that he needed to buy injections, syringes, and antiseptic lotions for the next three days. He repeated this silent drama thrice a week, even while attending classes at the nearby medical college. The young student did not realise that he was laying the foundation for a massive tribal rehabilitation programme on the same lines as that of his mentor, Dr Hanumappa Sudarshan, who had worked miracles in the Biligiriranga hills towards the upliftment of the Soliga tribes there.

These two miracle men laid the foundation for the rehabilitation of tribal communities in this country. Now, it is the state government that must share the responsibility of looking after their welfare by providing the necessary health and education inputs. These are not like the primitive tribes who live in the Andamans that are totally cut off from civilization, like the Jarawa and Onge tribes. The tribal population of Heggadadevanakote and Biligiriranga hills needed just a helping hand to rise from their poverty and improve their lives. They also needed more health and education props to help their children lead better lives. They need more schools and hospitals that will provide at least basic health care and education.

According to the 2011 census, the total Scheduled Tribe population in Karnataka was 42,46,123. What are the medical and living facilities provided by the government to rescue them from their present environment to a more civilised lifestyle? To be something more than mere tourist attractions? It is not an easy task to change the way of life of an entire population that has lived a lifestyle of its own for long, unhampered by the rules and regulations of an organised society. Education seems to be the only answer to transforming their tribal life without destroying its unique character. Once they are made aware that there

are benefits to modernising their way of life even in a forest that will help them and their children, they might accept the change. Dr Balu's tetanus injection project is a good example. The neglected population of Heggadadevana Kote realised that a simple injection could save their children from a painful death. That acceptance changed their lives forever.

India is home to thousands of tribes that are spread across the country in forests or hill slopes. They are cut off from the rest of the country and live off the wealth of forests. This means depleting the precious resources that support them. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched several projects in partnership with non-government organisations (NGOs) to improve their lives, but with little success. That can happen only with the strategies adopted by the two pioneers of Heggadadevanakote and Biligiriranga hills. Do not disturb their lives by relocating, but improve them through rehabilitation.

Take the tools of social change (customised to their needs) right into their homes, which they will welcome since that will not disturb them. Teach them to use these tools that will transform their lives without seeming to intrude.

Education in using the forest's wealth intelligently should be the first step in this gradual transformation. Since education is an important tool to achieve this, its acceptance will be far easier if it is customized to their specific needs. Both the pioneers of tribal rehabilitation understood this simple truth. Today, they have rehabilitated and settled two generations of tribes without intruding into their lives.

India, apart from being home to nearly 2,500 tribes and regional groupings, has the added responsibility of educating the tribal children who need an education that is customized to their specific needs. That will be possible only with some basic teaching in skills allied to their livelihood. Such education would be more meaningful to people who have dwelt in forests for generations and connected closely with nature. If tribal families can be educated on how to use forest produce like timber and other forest wealth in an economical way, they will learn to respect the natural surroundings that sustain them. This kind of meaningful education would be more valuable than trying to impose formal learning that would be alien to their lives.

Tribal people have a close affinity with their natural surroundings. If they have depended on forest produce for generations, why disturb it? Empowering them on how to harness those skills to generate more forest wealth would be a more meaningful education.

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



# ದಂಡ ಭೀತಿ: ಶೂ ಧರಿಸದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು

• ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು: ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಶೂ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಧರಿಸಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರುವ ಭಾಗ್ಯವು ತರೀಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗೇರುಮರಡಿಯ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರ ಶೂ ತಾಕಿದರೆ ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಇದೆ. ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ಆದರೆ, ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವ ಪೂಜೆಗಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಖರ್ಚಿಗೆ ಹೆದರಿ ಶೂ ಧರಿಸುವುದನ್ನೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬರಿಗಾಲಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗೇರುಮರಡಿಯ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡ ಇದೇ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯ ಇದೆ.

ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 80 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಗೊಲ್ಲ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮಕ್ಕಳೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಭೋವಿ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರು ಊರಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಆ ಮಕ್ಕಳೂ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಾರೆ.



ಗೇರುಮರಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನೀಡುವ ಶೂ ಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ವಿತರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವರು ಧರಿಸಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತಾಗಲೋ, ಆಟವಾಡುವಾಗಲೋ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರ ಶೂ ತಾಕಿದರೆ ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ಆಯಿತೆಂದೇ ಅರ್ಥ.

ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ಆಗಿರುವ ಬಾಲಕನಿಗೆ ಹಟ್ಟಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

7ನೇ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸೋಡಿ

## ಮತ್ತೆ ಮೂವರ ಬಂಧನ

ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ದಲಿತ ಯುವಕನ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲ್ಲೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಆರೋಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವರಾಮ್, ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್, ತಮ್ಮಯ್ಯ ಎಂಬವರನ್ನು ತರೀಕೆರೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಬಂಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಎಂಬವರನ್ನು ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಬಂಧಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಉಳಿದ 11 ಜನರ ಬಂಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಡಿವೈಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ತಂಡ ರಚನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಜೆಸಿಬಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಆಗಿರುವ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಮಾರುತಿ ಎಂಬ ಯುವಕ ಗೇರುಮರಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರವಿ ಎಂಬವರ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮನೆಯ ಮುಣ್ಣು ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಜ.1ರಂದು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರು. ಜೆಸಿಬಿ ಹೋಗುವಾಗ ಡಿಪ್ ಕೇಬಲ್ ತುಂಡಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಯ ಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರುತಿ ನಡುವೆ ಜಗಳ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. 'ನಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವನು ಎಂಬುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾದ ಬಳಿಕ 30-40 ಜನ ಜೆಸಿಬಿಯಿಂದ ಎಳೆದು ಹಲ್ಲೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು' ಎಂದು ಮಾರುತಿ ದೂರು ನೀಡಿದ್ದರು. ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಗಡದವರ ಮೇಲಿನ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ತಡೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಡಿ 15 ಜನರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಎಫ್‌ಐಆರ್ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ.

## ಊರಿನ ಹೊರಗೇ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ

ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ ಪೂಜೆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಊರಿನ ಹೊರಗೇ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹೋಗುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಇದೆ. 'ಕಂಬದ ರಂಗನಾಥಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇಗುಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂಜೆಗಳು ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿವೆ. ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಸ್ಥರು ಬಂದರೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ನೀಡಲು ಊರಿನ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ನಮ್ಮವರು ಕಾದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿಯ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

## ಒಂದನೇ ಪ್ರತಿಂದ

ಗಂಗೆ ಪೂಜೆ ಸೇರಿ ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕೈದು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತಾಗಿಸಿದ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪೋಷಕರೇ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಬಡವರೇ ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಖರ್ಚು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟ. ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಈ ರೀತಿ ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಪೋಷಕರು, ಈಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಶೂ ಹಾಕಿಸಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸುವುದನ್ನೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬೇರೆ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶೂ ಧರಿಸಿದರೂ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಅಲ್ಲಿಯವರು

## ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಶೂ ತಾಕಿದರೂ ಪೂಜೆ ನಡೆಯಲೇಬೇಕು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ/ಶೂ ತಾಕದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಶೂ ಧರಿಸಿಯೇ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತಾಕೀತು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಶೂ ಧರಿಸಿ ಬಂದಾಗ ಆಗುವ ಮೈಲಿಗೆ ತೊಳೆಯುವ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ನೀವೇ ಹಣ ನೀಡುವುದಾದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಶೂ ಹಾಕಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಗೊಲ್ಲರಹಟ್ಟಿ ಪೋಷಕರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಬೇರೆ ದಾರಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಸುಮ್ಮನಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.1 & 7, Jan.06, 2024

# OBC, Dalit pontiffs ask CM to accept caste census

Govt will take a decision based on legal opinion, says Siddaramaiah

**SIDDARAMAIAH**  
Chief minister

**B** Backward Classes Commission chief Jayaprakash Hegde has said that Kantharaj's report can't be submitted verbatim. We will take the next steps after obtaining legal opinion.

BENGALURU, DHNS

A federation of pontiffs, representing backward and Dalit mutts, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday and petitioned him to accept the findings of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, popularly known as caste census.

Siddaramaiah said his government will decide based on legal opinion.

The pontiffs delegation had Bhovi community's Siddarameshwara Swami, Valmiki community's Prasannanandapuri Swami, Kaginele Mahasamsthana Kanaka Gurupeeta's Niranjananandapuri and others.

After Bihar released its caste census data, triggering a political churning, pressure is mounting on Siddaramaiah to make public findings of a similar exercise that he commissioned during his first term in office.

The caste census was carried out between April 11 and May 30 in 2015 when H Kantharaj was the chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes. The government spent Rs 164.84 crore on this task. The findings are with the Commission.

The dominant Vokkaligas and Lingayats have asked Sid-

daramaiah not to release the findings on the grounds that the survey was not done scientifically. They have asked him to commission a fresh survey.

According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office, Siddaramaiah informed the delegation that the government has given the Commission time till January 31 to submit the report.

"Commission chairperson Jayaprakash Hegde has said that Kantharaj's report can't be submitted verbatim. We will take the next steps after obtaining legal opinion," Siddaramaiah said.

In the petition, the pontiffs berated former chief ministers H D Kumaraswamy, B S Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai for sitting on the report when they were in office.

During the discussion, the pontiffs told Siddaramaiah that the guarantees have benefitted the working classes, according to the statement.

The pontiffs also sought land for mutts. Tahsildars have been asked to submit a report, the statement said, adding that Siddaramaiah made a phone call to the Bengaluru Rural deputy commissioner and sought an early action.



A delegation of OBC and Dalit pontiffs calls on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his home office Krishna in Bengaluru on Saturday. CMO PHOTO

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



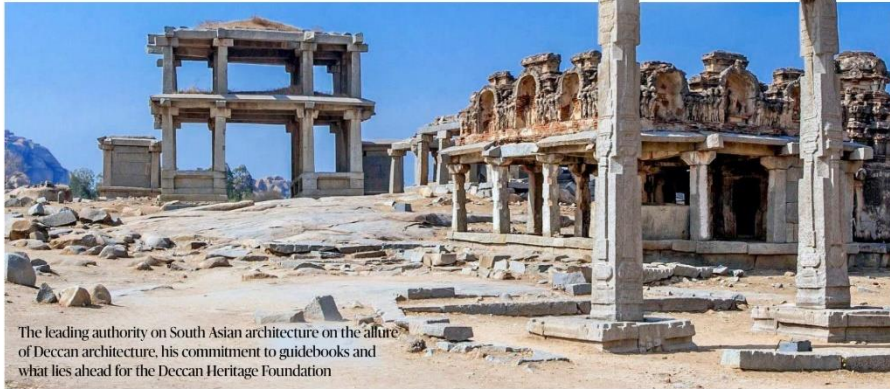
# George Michell: 'The Deccan has been under-appreciated'

Preeti Zahacariah

**G**eorge Michell smiles when I bring up *Victory City*, Salman Rushdie's marvellously irreverent novel about the mythical kingdom of Bisanaga. What does he think of Rushdie's adroit retelling of the rise and fall of the Vijayanagara Empire? "It is fun...very wicked," he says, pointing out that many of the characters who are part of the kingdom's lore and history, including Krishna Deva Raya, the king, and Pampa, the goddess, are part of the book, albeit, represented in a fantastical way.

One thing, however, is the unvarnished truth. "Vijayanagar means Victory City," he says of this medieval imperial power, whose architecture he has been studying and documenting for over three decades. A name that appears to be more than justified, going by most narratives, including the first-person accounts of foreign travellers such as Ibn Batuta, Domingo Paes and Fernao Nuniz. "It was one of the great Hindu empires in India," agrees George, co-founder of the Deccan Heritage Foundation, who was recently in Bengaluru to deliver a lecture on the city plan of Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara empire at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC) in Domlur.

Though the city lies in ruins



The leading authority on South Asian architecture on the allure of Deccan architecture, his commitment to guidebooks and what lies ahead for the Deccan Heritage Foundation

**No more in ruin** (Clockwise from above) Hampi, Keshava temple in Somnathpura and George Michell. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

day, abandoned after being destroyed in 1565 after the Battle of Talikota, it is also a time capsule, teleporting a visitor into this lost world. "One reason to study the Hampi site is that it was left, unlike Delhi or Hyderabad, which were rebuilt after being destroyed," he says. "Everything you see there was built before 1565 and has not been altered in later times, which means it is an ideal place to study."

## The heritage of the Deccan

It must have been a nippy day in December 1970 when George, then 26, got off a train in Badami, once the capital of the Chalukyas, that ruled parts of the Deccan between the 6th and 12th century. "We started to measure the temples there," says the Australian-born, who had arrived to study this ancient site as part of his PhD thesis.

Though trained as an architect, graduating with a Bachelor of

Architecture degree from The University of Melbourne in 1968, he did not enjoy working as one, he says. Instead, he found himself interested in working with ancient Indian architecture. So, he left Melbourne and went to London to earn a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). "To do a PhD, you have to pick a topic, so I thought about the temples around Badami," said George, who had first seen these temples when he backpacked through India as a student a few years earlier. "That is how I began working in this part of the world," he says.

Today, George is a leading authority on South Asian architecture and has written, co-authored and edited innumerable books about myriad sites of history and heritage in the country, including the Elephanta caves off the coast of Mumbai, Rajput palaces, the monuments and gardens of the Mughals and the temple towns of Tamil Nadu.



The diverse architectural traditions of the Deccan Plateau, encompassing parts of Karnataka, Maha-

rashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Goa, is another thing that he has repeatedly written about.

Since the Deccan is located between the North and the South, influences from both segue into it, says George, adding that the rocky terrain also allows access to "wonderful" materials like sandstone and granite. However, "It has also been underappreciated," he says, recalling how when he began work in Hampi with the American archaeologist John Fritz in 1981, they had to camp amidst the ruins because there was nowhere to stay. "People didn't go there. I remember them saying that it is not important."

And yet, as we now know, the city, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, is full of architectural wonders, just like many other pockets of the Deccan Plateau, home to around 11 such sites.

## The Deccan Heritage Foundation

In 2011, George and architectural historian Helen Philon founded the Deccan Heritage Foundation with Stephanie Bloch Salzer as co-founder. "We always felt we should do something for the conservation of little-known aspects of Dec-

can," he says of the organisation, whose website states that the foundation partners with experts and local residents to "protect, restore and promote the heritage of this rich region of South India through active architectural conservation projects that are socially minded and benefit those who live amongst them."

## Pages of Information

A vital function of the foundation, an aspect George is keenly involved in, is the publication of various informative books about the region. "We feel very committed to the guidebook," he says with a laugh. According to him, these small, modestly-priced and attractively-produced books are useful for people to learn and discover more about the places they visit. "It is often difficult to get a good guide there. This way, they can read the book and go around and see things," he says of the books available in print and e-book format today.

The Deccan Heritage Foundation also conducts talks and tours of the re-

gion and is even in talks with Digitour, an app that provides an immersive audiovisual guided tour exclusively of heritage monuments. "We are trying to work out how to collaborate with them," says George, who believes that the general interest in history and heritage, especially among young people, has been steadily growing.

Over the years, the foundation has been instrumental in restoring multiple heritage sites in the Deccan, including the Qanat/Karez water system of Bidar, the Sadar Sofa, Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah in Gulbarga and the architectural model of the former British Residency in Hyderabad. DHF's most recently completed project was the restoration of the 16th century Gagan Mahal pavilion, Anegundi, from the Vijayanagara period, part of the Government of Karnataka's 'Adopt a Monument' scheme.

## In the pipeline

According to DHF's chairperson, Ambassador Latha Reddy, who was felicitated for this effort by the Chief Minister at a recent function in Bengaluru, the next major project in Karnataka is the restoration of the historic Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion in Mysuru. They are also working on a couple of projects in Hyderabad, continuing to grow their documentation and archival centre, and creating more educational books, the latest of which is a new guidebook on Mysuru and Srirangapatna, which will be launched in the city this month.

George believes that their work has made a difference.

"The word 'Deccan' has a different meaning today than what it was when we started," he says. "We now understand that it is a special part of India and a tradition that is worth learning about."

A panel discussion with the authors of the *Mysuru and Srirangapatna* guidebook, Dr George Michell, Malavika Murthy, Carole Simmons and Shivendra Urs will be held at 6:30pm at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru, on January 17.

There will also be a book launch and illustrated talk by Michell on January 18, 6:30pm at the Bangalore International Centre

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

# HC expresses concern over not invoking penal action under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in manual scavenging cases

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that the authorities are either not invoking the penal provision of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, or not taking it to logical end even if the provision was invoked against accused when members of SC/ST communities are used for the prohibited manual scavenging.

“It is a common knowledge that either no serious steps are taken to see that the provisions of SC/ST (PoA) Act are pressed into

service or in case even if such provisions are pressed into service, unfortunately, the outcome is either minimal or at the level of zero per cent,” the court observed.

“We except that cases booked for using persons from SC/ST communities be taken to its logical end by ensuring that the accused are convicted and this can be achieved only by taking the cases seriously by all concerned - the probe agency, the public prosecutor, and the adjudicating authorities,” observed a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit.

The Bench made these observations in its order while noticing that the police had not invoked Section 3(j) of the SC/ST (PoA) Act against the accused in a recent case registered on the death of two persons while engaged for manual scavenging.

The Bench was hearing three separate PIL petitions, one recently invoked by the court *suo motu*, and two others filed by the All India Council for Trade Unions and the High Court Legal Services Committee, respectively, in continuation of manual scavenging despite its ban in law and rehabilitation of those engaged in such activities.

Not invoking the provisions of SC/ST (PoA) Act is a serious neglect on the part of the authorities when the persons from particular communities are engaged for manual scavenging despite ban imposed in law, the Bench said while expressing concern over ‘zero conviction’ under this provision of the law.

The High Court directed the government to file its responses on the issue of not invoking this provision along with actions taken to comply with various directions issued by the court earlier and also the directions of the Supreme Court.

**Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan. 9, 2024**



# A search engine for Tumakuru dialect: IIT-B team develops AI interface for colloquial Kannada

Called Graama-Kannada Audio Search, the interface allows the user to search for and access hyperlocal information from the Tumakuru region in audio format

Shilpa Elizabeth  
BENGALURU

Access to information is relatively easy for the city dweller for whom knowledge is at the tip of the finger. Not so much is the case beyond the urban boundaries.

Rural communities frequently depend on community radio, neighbourhood newspapers, and volunteer organisations for hyper-local information. But the corpus of knowledge produced by these entities often remains localised and is absent on the internet making it difficult for the people to re-access it. Added to this are the language challenges.

Students of International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B) have devised a solution for this by developing a search interface for colloquial audio content in Kannada language.

Called Graama-Kannada Audio Search, the interface allows the user to search for and access hyperlocal information from the Tumakuru region in audio format.

## A search interface

The framework was developed by Sharath Srivatsa (PhD Scholar, IIIT-B), Aparna M. (M.S. by Research Scholar, IIIT-B) and Sai Madhav C. (MTECH student, IIIT-B) under the guidance of Srinath Srinivasa (Professor and Dean (R&D), Web Science Lab, IIIT-B) and with the help of T. B. Dinesh (InWay Rural Research Lab, Janastu).

Namma Halli Radio is a community owned Wi-Fi-mesh radio run by Janastu NGO in the Tumakuru region. Over the years the radio grew an audio corpus rich with information on local customs, cultures, festivals, Covid-19 awareness and so on. But the absence of this data on the internet meant that people



IIT-B team doing a demo of Graama Kannada Audio Search in Tumakuru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

could not access the information at a later stage.

The IIT-B team worked with the community radio and fed the latter's audio corpus into their search model. The audio was transcribed into text using automatic speech recognition (ASR) models. When a user searches for a certain keyword, this transcribed text would be matched with it to deliver results.

The user can search using keywords in Kannada or English text to obtain results in audio format. The audios would be timestamped to denote the exact location of the keyword.

"For example, someone wants to search for a specific term, say Red Cross. They can just type in the word in English or Kannada. And they'll be provided with all the audio from the Namma Halli corpus where the word occurs."

They can even just jump to the time where the word occurs," explains Aparna M., one of the team members who developed the interface system.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) models rely on data fed to them to give outputs. The bias of the data reflects in these models too, as a result of which AI models often fail to reflect the heterogeneity of the human population.

## The missing colloquial

Models like Graama Kannada become relevant here. Graama Kannada search interface could help add colloquial dialects to language models which have been trained either in English or sanitised formal versions of Kannada.

"The problem with LLM (large language models) is that they are mostly built for a very formal type of Kannada like what is spoken on the All India Radio or seen in a newspaper. They don't work very well when a person uses colloquial style language to search something," Ms Aparna explains.

"The main focus of our work is to build models that will be suitable for colloquial content. Since we have access to the community radio's audio cor-



(From left) Sharath Srivatsa, Srinath Srinivasa, T.B. Dinesh, Aparna M., Jayanti Deshmukh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

pus, the model that we have built has given us better accuracy for the Tumakuru dialect," she notes.

The application, however, currently works on text-based search. But the team notes that they plan to include audio-based search very soon.

"In the future, if someone wants to do a voice search, even if they speak in the Tumakuru dialect, our model will be better in processing it compared to other existing models. The same process can be repeated for other dialects too," says Ms Aparna.

While the interface has

been developed predominantly keeping the community members in mind, Ms Aparna notes that it would also work as a window for the general public to get more local information about an area.

## Regional cultures

The web application provides a list of most searched words such as Tumakuru, Turuvekere, Gruha Bandhana (quarantine), Dinasi (ration), Lakshe (vaccine), Muneshwara Swamy (temple in Tumakuru) and so on.

"This way even if a person is not very familiar

cal variations, most automatic speech recognition (ASR) models don't work," explains Mr. Srivatsa.

Towards the end of 2022, OpenAI introduced the Whisper model for ASR and speech translation. In 2023 Meta also introduced its own multilingual model. The team started experimenting with them and found better results.

But there were still challenges, a major one being spelling mistakes.

"When the audio was converted to text, it had spelling mistakes. For English the word error rate is just around 10% in ASR models given that it is the standard language and spoken across the world. But when it comes to low resource languages, models are not so optimal and efficient. We got around 60% word error rate and out of that 80% was spelling mistake. That is, when the audio was converted to text, it had spelling mistakes."

The team realised this could become a problem. If the user typed the correct spelling, but the transcript carried a wrong spelling for the same word, the model would fail to match them and deliver results.

So, to address this the team allowed a relaxed criterion or fuzzy matching using which the input text would be compared to texts that are exact or very near.

## Simple UI

Once a working model was in place, they started working on the website.

"We made a very simple web application with minimal features. But we made sure that the UI was accessible enough by having Kannada and English words," says Sai Madhav who worked on the project as part of his internship.

"You can search in English or Kannada. If you do it in English, there is this

button for transliterating it from English to Kannada. Let's say you search the name of a temple. Even with an approximate spelling, it will show you all the audio clips in the corpus that contain that word and the timestamp. So, you can seek to that particular timestamp, and you will be able to hear in what context it is being spoken about," he adds.

## Contrasting worldviews

Apart from adding voice search, the team also plans to add a question-and-answer feature to the model which would allow it to give full-fledged text answer like other LLMs such as ChatGPT. The team is also trying to analyse the contrast in worldviews between urban and rural communities.

"Information regarding modern societies and what they believe in is well documented and available as well-structured content on the internet. But that's not the case with low-resource communities. So, we will collect some more corpus on it and try to find out more about their worldviews and unique beliefs. We want to mine such things and show in our UI," says Mr. Srivatsa.

Ms. Aparna explains it further, "We have compared our corpus from the rural region with news corpus in more formal Kannada to find that there is significant difference in the worldviews."

For example, let's take the word development. Rural community people talk about words like panchayat or Gowda of the village and so on in the context of it. Whereas the mainstream corpus got us results like development, Bangalore and so on."

The team hopes that in a world where AI models push dominant mainstream views, their efforts would help to add more diversity to the mix.



Sharath Srivatsa



Sai Madhav



Aparna M.

with the community, they can understand what the corpus is about by looking at the words that we have given. These keywords can be like a clue to the community to them," explains Ms. Aparna.

## No mean task

The project was started in the beginning of 2022 as part of the PhD work of Sharath Srivatsa, who is the team lead, in collaboration with Janastu. The biggest challenge before the team was converting the audio accessed from the community-radio to text.

"Our idea was to convert the audio to text and then do all the processing on the text. But getting a model to do that was very hard."

"For low-resource languages (languages with less data available on the internet for training AI systems) like Kannada with dialect-

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

# Udaya Kumar digs deep into Bengaluru's ancient past

The first evidence of humans in this region is in Jalalahalli in North Bengaluru, where prehistoric tools dating back to around 1000 BCE were discovered at the time of World War II

Preeti Zachariah  
BENGALURU

**P**L. Udaya Kumar shares a photograph of a group of saree-clad women scientists at ISRO celebrating the successful landing of India's Chandrayaan-3, and says, "This photo is making the rounds of the world."

Asks the passionate citizen historian and heritage conservationist at the inaugural event of The Bangalore Room, a recently opened event space in Indiranagar, "In how many places on earth can you have a space tracking centre with women celebrating in their traditional wear?" This mixture of tradition and modernity is the contrast that Bangalore gives, he argues.

In his interactive talk that zigzagged from stone-age tools, Roman coins, hero stones, ancient lakes and tigers wandering around what is now the Indian Institute of Science to the IT boom and the city's vibrant start-up and pub culture, Kumar overturned pre-existing mythologies about the city, offering ample evidence to back his claims.

"Everything I am taking today is evidence-based," says the Honorary Director of the Mythic Society Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project, which was started in 2021 to document and preserve the many historic inscription stones scattered across the city. "I hope to show a new history of Bengaluru, which is not commonly told in folklore, our stories, movies, WhatsApp or YouTube videos. This is the



An inscription dating back to 14th century at Kadatanamale village, Rajanukunte.



Panchalingeshwara temple.

history of this place as recorded in stone," he says.

**Into the ancient past**  
According to Kumar, the first evidence of humans in this region is in Jalalahalli in North Bengaluru, where prehistoric tools dating back to around 1000 BCE were discovered at the

time of World War II. The tools were unearthed at a spot that housed a British-built military hospital, one of the world's largest, thanks to a British officer who also happened to be an archaeologist. "He happened to look out, noticed a hillock and recognised it as a good site for prehistoric artefacts," he relates, adding that when the man visited



Almitra H. Patel

the site, he discovered numerous microlithic stone tools.

## Role of an activist

The sheer number of tools discovered indicates that this spot may have once been a factory where these tools, now in the British Museum, were made and traded. "The HMT and BELs of the world are continuing a tradition that was established 3000 years ago," says Kumar, with a laugh, referring to the other industries that occupy this part of the city today.



The 750CE Kittayya Hero stone standing in a drain at Hebbal before its restoration. MYTHIC SOCIETY, BANGALORE

He also talks about the activist Almitra Patel, who played a crucial role in preserving an Iron Age dolmen or megalithic tomb in Kannur, a few km away from the Hennur-Bagalur road. Patel, the first Indian woman to graduate in engineering from MIT in the 50s, had discovered these dolmens on one of her frequent hikes through the area, recognising it to be an ancient portal tomb. So, when she heard that the area was being cleared for

construction, she immediately rushed to the site, gathering the bits of pottery scattered there. She also brought in a stay order and had the edifice filled over with mud, therefore managing to preserve it, he recalls.

## Stories in stone

On the other hand, a boulder emblazoned with rock art, portraying people "partying" beside a campfire – something Bangaloreans still do, as Kumar



The 750CE Kittayya Hero stone after its restoration. MYTHIC SOCIETY, BANGALORE



An inside view of Nageshwara and Panchalingeshwara Temple at Begur. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.



Udaya Kumar.

quips – was not so lucky. The boulder, which was found on Sarjapur Road, ended up being dynamited during construction activities. "Did you know that Bengaluru had this type of prehistoric past? Not only do we not know our past, but we are proudly destroying it," he rues.

Kumar starts by playing

an audio clip of a greeting in 55 languages, the interstellar message attached to the Voyager space probes when they were launched back in 1977. "What would an alien make from that message?" he asks, before drawing a parallel between this greeting and the inscription stones of Bengaluru. "Someone in the past

has left us messages, not in the oral form, but in the written form, on stone for someone else to read and learn," he says. "Much of what we read in history books today is information gathered from such writings on stone."

He goes on to share images of inscription stones from all across the city that offer information about this part of the world. Not only do these artefacts date from various periods in history, but they also carry inscriptions written in various scripts. "Tamil, Telugu and Kannada have been coexisting in the city for centuries," says Kumar, pointing out that Bengaluru has been multilingual for over 1000 years. "We are happy to learn other languages and make it ours."

## Several origin theories

Kumar also delves into how finding these inscription stones has altered the origin myth of the city. "How old do you think Bengaluru is?" he asks.

Multiple origin stories emerge from the audience, including the one about it being founded by Veera Ballala II, who named the city after the boiled beans he was offered by a woman living in this area, as well as the belief that Kempe Gowda founded the city in the 16th century.

The stone inscriptions, however, tell a different one, says Kumar. He talks about one located at the Shri Panchalinga Nageshwara Temple in Begur, dating back to the 9th century, with the words 'Battle of Bengaluru' written on it in Kannada. "This is the first written mention of Bengaluru," he says, adding that this 1100-year-old temple is possibly the oldest living temple in the cosmopolitan city. "We have an incredible heritage to show, and we seem to be in denial," he says.

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



# Exploring India's diverse cultural heritage through GI tags

Over 500 products across all the States have been given GI tags so far

## DATA POINT

### The Hindu Data Team

Last Thursday, 17 products from across six States/Union Territories got the Geographical Indications (GI) tag. The products ranged from handicrafts such as the Dongaria Kondh shawl from Odisha, to agricultural products such as the Sundarban Honey from West Bengal. A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

### What is a GI tag?

In India, if one thinks of Tirupati or Nagpur, often laddus and oranges come to mind, respectively. Both these products have GI tags. While arguing for a GI tag, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam said in their application that the highest quality of raw material is procured for the production of the laddu *prasad* and a variety of skills are required for each stage of its making. The GI tag for the Nagour orange reportedly helped farmers brand their products under the tag.

Any trader's body, association, or organisation can apply for a GI tag. The applicants need to prove the uniqueness of the item with historical records and a complete breakdown of how the product is made. GI tags are also not meant just for popular products. There are hundreds of GI tags across States. Every GI tag recognises a particular region and product and brings it to the public eye.

It is important to note that the raw materials for such products do not have to come from that region (unless it is an agricultural tag). For instance, the leaf that gives the Banarasi paan its identity is not grown in Varanasi; it comes from Bihar, West Bengal, or Odisha. The mulberry silk used in Kancheepuram sarees comes from Karnataka and the gold zari from Surat.

There are over 500 GI tags as of

January 7, 2023. There are 34 classes of products that can get GI tags, – from chemicals and paint to foodstuff, handicrafts, musical instruments, and even firearms and locomotives. The products in the GI registry fall under five major categories (**Chart 1**). Handicrafts dominate the list, with over half the GI tags being given to products crafted by skilled artisans.

### GI tags across States

Every State in India has at least one GI tag. While GI tags are a proxy for unique cultural items, they are by no means exhaustive. If a State has more GI tags compared to another, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is more culturally rich; it just means that more items have been registered, with more to probably follow. Tamil Nadu (61) has the highest number of GI tags compared to other States. Uttar Pradesh has the second highest number of GI tags. (56). These include leather footwear from Agra, saddles from Kanpur, and the traditional embroidery art form of Chikankari from Lucknow. Karnataka with 48 GI tags is ranked third, Kerala with 39 is ranked fourth, and Maharashtra with 35 is fifth. **Chart 2** shows the State-wise number of GI tags.

**Chart 3** shows the State-wise number of GI tags across the five major categories. The Coimbatore wet grinder (to make batter for idlis) was given a GI tag under the "manufactured" category.

Ancient cultural centres such as Banaras (Varanasi) are steeped in culture and tradition. Banaras offers 11 unique crafts and agricultural items (the highest from a single place), including the famous Banarasi paan. The heritage city of Mysuru, ruled for centuries by the Wodeyars, has 10 unique items, including the special variety of jasmine (Mysore mallige) and the fragrant sandalwood soap. Paintings from Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu and the Thanjavur's iconic bobblehead dolls find a place among the five GI tags the city has to offer.

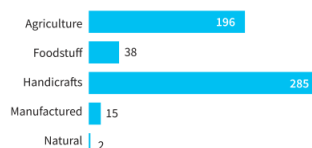
## Dissecting geotags

The charts are based on data from the Geographical Indications Registry

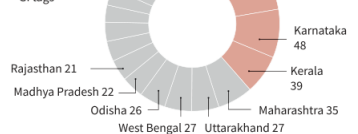


**Getting recognised:** A Lanjia Saora tribal youth working on a traditional Saora painting in Bhubaneswar. This style of painting was given a geographical indication tag recently. BISWARANJAN ROUT

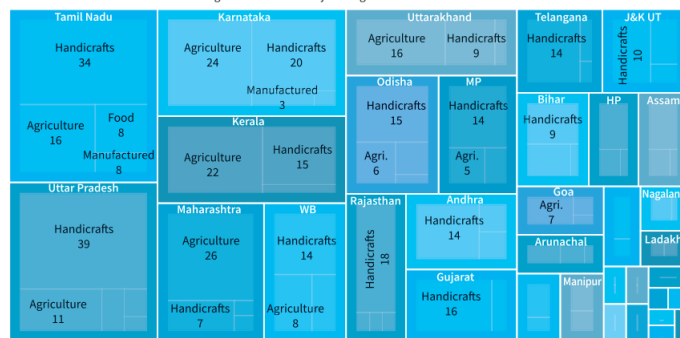
**Chart 1:** The products in the GI registry fall under five major categories as shown below



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the State-wise number of GI tags



**Chart 3:** The State-wise number of GI tags across the five major categories



**Source: The Hindu, p.11, Jan. 9, 2024**

# Govt may send report to expert panel

**BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com**

**Bengaluru:** With the government grappling with divergent opinions from communities over the socio-economic educational survey, popularly known as the caste census, it is considering referring it to either a cabinet sub-committee or an expert committee for further examination. This would buy the government some time, perhaps enough to tide over the Lok Sabha elections.

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes which was entrusted with the survey, must submit its report by January 31, the extended deadline set by the government.

Sources say the report is in its final stages although K Jayaprakash Hegde, head of the commission, said: "All I can say is that we will submit the report within the deadline."

As the deadline approaches, political manoeuvring over the report has intensified. Both Vokkaliga

## CASTE CENSUS

and Lingayats, the politically dominant communities, are opposed to the report since they believe it underestimates their population. However, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) want the government to accept the report. Recently, pontiffs of Dalit and OBC

mutts met chief minister Siddaramaiah and urged him to accept the report.

But a substantial section of party functionaries has advised caution. BS Shivanna, KPCC general secretary, said: "The government will definitely accept the report but at the same time it is fair to address concerns of communities and suggestions from numerous partymen that the government refer it to an expert panel."

Shivaraj Tangadagi, minister for backward classes (BC) welfare, said: "It is up to the commission to submit the report. I will discuss the matter with the CM after receiving the report and he will take a call."

**Source: The Times of India, p.3, Jan 11, 2024**

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## Namma city's sweeping mess

Sweeping machines are scarce, resulting in irregular cleaning of major roads. Lack of funds for new machines will only aggravate the situation. Lack of system for dumping silt is adding to the problem

SHREED N  
BENGALURU, DHNS

When the city of Bengaluru sleeps, and the roads go silent after 11 pm, it is time for mechanical sweepers to swing into action. Before the next dawn, the vehicle staff diligently take photos before and after the operations and post them in the WhatsApp groups meant for the Mahadevapura Zone of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

This is the routine in one of the most active zones which has five mechanised sweeping machine vehicles. Bengaluru has 26 such machines deployed in various zones according to the length of arterial and sub-arterial roads in the zone.

Bengaluru has arterial and sub-arterial roads of 1,344 kilometres. Some are six-lane roads, some are four-lane, and some are two-lane roads. Manual cleaning of bus routes and high-density corridors is not possible due to heavy traffic. There have been instances of Pourakarmikas dying on duty on high-density corridors.

Cycle length is the number of kilometres swept with a machine. In two-lane roads, it is double, and in four-lane roads, it is four times the length of the road, as the machine sweeps one lane at a time. The current cycle length is 5400 km for the 1344 kms.

Of the 26 mechanical sweeping machines owned by the BBMP, eight are truck-mounted and 17 are self-propelled. There is a standby vehicle that is deployed for breakdowns and VIP movements.

Each machine can store up to five cubic metres of dust and is supposed to sweep 40 kms of cycle length every night. About 250 kms, amounting to 1000 km of cycle length, is supposed to be covered with these machines daily.

Machines sweep roads every night. It picks up anything on the roads, including dust, plastic, and paper. But it does not pick up stones, etc, measuring more than 10 mm.

If machines for particular routes break down, other machines are deployed on those routes. There were

### SWEEPING MACHINES DEPLOYED



Current arterial/sub-arterial roads  
**1,344 km**

Covered by machines  
**250 km**

BBMP-owned machines  
**26**

Self-propelled vehicles  
**17**

Truck-mounted vehicles  
**9**

Machines needed to cover all roads  
**100**

### Tender to expire in February

The BBMP has outsourced the operations and maintenance of the vehicles to an external agency. The tender for this will end by February end, and there is no clarity yet regarding the future of the tender. Sources say the BBMP currently spends around Rs 1.22 crore monthly on this, based on old rates. There is no clarity yet on the future plans.

audit objections from the Comptroller Audit General of India and state audit departments on the working and management of sweeping machines.

### 'More machines needed'

In the Yelahanka zone, two sweeping machines sweep about 20 km daily, amounting to 40 kms of cycle length every night. The zonal officials have made a list of roads to sweep, and every road is swept twice or thrice every week on rotation.

Silt is less on the roads that are swept daily. But now, in Mahadevapura, the same road is covered only once or twice a week. The same practice of sweeping the roads rotationally continues across the city. Clement Jayakumar, Secretary of Mahadevapura Taskforce, a citizen initiative, says that vehicles can move fast and clean the road properly if the silt is cleared daily.

Roadside parking causes a challenge for sweeper machines. Vehicles parked on roadsides obstruct their function when they begin operations at 10 pm. The officials have now asked the vehicles to initially sweep the central median side and go for the sides after midnight to minimise the issues caused by parked vehicles.

BBMP's engineering section has divided the Mahadevapura zone into two sections—KR Puram and Mahadevapura. The former has two machines, while the latter has five machines.

"We cover bigger roads like Old Airport Road or ITPL roads at least once or twice a week, but inner roads remain unattended due to a shortage of machines. BBMP Pourakarmikas do not sweep these roads due to traffic and threat to their lives, so having more machines can help us keep the major roads clean," says an official.

Jayakumar says this applies to the Mahadevapura zone as well. He estimates that the zone needs another 20 machines just for arterial roads.

### No system to dump silt

The Mahadevapura zone is buzzing with construction activities, including metro routes and buildings. Ward roads are not asphalted, which adds to the road dust. As a result, the amount of silt on the road is very high.

Machines are supposed to sweep 40 kms per night. But they end up covering anywhere between 25 to 30 km per night because of the amount of silt on roads, which affects the vehicle's speed, says Jayakumar.

The second reason is that temporary dumping locations are unavailable in each ward. For example, the Mahadevapura zone has only one location where the silt is dumped. The time and distance required to go to this location add to

the delay, and the machines end up covering less distance.

"They can do three dumpings in one night, but they end up doing only one dumping because of this," he says. Jayakumar monitors the sweeping mechanism in the Mahadevapura zone from a citizen's perspective.

He adds that the management of construction dust is another neglected issue that makes mechanical sweeping less efficient. The construction sites should be barricaded, and the vehicles should be covered with their tyres clean so that no dust comes out. The confusion between BBMP, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the traffic police about handling this has contributed to increased road dust.

He says that various government agencies dig out the roads, they do not fix them properly, contributing to road dust.

A source, preferring anonymity, says it is tough to find dumping places in the inner zones like East and West, as the real estate is very expensive.

Where does the waste go as per BBMP? "It goes into private low-lying dumping places. The driver has to identify such places and empty the road dust and silt there. Pollution control board clearances are not needed for this," says B S Prahlad, BBMP Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure).

### BBMP mulls renting machines

The tender was floated to purchase self-propelled machines, the agency supplied vehicle-mounted machines. There was also confusion regarding conflicts among manufacturers and the department handling it. The road sweeping was earlier handled by the solid waste management division of the BBMP, but now the Major Road section is handling it.

In September 2022, the BBMP floated tenders to procure 51 sweeping machines at an estimated cost of Rs 84 crore. The state government's Shubra Bengaluru, Chief Minister's Nava Nagarothana programme and Centre's 15th finance commission would fund this purchase. Each machine was estimated to cost Rs 1.64 crore.

However, DH reported on Thursday that the Rs 80 crore earmarked for buying sweeping machines under the 15th Finance Commission programme of 2021, 2022, and 2023 was redistributed to other works.

Now, the BBMP is considering renting the mechanical sweeping machines, looking after only operations and maintenance, to cover all the 1344 km of roads. The BBMP needs another 73 machines to cover all arterial and sub-arterial roads. BBMP will handle this in the Clean Bengaluru section under Brand Bengaluru.

"BBMP buying these machines means more capital investment. The BBMP is into operation and maintenance; it should not get into capital investment as property tax is not enough to manage this," says Prahlad.



DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Feedback:  
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

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

# Brand Bengaluru needs a master plan

The city is struggling to manage its explosive growth

SNEHA PRIYA YANAPPA

A master plan serves as a comprehensive guide for the spatial development of a city, encompassing industrial, commercial, residential, and mixed-use areas, with a focus on sustainable urbanisation. It is prepared to ensure that the development of the city is carried out while also providing for services equitably and ensuring optimal use of land, transport, and infrastructure. Cities rely on their respective master plans to direct systematic and planned growth. However, the city of Bengaluru tells a different story.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is entrusted with the preparation of the master plan for Bengaluru. Presently, Bengaluru is guided by the Revised Master Plan, 2015 (RMP 2015). In 2019, the BDA issued the Revised Master Plan 2031 (RMP 2031), only to withdraw it in 2020, citing reasons for further revision. The Karnataka government stated in June 2023 that the blueprint for the BDA Master Plan would be prepared in six months. In October 2023, the BDA stated that it would commence groundwork for preparing a new RMP for Bengaluru. However, much remains to be done.

Master plans ought to be revised periodically to ensure that corrective actions are taken to rectify any errors that may have been made in the previous master plans. A delay in revision leads to unbridled and uncontrolled expansion of the city, resulting in encroachments by both private and government players and unchecked, massive violations. While master plans are required to be revised at least once every 10 years, it has always been a delayed exercise in Bengaluru's case. The revisions of the second and fourth master plans were delayed by two years. Since 2020, attempts to prepare a new master plan have also been futile. Bengaluru, therefore, continues to struggle with potholes, traffic congestion, mismanagement of resources, loss of green cover, and massive encroachments.

A number of parastatal agencies, including BESCOM, BMTC, BMRCL, and BWSSB, play a vital role in the urban development of Bengaluru. However, a lack of coordination and cooperation between these agencies results in individualistic policies that run contrary to the master plan. For instance, the 2031 master plan was withdrawn because it was contrary to DULT's transit-oriented policy.

Previously, the master plan on storm water drains prepared by the BBMP ran contrary to the BDA's master plan. In this regard, it is imperative for the state government to mandate all departments to comply with the master plan and coordinate to avoid conflict.

Presently, the BDA has been approving development plans based on the outdated RMP 2015, which was prepared in 2006–2007, which is over 15 years ago. There are two fundamental problems with this. One is that this creates confusion about what happens if approvals are given in pursuance of the provisional RMP 2031. The Karnataka HC clarified in May 2023 that even though the provisional RMP 2031 has been withdrawn by the state government, it would not negate the actions that were taken in pursuance of it. Second, there are problems even with the implementation of RMP 2015. This is apparent from the frequent floods that are caused by construction on lake beds, Rajakaluve buffer zones, and other vulnerable areas that are otherwise protected under master plans.

A conversation on the importance of a master plan is important in today's context, as its absence has led to several ad hoc development proposals, such as the creation of tunnels, satellite towns, extensions of metro rail service, construction of elevated ring roads, and decisions like making Kanakapura part of Bengaluru Urban and the creation of a revolving tower similar to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. These decisions will inevitably have far-reaching consequences for the city's future. It is imperative that these decisions be taken only after careful deliberations involving elected representatives and other stakeholders.

For a city marred by being the only metropolitan city to not have an updated master plan, Bengaluru speaks a lot more than it delivers. A recent study indicates that Bengaluru's urban cover is likely to increase to 1,323 sq km, or 58%, by 2025, which is nearly double the spread of 727.99 sq km, or 31.75%, that was recorded in 2017, necessitating urgent measures to plan for the city. The government should also involve citizens in the planning process. Ward committees can be empowered to hold meetings on the master plan. However, a suggestion such as this seems futile to a city that has had no elections for the city council since the last three years. While "Brand" Bengaluru looks at re-envisioning how the city looks, it will not work until a proper master plan is in place. After all, the only alternative to the master plan is a better master plan.

*(The writer is a senior resident fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)*

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



# BMTC to procure 120 midi buses to connect narrow roads

Transport corporation issues tender to choose service provider for procurement, operation, and maintenance of the buses; presently, BMTC operates midi buses on city routes

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**  
BENGALURU

**A**s the demand for midi buses which can connect narrow roads and cover interior places in Bengaluru has increased, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has invited a tender to induct 120 non-AC midi electric buses through the gross-cost contract (GCC) model.

The BMTC recently issued the tender to choose a service provider for the procurement, operation, and maintenance of 120 nine-metre non-AC electric

**The buses will be equipped with intelligent transport management system, passenger display boards, among others**

buses. “We’ve initiated the tender to acquire 120 electric midi buses for metro feeder services. These buses will navigate narrow roads, serving both inner-city locations and the outskirts in response to high demand for such mini buses,” a senior official from the BMTC told *The Hindu*.

Officials further said that the introduction of these buses follows the

GCC model, as part of the National Clean Air Programme and the State Urban Transport Fund, managed by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

Presently, the BMTC operates midi buses on city routes, along with highly sought-after metro feeder buses. Following two incidents of buses catching fire within just 10 days in February 2022, the BMTC temporarily halted the operation of 186 midi buses. These 9.2-metre-long buses, shorter than the standard 12 metres, accommodate approximately 30 passengers.

The 120 midi buses will

be equipped with features such as an intelligent transport management system, passenger display boards, CCTV camera systems, panic buttons, etc.

Recently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagged off 100 electric buses in the BMTC fleet and announced that the BMTC will get 1,400 electric buses by April, 2024.

The initial batch of 100 electric buses is part of the larger fleet of 921 buses that the BMTC is incorporating under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME-II) scheme by the Union government.

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

# Summer worry: BWSSB wants priority for city's water share

## 'Must Reserve Cauvery Water For 6 Months'

Vindhya.Pabolu  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), in anticipation of a crisis ahead of summer preceded by poor monsoon, is writing to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited under the water resources department to prioritise Bengaluru's drinking needs and reserve water for the capital city at KRS and Kabini reservoirs.

While the board maintains that it continues to supply 1,450 MLD water every day as on date, its engineer-in-chief Suresh B conceded that a crisis was imminent if not acted.

"As of now, we are meeting our demand, but it cannot happen if water is not reserved for the next six months. Of the 30 tmcft of water at KRS and Kabini reservoirs together, Bengaluru will need 12 tmcft to maintain the same level of water supply until June," Suresh said. He added the current supply only includes old BWSSB areas in the city and that the villages annexed in 2008 are being covered only partly.

"We're supplying water once a week to 51 of the 110 new villages, the rest will be covered after Cauvery Stage V gets commissioned," he said.

### Residents feel the pinch

With both the southwestern and northeastern monsoons having failed to recharge groundwater tables in the city, bo-

### SUPPLY UNDER CAUVERY STAGE V BY MAY

After multiple delays, water supply under Cauvery Stage V is expected to be commissioned from May this year. BWSSB chief engineer (Kaveri-Projects) Mahesh KN said: "The work is nearing completion and if there are no hindrances, we should complete it by April. We are hopeful of commissioning it by May."

Once commissioned, BWSSB will require 2,225 MLD of water every day as against the present 1,450 MLD given that the new stage is expected to have a capacity of 775 MLD. This means more water from Cauvery will need to be dedicated for Bengaluru in the coming years.



### IN 2023, NO DISTRICT IN KARNATAKA RECORDED EXCESS RAIN

For the first time in recent years, no districts recorded excess rain in 2023.

Out of 31 districts, 30 recorded deficit rainfall between January 1 and December 31, while Bidar is the only district which recorded normal rain.

According to Karnataka State Natural

Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) data, in 2023, Malnad region has been the worst hit with 35% deficit rainfall followed by north-interior Karnataka with 25% deficit rainfall. South-interior region recorded -20%, and coastal region -19%. In 2022, all districts had recorded excess rainfall, sources said.

rewells in several areas are drying up. As reported by TOI earlier, residents from several parts have complained of irregular supply, while some are worried about increasing cost of tanker water. Residents of South City apartments in Mico Layout, Arekere, off Kanakapura Road, for example, are facing reduced water supply.

Rajagopalan R, chairperson, South City Apartments Maintenance Committee, comprising 2,000 flats, said: "Since ours is a big complex, we require 12 lakh litres a day. We get 6 lakh litres from

BWSSB, 4 lakh litres from borewells and the rest from water tankers. Since rainfall is less this year and borewells are not recharged properly, we got only 4 lakh litres from BWSSB and 3 lakh litres from borewells. We ended up depending more on water tankers now which is a bit hard."

He said as part of their sustainable programme and to ensure that water demand is met, the apartment complex, which was using treated water only from five blocks until this year, has now begun using treated sewage water from the other five blocks,

which reduces their dependency on BWSSB.

Srikanth Parthasarathy, past treasurer of Shuddha Shelters Resident Welfare Association, BTM Layout Stage II, said: "This time, prices of tanker water have risen by three times. Earlier what used to cost us Rs 1,500 is now priced at Rs 4,400. We don't fall under the BWSSB network and are dependent on borewells and tankers. Since our borewell water is running low and we are digging deeper, the hardness of the water also goes up, further increasing our dependency on tankers."

### DEPLETING GROUNDWATER & AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Engineer-in-chief Suresh said with poor groundwater availability, thousands of houses from across the city are found to be drawing more Cauvery water than they usually do. "We don't have a specific figure, but a lot of homes are reporting low yield in their borewells, prompting them to use more Cauvery water," he said.

While BWSSB is trying to ensure uninterrupted supply, the board, beginning this week, will also begin an awareness campaign.

"We've already created pamphlets and other material. We want to urge people to use water judiciously and not indulge in unnecessary floor or car washing using potable water or waste water through any other means. We'll run campaigns in schools and colleges too," Suresh said.

**Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan 9, 2024**



# In a first, metro's monthly ridership crosses 2 crore; up 30% in just a year

6.88L people travelled on average per day

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru metro trains ferried a record 6.88 lakh passengers on average per day in December as passenger numbers reached two crores per month for the very first time.

Data provided by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) shows 2,13,34,076 people travelled by the metro last month, or an average of 6,88,196 daily. The BMRCL earned nearly Rs 55 crore in fare revenue.

Overall, the metro ridership rose by nearly 30% within a year. In January 2023, the average ridership stood at 5.32 lakh.

The average daily ridership has now risen by 64,000 since the Purple Line fully opened three months ago. Nevertheless, it's still lower than the 5,00,000-lakh increase that the



Crowd at the Majestic station. DH FILE

BMRCL had expected.

On October 9, the BMRCL opened the Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura (2.1 km) and Kengeri-Chalaghatta (2.05 km) sections, expanding the Purple Line to 43.49 km and linking the standalone Whitefield stretch to the rest of the metro network.

This immediately boosted the ridership, which rose to 6,40,441 in October and 6,64,048 in November.

Analysts believe daily ridership didn't reach 7 lakh because of the

long holidays in December but would cross the mark in January.

Many commuters say the metro is getting way too crowded, especially during peak hours, and they have to skip several trains before they can board.

During peak hours on Monday, trains were unusually jam-packed between the CBD and Majestic. The BMRCL ran Green Line trains on the Purple Line but that didn't help much.

The BMRCL cannot deploy more trains on the Purple Line

## Row over Biocon name to Hebbagodi station

Residents of Hebbagodi, a suburb in southern Bengaluru, protested against naming their upcoming metro station after pharmaceutical company Biocon.

Munikrishna N, a member of the Hebbagodi Municipal Council (CMC), suggested that the BMRCL had "hurt" the local villagers' self-respect by naming the metro station after Biocon.

Once a sleepy village, Hebbagodi has grown rapidly because of its location on Hosur Road. It was upgraded to CMC in 2015.

In 2020, the BMRCL signed an agreement with Biocon, headquartered near Hebbagodi, to christen the metro station 'Biocon Hebbagodi Metro Station'. The company has contributed Rs 65 crore to the construction of the metro station.

There was no controversy over the decision back then. It started only recently after the BMRCL installed the station's name board.

The 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra line, of which Hebbagodi is a part, is to open later this year.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN to the General Public that my client has negotiated to purchase Immoveable Property being Residential Land and Old Building bearing BDA Site No.254, Now Municipal Corporation BBMP No.254, BBMP PID No.97-3-254, situated at R.T.Nagar, 2nd Block (Matadahalli BDA Layout) Bangalore. The Site measures East

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 10, 2024**

# Swachh Survekshan: Bengaluru in 125th place in the above one lakh population category

In the previous year, the city was included in above 10 lakh population category and awarded 43rd rank among 45 cities

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

**B**engaluru has secured the 125th ranking out of the 446 cities which participated in the above one lakh population category in Swachh Survekshan - 2023, the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA).

The previous year, Bengaluru was included in the above 10 lakh population category and was awarded the 43rd rank among 45 cities. However, this year, the category has been eliminated. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials said that had that category existed this year, then the city's scores would have landed it in the 31st rank.

The 125th ranking is the highest the BBMP has got in the above one lakh population category as in the previous years, the city's average ranking was

## Swachh Survekshan

Bengaluru's scores under parameters assessed for ranking

Category	Total marks	BBMP's score
Service level progress	4,830	2,805.32
Certification	2,500	1,125
Citizens' voice	2,170	1,589.82
Total	9,500	5,520.14

City's report card issued under Swachh Survekshan 2023

Door-to-door collection of waste	Cleanliness of residential areas	Source segregation	Cleanliness of market areas	Waste generation vs. processing -
97%	98%	99%	98%	81%
Cleanliness of waterbodies	Remediation of dump sites	Cleanliness of public toilets		
94%	0%	87%		

around 200.

For the rankings, each city was assessed on three parameters - service level progress, certification and citizens' voice. In the first category, Bengaluru scored 2,805.32 marks out of 4,830 while in the certification category, the city scored 1,125 out of 2,500 and in the citizens' voice (feedback) category, 1,589.82 marks were se-

cured out of 2,170. Out of 9,500 marks, Bengaluru secured 5,520.14 marks.

Under Swachh Survekshan, three certifications are given to each city if they meet the required criteria. BBMP officials regarded the upgradation of the BBMP from ODF++ (Open Defecation-Free) to Water Plus City as the remarkable difference this year under certification.

This is the first time the city has secured this highest sanitation certification.

"Another major difference is the participation of the citizens in the survey under the citizens' voice category. There is a jump of 30% in the parameter from 43% in the last year to 73% in the present year," the officials said.

### Infrastructure

The BBMP had applied for the certification of Garbage-Free City (GFC) certification this year but could not get it as not all required parameters were met. "One of the most important criteria to get that certification is to have above 80% processing of waste. We are currently processing 2,500 tonnes of waste, but various strikes and media reports also kept us from getting the certification. We need cooperation from citizens too," said Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner, Solid Waste Management (SWM), BBMP.

He stressed that more processing infrastructure should be developed in the city to improve processing and thereby also get the certification. "Our efforts have improved, but processing is our only grey area. If we do it well, then we will figure in the top 25. We currently have manure plants, but we should have more processing plants in the city like CNG, waste-to-energy, and biogas plants," Mr. Kumar said.

SWM activist and Swachh Survekshan adviser to the BBMP V. Ramprasad pointed out that more care should be taken in the clearance of construction and demolition (C and D) waste. "This time, the BBMP's documentation improved, and they had a well-oiled internal team (unlike the previous years where they had consultants) and it has shown in the results. However, a good system in place to clear C and D waste would further help in getting good rankings," he said.

**Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan. 12, 2024**

## Bengaluru outshines Chennai in Swachh Survekshan rankings

**BBMP sees a jump in citizen satisfaction, rising from 43% to 73%**

BENGALURU DHNS

**T**he BBMP, tasked with maintaining the city's cleanliness, has fared well in the 2023 Swachh Survekshan, recognised as the world's most extensive cleanliness survey, surpassing Chennai by a significant margin. While Bengaluru and Chennai were closely ranked last

year, Karnataka's capital has now secured the 125th rank in the latest survey, leaving the neighbouring city at the 199th position.

However, BBMP still has much work ahead in terms of garbage management, especially when cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi consistently top the charts year after year, despite their growing populations.

The survey, conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), assesses the city based on three primary parameters: service level progress, certification, and citizen feedback. Out of a total of 9,500 marks, BBMP scored 5,520, while

Chennai managed 4,313. Bengaluru's overall ranking among all urban local bodies combined is 612, but it stands at 125 among 446 cities with a population exceeding one lakh.

BBMP's status has been upgraded from 'Open Defecation Free' to 'Water Plus City', the highest sanitation certificate. Furthermore, BBMP received positive feedback from citizens, with a notable increase from 43% satisfaction last year to 73% this year.

Despite the improved ranking, some experts in solid waste management find Bengaluru's position disappointing, given the generous funding from the state government.

They emphasize the need to leverage platforms like Swachh Survekshan to enhance systems and processes, making cleanliness a norm in the city. The experts point out that Bengaluru's ranking has remained stagnant for nearly a decade, while other cities and towns have made significant progress in implementing best practices.

Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner of BBMP's solid waste management division, expressed his satisfaction with Bengaluru's improved performance compared to the previous year. He stated,

"With new projects in the pipeline, we aim to achieve even better results in the next survey," he said.



### Progress so far

BBMP has made significant strides in several areas, such as door-to-door waste collection (97%), source segregation (99%), residential area cleanliness (98%), and market area cleanliness (96.5%). However, challenges in waste processing, dumpsite remediation, and public toilet cleanliness have affected BBMP's national ranking, as indicated by the data.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 12, 2024**



# Swachh Survekshan: Mysuru cleanest city in state

**MYSURU, DHNS:** Mysuru has bagged first rank in Swachh Survekshan ranking 2023 and has been declared as the cleanest city in Karnataka (among 25 cities with population of above one lakh).

This was announced at the event held in Delhi by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Thursday.

However, Mysuru, which was in eighth place among top 10 cleanest cities in the country in Swachh Survekshan Survey in 2022, under “Clean Medium City Award” category among urban local bodies having a population of three to 10 lakh, has been pushed to the 23rd rank (out of 446 cities) in the national ranking, in 2023.

It may be mentioned that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been conducting Swachh Survekshan, the largest survey on urban sanitation and cleanliness from 2016.

As per the Mysuru city fact-sheet, it has 65 wards and a population of 9,20,550 (as per the 2011 census). It received citizen voice rating of 1,880.9, 3 stars in the GFC (Garbage Free City) star rating, “water+” in the ODF (Open Defecation Free) certification.

**Source: Deccan Herald, p.5A, Jan 12, 2024**

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