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Falling sugarcane output, juice yield push jaggery units to jeopardy

Hits owners, farmers alike despite hike in jaggery prices

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The drought in the state has been unsparing this year and there's a spinoff effect on the jaggery-making units in the district.

Jaggery output has been greatly affected due to a fall in sugarcane production due to drought. The yield of juice from the crop has been less than usual and this has added to the woes of the jaggery-making units.

Jaggery is presently priced at Rs 5,000 a quintal in the market, as there is high demand for it, particularly the organic variety.

Health-conscious people prefer jaggery over sugar as a sweetener these days.

Many units close down

The sugarcane farmers too aren't a happy lot as their returns have reduced by about half.

Villages on the Belagavi-Bagalkot road on the outskirts of the city had over 100 jaggery-making units.

Their numbers are coming down with each passing year due to manpower issues and farmers' preference to send their produce to sugar factories.

This crushing year, there are just four jaggery-making units at Sambra village. With a deep slide on the supply side due to



Jaggery production underway at a unit at Sambra near Belagavi. DH PHOTO

the drought, they may not be able to produce jaggery even up to March 24, the day of Holi festival, when the sugarcane season ends.

Sambra alone had 22 jaggery-making units in the past. Farmers have cultivated sugarcane on 3.08 lakh hectares in the district this season.

Jyotiba Jui, who runs a unit at Sambra, said, "We com-

menced jaggery making this season in November. The sugarcane produce has been drastically low this year. Earlier, from the produce on each acre, we could manufacture 60 quintals of jaggery. At the then price of Rs 4,000 per quintal, we earned Rs 2.4 lakh per acre. With jaggery production falling by half, our earnings too will see a dip."

Also, there aren't many labourers available these days, he said.

"We need a minimum of 16 people for the whole process, starting from crushing sugarcane to loading jaggery for transportation. They have to report for work at dawn and wages are just Rs 300 per day," Jui said.

Despite the hike in jaggery prices to Rs 5,000 per quintal, farmers aren't getting expected returns as drought has affected the juice recovery from sugarcane, said farmer Papanna Jui.

"The government must come to our help as sugarcane yield has reduced due to drought. Despite good prices for jaggery, we are not getting good returns. Some farmers prefer to sell sugarcane to jaggery units as they get quick returns and need not wait for sugar factories to clear dues," farmer Channayyaswamy Mathad said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 13, 2024

ಬೆಳೆ ನುಂಗಿದ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ 2.10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಹೊಡೆತ | ರೋಗ ಭೀತಿ

■ ಮಂಟುನಾಥ ಕೋಳಿಗುಡ್ಡ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ
ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕೆಲ ದಿನಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುರಿದ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆ ಹತ್ತಿ, ರಾಗಿ, ಜೋಳ, ಭತ್ತ, ಮಾವು ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರೈತರ ಕಷ್ಟೀರಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಾವೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಅನ್ನದಾತ, ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಬೆಳೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಸಂತಸದಲ್ಲಿರುವಾಗಲೇ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾನೆ.

» **ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿ, ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾನಿ**
ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಪೂರ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಮ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿದ್ದರಿಂದ 20.45 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಜೋಳ, ಕಡಲೆ, ಗೋಧಿ ಸೇರಿ

ವಿವಿಧ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಈಗ ಅಂದಾಜು 2.10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಮಳೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ರೋಗದ ಭೀತಿಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿವೆ. ಜೋಳಕ್ಕೆ ಮಳೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದರೆ ಕಾಫಿಗೆ ರೋಗ ತುಂಬುವ ಅಪಾಯ ಇದೆ. ಕಡಲೆ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಪತ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಕಪ್ಪಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆತಂಕ ಅವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಹಿಂಗಾವಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಮ ಫಸಲಿನ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವರು ಕಳವಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಹಾನಿ: ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕೇರಳ, ಹಿರೇ, ಕೋಗಿರಿ, ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂಠಿ, ಈರುಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಕೈಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ನಡುವೆ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಇಳುವರಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೊಡೆತ ದಿದ್ದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಕೈ ಸೇರಿಲ್ಲ ಬೆಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ
ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಬಾಡಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬರ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಳೆದರೂ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕೈ ಸೇರಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ರೈತರು ದೂರಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಹಂಗಾಮಿನ ಕೃಷಿ	
ಬೆಳೆಗಳು	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್)
ಜೋಳ	6.50
ಗೋಧಿ	1.71
ಕಡಲೆ	10.09
ಹತ್ತಿ	0.25
ಇತರೆ	6.85
ಒಟ್ಟು	25.40



ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದ ಭತ್ತ
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಭತ್ತದ ಪೈರು ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅಡಕೆ, ಮಾವು, ಗೇರು, ತೇಂಗಾಕಡ್ಡೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಅಡಕೆ ಕೊಯ್ಲಿನ ಸಮಯ. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕೃಷಿಕರ ಅಡಕೆ ಅಂಗಲ ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಇದ್ದವರಿಗೆ ಟಾರ್ಪನ್ ಹಾಕಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೆಳೆ ಒದ್ದೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಡಗಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕೆಲವೆಡೆ ತೇಂಗಾ, ಉಪ್ಪು, ಹೆಸರು ಮೊದಲಾದ ದ್ರವ್ಯಗಳ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳಿಗೂ ಹಾನಿಯುಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊಯ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಭತ್ತದ ಪೈರು ನೆಲಕಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಪೈರು ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಕೊಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಭತ್ತದ ಇಳುವರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಬೈಮುಟ್ಟು ಸಿಗದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೋಡದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಗೇರು, ಮಾವಿಗೂ ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೋಡ ಕವಿದ ವಾತಾ ವರಣ, ಸಂಜೆಯಾಗುವಾಗ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿಯುವುದರಿಂದ ಹೂವುಗಳು ಕರಗಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಬೆಳೆಗಳು ಕಾಳು ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದರೆ ರೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗುವ ಸಂಭವವಿದೆ. ಕಡಲೆ ಹುಳಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಬೆಳೆ ಮಳೆಯಾದರೆ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ.

! ತೀವ್ರಗೊಡ ಹಾಟೇಲ ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಬೆಣ್ಣೆ ಬಂತಿ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ

ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಗುರುಪುರದ ಗದ್ದೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳುಗಿದ ಭತ್ತ.

ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾನಿ

- ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾವಿನ ಹೂವು-ಹಿರೇ ಉದುರಿದೆ. ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೇಶ್ವರ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಡುಗಿಕಾಯಿ, ಭತ್ತದ ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಆರಕಲಗೂಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಗೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾದರೆ ಸಕಲೇಶಪುರ, ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕೆ.ಗುಡಿ, ಬೇಡಗುಳಿ, ಬಿಳಿಗಿರಿರಂಗನ ಬೆಟ್ಟದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಕಾಫಿ, ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾನಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹುಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗಾವಡಗರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ 5 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಭತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಸುಗ್ಗಿದೆ.
- ಕೊಡಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಒಣಗಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೆ ಕೊಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಗಿಡದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಫಿ ಉದುರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ ಕಡೆ ಹೂವು ಉದುರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷದ ಫಸಲಿನ ಮೇಲೂ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರುವ ಆತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಪ್ತದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮಾದುವಂತೆ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳು ಕಾಫಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ 3 ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

4.52 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್‌ಗೆ ಹಿಗ್ಗಿದ ಅಡಕೆ | ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟ

■ ಯಳನಾಡು ಮಂಜು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

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ಪಾರಂಪರಿಕ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆ ರೈತನ ಜೀವ ತುಂಬಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕಂಗೆಗೆ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬೆಲೆ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹಿಗ್ಗಿದೆ. ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಂಕಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕಳೆದ ಐದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 4.52 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಅಡಕೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ.

"ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ಐದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಮೂರು ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ," ಎಂದು ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಭತ್ತ, ರಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ಆಗಿದೆ. 2018ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2,79,000 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಕಳೆದ ನಾಲ್ಕೈದು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 50,000 ರೂ. ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ, ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಕಾಯಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕೃಷಿಕರು ಮುಂದಾದರು. 2023ರ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 7,31,650 ಹೆ. ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಿದೆ.

ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ ಜಮೀನಲ್ಲೂ ಅಡಕೆ: ಮಲೆನಾಡು ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಾದ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕೊಡಗು ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಬಯಲು ಸೀಮೆಯ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಹಾಸನ, ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಕೆಲ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಗಗನಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ಬೆಳೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಡೆಯೂ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಯಲು ಸೀಮೆಯ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಮಳೆಯಾಶ್ರಿತ ಬೆದ್ದಲು ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೋರ್‌ವೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊರೆಸಿದ ರೈತರು,



ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಡಕೆ ಭೂಮಿ		
2018	2023	ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ
2,79,000	7,31,650	4,52,650

ಇದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಟ್ರೆಂಡ್ ಅಲ್ಲ

ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟ ಕಟ್ಟಿದರೆ ಫಸಲಿಗೆ ಬರಲು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 5ರಿಂದ 6 ವರ್ಷ ಬೇಕು. ಇದೇ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಹಿಗ್ಗಿದರೆ, ಮುಂದೆ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಲೆಗೂ ಕುತ್ತು ಬರಲಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಬೆಳೆಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ನಾನಾ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗುವ ಅಪಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ.

ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಕ್ಷೀಣ: ಆಹಾರ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಭೂಮಿಯು ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟವಾಗಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತಿತವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನೀರಾವರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಾದ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭತ್ತ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸುಮಾರು

ಅಡಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ

- ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ
- ಬಯಲು ಸೀಮೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ತುಂಬಿಸಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅಡಕೆ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ.
- ಒಂದು ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇತರ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಆದಾಯ ಲಭ್ಯ
- ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕೊರತೆ ಹೊತ್ತಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ಕಡಿಮೆ
- ಸರಕಾರಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವುದು

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ ಅಡಕೆ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಾಗಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಹೊರ ಹೊಮ್ಮಿದೆ. ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಟೀ, ಕಾಫಿ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮಾದರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಗಳು ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿವೆ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 84,785 ಹೆ. ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಬೆಳೆಯಿದೆ. ಐದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ಭೂಮಿ 36,890 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನ ಸೆರಗಿಗೆ ಆತುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ರೈತರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 60,000ರಿಂದ 2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟಗಳನ್ನು ಇವು ಅಡಕೆ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್‌ಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಇವತ್ತಿನ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಕೋಟಿಗಳ ಆದಾಯವಿದೆ.

10,000 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಭೂಮಿ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟವಾಗಿ ರೂಪಾಂತರಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಶೇಂಗಾ, ಮೆಕ್ಕೆಜೋಳ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸುಮಾರು 26,890 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಕೃಷಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಡಕೆ ತೋಟವಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.6, Jan.14, 2024

Despite good yield, paddy prices rise due to hoarding

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

Despite a 15% increase in paddy production in the Tungabhadra basin, considered Karnataka's rice belt, paddy prices have increased by 25%. This is due to an artificial scarcity triggered by hoarding allegedly by big farmers who anticipate a substantial drop in the rabi crop as water release from Tungabhadra and Almatti reservoirs will be restricted for drinking due to low storage this year.

Rice millers briefly even procured paddy from other states like Bihar to keep their units running. This resulted in a tussle between farmers and rice mill owners as small farmers felt the price of paddy had reduced from Rs 3,000 to Rs 2,400 per quintal in just one week.

However, the price has now crossed Rs 3,000 again, which the farmers blame on hoarding by big millers.

Farmer leaders also contend millers are adulterating the famous Gangavati



Sona rice with poor quality paddy from other states.

Of 3.6 lakh hectares of paddy in the Tungabhadra basin, 90,000 hectares are owned by farmers who own more than 10 acres.

Though the region received scanty rainfall during the kharif season, the yield was good due to irrigation from the dam.

"Rice millers and big farmers who have storage capacity are benefiting. Poor farmers who own 2-3 acres cannot

stock paddy and are forced to sell at lower rates to repay loans," said Karnataka Raja Raitha Sangha vice-president Mareppa Salavani who hailed from Karatagi.

Meanwhile, Karnataka State Rice Mills Association executive president Purushottam Savitri claimed that the Bharat rice brand released by the government at Rs 25 a kg has reduced the demand for local paddy produce.

Maintaining that purchase of paddy from other states will not harm local farmers, he said they are forced to buy paddy from other regions to keep the mills running throughout the year.

"The paddy price has increased as millers have started hoarding the crop. The district administration will take action against hoarding only if there is a shortage in the market and causes hardship to people as it comes under the purview of Essential Commodities Act," Gangavathi agriculture department assistant director Santosh Pattadkal said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Jan 14, 2024

Depleting reservoir water levels raise alarm on summer crisis

Adequate
Storage To
Meet Demand,
Says Official

Anil.Gejji@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka's reservoirs are facing a critical decline in water levels, heightening concerns of an impending severe shortage of drinking water during the upcoming summer months. This alarming situation is attributed to one of the most severe droughts the state has experienced—in over 125 years—last year.

Data provided by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDC) indicates that a majority of the 11 major reservoirs in the Cauvery and Krishna basins are currently holding less than 40% of their storage capacities.

Key reservoirs like Harangi, Hemavathy, Kabini, and Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS), which play a pivotal role in supplying drinking water to major cities and towns in the Old-Mysuru region, including Bengaluru, collectively possess only 51 tmcft of water compared to their gross capacity storage of 115 tmcft.

DROPS OF CONCERN

Cauvery basin			Krishna basin		
Harangi	8.5	3.4	Bhadra	71.5	35
Hemavathi	37	15	Tungabhadra	105	10
KRS	49.4	19.5	Ghataprabha	51	35
Kabini	19.5	13	Malaprabha	37	15
			Alamtti	123	54
			Narayanapura	33	21



ge of 115 tmcft.

Similarly, seven reservoirs in the Krishna basin, including Bhadra, Vani Vilas, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Almatti, and Narayanpur, are facing a shortfall, with only 173 tmcft of water against their gross capacity of 422 tmcft. Last year, the reservoirs in the Cauvery and Krishna basins had storage levels of 81 tmcft and 331 tmcft, respectively.

Officials from KSNMDC anticipate a further dip in water levels as the summer season approaches, exacerbated by evaporation. They highlight that, on average,

one tmcft of water evaporates from both basins during summer. Of particular concern is KRS reservoir in Mandya, a crucial water source for Bengaluru, currently holding 19.5 tmcft of water. While this raises worries about an impending drinking water crisis, authorities claim that the existing storage is sufficient to meet the city's needs.

Suresh B, chief engineer at Bengaluru Water Supply & Sewerage Board, said: "We need about 12 tmcft of water to meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs till June-end. So with the existing storage,

PM holds key in resolving Cauvery water conundrum: Deve Gowda

Former prime minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Saturday asserted that only prime minister Narendra Modi holds the key to resolving the longstanding Cauvery water crisis in Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters, Gowda expressed his concerns about the state's struggles in securing a fair share of Cauvery water over the decades.

He highlighted the perceived limitations of the Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Cauvery Water Monitoring Committee, emphasising that these bodies have not proven beneficial to Karnataka's cause.

According to him, whenever Tamil Nadu filed a petition, the entities mandated the release of water without assessing the actual availability in Karnataka's reservoirs. In Gowda's view,

Modi represents the state's only hope for a viable solution to the protracted crisis.

"I would meet him (Modi) after the Lok Sabha elections. I am confident that he will offer a solution to this crisis," he stated. He also said he had urged the standing committee of the union water resources ministry to expedite approval for the Mekedatu project.

On speculation about his son HD Kumaraswamy potentially becoming a minister in the Modi government, Gowda said: "Nobody has discussed it with me either. I don't know what is in Modi's mind. Modi has made first-time MPs ministers. It is difficult to get a clue of his plans." Political circles have been buzzing with talks suggesting that Kumaraswamy could be appointed as a minister after January 22.

rage, we can easily see off summer. There is no need to worry."

Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, the state government has instructed the dam authorities not to release water for irrigation. Additionally, a call for judicious use of available water

has been emphasised. Srinivas Reddy, adviser at KSNMDC, said all regional commissioners have been instructed to monitor water storage in reservoirs within their jurisdictions and utilise water exclusively for drinking purposes until the arrival of the next monsoon.

Source: The Times of India, p. 4, Jan 14, 2024.

Pest is best: Bengaluru start-up's sustainable, insect-rich recipe for animal feed

Loopworm, an agri-biotechnology start-up based out of Bengaluru, uses insects to make sustainable protein-rich alternative ingredients for animal feed

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The global demand for protein has only been increasing over the years - not just for human consumption but also for livestock, poultry and fish feed, pet food, cosmetic ingredients and more.

The flip side of this has been the extreme exploitation of the marine ecosystem for fish and other marine organisms that are rich protein sources.

But what if the demand for protein-rich ingredients could be met by something else more sustainable?

Insects, icky as they may sound to a few, are rich sources of protein and abundantly available. Loopworm, an agri-biotechnology start-up based out of Bengaluru, uses these qualities of insects to make sustainable alternative ingredients for animal feed.

Abhi Gawri and Ankit Alok Bagaria, both graduates of IIT-Roorkee, met in 2017. A conversation about the potential of making value-added products out of organic rejects and a UN report that stated insects as the future of food and feed sowed in them the idea of Loopworm.

"Insects are nature's scavengers. They eat crop biomass and organic waste. It helps nature. And ultimately, they are a treasure trove of nutrition. They are like nature's bioreactor and concentrator. And they convert waste into valuable products," points out Bagaria, cofounder at Loopworm.

"What we are trying to do is the conversion of organic rejects industries with the help of insects and converting these insects into sustainable feed ingredients for animals," he says.

Humble beginnings

"We started in a small flat in Delhi," recounts Mr. Bagaria.

"We purposely rented a flat on the fourth floor where the building didn't have any elevator so that the owner would never come. In one of the rooms, we were staying. In the other room were the insects. And the kitchen was the

ducts," points out Bagaria, cofounder at Loopworm.

"After a brief pause imposed by COVID-19, the team became functional again in September 2020 and moved to a bigger 2000 sqft facility which used to be a buffalo farm before it.

Silly surprise

In 2022, the founders were on their way to Mysuru from Bengaluru for a meeting. Midway near Ramana-nagara, a strong stench, similar to that of a dead animal, caught their attention.

"As we are curious about anything that's organic waste we took a detour. We came across silk reeling factories where heaps and heaps of silkworm pupae were getting wasted," recounts Mr. Bagaria. The cocoon of the silkworm is used to

make silk, and the pupae are usually discarded.

A reject in the silk industry, the humble pupae, seemed a treasure to the eyes of the Loopworm team. They decided to rear both Black soldier fly and silkworm larvae and set up a bigger factory with a capacity to produce 500 tonnes of insect protein concentrate a month.

Helping the ocean

"One of the things that we are replacing with our insect protein is fish meal," says Mr. Bagaria.

Fish meal is a protein concentrate that is derived from wild marine pelagic fish and is a widely used ingredient in fish feed, poultry feed and pet food.

"In India it is extracted from Indian oil sardines and mackerels. Trawlers sent out into the Arabian sea catches loads of fish, often to a point where the fish stock is not regenerating naturally. Seas across the world are overfished because of the demand for fish meal and fish oil, for animal and human nutrition respectively," Mr. Bagaria explains, adding that Loopworm is trying to partially replace fish meal.

"Partially" because we are still not at those volumes. Animal agriculture requires a huge volume of ingredients. We are still

small for the industry, but it's a booming industry," he says.

According to Mr. Bagaria, one tonne of insect protein can save five tonnes of wild marine fish. Loopworm's factory runs currently at 20% capacity and produces 120 tonnes of protein concentrate a month. The majority of the products go to aquaculture and poultry feed manufacturers. The company is also doing trials with shelter homes for dogs and cats.

"We are trying to create a sustainable circular food system with this process that would help to drive food security and avert

greenhouse gas emissions," Mr. Bagaria adds.

Larger prospects

Insects being the natural food of fish and birds, the fish, poultry and livestock feed market was a low-hanging fruit for the Loopworm products. However, the team believes the potential of insect concentrate is much more.

"Sustainable alternative ingredients could be used for animal feed, plants, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, food, medicine, and a lot of things. We want to navigate this journey step by step where we go from markets like animal feed and plant nutrition to the more regulated ones such as topical applications, food and medicine eventually. We want to harness the fullest potential of insects and convert them into products where we can positively impact animal health, plant nutrition, and human health and well-being," says Mr. Bagaria.

Funding

The company, which has been initially operating with angel money and government grants, later raised funds from private investors such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation along with Tata Trust - both operated through Social Alpha. In September 2022, they secured an investment of ₹25.8 Crores from investors including Omnivore, Waterbridge,



Loopworm's factory runs currently at 20% capacity and produces 120 tonnes of protein concentrate a month. They are also doing trials with shelter homes for dogs and cats.



The Loopworm team.



Co-founders Abhi Gawri (left) and Ankit Alok Bagaria.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Titan Capital, Climate9ers, and angels such as Nadir Godrej, Sanjiv Rangrass, and founders of Zetwerk.

Abhilash Sethi, investment director at Omnivore, notes that for the increasing protein demand, aquaculture is the most sustainable solution due to its low feed conversion ratio; however, to feed the fish in those aquaculture ponds it's important to have an efficient and sustainable supply chain, which is where Loopworm comes in.

According to him, insect farming and processing is an upcoming industry in Europe currently, but Indian startups like Loopworm may have a huge advantage in terms of cost.

"These insects are typically tropical and in Europe they use climate-controlled setups to grow them which makes the whole process very expensive. They have to compete with the wild catch suppliers to supply to the feed manufacturers, and cannot raise the price point. For this reason, most of the European companies have shifted from the shrimp or fish industry to the pet food industry."

With the advantage of having a tropical climate, he notes, Indian companies like Loopworm can produce the products at a fraction of the cost at which their European counterparts are producing, and compete with global players eventually.

Dried insects and protein concentrate.

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Source: The Hindu, p.9, Jan. 15, 2024

How India is failing its farmers

Financial distress and an inadequate support system are contributing to the alarming rise in farmer suicides

FARDIN JAHANGEER & KARAMALA AREESH KUMAR

Hasmukh was making a lot of money from farming. He rebuilt his old house. He bought new machines for farming. He used an electric motor to pump water. He bought a motorcycle to go to the city easily and a tractor to plough the field. The tractor could do in a day what the bullocks would take many days to do.'

The paragraph above is from the NCERT textbook for Class-5, but in reality, farmers' conditions are starkly different. According to recent data from the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB's) annual report, more than 154 farmers and daily wage labourers kill themselves in India every day. Maharashtra had the highest number of farmer suicides, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh. These figures underscore the turmoil within the agriculture sector, where 11,290 people involved in farming lost their lives last year, comprising 5,207 farmers/cultivators and 6,083 agricultural labourers.

Kurubur Shantakumar, Karnataka State President of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), a federation of farmer unions, and the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) said, "Both the Union and state governments are playing games with farmers who are in a financial crisis following the drought in the state." SKM held a 72-hour *Janateya Maha Dharani* in Bengaluru's Freedom Park on November 26 to protest against the anti-farmer and anti-labour policies of the Centre and state. Among their demands was the removal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which various farmer unions and power federations across the nation rejected, citing concerns about electricity privatisation and threats to cooperative federalism.

The bill proposes 35 revisions to the Electricity Act of 2003, with Section 5 drawing particular attention. This section allows more than one distribution licensee (or discom) in one region to distribute power to consumers. Although this was referenced in the 2003 Act, the prior legislation required the new discom to have its own cable and distribution infrastructure. The new bill, on the other hand, envisions a system in which the new entrant can use the incumbent discom's distribution infrastructure in exchange for fees such as

wheeling costs. Some, including opposition parties, perceive this as an obvious scheme to increase privatisation in the country.

On November 26, last year, the SKM began a three-day demonstration at the Mohali-Chandigarh border over farmers' outstanding demands. Other demands include a guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the central government, the withdrawal of complaints lodged against farmers during the year-long agitation against the now-repealed agricultural legislation, the waiving of debts, farmer pensions, and so on. They are also requesting that FIRs for burning residue from agriculture be withdrawn, as well as compensation be provided for crop loss caused by floods.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that for the Congress, farmers are vote banks, while for the BJP, they are the *annadata*—providers of food. But the truth is, every political party views farmers as an opportunity to secure votes to win elections and makes promises that are not fulfilled, leading to farmer suicides and agitation. While farmers' protests are a means of raising concerns, they have consequences. Huge economic losses are recorded after each major protest, and in numerous instances, innocent people have faced major life-threatening problems because of protests.

A more effective approach to resolving farmer issues is to establish regular meetings to address concerns between farmers and the government. In meetings, all the farmers' problems should be addressed honestly. Farmers must also work with the government. Second, farmers should desist from actions like blocking roads or stopping trains, which inconvenience the public. Such forms of protest jeopardise the life of a patient or a victim of an accident. To avoid harming the State and its residents, it is crucial to find common ground between the government and farmers.

Farmer suicides in India are a complicated issue. The high frequency of debt, lack of government support, unpredictable weather patterns, and an absence of focus on mental health all contribute to worrisome rates of farmer suicide. To address this issue, a comprehensive solution is required, including changes to the financial support system, improved agricultural practices, expanded access to mental health facilities, and policies to provide a sustainable and supportive environment for farmers.

(Fardin Jahangeer is a Research Scholar, and Karamala Areesh Kumar is Head, Dept. of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy, St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Jan 18, 2024

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ 2ನೇ ಬಾರಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚೀಲ ಬೆಳೆ 28,506 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಆವಕ: ದಾವಿಲೆ

ಬ್ಯಾಡಗಿ: ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಗುರುವಾರ 28,506 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ (1,14,026 ಚೀಲ) ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಮಾರಾಟಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅವಕದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿಢೀರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಂಗಾಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ 2ನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಚೀಲ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಆವಕವಾದಂಥಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ 10,140 ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ (40,562 ಚೀಲ) ಆವಕವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸೋಮವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಗುರುವಾರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಆವಕವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕಳೆದ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಸಂಕ್ರಾಂತಿ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ರಜೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಗುರುವಾರ ಆವಕದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿಢೀರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ.



ಗುರುವಾರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 18,045 ಲಾಟ್ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ಗೆ ಇಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ತೇವಾಂಶ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಕೊರತೆ ಇರುವ 335 ಲಾಟ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂದಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. 2 ಚೀಲ ಡಬ್ಬ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಗೆ 62,099ರಂತೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಳೆದ ಮಂಗಳವಾರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ₹ 10

ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿದೆ. 5 ಚೀಲ ಕಡ್ಡಿ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಗೆ ₹ 54,419 ರಂತೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಳೆದ ಮಂಗಳವಾರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಲ್ ಗೆ ₹ 9 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಗುಂಟೂರ ತಳ ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ ₹ 18,309ರಂತೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಸ್ಥಿರತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಸರಾಸರಿ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬ್ಯಾಡಗಿ ಡಬ್ಬ ₹ 40,109, ಬ್ಯಾಡಗಿ ಕಡ್ಡಿ ₹ 37,129 ಹಾಗೂ ಗುಂಟೂರ ತಳ ₹ 14,929 ರಂತೆ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇಂದಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 384 ಖರೀದಿ ವರ್ತಕರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು 1.67 ಲಕ್ಷ ಬಾರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.10, Jan.19, 2024

Decentralisation

State govt plans to monetise panchayat assets

First such attempt in India,
says Priyank Kharge

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is evaluating a policy to monetise assets available with rural local bodies, which Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge said will be the first such attempt in India to raise resources.

Priyank has given consulting giant Deloitte a brief to work on and the policy “should be ready by March or April”, the minister told DH.

“The idea is to figure out how we can generate additional resources for panchayats,”

Priyank said.

Karnataka has 6,000 gram panchayats that own many assets. With the new policy, the government wants to “unlock” the revenue potential of these assets.

Karnataka has an estimated 1.5 crore rural properties that come under panchayat limits. “The revenue potential only by tax collection is Rs 2,000 crore,” Priyank said, adding that the government will have to work out the revenue potential from asset monetisation.

“First, we need to map assets and bring all of them under the tax bracket. Then, we have to figure out assets that can be monetised.”

Under the proposed monetisation measure, the government wants to look beyond the traditional model of leasing out public assets, Priyank said. Some ideas are being explored.

► RDPR, Page 6



“There is a footwear cluster in Athani. We can provide them space for warehousing. The panchayat will be a partner in whatever income they make,” Priyank said.

In Kalaburagi, Ravor village can become a hub for trucks that ply to Wadi. “The panchayat can make a truck terminal with services the truckers require. This can become a business for the panchayat,” the minister explained. Panchayat spaces can also be given out for Nandini milk parlours to be set up, he added. In 2021, the Union government issued an advisory urging gram panchayats to consider asset monetisation. Also in 2021, the Union government rolled out its ambitious National Monetisation Plan (NMP) aimed at leasing out core infrastructure assets to private players to generate Rs 6 lakh crore over a period of four years.

“But I don’t think the NMP includes panchayats,” Priyank said. “What we are attempting has not been done anywhere in the country.”

Eyeing record tax haul, BBMP unveils 82 self-funded projects

Will set aside Rs 1,200 crore for long-lasting works

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Having set its eyes on shattering property tax collection records, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is rolling out an ambitious Rs 1,200-crore plan that includes 82 infrastructure projects this year.

This is also the first time the civicbody—traditionally reliant on the state's support for its infrastructure works—will be setting aside a significant portion of its own revenue for long-lasting upgrades.

Generally, revenue from property tax gets swallowed in road maintenance, park upkeep, and drain cleaning, leaving very little for larger, transformative infrastructure work.

The BBMP plans to spend the Rs 1,200 crore in the next three years. Of that, Rs 900 crore has been earmarked to white-top over 70 roads (see table), while Rs 50 crore has been allowed to asphalt roads in Mahadevapu-

ra—the zone that brings in the lion's share of the tax revenue. A further Rs 50 crore is also set aside for similar works in Bommanahalli.

Officials said the remaining Rs 200 crore will be spent to protect, improve and develop rajakaluves, which will include building roads on the buffer zones.

"We have been collecting about Rs 2,800 crore in property tax, which gets spent on minor works," BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath told DH.

"As we expect to collect more tax, we have decided to keep aside Rs 400 crore for big projects as part of the 'Brand Bengaluru' programme," he added, noting that the idea is to ensure funds are not spent extravagantly.

The BBMP plans to create an escrow account where it plans to deposit Rs 33.3 crore monthly from its revenue collection. Funds from this account will be spent on the 82 projects.



Roads to be white-topped

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Cubbon Road | • MM Road | • 80ft Road, Chandra Layout |
| • CQAL Road | • Shampura Road | • Vijayanagar Club Road |
| • Sanjaynagar Main Road | • Lazer Road | • Hosakerehalli Main Road |
| • Sultanpalya Main Road | • Sultan Road | • 80ft Road, Vidyapeeta Circle |
| • 1st Main, Anandnagar | • Rameshwara Temple Road | • Subramchetty Road |
| • Kensington Road | • Sirsi Road | • JC Road |
| • Palace Cross Road | • Mahalakshmi Layout Main Road | • KH Road |
| • Swami Vivekananda Road | • 10th Cross, Rajajinagar | • Uttarahalli Main Road |
| • LR Nagar Main Road | • Dr Rajkumar Road | • Kanakapura Main Road |
| • Palmgrove Road | • Link Road from Sampige Road | • Maruthinagar Main Road |
| • Bazar Street in Anepalya | • Platform Road | • Ejipura Main Road |
| • Anepalya Main Road | • Subedhar Chatham Road | • Bagalur Main Road |
| • Hennur Road | • Dr Rajkumar Road | • Jakkur Road |
| • Kammanahalli Road | • 8th Main, Malleswaram | • Allalasandra Main Road |
| • Nehru Road | • Jeevaraj Alva Road | • HMT Road |
| • Govindapura Road | • Nagarabhavi Main Road | • Tunganagar Main Road |
| • Netaji Road | | • Pattanagere Main Road |

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1,839 ಹುದ್ದೆ ಖಾಲಿ | ಕಾರ್ಯಭಾರದ ಒತ್ತಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಭಾರಿಗಳು | ಹಲವು ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಜನರ ಅಲೆದಾಟ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೇ ಬರ

■ ಎಸ್.ಶ್ರೀಧರ್ ರಾಮನಗರ
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ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗದ ರೈತರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ (ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ) ಹುದ್ದೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದು, ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬರದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಜನರ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ವಿಳಂಬಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಇರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1,839 ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಹುದ್ದೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಇವೆ. ಅನೇಕ ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಹೊಸ ನೇಮಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಹಸಿರು ನಿಶಾನೆ ತೋರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಾದರೆ, ಸರಕಾರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಪರಿಣಿತ ಬರೆಯುವವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಖಾಲಿ: ರಾಜ್ಯದ 11 ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇನ್ನುಳಿದೆಡೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 6 ರಿಂದ 15 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ ಇವೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 30 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ, ಬರ, ನೆರೆ, ಚುನಾವಣೆ, ಪಡಿತರ ಚೀಟಿ ವಿತರಣೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಹಲವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. 2015ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಕ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ನೇಮಕ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗಷ್ಟೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂಬ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂದು ಮರು ನಾಮಕರಣ ಮಾಡಿ ಸರಕಾರ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿತ್ತು.



32 ವಿಧದ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ

ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಬೆಳೆ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ, ಬೆಳೆ ಹಾನಿ, ರೈತರ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಖಾತೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ, ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತದಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ ವಿಣೆಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯವಾಗುವವರೆಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ಹೊರೆ ಹೊರಬೇಕು. ನೀತಿ ಸಂಹಿತೆ ಜಾರಿ, ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಮತಗಟ್ಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು, ಮತದಾನದ ದಿನ ಮತದಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಕುಂದುಕೊರತೆಗಳ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 32 ವಿವಿಧ ಕೆಲಸಗಳನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಇವರದ್ದು.

ಹುದ್ದೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಏಕೆ?

- ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದವರು
- ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟವರು
- ರಾಜೀನಾಮೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟವರು
- ಹೊಸ ನೇಮಕ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯದಿರುವುದು
- ಒಂದು ಕಡೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಡೆ ವರ್ಗ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ನಾವು ಒತ್ತಡಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸರೈತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅನ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕೆಲಸದ ಒತ್ತಡವನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

-ಎಸ್.ರಮೇಶ್ ಗೌರವಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ, ಬೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೌಕರರ ಸಂಘ

ಎನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಾಗಿವೆ?

ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ವೃತ್ತಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಭಾರ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ರೈತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಬ್ ಐಡಿ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿದ್ದು, ಬರಪರಿಹಾರ ವಿತರಣೆ, ಎಫ್‌ಐಡಿ, ಮರು ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ, ಪೋಡಿಮುಕ್ತ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಹೀಗೆ ಹಲವು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಪ್ರಭಾರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಒತ್ತಡಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

11 ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳು

30 ಪ್ರತಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

2015 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಕ ನಡೆದಿರುವುದೇ ಕೊನೆ, ನಂತರ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲು ಈ ಮೊದಲು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂಬ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗಷ್ಟೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂದು ಮರು ನಾಮಕರಣ

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.12, Jan.17, 2024

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ECONOMY

Yuva Nidhi scheme launched

The Hindu Bureau

SHIVAMOGGA

The Karnataka government on Friday launched the Congress' fifth "guarantee" scheme offering monthly stipend of ₹3,000 to graduates and ₹1,500 to diploma holders who are unemployed.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, at an event in Shivamogga, handed over cheques to six beneficiaries to symbolically kick-start the scheme meant for graduates and diploma holders who passed in 2022-23 and have remained jobless even after six months after completion of education. He said that the scheme is crucial at a time when unemployment rate, which was 5.5% in 2014, now stands at 10.5%. The stipend will be given only for two years, and it will end soon after the beneficiary gets a job.

Continued....

1.5 cr. families get ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 a month under our schemes, says CM

Fifth and final poll guarantee of Congress govt., Yuva Nidhi, launched by Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar in Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday launched the Yuva Nidhi scheme, the fifth and final poll guarantee of the Congress government which provides financial assistance for educated unemployed youth of the State. He said the idea behind the five schemes were premised on the concept of universal basic income, prevailing in European countries.

Every month, the Chief Minister said, around 1.5 crore families in the State get ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 under the five guarantee schemes. "In European countries, this amount is referred to as universal basic income. We have implemented a similar principle here," he said, launching the scheme with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Shivamogga.

High unemployment

The rate of unemployment has grown at an alarming rate since 2014, he said. "The unemployment rate was 5.5% in 2014. Now it stands at 10.5%. Hence, we have come up with Yuva Nidhi to help the youth.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the launch of Yuva Nidhi scheme in Shivamogga on Friday.

The scheme offers financial assistance, besides training programmes to develop skills and seek jobs. We will also hold job fairs so that youths get jobs in India and abroad," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. Mr. Siddaramaiah said that after his government came to power on May 20, five guarantees - Stree Shakti, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi, and Annabhagya - were benefiting lakhs of families. "Since implementation of Shakti scheme on June 11, women have used the benefit during over 130 crore travels," he said.

The Yuva Nidhi scheme

offers financial aid to graduates and diploma holders, who are yet to get a job, for a maximum of two years. Training will be provided to the graduates and diploma holders who register themselves on the skill connect portal of the State government. The government has promised ₹3,000 per month to degree holders and ₹1,500 per month to diploma holders who were unable to get a job in the past six months and are not pursuing higher studies. The aid will be paid for two years.

The launch was held on the birth anniversary of

youth icon Swami Vivekananda. Organisers had made arrangements for close to one lakh people to witness the launch. More than one lakh beneficiaries from Shivamogga, Davangere, Chitradurga, Chikmagalur, Udupi, and Haveri districts attended the event.

Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil, whose department is implementing Yuva Nidhi, said applications can be submitted at Karnataka One, Grama One, Bapuji Seva Kendra, or Seva Sindhu portals. An applicant

Will visit Ayodhya after Jan. 22: CM

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that he will visit the Ram temple in Ayodhya after January 22.

"I will visit the temple in Ayodhya whenever I am free after the January 22 event," he told mediapersons in Shivamogga. "We are also devotees of Sri Rama, but do not use his name for political gains. We are opposing the politics being done by the BJP in the name of Ram," he added.

The Chief Minister said that Congress workers will visit temples across Karnataka on January 22, and offer prayers. When asked about some demanding more posts of Deputy Chief Ministers, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would not want to discuss the issue.

must possess Aadhaar card, bank passbook, ration card, mark sheets of SSLC, PU, degree or diploma.

Source: The Hindu, p.1 & 10, Jan 13, 2024

Bescom registers a steady increase of electricity sales

Growth of sales observed in both HT and LT categories, with the latter being major contributor

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The sale of electricity by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has consistently gone up post the COVID-19 pandemic years, the data provided by the company has shown.

In the financial year (FY) of 2022-23, Bescom sold over 29,000 million units (MU) of power, which is more than the 27,849 MU it had sold during the pre-pandemic period (FY 2019-20). Until November 2023, Bescom has already sold 23,665 MU electricity.

Gruha Jyothi scheme

The growth of sales has been observed in both high-tension (HT) and low-tension (LT) categories, with the latter being the major contributor. In FY 2020-21, the company had sold 18,464 MU of power to LT consumers while in 2022-23, the sales touched 20,488 MU. According to a senior official in Bescom, the LT numbers are expected to rise further owing to the introduction of the Gruha Jyothi scheme.



Even in HT sales, there was an increase from 6,245 MU in 2020-21 to 8,845 MU in 2022-23. Even in FY 2023-24, the sales had touched 6,593 MU by November itself. Over the years, Bescom has been taking several steps to keep HT consumers from choosing open-access suppliers.

Energy charges

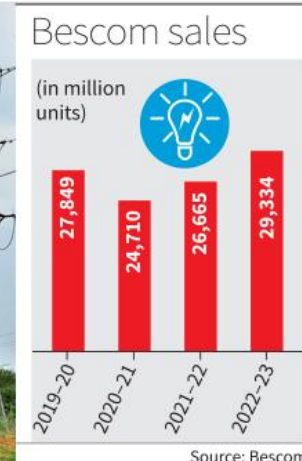
One such scheme is the Discounted Energy Rate Scheme (DERS), which encourages industries to use more power by providing it at a discounted price. During the tariff revision in May 2023, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) re-

duced the energy charges under the DERS from ₹6 per unit to ₹5.

Senior officials from the Finance Department of Bescom said the DERS was one of the main reasons for HT sales increasing over the years, along with the good health of the economy.

ToD tariff system

"After the pandemic, as the revival of the economy began, more industries and commercial establishments, large buildings are up and running. With our Time of Day (ToD) tariff system and other benefiting schemes, these new establishments chose Bes-



com instead of open access and thus accelerated our sales," an official said.

The increasing sales of the electricity utility, which is expected to continue even in FY 2024-25, is also expected to help in bringing down the revenue deficit in the upcoming years. "Better sales, especially in HT, will result in a better Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) which in turn helps in bridging the revenue gap," a senior official noted.

Bescom had asked for an ARR of ₹62,133.47 crore, out of which the KERC approved an ARR of ₹58,109.95 crore during the tariff revision in 2023.

Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan 13, 2024

State approves 73 investment proposals worth over Rs 3,900 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: The State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLS-WCC), headed by the Industries Minister M B Patil, on Friday approved 73 projects cumulatively worth Rs 3,935.52 crore.

These projects are expected to generate 15,000 jobs in the state. The proposals approved by the single window committee include a Rs 490.5 crore investment plan by the Bengaluru-based ETL Secure Space Limited and Rs 346.35 crore project by DhaSHPV Technologies Private Limited.

“The SLSWCC approved nine projects, the investment value of which is in excess of Rs 50 crore. The nine proposals, once realised, will draw a total investment of Rs 2,424.28 crore, with the potential to create 9,200 jobs.

As many as 59 new projects, the capital of which is in

the Rs 15 crore to Rs 50 crore band, were also approved by the committee – these are expected to attract Rs 1,423.57 crore in investment, with the promise of generating employment opportunities for nearly 5,300 people,” the statement released by the Industries department stated.

The minister claimed that the clearance of more than 70 projects at a single meeting was an indication of the efficiency that the single-window system had ushered in in the approval process. Patil added that these projects would ensure equitable investment across the diverse regions of the state. “Many of the projects approved by the SLS-WCC would be implemented in the North Karnataka districts,” he stated.



Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (A Statutory Body)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.5, Jan 13, 2024

Pay hike unlikely as govt may put 7th Pay Commission on hold

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: State government employees are likely to go without a pay hike this year as the proposal to increase salaries is shrouded in uncertainty with the government mulling delaying implementation of the 7th Pay Commission.

Officials cite a revenue crunch as the primary cause for the delay, emphasizing that the focus of next month's state budget will be on mobilising

resources to fund the government's five guarantee schemes.

Representatives of Karnataka State Government Employees Association (KSGA) are concerned over this potential delay and are hopeful that chief minister Siddaramaiah will accept the pay commission's report and allocate funds.

A meeting between KSGA and the CM scheduled for Friday

was postponed since Siddaramaiah was occupied with the launch of the Yuva Nidhi scheme. Sadanand Nelagudri, KSGA secretary, said the demand for a salary increase is a long-pending one and emphasised the government's commitment to meeting it.

KSGA also said the pay hike need not be announced in the budget and that Siddaramaiah

could address it outside the budget presentation.

In 2018, Siddaramaiah had accepted recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission and announced a 30% pay hike for employees just before presenting the budget for 2018-19 in February. It increased government expenditure by Rs 10,508 crore.

But a senior finance department official said the government may be constrained this time. A similar 30% hike

would cost the government around Rs 12,000 crore, but the association is pushing for a 40% hike (Rs 16,000 crore).

The official said meeting the demand will be a "challenge", since the government is compelled to implement the five guarantee schemes which will cost the exchequer an estimated Rs 58,000 crore in 2024-25. An expected shortfall in tax revenue adds to the complexity of the problem. While the current fiscal budget estimates

revenue from state-owned taxes at Rs 1.7 lakh crore, officials expect actual collection to be around Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

Basavaraj Rayareddi, economic adviser to the CM who is overseeing pre-budget meetings, acknowledged the weight of guarantee schemes on the exchequer. He said the CM will take a decision, considering financial constraints and competing priorities. A salary hike for employees, therefore, hangs in the balance.



Source: The Times of India, p. 6, Jan 13, 2024.

State to introduce sector-based booster kits for start-ups in a month's time

Shilpa Elizabeth

BENGALURU

The State government is planning to introduce new sector-based booster kits for start-ups in a month.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge told *The Hindu* the new kit will be more practical than the earlier ones with its sector-based approach.

"We are evaluating what it is that a particular sector needs," he said.

"For example, in the biotech space, startups are not the problem, scaling is; Idea to proof of concept is



IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge interacting with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

not a challenge, but from there to Stage-1 is. After that funding gets easy. If it is a robotics startup, they can be tied up with ART-

PARK. If it's a life sciences startup, they could be given an opportunity to work in medical science colleges or other similar in-

stitutes. We are talking to people in various sectors and trying to figure out how to help," Mr. Kharge said.

The start-up Karnataka booster kit was launched initially in 2016. The kit currently includes a range of software tools, cloud credits, access to mentors, incubators and government funding, and legal and financial consultants, and is available for any start-up registered with the government of Karnataka.

**CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8**

Continued..

Sector-based booster kits for start-ups soon

“The last booster kit that was made was during my previous tenure. The successive governments did not bother about that. Now, I’m talking to start-ups, engage with them very often and trying to understand what they want specifically,” the Minister said.

Working with VCs

Mr. Kharge also noted that in the context of the ongoing funding winter, the government, for the first time, has been working with the Venture Capitalists to come up with a blueprint to understand how the former could help start-ups add more value.

The government is also coming up with a framework which would allow fewer number of start-ups to fail, he said.

“One part of it is the ELEVATE programme. Not all start-ups need money to succeed. Some can succeed with mentorship, some with market access, some by getting their first client. The government wants to facilitate all these. We have introduced the preferential market access for start-ups where government can be the first customer for start-ups,” Mr. Kharge noted, adding that he is also engaging with banks to understand where government intervention is required.

The ELEVATE call, which recently closed, got close to 900 applications in less than a month. ELEVATE Unnati for start-ups with founders from SC/ST communities has received 83 applications, said Mr. Kharge.

He noted that the State is also keen to work with start-ups to solve problems related to urban infrastructure and mobility and an urban solutions summit is being planned by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The Minister came down heavily on the central government for the high angel tax and questioned if the Centre is serious about Start-up India.

Source: The Hindu, p.1 &8, Jan 14, 2024

Coming soon: South India's largest Multimodal Logistics Park in Bengaluru

Groundwork begins on 400-acre facility aimed at reducing overall logistics costs from 13% to 9%

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Groundwork has begun to construct South India's largest Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Obalapura on the northern outskirts of Bengaluru, with full-fledged construction slated to start in March.

Spread over 400 acres, the MMLP will provide a host of logistics, warehousing and cold storage facilities that are aimed at reducing overall logistics costs from 13% to 9% and making exports competitive. It will handle about 30 million metric tonnes of cargo by 2070.

The MMLP is expected to boost the industrial areas in Bengaluru, Tumakuru and the surrounding districts. Plus, it will eliminate the need for trucks coming into the city to deliver goods, reducing traffic congestion.

The Rs1,770-crore project is being developed by Bengaluru MMLP Pvt Ltd, a special-purpose vehicle with three stakeholders. The NHAI's National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) owns the majority stake (51.29%), followed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (32.38%) and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (16.33%).

On August 29, 2023, the SPV signed an agreement with private firm PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park Pvt Ltd, which will build the project under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

As per the agreement, the concession-



An artist's impression of the Multimodal Logistics Park near Nelamangala.

aire will develop and operate warehousing facilities while the NHLML will only charge the lease.

As the name suggests, the MMLP will facilitate connectivity through different modes of transport. Its location is strategic: On its eastern flank, the KIADB is building an industrial park. On the south runs the Bengaluru-Hubballi-Mumbai railway line while the north is bound by the Satellite Town Ring Road's Dobbset-Doddaballapur-Hoskote stretch (NH 648). The STRR will help connect the MMLP with the Kempegowda International Airport (55 km away) and the Chennai port through the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway. Dobbsetpet, known for its mechanical, automobile and electrical engineering industries, is about 12 km away.

The MMLP will be developed in three phases. The first phase is to be completed in 2026, the second in 2034 and the third in 2039. "The first phase is the most important and will be ready in two years," an official from the NHLML told DH.

As part of the groundwork, the contractor has started clearing and levelling the ground and erecting boundary pillars. The foundation for an RCC plant has also been dug, the official said.

In the first phase, the MMLP will get

road connectivity with the surroundings. These include a trumpet interchange on NH 648 and a four-km-long common access road for the MMLP and the KIADB industrial park. A separate contractor will be hired to construct the road, according to the official.

In the second phase, the MMLP will get 1.1-km-long sidings that will directly connect it to the main railway line and the Dodbele train station by 2028. A siding is a short railway track away from the main line, where trains run at low speeds. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) will construct both sidings within the MMLP, the official said.

The MMLP will have also customs facilities where exporters can pay the requisite fees to process their consignments.

According to the official, the MMLP's true potential will be realised when the sidings come. Until then, it will be used for general warehousing where trucks can load or unload and goods can be distributed further on.

"Trucks coming from the north wouldn't have to enter Bengaluru. They can use the MMLP's warehousing facilities for loading and unloading of goods, which will be fully mechanised. The goods can then be sent to the city by small vehicles," the official said.

G R Shanmugappa, president of the

BENGALURU'S OWN LOGISTICS HUB

Location: Obalapura, Nelamangala taluk

Area: 406 acres (including common road)

Cost: Rs 1,770 crore

Construction start date: March 2024

Deadline: Phase 1 (2026), Phase 2 (2034), Phase 3 (2039)

Implementing agency: Bengaluru MMLP Pvt Ltd

Concessionaire: PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park Pvt Ltd

Concession period: 45 years

Road: Next to National Highway 648 (STRR)

Rail: Next to Bengaluru-Hubballi-Mumbai line; 1.1-km siding

Air: 55 km from KIA

Port: Chennai port through STRR and Bengaluru-Chennai expressway

Land acquisition: KIADB has acquired 291 acres out of the 406 acres required, and deposited compensation for 90 more acres. The acquisition of another 25 acres is in process.

Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents Association, explained why the MMLP could be a game-changer.

Trucks from, say Mumbai or Delhi, can unload at the MMLP at any point in time and go back. The goods can be stocked at the MMLP's cold storage facilities and taken into Bengaluru whenever required. "This will help truckers as well as businesses. Truckers wouldn't have to bribe the police within the city to get clearances. Businesses can plan better. Traffic within the city will also reduce," he said.

According to Shanmugappa, the MMLP's cold storage facilities will help increase the shelf life of fruits and other produce. He called for similar logistics parks in Electronics City and other parts of Bengaluru.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 14, 2024

ನವಮಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ 67% ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ

■ ಎಂ. ಕೀರ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

keerthi.prasad@timesgroup.com

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ 2023-24ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ ನವಮಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ 1.16 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿಯ ಶೇ.67ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಾಯ ಬಂದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಾಕಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 56,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ವಾಗಬೇಕಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಬರದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆ ಸವಾಲಾಗುವುದೇ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಮೂಡಿದೆ.

ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ವರೆಗಿನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೋಟಾರು ವಾಹನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆಯಾಗುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆಲಕಾರಿ ಸುಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕದಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆ ಕಷ್ಟ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವಂತಿದೆ. ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಯಿಂದ ಮೂರನೇ ತ್ರೈಮಾಸಿಕ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 68,983 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 7543 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬೇಕು ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಬಂದಿದೆ. 9 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 68ರಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಾಕಿ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.32ರಷ್ಟು ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಸವಾಲಿದೆ.

ಆದಾಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದರೂ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆ ಅಸುಮಾನ

ಆಲಕಾರಿ ಸುಂಕದಿಂದ ಶೇ.70ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 3000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಂದಿದೆ. 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರಂಭಿಕ 9 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷ ಮೂರನೇ ತ್ರೈಮಾಸಿಕ ಅಂತ್ಯದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಆಲಕಾರಿ ಸುಂಕದ ಆದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ.

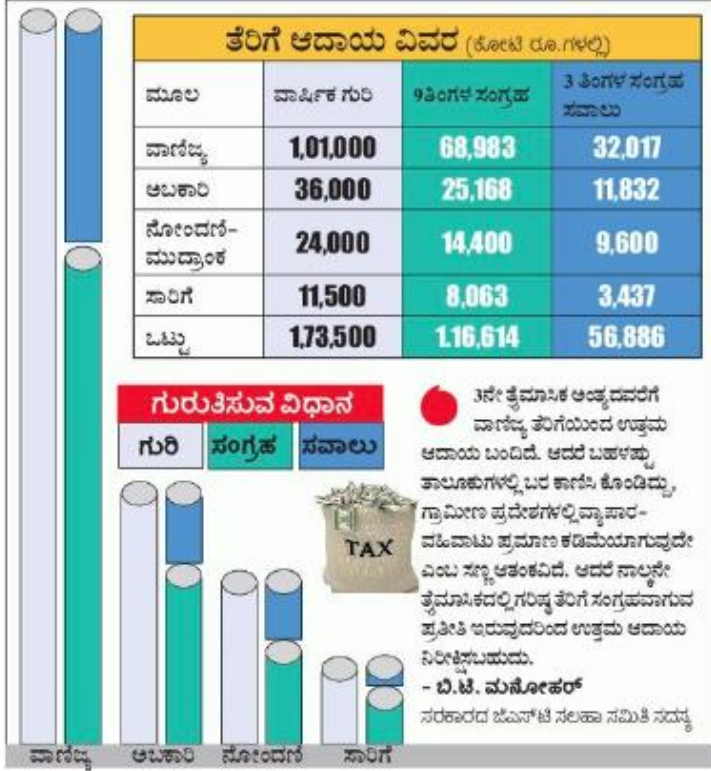
2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 9 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 22,267 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಬಂದಿದ್ದರೆ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷ ಇದೇ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿಯಾಗಿ 2900 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ. 2000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ನಷ್ಟು ಕೊರತೆಯಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ಶೇ.57ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆ

ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಶುಲ್ಕದಿಂದ ಮೂರನೇ ತ್ರೈಮಾಸಿಕ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 14,400 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿಯ ಶೇ.57ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ ಆದಾಯ ಬಂದಂತಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇತರೆ ಮೂರು ಮೂಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಅತಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಎನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಾಸ್ತವದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಾಯ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಆಸ್ತಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ, ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಇತರೆ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾದರೂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆದಾಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1465 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 1750 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಆದಾಯ ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿ ಸಾಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯ ಆತಂಕ



ಗುರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಿನ್ನಡೆ?

ಧನುರ್ಮಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಕಡಿಮೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆದಾಯ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ನಿತ್ಯ ಸರಾಸರಿ 55 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಧನುರ್ಮಾಸದಲ್ಲೂ 1500 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಆದಾಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇದೆ. 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಷವಿಡೀ 17,874 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ

ಒಂಬತ್ತು ತಿಂಗಳಿಗೆ 14,400 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 22,000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿದ್ದು, ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2000 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕ್ಕೆ ಹಿನ್ನಡೆಯಾಗುವ ಅಂದಾಜಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಆದಾಯ ಆಕಾಶಾಯಿತ

8063 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೋಟಾರು ವಾಹನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಂಬತ್ತು ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.93ರಷ್ಟು ಸಾಧನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ವಾಹನಗಳ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬಂದೇ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 877 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುರಿ ತಲುಪುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವನ್ನು ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.05, Jan.15, 2024

Karnataka signs MoUs worth ₹22,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Karnataka signed business and technology contracts worth ₹22,000 crore with seven companies on day two of the World Economic Forum 2024 being held currently at Davos.

According to a statement released by the State government, data centre solutions provider Web Werks signed an MoU with Karnataka for setting up a data centre park at an outlay of ₹20,000 crore. The company also expressed its intention to establish a cutting-edge connectivity hub to featuring hyper-scaler data centres capabilities in the city.

With Hitachi

Hitachi signed an MoU on economic development through work in the rural sector, healthcare, education, and panchayat e-governance to create opportunities for people in the State.

The company is planning to start M-Star Telemedicine Deployment through Hitachi MGRM Net, as per the statement.

Tech major Microsoft al-

so signed an MoU with the government on working towards skilling and governance initiatives. Under Microsoft's digital skilling program, Microsoft RISE, the company is proposed to execute a digital skilling initiative aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for under-served youth in India, with a focus on young girls/women, job seekers, individuals with disabilities, nano entrepreneurs, and those in regions with low workforce participation, aspirational districts, remote, and tribal areas.

Four more firms

Additionally, four other companies have entered into MOUs with the State, collectively valued at over ₹2,000 crore.

A high-power delegation headed by M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, at the World Economic Forum also held talks with heads of Volvo Group, Nestle, Sony, Inox Group, HP, Lulu Group, Honeywell, Takeda Pharma, Coinbase, BL Agro, Till Man Global, and others.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan 18, 2024

State yet again rated among best performers in start-up ranking

Annual exercise by DPIIT assesses performance of States and UTs in seven reform areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as one of the best performers in the fourth edition of the States' Start-up Ranking, a yearly capacity building exercise by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The other best performers include Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Karnataka has bagged the top ho-

nour. The exercise was launched in 2018. The results were announced by Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on National Start-up day on Tuesday.

The exercise assesses the performance of States and Union Territories across seven reform areas divided into 25 action points.

The seven reform areas include institutional support, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, access to market, incubation and mentorship support,

funding support, capacity building of enablers and roadmap to sustainable future.

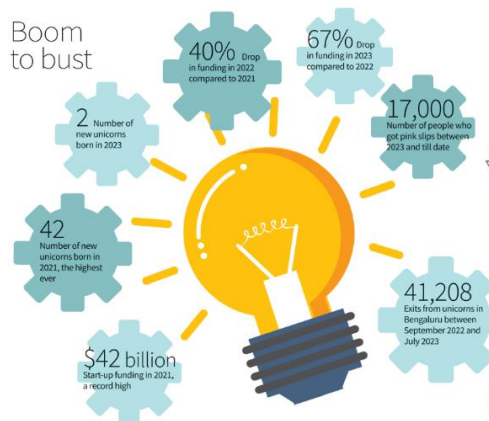
The 'best performer' title is awarded to States and Union Territories with model State start-up ecosystems that could be benchmark for other States to follow. While the Bengaluru, the State capital, also adorns the title of 'India's start-up capital', there has been push from the government and other ecosystem players to encourage more start-up clusters in the State under 'Beyond

Bengaluru'. Mysuru, Hubballi, and Mangaluru have seen some of these emerging clusters.

The Karnataka government has also introduced schemes like the ELEVATE programme which offers up to ₹50 lakh for innovative early stage start-ups for no equity in return and the ELEVATE - Unnati programme for start-ups with founders from SC/ST communities. The government also recently introduced preferential market access for start-ups registered in the State.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan 18, 2024

Boom
to bust



What went wrong

Some of the reasons given by industry experts for the downside:

- Huge investments in digital during COVID-19 and an assumption that it'll continue at the same pace
- Start-up founders' non-adherence to business fundamentals
- Global macroeconomic conditions
- High exposure of start-ups to global fluctuations
- Absence of domestic capital in the start-up ecosystem

GRAPHIC: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Funding winter: City's start-ups on thin ice

Karnataka has again emerged as one of the best performers in the National Start-up Awards 2022 announced on January 16. However, Bengaluru, the capital of business ideas, has been reeling under a funding crunch triggered by global events. Experts tell **Shilpa Elizabeth** it could be a market correction, albeit a painful one



(Top) Drone-based geophysical surveys introduced by a start-up. (Above) Collaborative workspaces in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTOS

Vinay (name changed) was hired by an Indian unicorn soon after he finished his Master's degree in June 2022. The previous year had seen an unprecedented growth for several start-ups backed by an abundant flow of investor capital. When he joined the new workplace, traces of euphoria still lingered in the air.

Soon though, things took a tumble. Global economies slowed down. With the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars, the global supply chain and trade outlook started looking bleak. The tap dried up, and 2023 saw the lowest start-up funding in five years.



In September 2023, Vinay was laid off. "The manager cited revenue crunch as the reason. A few more were laid off along with me, and a few others quit later. News spread that the company was not doing well," he recalls. Vinay later joined another start-up, but he says things are not hunky-dory there either. "We recently had a town hall where the CEO announced that the company is struggling and we may not get any raises this year."

Indian institutional market has to open up. Globally, one of the big sources of funding is pension, but Indian pension funds are not investing. **T.V. MOHANDAS** PM, Chairman, 30e4 Capital

Vinay is one among the thousands in India who got laid off in 2023 after a severe funding winter left several companies high and dry. As per data from global start-up data platform Tracxn, tech companies in India saw funding to the tune of \$8.3 billion in 2023, a 67% drop from the previous year. While experts differ on whether the dry period will continue or if the worst is behind us, there is a consensus on one thing — that a market correction is underway.

The great Indian start-up splurge Start-up funding hit a record of \$42 billion in 2021. High on the venture money, several start-ups hired in significant numbers; they went on acquisition sprees and splurged on marketing. Valuation numbers skyrocketed. The year saw the birth of 42 new unicorns in India, the highest ever. The list included names like Meesho, Up-Grad, CRED, ShareChat, and BharatPe, among others.

Pranav (name changed), who joined a unicorn around that time, remembers how he was astonished to see the extravagance. "I heard the entire company took a trip to Thailand almost a year before I joined," he says. The start-up's valuation had hit \$7.5 billion that year. And then the bubble burst. In 2023, overall funding in the Indian start-up ecosystem came down to \$25 billion, a 40% decrease compared to the previous year. Things got even worse in 2023. "On one hand, there were the global macro-

economic conditions and difficult access to funds with slow economic growth. But the other factor was the huge investments in everything digital in COVID-19 times. The assumption was that it was going to continue at the same pace," says Sangeeta Gupta, senior vice-president and chief strategy officer at NASSCOM. But as people came back to the real world, there was an increased focus on the return on investments, and reassessments happened on the investments made. This impacted the potential acceleration in some markets, she says.

Lack of domestic capital

As much as the macroeconomic conditions and the start-up founders' non-adherence to business fundamentals contributed to the crisis, the absence of domestic capital in the Indian start-up ecosystem has only aggravated the situation.

Some of the biggest Limited Partners (LP) in the world are from the US, Canada, Singapore, and the Middle East. These include funds like the Alaska Permanent Fund, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan, GIC and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority among others. VC firms raise money from such LPs, and consequently, the Indian start-up ecosystem is exposed to global fluctuations.

"The Indian institutional market has to open up for India to be a dominant player. Globally, one of the big sources of funding for technology, venture, and start-ups is pension. But Indian pension funds are not investing," notes T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairman at 30e4 Capital and former Infosys board member. "The total money coming into the pension system is around ₹5 lakh crore. If ₹5,000 crore can be invested into ventures and start-ups, it would be a good start. But there is no such regulation, and hence they are not investing," says Pai.

"The Union Ministry of Finance is hostile to the tax issues of start-ups. The regulatory system is hostile. The latest regulations by RBI say banks and NBFCs cannot invest in Alternate Investment Funds (AIF). It is a very authoritarian, ill-advised circular," Pai says, not mincing words. The circular was issued last December to prevent questionable bank transfers, but he notes that when such blanket bans are imposed, the genuine players also get hurt in the process.

Layoffs, loud and silent A major repercussion of the funding winter has been mass layoffs. According to data from the international layoffs.fyi, tech companies gave the pink slip to around 17,000 people in India from 2023 to date.

Suresh Bhagavatula, professor at the Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore, notes that the availability of easy money in 2021 also created a salary bubble for talent: "I heard some insane stories of how start-ups recklessly sought talent at any cost, bumping up the remunerations. Now, these start-ups are trying to rectify the situation."

Not all layoffs have been explicit, says Pranav who quit the unicorn and joined another start-up in 2023. "I have been seeing a trend of 'silent layoffs.' Instead of directly laying people off, companies would give them lower ratings, nudging them to leave." According to data from a study conducted by market intelligence technology company Private Circle, between September 2022 and July 2023, up to 111 Indian unicorns witnessed an attrition rate of 4.72%. Their data also showed that in Bengaluru alone, 41,208 employees exited the unicorns in the same period.

"The other part of this is that companies are not spending a lot of time on retaining talent unless they are exceptional. Earlier, there was an option of negotiating. You could take an offer letter to your employer and ask if they were ready to match it. That has reduced," says Pranav.

Cautious investor

One of the clear outcomes of the crunch is the decreased investor confidence in unicorns and late-stage start-ups that have been chasing growth without paying attention to business models or profitability. "With access to easy money, start-ups pursued vanity metrics and the elusive 'net-

work effects', disregarding the costs and profitability. This, in turn, could have led to a decreased confidence among the investors that these ventures are unlikely to survive without continuous capital infusion," says Prof. Bhagavatula. "Furthermore, the absence of mergers and acquisitions coupled with the poor performance of listed start-ups does not seem to give any exit options for investors, leading to this winter," he adds.

If the investments were earlier heavily skewed towards unicorns, there is investor interest and activity in early-stage start-ups lately. The pace, however, is still slow. "There is enough dry powder available with VCs. But earlier, any start-up with a reasonable average idea could raise money. Now the bar has been raised," says Madan Padaki, President at The Indus Entrepreneurs - Bangalore. He feels that cautiousness is good as it pushes start-ups to think more about revenue models, profitability, and sustainability.

Frugal, profitable

Within the start-ups too, similar sentiments echo. "There was a point when so much money was being pumped in that it was becoming unrealistic what companies were doing with it. Companies thought the tailwinds of the pandemic were never going to go away," says Pranav, who holds shares of the unicorn he used to work at. When the company valuation more than doubled in 2021, the value of his shares went up by 2.5x.

As the funding winter set in, several start-ups, including Byju's, Ola, Udaan, Swiggy (later marked up by 9%), PharmEasy, Pine Labs and Oyo, were marked down. The value of Pranav's stocks has also fallen with the news of an impending down round of his former employer.

"There's a higher focus among companies now on being frugal. For example, earlier for long travel we were allowed business class. That's not the case anymore. There is a stronger focus on driving more organic business leads and a higher focus on efficiency," he says.

Marketing spend has been significantly reduced. Several jobs, especially related to content and design, are being moved from the West to India. "Earlier companies thought it was important to have a presence in the West as part of the market expansion. There are still field roles in those regions. But content and design jobs are coming back to India, and that alone helps companies save \$50-60 lakh. More stable people, not necessarily from the founding team, are being hired to head start-ups now; no more 'showy' CEOs," says Pranav.

Learning from a crisis

Bengaluru, being the start-up capital and Silicon Valley of India, has been impacted significantly due to the funding crunch. According to the Karnataka Mid-Year Review of State Finances 2023-24, the start-up funding in the State dropped by a whopping 80% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Priyank Kharage, Karnataka's IT-BT Minister, says since November, the government has been engaging with the VCs in a first-of-its-kind move. "They are evolving a blueprint for the government to understand how we can help start-ups add more value," says Kharage, who swiftly clarifies that he is not referring to the 'valuation game.' "One of the biggest reasons for this venture winter is the valuation game that people have been playing. Once the blueprint is ready, we will reach out to the start-ups," he says.

According to him, the government is also coming up with a framework that would allow fewer start-ups to fail. Under its ELEVATE programme, the State government gives a one-time grant of up to ₹50 lakh to early-stage start-ups. Under preferential market access, the government aims to promote public procurement from start-ups.

Padaki notes that there is also a need to crack financing for start-ups at a structural level, as many banks still hesitate to provide collateral-free loans to start-ups. Above all, it's important to codify the lessons from this crisis so that it can be averted in the future, he says.

NASSCOM's Gupta agrees. "The entire ecosystem needs to make sure that while there may be easy money available in a future cycle, you don't lose sight of the business fundamentals," he says. "It doesn't mean you don't raise VC money or spend on marketing. It's about keeping in mind the right ratios and balances, thinking about your growth outcomes, planning for your talent capacity, and preparing for a rainy day because these cycles will become even shorter."

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Jan 19, 2024

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EDUCATION

Majority oppose 4-yr degree programme at SEP meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A large majority of educationists during a discussion called by the committee framing the State Education Policy (SEP) said they weren't in favour of the four-year degree programme and the multiple entry and exit programmes.

The meeting attended by 68 invited experts, at the Karnataka State Higher Education Council on Wednesday, discussed the four-year undergraduate programme launched in 2021 as part of the National Education Policy (NEP). "Except for one or two members, others felt that the three-year programme should be reinstated. They felt most colleges did not have the infrastructure to roll out the fourth year. Many said there are no specific advantages to this," said an educationist who attended the meeting. A former pro-



POLICY OF CONTENTION

fessor shared his experience of introducing a five-year integrated/honours course, which had to be shut down as there were no takers for the fifth year.

The experts were also against the multiple entry and exit options rolled out as part of NEP. "This will result in more number of dropouts in the system. At a time when the state is already facing the challenge of a low higher education gross enrolment ratio, such moves will only enhance the chances of students getting out of the sy-

stem sooner," said another expert. The interim report of the committee on the four-year programme will be submitted in January-end.

Meanwhile, a sample survey conducted by All India Save Education Committee (AISEC), a group of students, professors and educationists, found that 95% students and lecturers want the four-year degree programme to be withdrawn and the time-tested three-year programme to continue. The survey results will be submitted to the SEP committee.

NEP was implemented in the state's higher education space in 2021. The move by the state government, under then higher education minister CN Ashwath Narayan, was widely criticised for rushing through the procedure and launching it without enough preparation.

Full report: toi.in

Source: The Times of India, p. 2, Jan 13, 2024.

7.6% youth not enrolled in school or college in Mysuru: ASER

Annual survey focused on 14-18 age group for first time

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2023 - Beyond Basics has revealed that the learning levels need to be improved in Karnataka.

This time, they picked Mysuru district in Karnataka for the survey and visited 1,194 households in 60 villages covering 1,300 youths and found 7.6% youth not enrolled in school or college and 68% youth can read at least a std 2 level text (14-16 age) and only 58% can read basic English.

The annual survey brought out by non-profit Pratham, focused on the 14-18 age group for the first time.

The report stated that

when it comes to literacy numeracy of the 14-16 age group 38.4% can do division. This percentage is 35.3 among 17-18 age groups. 58.9% can read Basic English between 14 to 16 age group, it is 66.1% in 17 to 18.

Mysuru reported only 2% of their youth population not enrolled in any of the educational institutions as against the average 7% in the age group of 14-16 years. However, the percentage is 19% among 17-18-year-olds. 71% students are enrolled in government institutions in school and about half among the 17-18-year-olds.

Those engaged in vocational training programmes are poor, 4% in 14-16-year-olds and 7% in 18-19 year olds.



Mysuru reported only 2% of their youth population not enrolled in any of the educational institutions as against the average 7% in the age group of 14-16 years.

GRAPHIC FOR REPRESENTATION

44.3% enrolled for humanities/arts and only 20% for STEM courses.

Digital divide

However, ownership of digital devices is good among youths

in Karnataka. 88.6% have a smart phone at home.

Of which, 96.1% can use, 57% never accessed any online services, 81% were able to browse for information and 93% could find You-

Tube video and 84.2% could bring a smartphone to do digital tasks and 93% used social media during the survey week.

National statistics

Looking at the national picture, only 77% in the 17-18-year-old category could read class 2 textbooks, only 35% could do division. At the same time, 58% students could divide in Bihar's Muzzafarpur, 54% in Uttar Pradesh's Hatharas.

In Kerala's Ernakulam 61% could divide, Tamil Nadu's Perambalur had 49% students capable of doing division.

Telangana's Khammam (18%) and Maharashtra's Nanded (32%) fared even poorer.

Meanwhile, the national findings reveal that learning trajectory over grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 were relatively flat.

For example, the difference between learning levels in std 7 versus std 6 or 5 is not very much.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 18, 2024

Only 69% in 14-16 group can read class 2 books: Survey

Just 38% Do Division; 85% Smartphone Literate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Learning levels in Karnataka continue to be dismal: Only 69% in the 14-16 age group could fluently read a class 2 textbook; 38% could do division and 59% read at least one English sentence. Some 77% in the 17-18 age group could read class 2 textbooks, and just 35% could do division.

These findings are part of the 'Annual Status of Education Report (Rural)-2023 Beyond Basics' released on Wednesday. The only redeeming feature is the high digital literacy among the youth.

ASER is a nationwide, citizen-led household survey to understand how 14-18-year-olds are currently doing. The survey was held in 28 districts in 26 states. In Karnataka, Mysuru was chosen as the representative district for the survey, where 1,194 households were covered.

In Mysuru district, at least 85% of the youths surveyed have a smartphone and 95% know how to operate it. Some 90% use it for educational purpose at least once a week, 93% for social media, only 39% know how to block a profile and 47% know how to make an account private.

According to the survey, 44% of students in Mysuru have taken arts/humanities, 34% commerce and 20% science-related subjects.

LEARNING HURDLES

Figures in percentage

Skill	Age group	Male	Female	Total
Basic reading	14-16 years	57	76	69
Basic reading	17-18 years	65	86	78
Basic arithmetic	14-16 years	32	43	38
Basic arithmetic	17-18 years	25	42	35
Basic English	14-16 years	53	63	59
Basic English	17-18 years	56	73	66

Teaching continues to be in the same format, emphasising rote learning, which forms the basis of the evaluation system. The education system needs to evolve by equipping teachers with right tools & information, an expert said

Tasks	14-16 year-olds	17-18 year-olds
Calculating time	43	49
Adding weights	58	67
Measuring length	92	94
Measuring length (hard)	48	58
Applying unitary method	49	55
Managing budget	66	72
Applying discount	35	43
Calculating repayment	8	9



Photo for representation

29.3% boys want to be cop, 20.9% girls teacher

The survey has thrown some surprising revelations about career aspirations of youths in the 14-18 age group. The report is based on the response of 1,300 youths from 1,194 households in 60 villages (Mysuru Rural).

According to the findings,

29.3% of males want to become police, while 20.9% of females, teachers. After police jobs, the top picks of males are engineer (15%), army (8.6%), and teacher (5.8%). After teaching, women are interested in doctor (19.1%), police (11.6%), engineer (11.1%). TNN

ments and comprehension," said Pranav Kothari, CEO of Educational Initiatives, an ed-tech platform.

"The disappointing factor is the trend has been continuing over the past several years. Teaching continues to be in the same format, emphasizing rote learning, which forms the basis of the evaluation system. While we've seen some progress among teachers, our education system needs to evolve by equipping teachers with the right information and tools," he added.

"Unless we make a big change in the teaching-learning approach, we'll keep getting these results. It all begins with a vision to significantly transform the learning levels of our students. Teachers need to be trained and empowered with right tools. Students need to be remediated and not just moved from one class to another. We can help if there is an enabling public-private partnership policy in Karnataka," agreed Sumeet Mehta, CEO and co-founder, LEAD Group, a school ed-tech company.

Source: The Times of India, p.5, Jan 18, 2024

30 univs in K'taka default on ombudsman appointments

NLSIU, BCU & RGUHS Feature On UGC List

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Bengaluru: At least 23 state universities and seven private universities in Karnataka haven't followed the diktat of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to appoint ombudspersons on their campuses to address students' concerns.

Following the notification of the UGC (Redressal of Grievance of Students) Regulations 2023 on April 11 last year, the universities were asked to appoint their ombudspersons in 30 days. This was followed by several reminders from the UGC including one on Dec 5 which had set the deadline of Dec 31 for the appointments.

The list of defaulting universities was published by the UGC on Wednesday. At least 30 universities from Karnataka were featured among them. This included prominent ones like the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru City University (BCU), Banga-



The universities that have already appointed ombudspersons & student grievance cells have to put up the contacts prominently on the campus for students to approach them

WHAT THE REGULATION SAYS

An ombudsperson shall be a retired vice-chancellor or a retired professor (who has worked as dean/HOD) and has 10 years of experience as a professor at a state/central university/institution of national importance/deemed-to-be-university or a former district judge.

The ombudsperson shall hear appeals from an aggrieved student only after the student has availed all other remedies provided under these regulations, and resolve the grievances within 30 days of receiving the appeal.

Every institution shall constitute such number of students' Grievance Redressal Committees (SGRC) as may be required to consider grievances of the students, with the following composition, namely: a) a professor-chairperson; b) four professors/senior faculty members of the institution as members, and c) a representative from among students to be nominated on academic merit/excellence in sports/performance in co-curricular activities-special invitee.

lore North University, University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS).

NLSIU declined to com-

ment. However, some universities said they have already made appointments and the same has been conveyed to UGC. "We've already appointed former BNU vice chan-

cellor Kemparaju as our ombudsman and the same has been communicated to UGC," said BCU vice-chancellor Lingaraju Gandhi.

Some others said they are currently working on it. RGUHS vice-chancellor MK Ramesh said: "We already have a student welfare body. We will add more duties for them based on the new regulations. We are at it."

"If we haven't appointed an ombudsman, we will do it immediately. At the same time, we have been in touch with students and are addressing all their concerns," said B Muthuraman, chairperson of the board of governors, UVCE.

The universities that have already appointed ombudspersons and student grievance cells have to display the contacts prominently on the campus for students to approach them, according to the circular. Stakeholders and the general public may write to the UGC if any institute doesn't have an ombudsperson/SGRC or their details are not available in the public domain.

As many as 256 state universities, 162 private universities, two deemed universities, and one central university feature on the list.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan 19, 2024

8 non-performing skill edu agencies to face heat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cracking down on eight project implementing agencies (PIAs) that failed to provide skill education to candidates even after receiving financial aid from the government under the Deen Dayal Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, the government has instructed officials to black-list the agencies.

At a meeting on Thursday, Sharan Prakash Patil, minister for medical education, skill development, and livelihood, made plain his displeasure and instructed officials to file criminal cases in jurisdictional police stations against the agencies. He also instructed officials to cease issuing tenders to such firms in the future. The scheme is implemented by both the central and state governments.

While emphasising the need to regularly review progress of National Rural Livelihood Mission, Patil said the government will move to recover the Rs 74.6 crore — with interest — paid to the PIAs that violated the scheme's rules.

"Agencies falling short of achieving desired training goals will be deemed default-



GREEN SCENE: Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar inaugurated the Basavanna-themed Republic Day flower show at Lalbagh on Thursday

ers, and action will be taken against officials who released funds to these non-compliant entities," Patil said.

To ensure accountability, Patil instructed officials to collect comprehensive details of these agencies operating from other states and inform the Centre. An investigation was also ordered against unqualified agencies that falsely promised training, with a warning of strict disciplinary action against officials failing to act.

The minister mandated monthly visits to training cen-

tres at district and taluk levels and directed lower-rung officials to submit regular progress reports to superiors. Monthly meetings will be held to review progress, and the minister warned strict action will be taken against lax staff.

The Deen Dayal Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2014, aims to empower unemployed youth by providing free vocational training or skill education to individuals aged 18 to 35 years, facilitating their employment in the private sector.

Source: The Times of India, p.6, Jan 19, 2024

Police, teacher, doctor are top career options for rural kids

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New Delhi: India's rural children eye a career path in police, teaching, medicine, Army, and engineering, while the least preferred areas are sports, agriculture, bureaucracy and household work. However, professional aspirations are clearly driven by gender, with Army (13.8%) and police (13.6%) emerging as top two choices among the boys. Teachers (16%) and doctors (14.8%) were the most common choices, with police (12.5%) emerging as the third most popular choice among girls. Police is a choice where the gender gap is lowest.

A rider here is that 21% of rural children in the age group of 14 to 18 come in the category of "don't know/have not thought about it",

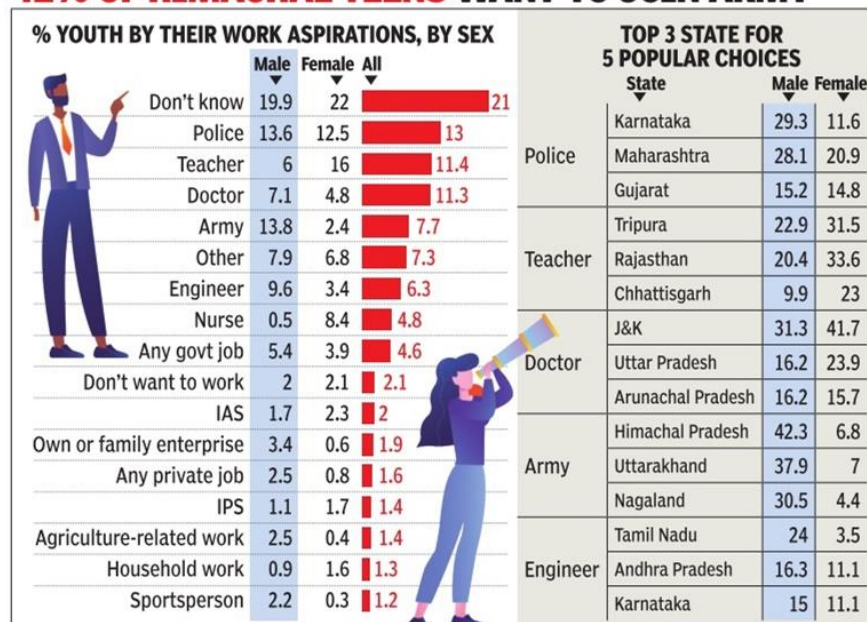
ASER 2023 SURVEY

and 2.1% are those who "don't want to work".

The ASER 2023 "Beyond Basics" data also shows regional sentiments diverge widely from that of the national picture. A case in point is while over a third of girls from Hathras (Uttar Pradesh) were unable to identify a work aspiration, in both Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh) and Solan (Himachal Pradesh) the most common preference among girls was to become teachers or doctors.

Regional deviation is stark as seen in the micro-data. While police is the most preferred choice of children and which is equally popular among girls in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, teaching ranks as the numero uno choice among girls in

42% OF HIMACHAL TEENS WANT TO JOIN ARMY



Tripura, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, with more than 30% girls aspiring to be a teacher in the first two states.

Nationally, another popular option, Army, is the leading choice in the three hill states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Nagaland. However, girls' preference for the Army in these states are 7% and less. Engineering, which is among the top five professional pursuits rural children are eyeing, is highest in the southern region of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where the percentage of males preferring this field is over 15% in all the three states.

Comparatively, from 2017, the first time Pratham Foundation surveyed rural children of this age group, males aiming to join Army or police or becoming engineers, and

females showing preference for teaching and medicine remains unchanged over the last seven years. Police is now the third top choice for girls, ahead of becoming a nurse.

Analysis of data of the surveyed girls who participated in the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) amplify the fact that "the socioeconomic context of the location in which these girls were living and growing up made a huge difference to their thinking about the possibilities for future work" as in many cases these "girls' future had little leeway for individual choice," as their "... skills did not reflect their aspirations, but simply means of generating some supplemental income for the household."

A deviation the report highlighted is that while the Periodic Labour Force Sur-

vey (PLFS) 2022-23 shows that 58.4% of individuals in rural India work in agriculture, the ASER report showed that this sector does not hold aspirational value for children.

Agriculture is often associated with failing school and dropping out, and the data shows a meagre 1.4% children aged 14-18 want to pursue agriculture as their primary work. As per the report, "Rather, it is seen as hard labour and associated with having to work long hours in the sun. Some youth said that their parents aspired for them to do 'better' than they have by pursuing a more 'respectable' line of work."

With as many as 1 in every 4 children surveyed not able to name a future work option, the role of schools was also analysed, the role they need to play but often don't.

Source: The Times of India, p.10, Jan 19, 2024

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Environment

ಇನ್ನೂ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ 18,336 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ | ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆಗೆ ಒತ್ತಾಯ ಕೆರೆ ಸರ್ವೆ, ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ನಿಧಾನದ್ರೋಹ

■ ಬಿ.ಎನ್.ಧನಂಜಯ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಮನ್ವಯದ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೆರೆ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಆನ್ವಯ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 7,57,170 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 40,521 ಕೆರೆಗಳಿದ್ದು ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 3,97,450 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ 22,191 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸರ್ವೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 8,836 ಕೆರೆಗಳು ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು 4,152 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ 18,336 ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಡೆದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ಸರಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಿಡಿದ ಕನ್ನಡಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯೂ ತಡ

ಕೆರೆಗಳು, ಜಲ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಜಲಕಾಯಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂಕೋರ್ಟ್, ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಬಾರಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ಮತ್ತು ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ		
ಒಟ್ಟು ಕೆರೆಗಳು 40,521 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 7,57,170 (ಎಕರೆ)	ಅಳತೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು 22,191 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 3,97,450 (ಎಕರೆ)	ಸರ್ವೆಗೆ ಬಾಕಿ 18,330 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 3,67,612 (ಎಕರೆ)
ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ಗುರುತು 8,836 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 38,673 (ಎಕರೆ)	ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು 4,152 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 22,371 (ಎಕರೆ)	ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಬಾಕಿ 4,684 ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 16,116 (ಎಕರೆ)

ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಒತ್ತುವರಿದಾರರೂ ಸರಕಾರದಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಆದೇಶ ಧಿಕ್ಕರಿಸಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೂ ಇದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಸರ್ವೆ, ತೆರವಿಗೆ ನೆಪ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ದಿನದೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಸಂಗ್ರಹವಾಚ್ಛಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಕುರುಬೂರು ಶಾಂತಕುಮಾರ್ ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡ

2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನೀಡಿದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ದಂತೆ ಕೆರೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಂದಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ತೋರುತ್ತಿವೆ. "ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಅಸಡ್ಡೆ 4152 ಕೆರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಗಡಿಕಲ್ಲು ನುಟ್ಟಿ ನಂತರ ಚೌಂಡರಿ ಟ್ರಂಚ್ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ, ತಂತಿ ಬೇಲಿ ಹಾಕಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ." ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕೆರೆ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರರು.

ಸರ್ವೆಯರ್ ಕೊರೆತೆ: "ಸರ್ವೆಯರ್‌ಗಳ ಕೊರೆತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ," ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.

ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆ ಉತ್ತಮ: "2012ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೈಕೋರ್ಟ್ ನೀಡಿದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನದನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮತಿಯಿಂದ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಚಿಸಿರುವ ಸಮಿತಿ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನೇರ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಜಾಗ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆ ರಚಿಸುವುದು ಉತ್ತಮ," ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕೆರೆ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರರು.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.6, Jan.13, 2024

Use scientific methods to capture smugglers

Wildlife trafficking, from Page 1

"Wildlife trafficking is the fourth-largest form of transnational organised crime after smuggling of drugs, human trafficking, and counterfeiting," says Nirmal Kulkarni, senior consultant of the counter wildlife trafficking team at Wildlife Conservation Society of India.

Low prosecution rates

The burgeoning industry is bolstered by low conviction and prosecution rates of poachers. According to data available from India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and attached police authorities, over 9,253 poachers were arrested between 2012 and 2018 in the country, but the rate of conviction was just 2%.

"It is hard to quantify the total natural wildlife resource loss, as in the majority of the cases, the crimes are not even reported," says Nithin Desai, the director of Central India Wildlife Protection Society of India.

In a 2023 report, researchers Ajay Kumar Rana and Nishant Kumar state that international wildlife trafficking networks mainly operate through long porous international borders or transit routes in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam. According to TRAFFIC, a majority of species endemic to India are traded off to China, Mexico, Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, parts of the Caribbean Islands, and other countries in Southeast Asia and Europe.

These poaching syndicates have continued to function due to the lack of a concerted effort to prevent these crimes. "The global organised crimes syndicate is so strong and wide-reaching in the Western and Eastern Ghats, that tracing them becomes impossible. Unless there is a consortium effort of various departments including customs, police, intelligence and others, we will never be able to prevent these

crimes," says Desai.

An official from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, for instance, states that though the government of India has empowered customs officials to arrest people about smuggling, several states have not allowed them to file cases in court against these individuals. "Karnataka is the only state to have done so. There is great difficulty in other regions," the official says.

The consequences

The proliferation of red-eared sliders in India's water bodies provides a glimpse into the consequences of the illegal trade of exotic species. The species of turtle is among the world's most commonly traded turtles in the world and is considered highly invasive.

The species, traded as pets, breeds faster compared to local varieties and also outcompetes endemic species for food. The turtles, originating from the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, are mainly smuggled through Chennai and Trichy. Today, there is a massive presence in the water bodies of Chandigarh, temple ponds of Guwahati, lakes of Bengaluru, the water bodies of Mumbai and Delhi's Yamuna river.

"Invasive species (like the red-eared slider) take over these habitats by feeding on selective species of fish which native species also depend on. This will have a long-term impact on the local biodiversity," says Desai.

The over-hunting of certain species like the pangolin can also threaten the survival of forests in the long run. Pangolins are regarded as guardians of the forests for their ability to keep termite populations in check and prevent tree damage and forest fires. They also play an important role in aerating the soil.

Pangolins are the most trafficked mammals in the world. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, some Asian pangolin species have declined by more than 50% in recent years. "Over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of poaching cases of pangolins in northeastern states and the Western Ghats," says Uttara Mendiratta, a wildlife trade expert.

The sighting of pangolins in these regions has come down drastically, she adds. "They are being poached for their meat and scales that are said to have medicinal qualities," Uttara says.

Several other animals with specific roles in the ecosystem are in danger today. "Body parts and derivatives are mostly traded in the international and domestic market for alternative medicines, meat, and other purposes. Animals such as owls, sand boas and others are traded in the domestic market for religious purposes," she says.

The illegal wildlife trade no doubt has an impact on the biodiversity of a region as the removal of select species can result in an imbalance in the food cycle. An often ignored consequence is the origin and spread of several zoonotic diseases.

The 2020 World Wildlife Crime Report states that some of the most deadly viral diseases including Ebola, Marburg virus disease, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and the most recent pandemic—Covid-19—have all arisen in areas where close human-wildlife contact occurs, as in wet markets.

Advancement of technology

The advancement of technology has also resulted in growing fear among experts about the changing nature of wildlife crime. The existence of chat rooms for those looking to smuggle wildlife products on the dark web is an example of how technology can be harnessed by criminals, according to officials.

The online trading of wildlife poses a great challenge to forest departments across the country. A majority do not have the required infrastructure and expertise to even report such sales. "It is altogether a different ball game, where the agencies are lagging," says Kirupasankar M, regional deputy director of the WCCB.

The forest department is already falling short in the detection and prosecution of traditional forms of wildlife crimes. "We can deter wildlife crime only when the conviction and punishment rate increases," says Kirupasankar.

Poor conviction rates have resulted

in the notion that illegal wildlife trade is a low-risk business with high returns. "Unfortunately, it is always the poor and the forest dwellers who get caught for hunting the animals and not the syndicate that creates the demand and supply chain," says Uttara.

Kirupasankar explains that a major deterrent to judicial proceedings is the lack of concrete evidence. "Courts follow certain procedures and seek proof of crime. Unlike other cases, providing eye-witnesses and substantive proof is impossible in wildlife crime," he says.

There is also a need to use more specialist techniques such as forensics to tackle poachers and bring down networks.

Kirupasankar says his department is attempting to bring all stakeholders including forest departments of various states on board to share information and intelligence, which is currently lacking, to prevent wildlife crime.

Improvements

Experts suggest that the forest department form special task forces that can take action on wildlife crimes and see cases to their logical end. For instance, Madhya Pradesh, which reports one of the highest numbers of tiger-poaching cases, has instituted the State Tiger Strike Force with dedicated staff and infrastructure to address wildlife crime.

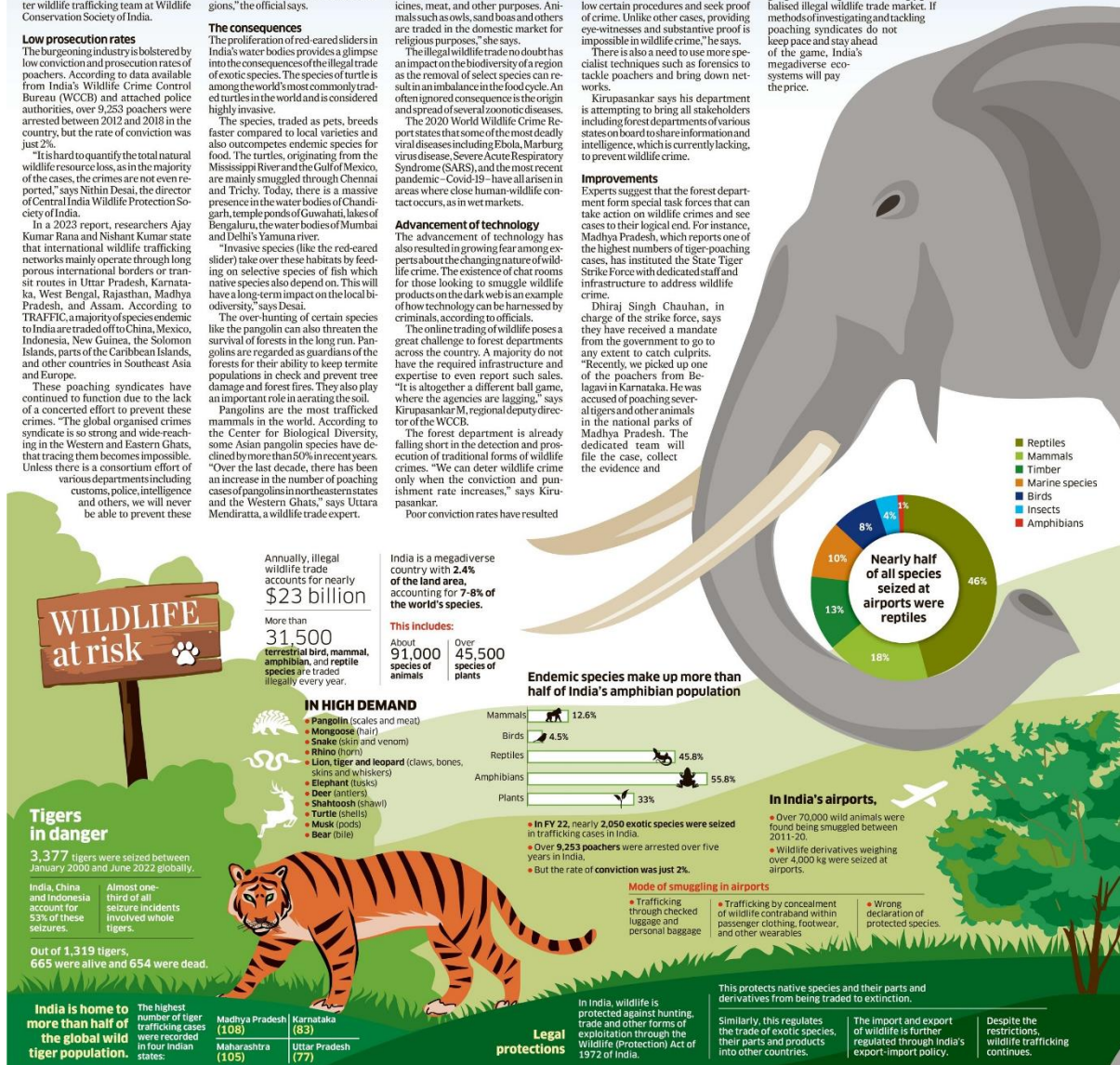
Dhiraj Singh Chauhan, in charge of the strike force, says they have received a mandate from the government to go to any extent to catch culprits. "Recently, we picked up one of the poachers from Bengaluru in Karnataka. He was accused of poaching several tigers and other animals in the national parks of Madhya Pradesh. The dedicated team will file the case, collect the evidence and

present the case in front of the court. This is helping us to improve conviction rate," he says.

Unfortunately, as dismal rates of conviction and even detection have prevailed over decades, time is running out for several of India's critically endangered and endemic species. The demand is growing and modes of smuggling are evolving in an increasingly globalised illegal wildlife trade market. If methods of investigating and tackling poaching syndicates do not keep pace and stay ahead of the game, India's megadiverse ecosystems will pay the price.

Have your say

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



Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 14, 2024



ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ, ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ, ಕೆರೆ ಮಿತ್ರ ಆ್ಯಪ್‌ಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್ ಸಿದ್ಧ | ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯಿಂದ ಅವಕಾಶ

ನಗರದ ಹಸಿರಿಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮೂರು ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮಣಿ | bsr/bd

ನಗರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳು, ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಜತೆಗೆ ನಗರವನ್ನು ಹಸಿರಿಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮೂರು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮೂರು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಆ್ಯಪ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ, ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ, ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆರೆ ಮಿತ್ರ ಎಂಬ ಮೂರು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್‌ಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್ ಆಪ್ hasirurakshaka.bbmg.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡಲಾದ ಗಿಡಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲುಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಅನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಹಾಯ 2.0ಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ದೂರವು ಸಹ ನೀಡುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಆಗಿ ತಮಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಗಿಡದ ವಿವರ, ಬೆಳೆದಾಗಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೋಷಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಗಿಡದ ಪೋಷಣೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂದರ್ಶಿಸಬಹುದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಲಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ಉನ್ನತವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ 'ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ' ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಆಪ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಂಶಗಳು

ಕೆರೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್ ಸೆಲ್ಯುಲರ್ ಸಹ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ [lms.bbmg.gov.in/lake](https://pms.bbmg.gov.in/lake) ಸದರಿ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆರೆಯ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೆರೆಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಹಾಗೂ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕುವ ಸಹ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಈಗ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ!

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಆಪ್‌ಗಳ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮಣಿ | bsr/bd

ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲೇ ಮೊದಲು

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಮೂರು ಆಪ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಅಕ್ಷೇಷ' 12ರಂದು 'ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಈಗ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ' ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ವರದಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಕೆರೆ ಮಿತ್ರ ಆಪ್ ಬಳಕೆ, ಮಾಹಿತಿ

ಈ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತುರ್ತಾಗಿ ದೈನಂದಿನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗಳು ಕಾಲ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆರೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು, ಸೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆರೆ ಮಿತ್ರರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತಪಾಸಣೆಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವಾದ ವಿವರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಅಂಶಗಳಾದ ಒಳಹರಿದಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಹೊರಹರಿದಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಬೆಳೆ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ, ಕೆಳ ತೆಗೆಯುವುದು, ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಳೆಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವುದು, ಲಾನ್, ಟ್ರಿಮಿಂಗ್, ಮರಗಿಡಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರುಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಇತರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಿನವಿವರ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಆಪ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಸದರಿ

ಉದ್ಯಾನ ಮಿತ್ರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

- ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವಾದ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗಳು ಕಾಲ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ಪಡೆಯುವಂತೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಈ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಯನ್ನು ಉದ್ಯಾನಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು, ಸೋಡಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಸಿರು ಮಿತ್ರರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತಪಾಸಣೆಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸವಾದ ವಿವರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಅಂಶಗಳಾದ ಒಳಹರಿದಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಕೆಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ, ಕೆಳ ತೆಗೆಯುವುದು, ಲಾನ್, ಮರಗಿಡಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀರುಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಇತರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಿನವಿವರ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಆಪ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಸದರಿ
- ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್ ಸೆಲ್ಯುಲರ್ ಸಹ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ <https://pms.bbmg.gov.in/park> ಸದರಿ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.
- <https://pms.bbmg.gov.in/park> ಲಿಂಕ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಸಿರು ರಕ್ಷಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೆಬಿಲಿಂಕ್ ಸೆಲ್ಯುಲರ್ ಸಹ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ <https://pms.bbmg.gov.in/park> ಸದರಿ ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಆಪ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡಲಾದ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಲಾ-ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಮಗೆ ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದುದು ಅಡಿಯಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವ ಪಾಸ್‌ವರ್ಡ್ ಬಳಸಿ 'ಸಸ್ಯ ಮರವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ' ಟ್ಯಾಗ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಗಿಡಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಬೆಳೆದಾಗಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಗಿಡದ ಬೆಳೆದಾಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾದ ತೊಂದರೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ.

ದಾಖಲಿಸುವುದು ದೂರವು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮನ್ವಯಿಗಳೆ ಅಲರ್ಕ್ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದೂರವು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.2, Jan.17, 2024

Rainfall rising in over half of India's sub-districts, says four-decade study

About 11% of tehsils witnessed reducing rainfall, of which 87% saw a decline during the critical kharif sowing months; many districts saw extreme deficiencies and excesses even during 'normal' monsoon; several tehsils of Maharashtra, Goa, Odisha, West Bengal report increasing winter rainfall

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Rainfall is increasing in more than half of India's 4,400-odd tehsils or sub-districts, says a granular analysis of changes in the Indian monsoon, conducted for the first time at the tehsil level. While 55% of tehsils have seen a rise in rainfall, about 11% have experienced a fall.

Worryingly, the decrease occurred largely during the critical southwest monsoon. In fact, of the tehsils experiencing lower rainfall, about 68% saw reduced rainfall in all the monsoon months from June to September, while 87% showed a decline during the initial monsoon months of June and July, which are crucial for the sowing of kharif crops. Most of these tehsils are in

the Indo-Gangetic plains – which contribute to more than half of India's agricultural production – as well as in northeastern India and the Indian Himalayan region.

The study – authored by Shravan Prabhu and Vishwas Chitale of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a research and policy think tank – analyses high-resolution meteorological data spanning four decades, from 1982 to 2022, which has been recorded by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

District-level extremes
India collectively experienced 29 "normal", eight "above-normal", and three "below-normal" monsoon years during that period. But an analysis at the district level reveals that 30% of India's districts wit-



In-depth: The study analyses high-resolution meteorological data from 1982 to 2022 that has been recorded by IMD. RITU RAJ KONWAR

nessed several more years of deficient rainfall and 38% saw many years of excessive rainfall. In fact, 23 districts – including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Nilgiris, Jaipur, Kutch, and Indore – experienced both extremes, with a higher number of deficient and excessive rainfall years. Several tehsils in Rajasthan, Gujarat, central Maharashtra

and parts of Tamil Nadu, which have historically been dry regions, have also been getting wetter, tying in with the finding that a majority of tehsils have been reporting increasing rainfall.

"In our study of localised wet rainfall extremes, we found that nearly 64% of Indian tehsils experienced an increase in the

frequency of heavy rainfall days by one to 15 days a year in the past decade during the southwest monsoon. This pattern is prominent in the tehsils of States with the highest GDPs – Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka. Further, we found that in tehsils experiencing increase in rainfall during the southwest monsoon, the excess is coming from short-duration, heavy rainfall events," the authors note.

'Erratic rain patterns'

Rainfall from the northeast monsoon, which sets in during October, November and December, primarily in peninsular India, has increased by more than 10% over the past decade (2012-2022) in approximately 80% of tehsils in Tamil Nadu, 44% in Telangana, and 39% in Andhra Pradesh,

respectively. The southwest monsoon accounts for nearly 76% of India's annual rainfall, with about 11% coming from the northeast monsoon.

While the remaining Indian States are usually dry during this period, several tehsils of Maharashtra and Goa on the west and Odisha and West Bengal on the east coast have been reporting increasing rainfall during winter. This increase could partly be attributed to cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

"As India readies for the Union Budget, it will be crucial to focus on future-proofing the economy against increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. The monsoons impact the food we eat, the water we drink and also our energy transition," Dr. Chitale said in a statement.

Source: The Hindu, p.14, Jan 18, 2024

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State reports 175 more JN.1 cases, taking total to 374

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After reporting 34 cases of JN.1 on December 25 and 165 cases on January 1, an additional 175 people from Karnataka are found to be infected with the highly transmissible new sub-variant of Omicron. With this, the total JN.1 cases in the State has now touched 374.

This follows whole genome sequencing of 828 samples at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and the NCBS in Bengaluru. Of the 443 results of samples that have been received till Friday, 84% (374)

are infected with JN.1, 7% (30) are found to be positive for XBB and the remaining are other variants.

While the district-wise break up of the JN.1 cases was not made available, officials said over 60% are from Bengaluru. Officials said the reports are of samples that were sent a fortnight ago.

163 new cases

On Friday, 163 new cases and 162 recoveries were reported, reducing the number of active cases to 994. The total number of deaths reported since December 15 has touched 28.

Source: The Hindu, p.5, Jan 13, 2024

TB: State's public notifications dropped by nearly 4% last year compared to 2022

However, pvt. notifications went up by 14%; India registers highest notifications in 2023, achieving 92% of annual target

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Sustaining the trend of tuberculosis (TB) notifications made in 2022, Karnataka has registered 81,331 TB notifications in 2023, achieving 81% of its annual target.

While this signifies the State's improved case detection measures, what is a matter of concern is that public notifications have gone down from 60,236 in 2022 to 58,125 in 2023, a drop by nearly 4%. However, private notifications have gone up by 14% in 2023 compared to 2022.

According to data from Nikshay portal, under the National TB Elimination Programme, India registered the highest notifica-

tions in 2023 (25,30,055), achieving 92% of the annual target. Among the larger States, Uttar Pradesh exceeded its target of 5.5 lakh recording 6.27 lakh TB notifications in 2023. Uttar Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra that achieved 91% of their target and New Delhi with 90% achievement last year, data revealed.

Private notifications

While over half of all tuberculosis patients seek care in the private sector, case notifications from the private sector have always been way behind the targets set by the government. While private doctors are reluctant to notify cases, laxity on part of che-

mists in monitoring the sale of anti-TB drugs that are covered under Schedule H1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act has also hit the State's fight against the infectious disease.

In 2023, Karnataka recorded a 14% rise in private notifications - up from 20,385 in 2022 (when the total notifications were 80,621) to 23,306 in 2023.

In 2021, there were 21.45 lakh new tuberculosis case notifications in India of which only 6.93 lakh were from the private sector. Karnataka reported 72,636 case notifications that year of which 19,652 were from the private sector. Earlier, annual targets were fixed based on population. From 2022 onwards the targets were revised on the basis

of prevalence,

State Joint Director (TB) Shivayogappa U. said a comprehensive district wise analysis will be done to ascertain the reason for drop in public notifications. Based on the analysis, targeted interventions can be taken up to improve case detection, he said.

TB has been a notifiable disease in the country since May 2012. Despite awareness regarding mandatory TB notification, a significant number of private practitioners do not report cases and this has led to cases being missed out of government data. Missing cases who are lost to follow up are one of the prime reasons for quick spread of the infection.

After incentivising priv-

ate notifications, the Union Health Ministry criminalised non-reporting of tuberculosis in early 2018 and as per the government notification, doctors, hospital authorities, chemists and druggists could face a jail term for not notifying TB cases.

Stigma attached

Several practitioners find reporting a hassle as many patients do not want to reveal the infection mainly because of stigma. Among other factors is migration. Many patients also give up treatment because of side effects or as soon as they feel better. This can increase the risk of developing drug-resistant TB which is more difficult and expensive to treat.

State's year-wise TB notifications

Total notifications	
2023	81,354 (81%)
2022	80,621 (81%)
2021	72,692 (54%)
2020	65,970 (49%)
2019	91,997 (71%)
Public notifications	
2023	58,128 (83%)
2022	60,236 (93%)
2021	53,612 (67%)
2020	50,045 (59%)
2019	74,259 (99%)
Private notifications	
2023	23,226 (77%)
2022	20,385 (58%)
2021	19,080 (35%)
2020	15,925 (32%)
2019	17,738 (32%)

(Percentage in bracket indicates achievement of annual target)
(Source: Nikshay portal)

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Jan 15, 2024

Nearly 38 lakh people counselled, treated for mental health issues at govt.-run clinics in four years

Over 10% of those treated and counselled at government centres reported common mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, substance and alcohol abuse

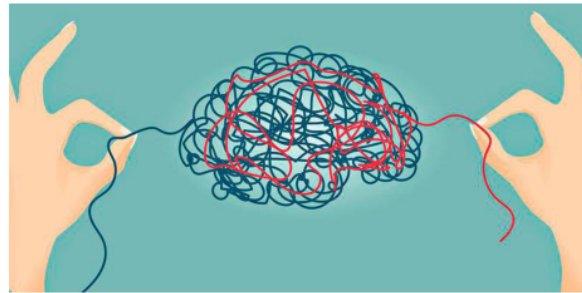
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the past four years, over 38 lakh people have been treated and counselled for mental health issues at State-run mental health clinics in district hospitals and medical colleges.

According to information provided by the Health Department in the winter session of the State legislature, while 10,63,242 people with mental illness have been treated and counselled in the government centres in 2019-2020, the subsequent years saw 9,02,040, 8,65,386, and 9,40,514 people receiving treatment and counselling.

Sanctioned posts

Data revealed there are 71 posts sanctioned for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers in district hospitals. Of these, 19 posts are vacant. Besides, of the 244 sanctioned posts for



According to data, there are 71 posts sanctioned for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers in district hospitals in Karnataka. GETTY IMAGES

outsourced employees, 32 are vacant.

Rajani P., State Deputy Director (Mental Health), told *The Hindu* recently that over 10% of those treated and counselled at the government centres reported common mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, substance and alcohol abuse apart from obsessive compulsive disorders (OCDs).

“The number of mental health consultations are increasing. We are also seeing many suicide attempt cases and priority is given to counsel/treat them and stop them from

making repeat attempts,” she said.

Stating that mental health facilities exist in all district hospitals and medical college hospitals in the State, Dr. Rajani said the department’s Manochaitanya and Manasadhara programmes to provide free of cost treatment, counselling and medicines to people suffering from mental health disorders and their rehabilitation are running successfully.

Karnataka, under the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), is one of the few States to have dedicated

psychiatrists as team leaders in all districts. Besides, all PHC doctors are being trained to provide the first line of treatment, she said.

Brain Health Initiative

Dr. Rajani said the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) that is currently running in Bengaluru South, Kolar, and Chickballapur districts is being extended to all districts.

Recognising the need to improve treatment and prevent neurological disorders in the community, the Health Department in association with NIMHANS and Niti Aayog launched Ka-BHI in January last year.

“We are setting up brain health clinics in all district hospitals and recruitment has started. Seven clinics are already in place and 15 are under progress.”

“In the next three weeks, the process of establishing brain health clinics in all districts will be completed,” she added.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Jan 14, 2024

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Gender

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಹಳ್ಳಿವಾಸಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಕೊಡುವವರಿಲ್ಲ: ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಟ್ಟ ವಧುಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ

ಯುವ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಬೇಕು ಸಂಗಾತಿ

• ಸೂರ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ವಿ.

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ: ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಂತೇಮರಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಯುವಕ ನಾಗೇಂದ್ರಗೆ ಈಗ 30ರ ಹರೆಯು. ಕೃಷಿಯೇ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ. ಉತ್ತಮ ಆದಾಯವೂ ಇದೆ.

ಬಂಟ್ವಾಳ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಯುವಕ-ರೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ಈಗ 33 ವರ್ಷ. ವೃತ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್. ಕೈತುಂಬಾ ಸಂಬಳ. ಊರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿಯನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಳಲು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಯುವ ರೈತನಿಗೆ 30 ವರ್ಷ ದಾಟಿದೆ. ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ಗದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ದಿನವಿಡೀ ಕೆಲಸ. ಸ್ವರದ್ರೂಪಿ. ಕೃಷಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬೇರೆ ಕೆಲಸವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಈ ಮೂವರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಒಂದೇ: ಹಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಮದುವೆಗಾಗಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಹುಡುಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೃಷಿಕ ಎಂಬುದು ಒಂದು ಕಾರಣ. 'ಟೆಕ್ನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಊರಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಾರ' ಎಂಬುದು ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಾರಣ. 'ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಮನೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕದು' ಎಂಬುದು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಾರಣ.

ಇದು ಮೂವರ ಕಥೆಯಲ್ಲ: ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮದುವೆಯ ಅವಕಾಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಲೇ ಇರುವ ಯುವ ಕೃಷಿಕರು, ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗಿಗಳು



ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವು ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿಗಳ ಕಥೆ-ವೃಥಾ. ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಿರುವ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಕೆಲಸ, ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸಂಬಳದ ಹುಡುಗರಿಗೆ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂರ್ನಾಲ್ಕು ಎಕರೆ ಜಮೀನು, ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಂಪಾದನೆ ಇದ್ದರೂ ವಧು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯವಾಗಿ ಸಣ್ಣಪುಟ್ಟ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ, ವೈದಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಯವರಿಗೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಕೊಡುವ ಮಾತೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ಇದು ಈಗ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಗಿದೆ. 2022ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ನಾಗಮಂಗಲದ ಆದಿಚುಂಚನಗಿರಿ ಮಠದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದ ವಧು ವರರ ಸಮಾವೇಶವು ಈ ಗಂಭೀರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆದಿಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ 250 ವಧುಗಳು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ, ವರರು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಕರು ಸೇರಿ 25 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನ ಸೇರಿದ್ದರು!

8ನೇ ಪ್ರುಟ ನೋಟ



ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಾಗಮಂಗಲದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆದಿಚುಂಚನಗಿರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ 2022ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ ವಧು-ವರರ ಸಮಾವೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡವರು

ಮದುವೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ವಂಚನೆಯ ಜಾಲ

ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ವಧುಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆತಂದು ಮದುವೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ರೂಪಾಯಿ, ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಬರುವುದಾದರೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಖರ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಬಂಡವಾಳವಾಗಿ- ಸುವ ಕೆಲವರು, ಹೊರರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೊರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ತಂದು ಮದುವೆ ಮಾಡಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ನಂಬಿಸಿ ವಂಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಏಜೆಂಟರು ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ದೂರದ ಊರಿನಿಂದ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕರೆತಂದು, ಹೋಟೆಲಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಭಾಭವನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಧು- ವರರ ಸಮಾವೇಶ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕುದುರಿದರೆ, ಹುಡುಗನ ಕಡೆಯವರಿಂದ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣ ಪಡೆದು ನಾಶಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

8ನೇ ಪ್ರುಟ ನೋಟ

'ಕೃಷಿಯನ್ನೂ ಘನತೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾಣಬೇಕಿದೆ'

ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಸಿಗದಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಲಿಂಗಾನುಪಾತದ ಕುಸಿತದ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಕೃಷಿ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಘನತೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು, ಜಾತಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವರ್ಗ ಭೇದವೂ ಕಾರಣ. ಅಂತರ್ಜಾತಿ ವಿವಾಹಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಗಳು ತೆರೆದು



ಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಜಾತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉಪ ಪಂಗಡದ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನೂ ಸಮಾಜ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಹೆಣ್ಣು-ಗಂಡನ್ನು ಘನತೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಡದಿರುವುದು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯ ಮೂಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಎಚ್‌ಸಿ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಹೋಂ ಸೈನ್ಸ್‌ನ ಸಮಾಜ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ಡಾ.ಪಿ.ಜಿ.ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಪತಿ.

Continued....

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ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ನಾಗಣ್ಣ ಗೌಡ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

49 ಸಾವಿರದಷ್ಟು ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು

ಮಂಗಳೂರು: ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 49 ಸಾವಿರದಷ್ಟು ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಯುವತಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಾಗಿರುವ ವಿಚಾರ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ನಾಗಣ್ಣ ಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರೆಸ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಅವರು, ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಯುವತಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಾಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿರುವುದು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವರದಿ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ತಂಡ ರಾಜ್ಯದ 31 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೂ ತೆರಳಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಯನ್ನು ಕಲೆ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದೆ ಜನವರಿ ಅಂತ್ಯದೊಳಗೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ವರದಿ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೀಡಿದ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದು, ಮಾದಕ ದ್ರವ್ಯ ವ್ಯಸನಿಯಾಗಿರು

- ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.
- ಮಾದಕ ವಸ್ತು, ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ದೂರ ಇರುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.
- ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಹಕ್ಕು ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 18 ವರ್ಷದ ವರೆಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಬೇಕು.
- ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧವೇ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಆಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಇದೆ

ವುದು ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿವೆ. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಫೋನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ನೇಹದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಯುವತಿಯರು ಬಲಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜೀವ ಹಾಗೂ ಜೀವನ ಬಹುಮುಖ್ಯ. ಇವರ ಜತೆ ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಚೆಲ್ಲಾಟವಾಡಲು ಆಯೋಗ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಫೋಕ್ಲೋ, ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಖಡುಗುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿಯೇ ಸುಮಾರು 21 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ

ಒಳಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ: ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯಾದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದರೂ ಕಾನೂನು ಪ್ರಕಾರ 18 ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಪರಾಧವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗ ಪೋಕ್ಲೋ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಬಾಲಕಿ ಗರ್ಭಧರಿಸಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಗುವ ಆರೋಪಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆರೋಪಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 20 ವರ್ಷ ಜೈಲು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು 18 ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮಗುವಿನ ಪೋಷಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಂಪತ್ಯ ಬೇರ್ಪಡಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ. ಅಪ್ರಾಪ್ತ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರು ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಗ ಕಾನೂನು ಪಾಲನೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಮಾನವೀಯತೆಯ ಇಕ್ಕಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ನಾಗಣ್ಣ ಗೌಡ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

240 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅತ್ಯಹತ್ಯೆ: ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 240 ಮಕ್ಕಳು ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 18 ವರ್ಷದೊಳಗಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲೇ ಇರುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಶಾಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಪಾಲನೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ನಾಗಣ್ಣ ಗೌಡ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

Source: Vishwavani, p.4, Jan.18, 2024

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Governance

Govt. likely to allow one-time entry for 11,700 staff to OPS

The State government is likely to allow a one-time option to about 11,700 employees, who are currently under National Pension Scheme (NPS), to return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). A meeting in this regard was held here recently chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The issue was pending for decision in the Finance Department for the last six months. On the occasion, employees under NPS also made a presentation about withdrawal from NPS by citing examples of five States that have withdrawn from NPS, said Shantharam, president of Karnataka State Government NPS Employees' Association. These 11,700 employees were appointed to the vacancies or posts advertised prior to December 22, 2003, but came to be covered under NPS on joining the service on or after January 1, 2004.

Source: The Hindu, p.10, Jan 13, 2024

City staring at water crisis this summer

BWSSB officials are hoping that the drinking water needs of the city are prioritised over other uses, from the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A water crisis appears to be looming large in the city in the summer months due to severe drought in the region. The problem is two-fold: low water levels in the region's reservoirs and receding groundwater levels.

The city receives 1,450 million litres per day (MLD) of water from the Cauvery and will get 775 MLD more once the Cauvery V Stage is commissioned in April. The city also depends on groundwater resources for up to 700 MLD every day.

While the groundwater crisis is evident and acute, officials are hoping that the drinking water needs of the city are prioritised over other uses from the reservoirs in the Cauvery basin and Bengaluru will be able to scrape through till the monsoon sets in, in June.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has written two letters to Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd., appealing to them to reserve 1.6 tmcft of water every month till March and 2.42 tmcft of water every month from April.

"There is just enough water to meet the drinking water needs of the region, including Bengaluru. But if the government releases water to save the standing crops like it recently released the Krishna waters from reservoirs to save the chilli crop, the water scarcity is going to be severe.



Most of the apartments in the outer zones of Bengaluru have been dependent on water tankers, which have become hard to come by and the prices have shot up considerably in the last month.

Mekedatu imperative for city's water needs: HDD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Asserting that immediate permission should be given for the Mekedatu project to meet the growing demand for drinking water in Bengaluru, the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said that it is crucial for Bengaluru's water needs.

"Bengaluru is a fast-growing city providing employment and livelihood to people from across the

country. An impending water crisis in the city can be avoided only if the Mekedatu drinking water project is implemented. Otherwise, the city will be stuck in a huge water crisis," he said, addressing a press meet.

Bengaluru's population which currently stands at 1.35 crore is set to exceed three crore by 2044. The city will need over 64 tmcft of water to meet the drinking water needs of such a large population, he said.

Even otherwise, there are many variables: the Cauvery Water Management Authority may ask us to release more water to Tamil Nadu and we need to account for evaporation losses and dead storage, which

may lead to a shortage. We need to manage the resources judiciously," said a senior BWSSB official.

Campaign to save water
Given the precarious situation, the BWSSB is all set to

Storage in KRS, Kabini reservoirs

The Hindu bureau
MYSURU

The water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) on Saturday was 95.53 ft as against the maximum level of 124.8 ft while in Kabini the reservoir, the level was 2,272.5 ft as against the maximum of 2,284 ft.

The cumulative storage in the KRS and the Kabini reservoirs – the two major sources of drinking water to millions of people in the Cauvery basin of the State – was nearly 32.89 thousand million cubic

feet (tmcft) on Saturday.

While the quantum of water available in the KRS is 19.51 tmcft, the storage is 13.38 tmcft in Kabini. The storage position may appear to be comfortable on the surface. But in comparison, 40.96 tmcft of water was available in the KRS on the same day last year and the cumulative storage in both reservoirs was 53.67 tmcft which brings to the fore the severity of the monsoon failure in 2023.

Dead storage

Again, about 4.5 tmcft of

water from the KRS and 3.52 tmcft from the Kabini reservoir has to be discounted for dead storage which reduces the available water for consumption to around 25 tmcft.

The Bengaluru-Mysuru belt requires about 3.5 tmcft of water a month and if the region has to evade a water crisis in the coming summer, the available storage in the reservoirs has to be reserved exclusively for drinking purposes, thereby denying water to farmers to save the standing crops.

launch a 'Save Water' campaign in two weeks.

Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has instructed the BWSSB to launch a water conservation campaign for this summer. "The campaign will appeal to industries to try to use reused water and common citizens to save water at homes," said Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB chairman. People will be asked to stop washing vehicles with running water, avoid using bathtubs, showers, and try to reuse water if possible, sources said.

Depleting groundwater

The water crisis is already acute in outer zones, areas not getting Cauvery water and are dependent on groundwater. Most of the

apartments in these areas have been dependent on water tankers, which have become hard to come by and prices have shot up considerably in the last month.

"Groundwater levels are depleting and borewells are going dry. We are not able to find adequate water. We have three borewells, of which two have gone dry. While it used to take 20 minutes to fill a 12,000-litre tanker earlier, it now takes nearly three hours. So the output is so less and we are not able to service even our regular customers," said Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Mahadevapura zone.

The price of a tanker load of 12,000 litres, which was ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 a

month ago, has shot up to ₹1,500 to ₹1,700. "In another month's time, it will cost more than ₹2,000," Mr. Reddy said.

While some tanker businesses are trying to drill more borewells, illegally, drawing the ire of residents in Mahadevapura, prompting the Minor Irrigation Department to form a Special Task Force to check the menace, the spate of new borewells have also come down as many have failed of late. Of the 11,000 government-owned borewells in the city, 800 have been completely out of service and even in those functional, water levels are receding. "We have asked all zonal officers to come up with action plans to rejuvenate these borewells," Mr. Manohar said.

Source: The Hindu, p.3, Jan 14, 2024

ಕಾನೂನಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ **ಖಾಸಗಿ ಮೀಸಲು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ**

■ ರುದ್ರಣ್ಣ ಹರ್ಷಿಕೋಟೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಕನ್ನಡಿಯೊಳಗಿನ ಗಂಟಿನಂತಾಗಿದ್ದ ಖಾಸಗಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮೀಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತಾರ್ಕಿಕ ಅಂತ್ಯ ಕಾಣಿಸಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಸರೋಜಿನಿ ಮಹಿಷಿ ವರದಿಗೆ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಇತ್ತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ಕನ್ನನು ನನ್ನನು ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಉದ್ಯಮಿ ಜತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಆರ್ದರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ (ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆದೇಶ)

ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರಲು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಸ್ಟಾಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಆರ್ದರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂತೋಷ್ ಲಾಡ್ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದರೆ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಶಯ ಈಡೇರಲಿದೆ.

● ಪುಟ 6

ವಿವಿಧ ಶೇಷ

ವಿರೋಧ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದರೆ ವಿರೋಧ ಬರುವುದು ಸಹಜ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. ಆ ರೀತಿಯ ವಿರೋಧ ಬಂದರೆ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.



- » ಮೂಲ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ
- » ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದ 'ಅದೃಶ್ಯ' ತೆಗೆದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಪದ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ
- » ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನಿಯಮ ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕ್ರಮ

ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲು

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಶೇ.5 ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸುಪ್ರೀಂಕೋರ್ಟ್ ತೀರ್ಪಿನ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಮೀಸಲು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, 2019ರ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.5 ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತೆ ಎಂಬ ಪದ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಶೇ.5 ರಷ್ಟು ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು 'ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲು' ಎಂದು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆ?

ಡಾ.ಸರೋಜಿನಿ ಮಹಿಷಿ ವರದಿಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 50ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿರುವ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.65 ಎ ದರ್ಜೆಯ, ಶೇ.80 ಬಿ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇ.100 ರಷ್ಟು ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡಿ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ, ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಲಾಭಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ವರದಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದು 40 ವರ್ಷವಾದರೂ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 2016ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಮಾಡಿ 2019ರ ಡಿ.12 ರಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದೃಶ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಎಂಬ ಪದ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದೀಗ 'ಅದೃಶ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ' ಎಂಬ ಪದ ತೆಗೆದು ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರನ್ನು 'ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ' ಎಂಬ ಪದ ಸೇರಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಷಿ ವರದಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು ಯಾರು?

ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರೆಂದರೆ ಯಾರು ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಉದ್ಭವವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದನ್ನೂ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಆರ್ದರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾತೃ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿರಬೇಕು, 1 ರಿಂದ 10 ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯ ತನಕ 100 ಅಂಕಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರೆದು ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಅಥವಾ 1 ರಿಂದ 10ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯ ತನಕ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಪರತ್ತು ವಿಧಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

K'taka starts aggressive drive to reclaim over 1.1 lakh acres of govt land

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Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has launched a statewide drive to reclaim over 1.1 lakh acres of government land unlawfully occupied by encroachers across 31 districts. The Karnataka Public Lands Corporation Limited (KPLCL) has set a deadline of January 31 for deputy commissioners to develop action plans to identify, clear, and regain control of vacant government plots currently held by squatters and land mafias.

As per data compiled by KPLCL, out of Karnataka's total land bank of 63.3 lakh acres, a substantial 14.7 lakh acres are under unauthorised occupation. While over 10 lakh acres across the state are being cultivated by farmers who have filed applications seeking land

JAN 31 DEADLINE

➤ K'taka Public Lands Corpn Ltd sets **Jan 31 deadline for DCs** to devise plan of action to reclaim encroached land

➤ Of the **63.3 lakh acres in Karnataka govt's land bank**, 14.7 lakh acres are under unauthorised occupation

➤ **Chikkamagaluru tops list with 34k acres**, followed by Hassan (28,243 acres) and Chitradurga (15,552 acres)

grants from the government, approximately 3.9 lakh acres have been earmarked by KPLCL for clearance of encroachments.

So far, district administrations have been able to reclaim more than 2.7 lakh acres of public land, leaving 1.1 lakh acres that remain to be reposessed and brought back under government control.

► **Police team to probe, P 2**

Continued..

Revenue, police teams to probe landgrab complaints

► Continued from page 1

Chikkamagaluru leads the list of districts with the highest incidence of land encroachment, with more than 34,000 acres of revenue land to be recovered from illegal occupiers, followed by Hassan with 28,243 acres, and Chitradurga with 15,552 acres. In contrast, Raichur has only three acres, and Haveri seven acres that need to be reclaimed.

The B'luru problem

Bengaluru Urban district too has not been immune to encroachment of prime government land. According to data from KPLCL, 38,947 acres of revenue land in the urban area was encroached

DISTS WITH MOST ENCROACHMENTS

District	Encroachment identified to reclaim	Clearance by district administrations	Pending clearance
Chikkamagaluru	42,088	7,983	34,105
Hassan	31,566	3,323	28,243
Chitradurga	25,352	9,800	15,552
Shivamogga	8,109	3,974	4,135
Kolar	9,479	5,859	3,620
In remaining 26 districts	2,73,147	2,42,839	30,308
Total	3,89,741	2,73,778	1,15,963

Source: KPLCL | Numbers in acres

upon, and authorities have recovered 16,478 acres. However, 270 acres remains to be cleared of squatters in the rapidly developing IT hub.

Additionally, 3,662 acres

have been targeted across Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru. Reclaiming such unlawfully occupied land pockets will secure scarce land assets to fund

Bengaluru's infrastructure expansion, while also dismantling the grip of politically connected land grabbers on these illicit goldmines.

KPLCL managing director P Vasanthakumar said reclaiming grabbed revenue commons from encroachers has been made a top priority mission of revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda. "We have asked deputy commissioners to utilise their revenue and police teams to investigate encroachment complaints, verify ground status, evict squatters and recover occupied land plots. DCs have to submit detailed action plans by month-end listing areas cleared and pending recovery," Vasanthakumar stated.

Source: The Times of India, p. 1&2, Jan 15, 2024.

Gruha Jyothi rules tweaked to help families using less than 48 units

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to modify the June 5, 2023, order on Gruha Jyothi to provide relief to power consumers using less units monthly.

The decision entails provision of 10 additional units instead of 10% of average utilisation by LT2 consumers who use less than 48 units monthly. The decision was taken to enable poor families since additional 10 units on the average used units would be higher than 10%.

The Cabinet note said that poor families using 30 units would get just 33 un-

Decision entails provision of 10 additional units instead of 10% of average utilisation by LT2 consumers who use less than 48 units monthly

its after 10 % calculation. In Bescom alone, as many as 69.73 lakh families are using less than 48 units, who will be benefitted with the decision.

This will cost an additional ₹33 crore to the exchequer. A total of 1.95 crore families across the State are using an average 53 units monthly.

Welfare board

To bring relief to drivers and cleaners in the transport sector, the Cabinet approved creation of Kar-

nataka Motor Transport and other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Board.

It is estimated that 83 % of the workers are in unorganised sector. To raise money to the board, the government has decided to re allocate tax resources from transport department. As per the proposal, the tax collected from infrastructure projects across Karnataka and a part of the equity invested in Bangalore Mass Rapid Transit Ltd.

The Cabinet decided to defer decisions on issues related to late payment surcharge to be paid by Power Company of Karnataka Ltd. (PCKL) and Escoms to Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL).

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons after the Cabinet that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has suggested deferring decisions and obtain expert and legal advice on the issues.

They include payment of ₹1,348 crore to be paid by PCKL and Escoms to UPCL towards late payment surcharge and ₹ 1,061 crore to be paid to UPCL by Escoms.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Jan 19, 2024

Cabinet modifies policy on scrapping vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Modifying the policy on scrapping of registered vehicles in the State, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved revised rates of concession in motor vehicle tax against submission of certificate of deposit after scrapping old vehicles.

As much as 10% tax concessions will be given on all the construction equipment vehicles, including tractors.

Tax concession

The tax concession to be given for newly registered vehicles against submission of certificate of deposit for transport vehicles is

As much as 10% tax concessions will be given on all construction equipment vehicles, including tractors

10% tax concession on the life time tax (LTT) for newly registered transport vehicles, 10% tax concession given on the tax to be paid with in quarterly, yearly up to 8 years for newly registered transport vehicles and ₹50 tax concession to be given on autorickshaws.

The Cabinet also approved tax concession for new vehicles in two-wheeler and four-wheeler categories based on the ex-showroom price of new vehicle.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Jan 19, 2024

ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿ 'ಕೈ' ತೊಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮೀಸಲು ಹೊಣೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ರವಾನೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಕ್ಕೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು, ಜಗಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಬಸವಣ್ಣರನ್ನು 'ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ನಾಯಕ' ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸುವ ಮಹತ್ವದ ನಿರ್ಣಯಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಗುರುವಾರ ಅನ್ನು ಎಂದಿದೆ. ಆಮೂಲಕ ಒಂದೆಡೆ ದಲಿತರು, ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಲಿಂಗಾಯತರನ್ನು ಓಲೈಸಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಲೋಕಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಮತ ಲಾಭ' ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಜಾಣನಡೆ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಭೋವಿ, ಬಂಜಾರ, ಕೊರಚೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊರಮ ಸೇರಿ 101 ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸುವ ಆಶಯ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹಬ್ಬಿದ್ದ ವದಂತಿಗೂ ಶಾಶ್ವತವಾಗಿ ತೆರೆ ಎಳೆದಿದೆ.

ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಚತುರತೆ: ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 'ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಚತುರ' ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು, ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹೆಗಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಿಸಿ 'ಕೈ' ತೊಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 'ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ ಪರಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ 341 ಉಪಬಂಧ 3ಕ್ಕೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರಲು ಕೋರಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ವಸ್ತುಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಪರಾಮರ್ಶೆ: ನ್ಯಾ.ಸದಾಶಿವ ಅಯ್ಯೋಗದ ವರದಿ, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಆಡಳಿತಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ನಿರ್ಣಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಭೆ ಪರಾಮರ್ಶಿಸಿತು. ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಯೋಗದ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಆಶ್ವಾಸನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದೆವು ಎಂದು ಸಭೆ ಬಳಿಕ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಸಿ. ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಹೇಳಿದರು. **ಫುಟ 4**



ಬಸವಣ್ಣ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ನಾಯಕ



ಜಗಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ 'ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ನಾಯಕ' ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಅನುಭವ ಮಂಟಪ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಪೂರ್ವ ನಿಗದಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2025ರೊಳಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಲೋಕಾರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಸಚಿವ ಈಶ್ವರಬಂಡೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಫೆ.16ಕ್ಕೆ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮಂಡನೆ

ಈ ವರ್ಷದ ಮೊದಲ ಅಧಿವೇಶನ ಫೆ.12ಕ್ಕೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಫೆ.16ರಂದು 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಷರತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು

ಗೃಹ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಸುವ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಬ್ಸಿಡಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಶಃ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಕಳೆದ 12 ತಿಂಗಳು ಸರಾಸರಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಜತೆಗೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಶೇ.10 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1.95 ಕೋಟಿ ಗೃಹ ಬಳಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರು ಸರಾಸರಿ 53 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರಿಗೆ 58 ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಆಗಿದೆ. 30 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಡ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕೇವಲ 33 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ 48 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬಳಸುವ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಶೇ.10 ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ 10 ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಭರವಸೆಯಂತೆ ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ ಮೀಸಲು ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಪರಮಾಧಿಕಾರವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನಮ್ಮ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

| ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಸಿ. ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವ

ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮೋಸದಾಟ ಬಿಡಬೇಕು. ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಲು 8 ತಿಂಗಳು ಬೇಕಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ನ್ಯಾ.ಅರುಣ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಮಿಶ್ರಾ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

| ಗೋವಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಜೋಳ ಮಾಜಿ ಸಚಿವ

ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ ನಿಯಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ

48 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬಳಸುವವರಿಗೆ 10 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಉಚಿತ: ಸಂಪುಟ ನಿರ್ಣಯ

■ ವಿಳಾಸದೊಳಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮಾಸಿಕ 48 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಸುವವರಿಗೆ 'ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ' ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಶೇ.10ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ ಬದಲಿಗೆ 10 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

'ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ'ಯಡಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ 48 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಸುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ 2 ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಶೇ.10ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಈ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ 10 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಸಮ್ಮತಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಳೆದ ಜೂ. 5ರಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಆದೇಶ ಮಾರ್ಪಡಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಂಪುಟದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನದಿಂದ, 48 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಬಳಸುವವರಿಗೆ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಶೇ.10ರ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಸೇರಿ 53 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇನ್ನುಮುಂದೆ 58 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 69.73 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು 48 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರ 10 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ನಿರ್ಧಾರದಿಂದ 33 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತವಾಗುವ ಅಂದಾಜಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೃಹ ಬಳಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಬಳಕೆ 53 ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಸ್ಥಿರವಾಗಿ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಶೇ. 10ರಷ್ಟು ಉಚಿತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 58 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ.

ಕೆಪಿಸಿಎಲ್ ಸಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಖಾತರಿ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ನಿಗಮವು (ಕೆಪಿಸಿಎಲ್) ನಗರದ ಒಳಹರಿವಿನ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್/ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಾಲದ ಮೊರೆ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗಮವು 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 8664 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ., 2023-24ನೇ

ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನಿರ್ಣಯ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಪೇರು ಬಂಡವಾಳವನ್ನು 600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ನಿಂದ 1200 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ■ ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ ನಗರದ ಹಳೆ ಜೈಲು ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 46.32 ಎಕರೆ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ಅಲ್ಪಮ ಪ್ರಭು ಉದ್ಯಾನ' ಎಂದು ನಾಮಕರಣ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ■ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾದ 'ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ರೆಕಾರ್ಡ್ಸ್' ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 3455 ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್, ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನರ್, ರೋವರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಿಂಟರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು 30.45 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ■ ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ಸಿದ್ಧಾರ್ಥ ಮೆಮೋರಿಯಲ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿಗೆ ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ಮಹಲಬಾಗಾಯತ್ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 153ಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂಲ ಬೆಲೆಯ (88.71 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.) ಅರ್ಧ ಭಾಗದ ಕುಲ್ಕ ವಾವತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭಾಕಿ ಬಡ್ತಿ ವಾವತೀಗಿ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ■ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಆನೇಕಲ್ ಪಟ್ಟಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಭವನ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ 17.40 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ■ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಹಲಸೂರು ಕೆರೆ ಬಳಿಯ ಕೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್‌ಟನ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 18 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ಸೌಧ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಘಟನೋತ್ತರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ

ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 5134 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ನಗರದ ಒಳಹರಿವಿನ ಕೊರತೆ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದೆ. ಜುಲೈ 2023ರ ಸೆ. 30ರ ಅಂತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಖರೀದಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 17,366 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ನಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ 1630 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಹಾಗೂ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ 2800 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 4430 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಮವು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್/ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸರಕಾರದ ಖಾತರಿ ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪುಟ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶವನ್ನು (ಯುಯುಸಿಎಂಎಸ್) ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು 15.13 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಯೋಜನಾ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಕೆ ಸೂಚಿತ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 30 ಸಿಟಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ 30 ಮಿಲಿ ಮತ್ತು 4300 ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ನೆರವಾಗುವುದು. 14.5

ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆ
<p>ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ದತ್ತ ಪೀಠದ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುದತ್ತಾತ್ರೇಯ ಬಾಬಾಬುಡನ್ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದರ್ಗಾ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸೈಯದ್ ಗೌಸ್ ಮೊಯಿಯುದ್ದೀನ್ ತಾಮಾದ್ರಿ ಅವರು ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿಗೆ ಆಕ್ರೇಷಣೆ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆಗೆ ಸೂಚಿತ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಕಾರದ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಲು, ಲಿಖಿತ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪಸಮಿತಿ ರಚನೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ.ಜಿ.ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯ ಸಂಪುಟ ಉಪಸಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಚ್. ಕೆ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ರಾಮಲಿಂಗಾರದ್ರೆ, ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬೈರೇಗೌಡ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಜಾರ್ಜ್ ಇರಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.</p>

ಲಕ್ಷ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯುಯುಸಿಎಂಎಸ್ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಪೇಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಕುಲಸ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು 400 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹಣವನ್ನು ವಿವಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ವಿವಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸುಮಾರು 70ರಿಂದ 80 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಉಳಿತಾಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.4, Jan.19, 2024

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Social Issues

Vokkaliga forum to seek GI tag for Ragi Mudde

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A forum representing the Vokkaliga community is gearing up to seek the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Ragi Mudde (finger millet balls), a traditional food of the farming community in southern Karnataka and parts of Tamil Nadu.

The First Circle Society (FCS), a forum for development of the Vokkaliga business community, said it will apply for the tag as millet products are gaining international attention because of their health benefits.

FCS president Nandeesh S Rajegowda, an intrapreneur from Hassan, said they have collected application forms to apply for the certification and



ON A GLOBAL PLATTER

formed a committee. The aim is to standardise Ragi Mudde preparation which is high in nutrition, he added.

The GI certification is issued by Geographical Indications Registry for a product that belongs to a specific geographic location or origin. "Ragi Mudde is one of the main cuisines of the Vokkaliga community and we have decided to get a GI tag for

it," said Rajegowda.

Bharathi Shankar of FCS said the cuisine first came to be known across India when HD Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister. "The new generation of the Vokkaliga community and other communities depending on farming are attracted to pizza, burgers and similar foreign foods. We need to create awareness on our cuisine," she said.

She said the FCS will showcase the traditional food in 12 stalls at Udyami Vokkaliga Expo-2024 between January 19 and 21 at Palace Grounds.

MG Balakrishna, senior vice-president of FKCCI, said FCS will guide the new entrepreneurs about where to start their industry, how to get profit and other things.

State govt to sell honey under 'Jhenkara' brand

The government will introduce its own brand of honey, 'Jhenkara' (Kannada word for humming of bees).

Shamla Iqbal, secretary, horticulture department, said the brand will be launched by CM Siddaramaiah on January 18. The department had sought a suitable name for its brand and received 2,400 suggestions.

Dr Hemalatha, assistant director of horticulture said: "We have several varieties of samples from coastal, Malnad and Bayaluseeme regions. After clearing the quality test, these varieties will be marketed under the brand."

Source: The Times of India, p. 3, Jan 17, 2024.

State to recommend to Centre to amend Constitution for allowing internal quota among SC communities

Social Welfare Minister says States cannot tinker with quota matrix unless Article 341 (3) is inserted through an amendment; Article 341 (1) and (2) pertain to inclusion or exclusion of any caste in SC list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to recommend to the Centre to insert Article 341 (3) to the Constitution, which will enable States to provide internal reservation among Scheduled Castes. This is seen as a significant political move ahead of Lok Sabha elections that could potentially ruffle feathers among those seeking internal reservation in quota matrix.

Article 341 (1) and (2) pertain to inclusion or exclusion of any caste to the SC list. The government is seeking inclusion of another clause to allow internal reservation among SCs.

In the run-up to the State Assembly election in 2023, Congress had promised to place before the Assembly the A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation, which was submitted to the government in 2012.

However, the BJP government, during its last days in power, had closed the commission report and recommended internal reservation under four categories. Of the 17 % reservation for SCs, the BJP government had approved 6 % to SC (Left), 5.5 % for SC Right, 4.5 % for toucha-



Ministers Eshwar Khadre, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil, and H.C. Mahadevappa briefing presspersons after the Cabinet meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

bles (Banjara, Bhovi, Korcha, Korma and others) and 1 % for others.

Now, Congress government has refused to revisit the decision taken under Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government and instead put the ball in the Centre's court again.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa argued that States cannot tinker with reservation matrix unless Article 341 (3) inserted through an amendment. "We have recommended to the Centre to amend the article. Parliament is the supreme body," said Mr. Mahadevappa, who belongs to SC Right faction, in his cabinet briefing here on Thursday.

The Minister said that the Cabinet sub-committee formed under the BJP government hurriedly gave a report following which the commission report was closed. "After we announced that the commission report would be tabled in the Assembly, the BJP government closed the report," he claimed. When asked what prevented the Congress government from revisiting the earlier cabinet decision, Dr. Mahadevappa said that the decision was taken after consulting advocate general. Asked if there was any legal impediment to revisit a

previous cabinet decision, both Dr. Mahadevappa and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil acknowledged that there were none.

Political ramifications

With the State government's decision, the more than two-decade-old demand for internal reservation, largely driven by SC Left factions, will now hinge on when the Parliament passes the amendment. The decision is expected to have political ramifications as the SC Left castes are seen as supporting the BJP while the SC Right castes are seen as supporting Congress. By

putting the ball in Centre's court, the Congress has not put pressure on BJP to act on the recommendation.

Underlining that States cannot act without an amendment, Dr. Mahadevappa also pointed to a Madras High Court order that there can be "no quota within a quota." A legal battle over the issue in Punjab has reached the Supreme Court and seven judge Bench has been constituted to decide on it. When asked if Congress was aware of these issues before making the pre-poll promise, the Minister said, "We are not against reservation. We have only re-

BJP terms Cabinet decision to put the ball in Centre's court as 'hoodwinking' oppressed sections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has termed the State Cabinet's decision to put the ball of internal reservation in the court of the Union government as attempt to "hoodwink the oppressed communities."

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday, former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP's Dalit face Govind Karjol remarked that the Congress government should immediately issue a notification on introducing internal reservation if it had political will instead of escaping

from the responsibility in the guise of forwarding a recommendation in this regard to the Centre.

Alleging that injustice has been meted out to SC Left (Madiga) by the stance of the Congress government, Mr. Karjol said the Congress government had made a pre-poll promise of introducing internal reservation.

He claimed that there was no need to amend Article 341 as Justice Arunkumar Mishra had already ruled that the State government had power to provide internal reservation. "Justice Mishra had said the State does not

have power to either include new castes or remove the already existing castes from the list of SC/ST communities. However, he had also said that the issue should be referred to the larger bench of the Supreme Court. The Centre has already placed the issue before the larger bench of the Apex Court," he maintained.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and empowerment A. Narayanaswamy accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of trying to mislead people of the State through his stand on internal reservation.

commented. There is no politics here."

Interestingly, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa, who belongs to SC Left faction, and is among those who sought internal reservation, welcomed the Cabinet decision. "There has been no injustice done to anyone. It has now shown that it can implement internal reservation if the Constitution is amended."

'Repeat of earlier move'

However, a former Minister in BJP government told The Hindu that the Congress government's decision is actually a repeat of what the BJP government had done. "States cannot provide internal reservation without the amendment. We had also written to the Centre on the same lines. The BJP government had decided to close Sadashiva Commission report since it became invalid after government accepted the Nagmohan Das Committee report to increase reservation for SCs and STs from 15 % and 3 % to 17 % and 7 % respectively," the ex-Minister said.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Jan 19, 2024

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TROUBLED WATERS

Bengaluru's groundwater conundrum

Plummeting groundwater is triggering a red alert. Borewell digging is rampant in parts of the city not covered by piped water supply. Is there a way out?

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The poor monsoons have left the residents of Bengaluru worried about the possibility of water scarcity during the summer months. A recent letter written by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd (CNLI) requesting to store at least 2.4 to 2.5 m-cft of water for Bengaluru hints that the city might be starting at a crisis.

While on the one hand, the water levels in the reservoirs are going down by the day, on the other hand, the groundwater levels have also been plunging, giving a double blow to the city. The city's groundwater levels have decreased drastically over the last decade, leaving many borewells dry.

While the city has not felt the pinch over the last few years owing to good monsoons, this year may be different. Many residents and experts have opined that the government's failure to control rampant borewell drilling is one of the major causes of the decline in groundwater levels. Illegal borewells have become a common sight over the last decade, pushing Bengaluru to such a situation, they argue.

Residents of Whitefield, Mahadevpur and surrounding areas have been highlighting the issue, demanding that the government wake up to the impending danger.

"In just one year, the water levels plunged by nearly 1,000 feet, and many of the borewells in Mahadevpur turned dry. That is when we realised that illegal borewells had caused a disaster, and we woke up to it very late," explains Sandeep Anirudhan, a civic activist from Whitefield. Heads that rampant borewell drilling for commercial purposes had left the groundwater levels so low that the drinking water borewells dug up earlier have turned dry.

This has been the case in many areas, especially the city's periphery. Though there is a ban on using groundwater for construction purposes, many construction sites continue to have borewells. For instance, Mary Bhalu, a resident of Borewell Road in Whitefield, says that as many as seven bore-

wells were dug in a plot that is less than an acre.

"The work on the first borewell started in April 2023. Since then, they have dug up one after the other, and all of them are being used for commercial and construction purposes," she explains. While she did try calling the police and speaking to the authorities, the work would stop temporarily and resume soon after.

Authorities pass the buck

While the agitation by the residents of these areas forced the Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju to form a special team comprising senior officers from the Karnataka Ground Water Authority (KGWA) to inspect and identify all the illegal borewells in the city, the lack of manpower has restricted the action only against new offenders even as many others evade the net.

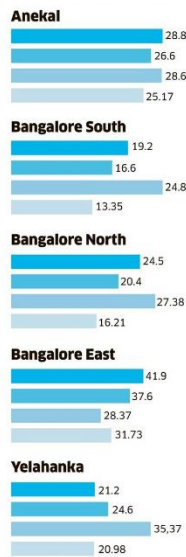
"We visit the spot and stop the work whenever we get a complaint about illegal borewell drilling. However, given the huge number of borewells that have come up in the city, it is impossible to check each one. Hence, we rely mostly on complaints to identify such illegal borewells," a senior official from KGWA says.

The official, who spoke to DH on conditions of anonymity, adds that the KGWA had passed on the responsibility of identifying and acting upon illegal borewells to the BWSSB. The BWSSB officials, on the other hand, say that inspecting the legality of the borewell is not under their purview.

"We are authorised to provide permissions to new borewells. Also, since we have staff on the ground, we can act immediately on any complaint. Hence, we



■ Average 2020 (feet)
■ Average 2021 (feet)
■ 10-year average 2012-2021 (feet)
■ Average November 2022 (feet)



DATA: KGWA



Illegal borewells dug near lakes become sources of water for tankers that supply water to residential areas. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

coordinate with KGWA when there are complaints of illegal borewells. However, we do not have the manpower to go around and inspect if every borewell being dug in the city is legal. It does not come under our purview," a senior BWSSB official says, warding off any responsibility.

However, the committee is now working on the inspection amid limitations.

Low awareness of the rule

DH spoke to a few borewell drilling companies to check if the workers and landowners knew the rule. Most companies said there was a constant flow of orders, and in the periphery, the number of borewell drilling orders increased significantly this year. However, they said many borewells were dug up for construction. "Majority of what we drill is on construction sites," a worker said.

While a few landowners would have a permission letter, not all of them know or care about it, revealed the workers from another borewell drilling company.

"We do ask for a permission letter when we start work. However, many are unaware of it and force us to continue. Since we have seen many such cases and know that the chances of an inspection by authorities are low, we get to work," says another staff member from a borewell drilling company. Yet another worker says many of his clients had gotten away with it using political and monetary power.

Need for better enforcement

While there are laws and regulations, citizens say the authorities have not used them. For instance, in one of the cases where the residents of Nallurhalli Main Road complained of an illegal borewell in the locality, the BWSSB officials visited the spot. They got the machines visited, halting the borewell drilling.

However, the work resumed within a few hours, forcing the officials to pay a second visit. This 'stop and resume' game happened four times until the BWSSB officials arrived at the site with police support. This, the residents say, clearly indicates a need for better enforcement.

"The officials have the power to register a police complaint and take severe action. They should make use of it in such instances. Small petty fines will not stop the offenders," Anirudhan said.

Pointing out that it was nearly impossible to stop illegal borewells, Mary says the powers should also be vested with the police. "We need a better and stronger system. I tried to alert the officials when the first illegal borewell appeared in the plot. However, the cops said they did not have power. By the time I could get the right officials to stop the work, seven illegal borewells had already come up,"

she said.

'Lack of infra the root cause'

While Whitefield and surrounding areas have an active citizenry aware of the rules and regulations, the same continues to thrive in the peripheral areas that do not have a proper water supply.

While there has been a hue and cry over the plunging groundwater levels, the root cause is the BWSSB's failure to provide Cauvery water supply to all the residents, according to Vishwanath S, a water conservation expert.

"Access to drinking water is a right to life. The residents are forced to dig borewells if the BWSSB does not provide Cauvery water supply to the highest level, and since it was now a red zone, no new permissions should be provided," The Central Groundwater Authority has declared Bengaluru in the red zone. Ideally, we should not allow any new borewell," Anirudhan argues.

Permission for a borewell

Permission for groundwater withdrawal through borewells should be obtained from the BWSSB inside Bengaluru. The application must have the Khata certificate, BMDP tax paid receipt, sale deed and self-addressed postcard. The fee to be paid is Rs 500.

Outside BWSSB limits, people should get permission from the Karnataka Ground Water Authority. The details of land ownership, hydrogeological report, rainwater harvesting, water requirement and supply and referrals should be uploaded in the application section on the KGWA website, and the required fee should be paid. Existing borewells also should be registered with this portal according to the existing norms.

BWSSB officials, however, say they could not deny borewell drilling permission when applied for drinking purposes. "We do not provide permission for any borewell dug up for commercial purposes. But, when they apply for drinking water purposes, we cannot deny it. We inspect the need for it, and only if we are convinced do we provide them permission," says Suresh B, Engineer-in-chief, BWSSB. He adds that they had to accept the requests since the BWSSB had yet to connect piped water to many areas in the city's periphery.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 13, 2024

Hurdles aplenty as B'luru eyes top 25 clean spot

Improving Waste Processing Capacity Crucial

Niranjan.Kaggere
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Bengaluru: While it has pulled off its best-ever performance since the inception of Swachh Rankings, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has a mountain at its doorstep to move. Having failed to resolve hurdles, especially on the solid waste management front, the civic body's performance might drop in the coming years, according to solid waste management (SWM) experts.

The Palike though has also chalked out elaborate plans to improve the ranking and enter the league of top 25 clean cities at the national level. Giving an insight into BBMP's futuristic plans in solid waste management, Harishkumar, special commissioner (solid waste), BBMP said there will be an overall change in the waste processing system in the coming days.

"The state government is heavily focusing on the processing of waste and has already announced setting up of processing centres in four different parts of Bengaluru and this will be a game-changer during the next evaluation exercise. If we can step up our processing

FOCUS ON DEBRIS, ABANDONED VEHICLES: EXPERTS

Experts have urged the state government and the Bengaluru Urban district administration to crack the whip on vehicles abandoned on city footpaths. "Abandoned cars, autos and other vehicles in residential localities covered in a thick blanket of dust are also considered garbage and there should be a quick mechanism to clear such vehicles. Police should act at the earliest with suitable arrangements to shift all such abandoned vehicles and collect fines from owners of such vehicles," they said.



capacity, we will easily be joining the top 25 clean cities of India," he said. As per the Swachh ranking rules, out of the total waste generated in a city, about 80-85% should be processed and 15-20% sent to landfills.

Plastic menace

A solid waste management expert said, "Currently, the processing capacity of Bengaluru is 50-55%. Controversies involving citizens' protests against processing plants and technical snags in the operation of plants have resulted in the halting of these facilities at times, affecting the processing. Along with these centres, there shall be processing plants to deal with plastic waste with a capacity of at least three to four tonnes of plastic every day."

"Also, officials must change the current system

of sending garbage directly to the processing centres. Each kilogram of waste must be collected and segregated to extract resources and the categorised resources should be sent to dedicated processing centres," the expert added.

The experts also urged the state government and the Bengaluru Urban district administration to crack the whip on vehicles abandoned on city footpaths. "Abandoned cars, autos and other vehicles in residential localities covered in a thick blanket of dust are also considered garbage and there should be a quick mechanism to clear such vehicles. Police should act at the earliest with suitable arrangements to shift all such abandoned vehicles and collect fines from owners of such vehicles," the experts said.

V Ramprasad, advisor to

BBMP on Swachh Survekshan and an SWM expert, said that Bengaluru has missed the bus in getting a 'Garbage Free City (GFC)' title during the survey.

"This suggests that addressing solid waste alone doesn't help the city. We also need to focus on construction and demolition (C&D) waste, which, of late, is piling up in an unprecedented manner. Unfortunately, during the survey, the whole city was dug up for various works and a lot of road construction and stormwater drain repair debris was dumped all around. The survey experts consider such dumps as garbage as they also turn into an eye sore. Unless we initiate proper plans to address C&D waste, achieving the GFC title will be a distant dream. BBMP shall reapply for it and work towards it," he said.

Source: The Times of India, p. 2, Jan 13, 2024.

ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ನಿರಾಕರಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು ಸೇವೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೈರುತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದ ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್

● ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು (ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿ) ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಹಿತ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್ ಅನುಮತಿ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದು, ನೈರುತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಆರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೈಯಪ್ಪ ನ ಹ ಳ್ಲಿ - ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಬಾಣಾ ವ ರ , ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ-ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್, ಹೀಲರಿಗೆ-ರಾಜಾಜುಕುಂಟೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಕೋಲಾರ, ತುಮಕೂರು, ಮಾಗಡಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಬಂಗಾರಪೇಟೆ, ಹೊಸೂರು, ಗೌರಿದಿನನೂರಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರೈಲು ಮೂಲ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್) ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಿದ್ಧವಿದ್ದು, ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದರು.

ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ



ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು

ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಿ4ಸಿ ಪತ್ರ

ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೂಸು ಆಗಿರುವ ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್‌ಗೆ ನೈರುತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆಯು ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡುವ ಬದಲು ಆಫೀಕಾರಿ ಉತ್ತರವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾದ ಸಿಟಿಜನ್ಸ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸಿಟಿಜನ್ಸ್ (ಸಿ4ಸಿ) ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ 100 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯನ್ನು

ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ತರಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ನಗರಗಳು ಕೂಡ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. 2 ಕೋಟಿ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲುಗಳು 50ರಿಂದ 10 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೊಂದು ಸಂಚರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ದೂರದ ಊರಿಗೆ ಸಂಚರಿಸುವ ರೈಲುಗಳು ಗಂಟೆಗೊಂದು ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಉಪನಗರ ರೈಲು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರುತ್ಯ ರೈಲುಗಳು ಒಂದಕ್ಕೊಂದು ಹೋಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸಿ4ಸಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ ದುಗರ್ 'ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ'ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಚಿವ ಎಂ.ವಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ಅವರು ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನಾ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಉದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದ ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಒಟ್ಟು 452 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಮೊದಲೇ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ನಗರಗಳ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶ

107 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ-ಕೋಲಾರ	55 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ-ತುಮಕೂರು	45 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ-ಮಾಗಡಿ
125 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ-ಮೈಸೂರು	45 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವೈಟ್‌ಫೀಲ್ಡ್-ಬಂಗಾರಪೇಟೆ	23 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಹೀಲರಿಗೆ-ಹೊಸೂರು
62 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ರಾಜಾಜುಕುಂಟೆ-ಗೌರಿದಿನನೂರು		

ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಂತೆ ಅನುಮತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ-ರೈಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆಯಲಾಗಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮರುಪತ್ರ: ನೈರುತ್ಯ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಹುಟ್ಟುವರಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಈ ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮರುಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ಬೋಲಾರ್‌ಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ಧರ್ಮಾವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 130/160 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವೇಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಲಿಸುವ ರೈಲುಗಳು

ಸಂಚರಿಸಲಿವೆ. ಸ್ವಯಂಚಾಲಿತ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಸಿಗ್ನಲಿಂಗ್ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿಪಥ, ಚತುಷ್ಪಥ ಕೆಲಸಗಲಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ನಿಡವಂದ-ದೊಡ್ಡ-ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ-ಮಾಲೂರು-ಹೀಲರಿಗೆ-ಸೋಲೂರು-ನಿಡವಂದ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವ ವೃತ್ತರೈಲು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಜಾಲದ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಮಂಡಳಿಯು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಸ್ಯಾಟಲೈಟ್ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ರೈಲು ಸೇವೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಹಲವು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಪಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಣೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.3C, Jan.13, 2024

KIA handled 3.72 crore passengers during 2023

This is an increase of 35% compared to 2022. Of the total, 3.27 crore were domestic passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), operator of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, reported a notable growth in passenger numbers in calendar year (CY) 2023.

The airport handled 3.72 crore passengers, marking a 35.3% increase when compared with CY 2022. Of these, 3.27 crore were domestic passengers and 45 lakh people travelled to international destinations.

On April 29, 2023, the airport recorded the highest number of passengers in a single day for CY 2023 at 116,688 passengers.

In 2023, factors such as reduced travel limitations, improved economic conditions, and increased demand for leisure and business travel led to a notable rise in growth numbers. The highest number of air traffic movements (ATMs) was witnessed on March 17, 2023, reaching 748 ATMs in a single day.

As compared with this, the highest ATMs on any single day in CY 2022 was 693. Domestic ATMs last year saw a substantial 22% recovery, while international ATMs showed a 15% increase.

Additionally, according



On April 29, 2023, Kempegowda International Airport recorded the highest number of passengers on a single day for 2023 at 116,688 passengers. FILE PHOTO

to BIAL, the airport continues to maintain its standing as a reliable hub for handling perishable (PER) cargo in India for the third consecutive year.

New routes

In September 2023, the KIA seamlessly transitioned international operations from T1 to T2, marking a crucial milestone.

November witnessed the launch of Lufthansa's thrice-a-week non-stop Bengaluru-Munich flights, providing enhanced connectivity for travellers. October 2023 marked the introduction of Maldivian Airlines, catering to Male with thrice-weekly operations. Furthermore, five new domestic routes were introduced, contributing to the overall capacity

growth. AIX (created by the merger of Air India Express and Air Asia India) commenced domestic operations in October 2023, further diversifying the airline portfolio and expanding connectivity for passengers.

Top routes

Top domestic routes in the calendar year 2023 included Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad.

The KIA served 25 international destinations last year, with Dubai, Singapore, and Doha emerging as the top sectors contributing to the international traffic.

"The airport's strategic focus on global connectivity continues to position it as a key gateway for travel across South and Central

India," the BIAL said.

Cargo growth

In terms of cargo traffic, the KIA continues to be India's number one hub for handling perishable cargo for the third consecutive year with a tonnage of 53,751 tonnes in FY 2023.

KIA Cargo processed a total of 422,644 tonnes of cargo during CY 2023, indicating a 2% increase from previous year. The domestic sector soared with an impressive 11% growth, highlighting the KIA's strengthening position as a rapidly growing cargo hub in India.

"Perishables continued to be a key focus, with coriander exports surging by 67%. The export of mangoes reached a three-year tonnage record, achieving a 124% year-on-year growth. 684 tonnes of mangoes were exported, facilitated by an 86% increase in the number of pieces shipped. This accomplishment highlights KIA Cargo's robust cold chain capabilities and dedication to efficient perishable handling," the BIAL said.

It added that July 2023 also marked a significant milestone for KIA Cargo, handling the highest monthly domestic tonnage since the Airport's opening, totalling 16,507 tonnes.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Jan 13, 2024

Police launch ASTraM initiative for enhanced traffic management in city

'Its main purpose is to provide situational awareness to take data-driven decisions'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru traffic police have introduced ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management) to enhance traffic management.

Elaborating on the initiative, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, said ASTraM is a smart traffic engine which provides holistic insights into the road traffic scenario for Bengaluru city. The main purpose is to provide situational awareness to take data-driven decisions for effective traffic management, he added.

This includes congestion alerts, incident reporting using BOT (mobile application), special event management, and dashboard analytics.

Congestion alerts

Explaining each function, Mr. Anucheth said congestion alerts are intended to provide real-time alerts on congestion to the jurisdictional traffic officials every 15 minutes. This is integrated with the e-attendance system so that alerts are sent to the junction jockeys



The initiative includes an ambulance tracking application which will provide better coordinated movement for ambulances across Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

and sector officers, apart from various stakeholders for better traffic planning and management.

The dashboard analytics initiative intends to provide actionable intelligence regarding traffic conditions, road safety, and enforcement. The main purpose is to tabulate the volume and quantum of traffic in terms of congestion length, vehicle count, vehicle type, so that data-driven decisions are taken for effective traffic management.

Using the analytics, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP)

also intend to do traffic congestion prediction so that any deviation from the regular volume can be handled in a better way by gearing up themselves and disseminating information to the various stakeholders. This keeps track of historical data which enables a comparative analysis with the real-time traffic, Mr. Anucheth said.

The initiative of incident reporting using BOT will serve to report any field incident from authorised sources so that corresponding information is shared with the map ser-

vices. This will provide the public with real-time information. Based on this reporting, BTP's Traffic Management Center (TMC) monitors the on-field traffic situation for resolving the same in coordination with jurisdictional traffic officials and other stakeholders.

Log of all major events

The special event management feature keeps a log of all major events in the city and gives a spatial understanding of the traffic situation for better response management in terms of allocating resources and planning other alternative measures, while the ambulance tracking application initiative will provide better-coordinated movement for ambulances across the city.

This application will alert the control room whenever an ambulance gets stuck for more than 120 seconds in traffic. The shortest possible route and traffic situations would be communicated to the driver through this app, said the police, adding that it includes SOS button for the drivers to get immediate intervention.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan 14, 2024

DPR ready for Sarjapur-Hebbal line

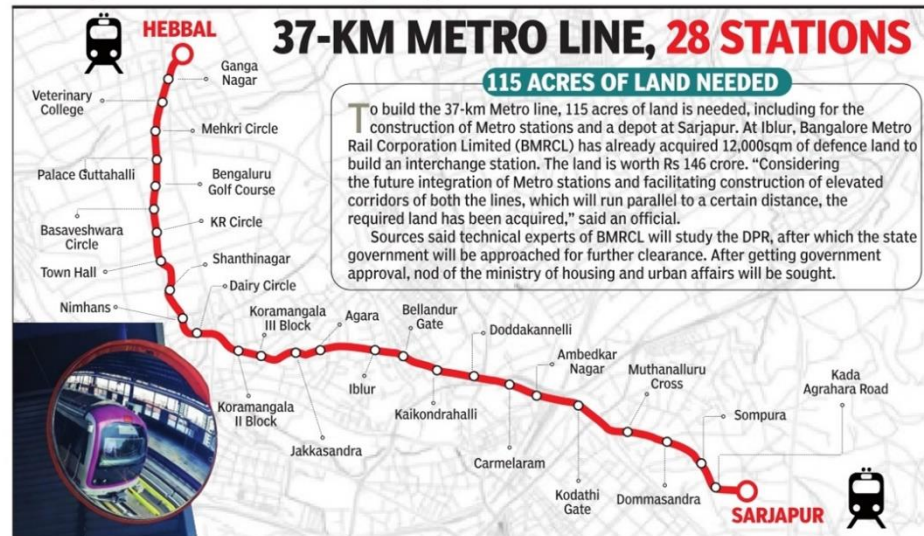
Project To Help Commuters In Tech Zones

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Bengaluru: Namma Metro connectivity in the tech capital has received a shot in the arm with a detailed project report (DPR) being readied for the new line connecting Sarjapur with Hebbal.

The 37-km line, estimated to cost Rs 16,543 crore, including land acquisition charges, had earlier been mentioned in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan-2020. It is expected to provide succour to those travelling to and from the tech zones. The alignment starts with an elevated corridor close to the IT corridor near Sarjapur, goes underground after reaching Koramangala, cuts through the central business district through a tunnel network, and emerges on Ballari Road with two elevated stations at Ganganagar and Hebbal.

What is more interesting and unique about this new line is it will be interlinked with the Blue, Pink, Purple, and Phase III lines at four points. At Iblur, it will be touch the Blue Line, which starts from Central Silk Board junction and connects Kem-



pegowda International Airport. Next comes Dairy Circle, where the station will be linked to the Pink Line, which will help people travel towards Bannerghatta Road or MG Road side. Near KR Circle (located close to Vidhana Soudha), the proposed station will be integrated with the operational Sir M Visvesvaraya station of the Purple Line. Near Hebbal, it will be connected to Blue Line, Phase III (Kempapura to

JP Nagar), and suburban rail station (Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara).

"This line will play a crucial role in decongesting traffic within city limits as it passes via core city areas. Interlinking with the operational Metro line and other lines taken up under phase II A and B will help people in a big way. For example, the proposed KR Circle Metro station will come up near UVCE and will be linked with the Sir M Vis-

vesvaraya station by subway," a source said.

7 stations on Ballari Road

In the past, successive state governments proposed multiple projects to decongest Ballari Road for a stretch of 8km from Basaveshwara Circle to Hebbal. The projects mooted included the high-speed rail link to Bengaluru airport, the controversial Steel Bridge project, and widening of existing roads.

While the first two projects were shelved for different reasons, only a portion of Ballari Road was widened near Palace Grounds. "But this Sarjapur-Hebbal line will also reduce congestion between Basaveshwara Circle and Hebbal as there will be seven stations — Basaveshwara Circle, Bengaluru Golf Course, Palace Guttahalli, Mehkri Circle, Veterinary College, Ganganagar, and Hebbal," another source said.

Source: The Times of India, p. 2, Jan 14, 2024.

More vehicles, not enough roads leave B'luru choking

**Roads also carry
33 lakh vehicles
older than 15 years**

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru, the world's second-most congested city, added an average of 56,124 vehicles per month last year. Nearly 13,000 of them were cars and 29,000 were two-wheelers.

This was also the first time that average monthly vehicle registrations topped 50,000

in a year and average monthly car registrations crossed 10,000.

If this wasn't bad enough, Bengaluru has many more cars per kilometre than Delhi, the city with the highest vehicle population in India.

Bengaluru has more vehicles per kilometre (761) than Delhi (428). And things could only worsen. Unlike the national capital, Bengaluru is still far away from scrapping overage vehicles. Petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years are not allowed on Delhi roads.

Roads and vehicles in B'luru Urban

1,14,28,331*
Vehicle population

23,51,437
Cars

76,77,541
Two-wheelers

*as of Dec 31, 2023

761/km
Vehicle density

12,878 km

Road length in BBMP
(zonal roads: 11,534 km;
arterial roads: 636 km;
sub-arterial roads: 708 km)

15,000 km

Road length in
Bengaluru Urban
(including BBMP)

Vehicle registrations in 2023

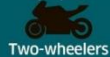
Total 6,73,489

1,55,583



Cars

3,44,954



Two-wheelers

New Delhi

Vehicle population:
1,42,04,810

Cars: **20,71,115**

Road length:

33,198km

428/km

Vehicle density

As per the Union government's Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme, private vehicles must obtain a fitness certificate after 15 years. A vehicle will be sent for scrapping if it fails the fitness test twice.

Even though Karnataka's Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy 2022 stipulates that 14.3 lakh vehicles are fit for scrapping in the state, the state government hasn't mandated that vehicles that are 15 years or older be scrapped. While the latest data isn't available, 33 lakh vehicles in Bengaluru were 15 years or older as of March 31, 2023.

► Vehicles, Page 8

Vehicles, from Page 1

Overage vehicles can ply so long as they have fitness certificates, and renew their Registration Certificates (RCs).

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy insisted that Karnataka was following the Vehicle Scrapping Policy formulated by the union government.

"Any vehicle that fails the fitness test after 15 years automatically loses registration renewal," he told DH.

Reddy conceded that the government needed to physically check overage vehicles to ensure compliance.

Government-owned vehicles that are 15 years or

older have to be mandatorily scrapped in Karnataka.

An official in the Transport Department said discussions were underway to mandate the scrapping of private vehicles that were 20 years or older but added that no final decision had been taken.

Dr Ashish Verma, professor of Transportation Systems Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the convenor of IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab), said the road length per vehicle needed to be calculated to understand where Bengaluru stands compared to other cities and countries.

According to him, there is a huge gap between demand

and supply — demand being vehicles and supply being road infrastructure—which is contributing to traffic congestion.

The vehicle growth is exponential and the road infrastructure will and can never match it because our city

cannot survive this way, he added.

He suggested disincentivising ownership and usage of personal vehicles by imposing tax on vehicle registration, demanding proof of parking on personal property, imposing a cap on the number of vehicle

registrations that can be done in one year, and so on.

Congestion charges, high parking costs, no parking spots in the core areas, priority roads for public transport and priority pedestrian streets are some other ways this can be achieved, he added.

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भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&8, Jan 16, 2024

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