



Society and Economy of Karnataka in News



VOL:2

JANUARY

NO:04

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



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75% farmers update details on FRUITS: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to keep a check on fraudulent cases of misappropriation of funds, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that the department has given impetus to updating Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS), so that the genuine farmer is not deprived from claiming government benefits.

After reviewing the department progress at a meeting here on Friday, Gowda said that the department has successfully completed updates of 75% of the farmers in the state and with this, registration of farmers in FRUITS has seen

a jump from 68%. “During the previous government’s tenure, farmers were cheated in large numbers. In Kadur taluk of Chikkamagaluru alone, funds of Rs 6 crore released under the flood relief, has been misappropriated. Similar fraudulent transactions have been recorded in Shiggaon and Hangal taluks of Haveri district,” he said.

Explaining the nature of frauds, the minister explained that in some cases genuine farmer has not received any relief as imposters used someone’s Aadhaar card and bank account details to deprive the genuine farmer from receiving the benefits.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3D, Jan 20, 2024

1st tranche of DBT by next weekend

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Revenue minister **Krishna Byregowda** revealed he has instructed district deputy commissioners and sub-divisional officers to ensure distribution of the first instalment of drought

relief to farmers by next week. The government had announced an interim relief of Rs 2,000 per affected farmer.

At a review meeting with district officials on Friday, Byregowda assessed the situation and urged officials to expedite relief work. He emphasised the need for a task force meeting before the first week of Feb to streamline relief efforts.

Byregowda said some 75% of eligible farmers have enrolled on the Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) app and have provided updated information on their land holdings to avail relief. The minister said a fund, totaling Rs 2,000 crore, would be transferred directly to bank accounts of approximately 30 lakh farmers by the end of next week.

Highlighting past irregularities in relief distribution during drought and floods, he

said there were instances where funds were allocated to individuals who were not rightful owners of designated land parcels. Notably, irregularities amounting to Rs 6 crore were reported in Kadur taluk alone.

He stressed the importance of transparency.

He pointed out the central government's failure in providing drought relief under the National Disaster Response Fund and emphasised the state government's commitment to independently ad-

dress the needs of distressed farmers. He reassured citizens that the government has taken measures to address drinking water scarcity by supplying water through tankers in all villages and utilising borewell water in 139 villages.

For 36 villages facing an acute scarcity, officials have been directed to hire private borewells. Additionally, steps have been taken to ensure an adequate supply of fodder.

The underscored the state's proactive approach in managing the impact of drought on the agricultural community and reiterated the government's commitment to providing timely and transparent relief to affected farmers.

DROUGHT RELIEF



Source: The Times of India, p.6, Jan 20, 2024

Interest-free crop loans given to nearly 20 lakh farmers

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Karnataka government has disbursed ₹15,841.48 crore interest-free crop loans to 19.97 lakh farmers so far this year, an increase of ₹776.48 crore compared to 2022-23. The government has set a target to disburse ₹24,600 crore crop loans without bank interest this year. The interest-free loans are likely to benefit a large number of farmers who have been suffering from drought in 223 taluks of the State.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, on Saturday held meetings with close to a dozen departments and discussed various proposals with Ministers to be included in the State Budget, which will be

tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 16.

Mr. Siddaramaiah held discussions with Ministers and officials of the departments such as Health and Family Welfare, Horticulture, Mines and Geology, Planning, Higher Education, Water Resources, Forests, and Environment, and Cooperation.

Sources said that Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to hold more meetings in the coming days to discuss various projects and schemes to be included in the Budget.

KPCC media wing vice-chairman and MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda, in a press release, said crops on more than 48,000 hectares had been affected and the Budget is expected to provide more relief to drought-hit farmers.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Jan 21, 2024

ಖರೀದಿ ವೇಳೆಗೂ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಒತ್ತಾಯ | ತುಮಕೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಇಂದು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಗೆ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್

■ ದಯಾನಂದ ಟಿ.ಎಸ್., ತಿಪಟೂರು
tsdayananda@gmail.com

ನಾಫೆಡ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಖರೀದಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲೂ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಒತ್ತಾಸೆ ರೈತರದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜನವರಿ 20ರಿಂದಲೇ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಯು ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು, ಫೆ.1ರಿಂದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಶುರುವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ರಾಗಿ, ಭತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಜೋಳ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣಿಯನ್ನು ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ರೈತರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಉಪಯೋಗಿ ಸುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಸರಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಾಫೆಡ್ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬ್ರೇಕ್: ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಯಾಗುವ ವೇಳೆ ರೈತರ ಪಹಣಿ ನೀಡಿ ರೈತರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಇದನ್ನು

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಇಂದು

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ರೈತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಹಾರ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಖಾತೆ ಸಚಿವ ಶೋಭಾ ಕರಂದ್ಲಾಜೆ ಜ.24ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತುಮಕೂರು ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಔಪಚಾರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸುವರು.



ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಎರಡು ದಿನವೂ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಆಗಷ್ಟೇ ರೈತರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆಯವರು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬಿಡುವುದನ್ನು ನಿರಂತರಿಸಬಹುದು.

-ಬಿಳಿಗಿರಿ ನಾಗೇಶ್ ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡ, ತಿಪಟೂರು

ತಡೆಯಲು ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ನೋಂದಣಿ ವೇಳೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಯೋಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರೈತರಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕೆಂದು ರೈತರು ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾದ ರೈತರ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಹಣ ಜಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯಾದರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಂದಂತೆ ರೈತರು ವಿತ್ ಡ್ರಾ ಮಾಡಿ ವರ್ತಕಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ರೈತರು ನೇರ ಮಾರಾಟ ಶುರುಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಅವರು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಹೋಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆದೇಶ

ತುಮಕೂರು, ಹಾಸನ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ರೈತರಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ಷಿಪ್ರಾಲ್ ಗೆ 12 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯಂತೆ 62,500 ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಉಂಡೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ.

ಗೇಟ್ ಪಾಸ್ ನೀಡಿ: ರೈತರು ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ತರುವ ದಿನ ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರ (ಚೀಲಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ತೂಕ) ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಗೇಟ್ ಪಾಸ್ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ರೈತರು ನಾಫೆಡ್ ಗೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬಿಡುವಾಗ ಅವರ ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚು ಗೇಟ್ ಪಾಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ವಿವರಗಳು ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆಯಾಗಬೇಕು. ಆಗ ರೈತರ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ವರ್ತಕರ, ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಸೇರಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕೆಂಬುದು ರೈತರ ಒತ್ತಾಸೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p.13, Jan.24, 2024

2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 3.77 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ಗೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಕುಂಠಿತ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಶೇ 5.4ರಷ್ಟು ಕುಸಿತ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ (ಪಿಟಿಐ): ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ 2023ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಡಿ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಶೇ 5.4ರಷ್ಟು ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

2022ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಡಿ ವಿದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ 3.98 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಆಗಿತ್ತು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 3.77 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ಗೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಗಣನೀಯವಾಗಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅರೇಬಿಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ತಳಿಯ ಕಾಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತವು ಏಷ್ಯಾದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮೂರನೇ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಟಲಿ, ರಷ್ಯಾ, ಯುಎಇ, ಜರ್ಮನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಟರ್ಕಿಗೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಅರೇಬಿಕಾ ಕಾಫಿ ಬೀಜಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಫಿನ್ ಅಂಶದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಒಗರು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚು ರುಚಿ-ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಗರು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕಹಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ರಫ್ತು ಶೇ15ರಷ್ಟು ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 2.20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್ ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 1.87 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ಗೆ ಇಳಿದಿದೆ.

ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು

₹9,580.58 ಕೋಟಿ
2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೌಲ್ಯ

3.52 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್
2022-23ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ

3.74 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್
2023-24ರಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಅಂದಾಜು

ಆದರೆ, ಅರೇಬಿಕಾ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಶೇ5.79ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 44,302 ಟನ್ ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 46,869 ಟನ್‌ಗೆ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಂಟ್ ಕಾಫಿ ರಫ್ತು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವೂ ಶೇ6.68ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿದೆ. ಭಾರತವು 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 1.33 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ 1.42 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟನ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಂಟ್ ಕಾಫಿಯನ್ನು ರಫ್ತು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2023-24ರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ

ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಲಾಭ ಮರೀಚಿಕೆ

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು: ಬ್ರೆಜಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಯೆಟ್ನಾಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಆಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕಾಫಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ದಾಖಲೆಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಲಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಲಾಭ ದೊರಕದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ಕಾಫಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮೂಟೆಗೆ

₹7,370 ದರ ಇದೆ. ಲಂಡನ್

ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ಕಾಫಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಬುಧವಾರ 3229 ಡಾಲರ್ ಇತ್ತು.

ಇನ್ನೂ 46 ಡಾಲರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು.

ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಹವಾಮಾನ ವೈಪರೀತ್ಯದಿಂದ ಕಾಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಶೇ 20ರಿಂದ ಶೇ 30ರಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲೂ ವಾಡಿಕೆಯಷ್ಟು ಮಳೆಯಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಫಸಲು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ನಡುವೆ ಕಾಫಿ ಹಣ್ಣು ಕೊಯ್ಲಿನ ವೇಳೆ ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗಿಡದಲ್ಲೇ ಹಣ್ಣು ಕೊಳೆಯುವಂತಾಯಿತು. ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ನೆಲಕ್ಕೆ ಉದುರಿ ಮಣ್ಣು ಪಾಲಾಗಿದೆ. 'ಈಗ ಬಿಸಿಲಿದ್ದರೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಣ್ಣು ಕೊಯ್ಲಿನ ಬಳಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳದ ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದೆ ಪರದಾಡುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ಬೇಸರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.



ರೋಬಸ್ಟಾ ಕಾಫಿ

ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ (ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್-ನವೆಂಬರ್) ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಾಫಿ ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಫಿ ಮಂಡಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.8, Jan.25, 2024

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Decentralisation

ಮನರೇಗಾ ಉತ್ತರ ಮುಂದೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಹಿಂದೆ

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ 1,11,05,445 ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನ

■ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾನಂದ ಎ.ನಿಡಗುಂಡಾ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

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ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಕಡೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕೂಲಿ ನೆರವಾಗಿರುವ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತ್ರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ಮನರೇಗಾ) ಉತ್ತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾನವ ಸೃಜನೆ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದರೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿದವೆ.

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆ ಕೈ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಎಲ್ಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ ತಾಂಡವ ಆಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದೇ ವೇಳೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮನರೇಗಾ ಮೇಲೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದು, 2023-24ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1.11 ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮುಂತೆ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕವಾಗಿ ದೊಡ್ಡದಿರುವ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ 1,11,05,445 ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮೊದಲ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕಲ್ಬುರಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಯಚೂರು 1,09,34,534 ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಐದು ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಆರನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇದೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಕೊಡಗು ಹಿಂದೆ: ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಹಿಂದಿವೆ, ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ 76,884 ಮಾನವ ದಿನ ಸೃಜನೆ ಮಾಡುವ



ನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು.

(ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಚಿತ್ರ)

ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು		ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು	
ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಸೃಜಿಸಿದ ಮಾನವ ದಿನ	ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಸೃಜಿಸಿದ ಮಾನವ ದಿನ
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	1,11,05,445	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	76,884
ರಾಯಚೂರು	1,09,34,534	ಕೊಡಗು	4,28,158
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ	87,67,493	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ	11,45,073
ವಿಜಯನಗರ	7,19,47,88	ಚಾಮರಾಜ ನಗರ	18,98,357
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ	60,36,545	ಮೈಸೂರು	20,52,141

ಮೂಲಕ ಕೊನೆಯ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಕೊಡಗು 4,28,158 ಮಾನವ ಸೃಜನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗಿಂದ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆದಿದೆ. ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಅರ್ಧ ಕೋಟಿಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳು ಸೃಜನೆಯಾಗಿವೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಕೆಲಸ: ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಕಡೆ ನೀರಿನ

ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಗಿತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಮುಂದೆ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ 150 ದಿನದ ದುಡಿಮೆ ಆಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾತುಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಕೇಳಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ತಮ್ಮ

ಗುಳಿ ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದೇ?

ಬರಗಾಲದ ಒನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕೃಷಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಮಹಾ ನಗರಗಳಿಗೆ ವಲಸೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ 50 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ, ಗುಳಿ ನಿಲ್ಪಡುವುದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡರು. ಮುಂದಿನ ಒಂದು ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ 150 ದಿನ ಫೋರ್ಷ್ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಫೋರ್ಷೆಯಾದರೂ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಕೆಲಸ ಸಿಗುವುದು ದುಸ್ತರ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರಕಾರ ಶೀಘ್ರ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು 150 ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಕೂಲಿ ದರ 600 ರೂ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಿದೆ.

- ಶರಣಬಸಪ್ಪ ಮಮತೆಟ್ಟಿ
ರೈತ ಮುಖಂಡ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಪಾಲಿನ 100 ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸಿದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ 50 ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆಶಾ ಭಾವನೆಯಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 32,938 ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಪಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದ 100 ದಿನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayakarnataka, p. 8, Jan.20, 2024

ಬಹುಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿಗೆ 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ವೆಚ್ಚ | 6000 ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ 12 ಸಾವಿರ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಟ್ರೈನಿಂಗ್ ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ಮಿತ್ರ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ವಿರೋಧ?

■ ವಿಲಾಸ ಮೇಲಗಿರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಯನ್ನಾಗಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಸುಲಭತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಹು ಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು 'ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ಮಿತ್ರ' ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನುರಿತ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಲು ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತರಬೇತಿಗೆ ತಗಲುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಭರಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವುದು ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಹು ಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿಯು ಕೋಣಾಯಿ, ಮಿನ್ಯುಟ್ ಕೆಲಸ, ಕಲ್ಲು-ಮಣ್ಣು ಕೆಲಸ, ಉಪಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣ ರಿಪೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಿ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಕಿಛಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಗ್ರಾಪಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 6000 ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಘದ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಗಳು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪಿಡಿಯಾಗ ಸಹಮತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತರಬೇತಿಗೆ 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ವೆಚ್ಚ: ಪ್ರತಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಾಗಿ 24,790 ರೂ.ಗಳಂತೆ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತಗಲುವ ತರಬೇತಿ



ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಲ್ಲ. ತರಬೇತಿಗೆ ತಗಲುವ ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು 15 ಸೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅಲೋಗ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದಿಂದ ಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಮೇಲಿನ ಹಂತದಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ, ಇಬ್ಬರೇ ಇದರ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೇರುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವಲ್ಲ.
1 ನಾಗೇಶ್ ಉಪ್ಪರನಕಣ್ಣ್ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಮಹಾ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ

ವೆಚ್ಚವನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಪಂ 15 ಸೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅಲೋಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಅನುದಾನದಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲರ ಹೊರದೂವಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು 6000 ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿ ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗೆ ಇಬ್ಬರಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 12000 ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸ್ವ-ಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಬಹುಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸುಮಾರು 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚ ತಗಲುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅನೇಕ ಕಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಜಲಶಕ್ತಿ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿ 2019 ರಿಂದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಕೇ.50-60 ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಕಾರಗೊಂಡಿದೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಂದೆ ಎಂಬ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆ ಇಲ್ಲ: ತರಬೇತಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು? ಬೇಕಾದ ಹೇಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕು? ಯಾರು ನೀಡಬೇಕು? ಎಷ್ಟು ಗಂಟೆ ಕೆಲಸ? ಸ್ವರೂಪವೇನು? ಎಂಬ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆ ಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲರಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳು ಗೊಂದಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವೆವೆ. ಜಾಲಾ ತರಬೇತಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು: ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೆಸ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ವಾಹನ ಜಾಲನೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರ ಅದು ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಕೆಸ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕ ಜಾಲನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ವೆಚ್ಚ ವ್ಯರ್ಥವಾಗಿವೆ. ಈಗ ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ತರಬೇತಿ

ಕೊಟ್ಟರೂ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗುವ ಗ್ಯಾರಂಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅವಸ್ಥೆ ಕೇಳಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ನೀರಗಂಟಿಗಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಏಕಿಲ್ಲ: ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಕೌಶಲ ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದವರನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದವರು ಕೆಲಸ, ವೇತನ ಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಕೇಳಬಹುದು, ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘಟಿತರಾಗಿ

ನಿಕ್ಷಿತ ವೇತನ, ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾಯಂಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಇರುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ತಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಕುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನೀರು ಗಂಟೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಬಹುದಿದ್ದರೂ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯೂ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಣದಲ್ಲಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು: ಕೌಶಲ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಇದಿವು ಮೂಲಕ ಅನೇಕ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೊಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ನಲ್ ಜಲ್ ಮಿತ್ರ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನೂ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈ ಹಾಕಬಾರದು ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವೂ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿದೆ.



ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ
ಸಿಡಿ ಕೇಸ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಿವ್ಯ ದಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಾಹುಕಾರ್ ಕಿಡಿ

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ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಅಡ್ಡಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಅಂಗಳಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣ | ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೂ ಸೊಪ್ಪು ಹಾಕದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು

■ ದುರ್ದ್ರಾ ಪಟೇಲಾಟ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳೊಳಗಿನ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಒತ್ತಡ ಕೆಲವು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇಡೀ ಪ್ರಕರಣವನ್ನು ಸಿಎಂ ಅಂಗಳಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಲು ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ.

ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳಿಗೆ 29 ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನೀಡಲು ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 73ನೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕೆಲವು ಕನಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯ ಅಡ್ಡಲೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಬಲವಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂದು ಬಹು ಹಲ ವರ್ಷದ ಮೇಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಳವಡು ಕೊಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವ, ಜಾರಿಮಾಡುವ ಹಣ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮೀಪದಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಛಾವಣಿ ಇತ್ತು. ಸಂಸದರು, ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ, ಐಎಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿದ್ದು ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ದೂರವಿಟ್ಟು, ಅಯೋಗ್ಯಾ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಆಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆಗಲೇಯೇ ಕೆಲವು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಣಕಾಸು, ಮುನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಎಂಬ ಮೂರು ಅಳವಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಗಮನ: ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷದ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 26ರ ಒಳಗೆ 29 ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಗಮನವು ಪಾಟೆಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇದೀಗ ಗಮನವು ಮೀರಿದೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀಯಂಕರ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ, ಸಚಿವರಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆದು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಕಡೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಸಿಎಂ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನು, ಆದರೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕೇ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಮಗ್ರ ಇದುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾನ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ. ಕೇ.83 ಹಣಕಾಸು ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಕೇ.17 ಮಾತ್ರ ಕಿಟ್ಟು ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇ.90 ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ



ಶಾಸಕರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ವಿರೋಧ
ಅನೇಕ ಶಾಸಕರು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ವಿರೋಧ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೂ ಇದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಒತ್ತಡ ತರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ವೆಚ್ಚವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೇ.83 ಹಣದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರವರ್ಗ ಸಿದ್ಧವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತವೆ. **ಕೆಳ ಹಂತದಿಂದ ಯೋಜನೆ:** ಯಾವುದೇ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಗತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಕೆಳ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಎಂಬುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮಸಚಿವರ ಜೊತೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಗ್ರಾಮವರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ನಿರ್ಣಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಧ ಬರಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನಡೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. **ಹೇಗೆ ಆಗಲಿದೆ:** ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪ್ರಾಕೃತ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಕುಟುಂಬ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಕಿಟಕಿ, ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 29 ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಬಜೆಟ್ ಸವಲೂಪಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳ ಹಂತದ ಹಾಕಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿ ವೇಳಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಯೋಗ್ಯಾಪಂಗಳು ರೂಪಿಸಿದ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗಳಿಂದ ಆಗಬೇಕಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗುವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಿಗೆ. **ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿ:** ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀಯಂಕರ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಬರೆದ ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಯಾವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ನೀಡಲಿಲ್ಲದ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ ಉತ್ತರ ಬರೆದಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಸಿಎಂ ಅಂಗಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ ಕೊಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.



ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಗೆ ಶೇ.25 ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಕೆ
ಶ್ರೀಯಂಕರ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ

ಯಾವ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ವಿರೋಧ
ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ವಿರೋಧ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಾಲ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಯೋಜನೆಯಿಂದ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನೀಡುವುದು, ವಿಶ್ವಕರ ಜಾಲರಾಶಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಗಾಪಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ವಿರೋಧ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ತನ್ನ ಜೊತೆಗೂಡಲು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನ, ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ, ಆಹಾರ ಬರಬೇಕಾದ ಮೊದಲಾಗಂತೆ ಕೊಡಲು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಕೆಲ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕುಂದಲು ಹಾಕುವ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

ಏನೇನು ಆಗಲಿದೆ
ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮಿಷನ್, ಧರ್ಮಿಯಾಳ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಎಸ್‌ಆರ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಎಂ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರರು ಗ್ರಾಪಂಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿಗಳ, ಕಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಗಳು, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಕಿಟಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನೂ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಗಳು ಸಿಗಲಿವೆ. ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬಳಿಯಿರುವ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ, ಜೋಡಣಿಕೆ, ಕಿಟಾನ್ ಸಮ್ಯಾನ್, ವಾಣಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು, ಸಿಎಂ ಮಧ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲವು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆಗೆ ಶೇ.25 ಅನುದಾನ ಬಳಕೆ
ಶ್ರೀಯಂಕರ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವ
ಶ್ರೀಯಂಕರ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.25ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವುದನ್ನು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿದರೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮೀರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣ್ಣು, ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಬರಬೇಕು ಸಹಾಯಧನ, ಕೇ.80ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅಂಕ ಪಡೆದವರಿಗೆ ನಗದು ಬಹುಮಾನ, ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕ್ರೀಡೆ, ಛಾಪಾ, ವೀಕ್ಷಣೆ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವ್ಯಾಂಗ್ಯಕರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಕೆಲವು ಸೇರಿವೆ. ಕೊಡಬಾಗಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಪಡೆದ ಪರಿಣಾಮದಿಂದ ಸಿಎಂ ಮತ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ. ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಗೆಲುವು 5000 ರೂ. ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಬಹುದು. ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬನಿಂದ ಬಳುವಳಿಗೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡದ ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 5000 ರೂ., ದೀರ್ಘಕಾಲದ ಕಾರ್ಯದಿಂದ ಬಳುವಳಿಗೆ, ಉಪಕರಣ, ಸಣ್ಣ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಂತ ಉದ್ಯಮ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವವರಿಗೆ, ಅತ್ಯಲ್ಪ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ, ಹೈನುಕಾರಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 5 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ., ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಅಡುಗೆ ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ಪಡೆಯಲು, ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾದರೀಪ ಆಳುವುದು ಕೇ.25 ಪರಿಮಿತಿ ಲಾಭದ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಸ್ವಂತ ನೀರು ಸುಸ್ಥಿರಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಸ್ವೀಕೃತ ಕಾನೂನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಸಲು 5 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ., ಗುಡಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮಳೆನೀರು ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ 1 ರಿಂದ 2 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಸಹಾಯಧನ ನೀಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Source: Vijayavani, p.7, Jan.24, 2024

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New tax incentive norms for scrapping old vehicles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state cabinet Thursday decided to bring in changes to the rules on incentives for scrapping old vehicles. Changes will be made to the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy of Karnataka-2022, which came into effect from Jan last year.

As per the old provisions, those scrapping non-transport vehicles would be provided 25% of the tax they had paid on their old vehicles as a concession on the tax they had to pay when purchasing new vehicles.

As per the new rules, tax incentives will be linked to the ex-showroom prices of new vehicles instead of the scrapped vehicles. The transport department has come out with five slabs of concession each for two-wheelers and four-wheelers. The tax concession for two-wheelers ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 depending on the prices of the new vehicles. For four-wheelers, it varies from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000.

The new rules are expected to be notified soon.

A source in the transport department said, "For old vehicles, taxes were collected at RTOs through a manual system. People may not have kept tax-paid documents for vehicles registered 15 years ago or more. As data entry on tax paid used to be done manually, there were possibilities of human errors and vi-

NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Two-wheelers		Four-wheelers	
Ex-showroom price of new vehicle	Tax concession	Ex-showroom price of new vehicle	Tax concession
Up to 1 lakh	1,000	Up to 5 lakh	10,000
1 to 2 lakh	2,000	5 to 10 lakh	20,000
2 to 3 lakh	3,000	10 to 15 lakh	30,000
3 to 4 lakh	4,000	15 to 20 lakh	40,000
4 to 5 lakh	5,000	20 lakh and above	50,000

Source: Government of Karnataka | All figures in rupees

Photo for representation



REVAMPED: As per the new rules, tax incentives will be linked to the ex-showroom prices of new vehicles

siting old files to cull out details is a laborious process. Considering these issues, the cabinet has decided to provide tax concessions for scrapping old vehicles based on the ex-showroom prices of new vehicles that the owners are going to register."

As per the decision of the state government, a 10% tax concession will be given on all construction equipment

vehicles including tractors.

For newly registered transport vehicles, a 10% tax concession will be given on the tax to be paid for up to eight years. For transport vehicles paying lifetime tax, a 10% concession will be given on it. For autorickshaws, the tax concession will be Rs 500.

Concession on tax will be given against the submission of 'certificate of deposit'.

Source: The Times of India, p.2, Jan 20, 2024

PM inaugurates largest aerospace facility of Boeing outside U.S. in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre (BIETC) campus in Bengaluru, along with the Boeing Sukanya Programme, and said that the facility reinforces the world's trust in India's talent and he is confident that India will design the aircraft of the future here.

The state-of-the-art BIETC has been built with an investment of ₹1,600 crore. Located on a 43-acre campus, it is the American aerospace major's largest such investment outside the U.S.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Modi said the scale and magnitude will not only strengthen India but also the aviation market of the world. "This strengthens the Make in In-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Governor Thawarchand Gehlot at the inauguration of Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre and launch of Boeing Sukanya Programme in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dia-Make for the World resolution. India will not have to wait too long for Boeing's first fully designed and manufactured aircraft in India," Mr. Modi said. He said that Boeing's new facility is a clear indication of Karnataka's rise as a new aviation hub after the inauguration of Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing factory in Tumakuru last year.

He said India is becoming

one of the most well connected markets. "Today, India has about 150 operational airports, up from about 70 in 2014. The efficiency of the airports have been enhanced significantly. There is increased air cargo capacity leading to overall growth of economy and employment generation," he said.

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From Page One

PM inaugurates Boeing facility

Mr. Modi also launched the Boeing Sukanya Programme that aims to support the entry of more girl children from across India into the country's growing aviation sector. The programme will provide opportunities for girls and women from across India to learn critical skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and train for jobs in the aviation sector.

Boeing said that for young girls, the programme will create STEM Labs at 150 planned locations to help spark interest in STEM careers.

'Karnataka first choice'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the new institute is another jewel in Karnataka's crown as a leader in the technology sector. "Karnataka ranks first in India's innovation index and is also leading in the country's overall exports. Home to more than 400 of the fortune 500 companies, our State ranks first in research and development, renewable energy, and is also hailed as the start-up capital. With an abundance of talented workforce and skilled human resources, Karnataka is naturally the first choice for technology and knowledge-based industries," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Source: The Hindu, p.1 & 3, Jan 20, 2024

Karnataka is not receiving incentives for its fiscal efficiency: Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lamented that despite Karnataka's proven track record of sound fiscal performance, it is not receiving any incentives for its fiscal efficiency. He said this after inaugurating the national-level seminar on 'Fiscal Federalism: Challenges Before the Sixteenth Finance Commission', organised by M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences in the city on Saturday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah emphasised that Karnataka's macro-fiscal performance has been noteworthy with the distinction of being the first State to promulgate the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The macro-fiscal indicators such as fiscal deficit and revenue deficit have always been within the stipulated limits, barring the post-COVID-19



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the inauguration of a seminar organised by M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

pandemic reappearances of revenue deficits, he said.

The Chief Minister said the State does not have adequate resources to attain the vision of \$1 trillion GSDP by 2032. "Furtherance of the State's economic and human development requires significant investments in human and physical infrastructure. Despite Karnataka's proven track record of very sound own tax performance,

the resources are not adequate to meet the growing challenges and also attain the vision of \$1 trillion GSDP by 2032," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He said it is also ironic that the second highest tax-paying State in the country does not get an adequate reward for its contribution. "We will urge the 16th Finance Commission to increase the weightage assigned to tax effort to incentivise effi-

ciency and fiscal performance," he said, adding that the Finance Commission must make necessary adjustments for the intra-State per capita income differentials while arriving at the income distance in making the recommendations.

"Karnataka's share in tax devolution got reduced from 4.713% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.647% under the 15th Finance Commission. Karnataka has experienced the biggest cut among the States, a reduction of 25.5%. The current approach considers the income distance as per which, Karnataka loses out to the lower distance from the highest per capita income State," he said. He also pointed out that it is significant to consider the fact that high per capita income levels arise mainly from the Bengaluru Urban district.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Jan 21, 2024

Southern cinema giants break new ground

As south Indian cinema ventures into global platforms, small-budget Kannada films still encounter a range of obstacles in financing, distribution and release

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kattappa ne Baahubali ko kyun mara? (Why did Kattappa kill Baahubali?) Raja Babu, a 29-year-old from Jalandhar in Punjab, was among lakhs who were haunted by this question after watching the Hindi dubbed version of the Telugu movie *Baahubali: The Beginning* (Part 1). This is testimony to how the 2015 movie, rooted in the south, captured the interest of the Hindi-speaking audience. "After that, I watched the second part of *Baahubali* and other south Indian movies like *KGF* and *RRR*, dubbed in Hindi. The stories were different and good; trailers were interesting," he says.

Directed by S S Rajamouli, *Baahubali 1* became the first south Indian, and first Indian movie to collect Rs 500 crore in ticket sales (gross) worldwide, according to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb).

Later, six other south Indian movies — *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* (Telugu,



2017), *2.0* (Tamil, 2019), *KGF: Chapter 2* (Kannada, 2022), *RRR* (Telugu, 2022), *Leo* (Tamil, 2023) and *Salaar* (Telugu, 2023) joined the Rs 500-crore club. *Baahubali 2*, *RRR* and *KGF 2*

belong to the club of movies grossing Rs 1,000 crore worldwide, according to IMDb data. It was the Covid pandemic that brought movies from south India to

a new audience. With the emerging popularity of over-the-top (OTT) platforms, people from across India started watching movies in different languages. Fresh content and stories offered by these movies, the availability of dubbed content with subtitles and diverse genres made even smaller movies popular among this audience.

"Post-Covid, up to 60% of the cinema revenue in India has been captured by southern industries," says Ramesh Bala, a Chennai-based cinema trade analyst.

The idea that Indian cinema is Bollywood is gone.

"In the last 20 years, Bollywood moved towards more romantic, soft genres, focusing on the NRI market. With this, they also lost the connection with the Hindi heartland. Movies like *KGF*, *Pushpa* and *RRR* connected well with the working class there and captured the north Indian market," he explains.

The southern industry has a constant flow of movies running in theatres, with a movie featuring a popular hero

being released every month. "Quantity-wise and box office-wise, we are doing great. Quality-wise, too, our movies are winning awards everywhere," Bala says.

Telugu dominates the box office among southern film industries. The sheer number of theatres in the Telugu states — Andhra Pradesh and Telangana — is an indicator of how an audience can contribute to the revenue generation of even ordinary movies.

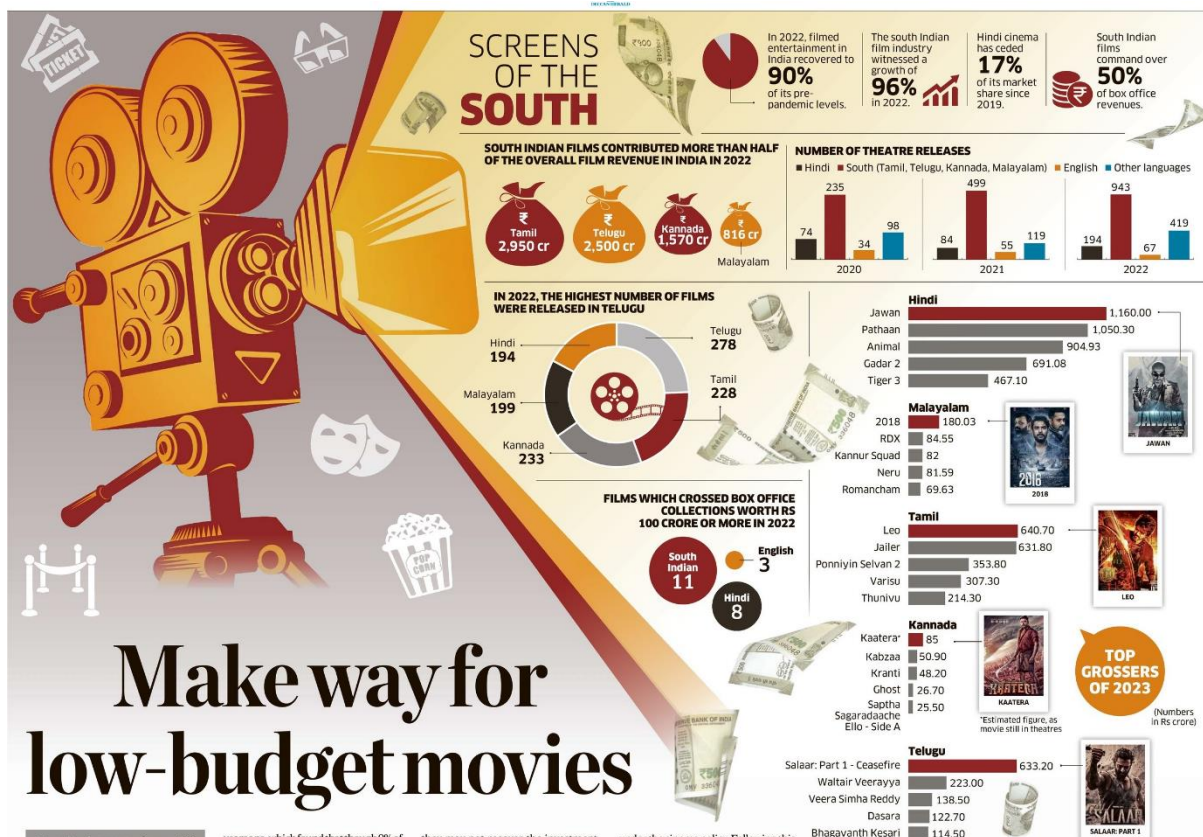
According to data from Qube Cinema, there are 923 theatres (1,831 screens) in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Tamil Nadu

has 745 theatres. Karnataka and Kerala have 368 and 289 theatres respectively.

"When the number of theatres is low, overall revenue is also low. A revenue of more than Rs 100 crore in Telugu states is possible in one day because of the number of screens. *RRR* earned this amount on the opening day. But in Karnataka, even a hit film like *KGF 2* did just Rs 30 crore — the maximum possible revenue for a movie in the state," explains Bala.

► **South cinema, Page 2**

Continued...



Make way for low-budget movies

South cinema from P1

In Tamil Nadu, which has the second-largest industry in the south, theatre owners feel low cinema ticket rates might have resulted in low profits. A cinema theatre owner from Chennai says movie tickets in Tamil Nadu cost the lowest — the maximum is Rs 150. "In states like Kerala and Karnataka, it's quite high. The governments should allow us to increase the ticket prices," he adds. However, box office collection does not translate directly into a net profit. Movies with hundreds of crores of budget, such as *20* and *Kabzaa*, did not make good profits despite a comparatively good box office collection.

Today, producers of high-budget movies cannot even think of "huge profits," says critic and Tamil film journalist Vetrivel K. "The salary of the crew itself is quite high. Then comes the social media campaign, the promotion, the audio release and so on. Producers borrow a huge amount from lenders for interest. The profit margin also will be low," he explains. He adds that these factors contribute to the limited profit earned by these movies.

For some low-budget movies that manage to crack an OTT deal, the profits could be "decent." They can also make money on theatrical releases, audio and satellite rights. "Several low-budget movies do well in Tamil," Vetrivel adds.

In this context, critics feel that budgets can be reduced. "The kind of content the Malayalam movie industry produces is outstanding with tight budgets. Producing convincing and quality content with a low budget is a formula for success, rather than investing Rs 40 crore and collecting Rs 100 crore," Tollywood critic Prasen Bellamkonda tells *DH*. For instance, Kannada film *Kantara* made with a budget of Rs 16 crore went on to collect over Rs 400 crore in the box office.

Though most Malayalam movies are made with a tight budget, only about 8% of films have profited in the last few years, says film critic CS Venkateswaran. First-timers produce most films and investors show a lukewarm response to them. He quotes a report published a few

years ago, which found that though 9% of films produced in India are in Malayalam, they earn only 1% of the total revenue.

To help low-budget and experimental films, the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSDFC) is launching an OTT platform, CSpace, on a pay-per-view model.

"Good cinema needs a good audience. We need to target the global audience by showing award-winning Malayalam movies," says Shaji N Karun, chairman of KSDFC. There are 50 movies lined up already, while the project awaits a formal launch. The KSDFC also offers subsidies of up to Rs 5 lakh.

What ails the Kannada industry?

Compared to many southern movie industries, the Kannada film industry receives little government support. In an effort to remedy this, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a film city in Mysuru in the 2023 Budget, to be built through a public-private partnership model. However, details are yet to be made available.

Another issue according to N M Suresh, the president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), is the lack of an effective single-window system for shooting clearance. The single-window clearance was available only for foreign filmmakers until 2019. Now, even Indian producers can get clearances through this system. However, they are often forced to also get permission from local authorities as well.

Due to these factors and more, many Kannada movies do not see the light of the day. Out of 506 feature films censored in the financial year 2022-23, only 245 movies got theatrical releases. While 311 movies were censored between April 2023 and now, only 149 got theatrical releases, according to data from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and KFCC.

Movies do not see a theatrical run mostly because of the costs involved in releasing a film, notes Kannada filmmaker Mansoor. He says it takes more money to release a film than to make one, due to the promotion and distribution costs involved.

"One would require about Rs 40 to 60 lakh to release a film. Most of the time,

they may not recover the investment, which is why many films go unreleased," he adds.

Certification, subsidies

Delays in the certification process can also result in late releases. This affects subsidy qualification for low-budget movies. The recent arrest of the CBFC regional officer in Bengaluru has also raised questions about corruption in the film certification process. Industry sources say that many films that were supposed to be censored before the end of 2023 are yet to undergo the certification process.

All Kannada movies with a duration of more than 90 minutes are eligible for a Rs 10 lakh subsidy. There is a special subsidy of Rs 25 lakh provided to children's films and films promoting state tourism. Films based on literature are eligible for a subsidy of Rs 15 lakh.

However, since 2019, filmmakers have not received these subsidies. Sources say that subsidy applications for 2019, 2020 and 2021 are now open and will be cleared in the next three to four months.

The previous state government increased the number of films eligible for subsidy to 200 from 185. The government now plans to revise guidelines

BOX OFFICE DATA

The box office collection data in India is not accurate. The numbers are just estimations, as most online trackers take data from movie booking apps such as PayTM Movies and BookMyShow.

"Not all single-screen theatres are connected to booking apps, which makes tracking box office collection difficult," explains Ramesh Bala, a cinema trade analyst. He says producers and distributors release figures that may be underreported or overreported.

Verifying it requires checking the numbers with competitor distribution agencies or producers who monitor this. Because of this, even net revenue is an approximation, and there is never an absolute figure of loss or profit for a movie available in the public domain.

under the cinema policy. Following this, films released in 2022 and 2023 can apply for subsidies.

Lack of publicity

The digital boom has made space for aggregators of digital film distribution, and dubbing, satellite and streaming rights. Shachina Heggar, proprietor of Flat Curve Studio, one such aggregator, says that when compared to other southern film industries, the Kannada industry is not in the best position. She does not see this situation improving for at least the next year. "One or two movies grossing over Rs 100 crore a year cannot be seen as a success for the entire industry," she adds.

Lack of publicity remains a major problem for Kannada cinema. "Every month, 15 to 20 movies are released. Nobody knows which ones are good. Unlike other industries, big stars do not support low-budget movies in Kannada. Promotion needs money but producers do not keep a budget for it," explains Shachina.

"The positioning and marketing is a problem. Very few get the right mix of marketing. We have to work together as an industry to market Kannada movies," says Karthik Gowda, founder of KRG Studios. This also affects the OTT run of the movies.

OTT acquisition

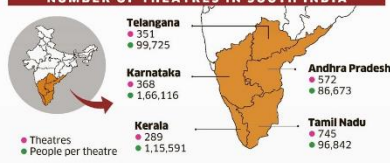
Shachina says OTT platforms are reluctant to acquire Kannada films. Apart from Amazon's Prime Video, no other major platform hosts Kannada movies, even on a pay-per-view basis.

According to Karthik, it is an injustice to the Kannada industry that many OTT platforms are reluctant to acquire them. "Out of 100 films picked from other languages, 85 are mediocre. It is a business, after all — you get good and bad films, that's the nature of the industry," he says.

It is important for such platforms to hire more local staff in their acquisition to spot good films, he adds.

Shachina says the problem lies with the quality of cinemas as well. Today, most OTTs have changed their business model as some movies are not working out financially for them. "Nothing is a charity. OTTs are here for business and would want returns."

NUMBER OF THEATRES IN SOUTH INDIA



Source: Qube cinema, 2011 Census, IMDB, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

COMPILED BY SWEETHRUTHI K DH GRAPHIC: SANKAR GANESH T

DH reached out to Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar and Zee5 to understand the issue better, but they have yet to respond.

"Do not celebrate mediocrity"

There is a huge gap between audience expectations and filmmaker vision. "We have an intelligent audience exposed to global content available in Kannada. Our content must match that quality," says Shachina.

"As long as mediocrity is celebrated, we will not grow beyond the average," she adds. The recently released Darshan-starrer *Kaatera* is a fine example of the films that need to be made in Kannada. The film appealed to both fans and critics and is now being dubbed in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil.

"The Kannada industry is polar, with most movies being either mass, star-oriented movies or niche, artsy type movies," says Karthik. He sees the need for the right mix in the genre and messaging and the need for a middle ground.

Industry sources agree that cinema will win audiences with good content. "We have to develop good products at par with any other industry by putting effort into the story, script, direction and production levels," says Chaluve Gowda, partner at Homble Films.

"Future is pan-Indian"

Some experts see the Kannada industry capturing other markets through pan-Indian films. Things are already moving in this direction. For example, Kannada film producer Rockline Venkatesh has been funding movies in various languages, the biggest hit being Salman Khan-starrer *Bhujang* (2015). KRG Studios is a partner in the production of Tamil film *Captain Miller* and Homble Films produced *Salaar* in Telugu.

"Going forward, it will be Indian movies rather than south or north Indian movies. Barriers are fading fast. At some point in time, in one way or the other, they will collaborate. It will be one Indian movie getting released in all languages," says Chaluve Gowda.

He adds that the future also lies in big cinema supporting small-budget cinema, with big banners working on a mix and match of movies of bigger and smaller budgets. "There is always a chance of small movies becoming big hits, as *Kantara* did," he adds.

(With inputs from Pranati A S in Bengaluru, E T B Sivaprasad in Chennai, S N V Sudhir in Hyderabad and Arjun Raghunathan in Thiruvananthapuram)

Have your say

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

Source: Deccan Herald, p.1&2, Jan 21, 2024

Resources too meagre to aim for \$1 trillion economy, says CM


Will put strong case before financial panel: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

Flagging “many challenges” on the fiscal front, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that Karnataka does not have adequate resources to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2032 and argued for the state to get a fair deal in tax devolution.

Siddaramaiah was speaking at a national seminar on ‘Fiscal Federalism: Challenges before the 16th Finance Commission’ organised by the MS Ramaiah University for Applied Sciences.

“The state has many challenges in sustaining its economic growth even while ensuring that it is balanced and



CM's contention

- State has to cope with budgetary implications of centrally-sponsored schemes
- Significant investments in human and physical infrastructure needed
- Karnataka has experienced the biggest cut among the states
- Being second highest tax paying state, Karnataka does not get “adequate rewards”

Despite Karnataka's proven track record of very sound own-tax performance, the resources are not adequate to meet the growing challenges.

CM Siddaramaiah

inclusive. In addition, the state has to cope with the budgetary implications of the centrally-sponsored schemes,” Siddaramaiah, also the finance minister, said.

“Furtherance of the state’s economic and human development requires significant investments in human and physical infrastructure. Despite Karnataka’s proven track record of very sound own-tax

performance, the resources are not adequate to meet the growing challenges and also attain the vision of \$1 trillion GSDP by 2032,” Siddaramaiah said.

Karnataka will make “a strong representation” to the 16th Finance Commission to examine “current anomalies” in the federal fiscal transfers, Siddaramaiah said.

► Siddaramaiah, Page 7

Continued..

Resources meagre to become \$1 tn economy, says CM

Siddaramaiah, from Page 3

“It is time for the transfer criteria to place sufficient emphasis on efficiency along with the equity concerns,” he said.

Siddaramaiah pointed out that Karnataka’s share in share in tax devolution fell from 4.713% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.647% under the 15th Finance Commission. “Karnataka has experienced the biggest cut among the states,” he said, adding that the state lost out due to the income distance criterion.

“...high per-capita income levels arise mainly from Bengaluru Urban district at Rs 6,21,131. This approach has deprived Karnataka of adequate resource transfers to address the low per-capita income of certain districts,” Siddaramaiah explained, citing the per-capita income of Kalaburagi at Rs 1,24,998.

Siddaramaiah rued that

Karnataka, being the second highest tax paying state, does not get “adequate reward” for its contribution. “We will urge the 16th Finance Commission to increase the weight assigned to tax effort...to incentivise efficiency and fiscal performance,” he said.

Underlining the significance of resource transfers, Siddaramaiah said states have major expenditure responsibilities “very often not backed by commensurate revenue sources”. He said urbanisation had increased infrastructure and basic services demands in cities. “The problem is compounded by the increased pressure...on account of growing migration.”

Stressing on the need to support Bengaluru’s needs, Siddaramaiah also flagged “glaring” imbalances in the human development index. The HDI in Bengaluru Urban is 0.738 against Yadgir (0.538), Kalaburagi (0.539) and Raichur (0.562), he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3&7, Jan 21, 2024

Fake Mysore Sandal soap case: KSDL raid exposes decade-long operation leaving it poorer by ₹500 cr.-₹600 cr.

On examination, officials said the counterfeit soaps lacked good quality sandalwood oil and contained heavy metals

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

It has now emerged that the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap production facility in Hyderabad, that was raided recently, had been in operation for a decade without coming to notice of the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL). Investigation has now estimated that the unit had a turnover in the range of ₹500 crore-₹600 crore since it started, which is the quantum of loss to KSDL.

Along with the Telangana police, officials from KSDL carried out a recent raid on the counterfeit manufacturing facility producing fake Mysore Sandal soap. During the operation, Hyderabad residents Rakesh Jain and Mahaveer Jain were apprehended and charged for the production of counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap and other KSDL products.

On January 12, following the direction from M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister M.B. Patil at the launch of the new products of Karnataka Soap and Detergents Ltd. at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development and also KSDL chairman, B. Prem Kumar, branch manager of Hyderabad KSDL, approached the police based on the tip-off the Minister had received.

Prior investigation

According to officials, prior to contacting the police, the KSDL conducted an in-

vestigation into duplicate products and the manufacturing unit. They purchased counterfeit products amounting to ₹5 lakh and subjected them to testing. Despite being unable to determine the location of the fake product manufacturing unit, KSDL staff strategically placed an order for soaps valued at ₹25 lakh. Under the guise of

picking up the consignment, they successfully reached the facility where the counterfeit soaps were being produced.

During the operation, the police seized 20 cartons containing three-soap packs, each weighing 150 gm (totalling 1,800 pieces), as well as 47 cartons for each soap weighing 75 grams (amounting to 9,400

pieces). Additionally, empty packing boxes for 150-gram Mysore Sandal soap (400 pieces) and empty packing boxes for 75-gram Mysore Sandal soap (400 pieces) were also seized.

Upon examination in the KSDL laboratory, officials determined that the counterfeit soaps lacked good quality sandal oil and contained heavy metals. The individuals operating the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap manufacturing unit were also involved in the production of other well-known branded products, including ghee and coconut oil, said officials.

New products released

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday released 21 new soaps and detergents products manufactured by KSDL. He told the KSDL management to manufacture soaps according to the tastes of consumers and market them.

KSDL has made a profit of ₹182 crore till now in this fiscal year against ₹132 crore in 2022-23, he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Jan 21, 2024

'Remove cross subsidy burden levied on industrial and commercial consumers'

Cross subsidy provided by industrial and commercial consumers came up to ₹5,680 crore in FY 2023-24. This is why the industrial tariff is high in the State. As the tariff is high, they are going off grid to open access which is a loss to the electricity supply companies, says KERC

Jahnvi T.R.
BENGALURU

Ahead of the State Budget for the financial year 2024-2025, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has written to the State government to consider an increased budgetary allocation for the free supply of power to irrigation pumpsets (of 10 HP and below).

The commission has placed this request to reduce the burden of cross subsidies on industrial and commercial consumers in the State by removing it, which would essentially result in reduced electricity tariff for these consumers.

A letter, written to the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Energy Department, explains that traditionally, tariff is fixed based on the paying capacity of consumers and hence, the tariff for IP sets as well as other domestic consumers is usually lower than that for industrial,



Total subsidy requirement of the State calculated by KERC (at average cost of supply)

Particulars	in ₹ crore
■ Approved subsidy to Escoms in FY 2023- 24 (with cross subsidy)	13,966
■ Additional subsidy for failure of monsoon (with cross subsidy)	5,206
■ Total cost of power to IP sets in FY 2023 - 24 (without cross subsidy)	19,646
■ Cost of power to IP sets in FY 2024 - 25 (without cross subsidy) *	21,200
■ Cost of power to IP sets in FY 2024 - 25 if monsoon fails (without cross subsidy) *	29,500

* Considering an 8% increase in average cost of supply

commercial, and other high-consumption domestic consumers.

The Commission Deter-

mined Tariff (CDT), when it came to IP sets, so far was fixed considering the cross subsidies provided

by industrial and commercial consumers.

"Fixation of tariff with cross subsidies essentially means the industrial and commercial consumers are subsidising the government to partially meet the cost of electricity being supplied to IP sets for free and for the free supply to domestic consumers up to 200 units," the letter noted.

The KERC has also said that in addition to IP sets, the high-paying consumers were also cross subsidising for the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Hence, the commission is also planning to remove the cross subsidy being provided for the free 200 units to the government by high-consumption domestic consumers. It also plans on increasing the tariff payable towards IP sets and free power for domestic consumers which would need increased subsidy allocation from government.

Cost increase

The KERC also noted that

the electricity costs in the State have gone up owing to increased fuel and other operating costs.

For instance, the average cost of the supply of one unit of sale of Bescom was just ₹5.04 in FY 2013-2014, whereas in FY 2023-2024, it rose by 91% to ₹9.62 per unit.

The cost of power per unit sales also increased by 77%, from ₹4.36 per unit to ₹7.73 per unit, in 10 years.

Along with the hike in tariffs, the burden to also pay the cross subsidies has affected the growth of trade and industries in the State, the commission observed.

"The cross subsidy provided by industrial and commercial consumers came up to ₹5,680 crore in FY 2023-2024. This is why the industrial tariff is high in the State. As the tariff is high, they are going off grid to open access which is a loss to the electricity supply companies (es-coms). That is why we want to remove it from FY 2024 - 2025. States like

Andhra Pradesh do not have this cross subsidy system," P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC, told *The Hindu*.

The commission says in the letter that without cross subsidy from industrial and commercial consumers, the total cost of power supplied to IP sets came up to ₹19,646 crore.

If an 8% increase in the cost of power supplied to IP sets is considered for the FY 2024 - 2025, then it is likely to cost the State government around ₹21,200 crore.

Like this year, if the monsoon also fails in the upcoming FY, then the IP power supply cost for the government would be ₹29,500 crore and hence, the KERC has requested the government to increase the budgetary allocation.

ACS, Energy Department, Gaurav Gupta, when asked about the letter, said, "We will consider and discuss its recommendations and then the government will take whatever action is necessary."

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Jan 22, 2024

CM grapples with task of tabling surplus budget

BV.Shivashankar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Amid pressure to propose a revenue surplus for the 2024-25 fiscal, chief minister Siddaramaiah faces a daunting task as he prepares to present the state budget on Feb 16. This is because tax collections are likely to fall short of the of the Rs 1.7 lakh crore target for the current fiscal.

One big reason for the shortfall is the prevailing drought situation which has seen tax collection fall by an estimated Rs 10,000 crore. But the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act leaves no room for deviation based on economic challenges and mandates the presentation of a revenue

surplus budget.

Last year, Siddaramaiah had proposed a revenue deficit budget of Rs 12,523 crore, diverging from the outgoing BJP government's revenue surplus budget of Rs 402 crore for the same year under Basavaraj Bommai's leadership.

The justification provided then was economic slowdown induced by the pandemic, but that is no longer considered a valid rationale.

An official from the finance department said the government will present a revenue surplus budget. "We are very mindful of the legal obligation. The chief minister is exploring all means to table a revenue surplus budget," the official said.



'Revenue deficit' refers to a variance between revenue expenditure and income from state taxes and central grants. Budgets projecting a revenue deficit imply the need for government borrowing to fund committed expenditure, such as salaries and interest payments, which do not contrib-

ute to asset creation. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management norms aim to prevent such financial strains.

Basavaraj Rayareddi, MLA and economic advisor to the CM, said Siddaramaiah, is committed to fiscal discipline. Rayareddi had kicked off pre-budget meetings with officials from various departments, while the chief minister began a three-day comprehensive meeting with ministers and department heads on Saturday.

Pointing to robust growth in the state's economy despite drought, experts believe Siddaramaiah can navigate fiscal challenges successfully. Gross state domestic product (GSDP) is expected to surpass Rs 28

lakh crore, up from the estimated Rs 25.7 lakh crore for the current fiscal. Leveraging this growth, Siddaramaiah may consider enhancing the tax target to Rs 2 lakh crore for 2024-25. Non-tax revenue sources are also anticipated to contribute significantly to an increase in revenue.

Buoyancy in the state's economy is expected to result in increased devolution from the central tax pool, potentially exceeding the proposed Rs 37,252 crore.

BV Madhusudan Rao, research advisor, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, said: "Considering all this, it should not be a challenge for the chief minister to propose a revenue surplus budget."

Source: The Times of India, p.4, Jan 22, 2024

100% railway electrification in Karnataka only by 2025-26

Over 85% of state's rail network electrified; Rs 298 cr saved in 3 yrs

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI,
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has made rapid strides in railway electrification, but will have to wait two more years to fully electrify its railway network, a target originally set to be completed by March 2024.

The state was one of the laggards in railway electrification, ranked second from bottom. While it has electrified over 85% of its 3,836-route kilometre (rkm) railway network and will cover another 8-10% in the next 10 months, two stretches spanning about 217 rkm in total will be electrified only by 2026, data shows.

In railway terminology, rkm refers to the distance between two places, irrespective of the number of tracks.

The Hubballi-headquartered South Western Railway (SWR), whose 84% jurisdiction lies in Karnataka, has electrified 3,074 rkm out of its total network of 3,662 rkm. So brisk was the pace of electrification by the railway zone that 14 different stretches were electrified

and commissioned in 2023-24 alone. It has now to electrify seven more stretches spanning 588 rkm, of which 474 rkm lies in Karnataka.

The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification's (CORE) Bengaluru unit commissioned 217 rkm out of the 264 rkm targeted for the 2023-24 financial year.

Its last remaining assignment, the electrification of the Wandal-Bagalkot section is scheduled to be completed in February, said Shyam Sundal Mangal, chief project director (railway electrification), Bengaluru. Since the beginning of 2022-23, CORE's Bengaluru unit has electrified 713 rkm as against the target of 698 rkm, he added. The agency has spent Rs 337 crore out of the Rs 403 crore budgeted for railway electrification in the current financial year, he said.

In addition, traction substations (TSSs) set up by CORE at Savanur and Nittur are up and running.

The TSSs set up at Honnavalli, Shivamogga, Siddapura, Sujathapuram and Chintamani

Work in progress

3,836 KARNATAKA
RKM Broad-gauge network

3,265 Electrified network
RKM

571 Yet to be electrified
RKM

3,662 SWR
RKM SWR network

3,074 Electrified
RKM

588 Yet to be electrified
RKM

SWR to
electrify in
Karnataka:
474 RKM

SCR to
electrify in
Karnataka:
97 RKM

SWR ELECTRIFICATION IN PROGRESS

- Holenarasipur-Hassan: Feb 2024
- Suldhal-Ghataprabha: Feb 2024
- Bagalkot-Wandal: 47 km; Feb 2024
- Subramanya Road-Kabaka Puttur: Feb 2024
- Kudchi-Miraj: Mar 2024
- Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road: June 2024
- Castle Rock-Kulem (Goa): Oct 2024

Work yet to start

Vyasa Colony-
Amaravathi
Colony Jn: 120
RKM deadline:
2025-26

Taj
Sultanpur-
Khanapur
(SCR):
97 RKM

Savings from railway electrification Since 2021-22

Traction
changed
to electric:
100 trains

Passenger trains:
Rs 83,09,67,636
Goods trains:
Rs 215,13,33,193

Railway
electrification
in India
61,508 RKM

Electrified
in 2023-24
(till Dec 31,
2023):
2,696 RKM

relations officer, SWR.

The Hubballi division has planned to electrify all but one stretch by April, said Harsh Khare, divisional railway manager, Hubballi. "We are on target," he told *DH*. The electrification of Vyasa Colony-Amaravathi Colony Jn (120 rkm) will take some more time.

"Tendering is in progress," he said. Track electrification, though costly at the beginning, provides many long-term benefits. In addition to introducing more and heavier trains, it boosts speed, saves money and reduces pollution. In particular, it helps avoid train retention at stations by eliminating the need to change the locomotive from diesel to electric.

Financial benefits are also substantial. The SWR has saved Rs 298 crore since 2021-22 by not having to buy diesel.

Apart from SWR, Karnataka's rail network comes under South Central Railway (SCR), Central Railway (CR), the Southern Railway (SR) and Konkan Railway.

While SR, CR and Konkan Railway have fully electrified their network in Karnataka, SCR has to electrify 97 rkm of the Bidar-Kalaburagi line.

M N Krishna Prasad of Karnataka Railway Vedike praised the speedy electrification and called for expediting the remaining work.

are also ready and waiting for transmission lines. CORE is also working to establish the TSSs at Ramgiri, Shravanabelagola and Sagar Jambagaru, Mangal said.

While the Bengaluru railway division has achieved 100% electrification, Mysuru and Hubballi

divisions still have some way to go. Mysuru has to electrify three stretches, including two passing through the Western Ghats (Sakleshpur-Subramanya Road and Subramanya Road-Kabaka Puttur), according to Dr Manjunath Kanamadi, chief public

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3, Jan 22, 2024

Tax contribution by States needs to be revisited

The Finance Commission's important job is to recommend a distribution formula specifying each State's share in the part of the Union tax revenue assigned to States. Such distribution formulas have a few weighted determinants. Since the 1st Finance Commission, some States have been arguing that their contributions to the Union tax revenue have been higher than others and, therefore, they rightfully have higher shares in the Union tax revenue. In the first eight Finance Commissions, tax contribution with very little weight was a determinant in the distribution formula. Since the 10th Finance Commission, this tax contribution was dropped from the distribution formula. Here, we argue that tax contribution by each State is a good measure of efficiency, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime creates an opportunity for its inclusion in the distribution formula.

Equity, efficiency in tax revenue transfers

Two important tasks of the Finance Commissions are (i) to recommend the proportion of the Union tax revenues to be assigned to States and (ii) to recommend the share of each State in the assigned tax revenue. Till 2000, that is, the 10th Finance Commission, the States' share was restricted only to personal income tax and Union excise duties and after that, all the Central tax revenues were pooled, and States' shares were decided. With reference to the second task, the Finance Commission devises a distribution formula to arrive at a share for each State, and it is based on the principles of equity and efficiency. Equity stipulates that the revenue-scarce States and States with higher expenditures get larger shares of Union tax revenue than others. Efficiency is to reward the States that are efficient in collecting revenue and rationalising spending. The trade-off between equity and efficiency is normative and remains dynamic in successive Finance Commission recommendations.

States from which large volumes of income tax revenue have been collected argued to consider and assign a higher weight to 'tax collection' as an indicator of tax contribution. The origin of income is essential to estimate States' contributions to income tax revenue, which is difficult to identify, as a person may pay income tax from one State though the income earning is from other States. Successive Finance Commissions have assigned 10% to 20% weight to income tax revenue collection/assessment in the distribution formula for income tax revenue because collection is not a good indicator of contribution. In the case of Union excise duties,



R. Srinivasan

is Member, State Planning Commission



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The tax contribution of each State is a good measure of efficiency, and the GST regime creates an opportunity for its inclusion in the distribution formula

the value of taxable products consumed in a State is essential to decide its contribution. Due to the unavailability of proper consumption statistics, contribution was never a determinant in the distribution formula for Union excise duties.

We should note that tax contribution is an efficiency indicator because a State's level of development and economic structure decides its tax contribution. However, Finance Commissions had assigned only 10% to 20% weight to this efficiency indicator. Population, a chief indicator of the expenditure needs of the State, was given 80% to 90% weight in the first seven Finance Commissions as far as income tax distribution was concerned. In the case of distributing revenue from Union excise duties, the entire distribution was based on population or other indicators of expenditure needs such as area, per capita income, proportion of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population, and some indicators of social and physical infrastructure needs. Since the 10th Finance Commission, the Commission has recommended a single distribution formula for both income tax and Union excise duties. Thus, the Finance Commissions have always favoured assigning more than 75% weight to equity indicators.

Since 2000, the formula for the distribution of pooled Central tax revenues included tax effort and fiscal discipline as efficiency indicators with a weight of around 15%. Tax effort is broadly defined as the ratio of own revenue of a State to its Gross Domestic Product. Fiscal discipline is the proportion of own revenue to the revenue expenditure of a State. In the 15th Finance Commission, the distribution formula had tax effort with a weight of 2.5%, and demographic performance, an indicator of efficiency in population control, was given a weight of 12.5%. The remaining 85% weight was distributed among equity indicators of per capita income, population as per the 2011 Census instead of the conventional 1971 Census, area, forest cover, etc.

Tax contribution in distribution formula

Even though some States have been arguing for increasing the weightage for efficiency indicators such as tax effort and fiscal discipline, these indicators have received lower weights as they are unstable. The tax effort is affected by discretionary tax policies and unexpected changes in actual tax bases. The fiscal discipline is affected by contractual payments such as salaries, pensions, and interest payments, as well as the tied-grant-induced expenditures of States. An objective measure of tax contribution by States, given the stability in tax structure, should be a good indicator of efficiency and be assigned

a larger weight. GST satisfies this criterion.

GST is a consumption-based destination tax that is equally divided between the State and Central governments. In other words, the State GST accrual (inclusive of Integrated GST settlement) to a State should be the same as the Central GST accrual to the Union government from that State. Therefore, accurately estimating the tax contribution from a State to the Union exchequer is feasible under GST. Since GST is a unified tax system, the calculations by these authors show that there is not much of a variation in the tax efforts of States. However, the absolute amount of GST revenue generated from each State would differ by the size and structure of States' economies, and this marks the importance of the inclusion of this tax contribution as an efficiency indicator in the distribution formula. A State's GST contribution is not affected by discretionary tax policies of the State; it only reflects the accurate tax base of the State that is being exploited for the national good.

In addition to GST, petroleum consumption is also an indicator of tax contribution to the national exchequer. The Union excise duty and sales tax on petroleum products are outside GST. The cascading tax burden of these two taxes in addition to the burden of customs duty on petroleum imports falls on the final consumers of petroleum products in a State. Just like GST, the relative shares of petroleum consumption vary across States, but such shares are stable over time for every State. Therefore, the relative share of a State's petroleum consumption reflects the relative contribution of the State to the national exchequer in the category of Union excise duties and customs duties on petroleum products.

Including the relative GST contribution and petroleum consumption of a State in the distribution formula is irresistible for yet another reason, that is, both these two ratios indicate the relative differences in the incomes (both personal and corporate) accrued to the residents of a State because consumption is a function of income.

The share of CGST and Union excise duty is about 30% of States' share in Central tax revenue in 2021-22 and the similar ratio for personal and corporate income taxes is 64%.

Thus, the two relative contributions, namely GST revenue and petroleum consumption, of States are fair and accurate measures of States' contributions to the national exchequer and a good measure of efficiency. There is a persuasive case for the 16th Finance Commission, recently constituted by the Union government, to debate and include these ratios as a measure of efficiency with a weightage of at least 33% in the distribution formula.

Source: The Hindu, p. 10, Jan 23, 2024

Bridging fiscal divides

The 16th Finance Commission must address fiscal disparities and grievances voiced by states

NAYAKARA VEERESHA

On December 31, 2023, the government appointed the Sixteenth Union Finance Commission (SUFC), with Arvind Panagariya as its chairman, in accordance with the constitutional mandate outlined in Article 280(1), which serves as the primary link between the Union and state financial relations. The main duties of SUFC are specified in Article 280(3): vertical devolution—sharing of net taxes and other funds between the Union and states; horizontal devolution—sharing the financial resources among the states; grants-in-aid under Article 275; devolution of funds to the rural and urban local governments; and any other related fiscal issues. This appointment gains significance in light of the contentious Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission, which resulted in a fiscal gap between the Union and southern states due to the use of the 2011 census explicitly for the population instead of the 1971 census, as used until the 13th UFC.

On November 29, 2023, the Union government approved the ToR for the SUFC, emphasising the functions mentioned above and expanding its scope to include financial arrangements under the National Disaster Management Act, 2005. The SUFC is entrusted with framing the actual ToR. A month earlier, on October 29, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah raised concerns about the injustice caused to the Government of Karnataka in terms of revenue loss and reduced financial devolution during the 15th Finance Commission on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

On the platform, citizens countered the CM's claims, asserting that tax devolution to the state increased by 148.26% and grants-in-aid increased by 129.42% between 2009-14 and 2014-19. The BJP's Bengaluru South MP, Tejasvi Surya, highlighted that the total tax devolution during the NDA regime from 2014-2023 amounted to Rs 2.93 lakh crores, surpassing the combined devolution of taxes during the UPA I and UPA II regimes.

Recently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressed these issues in an elaborate article in the Kannada daily *Prajavani*, focusing on the questions of equity and efficiency. Key issues highlighted included a reduction in the net tax sharing to Karnataka from 4.72% to 3.64%, causing a loss of Rs 45,000 crores to the state exchequer, and the disparity in the amount received per rupee of tax payment compared to Uttar Pradesh (Karnataka receives 0.15 paise whereas UP gets Rs 2.73). This is due to the

criteria adopted to use the 2011 census for the population.

The alteration in variables/indicators used by the FFC disadvantaged the southern states, where population stabilisation and control measures were initiated. The north-south fiscal divide, both in terms of net tax devolution and the criterion used for tax devolution between the Union and states, remains a contentious issue. The argument by the southern states about higher tax contributions and lower funds received through the finance commission is valid and warrants consideration by the SUFC to improve the rationale for tax distribution among states.

Except for Tamil Nadu, all other southern states experienced a decline in their share of finances from the fourteenth to the fifteenth finance commission. Karnataka saw the highest reduction (4.7% to 3.6%), followed by Kerala (2.5% to 1.9%), Telangana (2.4% to 2.1%), and Andhra Pradesh (4.3% to 4.1%). In fact, Karnataka's share has been on a declining trend from the eleventh (4.93%) to the fifteenth (3.64%) finance commission.

To raise and address equity and efficiency issues before the SUFC, the Karnataka government constituted a special cell consisting of economic and financial experts. Despite the state's share increasing from 29.5% to 41% during the tenth to fifteenth FC, concerns persist regarding the criteria used for both vertical and horizontal devolution of funds. The I-X finance commissions prioritised the indicators of population, level of development, and fiscal capacity/weakness of the states. The paradigm shift took place from XI-XV finance commissions, wherein aspects of equity and efficiency were accorded priority. The challenge for the SUFC is to strike a balance between these two broad criteria and arrive at a rational basis for the devolution of taxes to accommodate the state's grievances. The independent functioning of the SUFC without the burden of appeasement to the government in power is the vision envisaged by the framers of the Constitution.

The functioning of the UFC's from X-XV is largely satisfying when compared to the state finance commission under Article 243(I & Y) of the Constitution. The UFC's work should inspire the state finance commissions with robust recommendations and their binding effect on governments. Addressing the strained fiscal relations between the Union and state governments is one of the most effective ways to strengthen fiscal and cooperative federalism. The aspects of social justice, the index of devolution, and the efforts of states in achieving SDG-1 (no poverty) need consideration from the commission, along with the issues of equity and efficiency.

(The writer is an independent researcher and writes on governance and development)

Source: Deccan Herald, p.6, Jan 22, 2024

Government guarantees on a rising trend in 12 States

In Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, govt. guarantees as a % of GDP have crossed the 10% mark

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

As a State grows, the need to fund infrastructure projects increases. The Public Sector Enterprises which are executing these projects need funds. While many of them get funds within the State budget, some of the projects require huge investments, for which PSEs turn to banks and financial institutions. The State government stands as guarantor for such loans, otherwise the banks may not be willing to extend loans to such entities.

Given the guarantee, the banks are happy to give loans, often without even doing due diligence about the commercial viability of such projects. Because of the very low risk attached to such loans, they also most often do not monitor the projects they finance. As long as the PSEs are financially sound and servicing the debt, this is a win-win situation. However, if the PSEs turn loss-making, and if the banks invoke the guarantees, it is the State government which will be in trouble. This was the concern that the RBI's Working Group on State Government Guarantees had expressed in its report released last week.

Chart 1 shows the outstanding State-wise guarantees issued as a share of each State's Gross Domestic Products at the end of March in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. For instance, for Andhra Pradesh, the outstanding guarantees as a share of its GDP grew from around 4% to over 10% in the said period. In fact, the guarantees are on an increasing trend in 11 other States – Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

In Sikkim and Telangana, along with Andhra Pradesh, the share of outstanding government guarantees as a share of their GDPs was

above the 10% mark at the end of 2022. Whereas it was around 8-9% in the case of Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh. The Working Group has asked governments to have a fixed ceiling on the guarantees issued and make it uniform across all States. The Group has also recommended the States assess risks attached to each guarantee and assign weights based on the sector and the borrower's past record.

A look at how the States used to finance their Gross Fiscal Deficit shows that two decades back, the National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) was the biggest source of financing. However, due to policy changes, now market borrowings are the major source. Chart 2 shows this transition between 2005-06 and 2022-23.

While the share of banks and financial institutions in the financing of States' gross fiscal deficit has remained low, in terms of absolute numbers they are still considerable as the quantum of loans given by the banks to the States has zoomed over the years. Chart 3 shows the loans given by the banks directly to State governments and also to State enterprises that have guarantees from the government. As can be seen from the chart, both these figures have surged in the recent past.

As the loans are guaranteed by the State, if they are not honoured, the banks may not give fresh loans to the enterprises and guarantees given by the government will fall in value. To avoid that, the Working Group has come up with some recommendations. Having a uniform ceiling for incremental guarantees issued during a year at 5% of the revenue receipts or 0.5% if the GSDP of the State, whichever is less, is the major criterion. The riskiness of the borrowers and projects involved should be considered. A State Finance Department unit should be set up to capture all guarantees and monitor them continually. All States should report in a similar format so that it is easier to oversee.

State of affairs

The charts are based on the report of the Working Group on State Government Guarantees published by the Reserve Bank of India



Chart 1 : Outstanding State-wise guarantees issued as a share of GSDP (in %) for FY18 (a), FY19 (a), FY20 (a), FY21 (a) and FY22 (a)

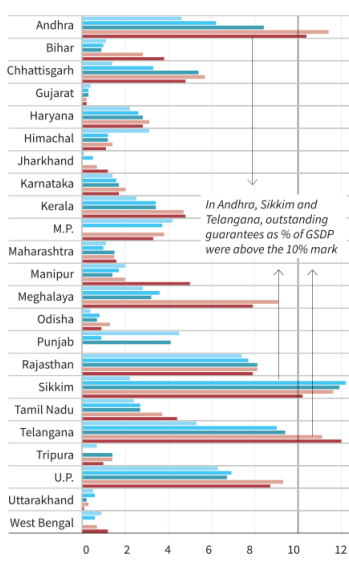


Chart 2 : The chart shows sources used to finance States' Gross Fiscal Deficit (in %)

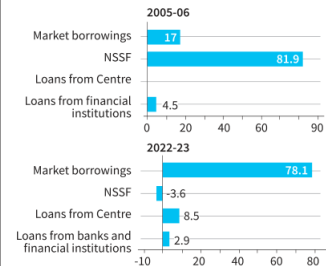
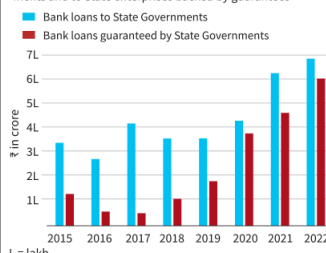


Chart 3 : Loans given by the banks directly to State governments and to State enterprises backed by guarantees



Source: The Hindu, p.11, Jan 23, 2024

Priyank Kharge: State will focus on skill development for AVGC sector

Mini Tejaswi

BENGALURU

Karnataka has an urgent mandate to develop skill sets, intellectual properties and millions of jobs to support the growth of its Animation, Visual Effects, & Gaming and Comics (AVGC) industry, stated Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT, BT, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj here on Tuesday.

He said the State already has over 300 specialised AVGC and XR (extended reality) players and studios employing over 15,000 professionals and the entire industry ecosystem has the potential to create 2.5 lakh additional jobs across diverse roles.

“Heavy impetus will be on skill development to support the growth and development of AVGC sector in Karnataka. We have to encourage new talent and new technologies,” he said.

Mr. Kharge further said that the State has a deep focus on creation of start-ups in the AVGC space, IP creation was another critical area, introduction of fresh AVGC policy as the earlier one was lapsing and all these would be aimed at creating employment and



RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge

increasing the State’s revenue from AVGC-related businesses.

GAFX 2024

AVGC sector’s annual conference, Bengaluru GAFX 2024, is scheduled to be held between January 29 and 31 in the city. GAFX, organised in association with industry apex body ABAI, will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Kharge said that this edition of the GAFX will have a heavy impetus on skilling in order to nurture employability in the gaming and animation ecosystem.

Karnataka currently holds a strong 20% share in the Indian media and entertainment industry. The State is home to many institutes dedicated to anima-

tion, visual effects, and gaming. The State set up Digital Art Centres in 27 Fine Arts Colleges catering to 600 students and one AVGC-XR finishing school, according to the Minister.

“These efforts of the government to create a robust ecosystem are expected to pave way for future growth and more investments to the State,” he said.

This edition of GAFX will see some leading Indian and international names in the world of visual effects.

Works of visual effects from Hollywood that wowed audiences the world over will be presented at the GAFX, including the Oscar-winning Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio, Antman & Wasp Quantamania, and The Fast & the Furious X.

Presentations

Cutting-edge animation presentations and showcases will include the animation of Oscar-nominated movie Nimona by the DNEG, spectacular animated features from India by Oscar-nominated studio Mikros Animation and Independent Global Animation Films by Assemblage.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan 24, 2024

Power-deficient year pushes implementation of multi-year tariff in Karnataka to next FY

Under the multi-year tariff system, electricity supply tariff for three years would be predetermined through projections based on previous trends; industries had expressed disapproval of the MYT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After announcing in 2023 its intention to implement a multi-year tariff (MYT) system in the State from the Financial Year 2024-2025, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) decided to drop it for this year after many stakeholders expressed their objections to the immediate implementation of the system.

Under MYT, the electricity supply tariff for three years would be predetermined through projections based on previous trends.

The representatives of industries and commercial establishments had expressed their disapproval of the MYT in a public hearing held by KERC in November. "Industries argued that if the data from the current year was used for projections, then it would only show an increasing trend due to the increased power purchase costs this year. In all likelihood, the costs will stabilise in the upcoming financial



Electricity supply companies had their own concerns about implementing multi-year tariff and had also asked KERC to wait till FY 2025-2026.

year, and they want us to wait till then," said P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC.

He also said that electricity supply companies (escoms) had their own concerns about implementing MYT. "They said that it would be difficult for them to make projections now as the Covid period cannot be considered for projection," he said.

The escoms have also asked KERC to wait till financial year 2025-2026 for the

implementation.

"For MYT, we need to have projection of power purchase costs for around five years. Especially since this is a power deficit year, the projection of power purchase costs comes with challenges. Since there is power deficit in many parts of the country, we do not know how the situation will play out yet," said J. Darshan, Director of Finance, Bescom.

He further said, "With the

weather vagaries and coal issues, we are not in a position to effectively predict the rate of power."

The KERC, for now, is confident of implementing MYT in FY 2025-2026, but industries have argued that with constant revision of Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (FPPCA), there would be no concept of tariff certainty that should ideally come with predetermined tariff structure.

"With FPPCA, there will be no tariff certainty. As utilities would have to buy power from various sources, nobody will know for sure what the price they are supposed to pay. It is high time that industrial tariffs which decided the manufacturing costs for industries are stabilised. While MYT looks good as a policy, the implementation, monitoring and course correction should happen concurrently for it to be successful," said M.G. Prabhakar, former advisory member, KERC and energy advisor to Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI).

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

Namma Metro ridership crosses 100-cr mark

Daily Revenue
Up From ₹3.8L
To ₹1.5Cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: More than 12 years after it became operational, Namma Metro ridership crossed the 100-crore mark on December 29, 2023, according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL).

When Namma Metro became operational between MG Road and Byappanahalli for 6.7km, 33,152 passen-

12 YEARS ON

gers on average were using the services daily in the first year of operations. After missing multiple deadlines, BMRL opened new lines (adding an average of 5.5km annually in 12 years).

Namma Metro now has an operational network of

74km with 65 stations.

On an average, 6.1 lakh passengers are using Metro services daily as of December 2023. The daily revenue generation jumped from Rs 3.8 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore during the period.

As per BMRL data, the average daily ridership crossed 1 lakh only in 2016-17, after Majestic interchange was partially opened, connecting Byappanahalli with Mysuru Road. During the pandemic, the daily passenger count dropped to 95,841 in 2020-21 from 4.9 lakh in 2019-20. In 2021-22, ridership increased to 2.3 lakh. BMRL executive director Shankar AS, who is heading operations and maintenance since 2011 when the first reach of Metro became operational, said, "A lot of changes have happened over the years in terms of patronage and train operations. Our focus has been on running trains as per the scheduled frequency. At present, we operate close to 300 round



₹10K PENALTY FOR MISBEHAVING WITH WOMAN PASSENGER

For the first time, BMRL imposed a penalty of Rs 10,000 on a man for misbehaving with a woman passenger in December 2023. Sources said the man was caught by Metro employees after the woman complained that he misbehaved with her when she was alighting from a train at Majestic station. The station controller at Majestic received the complaint; the woman didn't approach the police.

trips on both lines every day. During peak hours, short-loop trains are operated to clear the rush at stations such as Majestic."

In the initial days, BMRL had 400-odd oper-

ational staff and the number is now over 1,800 with the expansion of Metro network.

After the opening of the entire Purple Line from Challaghatta to Kadugodi

(Whitefield), passengers have been demanding additional trains during peak hours. However, BMRL officials feel the existing schedules are sufficient to meet the demand.

SOARING DEMAND

Year	Average daily fare revenue per day (Rs in lakh)	Average daily ridership
2011-12	3.8	33,152
2012-13	2.4	18,182
2013-14	2.7	19,879
2014-15	4.9	31,490
2015-16	7.7	45,930
2016-17	30.2	1,48,369
2017-18	77	3,45,135
2018-19	97.1	4,51,899
2019-20	105.9	4,89,380
2020-21	23.9	95,841
2021-22	53.6	2,25,445
2022-23	115.8	4,85,549
2023-24 (till Dec)	147.7	6,10,741

Source: BMRL

Source: The Times of India, p.4, Jan 24, 2024

Volvo rolls out 10,000th car made in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Volvo Cars produced 10,000 cars at its factory in Hoskote in the outskirts of Bengaluru as on January 18. It was in 2017 that the Swedish passenger car manufacturer commenced car assembly operations with its popular model XC90 in the city. Till date, it has produced over 4,000 units of XC60 cars here. And its 10,000th car is its pure electric model, XC40 recharge, made in India, according to the company.

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

Govt. to relieve retired officers appointed as advisers, consultants

It is estimated that across departments, boards, and corporations, hundreds of retired employees have found re-employment; the government is trying to reduce costs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to reduce expenditure, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, has asked all departments to relieve retired officials appointed as consultants and advisers by departments with immediate effect.

The order was issued by Chief Secretary Rajaneesh Goyal on Monday.

'Unnecessary expenditure'

It is estimated that across departments, boards and corporations, hundreds of retired employees have found re-employment, and the latest order could affect them. The Congress government, which is implementing the five guarantees, is taking steps to cut unnecessary expendi-



The order said such officials have also been provided benefits, which is causing a burden on the State exchequer. FILE PHOTO

ture, government sources said.

The order said that it had been noticed that retired officials have been appointed by creating unnecessary posts and sometimes even appointed for Group A posts. They have also been provided vehicles and other benefits, which is causing a burden on the State exche-

quer. Besides, it is found that efficiency, quality and accountability are lacking from these retired officials appointed as advisors and consultants. The order directed the departments to post serving officials to such posts where the vacancy is created.

Pros and cons

Meanwhile, a retired offi-

cial from Department of Public Works acknowledged that there could be unnecessary creation of posts and appointment not based on need. He, however, said that several external funded schemes or projects such as the World Bank-aided projects or the Asian Development Bank funded projects require experienced consultants and in many cases the World Bank mandates appointment of those with experience in working in World Bank funded schemes be appointed.

Also in the Department of Water Resources, expertise is required in understanding and handling interstate water disputes as well as other interstate disputes. "The order could have exempted such posts that are required instead of a blanket order to relieve everyone."

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

Beer to become dearer to boost excise revenue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is some bad news for beer guzzlers. Riding on the increased sales of beer this financial year, the State government has proposed another hike in the additional excise duty, the second such hike this year. Industry sources said that when the hike becomes effective, a 650 ml bottle of beer will be dearer by around ₹8 to ₹10.

The notification has been issued recently to increase the Additional Excise Duty from 185% to 195%, and the new rates are expected to come into force as early as next week. The draft proposal to hike the additional excise duty on beer has been notified on January 20, and public objection has to be invited before January 27. The new rates are expected to come into force after the notification has been issued to amend Schedule D of Karnataka Excise (Excise Duties and Fees) Rules, 1968.

Increase in sales

The sale of beer in Karnataka for the period between April and December 2003 has increased by 15.59% compared to the corresponding period last year with a total of 324.32 lakh carton boxes sold against 280.58 lakh carton boxes sold in same period in 2022. In contrast, the sale of IML grew by just 1.69% in the same period with a total of 533.04 lakh carton boxes sold this year against 524.19 lakh carton boxes sold last year.

Excise duty on both categories were increased in the first budget of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in this term. By the end of the third quarter, excise reve-



When the hike becomes effective, a 650 ml bottle of beer will be dearer by around ₹8 to ₹10. FILE PHOTO

nue collected in the State was ₹30,620 crore against the target of ₹36,000 crore for the year. Excise revenue collection in the same period during last financial year was ₹26,987 crore. According to government sources, the additional excise duty is being increased to boost excise revenue.

Reasons for jump

The Secretary of the Federation of Wine Merchants' Associations of Karnataka B. Govindraj Hegde said that beer sales increased for many reasons including big schemes offered by beer companies, introduction of low-cost beers and with IML becoming expensive, many turned into low cost beers. He said that the reduction in excise duty on IML could increase IML sales, and action should be taken on sale of illegal liquor brought from cross border that could boost revenue. "Since 2013, excise duty in State has already increased eight times, including twice in the same financial year during COVID-19."

After the hikes between 2017 and 2023, the lower and middle segment of IML in slabs between 1 and 8 shows an increase by 1.46% while the premium segment between slab 9 and 18 has reported a decline by 1.49% as they became dearer and many shifted to beer or lower segments of IML.

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

Govt. issues notification bringing back about 11,300 staff to OPS

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday issued a notification to bring a part of government employees to a defined pension scheme (old pension scheme) from the existing new pension scheme. Around 11,300 employees will be eligible to go into the defined pension scheme from the new pension scheme.

Those who joined after April 1, 2006, but the advertisement for the posts were issued before that will be eligible for the defined pension. As per the notification, those eligible will have a one-time chance to opt for the defined pension scheme by June 30, 2024. The recommendation of those eligible should be made to the heads of departments before July 31, 2024, and sent for the Finance Department approval before August 31, 2024.

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan 25, 2024

State attracted global business proposals worth ₹23,000 crore at Davos: Patil

A delegation headed by the Minister of Large and Medium Industries held over 50 strategic meetings with global industry leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka delegation's presence at the recently concluded World Economic Forum (WEF) held at Davos, Switzerland, between January 15 and 19 yielded tangible results, said M.B. Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development.

During the course of the tour, the delegation was successful in attracting business investment proposals worth more than ₹23,000 crore to the State, he claimed on Wednesday.

The delegation headed by the Minister had over 50 strategic meetings with global industry leaders including Nestlé, HP, HCL, Volvo Group, IKEA, Sony, Microsoft, Hitachi, and



Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil addressing a press meet in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

others companies from several parts of the world.

According to Mr. Patil, Web Werks, a global call centre infrastructure firm, has pledged ₹20,000 crore to establish a massive 100 MW data centre in Bengaluru and the project will also generate jobs for 1,000 people. Microsoft

has committed to contributing to digital skills development for semi-skilled urban and rural youth in the State while Hitachi has signed an MoU with a focus on promoting economic growth in rural areas.

Briefing the media at Vidhana Soudha, the Minister said many other foreign companies and business conglomerates have also evinced interest in exploring business opportunities and expansions in northern parts of Karnataka. "Initiatives are under way to foster industrial development in places like Vijayapura, Hubballi-

Dharwad, Belagavi, and others beyond Bengaluru," he added.

Mr. Patil further said Kochi-based Lulu would invest ₹300 crore to set up a new food processing unit in Vijayapura and invest further in expanding its existing unit in Kalaburagi. Bareilly-based BL Agro would establish a fully



Initiatives are under way to foster industrial development in Vijayapura, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, and other places beyond Bengaluru.

M.B. PATIL
Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development

equipped food processing plant in Vijayapura. This plant would play a pivotal role in procuring, grading, sorting, and packaging local food products for domestic and global customers, he added.

According to Mr. Patil, the overall investment outlay includes another ₹3,000 crore from various enterprises mostly focused on smart city infrastructure, renewable energy solutions, data centers, and related sectors. In addition to these, AB InBev, a brewing company from Belgium, showed intent to invest ₹400 crore to expand its existing brewery in Mysuru. The company also has a Global Capability Centre at Whitefield with 5,000 people focused on digital capabilities, Big Data, AI and global supply chain expertise.

Source: The Hindu, p.8, Jan 25, 2024

Secondary deals show 80% drop in 2023, Fintech emerges the winner: PrivateCircle Research

The study by the Bengaluru-based market intelligence firm also showed a 62% year-on-year drop in startup funding in 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fintech saw the highest number of secondary transactions in both 2023 and 2022, according to the Indian Start-ups Deal Report-2023 by Bengaluru-based market intelligence technology company PrivateCircle.

A secondary round takes place when an existing shareholder sells their shares to a third party.

Besides Fintech, SaaS (software as a service) also saw a high frequency of secondary deals in 2023 and 2022.

During the peak 2021 funding peak, e-commerce saw the highest number of secondary deals followed by Fintech, and Media & Entertainment among others.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Murali Loganathan, Director of Research, PrivateCircle



During the peak 2021 funding peak, e-commerce saw the highest number of secondary deals followed by Fintech, and Media & Entertainment among others. GETTY IMAGES

said, "We can see fintech coming up in all three years, showing the sector's ability to provide exits to investors. SaaS is also common in both 2022 and 2023 showing the sector's resilience in providing exits to investors."

The analysis was done by tracking 252 secondary deals at 117 start-ups valued at \$500 million or

above in the last three years.

According to the study, in 2023 the startups saw an 80 per cent drop in the number of secondary deals compared to the previous year. The research firm tracked 13 secondary rounds across the 117 startups in 2023. The numbers were 84 and 155 in the years 2022 and

2021 respectively.

Primary funding dropped 62%

The study also showed a 62% year-on-year (YOY) drop in start-up funding in 2023.

About ₹67,000 crores was raised in start-up funding in 2023 as compared to around ₹180,000 crores in 2022

and ₹242,000 crores raised in 2021 which was a peak year in Indian startup ecosystem.

The year 2023 witnessed a six-year low for the start-up ecosystem, as the funding numbers dropped below that of 2018.

There was a similar YOY drop of 72% in 2023 deal counts as compared to previous years. Primary funding rounds stood at 1,444 deals in 2023 as compared to 5000 odd deals in 2022.

Secondary and debt funding rounds were omitted for the analysis on primary rounds and only Indian companies have been considered, said a release from PrivateCircle.

"Even though funding rounds have slowed down, venture capital funds are sitting on ample dry powder. Funds usually have a 10-year cycle for investments, and they can only raise capital in the first three. Given that the

cautious approach of investors has now continued for almost two years, we expect to see VC activity pick up pace later this year," Dr. Loganathan said.

Lenskart raised biggest round

Mega \$100 mn deals were definitely hard to come by in 2023 and so was the emergence of new unicorns. But the companies with strong business fundamentals did manage to raise big funding rounds, said the report.

Lenskart raised the biggest funding round of \$500 million from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. This was followed by the likes of DMI Finance, PhonePe, CleanMax, Udaan, and others.

The \$600 million fundraise of Flipkart was excluded from the study as the round was led by its parent entity Walmart.

Source: The Hindu, p.9, Jan 25, 2024

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EDUCATION

Govt plans to use AI tools for tracking toilet hygiene in schools

Inspired by success of Andhra Pradesh model

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to address the issue of lack of cleanliness in school toilets, the Department of School Education and Literacy is planning to use an AI-powered tool.

Inspired by the successful model implemented in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, the

officials of the department have proposed the idea during a recent meeting chaired by School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa.

According to officials, the Andhra Pradesh model was demonstrated during the meeting of chief secretaries of all states chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Frequent complaints

"We are getting frequent complaints about lack of hygiene and cleanliness at the public schools despite there being funds earmarked for cleaning and monitoring of toilets. We felt the AI tool implemented at our neighboring state was

helpful in ensuring hygiene in schools," said a senior official of the department.

According to the officials, the tool will help keep a watch on the condition of the toilets. "There is no privacy threat. The tool will work based on the mobile application," official explained. As it is not possible to ensure cleanliness through physical inspection of all the schools, the AI tool will be a better option.

How does it work?

In the first hour of the day a teacher of the school will be asked to click a photograph of the toilets and upload the same on the app installed in

their mobile phones.

The application will compare it with the already stored photograph of a model (cleaned) toilet and if it does not match, it will send a memo to the head teacher.

Following the memo the teacher will have to take the responsibility and ensure the toilet is clean and upload the latest photograph.

The teachers cannot cheat as the app will be location-based and it will track the location and real timings of the school.

As the tool is app-based, it can be monitored even at the level of the Commissioner of the department.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3C, Jan 20, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯುಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಚಿಂತನೆ

ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ

• ಚಂದ್ರಹಾಸ ಹಿರೇಮಠ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದ 423 ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಚಿಂತನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ (ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯು) ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ಚರ್ಚೆಗಳು ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿವೆ. ಅರ್ಧಕ್ಕೆ ಪದವಿ ತೊರೆದವರು, ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ, ಪಿಯುಸಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾದ ನಂತರ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಇದರಿಂದ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದೆ.

ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ 34 ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ

ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗ

ತೆರೆಯುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯು, ತನ್ನ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾದುವ ಅನಗತ್ಯ ವೆಚ್ಚ ತಗ್ಗಲಿದೆ ದಾ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಸುಧಾಕರ್ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮೊದಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಐದು ಸೇರಿ ಕೆಲವೇ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈಚೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಗೂ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 54 ಸಾವಿರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು 64 ವಿಷಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರತಿ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲೂ ಎರಡು ಕೊಠಡಿ ಮೀಸಲು: ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಎರಡು ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಿಡಬೇಕು.

ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು

430

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು

423

ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು

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ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಇರುವ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳು

ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇತರ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯು ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಬರೆದ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋರಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವರು ಸಮ್ಮತಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಏಕಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಎರಡು ಪದವಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ: ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ

ಇತರೆ ವಿ.ವಿಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಕೋರಿಕೆ

ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಯೋಜಿತವಾಗಿರುವ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವಿಭಾಗ ತೆರೆಯಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಹಲವು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಪುನಃ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿವೆ.

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳ ಅನ್ವೇಷಣಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಭಜನೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಎದುರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಅನುಭವಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೀರದಂತೆ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನಡೆಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ವಿಭಾಗ ತೆರೆಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಅವಲಂಬನೆಯೂ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಮನವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಲಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅನುದಾನ ಆಯೋಗದ (ಯುಜಿಎ) ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಪದವಿ ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 3.5 ಲಕ್ಷ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪದವಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏಕಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿ.ಇಡಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆ

ನಡೆದಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯು ಕುಲಪತಿ ಶರಣಪ್ಪ ವಿ. ಹಲಸೆ.

ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗೂ ಅವಕಾಶ: ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಒಯುನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 92 ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗೆ (ಪಿ.ಎಚ್‌ಡಿ) ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ನಂತರ ಮತ್ತೆ 100 ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್‌ಡಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಶರಣಪ್ಪ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

Source: Prajavani, p.6, Jan.20, 2024

ಶಾಲಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಚಿಂತನೆ; ನನ್ನ ಶಾಲೆ, ನನ್ನ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ!

ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿನೂತನ ಯೋಜನೆ | ಹಳೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಸಂಘರಚನೆ, ವಾಟ್ಸಾಪ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್‌ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಒಗ್ಗೂಡಿಸಲು ಸಲಹೆ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಸರ್ವಾಂಗೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹಲವಾರು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಈಗ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಘ ಅರಂಭಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ.

'ನನ್ನ ಶಾಲೆ, ನನ್ನ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ' ಎನ್ನುವ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರಂಭಿಸಲು ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಿದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ 60 ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿರುವ ಅನೇಕರು ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಒಗ್ಗೂಡಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರು ಕಲಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಅವರಿಂದ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ರೂಪಿಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇದೀಗ, ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದೇ ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ಅವರಿಂದ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಹಾಯ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿದೆ.

ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಂದಲೇ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ: ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಘವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎಂ ವತಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಘ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಕೆಲವು ಸಹಾಯ ಪಡೆಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ತಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಾಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಶಾಲೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲ ಒಂದೇ ಸೇರಿಸಿದರೆ, ಹಾಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮುಗಿಸಿದವರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ಸಹಾಯಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಲೆಕ್ಕಾಚಾರವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತ ಅನೇಕರು ಉತ್ತಮ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ಕಲಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಂತಹ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತವರ ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಉತ್ತಮ ಉದ್ದೇಶದೊಂದಿಗೆ, ದೇಶ-ವಿದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಾವು ಕಲಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ವಿನಾಶದೂ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಅಂಶವಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಘ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಧು ಬಂಗಾರಪ್ಪ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು 'ನನ್ನ ಶಾಲೆ, ನನ್ನ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ' ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಘಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಒಂದು ಕಲಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟು ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಈ ರೀತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಧನ ಸಹಾಯ ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದರೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸುಯಮ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎಂ, ಶಾಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಈ ಕೊಡುಗೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ

ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವೇನು?

ಈ ಒಂದೇ ನನ್ನ ಶಾಲೆ ನನ್ನ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಾನ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ತಾವು ಓದಿದ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ದಾನ ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನೀಡಲು ಈ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಿವಿಲ್‌ಆರ್ ಫಂಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಅನುದಾನ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಹಲವು ಕಾನೂನುಗಳಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇವು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕೊಡುಗೆಯಾಗಿ ನೀಡಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವ ಕಾನೂನು ಸಮಿತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ವೈದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರಂಭಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಹಾಗೂ ದುರುಪಯೋಗವಾಗದಂತೆ ಎಚ್ಚರವಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಪ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಹಳೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ

ಏನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು?

- ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿದ ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಲಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು
- ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಒಂದು ವಾಟ್ಸಾಪ್ ಅಥವಾ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ರಚಿಸಬೇಕು
- ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಬೇಕು
- ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಇತರತೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ ನಿರಂತರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು
- ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸೌಕರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆದು ಎಸ್‌ಡಿಎಂ, ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು

Source: Vishwavani, p.4, Jan.24, 2024

State govt. constitutes monitoring committee to start 500 public schools

The Hindu Bureau
 BENGALURU

Karnataka government has ordered the opening of 500 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) in the first phase through the private-public partnership (PPP) model from the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund of various companies and non-government organisations (NGO) and knowledge partners across the State for the next academic year.

It also constituted a monitoring committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, which will include the Mi-

nister of the Department of School Education and Literacy, the Minister of the Revenue Department, the Higher Education Minister among five other ministers, and the Additional Chief Secretary of the government as members.

The task of this committee is to oversee the proper implementation of the KPS project, preparation of guidelines for the single window monitoring system, financial issues, regulation of project phases and non-compliance, engagement with potential partners and others.

Along with this, the government has also formed

a seven-member executive committee for the KPS headed by the Additional Chief Secretary of the government. These committees have been given the power to formulate policies and guidelines for successful implementation of the KPS scheme.

"Five hundred schools with maximum enrollment in the State should be identified as Centres of Excellence. Such schools should be named as KPS and established at the taluk centre and hobli level. These schools should be identified in future to include Pre-primary to Pre-University," the order said.

To attract children towards government schools, the government has decided to upgrade 2,000 schools as KPS, particularly in rural areas and one school per three gram panchayats across the state in three years.

The government also plans to collect around ₹2,500 crore of CSR fund for the schools' development from corporate companies and NGOs. It has been decided to encourage teachers in private schools teaching central curriculum to volunteer to serve in government schools and to co-opt as additional guest teachers.

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

DSEL submits proposal to increase remuneration of guest faculty in schools and PU colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided to revise the remuneration of guest faculty in government schools and pre-university colleges by up to ₹15,000 per month.

The department has proposed increasing remuneration by ₹12,000 per month for guest faculty in primary and high schools, and by ₹15,000 for PU college guest lecturers. As of now, these guest faculty get ₹10,000 in schools, and ₹12,000 in colleges.

“We have submitted a proposal to the government to revise the remuneration for guest faculty in schools and PU colleges up to ₹15,000. The Finance Department is examining the proposal,” said Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of DSEL.

Around 40,000 guest faculty work in primary, high school, and PU colleges across Karnataka. They are



Around 40,000 guest faculty work in primary and high schools and PU colleges across Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

not happy with the department's decision and are demanding facilities, including lump sum amount and health insurance, that were announced for guest faculty of government first grade colleges.

After a 45-day-long protest by guest faculty of government first grade colleges across Karnataka for various demands, including confirmation of services, in December 2023, the Chief Minister promised to increase their remuneration up to ₹8,000 per month on the basis of work experience. Along with this, financial benefits like ₹5 lakh lump sum, health insurance up to ₹5 lakh

(with conditions), one leave per month, were also promised.

A government higher primary school guest faculty told *The Hindu*, “I am a B.A. B.Ed graduate and have been working for eight years as guest faculty. Around 250 children are enrolled in our school. We work eight hours every day, but the department is paying us only ₹10,000 per month for one year. Earlier, it was ₹8,000 per month. I have a family. The prices of all things are going up every day, but not our remuneration. We request the government to increase the remuneration and provide other benefits

too,” she demanded.

Another guest faculty said, “I work in the school which is located in a remote area. We don't have proper transport. The daily commute is very difficult. The remuneration is not enough to cover my travel expenses and also taking care of my family.”

Ningegowda A.H., president, Karnataka State PU College Lecturers' Association, said, “The guest faculty of schools and PU colleges are not organised, and never organised a protest against the government in any manner for any demand. We welcome the decision of the DSEL to increase remuneration. But, we are demanding that the remuneration be increased up to ₹20,000. Along with this, we want health insurance, retirement benefit and 5% grace marks in teachers' recruitment. The government should announce this in the coming State budget. I will submit a proposal to the department in this regard.”

Source: [The Hindu](#), p.4, Jan 26, 2024

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ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನದಿಂದ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಾಯುಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ

ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಳಿಯ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕ ಕಳಪೆ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇ ಎರಡನೇ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಇರುವ ನಗರ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ

- ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದಂತೆ ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ ಈ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯೇ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.



- ಕಳೆದ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಳಿಯ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕ 100-200 ತಲುಪಿದೆ
- ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೂ ಮೀರಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಾಹನಗಳು, ಟ್ರಾಫಿಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ 20 ರಷ್ಟು ವಿಕಾಸ (ಎಕ್ಸುಐ) ಪ್ರಕಾರ 0-50 ನಡುವೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ

ಉತ್ತಮ, 51-100 ನಡುವೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನಕರ, 101-200 ನಡುವೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಮಧ್ಯಮ, 201-300 ಇದ್ದರೆ ಕಳಪೆ ಹಾಗೂ 301-400 ತುಂಬಾ ಕಳಪೆ ಎಂದು ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ರಾಫಿಕ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಶೇ.20ರಷ್ಟು ವಿಕಾಸಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೂ ಮೀರಿ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇಷ್ಟಿದ್ದರೂ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರೀ ಅಂತರವಿದ್ದು, ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ವಾಹನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯಿದೆ. 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಸರಾಸರಿ 56,124 ವಾಹನಗಳು ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು 13 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೊಸ ಕಾರುಗಳು, 29 ಸಾವಿರ ಹೊಸ ಬೈಕುಗಳು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 1,14,28,331 ವಾಹನಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 23,51,437 ಕಾರುಗಳು, 76,77,541 ಬೈಕ್

ವಾಹನಗಳಿಂದ ಶೇ.50 ವಾಯುಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ

ಆತಂಕದ ಸಂಗತಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ವಾಯುಮಾಲಿನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ವಾಹನಗಳೇ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿವೆ. ವಾಹನಗಳು ಹೊರಬಿಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಬನ್ ಮೊನಾಕ್ಸೈಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ವಾಯುಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ದೆಹಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಾಯು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಈಗ ಅಷ್ಟೇನೂ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ಮಟ್ಟ ತಲುಪಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ, ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಮಿತಿಮೀರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಚಾಚಿಯಾಗುವ ಆತಂಕ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

ಗಳು ಇವೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಭಾರೀ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ 1 ಕೋಟಿ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ಹೊರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ 15 ಲಕ್ಷ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಭಾರೀ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ರಾಫಿಕ್ ಜಾಮ್ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ವಾಯು ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯವೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವರದಿಗಳು ಹೇಳಿವೆ.

Source: Vishwavani, p.2, Jan.20, 2024

ಡೈನಾಮಿಕ್ ಗ್ರೌಂಡ್ ವಾಟರ್ ರಿಸೋರ್ಸಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ 2023 ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳವಳ

ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಆಳದತ್ತ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ

• ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್ ಹೆಬ್ಬಾರ್

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: 'ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಾವಿರ ಅಡಿ ಕೊರೆಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಆದರೂ ನೀರು ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಏನೂರು ಅಡಿ ಕೊರೆಸಿದರೂ ನೀರು ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬ ಭರವಸೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಆಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಗಡಸು ನೀರು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಾನೊಬ್ಬನೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ನನ್ನಂತೆಯೇ ಹಲವರು ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಅಡಿ ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಕೊರೆಸಿ ಕೈಸುಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಗುಡಿಬಂಡೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಚೌಟತಿಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರೈತ ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಬೇಸರದಿಂದಲೇ ಹೇಳಿದರು.



ಬಳನೋಟ

'ನಾವು ಚಿಕ್ಕವರಿದ್ದಾಗ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಅಗೆದರೂ ನೆಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಬರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಎಂತಹ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ಯಲ್ಲೂ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗ ನೋಡಿ, ಸಾವಿರ ಅಡಿ ಕೊರೆದರೂ ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಧೂಳು ಹಾರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನೀರಿನ ಪಸೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಭೂಮ್ನಾಯಿ ಕರುಣೆ ತೋರುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಕೊಳವೆಬಾವಿ ಸುತ್ತ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದ ಬಿಳಿ ಪುಡಿ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತ ಮಾತು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದರು.

'ನಮ್ಮ ತಾತ, ಮುತ್ತಾತಂದಿರು ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕೆರೆ, ಕಟ್ಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಾವು ಉಳಿಸಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವನ್ನು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಈ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದಾಗ ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಾದವಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಳಿದೆಡೆಯ ಕತೆ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಭಿನ್ನವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ 2022ಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತುಂಬಾ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ಮಟ್ಟ ತಲುಪಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಜಲಶಕ್ತಿ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ವರದಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. 'ಡೈನಾಮಿಕ್ ಗ್ರೌಂಡ್ ವಾಟರ್ ರಿಸೋರ್ಸಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ-2023' ವರದಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ

ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ದುಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಳಕು ಚೆಲ್ಲುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಮಾಧಾನದ ವಿಷಯ ಎಂದರೆ ಹಾಸನ ಮತ್ತು ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಮಟ್ಟ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆಳದಿಂದ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಆಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಸಿಯುತ್ತ ಸಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅತಿ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿಯುವ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಡಗು ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕೊಳ್ಳೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಏಳು ನದಿಗಳಿರುವ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕಿತ್ತೂರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ಹಳೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಕುಸಿತ ಆತಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ಕೋಲಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 'ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಬಳಕೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿವ್ವಳ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ' ಶೂನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿದಿವೆ. ಈ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳು ಮರುಭೂಮಿ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾದ ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನದ ಹಾದಿ ತುಳಿದಿವೆ.

ಭಾರತವು ತನ್ನ ಅಂತರ್ಜಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಶೇ 90ರಷ್ಟನ್ನು ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬೇರೆ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ಶೇ 50ರಿಂದ 60ರಷ್ಟಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸರಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. 'ನೀರಿನ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತೆ' ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚಿಂತಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂತರ್ಜಲದ ಬಳಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮರುಪೂರಣ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ ಭಾರತೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಐಐಎಸ್‌ಸಿ) ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಪ್ರೊ. ಶೇಖರ್ ಮುದ್ದು.

6ನೇ ಪುಟ ನೋಡಿ

ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅತಿ ಬಳಕೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ಶೇ
ಕೋಲಾರ	172
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾ.	154
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	153
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ	150
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ	132
ಜಾಮರಾಜನಗರ	96.53
ರಾಮನಗರ	95.77
ಉಮಕೂರು	91.77
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ	88.91
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ	88.71

Continued...

Review of mining leases cleared under 'diluted' rules comes to halt

Term of state-level expert panel expired last Nov

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

At a time the state-level expert committee (SEAC) has ceased to exist, time is running out for more than 1,500 quarries and sand mining leases whose environment clearances need to be reappraised by April to continue operations.

The environment clearances granted for leases by the district-level environment impact authorities between January 15, 2016, and September 13,

2018, have to be reappraised by the expert committee in view of an order by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Hearing a petition against the "dilution" of Environment Impact Assessment Rules through amendments made by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the NGT had in 2018 observed that the changes were in violation of the Supreme Court's directions.

The "dilution" included doing away with public hearing, environment impact assess-



The environment clearances granted for leases by the district-level environment impact authorities between January 15, 2016 and September 13, 2018 have to be reappraised by the expert committee in view of an order by the National Green Tribunal. DH FILE PHOTO

ment studies and environment management plan for leases for areas up to 25 hectare.

The NGT directed that clearances issued for all leases with less than 5 hectares of area need to be reappraised by the

SEAC, and fresh leases have to be issued by state-level authorities.

Environment impact assessment and management plan was made mandatory for clusters of leases with over 5

hectare area.

The NGT noted that mining leases granted with the "diluted" rules are still continuing even after the 2018 order and asked the MoEF to get leases issued across the country reappraised by the SEAC. Last year, the MoEF issued a memorandum to all the states stating that reappraisals shall be completed by April.

However, the term of the SEAC, set up by the previous BJP government, ended on November 19, 2023. "In Karnataka over 1,500 leases issued by the district authorities need to be reappraised. However, the term of the SEAC has ended. Since then, the reappraisal work has stopped. Those with mining leases have time till March 31 following which they will have to shut operations till getting the clearances," sources said.

es said.

The source said the dilution of the rules by the MoEF means the many district authorities had laid down conditions necessary to prevent air and water pollution. "It's not that mere issuing of conditions will prevent environment pollution. However, issuing clearances without necessary conditions will make it difficult to act against violators. The dilution of the conditions has led to unnecessary confusion and burden of work," the source added.

The MoEF has directed that the clearances issued over the last two years should be uploaded on its portal and the committee should use data analytics and GIS maps during reappraisal. The work requires technical experts in the SEAC, which is dominated by political appointees.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 22, 2024

KSPCB officials under scrutiny for failing to act against polluting industries

About 70 of them on the radar for various violations

BENGALURU, DHNS

Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has directed initiation of cases against officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for failing to act against polluting industries.

While the KSPCB has acted against 172 industries, 30 of which are dyeing units and 12 are tyre pyrolysis, a plastic recycling unit also faced legal issues after a Central Pollution Control Board audit found a fake recycling

certificate when the plant was not operational. In all, about 70 industries are at the risk of closure for various violations.

At a review meeting on Sunday, Khandre took KSPCB officials to task. "Book criminal cases against polluting industries as well as regional officers who have failed to act against them," he told the board, asking for stringent checks on polluters.

Deadline

Noting that the National Green Tribunal (NGT)



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) deadline to set up sewage treatment plants to stop sewage from entering Bellandur and Varthur (in pic) lakes will expire in December. DH FILE PHOTO

ESHWAR KHANDRE
Forest minister

Book criminal cases against polluting industries as well as regional officers who have failed to act against them.

treatment plants to stop sewage from entering Bellandur and Varthur lakes will expire in December, Khandre directed officials to take action after consultations with the departments concerned.

He said there are complaints against some industries over dumping hazardous effluents into borewells, urging officials to look into the matter.

'Collect Rs 286-cr penalty from apartments'

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre asked officials to immediately collect a penalty of Rs 286 crore from apartments for violating environmental rules, including lack of adequate STPs, which had led to flow of sewage into the drains.

He also wanted the KSPCB to ensure there is no monopoly in the processing of medical waste. "Some companies have established

a monopoly and are harassing hospitals. Officials should also check whether the collection, transportation and disposal of medical waste is done as per the rules," Khandre said.

Disappointed over delays in the KSPCB approval for new industries, the minister wanted officials to decide on applications for new industries pending for six months to one year.

Groundwater in such areas must be constantly checked to ensure there is no compromise on community health, the minister said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.4, Jan 23, 2024

Mining restoration funds: Nodal agency officials face uphill task

**Under pressure
to include villages not
affected by mining**

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Implementing the Supreme Court's directions in restoring the areas affected by mining has become a herculean task for Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) as the officials of the nodal body are spending a major part of their day resisting political pressure to include areas unaffected.

The KMERC was set up following an order by apex court to restore villages in Ballari, Vijayanagar, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts which were hit by the largescale mining operations, many of which proved to be illegal.

The KMERC has about Rs 25,000 crore funds which are strictly meant for rehabilitation of 466 villages that are part of the Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ). Following concerns over diversion of funds for development works that were not related to mining-affected areas, the Supreme Court appointed Justice (ret'd) B Sudarshan Reddy as oversight authority in 2022.

KMERC sources said officials were facing pressure from different quarters to include villages and taluks that had not been affected by mining. Documents showed that over the last few months, representations have been received by ministers, legislators and other representatives seeking inclusion of new villages.

Sira MLA T B Jayachandra, PWD minister Satish Jarakiholi, Hagari-bommanahalli MLA Nemiraj Naik and Chikkanayakanahalli MLA Suresh Baabu C B have requested the KMERC to take up works.

PWD minister Satish Jarakiholi endorsed a request by Sindhanur MLA (Raichur district) for allocation of Rs 23 crore for constructing a proposed bridge near Nittur, which is unaffected by mining operations.

In his letter, Jayachandra stated that Sira taluk, adjacent to Gubbi and Chikkanayakanahalli, has been "very much affected due to the heavy movement of trucks causing huge damage to roads in the area." Further he noted that a steel company has sought repair of the road to facilitate expansion.

While Naik made a similar claim and sought repair of the roads in Hagaribommanahalli hobli, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited has written to KMERC requesting fund for ongoing works to fill 22 lakes/tanks in Chikkanayakanahalli.

An official said that inclusion of any such work will not only violate the CEC guidelines but may lead to contempt of the highest court. "Transportation of minerals and ore has led to damage of roads in northern and even coastal Karnataka. The oversight authority has rejected several requests by pointing to the court orders," he explained.

The number of villages were increased from 286 to 466 after the oversight authority reviewed the mining affected areas. "The villages have been finalised after a comprehensive review. Any addition of villages or modification of works needs to be approved by the apex court. However, we are still spending time convincing the leaders about the rules set by the court," a source said.



Source: Deccan Herald, p.3B, Jan 24, 2024

Declare quantum of waste generation, BSWML tells bulk generators

This is the first step towards collecting user fees from them for processing waste. Those who produce 100 tonnes of waste or have 5,000 sq. m of area, fall in the bulk waste generator category

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has instructed bulk waste generators to submit an affidavit providing details about the quantum of waste generation and measurement of areas in which the waste is generated. This is the first step towards collecting user fees from them for processing the waste.

According to the solid waste management rules, those who produce 100 tonnes of waste or have 5,000 sq. m of area, fall in the category of bulk waste generators. Earlier, these waste generators were handing over the waste to empanelled agencies, who in turn processed the waste. The agencies were collecting money from commercial waste generators, institutional waste generators, and bulk waste generators.

However, sources in the



BSWML plans to directly start collecting bulk waste from registered waste generators and process it.
FILE PHOTO

BBMP say these empanelled agencies were not processing the waste but were dumping the same in BBMP trucks. This is one of the key reasons why Bengaluru has several black spots, they alleged.

A BBMP official said within 30 days from Thursday, the waste generators

have to download the e-stamp paper on www.bbmp.gov.in and fill in the required details. The form should be sent to the Chief General Manager and Chief Engineer, BSWML, #30/1, 1st floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Road, Vasant Nagar, Bengaluru. If

anyone fails to adhere to this direction, a fine will be levied.

After this, the BSWML will directly start collecting bulk waste from these generators and will process it on their own. For this, the BSWML will be collecting user fees from the waste generators.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Jan 26, 2024

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Cancer mortality sees over 60% rise in last four years in Kidwai hospital

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Cancer mortality in Karnataka has seen a steady rise in the last four years. According to data from the Hospital Based Cancer Registry (HBCR) at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, deaths recorded in the facility have increased from 633 in 2020 to 1,015 in 2023, a rise of over 60%.

Doctors, who said the increase in mortality is the trend observed nationally and globally, attributed it to late presentation. While the outcome of treatment is better with early diagnosis and intervention, it is unfortunate that more than 60% of the patients come when the disease has progressed to an advanced stage, doctors said. According to data, the rise in deaths is proportionate to the increasing number of new patients and follow-up registrations. While the number of new patients increased from 13,973 in 2020 to 21,608 in 2023, the follow-up registrations rose from 2.43 lakh in 2020 to 3.68 lakh in 2023.

Kidwai director V. Lokesh told *The Hindu* that of the 13.9 lakh cancer cases newly diagnosed every year in the coun-

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology

YEAR-WISE DATA

Year	Deaths	New patients	Follow-up registrations	Surgeries done
2020	633	13,973	2,43,823	2,951
2021	770	16,316	2,90,993	4,224
2022	875	21,059	3,59,832	5,724
2023	1,015	21,608	3,68,541	6,249

try, about 87,000 cases are estimated to be from Karnataka. At any point in time, there are more than 37.5 lakh cancer cases observed in India and about 2.3 lakh cases of these are in Karnataka, he said.

Terminal stages

"Over 60% of patients present with an advanced stage cancer at our institute. Apart from the rising incidence, patients treated in other hospitals also come to us in terminal stages. Moreover, previously treated advanced and metastatic cancer patients seek care at Kidwai due to the availability of palliative care. The increasing mortality is due to all these factors. We have noticed that the highest mortality is in the 35 to 64 age group," he said.

"Early diagnosis improves cancer outcomes by providing care at the earliest possible

stage. We had 289 distant metastasis (in an advanced stage) cases in 2022 while 251 and 160 such patients were seen in 2021 and 2019, respectively. The number for 2023 is not yet available," Dr. Lokesh said.

According to the data furnished in the Lok Sabha session in July last year, Karnataka is witnessing a steady rise in new cases and mortality since 2020. "In 2020, as many as 47,113 deaths were reported in Karnataka, which increased to 48,290 in 2021, and 49,516 in 2022. Karnataka stands second highest among the southern States after Tamil Nadu in cancer cases and mortality," stated the Lok Sabha reply.

Leading cancer sites

In India, while the leading cancers among males are lung, oral cavity, stomach, colorectum, and oesophagus, in fe-

males cancers of the breast, cervix, ovary, and oral cavity are in leading position.

In Bengaluru, the predominant cancers seen in males are lung, stomach, prostate and oesophagus while breast, cervix, ovarian, and corpus uteri are leading cancers sites in females. According to the Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR), an average of 1% increase in cancer cases is recorded annually in both males and females in Karnataka.

"A similar trend is observed in other metropolitan cities in India. While cancers of the prostate, colon, liver, brain, tongue, lung, lymphoma, mouth, oesophagus, and stomach cancers are increasing significantly in males, corpus uteri, lung, breast, colon, ovary, thyroid, and stomach cancers are significantly increasing in females," Dr. Lokesh said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Jan 20, 2024

Health experts suggest strengthening ICUs, mother and child care, increasing budgetary grants for general hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Strengthening of intensive care units (ICUs) and mother and child care in rural government hospitals, allocation of additional budgetary grants for government general hospitals, and use of artificial intelligence

(AI) and telemedicine in hospitals that lack expertise. These are some of the key suggestions made by health experts and top doctors at a meeting convened on Friday by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

The meeting was convened to gather suggestions on Karnataka's initiatives towards im-

proving the public healthcare system, ahead of the State Budget to be presented next month. A pre-Budget meeting on health is scheduled to be held with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday.

With most of the participants expressing the need to strengthen ICUs in government

hospitals, the Minister said while there is no shortage of ICU beds in taluk and district hospitals there is paucity of manpower.

"ICU beds are not being provided in some hospitals due to shortage of staff. We will work out measures to set this right," he said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 5, Jan 20, 2024

Efficient public health system can be market regulator for healthcare: C.N. Manjunath

He is retiring after a career of 35 years at the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

An efficient public health system providing quality patient care can be a market regulator for healthcare in the country, said C.N. Manjunath, director of the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

Dr. Manjunath, who is retiring this month-end after a career of 35 years at Jayadeva, told *The Hindu* that the rising healthcare costs in private hospitals can be checked only if public hospitals are able to provide quality and affordable care. "This itself can be a market regulator," he said.

The institute has recorded an overall growth of 500% and the bed strength has increased from 330 in 2006 to over 2,000 beds now (Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Kalaburagi facilities put together) exclusively for cardiac care, offering 24 hours ICCU management, interventions in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery.

It is one of the largest



C.N. Manjunath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. K. MURALI KUMAR

heart care centre in the South East Asian Region performing about 55,000 cardiac cathlab procedures and 5,500 open heart surgeries annually. In the last 16 years, the institute has overall done eight lakh procedures and treated 75 lakh out patients.

Success story

"In my opinion, we cannot deliver quality services with just buildings and equipment. We need to create an excellent working atmosphere, nurture talent and develop a culture of hard work and discipline among the workforce. The biggest challenge is to manage the

manpower because each one has a different mindset," said the doctor, who was awarded Padma Shri in 2007. He underlined the importance of proper communication with patients by the first point of contact, beginning with group 'D' workers.

"We introduced three slogans - 'Treatment first, payment next', 'Life is more important than the file', and 'Humanity is priority' and have been following these slogans literally," he said, chronicling how Jayadeva was built as a model facility.

With 120 cardiologists, 65 cardiothoracic surgeons, 48 cardiac anaesthe-

tists, and six vascular surgeons who run its 18 cathlabs and 17 operation theatres, the institute sees nearly 1,700 walk-in patients every day and 80% of them are below poverty line.

Eyeball assessment

Asserting that poor families with no BPL cards or those who have lost the cards should not be deprived of free treatment, Dr. Manjunath said: "Rules say a BPL card is a must for free treatment. I raised the issue in the governing council in 2007 and got an authorisation for the director to identify the poor for free treatment through an eyeball assessment... My assessment has only grown stronger as I see poverty and helplessness in their eyes before I diagnose the disease," the doctor said.

Realising that a corpus fund was important for this, Dr. Manjunath requested his employees to donate a day's salary before requesting help from government and charitable organisations. "With the help of 45 charitable organisations, NGOs, and

philanthropic bodies, we managed to raise a corpus fund of ₹150 crore and have been providing free treatment to the poor, who cannot be covered under the government health schemes, through this fund," he explained.

This affordable and high-quality cardiac care model has been appreciated by IIM, Bengaluru, London School of Economics, Leadership School of Singapore, Yale University, USA, and former U.S. president Barack Obama.

Recently, 14 members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, who visited the main Jayadeva institute to study the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-Ark) scheme, were impressed by the quality of services provided to patients.

"The delegation, led by Bhubaneswar Kalita, could not believe that the institute is a State-run facility. In fact, they asked me who the owner of the hospital was and were shocked to learn it is a government hospital," he said.

Till date, Dr. Manjunath has performed around 55,000 cardiac interventions. He innovated a new technique of balloon mitral valvuloplasty (an intervention to open up a thickened heart valve) which is now called 'Manjunath's technique'. The left atrial thrombus classification is done according to a scheme proposed by Manjunath, called 'Manjunath classification'.

He has trained cardiologists from the US, France, the U.K., China and Vietnam in valvuloplasty procedures.

Asked what governments should do to make quality and affordable healthcare possible, he said, "Non-interference in the functioning of the tertiary and super-specialty hospitals and moving from construction of buildings to creation of posts."

Any incomplete project? Dr. Manjunath said, "I wish the 371-bed hospital complex on the new Jayadeva campus at Kalaburagi which is likely to be completed in three months should have been commissioned during my tenure."

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan 25, 2024

Collaborative study looks at using naturally occurring substances for preventing, managing COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A collaborative project between Unilever Ltd., Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) have uncovered new insights on SARS-CoV-2, which will assist in addressing emerging virus variants more effectively.

Different approach

inStem said that with the goal of expanding the arsenal to combat COVID-19, a team of scientists decided to take a different approach to combat the virus.

It said that instead of targeting the virus's proteins, this team focused on tackling the membrane that forms the outer covering of the virus with natural substances the human body already produces.

"These substances are called antimicrobial pep-

tides (AMPs), and over the years, different AMPs have shown the ability to kill a wide range of microbes such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi. The membranes that form the outer shell of the virus are composed of lipids and fats, and disrupting this coating can inactivate the virus," said inStem.

It added that the researchers also found that people with higher levels of a particular AMP called cathelicidin (also known as LL37), that is naturally present in our body, tended to have milder COVID-19 symptoms.

Boosting levels of AMPs

This observation suggests that boosting the levels of AMPs can be a powerful method to prevent infections from SARS-CoV-2 and limit the spread of the virus in people who are already infected.

"This is breakthrough research that asks the question, how do we use such materials in our eve-

ryday use products like soaps, handwashes, sanitizers, and lotions to naturally release and boost our skin's AMPs? This will provide tremendous accessibility of the body's own natural protection in preventing transmission of infection and it can go hand in hand with other interventions like vaccination programs to further enhance the level of protection," said Vibhav Sanzgiri, executive director of R&D at Hindustan Unilever Limited.

The team also discovered that LL37's antiviral power can be boosted with niacinamide, commonly known as vitamin B3.

In short, the scientists have invented a formulation for preventing and managing COVID-19 using naturally occurring substances.

This formulation can be used in the future in different products, where virus protection needs to be delivered.

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan 25, 2024

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Gender

State scores poorly in safety, health of girl children

Activists call for concerted collective effort

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the National Girl Child Day fast approaching on January 24, concerns over their safety are growing amid escalating violence against them.

The latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data



Half the girls enrolling at the elementary level either drop out or discontinue studying, as per the CRY report. DH FILE PHOTO

available for 2022 reveals that 55 girls have been killed in Karnataka and over 2,300

minor girls have been reported raped under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offens-

es (POCSO) Act; 1,000 girls have fallen victim to sexual harassment.

On Friday, Child Rights and You (CRY) in the city released a status report analysing various government data sources, which reveal a 99% enrollment of girl children at the elementary school level.

But enrollment at secondary and higher secondary levels stand, respectively, at 67% and 44%, indicating that half of the girls enrolling at the elementary level either drop out or discontinue studying.

Meanwhile, numbers from National Family Health Sur-

vey-5 (NFHS-5) for 2019-21 show 21% of women have been married before their 18th year and over 50%, between ages 15 and 19, in the state are anemic.

John Roberts, CRY's Regional Director for the South, said girl children in the state face serious issues in education, protection, health, and nutrition. "Despite proactive measures by successive governments, data shows a need for collective action," he said.

The government's role is vital in prioritising girl child-centric policies, strategic resource allocation, and ensuring effective policy and programme.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 20, 2024

Gender ratio sees further improvement in final electoral roll 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Women voters outnumber men in at least 17 of the 28 parliamentary constituencies in Karnataka, according to the revised final electoral roll 2024 published on Monday.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka, said there has

The gender ratio of general electors rose from 991 to 997 while transitioning from the draft rolls to final rolls of 2024

been a constant improvement in the gender ratio that has gone up from 958 (per 1,000 males) in the 2013 Assembly elections to

997 this year. The figure was 960 in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, 963 in 2015, and 972 in the 2018 Assembly elections, 976 in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 981 in summary revision of 2020, 983 in 2021, 984 in 2022 summary revision, and 986 in the 2023 Assembly elections.

"The gender ratio of general electors increased

from 991 to 997 while transitioning from the draft rolls to the final rolls of 2024. Furthermore, the gender ratio of young electors witnessed an increase from 818 to 856 during this period," he explained.

This time, the elector-population (EP) ratio of Karnataka (as per the final roll 2024) is 69.74%, which means of the total project-

ed population (7.71 crore), 69.74% are electors, Mr. Meena said.

EP ratio

"The primary focus was on enhancing the health of the electoral rolls, thereby improving key indicators during the house-to-house survey and revision period. During the following periods, the EP ratio has

been consistently maintained," he said.

The number of young electors (18-19 years) has increased from 6,45,491 in the draft rolls published on October 27, 2023, to 10,34,018 in the final rolls, marking a significant rise of 3,88,527 young electors.

The total young electors include 4,76,737 females and 120 transgen-

ders. While the total electors aged above 80 stands at 12,71,862, those aged above 100 are 17,937.

Belagavi has the highest number of young electors at 1,02,706, and the highest number of electors aged above 80 at 99,197, while Mysuru has the highest number of electors aged above 100 at 2,004.

Source: The Hindu, p.6, Jan 23, 2024

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Water scarcity may affect over 6,000 villages: Minister

'Revenue dept will initiate preventive measures soon to tackle water and fodder shortage'

BENGALURU, DHNS

With most parts of the state staring at an acute water shortage, the Revenue department will initiate preventive measures soon to tackle water and fodder shortage in the next two to three months, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting with the officials of the department, the minister said, "The Revenue department has completed mapping of vulnerable pockets in the state that could possibly face shortage of water. As many as 6,097 villages could

face water shortage problems if the present situation is not handled properly. As part of preventive measures, we have completed identifying private borewells in the affected villages and already signed an agreement with 2,404 private borewell owners and talks are underway to rope in the remaining owners," he explained.

"The state government has already invited tenders in 16 districts to maintain proper supply of fodder and began distributing fodder seeds to farmers," he said adding that at the moment only one or two pockets of Chitradurga district are facing fodder shortage.

Continuing his tirade on the Union government over delay in releasing relief funds, the minister said the Centre is sitting on drought relief proposal submitted by the state government four months ago. "Assessment at the official level has been completed almost 4 months ago but the Centre is yet to make up its mind to release funds," he said.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3C, Jan 20, 2024

Water from TB dam to be released for downstream dists' drinking needs

No water for second crop, says Minister Tangadagi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kannada and Culture Minister and Tungabhadra Irrigation Advisory Committee (ICC) chairman Shivaraj Tangadagi on Friday said that the ICC meeting has resolved to release water from the TB reservoir to meet the drinking water needs of the downstream districts - Koppal, Raichur, Vijayanagara and Ballari districts.

The undivided Raichur and Ballari districts are reeling

under acute drinking water shortage with the storage at Tungabhadra reservoir hitting rock bottom owing to below par monsoon.

Tangadagi told reporters following the ICC meeting that the present storage level in the TB reservoir is at 10.151 tmcft, which includes dead storage of 2 tmcft. "Of this, the TB board needs to release 2.851 tmcft for Andhra Pradesh while the state's share is 2.481 tmcft," he said. The meeting decided to release 0.300 tmcft of water



The storage level in the Tungabhadra reservoir stands at 10.151 tmcft as on Friday, which includes dead storage of 2 tmcft. DH PHOTO

through the Left Bank Canal from January 22 to April 30 (50 cusec per day) to Vijayanagara to meet the drinking water needs. A further, 0.600 tmcft

water will be released to Raichur from February 15 to 25.

For Ballari, 100 cusec of water will be released once in 10 days to fill tanks and ponds

from January 21 to 31, the minister added.

The minister further said that the state government wouldn't be releasing water for second crops. "We don't have enough to release for the second crop. We need to manage whatever water available in the dam till the next rainy season," Tangadagi said.

Meanwhile, expressing concerns about scarcity of water in Tungabhadra basin area, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told reporters separately that the water situation in TB river basin area is scary and it may face acute shortage in the days to come as the storage level is low as compared to last year's.

"We need to use water judiciously," the revenue minister added.

Source: Deccan Herald, p.3D, Jan 20, 2024

Bulk metering in residential complexes keeps residents away from Gruha Jyothi

Number of residents approaching Bescom asking for ways to convert to individual LT meters has increased

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

For years now, multiple builders in Bengaluru have provided the occupants of their residential complexes private metering from a single High Tension (HT) connection from the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) instead of individual Low Tension (LT) meters. While some residents had opposed it from time to time, of late, the number of residents approaching Bescom asking for ways to convert to LT has increased, thanks to Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Many builders opt for a single HT connection to cut costs. According to a Bescom official, there are 850 such domestic residential complexes in the power utility's limits. Most of them are in Bengaluru. "In the last year, residents of four or five residential complexes have come enquiring about conversion to LT as they want to avail of benefits of the Gruha Jyothi scheme. Earlier, some residents used to come asking for conversion as they did not want to miss out on benefits like solar rooftop installations,



Many builders opt for a single HT connection to cut costs. According to a Bescom official, there are 850 such domestic residential complexes in the power utility's limits. FILE PHOTO

now it is Gruha Jyothi," the official said.

Karthik (name changed on request), a resident of an apartment complex on Sarjapur Road, said Gruha Jyothi was one among the many concerns residents have due to the HT arrangement. "Even upon our insistence, the builder is adamant that he will not let us convert to individual LT meters. We are worried that once the RWA is formed and the building is handed over, then

any pending dues of the builder (to Bescom) will have to be borne by all the residents of the building. They also use separate software to generate bills for our private meters and if there is a bug in the software, then it might result in some residents getting wrongfully charged more," he said.

Forced to pay more

According to the tariff structure of Bescom, LT consumers are charged less than HT con-

sumers. But in such arrangements, consumers are forced to pay HT price for electricity. "The LT and HT categories exist for specific purposes. Technically, each house should come under LT, and it is not right on the builders' part to have them in HT category. The residents will miss out on the prices and benefits of LT due to this," said Vikram Rai, general secretary, Bangalore Apartment Federation.

While many residents expressed doubts about the legality of providing electricity like this, Bescom officials said that bulk metering under HT was allowed for residential complexes. "If the residents want to change it, they can convince the builder and get into an agreement with Bescom for LT connection," the official said.

The residents argued that Bescom should not let builders have this kind of arrangement as many would not be aware of the technicalities. "Unfortunately for buyers, at the time of purchasing a house, they only know that they are getting electricity. But most of them are not aware if it is LT or HT and end up in such situations," Mr. Rai said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Jan 21, 2024

Tribal hamlet in Mysuru district gets power connection 75 years after Independence

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

A tribal hamlet on the fringes of Hediya range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, without electricity for generations, recently got connected to the power grid of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC).

Kothnalli Colony is under Devarayashettyapura Gram Panchayat in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district. It is inhabited by 20 families belonging to Jenu Kuruba community and the total population of the village is 70.

Given the geographical location abutting the forest periphery, these 20 families were cut off from the mainstream and lived in darkness all these decades.

Intriguingly, villages close to the hamlet had power connection but a portion of the tribal hamlet of the Jenu Kuruba community at Kothnahalli Colony was left out and it took 75 years after Independence to ensure power connection.

Central scheme

But the launch of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan or PM-JANMAN programme targeted at Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) ensured that the village was covered by the basic necessities,



An electricity meter being installed at Kotnahalli Colony hamlet which was without power for decades.

including power supply, as stipulated under the programme.

On January 10, the hamlet was connected to the power grid and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will reimburse the expenditure incurred to the CESC, said Prabha Urs, Deputy Director, Karnataka State Tribal Research Centre.

B. Arun Prabhu, Taluk Tribal Welfare Officer who inspected Kotnahalli Colony, said there are about 40 houses split into two hamlets and while 20 houses had power supply, the extended colony of another 20 houses lacked power connection. "It is strange that some of the houses

close to the hamlet had power while 20 households were left out in an area about 1 km from the tiger reserve boundary and where human-animal conflict is high," said Mr. Prabhu.

In Karnataka, Jenu Kurubas and Koragas are covered under PM-JANMAN which is targeted at the PVTGs and the Centre has identified 75 such groups across the country with an outlay of ₹24,104 crore. In Karnataka, the population of PVTGs is pegged at 65,678 as per the 2011 Census and the PVTG communities are spread across Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Udipi, and Dakshina Kannada.

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Jan 21, 2024

State launches 'Browse Safe', a free tool to protect citizens from cyber frauds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka launched a security net initiative to safeguard people from all kinds of cyber frauds. The State's Centre of Excellence for Cyber Security introduced 'Browse Safe', a free-to-use online safety service on Saturday to ensure digital safety for citizens.

'Browse Safe' is a public Domain Name System (DNS), a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, to protect individual and household users of the Internet from falling prey to cyber attackers, said a statement.

'Browse Safe' blocks malicious websites as its functionalities prevent Internet traffic from accessing harmful websites, including phishing sites, malware or viruses, and sites attempting to steal personal information, according to Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT/BT, RDPR.

If a citizen receives an SMS/WhatsApp message or email that contains a phishing link and you click on the link, the 'Browse Safe' solution will block



RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge launching 'Browse Safe' in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

If a citizen receives an SMS/WhatsApp message or email that contains a phishing link and you click on the link, the 'Browse Safe' solution will block the website

the website and protect them from falling prey to cyber attacks, he added.

'Browse Safe' also offers provision to block adult content to safeguard children while exploring the online sphere.

It is also a service that keeps user privacy in mind, and collects mini-

mal user activity data, strictly excluding any personal or private information. Robust security measures are in place to safeguard the collected data from unauthorised access or misuse, according to a statement released by the department.

How to access

To block malicious websites, use this DNS server: 139.5.190.47

To block malicious and adult websites, use this DNS server: 139.5.190.57

Users can also install the Browse Safe app from Google Playstore to configure the DNS servers on their Android device.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Jan 21, 2024

A 'laptop *anna*' helping students from poor, marginalised segments

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

B.S. Shivanna, general secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), is called 'laptop *anna*' by several college students, thanks to his efforts to bridge the digital gap among students belonging to the poor and marginalised sections by distributing laptops for free.

Mr. Shivanna, a native of Bandur village in Malavalli taluk of Mandya, has distributed more than 300 laptops to children of pourakarmikas, street vendors, daily wage earners, and so on, studying in various classes. According to the government data, close to 40% of students have had no access to any gadget in



Supporting them: KPCC general secretary B.S. Shivanna has so far distributed more than 300 laptops to children of pourakarmikas, street vendors, and daily wage earners. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the State, and this gap became stark during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shusheela Koraga, a postgraduate student belonging to the Koraga (ST) community, who is researching on Jenu Kuruba community in the University of Mysore, said the laptop donated by Mr. Shivanna had helped her in the research work. Raghavesh

A.N., a resident of Maddur now pursuing MSc in Veterinary Science at IVRI at Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, is another beneficiary. "My parents are marginal farmers. I was unable to buy a laptop till my graduation," he said. He secured 16 gold medals in BSc from Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar.

Also the president of Lohia Vichara Vedike, Mr. Shivanna, who holds engineering and law degrees, said, "I purchase laptops in bulk and donate them to deserving students who are facing financial difficulties but are good in studies."

The Congress leader said his intention is to motivate MPs, legislators, and other rich leaders to come forward and help students.

Mr. Shivanna organises 'Pratibha Puraskara' every year in his home town and gives cash awards to students securing more than 85% marks in SSLC and PUC. He has provided free buses to 6,000 students of Malavalli taluk. He also conducts job fairs, the latest one was held in December 2023 at Malavalli.

Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Jan 22, 2024

Lok Sabha polls: State has 5.38 crore voters in revised final electoral rolls

Between the draft and final rolls of 2024, as many as 10,81,110 electors have been added and 6,72,457 deleted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As per the revised final electoral rolls for 2024, published on January 22, Karnataka has 5.38 crore electors, including 2.68 crore women and 4,920 in the others category.

Giving details about the final rolls that were published on Monday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Meena told mediapersons that the total number of electors has increased by 4.08 lakh since the publication of the draft electoral rolls on October 27, 2023.

The final electoral rolls of 224 Assembly constituencies have been published in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of all District Electoral Registration officers, Assistant Electoral Roll Registration officers and all polling stations for the information of the public.

"A total of 58,834 polling stations have been identified. During rationalisation, 845 polling stations were added and 293 were merged. Overall, there is a net increase of 552 polling stations compared to 2023 Assembly elections," he said.

During the revision, the names of electors detected under Photo Similar Entries, Demographically Similar Entries, Dead, Shifted, Absentee, have been deleted for cleansing of the electoral rolls. The total number of voters (5.38 crore) published in the final rolls is after these deletions. This number includes 46,501 service electors.

Among the 224 Assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest



Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer, with Additional Chief Electoral Officers R. Venkatesh Kumar (left) and M. Kurma Rao (right), at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Final electoral roll 2024 - General elections

Data as per final electoral roll 2024

Total electors: 5,37,85,815, including 46,501 service electors

Male 2,69,33,750, including 44,900 service electors

Female 2,68,47,145, including 1,601 service electors

Others: 4,920

Total young electors	Male	Female	Transgender
10,34,018	5,57,161	4,76,737	120

Total electors aged above 80 12,71,862

Male 5,68,435

Female 7,03,408

Transgender 19



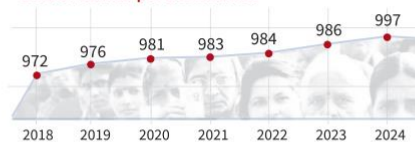
Total electors aged above 100 17,937

Male 7,075

Female 10,862

Physically-challenged electors: 5,62,890
No. of sex workers enrolled: 1,00,834
Particularly vulnerable tribal groups: 37,719

Gender ratio as per the final roll



Difference between 2024 draft roll and 2024 final roll

Additions: 10,81,110

Deletions: 6,72,457 (2,30,313 dead, 2,19,303 shifted, 94,781 absentee, 1,25,053 repeated, and 3,007 other reasons)

Modifications: 4,72,263

number of voters at 7,17,201. Sringeri in Chikmagalur district has the least number of voters at 1,67,556.

Mr. Meena said between the draft and final rolls of 2024, as many as 10,81,110 electors have been added and 6,72,457 electors have

been deleted. People can use Form 6 for new registration, and Form 8 for addition, correction or deletion of names in the electoral rolls.

Register name

Eligible unregistered electors can still get their

names in the electoral rolls till 10 days before the last day of filing nominations. People can submit applications online using the Voters Service Portal (<https://voters.eci.gov.in>), or the Voter Helpline Mobile App for inclusion of their name in the rolls.

Eligible prospective electors qualifying on January 4, 2024, July 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024, can also submit their applications in advance.

For any information regarding electoral rolls, Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), and submission of applications, individuals may contact the respective District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and Booth Level Officers.

They can also call the toll-free number 1950 (180042551950).

Pointing out that full EPIC coverage has been achieved, the Chief Electoral Officer said as many as 17,47,518 EPICs have been delivered via speed post to electors' residences by November-end. Another 10,76,506 EPICs have been generated and are currently in the process of being sent to electors.

"Eligible electors who have not got the EPIC cards can re-apply with corrections, and the cards will be generated within a fortnight," he said.

Vulnerable groups

A special drive has been conducted to enroll particularly vulnerable tribal groups in the districts of Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi. A total of 37,719 people (of the eligible 38,132) from the tribal groups have been enrolled.

Likewise, of the total 6,18,496 eligible (above 18 years) physically challenged voters, 5,62,831 have been enrolled and marked for facilities that will be provided by the commission on election day.

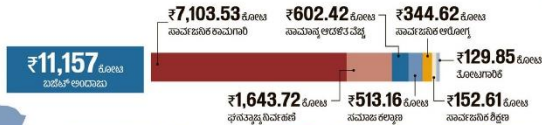
Source: The Hindu, p. 6, Jan 23, 2024

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಬಜೆಟ್‌ಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ • ಕಾರ್ಯಗತವಾಗದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಭರವಸೆ • ಚುನಾವಣೆ ನೀತಿಸಂಹಿತೆ ನಡುವೆ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ

- ಅರೇ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್

[illegible]

**భాషణవే భూషణ
అభివృద్ధి గౌణ**



ನಗರದ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ.ಪಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಳಾಗಿ ವರ್ಷವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಾಹನ ಸವಾರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟ ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ

—ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ: ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಮಂಜುನಾಥ

ದರಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಬಡ್ಡಾ ಮೊದಲನೆಯದೇ
ಕೂಡಲೇ ಕಡ್ಡು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು
ಆರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ
ಗುಂಡಿ ಮುಚ್ಚುವುದು, ಕೂಲಿ ಕಡ್ಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು.
ನೂರಾರು ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಹರರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು
ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಜನರು ಮುಗಿಯು
ತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಇನ್ನೂ ಖರ್ಚು
ಯಂತರದಿಯೇ ಇವೆ. ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲ
ಪ್ರತಿ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೆಲವುಗೂ ಇದೆ ತಂದಾ
₹75 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೊತ್ತದಿಂದಲೇ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ
ಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ
₹1.45 ಕೋಟಿ ಬಡ್ಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ, ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ₹1.5 ಕೋಟಿ, ವಿಮ್ಬುತ್ ಫಿಕ್ಸಿಂಗ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ತಲಾ ₹10 ಲಕ್ಷ ಒಡಗೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

‘ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟೇ ಹಣ ಸಂತಕೆ ಬಿಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಜನರಿಗೆ ಕಂಪೌಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ನಡೆಯಲಿ, ಕಸವೃ ಗುಂಡಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವು, ರಾಜಾಬಾಗಿ ವಾಹನವು ಕೆಲಸಗಲೂ ಅಗಲಿ. ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಬುನಾದಿಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿಲಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ರಾಜಾಬಾಗಿ ರಾಹುಗ ಕೆಲಸಗಲೂ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸೇರಿಕೂಡುತು. ಈ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ

ಗುಂಡಿಗನ್ನೂ ಮುಟ್ಟಲೇ ಎಂಬುದು ಎಲ್ಲ ವಾರ್ತೆಗಳ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ದೂರು.

“ನಮ್ಮ ಶತ್ರುಗಳು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂಜಾರ್ಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಶುಭ ವಿಧಾನದ ಮಟ್ಟದಿಂದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಳಿಗೇ ಕುಡಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ ದೋಷವನ್ನು ಪೂ ಅರ್ಪಣೆಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ” ಎಂಬುದು ವಲಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ದೂರು. “ಹಣಕಾಸು ವಿಭಾಗದಿಂದ ಹಣ ದೀವಿಗೆಗೆ ಆಗದಿದ್ದು ಪ್ರಾಯದಿಂದ ಪೂಜಾರ್ಪಣೆಗೆ ಮೊಟ್ಟ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ತಲುಪಿಲ್ಲ” ಎಂಬುದು ಸಮಾಜ

[illegible]

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಬುಲೆಟ್ ಹೆಂಪಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದ ದುಸ್ಥಿತಿ -ವೃತ್ತದವರ ಭಿತ್ತಿ: ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್ ಎಲ್

ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆಯ ಬುಲ್ ಟೆಂಪಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾದಬಾರಿ
ಮಾರ್ಗದ ದುಃಖಿತಿ -ವೃಜಾವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ: ಪ್ರಕಾಂತ್ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ

ಕೋಟಾಗಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ 129 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದುದೂ, ಉಸ್ತಾದ್ ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರರು ಕೂಡಲೆ ವಾಪಸಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹಂಚು ಒಡಗೂಡುವುದು, ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕೋಡ್, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪತೆ ಬಾಗಿಲು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ವಿಸ್ತಾರಣೆ ನಾಗರಕರವರು ಮಾಡಿ ಇದ್ದುದು. ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದು, ಹೊಸ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವುದು ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಜನಪರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಸ್ತಾದ್ ನಗರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಭದ್ರತೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಪ್ರಶಂಸೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಿದೆ ಕೇಳಿದೆ.

ದಿವಿಂಪಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಶೂಗಳನ್ನು
ವಿತರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವು ಶಾಲೆ-ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ
ವಿತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಅಳತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಗೊಂದಲವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಅವುಗಳು ಶಾಲೆ
ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದಿವೆ. ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯ



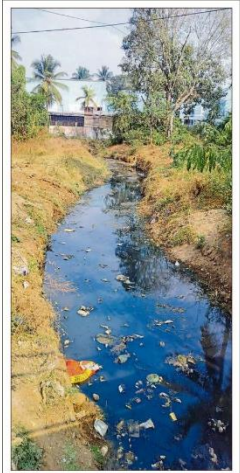
ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಕೂಗಲು

ಬುರ್ಜುಯೆಸ್ ಫೋರೋಮನಂತೆ 'ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ'
ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು, ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು
ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಕಲವಾದದಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತವೆ.
ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಬುರ್ಜುಯೆಸ್ ಫೋರಮನಂತೆ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೋವಿಡ್
ನಂತರದ ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಂಚ ಮನೆ, ಅಗುವಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ದ್ವಿಪಕ್ಷ ಚರ್ಚೆ, ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ, ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ
ವಿಲ್ಡ್ ಬೇಡ್, ವೃದ್ಧರ ವನವಿಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿಪಕ್ಷ ವಾಹನ,
ಹೊರಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನೂ ವಿತರಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

2022-23ರೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಒಂಟಿ ಮನೆಗಾಗಿ 6,139 ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಬಂದಿದ್ದವು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ 1,145 ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಹವಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಹಿಂದಿನ ಬಾರಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 2022-23ರೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 3,259 ಒಂಟಿ ಮನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಮ್ಮತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಗುರಿ ಹೊಂದಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದರ, 593 ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ₹513 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿ ದ್ದರೂ, ₹318.60 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಗೆ 2023ರ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 3ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿಸ್ತೃತ ಆಗಿರುವುದೇ ಆಗಿದೆ.

ಪರಿಸಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಗಡದ ಪೌರಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ವರ್ಗದವರು, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರು, ಅರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದವರು, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು, ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರು, ದೀರ್ಘ ಬದುಕಾಪಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ತಂಗುದಾಸದ ನಿರ್ವಾಹ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ಭೋಜನೆಯಾಗೇ ಉಳಿದಿವೆ.



ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿನಗರದ ಪದ್ಮಾವತಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಮಂಟಪ
ಮಧ್ಯದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬರುವ ರಾಜಕಾಲು ವೆ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ...

ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಬೃಹತ್ ಸೀರಂಗಾಬಲವು ಮಳೆಗಾಲದೊಳಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ₹70.20 ಕೋಟಿ ವ್ಯಯ ಮಾಡಲು ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 'ಅಂತರಂಗ ಅಗದಿ' ಎಂದು ಹೆಸರಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ವಾಸ್ತವವಾಗಿ ರಾಜಕಾಲವುಗಳು ಹುಣಿಸಿನಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿಕೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ತುರ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ₹15 ಕೋಟಿ ವ್ಯಯವಾಗುವುದು ಕಾರಣವು ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದೆ. ₹45 ಕೋಟಿ ವ್ಯಯ ರಾಜಕಾಲವು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣವು ಆಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು, ಖಂಡಿತ ಅಪಾಯಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಗರದ ಹಲವು ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜಕಾಲವು 'ಮಳೆಗೆ ಗೋಳ'ವಾಗಿ ಸುಖವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷದ ಶೇ 1 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ ಒತ್ತುವರಿ ತೆರವು ಅರಂಭವೇ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಆಧಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ 45 ಕೋಟಿ ಮಿಷನರಿಂಗ್ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಕತ್ತರಿ

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಚಿಂತಕರ ಚಾವಡಿ 'ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಪಾಲಿಟಿ ರಿಸರ್ಚ್-ಸಿಸಿಆರ್'ಗೆ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಅಡಿ ನಿಷಿದ್ಧ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ 50 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. 'ವಿದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆದ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ದುರುಪಯೋಗ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಅಧಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಾನೂನು ಹೊರಾಟ ನಡೆಸುವುದು, ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಹೊಡೆತ ಕೊಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಿದೆ, ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಿರಿ ಎಂದು ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡಿ ಸಿಸಿಆರ್ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಹೇಳಿದೆ.

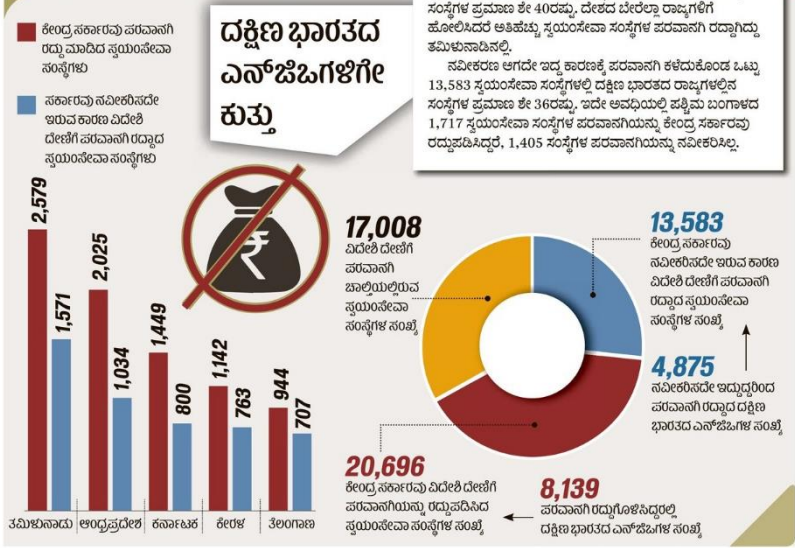
ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ನೀತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ವೈಫಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ವರದಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಿಸಿಆರ್ ಎತ್ತಿ ತೋರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಮಾಜಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್‌ನ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಜಯಚೂಡ್, ಹಿರಿಯ ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತ ದಿ.ವಿ. ವರ್ಗೀಸ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಗಣ್ಯರು ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. 'ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಮ್ಮ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುತ್ತೀರಿ ಎಂದು ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಹೇಳಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಸಿಸಿಆರ್ ತನ್ನ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಗ್ರಾಸವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಚಾರಧಾರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಕಿತ ನಡೆಸದಾಗಲೂ, ನೂರಾರು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೂರಕ್ಕೂ ಮೀರಿ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ, ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ತರುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಆ ದೇಣಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧ ಹೇರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿನಿಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ರಮ: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯವು 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪರಿಶೋಧನೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ವೇಳೆ ದೊರೆತ ಸಾಕ್ಷ್ಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ವರದಿಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಳನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಚೀನಾದಿಂದ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ರದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿರುವಂತೆ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯ ವಿನಿಯೋಗ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಲವು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹಗ್ಗತನದ ವರ್ತನೆ-ಆರೋಪ: ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೊದಲಿನೇ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೈಫಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ತರುವ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಆರೋಪ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸಿದ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಲವು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬಂಥ ಆರೋಪಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿದವರಿಗೆ ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿ, 'ಕಾನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ ಕಂಡಕ್ಟ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್' ಎನ್ನುವ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಗೃಹ ಸಚಿವ ಅಮಿತ್ ಶಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಬರೆದಿತ್ತು. 'ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕಿರುಕುಳ



ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಪಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ರದ್ದಾದ ಕೆಲವು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತ ವಿವರ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಆರ್‌ಫ್‌ಫಾಮ್: ಸಂಪತ್ತಿನ ಅಸಮಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಯುವ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತರಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿ ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವು ವರದಿಗಳು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಇದ್ದವು. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನವೀಯ ನೆರವು ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ನಡೆಸಿತ್ತು.

ಅಮೈ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್: ಮಾನವಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಭಾರತದ ಕಾಖಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಮುಚ್ಚಿಸಿತು. ಇದು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಯಿತು. 'ಹಾಲ್ಡ್ ದಿ ಹೆಡ್ಸ್' ಎನ್ನುವ ಅಧಿಯಾನವನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯದ ಹಲ್ಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಈವರೆಗೆ 51,287 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದವು. ಅದರ ಈಗ ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದು 17,008 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿದ್ದು ಮಾತ್ರ. ಉಳಿದ 34,279 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ನವೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂತಹ ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಳು ಸ್ವಯಂಚಾಲಿತವಾಗಿ ರದ್ದಾಗಿವೆ.

ಹೀಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವೇ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳದ್ದೇ ಆಗಿವೆ. ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಒಟ್ಟು 8,139 ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 40ರಷ್ಟು. ದೇಶದ ಬೇರೆಲ್ಲಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ರದ್ದಾಗಿದ್ದು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ.

ನವೀಕರಣ ಆಗದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಒಟ್ಟು 13,583 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 36ರಷ್ಟು. ಇದೇ ಅಪ್ಪಯ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ 1,717 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ, 1,405 ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ನವೀಕರಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ನವೀಕರಣ ಆಗದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಒಟ್ಟು 13,583 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಭಾರತದ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ 36ರಷ್ಟು. ಇದೇ ಅಪ್ಪಯ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ 1,717 ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ, 1,405 ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ನವೀಕರಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಗ್ಲೋಬಲ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ: 'ಗಿ'ಕಮ್' ಆದಾನಿ ಅವರ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ ಕಂಪನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೋಲ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಎನ್ನುವ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹಲವು ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗ್ಲೋಬಲ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೇಂಪ್‌ಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು' ಎಂದು ದಿವಿಒ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು.

ಕಾಮನ್‌ವೆಲ್ತ್ ಹ್ಯೂಮನ್ ರೈಟ್ಸ್ ಇನ್‌ಷಿಯೇಟಿವ್: ಈ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಮಾನವಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆರೋಪ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಲವು ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಪಿಎಂ ಕಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಆಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 20 ಲಕ್ಷ ಅನರ್ಹ ಫೋನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ₹1.36 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಆರೋಪ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದಲೇ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು.

ಚೀನಾದಿಂದ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಆರೋಪದ ಮೇಲೆ 'ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಫೌಂಡೇಷನ್' ಹಾಗೂ 'ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಚಾರಿಟಿಬಲ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್' ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಿಗಿ ನಿಯಮ

ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹಲವು ಬಾರಿ ಬಿಗಿಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ನು ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಠಿಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದು 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗೆ ಗಣನೀಯ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾದುದು 'ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈಫಲ್ಯ'.

ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಇದ್ದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಶೇ 50ರಷ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈಫಲ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿತ್ತು. 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಭಾರಿ ಮಿತಿ ಹೇರಲಾಯಿತು. ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈಫಲ್ಯದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಶೇ 20ಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈಫಲ್ಯವಾಗಿ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು

ಬಳಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಈ ಮಿತಿಯು ಭಾರಿ ತೊಡಕಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಮಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೀರಿದ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರದ್ದು ಮಾಡಿತು. ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಅವುಗಳ ಪರವಾನಗಿಯನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಗೂ, ನವೀಕರಣದೇ ಇದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಅವು ನಿಷ್ಕ್ರಿಯವಾದವು.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೇ, ಯಾವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಎಂದು ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಅದೇ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಠಿಣ ನಿಯಮ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ ನೆರೆ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಿಗೆ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೊಂದು ದೇಣಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಆ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನೆರೆ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಿಗೆ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲೇ ಬಳಸಬೇಕು. ಅದನ್ನು ನೆರೆ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ತರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಅಥವಾ

ಸ್ವಯಂಉದ್ವೇಗ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಬಳಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ಬಳಕೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ನೂತನ ನಿಯಮವು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘನೆ ಎಂದೇ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಂದು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಬೇರೊಂದು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಾರದು ಎಂಬುದು 2020ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಲಾದ ಕಠಿಣ ನಿಯಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು. ಅಂದರೆ ಎರಡು ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಯಾವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅವು ಆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ವೈಫಲ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೊಂದು, ಹಲವು ಸಣ್ಣ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರ ಕಠಿಣ ನಿಯಮದ ಕಾರಣ ಆ ಸಣ್ಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆಧಾರ: ಬಿಜೆಪಿ, ವಿದೇಶಿ ದೇಣಿಗೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ (ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ-2020, ಎಫ್‌ಸಿಇಆರ್‌ಎ ನೇಮಾ ವೋಟರ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡ್ಯಾಸ್‌ರೋಡ್

ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಚಾರ: ಹಣ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ನಕಾರ

ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿವಾರಣೆಗೆ ನೂರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಬಜೆಟ್ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಭದ್ರ

• ಆರ್. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ₹700 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಹತ್ತಾರು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ದಾಗ, ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದಿವೆ.

ನಗರದ ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಹೊಸ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ, ಕೆಳಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿಯೇ ₹210 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕನಕಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧೆಡೆ ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಆರಂಭವಾಗುವ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ, ಒಂದೇ ಒಂದು ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಳಸೇತುವೆಯ ವಿಸ್ತೃತ ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿಯೂ (ಡಿಪಿಆರ್) ಇನ್ನೂ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಯಾವ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ 'ಸೇತುವೆ'ಗಳು ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಅಂತಿಮಗೊಳಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ಹೊಸ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚಗಳು ಆರಂಭವಾಗದಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಾದರೆ, ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಂಗಳುಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಂಡು ನಾಗರಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಿರಿಕಿರಿ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇವೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನಗರದ ಹಲವು ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಚಾರ ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದೆ.

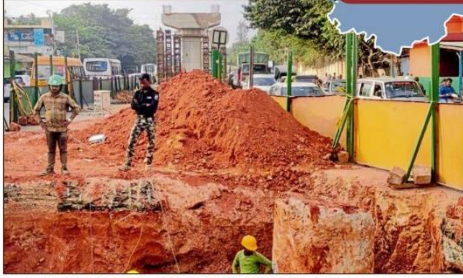
ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ವಿಳಂಬ, ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ, ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ಕಾರಣವಾದರೂ ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಹಣ ದೊರಕದಿರುವುದು. ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮನಸ್ಸು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ.

'ಯಂತ್ರಾಂಶ' ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ದೊರಕದೆ ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ, ಬಿಲ್ ನೀಡಿ ಎರಡು ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳು ಹಣವನ್ನೇ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಒಂದೂವರೆ ವರ್ಷ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮುಗಿಸಲು ಸಮಯ ಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರೇ ಪತ್ರಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ

ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ (ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)

ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ, ಕೆಳ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	₹210
ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	₹195
75 ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ	₹150
ಮುಖ್ಯ-ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	₹60.10
10 ಹೊಸ ಪಾದಾಂಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ	₹50
ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳ ವಲಯ	₹25
ಫಿಲ್ಡ್ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ, ಕೆಳಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	₹23.11
ಅಂದರ್ಸ್ ಗ್ರೌಂಡ್ ವಾಕಿಂಗ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	₹5

ಭಾಷಣೀ ಭೂಷಣಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಗೌಣ



ನಿಧಾನಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಯಲಹಂಕಿ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ

ನಗರ ಆರ್ಟ್ ಬಲಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶದ ನಂತರ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನ-ದಟ್ಟಣೆಯಿಂದ ನಾಗರಿಕರು ಹೈರಾಣರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈಜಿಪ್ತರ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಂಡು ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿ ಎರಡು ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣವನ್ನೂ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನೂ ನಡೆಸಿಲ್ಲ. ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಹಳಿಗೇರಿದ ನಗರದ ಮಧ್ಯಭಾಗ ದಲ್ಲೇ ಹಲವು ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಹನ ದಟ್ಟಣೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ನಿವಾರಿಸಲು ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ, ಕೆಳಸೇತುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಯೋಜಿಸಿ, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ ಯೋಜನೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಮುಂದಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಖ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗೈದೇ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.



ಎಂಟು ತಿಂಗಳಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಡೆಯದ ಆವೇಷದಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ-ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿನಗರ ಆರ್ಟ್ ಸಮೀಪದ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಕವಚ

ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ಕಾಣದ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ಗಳು!

ನಗರದ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವಮಟ್ಟದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ಗಿಂತ ಮುನ್ನವೇ ಚಾಲನೆ ದೊರೆತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ₹150 ಕೋಟಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈವರೆಗೂ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಿಯೋಸ್ಕ್, ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿ ತಾಣ, ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಚಾರ್ಜಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್, ಓದಲು ಸ್ಥಳಾವಕಾಶ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಟದ ತಾಣ, ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿಯ, ಆಟೋರೈಕ್ಲಾ ಪಿಕ್‌ಅಪ್ ರೋನ್, ಝೀಲ್ಡಾ ಕ್ರಾಸಿಂಗ್, ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಸಿಗ್ನಲ್, ರಾಂಪ್ ಸೇರಿದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ 10 ಪಾದಾಂಶ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಶಿವಾನಂದ ವೃತ್ತದ ಬಳಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಂದು ಪಾದಾಂಶ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಒಂಬತ್ತು ಪಾದಾಂಶ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಘೋಷಿಸಿಲ್ಲ.

ಗುಲ್ಮಿ ತೋಟದ್ವಜ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್ ಮಾದರಿ

ಪರಿಕಪಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು

ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಾದಚಾರಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ತೆರವು ಕಾರ್ಯ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಕಾರ್ಯವಾದರೂ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಮುನ್ನುಡಿಯನ್ನೂ ಬರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ವಲಯ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಆದರೆ ಹಣವನ್ನೂ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈವರೆಗೆ ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ನಡೆಸಲು ರಸ್ತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮಾಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಬೀದಿ ಬದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಮುಂದಿನವಾರ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ' ಎಂಬ ಭರವಸೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.



Source: Prajavani, p.3B, Jan.25, 2024

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Social Issues

DH
Deccan Herald

HIGH SOCIETY

NARCOTIC DRUGS SEIZED IN 2023: TYPES, QUANTITY AND VALUE

Quantity of drugs seized (kg) Value of drugs seized (Numbers in Rs)

TOTAL 5,387.8 kg Rs 103 crore



MDMA
● 55.228
● 48,02,39,000



Ganja
● 5252.084
● 29,62,39,530



Cocaine
● 2.532
● 9,94,71,000



Ampetamine; Methaqualone
● 11.966
● 2,85,09,000



Ecstasy, Yaba tablets
● 3777 tablets
● 1,57,67,600



Opium
● 63.147
● 84,84,000



LSD strips
● 870 strips
● 47,50,000



Charas
● 0.909
● 11,90,000



Heroin
● 0.219
● 6,84,000



Ganja oil
● 0.36
● 5,80,000

Drug menace is rampant although the police claim it is under control. Charges of collusion and corruption abound

No end to B'luru's battle with drugs

ANAND SINGH

Ramesh (name changed) is a third-year college student at a prestigious university in Bengaluru. He was introduced to marijuana while in school. He has been taking the psychedelic drug for recreational purposes for around three years now.

During a trip to Gokarna, he was introduced to another "party drug" — Methyleneiodymethamphetamine (MDMA), which he obtained from the same individual who sold him marijuana in the beach town.

Today, "Marijuana is just a phone call away," says Ramesh, adding that procuring other "heavier" drugs, like MDMA, cocaine, etc., takes "a few more days". Many college students from across Bengaluru claim that their peers use marijuana commonly, and it can be procured quite easily.

Vijay (name changed), a marketing professional in a startup, came to Bengaluru a decade ago for his BBA. "When I came to the city, I did not know that Bengaluru has a reputation for its pot (marijuana) that grows in and around the city. It is more potent than the variants across the country due to the city's climate," he says.

Over the years, police have busted many cases of people growing ganja at homes or on terraces. However, a senior police officer claimed that Bengaluru and Karnataka don't have any marijuana fields and added that most of the ganja that is brought into the state is from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Meth production in city?
Bengaluru City Police seized drugs in

in many raids ahead of new year celebrations. MDMA worth Rs 21 crore was seized in November—the largest drug bust in the city—after which a lab manufacturing MDMA was also busted. Such labs were found in 2016 and 2021 as well.

The police say some locals are engaged in the production of synthetic drugs within their own homes, using small-scale setups. Ingredients for drugs like meth can be extracted from over-the-counter drugs and can be found in simple medicines like those used for treating colds. The police are not responsible for checking bulk purchases of these medications by individuals.

Cops say a significant amount of drugs come from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. "Around 90-100 individuals from Nigeria and Ghana, too, have been deported back to their nations for being involved in the drug trade in the city," says a cop.

Pay off to evade complaint?

Prakash (name changed), an engineer, was misled into buying hashish by a peddler when police apprehended him. Police informed his family that he was an avid drug user.

In a state of panic and fear, he begged the officers not to file charges. He also paid around Rs 1 lakh to ensure no complaint was filed.

Another professional, Kamal (name changed), also paid almost Rs 1.5 lakh to evade an FIR against him. His phone was seized, and at least five others were apprehended via his connections with the peddler.

When asked about the aforementioned incidents, a police officer con-

firmed that bribery had occurred and that some individuals tried to avoid filing FIRs by offering money. He added that the police department should be notified immediately if any cops ask for payment, and appropriate action will be taken against them.

When inquired about the legal options in a situation where someone is caught with drugs, the police official said there is no escape, and an FIR will be filed against the individual.

"However, the police now show more understanding towards drug users and aim to cut the supply chain by going after peddlers," he added.

A peddler's claims

A dealer who sells MDMA and marijuana told DH on conditions of anonymity, "There is no chance that the police do not know of it when even a college student can access these drugs easily. I know people in this trade who offer a commission to the police to keep their business running. However, they are always vulnerable because they will get busted if there is a complaint against them. The police is bound to take action if they are tipped off."

He claimed that law enforcement action is just an eyewash to ensure that it is documented in the records of criminal activity.

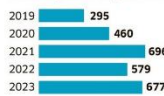
The dealer was initially a user only but eventually got into selling drugs, too, as the margin is lucrative. Many from affluent backgrounds enter this profession because they can afford to buy larger quantities and sell it further in privileged circles.

Common drugs

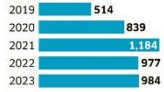
Marijuana, hashish, hashish oil (all derived from the same plant), MDMA, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and methamphetamine are some of the

NDPS CASES REGISTERED AGAINST PEDDLERS (2019-2023)

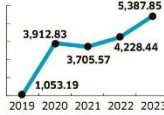
Cases reported on peddlers



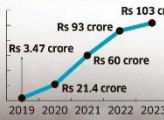
Number of arrests



Drugs seized (in kg)



Value of drugs seized



DATA: Bengaluru City Police

most popular party drugs available in Bengaluru.

Selling, consuming and possessing drugs are considered crimes under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1986, which regulates and controls activities relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The severity of the punishment depends on the quantity of drugs involved.

The penalties for personal usage in "small quantities" are less severe than for commercial objectives. A Bengaluru-based lawyer says the intent of possession of drugs also matters. "If it is for sale, the punishment is typically severe."

Sections 15 to 22 in the NDPS Act detail specific offences and penalties such as production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, warehousing, use, consumption, import inter-state, export inter-state, import into India, external dealings, and trans-shipment of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

A Bengaluru-based lawyer said, "Although the Act doesn't define 'small quantity', the Central government has notified what constitutes small and commercial quantity for each scheduled drug in the NDPS Act."

The Act also categorises substances into three schedules, with Schedule I containing the most restrictive substances. "For small amounts of drugs (non-commercial quantities), the punishment is six months of imprisonment and/or a fine of Rs 10,000. A person embroiled in such a case should apply for bail first and fight their case on facts and evidence," says another lawyer.

Repeat offenders can be held without bail for up to a year and have their assets attached. The punitive measures depend on the quantity of

each drug, as per the central government's notification.

Police's approach

Bengaluru City Police's narcotics division, Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs Department, and Central Bureau of Investigation mainly handle drug-related crimes in the city. Despite many agencies, strict rules and increased drug seizures over the years, the menace still thrives.

Police say that the supply of drugs will continue as long as there is a demand. "Suppliers of these drugs come up with new ideas and modes of operation if their module is busted," says a cop.

Canine squads are dog units pressed into action to detect explosives and drugs and to trace the culprits in crime scenes.

However, odorless synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, which emit an odour only when they are smoked, lack the necessary training to detect odorless synthetic substances.

The focus of police has been on peddlers, not consumers, for the last five months. "It is the intention that matters. If a person sells drugs, there is no chance of police showing empathy, but we now consider consumers as victims of drug abuse and try to educate them while imposing fewer punishments under the law. However, a person cannot dodge a FIR if caught," says a police official.

The police are seeking volunteers among college students who can educate their peers in universities about the ill effects of drug usage. The approach is remedial and not punitive, according to cops.

Feedback, comments, leads?
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Source: Deccan Herald, p.2, Jan 20, 2024

'25% of cases registered in State, 10% in city relate to cybercrimes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With 25% of the total cases registered across Karnataka and 10% of the total number of cases registered in the city related to cybercrimes, the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, Alok Mohan, said the focus would be given to cybercrime cases this year.

Speaking after a review meeting with senior officials here on Thursday, Alok Mohan said considering the growing number of cybercrimes and narcotics cases, the department is working towards capacity building, augmentation of resources, and training of all police personnel to investigate cybercrime cases.

The department is also



aiming for a narcotics-free State and working towards achieving the goal, he added. "It's a daily war waged by the police against narcotics, organised crime, and anti-social elements. There is no deadline set to tackle this problem. The police have been instructed to act immediately and not allow any crime to flourish," he said.

Major concerns

Replying to a question

about the strength of the police personnel, Alok Mohan said that the city has around 20,000 police personnel for a city with a 1.2 crore population to maintain law and order. "It is not about the number, but the quality and efficiency that matters," he said, referring to a famous quote, "You don't win a war by numbers."

To tackle the growing drug menace effectively, additional posts of senior police officials have been created to supervise the investigations and take them to a logical end. The CID is also training police officials on capacity building to ensure that all police officials in the next six months would be capable of investigating cybercrimes, he added.

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

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Urban Affairs

After HC rap, BBMP to increase public toilet infrastructure by nearly half

The civic body has also invited tenders for renovation of 160 public toilets and operation and maintenance of 229 e-toilets

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Rapped by the High Court of Karnataka over ill-maintained and inadequate public toilets in Bengaluru, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to increase the public toilets infrastructure in the city by nearly half. It is amidst various stages of tendering for 375 new public toilets, at an estimated total cost of ₹112 crore. This will take the total number of public toilets in the city to 1,160, up from 785.

Not only that, the civic body has also called for tenders for renovation of 160 existing toilets and for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of 229 e-toilets. "Many e-toilets have become defunct. The new O&M tender will revive all the e-toilets. We have conducted a survey of the existing public toilets and identified 160 toilets that need repair and renovation, which will also be carried out," said Praveen Lingaiah, Chief Engineer, Solid Waste Management, BBMP.

The move follows a survey by the Karnataka State Legal Services Auth-



The BBMP will submit its action plan on improving public toilet infrastructure in the city to the High Court on January 23 when a PIL petition will come up for hearing again. FILE PHOTO

ority, upon directions of the High Court, which found many public toilets unusable, dirty and without maintenance. The court was unhappy with the action-taken report submitted by the BBMP on these findings.

The BBMP will submit this action plan to the High Court on January 23, when the public interest litigation petition filed by NGO Letzkit Foundation, will come up for hearing again. The High Court had also imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh on the State government for not filing a response on the matter, despite specific directions by it, in October 2023.

The BBMP has called tenders to build 204 public toilets and the last date to submit bids is on January 31.

"We have identified places where these toilets have to come up based on floating population, need and availability of space. Many of them are on footpaths and we have designed these toilets to be more compact. We have four designs of varying sizes, depending on the space available," Mr. Lingaiah said. Sources said that many of these toilets are coming up in the outer zones where public toilets are fewer.

The contractors will on-

ly build these toilets, which will be maintained by the civic body itself. A decision as to whether they will be free or pay-and-use is yet to be taken.

71 smart toilets

The civic body has begun building 25 smart toilets at a cost of around ₹16 crore, in the first phase. A few of these toilets that use sensors in urinals, are odourless, dispense tissue papers and sanitary pads, are already up and running near Mysore Sandal Soap factory, Silk Board, and below the Summanahalli flyover.

These toilets will be built under the build, oper-

Toilets in Bengaluru

Existing public toilets: 360 (160 to be renovated now)	E-toilets: 229 (mostly defunct now; new O&M tender called for their revival)	Community toilets: 15 Restrooms for pourakarmikas: 181
Total: 785		
Proposed new toilets		
Public toilets: 204 (₹40 crore)	Precast smart toilets: 71 (₹47 crore)	SHE toilets: 100 (₹25 crore)
Total: 375 (₹112 crore)		

This will take the total number of public toilets in the city to 1,160, 47% more than the existing infrastructure

ate, transfer (BOT) model where the firm building these toilets will also maintain them for five years. The project is being expanded to build another 46 smart toilets at an estimated cost of ₹31 crore, in the second phase.

100 SHE toilets

The civic budget for 2023-24 included a proposal to build 100 SHE toilets on a public private partnership (PPP) model. These toilets were supposed to have restrooms and sanitary pad vending machines apart from other facilities.

The BBMP had proposed to give the firms building these toilets ad-

vertisement rights on their walls. However, tenders called for the same failed twice.

"Private players are not satisfied with the model. They say advertisement rights on the walls of the toilets is insufficient to make the investment viable. They are demanding rights for hoardings on the roofs of these toilets. But there is a hoarding ban. So we are mulling on scrapping the PPP model and for the civic body to build these toilets on our own. From the SWM Department, we have sought ₹25 crore to this end in the upcoming civic budget," a senior official said.

Source: The Hindu, p. 4, Jan 20, 2024

'Self-declaration policy for building plans will cut red tape, but concerns will remain'

There will be lax regulation on building bylaw violations in the city if the proposed policy comes into force, many argue

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The proposed self-declaration policy for building plan approval is anticipated to provide much-needed respite to citizens from red tape and corruption. However, concerns have also been raised about the potential lack of oversight and resultant building by-law violations under the proposed system.

At present, empanelled architects or engineers enrolled with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) upload the plan online for approval following which the civic body grants approval after conducting site inspection, analysing drawings, and checking other required documents. Although the process is digital, most of



At present, it takes at least four to six months for a property owner in Bengaluru to secure approval for a building plan. FILE PHOTO

the approvals are carried out physically. "The software the civic body uses at present is substandard and designing a better software will cost nearly ₹30 crore," a civic official said.

It takes at least four to six months for a property owner to secure plan approval. On the other hand, corruption in granting the approval is rampant. De-

puty Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has cited corruption and delay as the reasons for bringing a new self-declaration system.

Trust and verification

According to an empanelled architect who is in the know of the proposed system, in the new system,

architects have to self-declare that the plan adheres to building bylaws. This is done online. Many are confusing this with self-approval. "I want to emphasise that the architects are not empowered to self-approve building plans. They are only authorised to self-declare the plan. After declaration, the Town Planning Department will approve the plan without a site inspection. This is termed trust and verification. The BBMP approves the plan trusting the architect," he said. This may apply to sites measuring up to 50x80 ft.

Citizens to benefit

The citizens who have to bribe and wait for more than six months can heave a sigh of relief. Without any hassles, the architects/engineers can smoothly clear the approval. On the other

hand, as soon as the plan is self-declared, the owner can commence the work and need not have to wait for the final approval from the BBMP, said a BBMP official. The property owners have to hand over the required documents to the architect and pay the fees prescribed by them. This will not only cut red tape but also corruption, it is hoped.

At present, the Self-Assessment Scheme (SAS) is there for property tax on the same trust and verify model in the city. While it has mostly been hassle-free for citizens, Mr. Shivakumar had himself recently said that the SAS for property tax had led to people under-declaring their assets. A special drive to reassess some of the properties and issue tax demands with penalty notices is under way, leading to prot-

ests by property owners.

Many have raised concerns that a similar scheme for building plan approvals may lead to more building bylaw violations – which is rampant and a big menace in the city. As the civic body's onsite inspection will not happen, deviations from the plan are more likely.

N.S. Mukunda of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, one of the early champions for SAS in property tax and one of the petitioners against Akrama-Sakrama, said in the present scenario the proposed new system would only likely lead to misuse. The BBMP would be approving the submitted plan without inspecting the property. This would lead to revenue loss for the civic body. The BBMP at least should randomly inspect sites for plan approval process.

Source: The Hindu, p. 2, Jan 21, 2024

Green Line extension to Madavara likely to be operational around July

Construction of the fully elevated Green Line's northern extension from Nagasandra, spanning three km, commenced in 2017, but delays in land acquisition impeded its progress

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro's Green Line extension from Nagasandra to Madavara (formerly Bangalore International Exhibition Centre - BIEC) line, on Tumakuru Road might be operational around July.

The construction of the fully elevated Green Line's northern extension from Nagasandra, spanning three kilometres, commenced in 2017. Despite being originally scheduled for completion by mid-2019, delays in land acquisition impeded the progress, causing several missed deadlines set by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

BMRCL officials said that the majority of the work has been finished, with only final touches remaining. "The track laying is the only task remaining, expected to take approximately two months, and the line is anticipated to be fully operational by this July," official added.

"Following the completion of track laying and other minor tasks related to stations, the next steps involve conducting trial runs of trains and inspections by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety," the official explained.



BMRCL officials say that the majority of the work has been finished, with only final touches remaining. FILE PHOTO

BMRCL inaugurated the southern extension of the Green Line from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute on Kanakapura Road in January 2021.

Upon the operationalisation of the extended stretch to BIEC, the total length of the Green Line will reach 33 km.

As of November 2023, the BMRCL has completed 98.86% of civil works from Manjunathnagar to BIEC.

Land acquisition

Land acquisition issues, especially the delay in acquiring NICE land and the pandemic, were cited as reasons for the metro work

delay on this stretch.

The matter has now been resolved, and the project is progressing smoothly, said an official.

The elevated line spanning Nagasandra to Madavara includes three stations: Manjunathnagar, Chikkabidarakallu, and Madavara.

This stretch serves as a connection to the BIEC, a prominent exhibition centre in the city.

Residents of Manjunathnagar, Chikkabidarakallu, Madavara, Tumakuru Road, Anhepalya, and Jindal Nagar have been waiting the opening of this stretch, as they currently

have to travel over five kilometres to reach the Nagasandra metro station.

Ajay Kumar, a resident of Madavara, said, "I work in the Peenya Industrial area, and if the metro starts, it will be very convenient for me to travel directly to Peenya. Currently, I have to rely on buses or my own two-wheeler to reach Nagasandra to catch the metro."

Prasanth M., a resident of Chikkabidarakallu, said, "I travel to Jayanagar in the metro from Nagasandra to my office. If the metro can finish the work by July, it will benefit lakhs of commuters on the Green Line."

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Jan 22, 2024

KSRTC plans to give Peenya terminal a new lease of life

Corporation has decided to lease out the bus stand to be used as a shopping complex, a convention centre, or a hospital

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Basaveshwara bus terminal in Peenya, North Bengaluru, has been underutilised for nearly a decade, despite various attempts by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to revive it.

Now, the corporation has decided to lease out the bus stand to be used as a shopping complex, a convention centre, or a hospital.

The KSRTC invested ₹40 crore to build the bus terminal. The corporation first started services from the terminal in 2014 by shifting 140-odd schedules from Majestic. However, within a few months, the KSRTC shifted all operations back to Majestic as it



The corporation first started services from the terminal in 2014 by shifting 140-odd schedules from Majestic. VINAY B.S.

had incurred a huge revenue loss.

A KSRTC official said: “87,000 square feet of the bus terminal will be leased to outsiders to be used as a shopping complex, a commercial complex, a convention centre or a hospital.”

Over the past few years, the corporation has made multiple efforts to revitalise the terminal, including considering it as a potential bus depot for electric

buses. Unfortunately, none of these initiatives have shown any significant progress.

“Following its inauguration, the corporation had relocated 140 services from Majestic to the terminal, serving routes to Davangere, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and various destinations in North Karnataka. However, it incurred huge operational losses within a few months, leading to the relocation of services back to Majestic. Despite several attempts over the years, these endeavours have consistently lacked public patronage,” another official said.

To increase the footfall, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) too pitched in by running buses from or through the terminal to different locations in the city. However, this initiative also garnered a tepid response.

APPOINTMENT

 Indian Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Corporate Office, 254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapettah, Chennai-600014	
ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL BANKING DEPARTMENT (OVERSEAS) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS	
Mode of application	Offline application as per the prescribed format uploaded in career page of Banks' website www.indianbank.in
Last date for receipt of application	05.02.2024
For details please visit career page of www.indianbank.in for full details	

Source: The Hindu, p. 3, Jan 23, 2024

Will we ever master a proper plan for Bengaluru?

Bengaluru does have a history of Master Plans. But did they really help the city grow in an organised manner? Experts weigh in on the question

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

An inglorious mess. That is precisely what Bengaluru's bizarre, chaotic outward expansion has become, despite decades spent articulating the crying need for planned, regulated, controlled growth. How long should the city wait for a Master Plan that really works?

The last such attempt, the Revised Master Plan (RMP 2031) was scrapped two years ago. By all accounts, a new plan would take at least two years. But there is no sign that work on a draft is in the making. Does this mean Bengalureans would have to perennially endure the consequences of random infrastructure projects envisioned with zero connection to what the city really needs?

Tasked with preparing the draft, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had insisted that groundwork on the plan would be taken up on priority. Last year, the new commissioner had talked about drone surveys to identify the residential, commercial, agricultural and other zones, analysing the city's planning needs for the next 10 years. He had agreed it was a long process and a survey was only the first step.

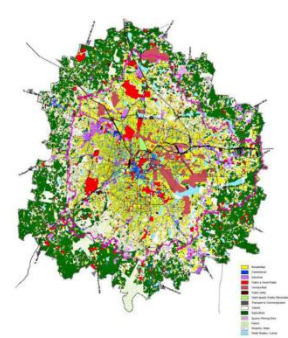
RMP-2031

Approval for the draft RMP-2031 was reportedly withdrawn for not incorporating the recommendations of a Transit Oriented Development (ToD) policy. It also lacked the integration of a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), prepared by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). This legislation was passed well over a year ago, but the Authority is yet to take shape.

In the current vacuum, the BDA has been using the outdated RMP 2015 to approve plans. For the record, RMP 2015 has been



A file photo of congestion on the Outer Ring Road. K. MURALI KUMAR



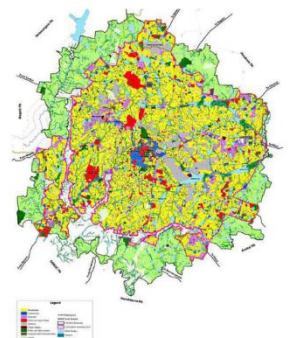
Land use of Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (BMA) when the Revised Master Plan (RMP-2031) was drafted.

blamed for all the havoc triggered by constructions on storm water drains and lake beds. Many policy experts are convinced that the genesis of the floods that had the city in a twister of mobility woes and marooned scores of localities could be attributed to

the old plan prepared in 2006.

Problematic old plans

Bengaluru does have a history of Master Plans. But did they really help the city grow in an organised manner? Not really. Planning, as articulated by the 74th



Land use of BMA as proposed by RMP-2031.

Constitutional Amendment, should be a local government function, as urban planner Anjali K. Mohan points out. This bottom-up approach would mean the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) prepares a spatial plan embodying,

through the ward committees, socio-economic development as the goal.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee would then provide a framework for such ground-up planning. It would also be tasked with coordinating and collating

such efforts across local governments to prevent overlaps and gaps in large infrastructure planning and implementation.

A bottom up approach

Architect and urban planner Brinda Sastry who was consultant planner for RMP 2015 notes that the now withdrawn RMP 2031 "brought in the critical perspective of building the city's vision in the regional context. However, it is imperative for the proposed vision of the upcoming Master Plan to include a framework for local area planning, which would provide opportunity to coordinate development initiatives across scales while involving ward level participatory planning."

The Bangalore Master Plan 2015, she recalls, had several new perspectives for envisioning the future of the city. "It was the first time that the city's system of tanks and nullahs were documented using GIS, with the aim to conserve them. Ecologically sensitive areas were zoned for protection. The proposed land use zoning plan was responsive to the development trends while recognizing the prevailing traditional urban patterns of the city," elaborates Brinda.

Specific projects and programmes were proposed in the Planning District report for implementation at a local scale.

"However, the plan was not implemented as envisioned and violations of the proposed zoning led to unmanageable consequences. Provision for periodic update of the Plan and frameworks for conducting local area planning exercises were lacking. It required coordinating future projects and plans across various departments in the government and allocation of funds for implementation."

The Master Plan is mandated to be revised once every 10 years as per the provisions of Section 13D of the Karnataka Town and

Country Planning Act, 1961. RMP 2015, prepared and approved on June 25, 2007, was in force when the draft for the 2031 plan was prepared.

Violated with impunity

Master plans have been violated with impunity in the past. For instance, the areas marked as agricultural zones in the RMP 2015 have seen massive land use changes, with authorized and unauthorised developments mushrooming. Road networks are rarely integrated, triggering severe traffic gridlocks.

The 2007 expansion of the old Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) to a 198-ward Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) only added to the chaos. Seventeen years after that transition, vast swathes of the city's outer areas are still without a proper drainage system, well connected roads, parks, bus connectivity, street lights and other basic amenities.

Every five years

"A new master plan, whether RMP 2041 or 2051, should be more dynamic. What we need more are guiding principles, and the plan must be revisited on a five-yearly basis," feels urbanist V. Ravichandrar.

While it can have long goals and vision, the plan must be dynamic and open to readjustment. Bringing all agencies linked to the city on board is one way to keep violations at bay, he notes. "It should have a lot more ground up inputs, including from citizens. It needs to ensure that all agencies are part of the process. Currently, the BDA makes the plan and others are not bothered."

The city's rapid population growth, exasperated by a grossly inadequate public infrastructure, has had the planning process play catch up. By one estimate, the city's population grew by a whopping 38% from 1991 to 2001, adding another 47% in the decade thereafter.

Although the 2011 census put the city's population at 8.4 million, Bengaluru is to be home to 12.5 million by 2025.

The lack of a consultative process in preparing the master plan is learnt to have directly impacted RMP 2031. Although non-integration of ToD and CMP were cited as factors that led to the plan's scrapping, objections from landowners and political players on the demarcation of green zones were also a key deciding factor.

Going beyond surveys

"Updating the master plan is definitely important because we are now working off 2015 survey data. A lot of development has happened since then which is not in alignment even with that master plan," notes urban mobility activist Sathya Sankaran. "This shows we don't just need to do surveys, we need to know the problems we are trying to fix," he says.

The master plan, he reminds, "should not be relegated to just drawing lines on a document by some consultants who don't understand the nature and systems of the city."

From a mobility perspective, he draws attention to Bengaluru overtaking Delhi as the city with the most number of car registrations. "Without the BMLTA being constituted and making the ToD plans for the city, the master plan will be relegated to drawing lines on the map based on individual transport agencies working on their independent financial indicators and plans," elaborates Sathya.

A business as usual approach would mean Bengaluru will continue to lag behind on efficient mass movement of people using public transport, cycling and walking, he cautions. The time is now to think ahead and plan for sustainable urban development for the city. Grand plans such as the tunnel roads are just not the way forward.

Source: The Hindu, p.7, Jan 23, 2024

Of four lakh registered households, 80,000 get PNG supply through GAIL

Many issues, especially rerouting pipelines due to civic utilities using the same route, have affected progress of the project

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

GAIL Gas Limited, the City Gas Distribution (CGD) company, has a goal of adding 50,000 domestic connections for PNG supply every year in Bengaluru. However, many problems, especially that of having to reroute their pipelines due to other civic utilities using the same route, have affected the progress of the project. Before the end of this financial year, the company plans to achieve a goal of 35,000 new connections.

"This year, we could not achieve the 50,000 target mainly because we could not work properly for two

Before the end of this fiscal, GAIL Gas Ltd. plans to achieve a goal of 35,000 new connections

to three months due to the State elections," Hirdesh Kumar, Chief General manager (CGD) & Officer In-Charge Bengaluru, GAIL Gas Limited told *The Hindu*.

35 more CNG stations
Under CGD project, GAIL Gas has been providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to domestic, commercial and industrial customers.

Since February 2015, after being authorised by Pe-

troleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), GAIL Gas has laid around 2,000 kilometres of pipeline in Bengaluru. While 2.5 lakh households have been connected with the pipeline, only 80,000 households have been availing supply of PNG. A total of 4 lakh residents from the city have registered for domestic PNG supply, officials from GAIL Gas said.

"All the prominent builders, Government, PSU/Army /Institutions Quarters and colonies are opting for PNG," they added. Apart from domestic supply, GAIL Gas is also supplying PNG to around 215 commercial establishments, 178 industrial units and has

also set up 102 CNG stations in the city. By March 2024, the company plans to set up 35 more CNG stations.

Limitations in localities
Despite citizens becoming more aware of the benefits of natural gas, GAIL Gas continues to face some hurdles, which are unique to urban localities in the city. "Bengaluru has a lot of potential when it comes to natural gas supply, but there are several limitations to lay pipeline. Sometimes we have to reroute already laid pipelines due to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) and Bangalore Metropolitan Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) network ex-

pansion," Mr. Kumar said. Officials also said that the presence of other utilities also makes it difficult to excavate in certain areas as it would not be safe.

The huge amount of traffic on roads also results in less excavation space and less work area to lay pipelines. "Sometimes, there will also be delays in obtaining approval from BBMP as it has to pass through various levels," Mr. Kumar said.

In October last year, the State cabinet gave its nod to implementation of the State policy for the development of CGD network in Karnataka. GAIL Gas expects this move to accelerate the implementation of PNG and CNG projects.

Source: The Hindu, p.4, Jan 24, 2024

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ: ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್

ಬಹುಕೋಟಿಯ ಅರಣ್ಯವೀಗ ಲೇಔಟ್!

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಅಂತರ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಭುವನ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ 'ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ' ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ 8 ಎಕರೆ 35 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸ್ಥಿರಾಸ್ತಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಮೂರನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಘೋಷಿಸದಂತೆ ನಿಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಮಧ್ಯಂತರ ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಮತ್ತು ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ವಲಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿಯನ್ನು ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎಚ್.ಟಿ.ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಅವರಿದ್ದ ಏಕಸದಸ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ ಸೋಮವಾರ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿತು.

ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ವೇಳೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪರ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಆಡ್ವೋಕೇಟ್ ಜನರಲ್ ಕಿರಣ್ ಎಂ.ರೋಣಿ ಅವರು ವಾದ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ, 'ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಸಣ್ಣ ಮತ್ತು ಭುವನ

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಂಶಗಳು

- ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯದ 50 ಎಕರೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿರೆ..!
- ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 8 ಎಕರೆ 25 ಗುಂಟೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ
- ವಲಯ ಅರಣ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಶ್ರಮದಿಂದ ದಾಖಲೆ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕರಣ

ಹಳ್ಳಿಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ 59 ಎಕರೆ 8 ಗುಂಟೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಣ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಕಲಂ 17ರ ಅನುಸಾರ 1921ರ ಜನವರಿ 8ರಲ್ಲೇ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದರು.

'ಭುವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಚಿಕ್ಕಸಣ್ಣ ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂಬರ್ 69ರಲ್ಲಿ (ಹಳೆಯ ಸರ್ವೇ ನಂಬರ್ 67) ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ 8 ಎಕರೆ 35 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನು ಕೂಡಾ ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಕಡೆಯವರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ



ಲೇ ಔಟ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮೂರನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ' ಎಂದು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಿಸಿದರು.

'ಇದರಂತೆಯೇ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಮೂರನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಶೋಧಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಲೇ ಔಟ್ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿದ್ದು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶವೇ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಕೇವಲ 8 ಎಕರೆ 25 ಗುಂಟೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

'ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಒತ್ತುವರಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ತಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು

ವನಿದು ಪ್ರಕರಣ?

ಚಿಕ್ಕಸಣ್ಣ ಗ್ರಾಮ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭುವನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯದ ಕೆಲ ಭಾಗವನ್ನು 1936ರ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 30ರಂದು ಮೈಸೂರು ಭೂ ಕಂದಾಯ ಸಂಹಿತೆ ಅನುಸಾರ ಹರಾಜು ಹಾಕಿದಾಗ ಸುಬ್ಬರಾಯ ಮೊದಲಿಯಾರ್ ಎಂಬುವವರು 43 ಎಕರೆ 24 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಸುಬ್ಬರಾಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ 1936 ನವೆಂಬರ್ 19 ರಂದು ಮಾರಾಟ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸ್ವತ್ತನ್ನು 1977ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸದ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಕಡೆಯವರು ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಈ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಗಳು ಉದ್ಭವಿಸಿ ಈಗ ಎರಡನೇ ಸುತ್ತಿನ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸ್ವತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಆಸಲು ದಾವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಜೆಎಂಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ 2023ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 15ರಂದು ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿನ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಘೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವಂತೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಇದನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರ, 'ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹರಾಜು ಹಾಕಲು ಕಾನೂನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜನನವಾಗಿ ಕಾಪಾಡುತ್ತಿರಬೇಕು. ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಪ್ರೀಂ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಆದೇಶದ ಅನುಸಾರ ವಲಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಯು.ಜಿ.ಪವಿತ್ರಾ ಅವರ ಶ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಜನನದಿಂದ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕೃತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು

ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕು' ಎಂದು ಕೋರಿದರು.

ವಾದ ಅಲಿಸಿದ ನ್ಯಾಯಪೀಠ, ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಚಿಕ್ಕಸಣ್ಣ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸಗಟು ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿ ಎಂ.ಎ.ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಸನಾವುಲ್ಲಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಬಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಆದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದೆ.

Source: Prajavani, p.3, Jan.23, 2024

■ **ಎ. ಎ. ಶ್ರೀಧರ** ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
punyavathi.h@timesgroup.com
ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸೆನೇಟರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರೂ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ
ಮಾಹಿತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ
ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ (ಎಫ್) ಮತ್ತು ಮಮಿ ಪಾರ್ಟಿಯ
ಮುಖಾಂತಿ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ನವೀಕರಣ ಕಾರ್ಯದ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಜನರ ಮುಖ
ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

■ **ತುಮಕೂರಿನ** ಮುಖ್ಯ ಜನಪದ ಕಲಾ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ
ಸಮಿತಿಯು ರೂ. 100 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು, 73.8
ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡ
ಅಂತಿಮ ರೂ. 100 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು
ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ.

■ **2012ರಲ್ಲಿ** ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ
ನವೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು
ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ.
ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ
ನವೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು
ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡಿಸಿ ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ.

[illegible]

ಫಲಿ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ
 ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯಂ ಸಿ ಎಫ್ಐಎಲ್ ರೈತರ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ
 ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ
 ತೀರ್ಮಾನ 2013ರ ಆಯುಧ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆ
 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
 ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾಗಿ
 ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದಳು. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ
 ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು
 ಬಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಿಸಿದಳು ಎಂಬ ಪರಿಶ್ವ
 ರವನ್ನು ಆಗಲೇ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ
 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆ
 ಸುಬ್ರಹ್ಮಣ್ಯಂ ಸಿ ಎಫ್ಐಎಲ್ ರೈತರ ಪಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ
 ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬ
 ತೀರ್ಮಾನ 2013ರ ಆಯುಧ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆ
 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ
 ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾಗಿ
 ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದಳು. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ
 ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಮತ್ತು
 ಬಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಿಸಿದಳು ಎಂಬ ಪರಿಶ್ವ
 ರವನ್ನು ಆಗಲೇ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಕಾರ್ತಿಕೇಯ
 -ಎಸ್. ಜಯರಾಮ್



77 ಗ್ರಾಮ್ಯತೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾದು
ಕೂಗಲು 8 ವರ್ಷ ರಸ್ತೆ

2,596 ಎಕರೆ ಜಾಗ ಗುರುತು

ಇಂದು ಆಯದ ಪರಿವಾರ: 73 ಕುಟುಂಬ. ಉದ್ದ
ಸುಮಾರು 1.5 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ಕಾಲೋರ ರಸ್ತೆಯು 77 ಗ್ರಾಮ್ಯತೆ
ಯವರಿಗೆ ಹಾದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಬಾಲ್ಯಾಳಿ
ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ 2.5% ವಹಿ ಜಾಗ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. ಜಾಗ
ಸೀತರ ಪ್ರದೇಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥ ಕುಟುಂಬ 73
ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತ ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ, ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ
ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಇಂದು ಆಯದ ಆಯಾ
ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

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