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EDUCATION

NAAC accords A+ grade to Bi Bi Raza Degree College for Women in K'buragi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi

THE National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has accorded A+ Grade to Bi Bi Raza Degree College for Women (Arts and Science) Kalaburagi said the Principal of the College Zeba Parveen here on Monday.

Speaking at a press conference here, the Principal of the College Zeba Parveen said that this is the first time that an institution run by a minority community and coming under the jurisdiction of Akkamahadevi Women University is getting A+ grade from NAAC. She said that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council has intimated her that Bi Bi Raza Degree College for Women has been accredited with a CGPA of 3.28 on a seven point scale at A+ grade valid for a period of 5 years from 17-01-2024.

Zeba Parveen said that Khaja Education Society is serving in the

social service field through education for many years. It has given prominence to the education of girls. Bi Bi Raza College for Women was established 47 years back by the Khaja Education Society, she said. In 1977 Arts Faculty was started and in 1989 Science faculty was opened in the College for Women.

Founder President of Khaja Education Society late Hazarat Syed Shah Mohammad Al Hussaini was awarded Padmashri for his service in the education field and he was given Rajyotsava award also, Zeba Parveen said.

The Principal of the College said that the NAAC Committee in-

spected the College for 2 days in the month of September.

There are 700 students in the College in this academic year and 29 lecturers including PhD holders were serving as the lecturers in the College.

The NAAC comprising of Dr M. Bhaskar (chairman) with Prof Tanuja of Presidency College Kolkata, Prof Manju Jain of College of Education Haryana inspected different sections of the College and based on its recommendation, the NAAC has awarded A+ grade to the college, Zeba Parveen said.

Kaneez Fatima, Nayyar Jahan, B. Jyoti and Namrata Ravut were present in the press conference.



The NAAC Committee inspected the College for 2 days in the month of September. There are 700 students in the College in this academic year. 29 lecturers including PhD holders are serving in the college

Zeba Parveen, College Principal



Principal of Bi Bi Raza Degree College for Women Zeba Parveen addresses the media in Kalaburagi on Monday | EXPRESS

IIM Kashipur 'Agri Mela Startup Expo' on Jan 27-28

Our Bureau

Mangaluru

IIM Kashipur will organise the seventh edition of 'Ut-tishtha 2024' on January 27-28. This 'Agri Mela Start-up Expo' aims to unite agricultural start-ups, industry stakeholders, and investors to exchange insights on entrepreneurship, featuring a start-up expo and engaging activities.

The two-day Agri Mela Startup Expo is conducted

by the Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (FIED) and E-Cell IIM Kashipur, with the support of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

A media statement said the annual entrepreneurship summit is expected to witness the participation of over 2,000 B-school students, 20-plus VC and entrepreneur talks, 10,000-plus visitors, 100-plus start-ups, and the top 10 start-ups engaging in live pitching ('Ran Bhoomi').

MBA: Why, when, how and where?

You should be in touch with the changes in technology, working styles and corporate structures, writes Ali Khwaja

Masters in Business Administration (MBA) is the magic three letters that every young person aspiring to make it big in the corporate world dreams about. From IIMs and IITs to ISB and many other top-notch B-schools, various courses are offered to those who wish to reach coveted positions. For those who can afford it, reputed universities in Western countries beckon them to study there and convert their dreams into reality. MBA is the passport to success, the end of the struggle, and the beginning of a high-paid managerial career. But let us objectively explore and understand the role of an MBA in a person's career. Undoubtedly, an MBA gives an upward nudge to anyone carving out a lucrative position in the corporate jungle—but it is equally essential that a person understands why, when, how and where to get

that coveted degree.

Many young students say "MBA" when asked what career they want. They need to know that MBA is the name of a course that boosts your career; it is not a career in itself. Many students are unaware of the different areas of management that one can explore or what is required in each.

Specialisations

Specialisations in MBA, which used to be restricted to marketing, HR, finance and systems or operations for a long time, have now spread out into a very wide range. Today, one can qualify in diverse areas of management such as international business, entrepreneurship, data analytics, artificial intelligence, education, family business, rural marketing, plantations, pharmaceuticals, banking, digital marketing, healthcare, tourism, NGO, and sports, to name just a few.

There are equally promising alternatives to MBA. The most common is the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM), offered by some reputed B-schools. They give a non-affiliated diploma instead of a university degree because it gives them the flexibility to design, change, and modify their curriculum and even the methodology of teaching based on industry requirements without waiting for approval from authorities. Project Management Professional (PMP) is a certification offered by Project Management Inter-

national (PMI) to practising managers without having to attend classes.

Options range from two-year full-time residential/daytime to one year, to part-time, to online live classes or lessons received through learning management systems offering flexible timing.

Executive MBA programmes offered to individuals with managerial experience allow them to take short breaks from work to attend classes and continue learning online.

Studying while working

Many reputed B-schools insist on at



least a few years of work experience before giving admission to candidates. Those with actual corporate exposure benefit most from management courses. They also have clarity in what specialisation they should select, thus getting the maximum benefit of the course.

With such a wide variety, a person first acquires domain specialisation, gets a first-hand feel of the profession, including prospects, and ensures that his/her temperament, aptitude and skillset suits that particular field.

Finance and scope

These courses aren't cheap. Though some scholarships and loans are available, work experience and earning some money helps. Take the plunge when you are confident that you will enjoy and flourish in your chosen field for the next 40-50 years. Ensure that you are in touch with changes coming fast, not just in technology but also in work styles, corporate structures and means of communication.

Equally important is preparing, competing, and getting admission to a well-established and popular B-school. Many less reputed colleges may offer UGC-recognised university degrees, but the students may find acceptance into the industry difficult. To get an idea about admission to a good institution, one needs to observe that most of those who crack the CAT and get into IIMs are engineers.

This indicates that there is an advantage if you have studied in a professional course where analytical, logical, critical and verbal skills are developed in your undergraduate studies.

(The author is a career counsellor)

BULLETIN BOARD

PHP development internship

OyeLabs is hiring for a PHP development work-from-home internship. Students with HTML, LARAVEL, MySQL, and PHP knowledge can apply by February 3. The stipend is Rs 5,000-10,000/month. Apply at: <https://bit.ly/Dhed029>

UI/UX Design internship

Global Trend is hiring for a UI/UX Design work-from-home internship. Students with Figma, UI/UX Design knowledge can apply by February 3. The stipend is Rs 5,000/month. Apply at: <https://bit.ly/DHed030>

Content marketing internship

Scaler Academy is hiring interns for a content marketing internship in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Content Marketing can apply by January 25. The stipend is Rs 16,000/month. Apply at: <https://bit.ly/DHed031>

Vidyadhan disability scholarship

Meritorious students with 40% disability enrolled in a degree course in 2022 with 60% marks or 6 CGPA in Class 12 can apply. Annual income must be less than Rs 4 lakh. Last date: January 31. Details: <https://t.ly/3M8-2>

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಗುರುಕುಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸಹಯೋಗದಡಿ ಆಯೋಜನೆ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪೋಗೆ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಸಜ್ಜು

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕರಡ್ಯಗಳ ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಗುರುಕುಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಸತಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಹಯೋಗದಡಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ, ಬುಧವಾರ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಎರಡು ದಿನದ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪೋ (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೇಳ)ದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಉಜ್ವಲ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಲು ಸಕಲ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

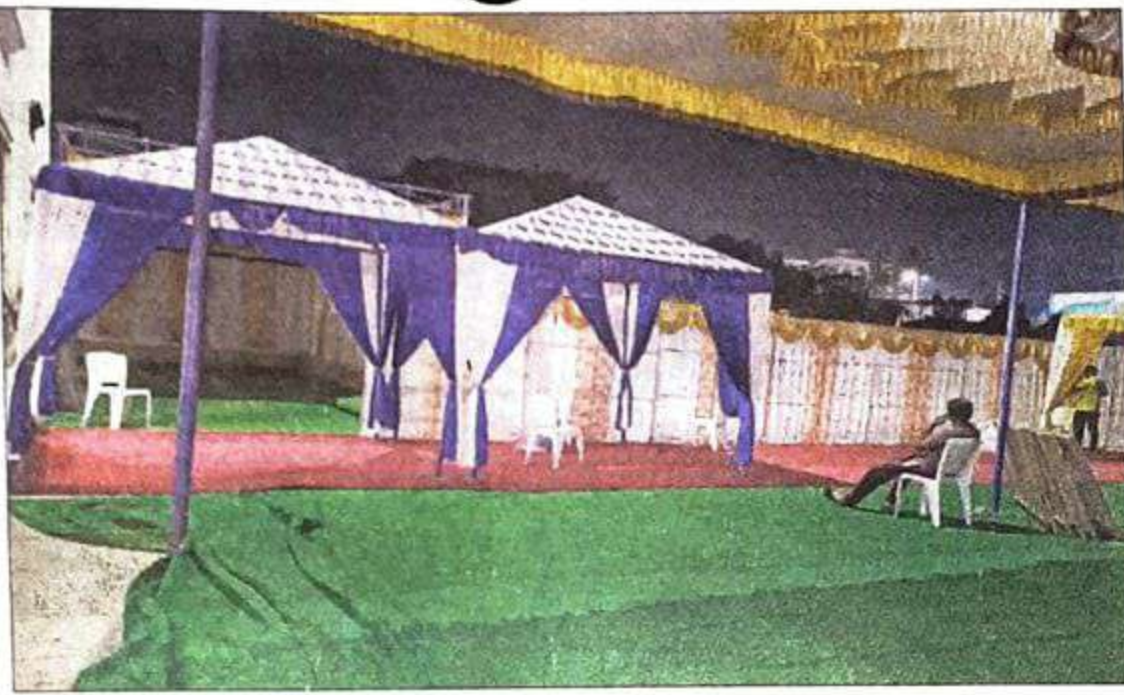
ಶರಣಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಖೂಬಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಮೇಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಬೀದರ್, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧೆಯ 30ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿವೆ. ಮೇಳದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲಕರಿಗಾಗಿ

» ನೀವು ಬನ್ನಿ, ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನು ಕರೆ ತನ್ನಿ

ಜ್ಞಾನದಾಸೋಹ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಯಲಿವೆ. ನಾಡಿನ ಖ್ಯಾತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ತಜ್ಞರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ವಿಕಸನ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಅಂಕ ಗಳಿಸುವ ಮಾರ್ಗೋಪಾಯ, ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳ ತಯಾರಿ ಸೇರಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ತಜ್ಞರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂವಾದ, ಚರ್ಚೆಯೂ ನಡೆಯಲಿದ್ದು,

ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ಬಹುಮಾನ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಸಕಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಿಗಲಿದೆ. ಇಂಥ ಸದವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕಲಬುರಗಿ, ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು, ಪಾಲಕರು ಸದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಡ್ಯಗಳ ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಗುರುಕುಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಸತಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಕೆಜಿಯಿಂದ ಪಿಜಿವರೆಗಿನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಉತ್ತಮ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ ರೂಪಿಸುವ ಕನಸು ಹೊತ್ತಿರುವ ಪಾಲಕರು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಸದುಪಯೋಗ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಅಗಸ್ತ್ಯ ಘಂಡೇಷನ್‌ನಿಂದ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಸ್ತು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಸಹ ಇರಲಿದೆ.



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಖೂಬಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪೋಗೆ ಸಜ್ಜುಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ವೇದಿಕೆ, ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳು.

ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೇಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದೇನು?

- » ಮೊದಲ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.30ಕ್ಕೆ. ವಿಷಯ: ಕಲಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂವಾದ. ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಪರ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಡಾ.ಆಕಾಶ ಶಂಕರ.
- » ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1.30: ವಿಷಯ: ನೂತನ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ ಏನು ಎತ್ತ. ಗುವಿವಿ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ದಯಾನಂದ ಅಗಸರ.
- » ತೃತೀಯ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3.30: ವಿಷಯ: ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವೃತ್ತಿ: ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರೀತಿ. ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿವಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ಡಾ.ರಾಜೀವ್ ಜೋಶಿ.
- » 4ನೇ ಗೋಷ್ಠಿ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30: ಎಸ್ಸೆಸ್ಸೆಲ್ಸಿ ನಂತರ ಮುಂದೇನು? ಧಾರವಾಡದ ಫೇಸ್ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿಯ ಆದರ್ಶ ಪಾಟೀಲ್
- » ಸಂಜೆ 5.30: ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡಪ್ ಕಾಮಿಡಿಯನ್ ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ ಪತ್ತಾರ ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಸಂಜೆ

ಇಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10ಕ್ಕೆ ಶುಭಾರಂಭ

ಖೂಬಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10ಕ್ಕೆ ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅನುಭವ ಮಂಟಪ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಮತ್ತು ಕರಡ್ಯಗಳ ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಗುರುಕುಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಾ.ಬಸವಲಿಂಗ ಪಟ್ಟದೇವರು ಸಾನ್ನಿಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೌಶಲಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವ ಡಾ.ಶರಣಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪೋಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶರಣಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ವಿದ್ಯಾವರ್ಧಕ ಸಂಘದ ಚೇರ್‌ಪರ್ಸನ್ ಮಾತೋಶ್ರೀ ಡಾ.ದಾಕ್ಷಾಯಿಣಿ ಎಸ್.ಅಪ್ಪ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಜಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸುವರು. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಡಿಸಿ ಬಿ.ಫೌಜಿಯಾ ತರನ್ನುಮ್, ಜಿಪಂ ಸಿಇಒ ಭನ್ವರ್‌ಸಿಂಗ್ ಮೀನಾ, ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಭುವನೇಶ ಪಾಟೀಲ್, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಪರ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಡಾ.ಆಕಾಶ ಎಸ್., ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಪ್ರಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಡಿ. ಕಿಶೋರಬಾಬು, ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಸಕ್ರೇಪ್ಪಗೌಡ ಬಿರಾದಾರ, ಡಿಡಿಪಿಯು ಶಿವಶರಣಪ್ಪ ಮುಳಿಗಾಂವ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವರು.

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RESI. PU SCIENCE COLLEGE,
KARDYAL ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ
KALABURAGI
EDUCATION EXPO
2024
For The Generation Next

» ಖೂಬಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭ ಇಂದು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಉಚಿತ

ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು

ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕರಡ್ಯಗಳ ಶ್ರೀ ಚನ್ನಬಸವೇಶ್ವರ ಗುರುಕುಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಸತಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯ ಶ್ರೀಗುರು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಪದವಿಪೂರ್ವ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಆಫ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್, ದಿಶಾ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಆಫ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್, ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ದಾಮೋಧರ ರಘೋಜಿ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಚೈತನ್ಯ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಇನ್ ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್, ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಕೇತನ ಶಾಲೆ, ಮಿಲೇನಿಯಂ ಶಾಲೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂಗಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾಮಂದಿರ, ಗುರುಕುಲ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಆಫ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್, ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜ್, ಮಿಲೇನಿಯಂ ಶಾಲೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕೆಎಲ್‌ಇ ಟೆಕ್ನಾಲಜಿಕಲ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಧಾರವಾಡದ ಪೇಸ್ ಐಟಿ ಆಂಡ್ ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್, ಜಿ.ಎಂ. ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಲಿಂಗಸುಗೂರಿನ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ಮೆಡಿಕಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್, ಉಮಾಮಹೇಶ್ವರಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಆಫ್ ಇನ್ ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್, ವಿಜಯಪುರದ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಲೆಂಟ್ ಪಿಯು ಕಾಲೇಜ್, ಆಕ್ಸ್‌ಫರ್ಡ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ಸ್ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಆಫ್ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ನಾಗರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಮೇಧಾ ಪಿಯು ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್, ಗಂಗಾವತಿಯ ಎಸ್.ವಿ. ಸವದಿ ಬಿಎಂಎಸ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್, ಶ್ರೀ ವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಕೇತನ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಆಫ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಷನ್ಸ್, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳದ ಶಾರದಾ ಇಂಟರ್ ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಶಾಲೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ಲಿಕ್ಸ್ ಓಟಿಟಿ ಫ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರ್ಮ್, ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ ಪಾರ್ಟಿನರ್ ವಿಜಯಾನಂದ ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ಸ್ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿವೆ.

ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಬುಧವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10ರಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 6.30ರವರೆಗೆ ಎಜುಕೇಷನ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪೋ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ (88844 32211), ಅರುಣ ಗಡ್ಡದ (88844 32357) ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಸಂಜೆ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ



ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮೇಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿತ್ಯ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರಿಂದ ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಸಂಜೆ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಯಲಿವೆ. ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಸಂಜೆ ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡಪ್ ಕಾಮಿಡಿಯನ್ ಕಾರ್ತಿಕ ಪತ್ತಾರ ಹಾಸ್ಯಸಂಜೆ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಡುವರು. ಬುಧವಾರ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಲಾ ತಂಡಗಳಿಂದ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ.

ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಧನೆ, ಅನುಭವಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ವೃಂದ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತ ಗೊಂದಲ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರ, ಸಂವಾದ, ಸೆಮಿನಾರ್‌ಗಳು ಮೇಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿವೆ.

MCPH

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಕ್ಷೇಮ ಕುಶಲ



ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪೋಷಕರೂ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗಬೇಕು

ರಮ್ಯಾ ಶ್ರೀಹರಿ

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಟುತ್ತಹೋದಂತೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪೋಷಕರ ನಡುವಿನ ಬಾಂಧವ್ಯದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವೂ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಅಥವಾ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒತ್ತಡ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡದ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೆ ಒದಗುವ ಸವಾಲುಗಳೇ ಬೇರೆ. ಆಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಟ, ಆಹಾರ, ನಿದ್ರೆ, ಭದ್ರತಾಭಾವ, ನಡೆ ನುಡಿ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಠ, ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಸ್ವಭಾವಗಳು, ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಗಳು - ಇವುಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಪೋಷಕರ ಗಮನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗ ಪೋಷಕರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಬಾಂಧವ್ಯದ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯದಾಗಿ ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬೆಳೆದು ಪ್ರಪಂಚವನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಾ ಅದರ ಪ್ರಭಾವಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ತಮ್ಮ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ಸಾಗುವಾಗ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಬಗೆಯ ಸವಾಲುಗಳು ಹುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ.

ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಆಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮತನವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಲು, ತಮ್ಮ 'ಐಡೆಂಟಿಟಿ'ಯನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 'ನಾನು ಯಾರು?' 'ನಾನು ಏನಾಗಬಲ್ಲೆ?' 'ಏನು ಮಾಡಬಲ್ಲೆ?' - ಎಂಬ ಅನ್ವೇಷಣೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು ಹನ್ನೊಂದರಿಂದ ಹತ್ತೊಂಬತ್ತು ವಯಸ್ಸಿನವರೆಗೂ ತೀಕ್ಷ್ಣವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಈ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ 'ಐಡೆಂಟಿಟಿ'ಯ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಗೊಂದಲ ಜಾಸ್ತಿಯಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಎರಿಕ್ ಏರಿಕ್ಸನ್; ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಮನೋ-ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯ ಹಲವು ಹಂತಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಹೇಳುವಾಗ ಇದನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹನ್ನೊಂದರಿಂದ ಹತ್ತೊಂಬತ್ತು ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ನಡುವೆಯೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ, ಅದರ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಆಲೋಚನೆ, ಭಾವನೆ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸ್ವ-ನಂಬಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಆಳವಾದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಈ ತಮ್ಮತನದ ಅನ್ವೇಷಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಬಗೆಗಿರುವ ಗೊಂದಲಗಳನ್ನು ಅರಿತು ಪೋಷಕರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು, ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸುವುದು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಕಾರಿ; ಅದಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಅಪೇಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ ಇಂತಿಷ್ಟು ಗಂಟೆಗಳು ಓದುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ, ತಮ್ಮ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಂತೆ ಅಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಗಳಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ದೂರುವುದು, ದುಃಖಿಸುವುದು, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೋಪಗೊಂಡು ಅವರನ್ನು ನಿಂದಿಸುವುದು ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಗೊಂದಲವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಬೇಕು, ಆದರೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಲೂಬೇಕು; ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮತನವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಸಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಸಮಾಜದ ರೀತಿನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ಕಲಿಯಬೇಕು. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗಿಂತ ಭಿನ್ನ, ಅನನ್ಯ; ಹಾಗೆಂದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪೋಷಕರ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಬೇಡವೆಂದು ಅಲ್ಲ; ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಅತಿಯಾದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರು ಮಂಕಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಏನೂ ಹೇಳದೆ ಅವರಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೇ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ದಿಕ್ಕೇತೋಚದಂತಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಗಮನಿಸಿದಾಗ ಪೋಷಕತ್ವವೆಂದರೆ 'ಸಮತೋಲನ' ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಕಲಿಯುವ, ಕಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯೆಂದರೆ ತಪ್ಪಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೂ ತಾವು 'ಸಮತೋಲನ'ವನ್ನು ಎಷ್ಟು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಕಲಿತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಯ.

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪೋಷಕರ ನಡುವಿನ ಒಡನಾಟ ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರೀತಿಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆಯೋ ಅಷ್ಟು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ತಯಾರಿಯು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವು ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ನೆನಪಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಉಪಯೋಗಕಾರಿ:

1. ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ತರುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಪೋಷಕರು ಮಗುವಿನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನದಿಂದ ಚರ್ಚಿಸುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ: ಸಮಯ ಪಾಲನೆ, ಏಕಾಗ್ರತೆ, ನೆನಪಿನ ಶಕ್ತಿ, ಬರವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತೊಂದರೆಗಳು, ಸೋಲಿನ ಭಯ, ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಆತಂಕ - ಹೀಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವುದು. ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಹಂತ. ಆದರೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಆಲಿಸುವ, ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುವ ಪೋಷಕರಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪೂರ್ತಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತದೆ.
2. ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕಾಗ್ರತೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಪರಿಹಾರವೆಂದರೆ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಯ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಪಾಠದ ಸಾರಾಂಶ, ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು, ಸಂದೇಹಗಳು, ಪಾಠದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಂಶಗಳು, ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳು, ಸೂತ್ರಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಬರೆದಿಡುವುದು. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಸಮಯವಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಬೇರೆ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ತಮ್ಮ ಆಲೋಚನೆ, ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ಬರೆಯುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡರೆ ಏಕಾಗ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚುಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಗಮನಿಸುವ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿ, ಕುತೂಹಲ, ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಅರಿಯುವ ತವಕ, ನೆನಪಿನ ಶಕ್ತಿ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಕಲಿತಿರುವುದರ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಸಂತಸ, ಸಮಾಧಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಯ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಸಹಕಾರಿ.
3. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಓದುವಾಗ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದೋ, ಓದುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಜಾರೆಂದೋ, ಓದುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ (Motivation) ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದೋ ಕಾಲಹರಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಓದಲು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಗಿಂತಲೂ ಶಿಸ್ತು (Discipline) ಮುಖ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ್ದು ಪೋಷಕರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.
4. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಅತಿಯಾಗಿ ಓದುವುದರಿಂದ ಏನೂ ಸಾಧಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ; ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ದಿನಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟು ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟರೂ ಒಂದು ಪಾಠವನ್ನೂ ಪೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಏರುಪೇರುಗಳು ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಯಾವ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ಶಿಸ್ತುಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಓದುವ ಬರೆಯುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ದಿನವೂ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಬಾರದೆನ್ನುವುದು ಮುಖ್ಯ.
5. ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ತಯಾರಾಗುವಾಗ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ದೊಡ್ಡ ತೊಡಕೆಂದರೆ ಅದು ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸೇ ಹೌದು ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಲು ಪೋಷಕರು ನೆರವಾಗಬಹುದು. ಮನಸ್ಸು/ ಗಮನ ಎತ್ತೆತ್ತಲೋ ಹರಿಯುವುದು ಸಹಜ. ಅದನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೆ ಎಳೆದು ತಂದು ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯ, ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಯೇ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಾಧಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಗುರಿಯನ್ನು ತಲುಪಿರುವುದು ಎನ್ನುವ ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು, ಸಾಧಕರ ಜೀವನಕಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಗಾಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ನೆನಪು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುವುದು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನವನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಂತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ❖



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'Data protection seal' to vet platforms soon

Volunteer organisations are piloting project aimed to verify secure use of data and ensure compliance, says DSCI

ASHUTOSH MISHRA

New Delhi, 22 January

The Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is planning to devise a data protection seal (DPS) to verify and check secure use of people's data by platforms across the country.

The project, currently piloted with partner organisations, will help users know which organisations are using their data safely and following the basic standards of data privacy. This will be similar to the ISI mark that conforms to a product in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Standards.

"The data protection seal will provide some level of assurance about the application, website, or product, according to expectations of privacy, and whether it behaves responsibly," said Vinayak Godse, chief executive officer, DSCI, in an interaction with Business Standard.

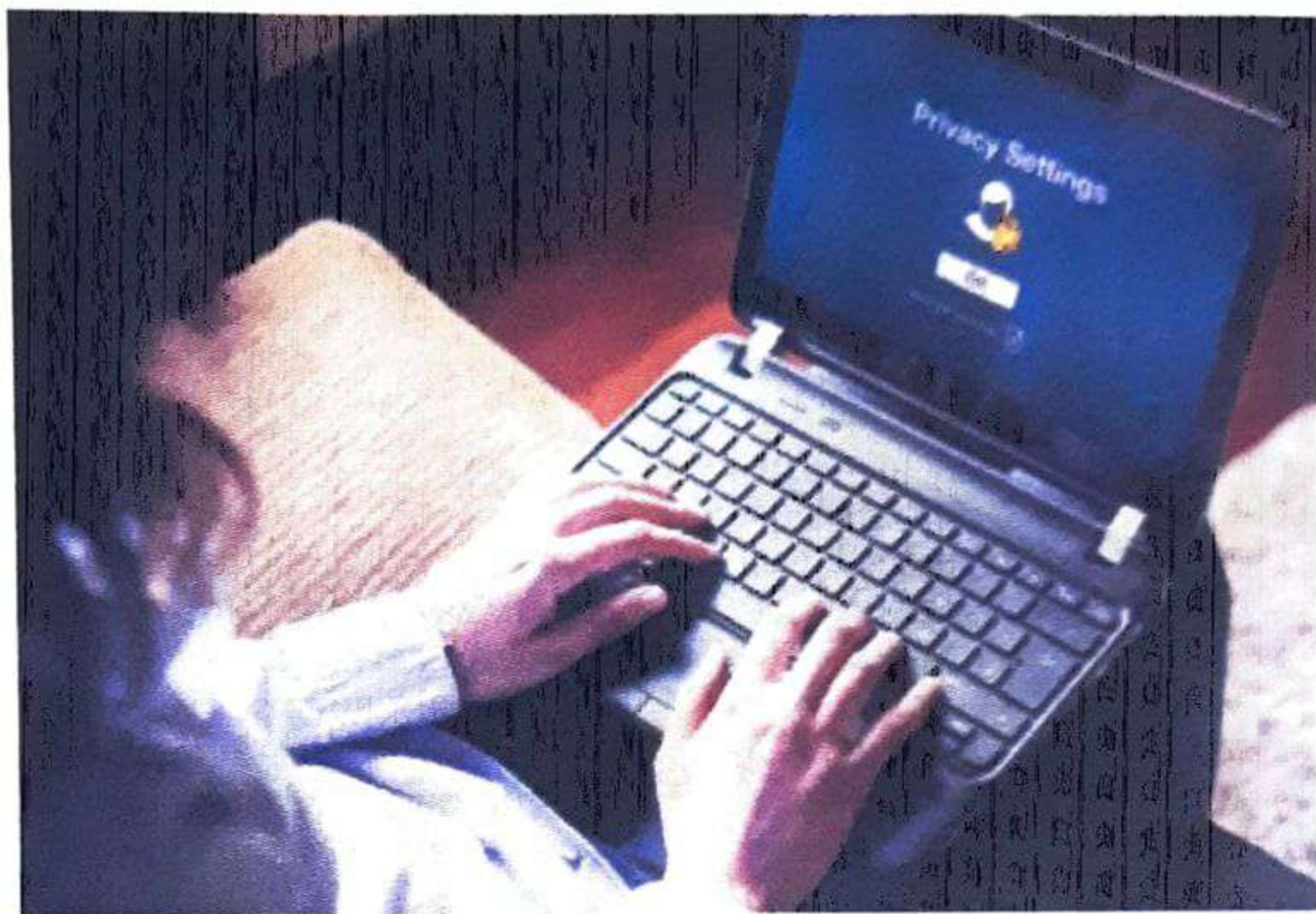
Such a process will allow companies to better comply with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and also any other upcoming rules.

"Once we have checked the organisation or a platform about the processes they use to deal with data and how they use it, we will be creating this seal, which will make sure that people are able to see the information and implementation of data safety practices on the platform," Godse said.

He added that the seal would be a commitment from DSCI that the app, product, platform was being checked by the organisation according to the expectations from a data safety point of view.

The DSCI is a not-for-profit set up by industry body Nasscom. It works in the areas of cyber security and privacy, and engages with governments, agencies, regulators, industry sectors, associations and think tanks for policy advocacy, thought leadership, capacity building and outreach activities.

The council has also started a



DIGITAL STAMP

■ **Data protection seal for platforms** to follow basic standards of data privacy

■ The seal will act as an **assurance from DSCI**

■ It would help users in knowing **which apps and platforms are keeping their data safe**

■ It might help platforms to better **comply with the DPDP Act** and similar upcoming rules

data protection credential programme, known as DSCI-certified Data Protection Officer, which helps organisations in getting their DPOs trained as per the requirements under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act.

"A couple of batches under the programme are already being hosted in Delhi and Bengaluru. We will be training many more batches and creating DPOs, which will help organisations to be compliant with the DPDP Act," said Godse.

The data protection seal and DPO credential program are a part of DSCI's agenda for the upcoming International Data Privacy Day on

January 28.

Vinayak identified the growth in the ransomware ecosystem, multi-factor authentication related attacks, and the use of artificial intelligence as the biggest cyber security challenges in 2024.

He also hinted at the possibility of state-crafted threat attacks impacting the commercial sector and end users, because of the increasing amounts of investments getting involved.

On rising instances of deepfakes, Godse suggested that looking at every piece of content might be a very difficult task. Instead, he suggested, the identities of internet users that are making such content go viral are the ones that need to be identified and curtailed.

Analysing the authenticity of content without revealing it to the platform is another challenge that needs to be taken into account while identifying deepfakes to avoid breach of user privacy, he added.

However, Godse also called for a privacy preserving analysis of deepfake content around sensitive issues such as sexually explicit media or content that could pose problems to public order in order to rid the menace of deepfakes and misinformation in the digital world.

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HEALTH



Mobile hospital saves a life during consecration in Ayodhya, says official

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI

BHISHM Cube of Project Arogya Maitri, a state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital deployed in Ayodhya, played a pivotal role in saving the life of Ramkrishna Srivastava, Dharmacharya Pramukh and member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Mr. Srivastava suffered a heart attack, and a sudden medical emergency erupted during the consecration event on Monday, collapsing unconscious, said a senior health official.

The Indian Air Force's Rapid Response Team from the BHISHM Cube led by Wing Commander Manish Gupta evacuated Mr. Srivastava within minutes, capitalising on the critical



BHISHM Cube of Project Arogya Maitri, an indigenous mobile hospital, deployed in Ayodhya on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

golden hour – the first hour following a traumatic injury or medical event, which is crucial for successful emergency treatment.

Quality care

“Upon initial assessment, Mr. Srivastava was found to have very high blood pressure, recorded at 210/170

mmHg. The team diagnosed him correctly and treated him as per the appropriate protocol,” said the health official.

The BHISHM Cube's advanced facilities and skilled medical personnel ensured that Mr. Srivastava received hospital-quality care on-site, stabilising his condition.

IN BRIEF

NIMHANS and Dementia India Alliance sign MoU

To collaborate on advocacy, outreach, training, research work, and support services for dementia care, NIMHANS on Monday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dementia India Alliance (DIA), a non-profit family carer-centred national organisation. The MoU was signed by NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy and DIA president Radha S. Murthy. The collaboration is aimed at improving the overall quality of life of persons with dementia and their family caregivers through various modalities. According to a release, DIA and NIMHANS will collaborate to promote the cause of dementia through services and activities, including support groups, information dissemination, advocacy, research initiatives, education programs, conferences, and other events.

ಕೋವಿಡ್‌ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಮಾರಕ ಡಿಸೀಸ್‌ ಎಕ್ಸ್

ನ್ಯೂಯಾರ್ಕ್: ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಹೊಸ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗವನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಲು ಇಡೀ ಜಗತ್ತು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗಬೇಕಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿಶ್ವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು.ಎಚ್.ಒ) ಕರೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕಕ್ಕೆ 'ಡಿಸೀಸ್‌ ಎಕ್ಸ್' ಎಂದು ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು.ಎಚ್.ಒ ನಾಮಕರಣ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು,

» ವಿಶ್ವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ
ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ

ಅದು ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕತೆಗಿಂತ 20 ಪಟ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿರಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ವ್ಯಾಧಿಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡಲು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ

ತುರ್ತು ಸಿದ್ಧತಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ದಾವೋಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ವಿಶ್ವ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಸಭೆಯೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು.ಎಚ್.ಒ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಟೆಡ್ರೋಸ್ ಅಧಾನಂ ಘೇಬ್ರಿಯೆಸಸ್ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಡೀ ವಿಶ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾನ ಶತ್ರುವಾದ ಈ ಹೊಸ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸೆಣಸಲು ಎಲ್ಲ ದೇಶಗಳು ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕತೆ ವೇಳೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೈಫಲ್ಯದಿಂದ ಅನೇಕ ಜನರನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡೆವು. ಅವರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



Business Finance

RIL spent \$1.5 billion on buys to fuel new energy business

POWERING AHEAD. Wins incentives worth \$750 m under PLI for new energy verticals

Janaki Krishnan

Mumbai

Reliance Industries has spent over \$1.5 billion over the last three years in acquiring global technology innovation companies, which will be strategic contributors to its new energy business.

It has also applied for and won incentives worth around \$750 million under the Production Linked Incentive scheme for all its new energy verticals. Last week, while announcing its Q3 results, the company said it will commission the New Energy Giga Complex in Jamnagar in the second half of 2024. Being built on 5,000 acres, with five giga factories for photovoltaic cells, fuel cell systems, green hydrogen, energy storage and power electronics, the complex will link the entire value chain.

It has already received approval for nearly 75,000 hectares in the Kutch region of Gu-



FUTURE-READY. The nine acquisitions made by RIL have been strategic, and all of them are specialists in their niche areas

jarat, where it is setting up a 50GW renewable energy and green hydrogen complex.

ACQUISITIONS

The nine acquisitions made by RIL, consisting of entire or partial stakes for the new energy business, have been strategic and all of them are specialists in their niche areas. A good part of the acquisitions are in the solar cell, panel and solar technologies space and EPC contractors.

The biggest acquisition is Norway's REC Solar Holdings, which it acquired for \$771 million in 2021, with the intention of expanding its operations in the US, Europe, Australia, and other countries in Asia.

The REC Group is a solar panel maker and has manufactured over 46 million panels globally. The other major acquisition was in 2022 in India, when it acquired a significant stake in Sterling and Wilson Re-

newable Energy for \$285 million from the Shapoorji Pallonji group. It is a solar EPC contractor and will soon be executing projects for RIL as well.

There are other acquisitions, too, such as the UK-based Faradion, which is a leader in sodium ion cell technology, and US-based Ambri Inc, which specialises in liquid metal battery storage technology.

VALUATION

Valuations for the new energy business vary from as low as \$8.3 billion to as high as \$29 billion, based largely on the expected revenue from its operations in FY25, FY26 and FY27.

Citi, which has valued RIL's new energy business at \$8.3 billion, said investments in the segment over the next few years would be a long-term value driver, "if backed by strong execution and a favourable domestic market, though gains here are likely to be more back-ended".

SriLankan Airlines has seen 50% growth in India market: CEO

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

The past few years have been tough for the government-owned SriLankan Airlines, amid disruption caused by the pandemic, financial challenges and shortage of aircraft. The airline, which is in the midst of a privatisation exercise, however, reported an operating profit between April and December 2023 and has seen 50 per cent growth in the Indian market, chief executive officer Richard Nuttall told *businessline* in an e-mail interview.

How has 2023 been for SriLankan Airlines, especially with growth in the Indian market?

SriLankan Airlines has a robust presence in the Indian market, which serves as a secondary home market. We currently operate to nine Indian destinations, with around 100 weekly frequencies, and maintain a strong position despite the market not having fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. SriLankan Airlines has seen growth of nearly 50 per cent in the Indian market over the last year.

Has the introduction of free visas for Indians given growth a boost?

Free visas for Indians was announced in October 2023. There is insufficient data at the moment to provide meaningful numbers on the outcome of this move, as it is still a relatively new initiative.

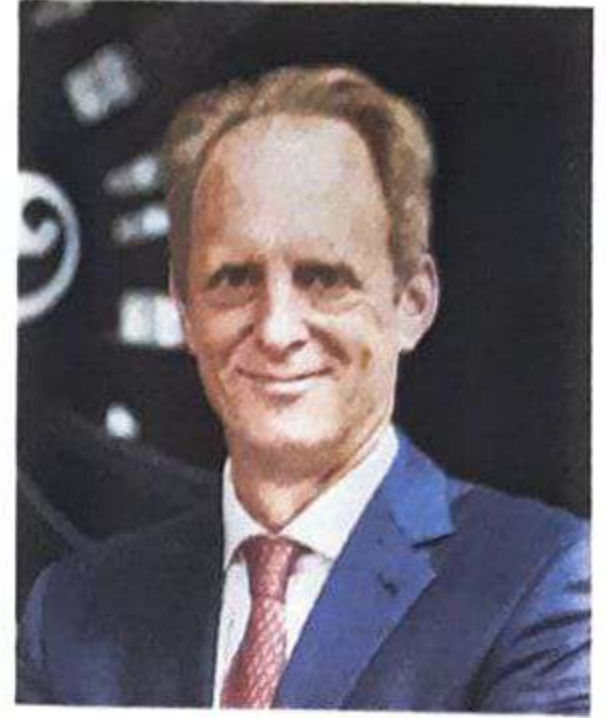
How much does the India market contribute to the airline in terms of passengers and revenue?

Indian routes are nearly 20 per cent of our revenues, and there are additional revenues coming from Indian traffic on connecting routes. The airline carries connecting traffic to and from India, the Middle East, and the Far East.



We operate to 9 Indian destinations and maintain a strong position despite the market not having fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels

RICHARD NUTTALL
CEO, SriLankan Airlines



SriLankan Airlines carries a lot of onward passengers to Australia. This is typically low-yield traffic given competition. And competition is only intensifying. How do you view the challenge?

Our extensive network ensures seamless connections, offering passengers a convenient route. This strategy takes advantage of the commercial impracticality for Indian and Australian carriers to cover all Indian points to Australia. As such, we are able to maintain yields by focusing on cities without direct flights.

Financially, how has this year been for the airline? Do you plan to add more planes or is there a freeze in view of the ongoing privatisation programme?

The airline currently runs with an operating profit, spanning from April to December 2023. Our seat factor and passenger revenue growth continue to demonstrate a strong performance. However, cargo revenue has fallen and this is primarily due to diminishing demand, with the greater impact arising from the global trend of decreasing cargo yields.

There are currently no operational constraints arising from privatisation. At the moment we are concentrating on returning the fleet to pre-Covid levels. Future growth decisions will be made with

whomever owns the airline at the appropriate time.

How do you view Colombo's prospects of becoming a hub?

Colombo's location in the Indian Ocean allows it to connect passengers from the Indian Subcontinent, East Africa and the Indian Ocean, on routes where there are no direct carriers, with shorter travel times than other connecting carriers. Building on our existing network and hub operation, there is considerable room for growth.

SriLankan Airlines MRO used to receive aircraft from IndiGo for C checks. Now those are being done within India with development of capabilities. Are you looking to win back some of the lost business?

As a globally recognised MRO provider known for excellence, we continuously seek opportunities to expand our portfolio and engage with industry partners. Despite IndiGo transitioning some maintenance in-house, we remain committed to delivering world class MRO services and are exploring new collaborations.

SriLankan Airlines Engineering (MRO) stands to benefit significantly from the growing Indian aviation sector, as the substantial growth in the industry creates a potential demand for aircraft maintenance services that may surpass the MRO capacity in India.

AI based device to aid in cultivation of horti crops

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

THE ongoing Krishi Mela at Agriculture College has brought to the fore a multi-utility Artificial Intelligence (AI) based machine known as Internet of Things (IoT) device.

Designed and manufactured by a company, Fasal, this fully indigenously built device is helpful to farmers in many ways.

"The device is mainly helpful for horticulture crops. The machine is operated using a mobile phone SIM and smart phone. The app is designed for the purpose which is connected to the internet and GPS," said M Varun, the representative of the company.

He said that it is a made in India product which can be easily installed in the farms for various purposes.

Varun said that the device guides the farmers about the amount of moisture presence in the soil, the amount of water needed and the amount of fertilizer the crop requires at different stages of growth.

Based on the weather forecast, it also tells how when the water and pesticide should be given to get higher yield.

"The device is primarily farm specific, crop specific and stage specific. This means that the device can be used for different terrains, different crops and for the different stages of crops to get information on watering, spraying pesticide, giving fertilizers etc", he said.

The machine can be operated from remote locations also if the mobile phone has internet connection. Varun, however, said that since the device works on basis on the internet, the farm where the device is installed, should have internet connectivity.

Varun said that the device can be used for at least 12 types of horticulture crops such as pomegranate, papaya, mango, chiku, tomato etc.

The device collects details of the crop as the sensor of it is placed at least two feet un-



An AI-based multi-utility device for farmers displayed at the Krishi Mela

Q The device guides the farmers about the amount of moisture presence in the soil, the amount of water needed and the amount of fertilizer the crop requires at different stages of growth

Varun, company representative

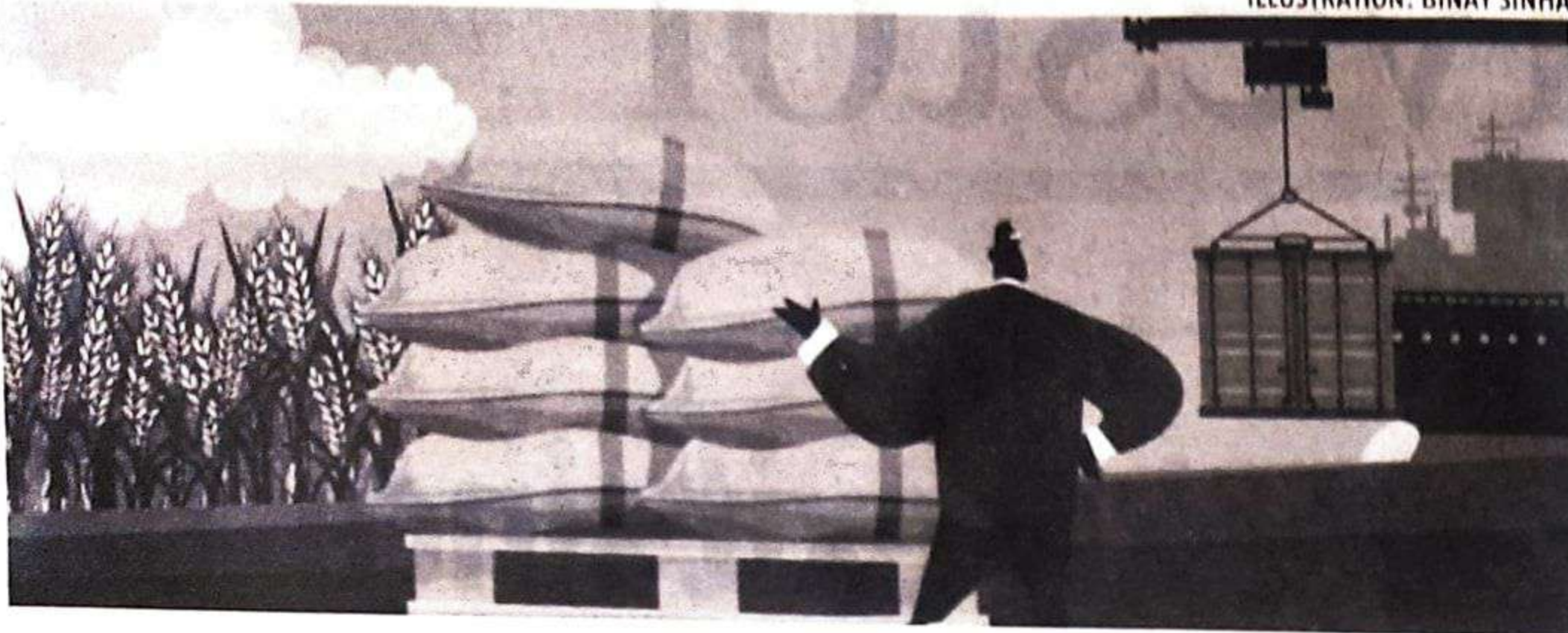
der the soil. Claiming impressive results, he asserts that their device contributes to a 50% reduction in water usage and a 30% decrease in input costs.

"Already over 8,000 persons are using our device in India. Besides general farmers, even the prestigious institutions such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) and the Department of Sericulture had installed this device in their premises and used it for collecting data", he said.

The company provides free maintenance by regularly visiting the farms. However the farmers are charged for physical damage of equipment.

He said that Fasal has collaborated with the State Bank of India (SBI) to facilitate loans for interested farmers. Additionally, the company has introduced a buy-back system, providing farmers the opportunity to sell their produce to the company at remunerative prices.

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA



India's fight for food security at WTO

Amid scrutiny of its market support for rice, India must remain vigilant in signing future trade deals to safeguard its interests

The 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be held in Abu Dhabi from February 26 to 28. India's main focus at this conference will be to defend its right to purchase food grains from its farmers at minimum support prices (MSPs) without violating the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) rules. India buys grains for later distribution to the poor under its public stock holding (PSH) system.

India breaching AoA limits

The AoA permits price support up to 10 per cent of the market value of a product in developing countries like India. In 2020-21, India reported a jump in its price support for rice to about 15 per cent. However, the US and other countries claim that India's support is much higher, around 94 per cent.

The US argues that this high level of support has led to India becoming the top rice exporter, holding 40 per cent of the global market share.



AJAY SRIVASTAVA

Understanding the difference in calculation

The flawed methodology of the AoA causes the significant difference in Indian and US calculations. The AoA discriminates against developing countries, allowing the US to take liberties with the AoA text.

Here is the AoA formula for calculating subsidy or market price support (MPS): The MPS is the gap between a fixed external reference price and the applied administered price multiplied by the production quantity eligible for the MSP.

We must understand these terms to know how the AoA is designed against developing countries. The AoA uses a fixed external reference price of \$262.51 per tonne to calculate price support for rice. This price is based on the export or import price of

rice from 1986 to 1988 and remains unchanged. Comparing the MSP with a 35-year-old reference price results in a higher calculated subsidy share. The MSP is the applied administered price in India.

The AoA defines "eligible production" as the amount of produce that is entitled to receive the MSP, regardless of whether it was actually bought. The US argues that since India's MSP policy doesn't limit how much rice the government can buy, all of India's rice production should be counted as eligible for subsidy calculations. However, India considers the quantity actually bought under the MSP programme.

Currency use

The exchange rate between the US dollar and the Indian rupee (INR) has increased from 13.5 in 1986-88 to 83 currently. India calculates its subsidy figures in US dollars, benefiting from the weakening INR. However, the US argues that India should use the INR for these calculations to avoid benefits from currency depreciation. The US approach is irrational. The AoA does not specify that calculations

must be in a specific currency.

The US and India interpret the above terms differently, so the US estimated India's rice price support at 94 per cent, while India's own estimate is 15.2 per cent.

Bali relief

India strongly advocated at the WTO to address the PSH issue, leading to the adoption of a "peace clause" at the 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference. This happened after India insisted on resolving the PSH issue before agreeing to the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The peace clause prevents WTO members from challenging a country that exceeds the

set price support level for a commodity. In 2018-19, India used this clause to defend its rice PSH programme when its support exceeded the 10 per cent limit. Although the Bali decision offers some relief, it is limited and requires detailed reporting from countries using it, and hence India is insisting upon a permanent solution to the PSH issue. However, even if no progress happens, India can continue its MSP programme using peace clause flexibilities for a long period.

The AoA favours developed countries

Countries that provided higher than minimal price support during 1986-88 are allowed to continue exceeding the limit of 5 per cent, according to the AoA. As a result, the US and the EU today offer over 50 per cent and 65 per cent support for specific crops and still comply with AoA rules. However, India is considered non-compliant for providing 15 per cent price support. The AoA also permits developed countries to maintain higher export subsidies on similar grounds.

Two options on PSH

At the 13th Ministerial Conference, India seeks the explicit classification of the PSH programme as "Green Box" support as this would exempt it from obligations to reduce support levels. Chances of any success are remote as the US and many developed countries do not want this.

India may undertake not to export rice commercially from its PSH stock for a permanent solution to the PSH issue. India will not lose from cuts in rice exports. China, with higher rice productivity, does not encourage the export of rice. However, as every kg of rice produced may require an average of 800-1,200 litres of water, production in many Indian states may not be viable without free electricity.

India can also consider setting higher production targets for some crops and limit its support to only 75 per cent of the output. This strategy fits into the AoA's Blue Box category, a method China has used to avoid AoA limits. However, this approach requires careful consideration, as setting a production limit might not be politically agreeable.

In hindsight, today, India would not sign the AoA or the ITA-1, which sealed its fate in the computer hardware sector. India must be cautious in negotiating current FTA deals, especially the new issues.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization predicts cereal imports into developing countries could triple in the next 30 years. They will import most food from developed countries via large traders. Just four traders handle 90 per cent of the international grain trade.

Countries breaching the subsidy limits risk the closure of their MSP and food safety programmes, increasing their reliance on imports. Could that not be the hidden agenda of the AoA? It is rumoured that former Cargill Vice-President Dan Amstutz prepared the first draft of the AoA. India needs never to lower its guard on anything related to agricultural trade.

Finally, India should expand its team of experts. It currently seems to have fewer specialists focusing on agricultural trade issues compared to the number of US experts handling Indian agricultural trade matters.

With no consensus in the digital panel on regulating Big Tech, start-ups look to FM

KR Srivats

New Delhi

With less than ten days until the Vote-on-Account, start-ups are now looking to Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a roadmap in the Budget speech for regulating Big Tech with an ex-ante framework.

Start-ups are pinning their hopes on the announcement of a separate digital competition law given the deadlock in the Digital Panel. The MCA-appointed 16-member Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) has neither submitted its report nor has its tenure been extended beyond December 31, sources said.

The CDCL remains divided on the necessity of a separate

digital competition law. Big Tech fears that the introduction of a Digital Competition law can stifle innovation and strangle the nascent industry.

If a new layer of competition regulation is introduced on the existing competition law and new obligations are placed on SIDIs (systemically important digital intermediaries), then nobody will innovate, Big Tech argues.

Start-ups are, however, hoping the government would come to their rescue with a specific legal framework that would give them a level playing field against Big Tech and cast specific obligations on SIDIs.

NEED FOR NEW NORMS

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed

by Jayant Sinha, had, in December 2022, in its 53rd Report on 'Anti-competitive practices by Big Tech companies,' agreed that there is a need for an ex-ante regulation of anti-competitive practices by Big Tech.

"It also listed out ten areas/instances of anti-competitive practices that need to be addressed by the new framework. These are bundling and tying; anti-steering practices; deep discounting; platform neutrality; data usage; exclusive tie-ups; search and ranking; restricting third-party applications; mergers and acquisitions; and advertising policies.

For putting in place an ex-ante regulatory framework, the Parliamentary panel had recommended an approach similar to the European Union's Digital Markets Act.

Post the emergence of a "digital" and "internet economy", achieving a fine balance between innovation and regulation has been an uphill task for most competition authorities across the world. India's digital economy is slated to touch the \$1-trillion mark in 2025-26, according to government forecast.

Competition authorities across the globe are finding it increasingly difficult to effectively regulate "digital markets". This is because much of the current competition law principles have evolved after decades of implementation in the traditional markets.

Competition authorities are therefore looking at enacting separate laws aimed specifically at disciplining the "biggest players" in the digital markets.

Banks to go in for big ATM push in next 12-18 months

IN REVAMP MODE. Likely to replace 40,000 ageing ATMs, add 10,000 new ones

K Ram Kumar
Mumbai

Banks are likely to see a big ATM refresh-cum-addition cycle in the next 12-18 months, involving replacement of about 40,000 ageing ATMs, and expansion of network by about 10,000, per industry estimates.

All scheduled banks collectively added 4,452 ATMs (automated teller machines) in FY23, with their network standing at 2,19,513 as at March-end 2023, per RBI data.

White label ATM operators expanded their ATM network by 4,292 ATM in FY23 to 35,791 as at March-end 2023.

FOCUS AREAS

"There will be a lot of churns in the ATM estate because many machines are ageing. They have to be refreshed. There are lot of regulations around ATM hardware and software now. So, it is making the banks change the old ATMs quickly," Manjunath Rao, President -



RENEWED FOCUS. An ATM costs about ₹3.5 lakh while a cash recycler costs ₹6 lakh

Managed Services, CMS Infosystems, said. He observed that in the first half of FY24, there were bank ATM mandates for 15,000 units. This reflects their focus on replacement and network expansion.

"Private sector banks (PVBs) are moving from cash dispensers to cash recyclers as it will help reduce branch walk-ins for deposits. This will reduce the overall operating cost. So, this has caught their fancy.

"And, public sector banks (PSBs) are not far off. So, some of the major PSBs also, side-by-side, are putting cash re-

cyclers," Rao said. An ATM costs about ₹3.5 lakh while a cash recycler costs about ₹6 lakh. Assuming that 25 per cent of the 50,000 ATMs that will be deployed will be cash recyclers, the overall capital expenditure for banks could be around ₹2,000 crore.

During 2022-23, the total number of ATMs (on-site and off-site) grew by 3.5 per cent, primarily driven by increase in the number of white-label ATMs (WLAs), according to RBI's latest Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India.

Amongst the ATMs oper-

ated by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) at end-March 2023, the share of PSBs and PVBs was 63 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

At end-March 2023, ATMs of PSBs were more evenly distributed across geographies than other bank groups whose ATMs were skewed towards urban and metropolitan areas, per the report. In contrast, a majority (51 per cent) of WLAs were concentrated in rural areas.

TRADITIONAL MODEL

Rao said: "We are following the traditional global model - one branch, two ATMs (one onsite and one offsite). As private sector banks penetrate into SURU (semi-urban and rural) areas, that many ATMs will be required.

"These banks want a branch as a selling point rather than a servicing point. They want servicing to be on self-service mode to reduce the cost. So, that cost arbitrage is still there between a self-service channel and a branch," Rao said.

Sony scraps \$10 bn merger with Zee over CEO stalemate

The Japanese company sent a termination letter to Zee on Monday

BLOOMBERG

Sony Group Corp. and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. have officially called off a planned \$10 billion media merger in India after two years of drama and delay, abandoning their effort to create an entertainment giant in Asia's biggest streaming market.

The Japanese company sent a termination letter to Zee on Monday for failing to meet merger agreement conditions and is seeking \$90 million in break-up fees, with the Mumbai-based Zee "categorically" denying that it had breached the pact.

The deal, which Bloomberg reported on January 8 was headed for collapse, fell apart due to a stalemate over whether Zee's Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka would lead the merged entity amid an investigation by India's capital markets regulator. With neither side willing to blink, both Sony and Zee now have to redraw their plans for the world's most-populous country.

Sony was expected to benefit from Zee's deep library



Punit Goenka

of content in regional Indian languages and dozens of local television channels. Zee's in precarious financial health and will facing growing competition, as Reliance Industries Ltd. and Walt Disney Co. near their own merger.

Negative Impact

"This will have a negative impact on both parties, as both companies are going to face stiff competition from digital media and face a potential threat from the merger of Reliance and Disney," said Karan Taurani, analyst at Elara Securities India. Zee leadership may also face pushback from investors for the failed merger deal, he added.

The termination letter from Sony came on Monday after a 30-day grace period ended over the weekend when the two sides couldn't reach an agreement on a deadline set in late December.

The last-lap tussle over leadership was the single biggest hurdle for the deal — Zee was insisting that Goenka would

lead the new entity as agreed in the 2021 pact, while Sony was wary of his appointment given the regulatory probe against him. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) alleged in June that the Mumbai-based media house faked the recovery of loans to cover private financing deals by its founder, Subhash Chandra. Chandra and his son, Goenka, "abused their position" and siphoned off funds, Sebi said in an interim order, barring Goenka from executive or director appointments in listed companies.

While Goenka got a reprieve from an appellate authority against the Sebi order, Sony viewed the ongoing probe as a corporate governance issue, Bloomberg reported earlier.

The collapsed deal, which had received almost all regulatory approvals, would have created an entertainment behemoth in which Sony was supposed to own a 50.86% stake, with Goenka's family owning 3.99%.



Kohli to miss 2 games for personal reasons

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Hyderabad

VIRAT Kohli has withdrawn from the first two Tests of the five-match series citing personal reasons. Last month, Kohli had to fly out to India from South Africa on short notice. Earlier this month, the batter, who had finished as top-scorer in the two-match series against South Africa, had opted out of the first T20I against Afghanistan. One can only hope that all is well with the Kohli family.

“Virat Kohli has requested the BCCI to be withdrawn from the first two Tests series against England, citing personal reasons,” a press release from the body said. “Virat has spoken to Captain Rohit Sharma, the team management and the selectors and has emphasized that while representing the country has always been his top priority, certain personal situations demand his presence and undivided attention. The BCCI requests the media and fans to respect Virat Kohli’s privacy during this time and refrain from speculating on the nature of his personal reasons. The Men’s Selection Committee will name a replacement soon.”

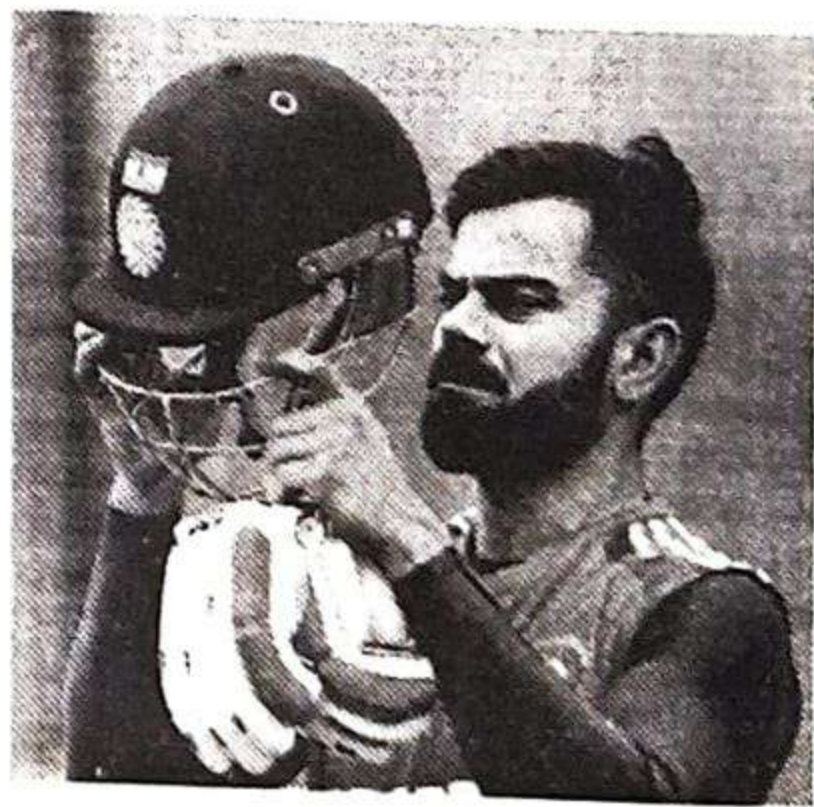
What Kohli’s withdrawal has meant is it has opened up a slot for a batter already part of the team. KS Bharat may now play as a specialist wicket-keeper with KL Rahul slotting in seamlessly. Shreyas Iyer, one of the best batters of spin in this set-up, could come in at No. 5 with Ravindra Jadeja at No. 6.

The others, like the rest of the XI, picks themselves so in all likelihood, the replacement player may be warming the bench anyway unless the management have a surprise in store.

While there wasn’t a cloud in the sky in these parts on Monday, it’s still winter. Night time temperatures are expected to dip below the 20 mark on all five days of the Test beginning on Thursday. The team had optional nets on Monday.

Visa problems for spinner Bashir

The tall off-spinner Shoaib Bashir has not landed with the rest of the England team as he has faced some visa problems. But coach Brendon McCullum expected Bashir to land in the city sooner rather than later. It remains to be seen if Dan Lawrence, Harry Brook’s replacement, will be drafted into the XI straight-away. Ben Foakes, who equipped himself well in their last tour, is now the automatic choice to take the gloves with Jonny Bairstow playing purely as a batter. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**



Prabhudessai's unbeaten ton helps Goa pull off a draw against Karnataka

The opener puts on valuable stands with Kauthankar and Gaonkar to thwart the host's push for an outright victory

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MYSURU

The Karnataka-Goa Ranji Trophy encounter at the SDNR Wadiyar Stadium petered out into a tame draw here on Monday.

With Goa starting day four on 93 for one, 84 runs behind, the host had to break open the contest in the first session to have a realistic chance of winning.

When V. Vyshak had K.V. Siddharth (57, 75b, 8x4, 1x6) caught by Devdutt Padikkal at first slip off the third ball of the morning, the victory arc had seemingly started bending towards Karnataka.

But Suyash Prabhudessai (143 n.o., 289b, 11x4) held Goa together, combining for an hour-long 31-run partnership with Snehal Kauthankar (8, 36b) for the third wicket and then being involved in a 97-run association with Deepraj Gaonkar (36, 134b, 1x4, 1x6) for the fourth wicket.



Joy unbound: Prabhudessai is cock-a-hoop after reaching a well-compiled century. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

With the possibility of a win diminishing quickly, both sides called truce 11 overs into the final session, with Goa at 282 for six, 105 runs in the green.

Below-par show

Karnataka's inability to press for full six points could be attributed to a below-par show by its bow-

lers, especially the spinners.

Left-arm tweakers Rohit Kumar and Shubhang Hegde came into the contest having played just eight matches (combined) and their inexperience showed. The duo struggled with both their lines and lengths, and didn't impart enough spin on the ball.

taka's spin bowling. "Shubhang Hegde, particularly, was a very big disappointment because it was an ideal wicket for him. He needs to go back and work on his basics.

"His action is a bit distorted. I have his videos from not too long ago and he isn't the same. He is very talented cricketer and I hope he comes back strongly," Abhiram added.

The scores:

Goa — 1st innings: 321.

Karnataka — 1st innings: 498 for nine decl.

Goa — 2nd innings: Ishaan Gadekar b Vyshak 1, Suyash Prabhudessai (not out) 143, K.V. Siddharth c Padikkal b Vyshak 57, Snehal Kauthankar lbw b Venkatesh 8, Deepraj Gaonkar c Sharath b Rohit 36, Darshan Misal c Shubhang b Rohit 13, Arjun Tendulkar c Padikkal b Shubhang 6, Samar Dubhashi (not out) 0; Extras (b-11, lb-4, w-2, nb-1): 18; Total (for six wkts. in 100 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-94, 3-125, 4-222, 5-249, 6-270.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 14-3-40-0, Vyshak 13-2-35-2, Rohit 19-2-67-2, Shubhang 36-5-77-1, Venkatesh 14-4-29-1, Jose 4-0-19-0.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 3, 4TH & FINAL DAY

Elite: Group-A: At Delhi:

Jharkhand 316 in 110.3 overs drew with Services 473/8 decl. in 156.5 overs (Ravi Chauhan 158, L.S. Kumar 50 n.o.). **Points: Jharkhand 1(3), Services 3(6).**

Group-B: At Dibrugarh: Andhra

188 & 334 in 90 overs bt Assam 160 & 190 in 48.2 overs (Riyan Parag 75, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 60, Lalith Mohan 4/81). **Andhra 6(9), Assam 0(1).**

At Kolkata: Bengal 381/8 decl. in 128 overs vs Chhattisgarh 214/6 in 92 overs (Ashutosh Singh 88, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 4/29).

Bengal 1(5), Chhattisgarh 1(11).

At Thumba: Mumbai 251 & 319 in 97.4 overs bt Kerala 244 & 94 in 33 overs (Shams Mulani 5/44).

Mumbai 6(20), Kerala 0(4).

At Meerut: Bihar 260 in 110.2 overs (Raghuvendra Pratap Singh 75 n.o., Saurabh Kuar 4/46) drew with Uttar Pradesh 45/3 in 4.4 overs. **Bihar 2(3), Uttar Pradesh 2(6).**

Group-C: At Mysuru: Goa 321 & 282/6 in 100 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 143 n.o., K. Siddharth 57) drew with Karnataka 498/9 decl. in 126.4 overs. **Goa 1(4), Karnataka 3(9).**

At Mohali: Punjab 109 in 38.5 overs (Nehal Wadhwa 56) drew with Tripura 51/2 in 7 overs.

Punjab 1(1), Tripura 1(7).

At Chandigarh: Gujarat 86/2 in 26 overs drew with Chandigarh. **Gujarat 1(13), Chandigarh 1(3).**

Group-D: At Cuttack: Odisha 130 & 198 in 43 overs lost to Jammu & Kashmir 180 & 149/8 in 43.4 overs (Abdul Samad 66 n.o., Rajesh Mohanty 5/61). **Jammu & Kashmir 6(8), Odisha 0(3).**

India will need a win and some luck

AFC ASIAN CUP

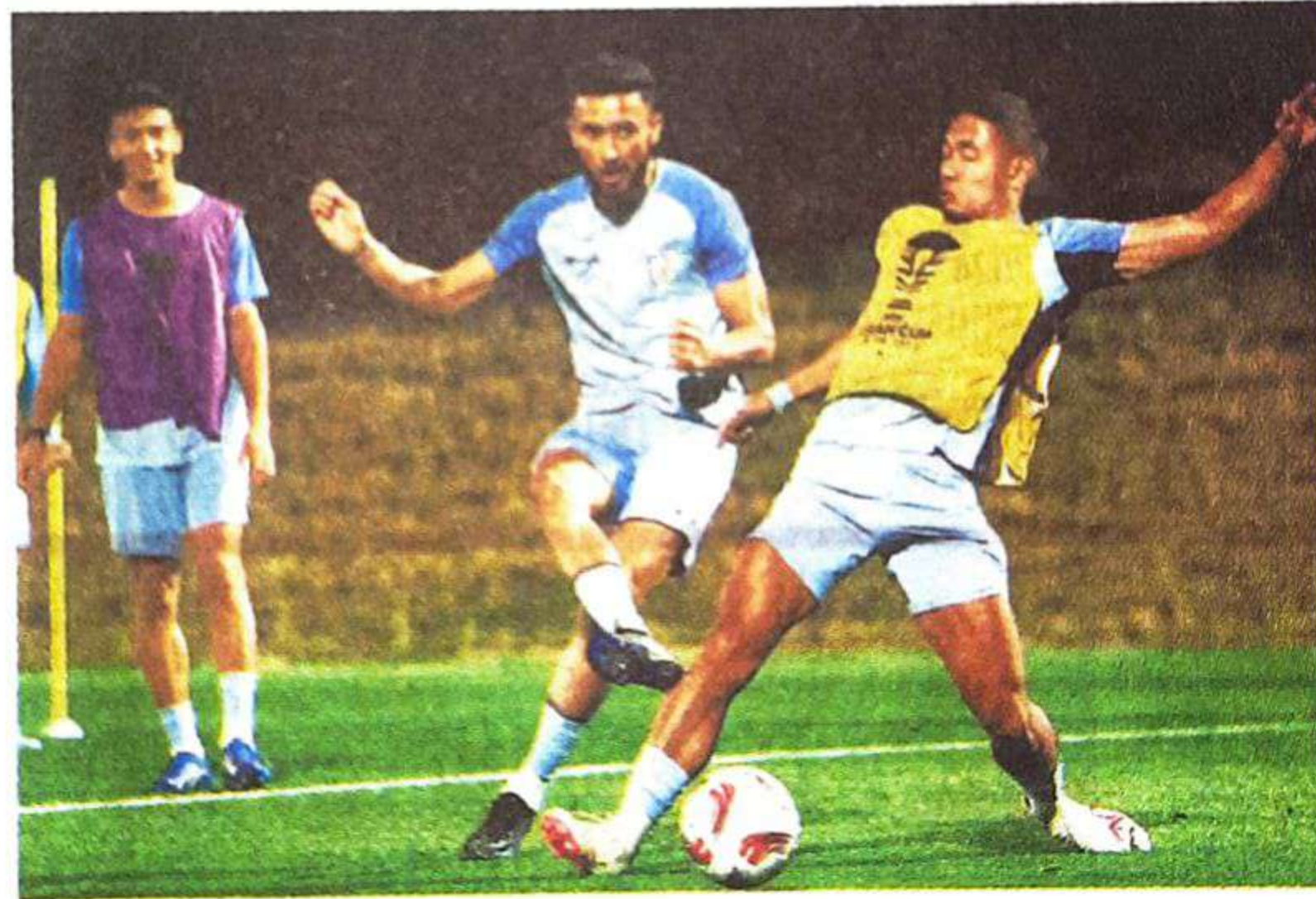
Neeladri Bhattacharjee

DOHA

India will look to beat the odds and hope for qualification into the knockouts when it faces Syria in its last group-stage game of the AFC Asian Cup 2023, at the Al Bayt Stadium, on Tuesday.

The Blue Tigers were left chasing shadows against Uzbekistan in their previous game, losing the match 0-3, which made their chances of progressing, almost impossible. They will now have to beat Syria and wait for results in other groups to qualify as one of the four best third-placed teams.

The good news for Igor



Last try: India will have to rely on other results to qualify for the knockouts. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

Stimac's side is the availability of a full squad for the match.

"We are still focused and well-concentrated on what we could achieve and do here tomorrow. So, all the boys here will do everything possible. Is that going to be enough? We're

not sure, that's in God's hands. But hopefully, we are going to use one of our chances," Stimac said.

Syria, on the other hand, has been a defensively industrious side like a typical Hector Cuper team. Under the Argentine, who guided Egypt to

the FIFA World Cup in 2018, Syria has lost just one game with a margin of more than one goal. It held Uzbekistan to a draw, lost 0-1 to Australia, and sits third in the standings, above India. A win can propel it to second if Uzbeks lose to Socceroos and Syria ends the group stage with a higher goal difference than Srejko Katanec's side.

In the other Group B game, Uzbekistan will look for revenge when it meets Australia at the Asian Cup after four years. The Uzbeks were knocked out by the Socceroos through a 4-2 win on penalties in the round-of-16 of the 2019 Asian Cup. Both games are scheduled for a 5 p.m. IST kick-off, with Australia facing Uzbekistan at the Al Janoub Stadium.



Suryakumar. AFP

Suryakumar is captain of ICC T20I Team of the Year

Press Trust of India

DUBAI

Suryakumar Yadav has been named the captain of the ICC men's T20I Team of the Year, which also includes three more Indians.

Among women, off-spinner Deepti Sharma is the lone Indian to find a place in the 11-member side to be led by Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu.

The teams: Men: Jaiswal, Salt, Pooran (wk), Suryakumar (Capt.), Chapman, Raza, Ramjani, Adair, Bishnoi, Ngarava, Arshdeep.

Women: Athapaththu (Capt.), Mooney (wk), Wolvaardt, Matthews, Sciver-Brunt, Kerr, Perry, Gardner, Deepti, Sophie, Schutt.

ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಓಪನ್ ಟೆನಿಸ್: ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಆಟಗಾರರು ಎಂಟರ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ

ಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್‌ಫೈನಲ್‌ಗೆ ಡಯಾನಾ, ಲಿಂದಾ

ಮೆಲ್ಬರ್ನ್ (ರಾಯಿಟರ್ಸ್): ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕ ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿಯರನ್ನು ಮಣಿಸುತ್ತ ಯಶಸ್ವಿನ ಓಟ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿರುವ ಡಯಾನಾ ಎಸ್ಟೆಮಸ್ಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಂದಾ ನೊಸ್ಕಾವಾ ಅವರು ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯನ್ ಓಪನ್ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ಎಂಟರ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಲಗ್ಗೆಯಿಟ್ಟರು. ಆದರೆ ಪುರುಷರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಲೋಸ್ ಅಲ್ಕರಾಜ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕ ಆಟಗಾರರು ಗೆಲುವು ಸಾಧಿಸಿ ಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್‌ಫೈನಲ್‌ಗೆ ದಾಪುಗಾಲಿಟ್ಟರು.

ಎರಡನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ಅಲ್ಕರಾಜ್ ಅವರು ರಾಡ್ ಲೇವರ್ ಅರೇನಾದಲ್ಲಿ 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 ಯಿಂದ ಸರ್ಬಿಯಾದ ಮೊಟೊಮಿರ್ ಕೆಕ್ಮನೋವಿಕ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸೋಲಿಸಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಈ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯ ಎಂಟರ ಘಟ್ಟ ತಲುಪಿದರು. ಅವರು ಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್‌ಫೈನಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಒಲಿಂಪಿಕ್ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ವಿಜೇತ ಅಲೆಕ್ಸಾಂಡರ್ ಜ್ಜರೇವ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ನಾನು ಬಹುತೇಕ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಆಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಪಂದ್ಯದಿಂದ ಪಂದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿ ಆಟ ವಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದು ಅಲ್ಕರಾಜ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಮೂರನೇ ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದ ಡೇನಿಯಲ್ ಮೆಡ್ಜೆಡೇವ್ 6-3, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-1 ರಿಂದ ನುನೊ ಬೊರ್ಗೆಸ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹಿಮ್ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಸಿದರೆ, ಆರನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ಅಲೆಕ್ಸಾಂಡರ್ ಜ್ಜರೇವ್ (ಜರ್ಮನಿ) ಅವರು ಕ್ಯಾಮರೂನ್ ನೊರಿ (ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್) ವಿರುದ್ಧ 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (3) ರಿಂದ ಜಯಿಸಿದರು.

ಮೆಡ್ಜೆಡೇವ್ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಪೋಲೆಂಡ್‌ನ ಹರ್ಬರ್ಟ್ ಹುರ್ಕಾಜ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವರು. ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಈ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಒಂಬತ್ತನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ಹುರ್ಕಾಜ್ 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 ರಿಂದ ಫ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥರ್ ಕ್ಯಾರ್ಯಾಕ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸೆಟ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಸೋಲಿಸಿದರು. ಆರ್ಥರ್ ವಿಶ್ವ ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದಲ್ಲಿ 122ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ: ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಚ್ಚರಿಯ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳು ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿವೆ. ಅಗ್ರ



ಡಯಾನಾ ಎಸ್ಟೆಮಸ್ಕಾ. ಎಎಫ್‌ಪಿ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಒಬ್ಬೊಬ್ಬರಾಗಿ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷ ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಓಪನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂಟರ ಘಟ್ಟ ತಲುಪಿದ್ದ 12ನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ರೈಂಗ್ ಕ್ವಿನ್‌ವೆನ್ ಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿ ಎನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮೊದಲ ಸುತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಂಬಲ್ಡನ್ ಚಾಂಪಿಯನ್ ಮರ್ಕೆತಾ ವೊಂಡ್ರಸೊವಾ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸೋಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ಡಯಾನಾ ಪ್ರಿಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್‌ಫೈನಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 18ನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ವಿಕೋರಿಯಾ ಅಜರೆಂಕಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧ 7-6 (6), 6-4 ರಿಂದ ಜಯಗಳಿಸಿದರು. ಅಜರೆಂಕಾ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಬಾರಿ ಚಾಂಪಿಯನ್ ಆಗಿದ್ದವರು.

ಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್‌ಫೈನಲ್ ತಲುಪಿದ ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿಯರಿಗೆ ಖಂಡಿತ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಋಷಿಯ ಅನುಭವವಾಗಿರಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ರೈಂಗ್ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಅವರು 6-0, 6-3 ರಿಂದ 95ನೇ ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದ ಒಷಿಯಾನ್ ಡೊಡಿನ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸದೆಬಡಿದರು.

ಅಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕರಪತ್ರ ಎಸೆದ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಕಾರ

ಮೆಲ್ಬರ್ನ್ (ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ) (ಎಪಿ): ಒಲಿಂಪಿಕ್ ಚಾಂಪಿಯನ್ ಅಲೆಕ್ಸಾಂಡರ್ ರೈವೆವ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ರಿಟನ್‌ನ ಕ್ಯಾಮರೂನ್ ನೊರಿ ನಡುವಿನ ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಸುತ್ತಿನ ಪಂದ್ಯದ ವೇಳೆ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಕಾರ ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯನ್ ಓಪನ್ ಅಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕರಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಎಸೆದಿದ್ದಾನೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಕೆಲಕಾಲ ವಿಳಂಬವಾಯಿತು.

ಮಾರ್ಗರೇಟ್ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಅರೇನಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಮವಾರ ನಡೆದ ಮೂರನೇ ಸೆಟ್‌ನ ಆರನೇ ಗೇಮ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೇಳೆ ನೀಲಿ ಶರ್ಟ್, ಟೋಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಫೇಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ, ಯುದ್ಧ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಕರಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಕ್ರಾಂಡ್‌ನಿಂದ ಬೇಸ್ ಲೈನ್ ಹಿಂಭಾಗದ ಅಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ ಎಸೆದ.

ಬಿಳಿ ಪುಟಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಪ್ಪು ಬಣ್ಣದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಪ್ರೀ ಪ್ಯಾಲೆಸ್ಟೈನ್: ನೀವು ಟೆನಿಸ್ ನೋಡುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ ಬಾಂಬ್‌ಗಳು ಗಾಜಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿವೆ' ಎಂಬ ಸಂದೇಶ ಮುದ್ರಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ವಿಳಂಬದ ನಂತರ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಿತು. ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನಕಾರನನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ದರು.

ರಷ್ಯಾದ ಆನಾ ಕಲಿನ್‌ನಿಕಾಯಾ 6-4, 6-2 ರಿಂದ 26ನೇ ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕದ ಜಾಸ್ಮಿನ್ ಪೌಲಿನಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಹಿಮ್ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಗ್ರ್ಯಾನ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಮ್ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯೊಂದರ ಮೂರನೇ ಸುತ್ತ ತಲುಪಿದರು. 23ನೇ ಶ್ರೇಯಾಂಕದ ಎಲಿನಾ ಸ್ವಿಟೊಲಿನಾ ಬೆನ್ನು ನೋವಿನಿಂದಾಗಿ ಲಿಂದಾ ನೊಸ್ಕಾವಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ಆಗ ನೊಸ್ಕಾವಾ ಮೊದಲ ಸೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 3-0ಯಿಂದ ಮುಂದೆಯಿದ್ದರು.

EDITORIAL

NEWS

USING FOSSIL FUEL TO MOVE BACK TO THE FUTURE

If you flipped through the mainstream print media in the last few days, you might have thought you were in 1528 or thereabouts, when Ram mandir was likely to have been a real issue. Some 500 years later, who knew Lord Ram would still be the stuff of banner headlines?

Now that the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has been officially opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, can India put the temple behind it and move on? It can't, unfortunately. This is just the beginning and marks India's official return to the past as its future.

The past as a source of fossil fuel for its future, towards a strong nationalist economy. In this, Modi is succeeding. The economy is growing at over 7 per cent and is rated as one of the fastest-growing in the world. The price you pay for this lies elsewhere: in the cognitive aspects of a people. Ayodhya marks the beginning of the Ram phase in Indian politics and society and sanctions the interchangeability of fact for fiction. Or the other way around.

The return of Ram Lalla to Ayodhya via a tortuous legal-and-riots route since 1949 ended with the 2019 Supreme Court judgement awarding the entire 2.77-acre land to the temple trust. The Supreme Court recognised the site as the 'birth-place of Ram'. With the prime minister inaugurating the temple, Hindu India has sanctified myth as history. You can no longer doubt the historicity of Ram. Or Modi's intention to be anointed the first priest-king of independent India.

Ram ruled in Treta Yuga. That, according to Hindu scriptural calculations, is some 2,055,100 BCE. But he appeared at the end of it, which, according to some calculations, is roughly 5,000 BCE. We are claiming that India had a rather advanced civilisation many years ago when most historians agree that modern civilisation more or less began with the Bronze Age, about 3,000 BCE, led by the Sumerians—modern in the sense that bronze was discovered with its many applications in tools and transport.

What the validation of Treta Yuga ending with Ram Raj means is that we have effectively—even constitutionally—erased the border between myth and history. This is pretty much the stuff Abrahamic religions are made of, too. Fiction is accorded factuality. There might have been a Jesus of history, but a Christ



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of faith and miracles? The Christ of Immaculate Conception? In the Quran, there are instances where the Prophet is shown as a sky-traveller. So then why should Hindu myths not be accorded a similar status?

Indeed, if Ram is historic, there is no reason why Ravan, with his ten heads, is



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has talked about the process of sacralising things by forming circles. If people go in circles around a stone, tree or human, it means a tribe is being formed, a bond is being forged—something that can both bind and blind

not. So of course is Lord Krishna, in Dvapara Yuga, which follows Treta. If Lord Ram, Ravan and Lord Krishna are historic, then it stands to reason that pretty much everything that happened in the *Ramayan* and the *Mahabharat* is true. Plastic surgery, missile technology, and Pushpak Viman must have existed. Mythology is sanctified as history.

Jonathan Haidt, a popular social psychologist and author, talks about the idea of sacralisation in one of his lectures. One of the processes of sacralisation is the formation of circles. Any object can be sacralised. In Mecca, the Kaaba is a stone around which people move in a circle. In Indian temples, devotees go around idols. Around the dead bodies of important people, too, we move in circles. The larger the circle, the more important and powerful the item of adoration.

If people go in circles around an object, stone, tree or human, it means a tribe is being formed, a bond is being forged. Those who do not join the circle are outsiders or even enemies. It does not matter if the stone or the cross we sanctify with our circular movement around it is one with a factual history or not. It is more real; it is faith. A piece of fiction. At any point in history, there will be more people dying for fiction or faith than for fact. This is because sacrifices can be demanded from the tribe forged from faith. The bigger the sacrifice, the stronger the tribe. Haidt says such tribalising would both "bind and blind".

In the last few days, the prime minister has made it a point to visit dozens of temples, especially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The subliminal effort has been to transfer some of the power of the myth onto him. Adjacency and association are effective tools for this transference of divinity.

The circle that goes around Lord Ram has become visibly bigger. What has also happened is that the prime minister, like Lord Ram, is now at the centre of the circle. And the circle, chanting slogans of a new Ram Raj, is unifying into a tribe. An organising principle that is at work in Islam and Christianity too. What Modi is doing is to forge a tribal unity of sorts—out of the pluralistic chaos of India. This intent is clear in his ideas like One Nation, One Language, One India, One Election, and One People, One God.

With the opposition in visible disarray and Rahul Gandhi out mostly on his long constitutionals, 2024 is likely to be a Ram Lalla year. A new India is in the works. Fleeting, it may appear as the ancient India we have read in comics and mythology as children. Except it is all too real. And the opposition has just no idea how to fight a Modi with Ram on one side and Krishna on the other. The shutter is coming down fast on 'Mohabbat ki dukaan'—with Rahul Gandhi inside it.

(Views are personal)
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The idea of one nation, one election is against federalism

In September 2023, the Union Government set up a 'High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election' under the chairmanship of former President of India, Ramnath Kovind. The High Level Committee has met on three occasions and sought the views of various national and State political parties on the subject of a common elections schedule. Recently, public views and those of eminent jurists were also solicited in this regard. Though there is no definitive timeline for the Committee to submit its recommendations, the fact that the timing of this exercise coincides with the lead-up to the general elections in 2024 raises pertinent doubts. Nevertheless, as the outcome of this exercise has the potential to alter the fundamentals of our democratic set-up and reset the federal structure, it is necessary to examine the legal issues at the earliest juncture.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the High Level Committee is likely to return a recommendation in favour of a common schedule comprising elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies overlooking genuine constitutional and legal concerns. This is why all the attention, in the aftermath of this exercise, would entirely focus on the Supreme Court of India. This would be India's *Baker v. Carr* moment where the Supreme Court of the U.S. deliberated the concept of "entering the political thicket". The Indian Supreme Court, which has self-characterised its constitutional role as the "sentinel on the qui vive", would be called upon to determine, quickly and purposefully, the ultimate fate of Indian democracy.

Are common elections feasible?

One of the reasons assigned in support of One Nation, One Election is the high amount of expenditure towards the conduct of elections. It is reported that the 2014 general elections cost the public exchequer an estimated ₹3,870 crore. It is argued that common elections for the Union



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Any action that impinges upon the independent constitutional existence of a State by altering the duration of its Legislative Assembly would naturally be anti-federal and unconstitutional

Parliament and State Assemblies would reduce expenditure significantly. Another reason put forth by proponents of a common election is that the Model Code of Conduct comes into effect twice in a five year cycle, which affects the seamless conduct of government business and results in 'governance downtime'.

Opponents of the common elections contend that these reasons are logically and factually untenable. The cost of holding free and fair elections to elect a government of the choice of the people is a price that can never be high. There are occasions where a government may not complete a full term of five years, and elections may be held again. Such occurrences are expressions of the democratic system and ought to be accepted. Likewise, the Model Code of Conduct and other guidelines issued by the Election Commission are necessary pains to ensure that executive influence over voters is kept to a minimum and the playing field, during the election period, remains level. In any case, it sounds strange for a Union government and the Election Commission that have refrained from holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, for nearly five years, to express strong concerns regarding governance downtime.

Legal concerns

In *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994), the Supreme Court declared that the States have an independent constitutional existence, and they have as important a role to play in the political, social, educational and cultural life of the people as the Union. The Constitution provides for a specific tenure for the State Legislatures, which is five years from the date appointed for the first meeting. A similar provision also exists for the tenure of the Union Parliament. Therefore, the introduction of a common election process would necessarily require alteration of the existing duration of a number of State Legislatures. This would go against the express

language in the Constitution and be in violation of the view expressed by the Supreme Court in the *S.R. Bommai* case. Therefore, any such action that impinges upon the independent constitutional existence of a State by altering the duration of its Legislative Assembly would naturally be anti-federal and unconstitutional.

The next test would be that of bias, exclusion, and inequality adopted in this exercise. A cursory glance of the website created by the High Level Committee, intended to be a repository of all relevant information on the subject and act as a platform for interaction from all stakeholders, shows that it is available only in English and Hindi. This is to say that such a landmark consultation process is being conducted in one of the 22 official languages of the Union.

Finally, there is a question that goes to the root of the independence of the Election Commission, a constitutional body endowed with autonomy to take independent decisions regarding elections. Similar to demonetisation, when the Reserve Bank of India was kept in the dark, the Election Commission seems to be a silent spectator to the entire process undertaken by the High Level Committee set up by the Union government.

Can One Nation, One Election be stopped?

In the U.K., home of the common law jurisprudence, Parliament is supreme. However, the Indian constitutional architecture is structured differently granting higher courts inherent and broad powers of judicial review when executive actions transgress the fields assigned to them. The stage is set for a constitutional showdown in the not-too-distant future – one that will raise the question of whether constitutional courts, especially the Supreme Court, will enter the political thicket. At the moment, there seems to be no alternative but to enter and wade through the thicket, if the constitutional architecture of this country is to be preserved.

ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಗಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಪೈಪೋಟಿ, ಈ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿಸುವತ್ತಲೂ ಇರಲಿ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ: ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ?



ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ

ಎಚ್.ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ

ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷದ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲೇ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ ಐದು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ 'ಪ್ರಮೋಷನ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಆಂಡ್ ಇಂಟರ್ನಲ್ ಟ್ರೇಡ್' ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿಯ (ಜಿಯೊಗ್ರಾಫಿಕಲ್ ಇಂಡಿಕೇಷನ್ ಟ್ಯಾಗ್-ಜಿ.ಐ) ಮನ್ನಣೆಯನ್ನು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಸುಂದರಬನದ ಜೇನುತುಪ್ಪ; ಜಲಪಾಯ್‌ಗುರಿಯ 'ಕಾಲೋನ್ಯೂನಿಯ' ಬಾಸ್ಕಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ; ನಾಡಿಯಾ, ಪೂರ್ವ-ಬರ್ಧಮಾನ್, ಮುರ್ಷಿದಾಬಾದ್ ಮತ್ತು ದೀರ್ಘಮ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಯಾರಾಗುವ ಟ್ಯಾಂಗ್ಲೆಲ್, ಕೋರಿಯಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಾಡ್ ಸೀರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಗೌರವ ಸಂದಿದೆ. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಮಮತಾ ಬ್ಯಾನರ್ಜಿ ಈ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ, ಈ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಅನೇಕ ಪರಿಣತರು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿರುವ 500 ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ, ಬಹುತೇಕ ನಿರರ್ಥಕ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಉದ್ದನೆಯ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಐದು ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವೊಂದರ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಮತ್ತು ಖ್ಯಾತಿ, ಅದು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಾಗುವ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಸ್ಥಾನದ ಮಹತ್ವದಿಂದ ಬಂದಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿಯ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದು ಜಾಗತಿಕವಾಗಿ, ವಿಶ್ವ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸದಸ್ಯ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪರಿಪಾಟ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತದ್ದು ಡಾರ್ಜಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಟೀಗೆ. 2004ರಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾರ್ಜಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಟೀಗೆ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪರಿಮಳ, ಅಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ವಾದ, ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ಹೊಂಬಣ್ಣ, ನಾಲಗೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಕಾಲ ಉಳಿಯುವ ಹದವಾದ ರುಚಿಯಂತಹ ಗುಣಗಳಿವೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 250ರಿಂದ 300 ಸೆ.ಮೀ. ಮಳೆ, ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ 2-3 ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಬಿಸಿಲು, ಹಗುರವಾದ ಕಾವಳ, ಇಬ್ಬನಿ, ಮೋಡ, ವರ್ಷ ವಿದೀ ಬೀಸುವ ಕುಳಿಗಾಳಿ, ಫಲವತ್ತಾದ ಸಾವಯವ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿದ ಮಣ್ಣಿನಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ, ಡಾರ್ಜಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 200ರಿಂದ 2000 ಮೀಟರ್ ಎತ್ತರದ ಏಳು ಕಣಿವೆಗಳ, 87 ಟೀ ತೋಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಟೀಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಗುಣಗಳಿವೆ. ಡಾರ್ಜಿಲಿಂಗ್ ಟೀಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತದ್ದು ಈ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ.

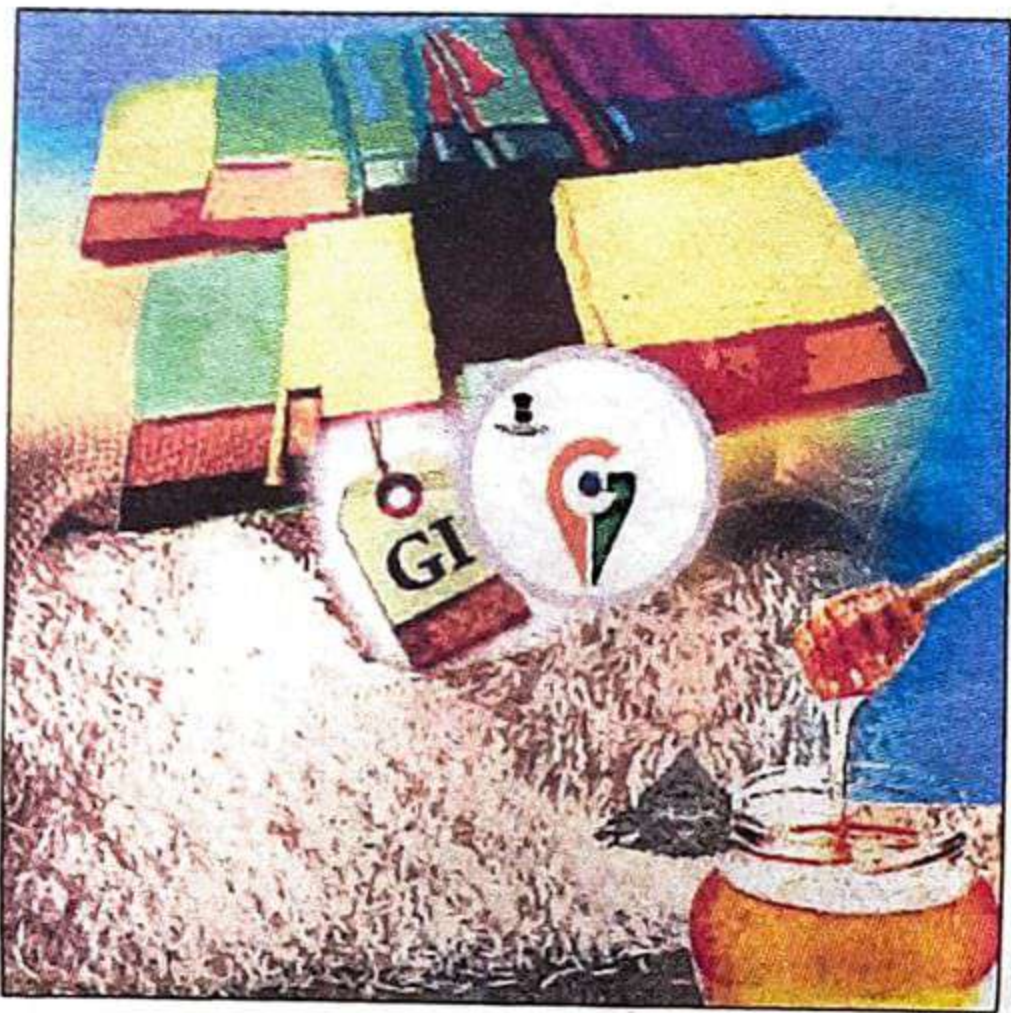
ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತವಾಗಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುಕೂಲಗಳಿರುವ 'ಟ್ರೇಡ್ ಮಾರ್ಕ್' ಇದ್ದಂತೆ. ಅದು ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪದಾರ್ಥವನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ, ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡುವ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸುಮಾರು 66,000 ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಾಗತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 51ರಷ್ಟು ಭಾಗ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಾರಸ ಮತ್ತು ಮದ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆಹಾರ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ 43.6, ಕರಕುಶಲ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ 3.9, ಇತರ ಪದಾರ್ಥ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಶೇ 1.5ರಷ್ಟು ಜಿ.ಐಗಳು ಲಭಿಸಿವೆ. ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಅಂತಹ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯನ್ನು

ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿ, ಅದರಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೊರೆಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ಉತ್ಪನ್ನದ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟವನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸಿ, ಅದೇ ವಸ್ತುವನ್ನು ಬೇರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಜನ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸದಂತೆ, ನಕಲಿ ಮಾಲುಗಳ ಹಾವಳಿಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಯುವುದು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ.

ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ಡಾಲರ್‌ಗಳ ವ್ಯವಹಾರವಿರುವ ದುಬಾರಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಾದ ಸ್ಯಾಚ್, ಶಾಂಪೇನ್, ಬ್ಲೂಚೀಸ್‌ನಂತಹವುಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಲು ಯುರೋಪಿಯನ್ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟವು ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯನ್ನು ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ತಂದುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಥವಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಯಿಲ್ಲದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಿಗೂ ಈ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಇಂದು ಸುಮಾರು 500 ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತಿದೆ. ಇವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತರ್ಕ, ನಿಯಮ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವಿವೇಚನೆಯಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಜಿ.ಐ ಪಟ್ಟಿವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಟೀಕೆಯಿದೆ.

2015ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೋಸೆ, ಇಡ್ಲಿ, ಅಪ್ಪಂನಂತಹವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಿಟ್ಟು ಕಲಸುವ 'ಕೊಯಂಬತ್ತೂರ್ ವೆಟ್ ಗ್ರೌಂಡರ್'ಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತರೆ, ದೇಶದ ಮೂಲೆಮೂಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗುವ ರಸಗುಲಾಗೆ 2017ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತಿದೆ! ಇದನ್ನು ವಿರೋಧಿಸಿದ ಒಡಿಶಾ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 'ಒಡಿಶಾ ರೂಪಾಂತರದ ರಸಗುಲಾಗೆ' 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತಿದೆ. ಎರಡೂ ಸಿಹಿ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಾದರೂ, ಚೆನ್ನೈ ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಿ.ಐ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಮೂಲದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯಂತೆ, ಒಡಿಶಾದ ರಸಗುಲಾಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆತಿರುವುದು 'ಹಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹೇರಿ, ಕಚ್ಚದಂತೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ನುಂಗ ಬಹುದಾದ ಅದರ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಗುಣಕ್ಕೆ!' ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಮಾಡು ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಅನೇಕುಣಿಸೆ (ಬಾವೋಬ್ಯಾಬ್) ಮರಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ! ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕ ಬಾರಿ ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆತಿರುವುದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೇ ವಿನಾ ಅಂತಹ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗಲ್ಲ!

ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆತ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಬೆಲೆ ದೊರೆತು, ಅದನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಾನೇತಾನಾಗಿ ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಕ್ರಿಯ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರವೇಶ, ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಸಂಘಟನೆ, ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೆಂಬಲ,



ಮಧ್ಯವರ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಮುಕ್ತವಾದ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಂತಹವುಗಳು ಅಗತ್ಯ. ಆದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ದೇಶದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಾಗಿದೆಯೇ ವಿನಾ, ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆತ ನಂತರದ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಂತಹ ಅಸಕ್ತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಆಟದ ಸಾಮಾನು, ಕಿನ್ನಾಳ ಗೊಂಬೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಿಲ್ಕ್, ಇಳಕಲ್ ಸೀರೆ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡಿನ ರಸಬಾಳೆ, ಕೊಡಗಿನ ಕಿತ್ತಳೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡದ ಪೇಡದಂತಹ 42 ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದು ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲೂ, ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಎದ್ದು ಕಾಣುವಂತೆ ಬದಲಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ಪರಿಣತರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ.

2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ತನ್ನ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿತು. ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿರುವ ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಟ್ರೇಡ್ ಪ್ರಮೋಷನ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್ (ವಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ) ಈ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಉಡುಪಿ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಸೀರೆ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಮಟ್ಟು ಗುಳ್ಳೆ ಬದನೆ, ಬಿದರಿ ಕಲೆ, ಗಂಜೀಫಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಚಿತ್ರಕಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ ಆಗಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ ವಿವರವಾದ ವರದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಉಡುಪಿ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ, ಬಿದರಿ ಕಲೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಆರೂ ವರದಿಗಳು ಆಯಾ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಮಸ್ತ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಕೂಲಂಕಷವಾಗಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿ, ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ದೊರೆತಿರುವ ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ಥಕಗೊಳಿಸುವ ದಿಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ಸಲಹೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿವೆ. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇರಳ ನಮಗಿಂತ ಮುಂದಿದೆ. ಕೇರಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವು ಜಿ.ಐ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಏಳು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮೌಲ್ಯವರ್ಧನೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕೈಜೋಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಯರ್ ರಿಸರ್ಚ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್, ಜಿ.ಐ ದೊರೆತಿರುವ ಅಲೆಪ್ಪಿ ತೆಂಗಿನ ನಾರಿನ ಕರಕುಶಲ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವೀನ್ಯ ತರುವ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ನೆರವು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನದ ಕೋಟಾ ದೊರಿಯಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಚಾಂದೇರಿ ರೇಷ್ಮೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸಗಳನ್ನು ತರಲು ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಫ್ಯಾಷನ್ ಟೆಕ್ನಾಲಜಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಸ್ವಾಗತಾರ್ಹ ಕ್ರಮಗಳೇ. ಆದರೆ ಇಂತಹ ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳು ಬೆರಳೆಣಿಕೆಯಷ್ಟು ಮಾತ್ರ.

ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೂಚಿಯ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ವಿವಿಧ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಇಂದು ತೀವ್ರ ಪೈಪೋಟಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರಿಕ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ತನ್ನ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಅಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೆ, ಜಿ.ಐ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿಸುವತ್ತ ಹರಿಸುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳೂ ಈ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು ತ್ವರಿತಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ.

ಮಹಾನಗರದ ಬೆಳಕಿಲ್ಲದ ಬೀದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ...

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಏರಿಕೆ ಆಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳ ಅಸಮರ್ಪಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣ

• ಡಾ. ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಚೈತ್ರಾ

ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ವರದಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ, ಲೈಂಗಿಕ ಕಿರುಕುಳ, ಅಪರಾಧದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ಸರಗಲ್ಲತನ, ದರೋಡೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಪಘಾತಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನೇಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿದ್ದರೂ ಬೆಳಕಿಲ್ಲದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಬೀದಿಗಳು ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಾಲಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ, ಉದ್ಯಾನ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಸಮರ್ಪಕವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಗರದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಾದ, ಜನರು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಚರಿಸುವ ಅನೇಕ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳಿಲ್ಲ ಅಥವಾ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಅನೇಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು 'ಬೆಳಕಿಲ್ಲದ ಕಡೆ ಬೀದಿಕಾಮಣ್ಣರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಮರಳುವಾಗ ಸಂಜೆ ಆರರಿಂದ ಏಳು ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವಾಗಲೂ ಅಂತಹ ಜಾಗ ಬಂದಾಗ ಹೆದರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗಲೂ ಮೈಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಣ್ಣಾಗಿಸಿ ಸರಸರ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಹಾಕಿ ಅಥವಾ ಓಡುತ್ತಲೇ ದಾಟುವುದು ರೂಢಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಸರಿಗಷ್ಟೇ ದೀಪವಿದೆ, ಕೆಟ್ಟು ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿಯವೆಂದರೆ, ಬೇರೆ ಕಡೆ ಬೆಳಿಗೆ ಎಂಟರಲ್ಲೂ ಪ್ರಖರವಾಗಿ ಉರಿಯುವ ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳಿವೆ. ನಾವಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಶಾಪಿಂಗ್‌ಗೆ ಬರುವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಹುಡುಗಿಯರಿಗೂ ಇಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ತೊಂದರೆ' ಎಂದು ಬೇಸರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಪಘಾತಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಈ ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮಹತ್ವದ್ದು. ಪಾದಚಾರಿಗಳು ರಸ್ತೆ ದಾಟುವಾಗ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಳಕಿರದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ರಸ್ತೆ ದಾಟುತ್ತಿರುವವರು ವಾಹನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಚಾಲಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾಣುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿಯೇ ರಾತ್ರಿ ವೇಳೆ ತಿರುವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ಚಲಿಸುವ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಡಿಕ್ಕಿ ಹೊಡೆದು ನಾಯಿ, ಬೆಕ್ಕಿನಂತಹ ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ಜನರಿಗೂ ಅಪಘಾತವಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ಹಲವಾರು ಬಾರಿ ಕತ್ತಲಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸದೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ಬಂದದ್ದನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಲು ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಬ್ರೇಕ್ ಹಾಕಿ, ಸಮತೋಲನ ತಪ್ಪಿ ವಾಹನ ಸವಾರರಿಗೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಗಾಯಗಳೂ ಆಗುತ್ತವೆ.

ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳ ಬಳಿ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು ಅಪಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಾರಣ. ರಾತ್ರಿಯ ವೇಳೆ ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಚಾರ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯಲೇಬೇಕು. ಪುಂಡು ಪೋಕರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣುಮಕ್ಕಳು ಕಾಯುವ ಇಂಥ ಕತ್ತಲು, ಮಂದ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ತಾಣ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತವಾದುದು. ಕೆಟ್ಟ ನೋಟ, ಅಸಭ್ಯ ಮಾತು, ಮೈ ಸವರುವುದು, ಪಿಕ್ ಪಾಕೆಟಿಂಗ್ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತವೆ. ದೀಪದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಸರಿ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಕೆಲಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಇದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಬಹುದು.

ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಮಹಾನಗರಿಯಾದ, ಬೃಹತ್ತಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಂದೆಡೆಯಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದೆಡೆಗೆ ಪಯಣಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ನಿಸರ್ಗದ ಕರೆಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ

ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ. ಆದರೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಭದ್ರವಾದ ಬಾಗಿಲು- ಬೀಗ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕೇಕಡ 66ರಷ್ಟು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೀಪಗಳು ಉರಿಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯೊಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು 'ಹಗಲೇನೋ ಪರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ವಾಸನೆ, ಗಲೀಜು ಹೇಗೋ ಸಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಸಂಜೆಯಾಯಿತು ಎಂದರೆ ಚಿಂತೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಬಾರಿ ನೀರು ಕುಡಿಯುವುದನ್ನೇ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಒಬ್ಬರಿಗೊಬ್ಬರು ಕಾವಲು ನಿಂತು ಸರದಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಒಬ್ಬರೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಶೌಚಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವುದನ್ನೇ ಮುಂದೂಡುತ್ತೇವೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ.



ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬೀದಿದೀಪ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಟ್ಟಿರುವುದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ನಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಕೊರಗು. 'ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕಡೆ ಕಸದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಸದೇ ಜನರು ರಾತ್ರಿ ವೇಳೆ ಮೂಟೆಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಕಸವನ್ನು ತಂದು ಬಿಸಾಡುವುದು ಬೀದಿದೀಪ ಇಲ್ಲದ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಬದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ! ಕಸ ಬಿದ್ದಂತೆಲ್ಲಾ ಇಲಿ, ಜಿರಲೆ, ಸೊಳ್ಳೆಗಳ ಕಾಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಸದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಹಾರವನ್ನು ತಿನ್ನಲು ಬೀದಿನಾಯಿಗಳು ಬಂದು ಸೇರುತ್ತವೆ. ರಾತ್ರಿ ಓಡಾಡುವವರಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾಣದೆ ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲೇ ಅಡಗಿದ್ದ ನಾಯಿಗಳು ಅಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದ ಅನೇಕ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗಳಿವೆ.

ಇಂತಹ ದೂರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಮಂಡಳಿಯವರು ಪರಸ್ಪರರನ್ನು ದೂರುವುದರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ, ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂದೇಶ ಬರುವುದೇನೋ ಸರಿ. ಆದರೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕೆಟ್ಟು ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಬಹುತೇಕರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ.

ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಬೀದಿದೀಪಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಬೇಕು, ಕೆಟ್ಟಿರುವಂತಹವು ದುರಸ್ತಿಯಾಗಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪರಾಧ, ಅಪಘಾತಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.



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