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EDUCATION

Govt survey shows 15K Delhi school students at health risk

Ashna Butani

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A two-year health scheme implemented by the Delhi government in 20 state-run schools as pilot project has revealed that a staggering 69% of the 22,000 students screened in these institutions were in the "red zone" of the Body Mass Index (BMI) — highlighting potential risks pertaining to health and nutrition — officials aware of the matter said last Thursday.

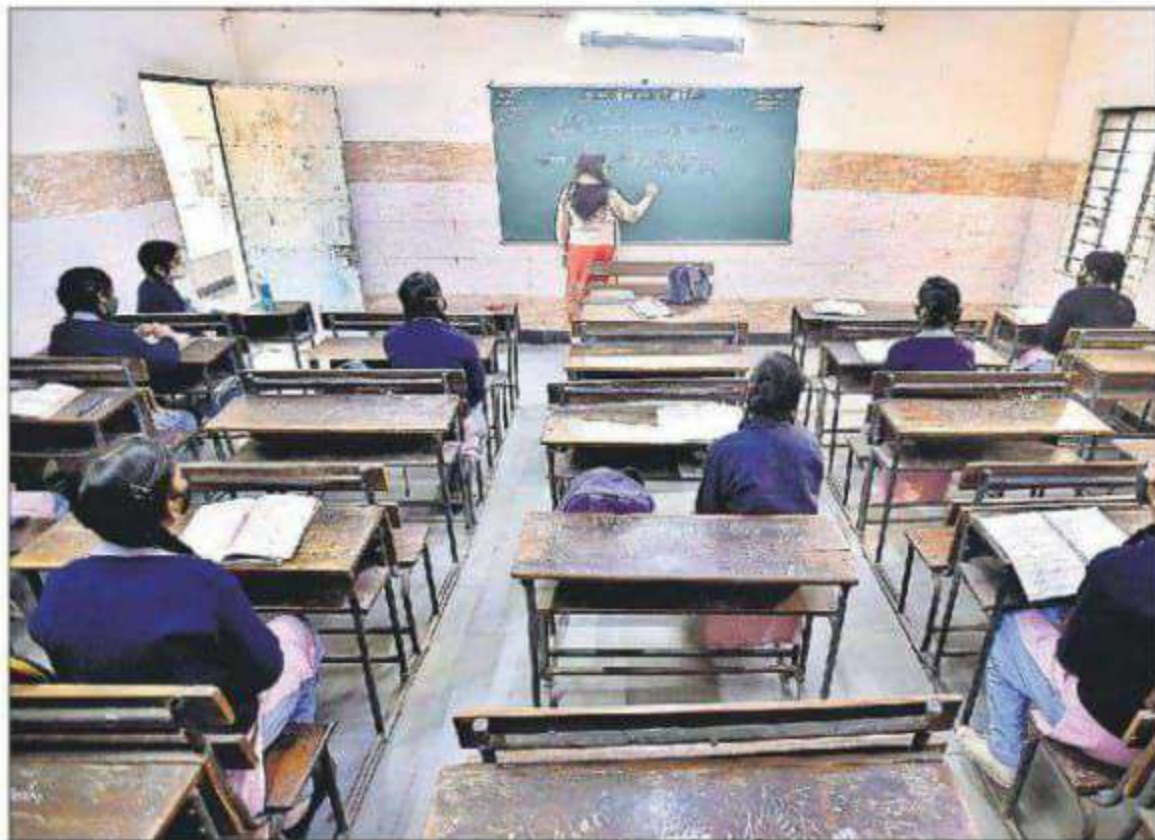
The scheme, called School Health Clinic (SHC), was implemented by the department of health and family welfare and the department of education in January 2022. As part of the pilot project, each of these schools had a nurse and a psychologist, and clinics were set up in porta cabins. In addition, officials said, a trained doctor was assigned to clusters of five schools.

The government now plans to expand the scheme, called School Health Clinic (SHC), to 50 state-run schools across the city in the coming months, with an eye to gradually expand it to cover all Delhi government schools, the officials said.

A health department official said, "After running the pilot project successfully for close to two years, we will be expanding to other schools as well. We aim to cover 50 schools under the project in the coming months and gradually expand to cover all Delhi government schools in the project."

A perusal of the data released as part of the pilot project on December 7 has revealed that 69% of the students were in the red zone of BMI. This, officials and experts said, was because of an increase in junk food intake and lack of physical activity.

"This means that students rely heavily on cheaper fast-food options with unsaturated fats and less nutritional value. The height



Under the School Health Clinic scheme, a clinic was set up in 20 schools.

RAJ K RAJ/HT ARCHIVE

and overall growth are impacted. Parents of the students were informed and counselled to make dietary changes, such as adding more protein and iron to their diets. In some extreme cases, children were referred for further treatment," a health department official said.

Dr Arun Gupta, senior paediatrician at Fortis hospital and president of the Delhi Medical Council said, "In the past two decades, we have seen an increase in obesity. Some of the reasons for this are decreased physical activity, more outside food, and easy availability of junk food through online apps. We are seeing children with respiratory issues, joint problems, and psychological issues due to body shaming."

He added that awareness, and increased physical activity or play time, are key to solving this issue.

The data also reveals that 15% of the students had decreased

vision, which officials attributed to increased screen time. Subsequently, 3,674 students were screened again, and 1,274 were diagnosed and provided with spectacles with the help of a non-profit organisation, officials said.

The health department official said, "Another crucial aspect of the addressed by the SHC project was vision health. The screening process identified that 15 percent of students had decreased vision."

In addition, the project involved 20,562 students in group mental health sessions. These sessions showed that many students suffered from post-pandemic stress, bullying, low self-esteem, hormonal changes, and identity issues, said officials.

A mental health initiative, integrated with SHC, included circle time with children, teacher sensitisation, and individual sessions, aiming at early intervention and mental health awareness. Stu-

dents with severe issues received intervention and their parents were counselled and advised on the next steps such as therapeutic intervention and dietary changes, officials said.

Ashita Sharma, the psychologist in Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Moti Bagh, said that the issues identified included anxiety, family conflict, and academic issues among others. She said, "Many of the student's parents are daily wage workers and they had to migrate back to their hometowns during the pandemic. During those years, they faced financial stress, and lost family members too so this impacted them mentally."

She added that students, particularly those in classes 5, 6, and 7, faced academic issues and struggled to cope when classes began.

The group session aimed to help students cope with their daily struggles and identify stu-

ASSESSMENT

- The pilot study was implemented by Delhi government in its 20 schools where 22,000 students were screened
- The study showed that 69% of the students had irregular body mass index
- The government now plans to expand the scheme, called School Health Clinic

dents who are facing more severe mental health issues. 200 students were further referred to mobile mental health units (MMHU) operated by the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IBHAS).

Sharma said, "After some time, we noticed that the impacts were multi-fold... Students interacted with each other with more sensitivity, and bullying was reduced to some extent. The teachers, too, made efforts to understand the mental health issues being faced by students."

Arshi Alam, a psychologist who works with a private school as a counsellor, said that adolescents face a number of challenges ranging from body image issues to anxiety. She added that besides having school counsellors, teacher sensitisation is paramount. "As mental health professionals, we spend a limited time with the children. It is the teachers who help them navigate through their day-to-day struggles. It is very important for teachers to be sensitised to these issues as they are the first responders. It has been proven that a healthy teacher-student relationship leads to better academics, as well as better overall growth among students."

TN education dept postpones half-yearly exam by two days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE school education department has postponed the half-yearly examinations for government school students across the state and said that it will be conducted from Wednesday. Earlier, the examinations were scheduled to start on Monday.

The decision has been taken as several students have lost their books and notebooks in

the floods caused by cyclone Michaung in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, and Kancheepuram districts.

The schools in these four districts were shut down from December 4 to 9 due to the floods. According to a press release from the school education department, it has fastened the cleaning works in the four districts affected by the cyclone and preparing



for the reopening of schools on Monday. A total of 17 officials from the department have been deputed to the four districts to oversee this. The department has also allocated Rs 50 lakh each for Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Tiruvallur districts and Rs 40 lakh for Kancheepuram district for the cleaning activities. The department has also added that the schools in these four dis-

tricts have been asked to collect the details of books, notebooks, uniforms, and bags required for the students in these four districts and distribute them to the students on Tuesday.

As per the new timetable released by the department, the half-yearly examinations for classes 1 to 12 will be conducted from December 13 to 22. Meanwhile, the director of college education had also asked the govern-

ment arts and science colleges in these four districts to ensure that their premises are cleaned when they are opened on Monday.

They were also asked to ensure that barricades are placed at a distance of 20 feet from the compound walls to prevent students from going near them. The damaged classrooms should be closed and the rest of them should be cleaned properly, it added.

'India is a hub for us to innovate in STEM education, chemistry'

The STEM stream's greatest competitor is computer science, says **LaTrease Garrison**, COO of the American Chemical Society. In a recent interview with *DH's* **Shashikala M S**, Garrison talks about the need for chemistry to remain relevant and accessible. *Excerpts:*

What trends do you see emerging in STEM education, and how are these trends influencing global education and competitiveness?

ACS is looking at how chemistry is taught and how to make it more accessible to a diverse set of students. Our aim is to make it so relevant that students can immediately see how chemistry is essential and how it works to solve problems faced by the world.

Speaking of trends, green chemistry and sustainability are big. Promoting STEM education at an early age is another thing we are witnessing worldwide, as we are in India. If we do not do this, the chances of students taking STEM in higher education are slim. One of our competitors is computer science. Children can easily see computer science in action in their everyday lives. So we need to look at the hands-on aspect of chemistry and make science as accessible and tangible as computer science is.

We need to engage with families, especially the parents, as they can share information, and encourage their children in terms of what they pursue at the university and as their profession later. We have science outreach programmes and hands-on activities to bring the community together. We realise that we need to speak plain English around science to make it more attractive.

There are many India-US science partnerships. Is it driven by the geopolitical coming together of India and the US? Or, is it that fewer Americans than Indians are interested in STEM fields?

I would say that the United Nations' SDG has provided a space for chemists globally to come together to address global challenges. I wouldn't say that there is a diminishing interest in STEM or that there are fewer American students interested in STEM or chemistry. The interest is becoming more global than it was in the past, and technology is allowing people to connect. We are forced to come together as humans, and universities, industries, and organisations are



LaTrease Garrison, COO, the American Chemical Society

recognising this. It is not so much about competition as how we advance the chemical sciences collectively. It is also the coming together of global forces to further the cause of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4, which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education.

What are your strategic and specific interests and goals in India?

We are building new programmes and looking at ways to engage our members here in India and other countries. We are launching a virtual internship programme for students to gain experience and knowledge outside of the classroom. They have a chance to leverage some of our concepts through our publications and take our courses at the ACS institute. Our student as well as professional chapters are able to provide localised programmes and opportunities.

Being in India has given ACS an opportunity to look at other regions of the world and develop international activities as well. It is a hub for us to innovate and a great space to develop programmes for the international community.

What is your approach to open science and knowledge sharing, and recommendations for fostering open access and collaboration with Indian institutions?

ACS currently offers open and accessible research data products. It is important to design and build a global technical infrastructure that will increase the reusability of primary research data associated with ACS journal articles, including improving text and data mining capabilities. We're committed to enhancing our open science initiatives to make it easier for authors to widely share their research.

BEFORE DONNING THAT BLACK COAT

Abhipsa Mohanty talks to experts who ask students to self analyse their route

THE Common Law Entrance Test (CLAT) took place on December 3, and the registration deadline for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) 2024 is December 26. Aspirants are likely to grapple with confusion as they navigate through decisions such as selecting colleges and courses. Additionally, choosing a definitive career path in law presents a considerable challenge due to the multitude of options. To arrive at a concrete conclusion, there's a need to find what interests them, experts say.

'Course' of action

The first step is to decide on a law college and course for themselves. Two types of degree courses, spanning three and five years are available for students. "There is a certain amount of confusion over which one to choose. While the three-year programmes were recently introduced in National Law Universities (NLUs), the five-year programmes have a historical and legacy factor attached to them. Many prominent lawyers have pursued this programme and it is well-established," notes Abhineet Maurya, a student at NLU Delhi.

Professor Satyanarayan Mallick from Utkal University Law College, Odisha, explains that since five-year courses are integrated, it is generally chosen by students who have passed

10+2, while the three-year courses are popular among those who have completed graduation. "However, whether students choose one or the other, it doesn't affect their future prospects in any way as the scope of law is vast," he says.

However, if they choose the five-year integrated programme, students have to choose between Arts, Commerce and Science streams for graduation. Arts, or the BA-LLB course remains the most popular, experts point out. "But courses like BCom-LLB and BBA-LLB are also emerging, though not many colleges offer them yet," Abhineet says. As for BSc-LLB, the takers, as well as colleges offering them, are fewer in number.

The choice, very clearly, depends on a student's interest. "They should remember that they are the ones who will be studying the subject for the next few years, so it's important to choose something that excites them," advises Dr V Balakista Reddy, Professor and Dean, School of Law, Mahindra University, Telangana.

Choice is yours

Based on the choice of their course, and rank obtained in the entrance test, students could decide on the colleges. The rank of the college is also important, and one can always look up the NIRF (Na-

tional Institute Ranking Framework) rankings on the internet, suggests Abhineet. "Aspirants can also talk to students or alumni of the college they have in mind," he adds.

The qualifications of the faculty, opportunities available for research, and a law school's track record in terms of internships and job placements are also relevant factors when

deciding on a college, says Professor Reddy. "Look for law schools where the faculty has expertise and active research interests in the areas of law that align with your own research goals. Many law schools have research centres, institutes, and initiatives dedicated to various legal fields. A network of legal professionals and successful alumni can lead to better opportunities for students," he adds.

"A college's location is also sometimes considered by students. Though almost every law school has residential facilities, few students prefer nearby colleges," Abhineet specifies. Prof Reddy suggests students to visit the college campus to assess the library, research facilities, technology, and other resources, and to assess the campus culture, extra-curricular activities available, and the quality of life there.

Plunging Into law

Choosing a college and course can still seem overwhelming for a few. Prof Mallick asserts that it becomes simple once the students are aware of the scope of law. However, choosing a career is again a Herculean task. Prof Reddy suggests students undergo a self-analysis and discover what actually aligns with their ambitions.

"The career path will be decided as per a student's natural inclination," states Prof Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna.

"If someone likes to sit and adjudicate, they can become litigation lawyers; if someone likes the real courtroom action, they can become a judge; if they want to sit in the comfort of an office, they can get into a corporate," he exemplifies. But each profession has its own challenges, though Prof Mustafa emphasises that there are no disadvantages with any.

For students who prefer to decide their profession only after starting college and acquainting themselves with the subjects, Professor Anand Prakash Mishra, Associate Dean, Jindal Global Law School, opines that every law school should maintain an Office of Career Services (OCS). "This will help students find their interests through counselling, building their CVs and providing internships. Internships are crucial. They enable students to work in various fields so that they can decide what they would like to pursue in the future," he said.

But in case a student does not have access to an OCS or internships from their college, Prof Mishra advises them to secure internships themselves. "They can approach the courts and they would find lawyers willing to accommodate them as interns. They could also apply online for corporate internships," he says.

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After HC decision, DU prepares to enrol foreign students in integrated law courses

Foreign students will help in improving the international rankings of Indian universities

Ayushi.Gupta1
@timesgroup.com

Including foreign students in the law courses will help Indian universities improve their international ranking

The University of Delhi (DU) is preparing a strategy to include a foreign student quota from the academic year 2024-25, in the recently introduced five-year integrated BA LLB (Hons) courses. The decision came after the Delhi High Court (HC) urged the university administration to incorporate a quota for foreign students in its recently introduced five-year law course in the upcoming academic session.

Amarjiva Lochan, joint dean (Foreign Students), Delhi University, says, "The BCI approval came in late as the admissions for international students for integrated law course got over in April. Now, the members of the Foreign Students' Registry

and the executive council are deciding on a strategy to admit foreign students in the 2024-25 session."

According to the DU authorities, the admission process for foreign students had already been wrapped up in April before the Bar Council of India (BCI) granted permission. The petition was filed by a foreign national in November to seek admission to the current academic session at DU. The Delhi HC had dismissed the petition as the court could not find any ground to interfere in the university's policy decision. However, the HC had directed the University to prepare a strategy to admit more foreign students as per the UGC regulations.

Vikas Gupta, registrar, DU, says, "We had filed an approval application with BCI in August, which was finalised in September. This led to a delay in the admissions of native students too, which further delayed the admission process for the international students."

Since there were no set provisions and infrastructure ready for international students then, the university executive council members decided to begin applications for these courses starting from the next academic year, adds Gupta.

Foreign students aspiring to apply for these integrated five-year law courses at DU will be able to app-

ly from the academic year 2024-25. To be able to take admission a foreign national should at least meet the minimum requirements as per the course and once a profile clears the minimum qualification, the committee inspects through the portfolio, after that admission is granted, says Lochan. Most international students applying in India are Indian-origin students from the US, Canada, the UK and more. Starting next year, these students will also be able to take admission into these law courses and later can find employment opportunities with various international law firms established in India, adds Lochan.

Faizan Mustafa, former vice-chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad and professor, Faculty of Law, AMU, Aligarh, tells *Education Times* that including foreign students in the law courses will help Indian universities improve their international ranking. "Once a student is aware of Indian laws, they can study any law in the world, it is a skill and art. Having foreign students in Indian universities is helpful to the country as it will improve the international rankings. International students will increase diversity on the campus and quality of learning. Moreover, this will not violate the rights of native students as foreign students are admitted as per the intake permitted in any course."





In addition to CLAT, there are several other entrance tests for admission to law courses in Indian colleges. Here's a glimpse at the most popular ones

OTHER LAW ENTRANCE EXAMS IN INDIA

NATIONAL-LEVEL

1 Law School Admission Test (LSAT): The test is administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). In India, it is available for both UG and PG law courses (LLB and LLM). It can be taken online as well as offline, at a centre.

2 Common University Entrance Test (CUET): Administered by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and governed by the University Grants Commission (UGC), CUET is for both LLB and LLM programmes. CUET is meant for admission to law departments of central and other universities.

INSTITUTE-SPECIFIC

1 All India Law Entrance Test (AILET): The test is conducted by National Law University Delhi for admission to its LLB, LLM and PhD programmes. There is no maximum or minimum age limit for appearing for the AILET for any programme.

2 Symbiosis Law Admission Test (SLAT): The test is conducted by Symbiosis International (Deemed) University (SIU) to admit students in four Symbiosis Law Schools (SLS), which are SLS Pune, SLS Noida, SLS Hyderabad, and SLS Nagpur. SLAT is meant for LLB programmes only.

STATE-SPECIFIC

1 Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (MH CET) Law: It is conducted by the Maharashtra State Common Entrance Test Cell (MH SCETC) every year for admission to law colleges in Maharashtra. The test is meant for LLB programmes only.

2 Telangana/Andhra Pradesh Law Common Entrance Test (TS/AP LAW CET): The test in AP LAW CET is conducted by the Acharya Nagarjuna University and TS LAW CET by the Osmania University, Telangana. They are meant for admission to LLB programmes in their state law colleges.

BEING A LAW GRADUATE

CAREER LOOKOUT

According to the experts, here's what a law student can do:

GENERAL COUNSEL
Many students prefer to join leading law firms in India as well as abroad as general counsels (GC). They are treated as in-house counsels in the legal departments of companies, including banks and insurance companies.

LAW OFFICER
The government has a special law officer post, which is on par with that of a Chief Secretary in rank. Even special courts require law officers.

PROFESSOR
Students interested in academia can pursue a master's/PhD and serve as professors. The opportunities in academia have become more lucrative and the opportunities are growing. Students also choose to finish their master's or PhD abroad and return to teach in India, while some prefer to teach abroad.

THINK TANKS & RESEARCH
Various NGOs and inter-governmental organisations appoint legal writers and researchers for their projects.

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER
A majority of Indian students move to foreign universities for higher studies. While the UK is the most preferred destination, the US, Canada, Australia and Germany are also popular. Students can then become international lawyers and lawyers with dual degrees, eligible for practicing in two countries, including India.

LEGAL ASSOCIATE
Tech giants like Google, Facebook, Apple, TATA, Mahindra and the rest hire legal professionals to handle the legal matters of their companies.

LITIGATION LAWYER
Many students prefer to join courtrooms immediately after completing their degrees, while other students prefer to finish their master's degree and then join courtrooms.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
There are three public prosecutor posts available, for which students can apply and appear for an exam.

BANK OFFICER
Legal professionals are sought to serve as valuers in banks, including in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

JUDGE
Students willing to serve as judges can apply for the Judicial Services exams. Fresh graduates are eligible to apply, and after seven years of service, they are eligible to be recommended for the Chief Justice post in a high court.

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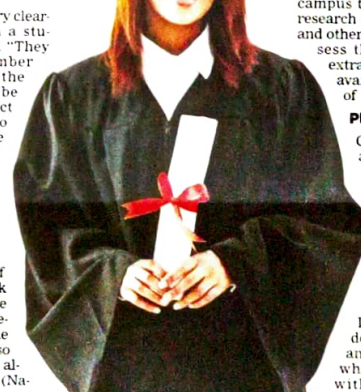
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legal bent

When people talk about the future of teaching, they often refer to how teaching and learning in a classroom should be more application-oriented, more aligned with the future of work, more collaborative, and so on; i.e. what should be taught and how it should be taught.

However, we should talk a lot more about the future of teaching as a profession. Why is it a field that young people joining the workforce should start paying attention to? What are the less-understood opportunities in this domain?

Common conversations about teaching as a profession refer to the importance of high-quality teaching for students and for society at large and, therefore, the need to empower teachers with training, technology, and support. But what is commonly overlooked is how this could be an exciting career for teachers, how their role, financial rewards, and recognition could grow.

Opportunities available

While we are increasingly finding a willingness among employers, both private and government, to create an environment that rewards great teachers with professional growth opportunities, teachers – like many other professionals – need to figure out how to build their own

The good news is that there are now increasingly diverse pathways for teachers who can work on building their own skills

skills, what they need to learn for today and the future and proactively take up assessments that help identify this. This involves selecting resources and finding out what works for their style of learning.

This naturally leads students and young professionals to the question: what are the professional growth opportunities available and what will they look like in the future? Earlier, the idea of joining and retiring as a grade English teacher failed to provide an appealing career trajectory. Transitioning from teaching Class 6 to Class 12 contradicts educational research, which highlights the specialisation of early childhood, primary and secondary teaching. Such transitions only create the illusion of professional growth.

However, the good news is that there are now increasingly diverse pathways for teachers. Large private school chains allow teachers to become a subject lead, coach, create content and even do stints

Teacher, teach thyself



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

across these roles to figure out one's interests. While single-school establishments may have fewer paths, they increasingly offer supplemental roles, including content creation, assessment design, lesson planning, and mentoring ... well beyond the 'after-school tuition' that was for long the only supplemental role for a teacher.

Governments are increasingly aware of the need to recognise merit in teaching. In India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also advocates this. Multiple state governments including Haryana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh are already formally using certification tests to reward teachers. In some cases, this even extends to teacher selection and promotion to coveted roles. In today's

highly interconnected world, teaching is taking on a global dimension. Indian teachers have a crucial role to play in addressing the teacher shortages, especially in STEM fields. Post-COVID, some of these opportunities remain online, making them logistically easier.

What to do

So, if teaching is going to be coming a thriving global profession, how does one get ready for it? Many of these opportunities are increasingly being linked to a high-quality certification, based on a strong competency framework. This acts as a currency for teachers and offer employers a globally recognised view of a candidate's skills.

Such certifications also form the foundation for tailored skill-building. For in-

stance, a teacher can learn from their competency test that they need to improve in lesson planning, especially in project-based lessons. This exemplifies the level of personalisation possible in training and learning for teachers.

Going forward, the future of teaching can be seen as an ecosystem that focuses on teaching as a profession, creating the right incentives and providing access to a wide range of opportunities through a strong competency-based certification. It is time that students and young professionals who are interested in teaching but wonder whether it is a valid career start to understand these opportunities and get ready for them.

The writer is the Founder and CEO, Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA).

How should India be in 2047? Govt. to seek inputs from students

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

At an interaction with Governors of States, Vice-Chancellors, and faculty members of around 700 universities on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a month-long outreach programme to seek inputs from youngsters on the vision for India in 2047.

NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said on Sunday that the ideas of students would be assessed and suitable interventions incorporated into the Vision 2047 document that the Prime Minister is likely to unveil by January-end.

While the exercise will be voluntary, students will be asked to make commitments on what they would do to help make India a developed country, apart from sending suggestions on how to reach that goal, and what according to them would be a developed India by 2047 look like in different aspects.

“There will be a day-long workshop held at all the Raj Bhavans on Mon-



B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

day, following which universities will conduct their own programmes to seek their students' ideas,” Mr. Subrahmanyam said, adding that the government expected this to generate thousands of inputs by early January.

“Some of the best ideas would get rewarded, and we will strive to incorporate them in the current version of the Vision 2047 plan as interventions without altering the broader macro goals,” he said.

Stating that India was at a turning point, Mr. Subrahmanyam said the foundations and building blocks necessary to transform it into a developed nation were now in place.

Schools worried that age criteria under NEP may affect admissions

There is confusion among parents as well as school managements as to whether to admit children who have not completed the required age specification for class I for 2024-25

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schools across Bengaluru are worried that the age criteria for kindergarten and class I as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) will affect their admission numbers in the upcoming academic year.

There is also confusion among parents as well as school managements as to whether to admit students who have not completed the required age specification for class I for 2024-25.

What NEP says

As per the NEP, the students getting admitted to LKG and UKG should have completed four and five years respectively before the commencement of the academic year on June 1 (in 2025-26).

Similarly, it says that students getting admitted to class I should have completed six years before June 1, from the academic year of 2025-26.

“To abide by the NEP, we are not accepting children who do not fulfill the age criteria for KG classes and class I from this year itself. We are worried that this might upset parents and the admission numbers might drop this year as they might go and check at other schools if they are offering admissions without this age bar. However, most schools have now started following the same rules for admissions and



As per the NEP, students getting admitted to class I should have completed six years before June 1, from the academic year of 2025-26. FILE PHOTO

we are crossing our fingers that the parents realise this,” said Selvaraj, principal, ACTS Secondary School, Electronics City.

While most schools are very strict with the rules when it comes to KG classes, some have been flexible with admissions for class I this year.

“If a child wants to get admitted for class I after 2025-26, then we will not accept them if they are not six years old. But this year, the schools have been asked to take a call. So, we have decided to take students who are five years and 10 months or five years and 11 months old for

2024-25. Although our admission process will only take place in March,” said Sunil Fernandes S.J., principal, St. Joseph’s Boys High School.

He added that with Karnataka having the unique student achievement tracking system (SATS) portal, it is important for schools to follow the age criteria as the system will otherwise reject the child’s profile.

An excuse for some

A principal from a school in the central business district (CBD) remarked that while some schools are trying to abide by the rules, others are using this as an

excuse to be more exclusive with their admissions.

“With parents running behind popular schools, the schools are using this policy to their advantage,” they said.

For the last couple of years, parents have been protesting against these new rules which have created confusion about admissions with many being forced to repeat classes.

“We considered going to court and even hired a lawyer. But when the new government was elected, they promised a State Education Policy and we dropped our legal pursuit as we expected some relief from all this. Now, without a choice, I am making my daughter repeat LKG in 2024-25,” said Niveditha C.P., a resident of Shastri Nagar.

Convincing parents

Some schools reported that despite strong protests from parents, they were able to convince them and retain admissions.

“The parents ask us why we did not have this rule when they got their first child admitted. We are taking our time and convincing them to admit their students in pre-nursery instead of KG if their child is below the age limit,” said B.S. Venkatachala, principal, Narayana School, Vidyanayapura. He also said that there was an increase of 20 - 25% in overall admissions this year.



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'Responsible by design cornerstone of AI-first strategy'

Information technology (IT) giant Infosys has adopted an artificial intelligence (AI)-first strategy that embeds the technology in all offerings of the company.

BALAKRISHNA D R, executive vice-president and global head of AI, automation and ECS at Infosys, spoke with Ayushman Baruah about AI and its responsible use. Edited excerpts from an e-mail interview.

Where is Infosys in its AI-first journey?

We have already embedded state-of-the-art AI in all our service offerings and platforms, apart from creating specialised AI solutions. We have reimagined and augmented the entire spectrum of digital offerings using AI. In application development, we are using generative AI (GenAI) for code generation, test case generation, and documentation generation. In IT infrastructure maintenance, we are using AI-powered operations like predictive maintenance. In legacy modernisation, AI is enabling us in code translation, impact analysis. We have reimagined the fundamentals of work, workplace, and workforce with AI.

What has Infosys done to ensure it adheres to ethical AI norms?

Infosys is committed to ensuring its AI solutions are ethical, transparent, and fair. We have technical

systems, frameworks, and tools to ensure ethical, bias-free, explainable AI development, deployment, and use. Infosys adheres to and enables enterprises to comply with data privacy regulations and best practices, allowing businesses to protect sensitive data using secure

and explainable AI. In the context of GenAI, there are multiple concerns like IP, privacy violations, toxicity, hallucination, security issues with AI. To ensure a fair, transparent, and safe AI system, Infosys has built technical and regulatory guardrails. 'Responsible

by design' is one of the cornerstones of our AI-first approach. To implement this, we have enhanced our existing frameworks to cover AI-specific critical areas. We have created dedicated offerings for customers to adopt Responsible AI across the enterprise.

Customers are increasingly becoming aware

of the need of AI systems to function responsibly and ethically.

How has the adoption of your AI offering Topaz been so far and which sectors are the quickest?

Infosys Topaz has been a phenomenal success, and we are witnessing a tremendous pace of adoption. We can attribute this primarily to the fact that Infosys Topaz caters to a wide range of specialised needs and differentiated solutions, leveraging the advantage of over 12,000 AI assets, 150 pre-trained AI models, 10 AI platforms, steered by AI-first specialists and data strategists. These have been developed

based on our combined experience of walking our own AI-first journey and working on some of the most challenging industry problems with our customers for quite some time now. According to the Infosys Data+AI Radar, the financial services industry has the highest rate of adoption and is reaping a lot of benefits across all dimensions of AI use. It is closely followed by the retail, healthcare and automotive industries. We are seeing an interesting trend of rapid democratisation across all industries. Functions like contact centres, customer services, planning and operations are the fastest adopters.

How are you skilling employees in AI?

At Infosys, the AI-first approach includes our talent strategy as

an important pillar, with focus on three levels of enablement and upskilling. Level 1 is called AI Aware, wherein we are working on making everyone aware of GenAI technologies and how AI assistants can help them be more productive. Level 2 refers to AI builders who can reimagine experience and processes to build industry-specific AI-led solutions. Level 3 refers to masters who understand the under-the-hood workings of ML (machine learning), DL (deep learning) and LLMs (large language models).

We have trained over 40,000 people on various AI technologies, and we plan to train more employees over the next 6 months.

Do you think AI will take away jobs or complement the human workforce?

Rather than viewing AI as a competitor, we should embrace it. At Infosys, we believe in Human + AI and not Human versus AI. AI will reshape and redefine jobs and our ways of working, creating new opportunities. Historically, technological advancements have consistently led to creation of new jobs and industries.

AI will be no exception. The shift in requirements will allow us to tap into our unique qualities.



BALAKRISHNA D R

Executive VP and global head of AI, Automation and ECS, Infosys



Amazon, Microsoft Lead Efforts to Tackle Inherent Biases in GenAI

To boot, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is also funding AI startup Karya's project

Suraksha P

Bengaluru: Generative artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are not free of inherent biases, and several ongoing projects from the likes of Amazon and Microsoft are working towards reducing these biases linked to large language models (LLMs).

Rajeev Rastogi, vice president, machine learning at Amazon, is leading such projects where several Amazon India employees are working.

The international non-profit Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is sponsoring a three-year project by Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup Karya, which is working on coming up with a method to say with a certain degree of certainty if a dataset is gender-biased or not,

In Question

EXPERTS SAY...

- **LLMs** are trained on large amounts of data from the internet, and these models pick up whatever gender biases are there in that data
- **It is** not known whether these biases get exaggerated, remain at the same level, or get mitigated
- **Some of** them may be stereotypes, including positive stereotypes
- **There can be** caste-based bias, race-based bias, region based-bias, or country-based biases



and have a pipeline to de-bias the datasets. The size of the Gates Foundation grant is not known.

In response to queries sent to the Gates Foundation and Karya, Vivek Seshadri, chief technology officer of Karya, told ET that the project is currently at a formative stage of the research and that the company expects to have initial findings relating to mitigation of biases in language technology towards the middle of 2024. The firm will be able to say more once these findings are made

available, said Seshadri.

Hanna Wallach, partner research manager at Microsoft Research, told ET that the company believes AI technologies should perform fairly. She said the company is continuing to invest in research on identifying, measuring and mitigating different types of fairness-related harms and is innovating in new ways to proactively test its AI systems, as outlined in its responsible AI standard.

Can ChatGPT, the chatbot developed by OpenAI, replace human therapists?

OpenAI announced that it had upgraded ChatGPT with voice and image capabilities, allowing users to chat with it, making conversations with the software more personal. What happens when people begin to see and use the AI large language model as a therapist?

Sahana Venugopal

An OpenAI officer came under fire on X (formerly Twitter) in September for comparing her conversation with ChatGPT to therapy, despite admitting she had never experienced therapy before.

Lilian Weng's X bio said she worked on AI safety at the start-up behind the viral chatbot while the company website noted she worked on Applied AI Research. "Just had a quite emotional, personal conversation w/ ChatGPT in voice mode, talking about stress, work-life balance. Interestingly I felt heard & warm. Never tried therapy before but this is probably it? Try it especially if you usually just use it as a productivity tool," she posted on X on September 26.

Just a day earlier, OpenAI said it had upgraded ChatGPT with voice and image capabilities, allowing users to chat with it, share photos, and listen to responses. The voice mode feature is now open to all users. OpenAI suggested that people could use this upgrade to settle family dinner table debates or even have a bedtime story read to them.

Ms. Weng was criticised for seemingly promoting ChatGPT as a tool capable of providing therapeutic services, especially after admitting that she was not qualified to comment on the therapy experience. Others accused her of coming under the ELIZA effect.

A day later, Ms. Weng posted that people's interactions with AI models differed and that her statements were her personal opinion.

Even so, the OpenAI employee is far from the only person who has turned to ChatGPT – the world's fastest growing consumer app earlier this year – to find solutions for their mental health challenges or even just a "warm" listener.

What is the ELIZA effect?

ELIZA effect is the phenomenon in which people think computer programs or similar systems have become capable of

human emotions or functions because of the way they respond to user input. It is named after a 1960s computer program which also responded to users, albeit with very basic sentences that echoed their original words. This program was credited to MIT professor Joseph Weizenbaum.

A user who receives responses from ChatGPT may believe that they are having a meaningful or mutually beneficial interaction that is somehow comparable to a human conversation, rather than seeing ChatGPT as a large language model simply generating data. This is an example of the ELIZA effect.

ChatGPT: free and available 24x7

Sanskriti*, 29, a journalist based in Mumbai, goes to (human-led) therapy but has also reached out to ChatGPT to get help with life challenges, even though she is aware this is not recommended and knows the chatbot generates incorrect answers at times.

"I only book therapy when I need clarity, or things are getting out of hand in terms of anxiety, or there is a new pattern I am noticing, because therapy is expensive, and usually when you are anxious it arises [in] the middle of the night or at some weird hour and you want to quickly calm yourself down," she said.

She explained that her anxiety was usually driven by not knowing something or having misleading information. ChatGPT helped her find the certainty she needed in order to calm down.

"Therapists can't be available at the break of dawn," she pointed out. Sanskriti noticed that when entering questions into the chatbot that would better suit a human therapist, ChatGPT did provide counsel, along with a disclaimer encouraging her to seek the services of a qualified professional.

"Is ChatGPT comparable to human therapy? Of course not," Sanskriti said. "I would say ChatGPT really helps, but I think there's a lot of communication with a human therapist. You don't have to use

certain formats to write [to a human therapist]. With ChatGPT, you need to know the commands, you need to know how ChatGPT will respond."

The Hindu tried out the free ChatGPT version with the voice mode, where users could choose from friendly male, female, and gender-neutral voices in order to get spoken answers. After complaining via the ChatGPT app that the user was suffering from a cold, a voice named "Ember" was sympathetic and suggested home remedies such as warm soup, before offering to help with more specific symptoms.

Knocking at the digital door

Many people worldwide turn to the internet to seek out health information privately, according to Jim Downs, historian and author of the book *Maladies of Empire: How Colonialism, Slavery, and War Transformed Medicine*. "Web-MD and other online resources, like ChatG[P]T, allow for an anonymity that many patients desire to avoid the stigma of being labelled unhealthy or sick. Historically, patients have feared clinicians pathologising their behaviour, bodies, and, even, their identities," Mr. Downs said.

However, AI chatbots may not be ready to bridge this doctor-patient divide. Researchers have claimed that AI chatbots largely generate results which favour India's privileged castes and economic classes while possibly excluding marginalised communities, reported *Reuters* in September. In the healthcare sector, ChatGPT was shown to generate false results claiming there were physiological differences in Black people's bodies when compared to other races, per a study in the *Digital Medicine* journal.

Looking back, Mr. Downs explained that fields such as epidemiology (the study of diseases and how they affect groups of people) largely emerged from slavery or colonialism, with doctors studying the spread of diseases in subjugated populations – such as Indians

under the British rule in the 19th century. "This same pattern applies to the birth of psychology as a field. It emerged from specific historical case studies that articulated Indian and other people of colour throughout the world as inferior to white Europeans," Mr. Downs said.

He pointed to scholar Sunil Bhatia's book *Decolonizing Psychology*, which explores how early psychology was based on unscientific ideas of white supremacy over colonised Indians. Mr. Downs stressed on the importance of including multiple cultures and complex identities when recognising health conditions even today. "Therefore, we need to be suspicious of AI generated understandings of health and illness because they may propagate Eurocentric understandings of medicine that fail to recognise the cultural specificity of the people of India and in other cultures around the world," he said.

A stop-gap arrangement?

Sanskriti noted that matching with the right (human) therapist is a process of trial and error, but insisted that finding one is still important.

"I feel I am more at ease when I'm talking to a therapist because it's a more free-flowing conversation. Her insights are deeper. It also comes from the previous sessions," she said, explaining how her therapist was able to identify triggers or link certain anecdotes to her childhood, which ChatGPT cannot do.

On the other hand, Sanskriti recalled how ChatGPT helped her when she was facing a medical emergency at home. The chatbot answered some of her healthcare doubts, which let her decide what kind of specialists to contact and what her next step should be. Her therapist would not have been qualified or even permitted to help in this area.

"It is not layered, it is not insightful. But I feel sometimes ChatGPT manages to ease my anxiety for that very moment," Sanskriti admitted.

(*Name changed to protect privacy)

How fractals offer a new way to see the quantum realm

Uncertainty is an inherent feature of all systems. It is independent of the precision or the accuracy with which the system is measured. It just is there, as an implicit element of the system's existence. And it has forced physicists to find a practical approach to study quantum systems in ways that can circumvent the limitations it imposes

Qudsia Gani

Quantum physics is too weird for many people to understand, and part of the weirdness is due to some of its counter-intuitive features. For example, many quantum phenomena are bound by Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, so it is impossible to know them with great certainty. According to this principle, we can't obtain the information about a particle's position, say, until we actively check for it.

This is unlike that of, say, a football that has been kicked: we can calculate its position based on the information that we get from Newton's laws. In other words, gaining information about a particle means collapsing its wavefunction. The wavefunction is a mathematical object that contains information about the particle, and 'collapsing' it means forcibly modifying it in a way that yields that information.

Before we obtain the information about a particle's location, however, it can be said to be in more than one place, and possibly in 'contact' with other particles even if they are physically quite far away.

What are fractal dimensions?

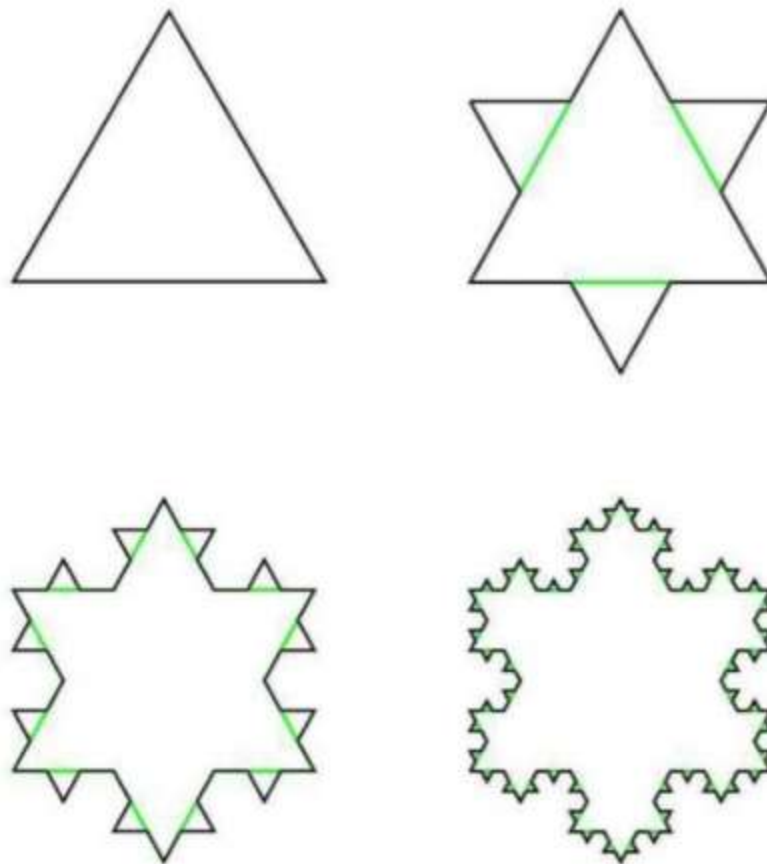
Uncertainty is an inherent feature of all systems. It is independent of the precision or the accuracy with which the system is measured. It just is there, as an implicit element of the system's existence. And it has forced physicists to find a practical approach to study quantum systems in ways that can circumvent the limitations it imposes.

One of the ways in which physicists have responded is via the so-called non-integer small dimensions, a.k.a. fractal dimensions. The dimensionality of a quantum system is an important thing to bear in mind when physicists study its properties. For instance, electrons in a one-dimensional system form a Luttinger liquid (not a liquid *per se* but a model that describes the electrons' liquid-like behaviour); in a two-dimensional system, the particles exhibit the Hall effect (the conductor develops a side-to-side voltage in the presence of a top-to-bottom electric field and a perpendicular magnetic field).

The question obviously arises: How would a quantum system behave in non-integer or fractal dimensions?

Physicists use the fractal geometry approach to study quantum systems in dimensions like 1.55 or 1.58, or in fact anything between one and two dimensions.

Fractality is ubiquitous in nature, it also sometimes hidden from plain sight. A



The first four steps to building a Koch snowflake. WXS (CC BY-SA 3.0)

shape is fractal if it exhibits self-similarity, i.e. if parts of it at a smaller scale resemble parts at a larger scale. Such shapes can be easily produced by repeatedly modifying its edges using simple rules. Consider the Koch snowflake - a shape that begins as an equilateral triangle, and in each subsequent step, every side becomes the base for a new triangle. After many steps, a fractal snowflake appears.

The higher the 'value' of a fractal's dimension, the greater is its ability to fill space as its shape evolves. For example, the Koch snowflake has a fractal dimension of around 1.26.

What do fractals look like?

On the macroscopic scale, fractals can be seen as irregular, complex patterns at all scales and in all views, near or far. Some of the more remarkable examples of such patterns include the design of human fingerprints, the stumps of trees, in the shells of snails, the system of human



Many quantum phenomena are bound by Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, so it is impossible to know them with great certainty. According to this principle, we cannot obtain information about a particle's position, until we actively check for it

veins, the network of rivers as seen from high up, the splitting of veins in a plant leaf, the edges of a snowflake, a bolt of lightning going branching off in different directions, the shapes of clouds, the mixing of liquids of different viscosity, the way tumours grow in the body, and so on.

There are fractals in the quantum realm as well. In a study published in

2019, for example, researchers from Switzerland and the U.S. used X-rays to study the magnetic properties of a compound called neodymium nickel oxide. They erased its magnetic order (the parts of its internal order imposed by magnetic fields) and then restored it. To their surprise, they found that parts of the material's insides where the magnetisation was in the same direction - called magnetic domains - had a fractal arrangement. They also found that the domains reappeared in almost the same positions they were in before they were erased, as if the material had a memory. All these effects were due to the material's quantum physical properties.

Another example of fractal behaviour at the microscopic scale is available in graphene - a single-atom thick sheet of carbon atoms linked to each other. In this setting, the surface density pattern of electrons has an almost fractal distribution.

Applications of fractality

Historically, the first attempt to apply fractal analysis in physics was for Brownian motion - the rapid, random, zigzagging motion of small particles suspended in a liquid medium, like pollen in water. As such, the value of fractals is that they describe a new kind of order in systems that we may have otherwise overlooked.

They pave the way to potential new insights from otherwise familiar shapes like lines, planes, and points, in the unfamiliar milieu of a space with non-integer dimensions.

Researchers have also used the concept of fractality in data compression, such as to reduce the size of an image when storing it, and to design more compact antennae without compromising their performance. Some have also used fractality to study patterns in galaxies and planets and, in cell biology, to make sense of some bacteria cultures. Fractal geometry has also found applications in chromatography and ion-exchange processes, among others.

Fractals are rooted in geometry but - like the fractal growth of branches on trees - they have far-reaching implications, more so as they interact with different natural processes in a variety of settings. There are self-similar structures around us that become increasingly complex with time. You just need to slow down and look closer, and you might just glean some information that brings some quantum mystery into focus.

Qudsia Gani is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, Government College for Women, Srinagar.

THE GIST

Physicists use the fractal geometry approach to study quantum systems in dimensions like 1.55 or 1.58, or in fact anything between one and two dimensions

On the macroscopic scale, fractals can be seen as irregular, complex patterns at all scales and in all views, near or far. Some remarkable examples include human fingerprints, stumps of trees, human veins, river networks as seen from above, veins in a plant leaf, the edges of a snowflake, and so on

The value of fractals is that they describe a new kind of order in systems that we may have overlooked. They pave the way to potential new insights from otherwise familiar shapes like lines, planes, and points, in the unfamiliar milieu of a space with non-integer dimensions

ಸೈಬರ್ ವಂಚನೆ: 1.98 ಕೋಟಿ ಕಳಕೊಂಡ ಉದ್ಯಮಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಸೈಬರ್ ವಂಚಕರ ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲುಕಿದ ನಗರದ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು 1.98 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು,



ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಆಗ್ನೇಯ ಸೈಬರ್ ಎಕನಾಮಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ನಾರ್ಕೋಟಿಕ್ ಕ್ರೈಮ್ (ಸಿಇಎನ್) ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಉದ್ಯಮಿ ಚೇತನ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ (ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾ ಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ) ಎಂಬುವರಿಗೆ ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾರ್ಸಲ್ ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನೆಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯಮಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ನೆಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೈಬರ್ ವಂಚಕರು ಹಣವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ವಂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ಪೊಲೀಸರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಚೇತನ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಡಿ. 2ರಂದು ತಾನು ಫೆಡ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಬಾಯ್ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಸೈಪ್ ವೀಡಿಯೋ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ತೈವಾನ್ ನಿಂದ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಂಥೆಟಿಕ್ ಡ್ರಗ್ ಪಾರ್ಸಲ್



ಇಂತಹ ಫೇಕ್ ಕರೆಗಳು ಬಂದರೆ ಜನರು ತಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಡಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಬೇಕು. ನಿಜವಾದ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರೈಂ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಸೈಪ್ ಅಥವಾ ಫೋನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆರೋಪಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ನೀಡಿ ತಾಣೆಗೆ ಕರೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇಂತಹ ಕರೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಾಗ್ರತೆ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು.

- ಸಿ.ಕೆ.ಬಾಬಾ, ಆಗ್ನೇಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಉಪ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತ

ಬಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ. ಬಳಿಕ ಈ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂಬೈ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರೈಂ ಬ್ರಾಂಚ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿ ಕರೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದ.

ಬಳಿಕ ತಾನು ಮುಂಬೈ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರೈಂ ಬ್ರಾಂಚ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಸೈಪ್ ವೀಡಿಯೋ ಕರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರು ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿದೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಗೆ ಕೊರಿಯರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡ್ರಗ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತನಿಖೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕಿದ್ದು, ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಹಣ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡು

ವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಚೇತನ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ ಗಾಬರಿ ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಕಚೇರಿಯೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಟ ಚೇತನ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ ಸಂಜೆಯಾದರೂ ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಾರದೇ ಇದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಗಾಬರಿ ಗೊಂಡ ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿ ಪತಿಯನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರೈಂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿನವರು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದಾಗ ಆಕೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಗುರುತು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆಗ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಆಗಂತುಕರು, ನಿಮ್ಮಿಬ್ಬರನ್ನೂ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಒಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಬಳಿಕ ಇಬ್ಬರನ್ನೂ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿ, ಕೇಸು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಜೈಲಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿ ಅವರ ಖಾತೆಯಿಂದ 1.98 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಳಿಕ ತಾವು ವಂಚನೆಗೊಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಅರಿತ ಚೇತನ್‌ಶರ್ಮಾ ಐಟಿ ಕಾಯಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಐಪಿಸಿ ಅಡಿ ಆಗ್ನೇಯ ಸೈಬರ್ ಎಕನಾಮಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ನಾರ್ಕೋಟಿಕ್ ಕ್ರೈಮ್ (ಸಿಇಎನ್) ಠಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರು ದಾಖಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರಿಂ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟು

1ನೇ ಪುಟದಿಂದ ▶ ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ವಂಚಕರ ಹೆಡೆಮುರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ವಿಫಲರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಸಂಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಉನ್ನತ ಮೂಲಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ.

63.17 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ವಂಚನೆ: ನಾಗರಬಾವಿಯ ಜನಾರ್ದನ್‌ಗೆ (67) ನ.29ರಂದು ಅಪರಿಚಿತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಫೆಡೆಕ್ಸ್ ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಿ ಸೋಗಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಡೈವಾನ್‌ಗೆ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಪಾರ್ಸೆಲ್ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದಿದ್ದ ಕೆಲವೇ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೆಪ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಜನಾರ್ದನ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿದ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಅಪರಿಚಿತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಮುಂಬೈ ಪೊಲೀಸರಂತೆ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನಕಲಿ ವಾಕಿಟಾಕಿ, ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಐಡಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ನೆಪವೊಡ್ಡಿ ಜನಾರ್ದನ್‌ರಿಂದ ತನ್ನ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಆರ್

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾದ ಸೈಬರ್ ಕ್ರಿಂ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಅಂಕಿ-ಅಂಶ

ವರ್ಷ	ಪ್ರಕರಣ
2021	6,422
2022	9,940
2023	15,668

ಟಿಜಿಎಸ್ ಮೂಲಕ 63.17 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ವಂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾನೆ.

ಪಾರ್ಟ್ ಟೈಂ ಜಾಬ್‌ಗಾಗಿ 37 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಕಳಕೊಂಡ: ತುಂಗಾ ನಗರದ ಮೋಹನ್ (35) ಟೆಲಿಗ್ರಾಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರ್ಟ್ ಟೈಂ ಜಾಬ್ ಸಂದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಮರುಳಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಅಮೆಜಾನ್, ಫ್ಲಿಪ್‌ಕಾರ್ಟ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ರೇಟಿಂಗ್ ಇರುವ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ರೇಟಿಂಗ್ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕಮಿಷನ್ ನೀಡುವುದಾಗಿ ನಂಬಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ನಂತರ ವಿವಿಧ ಶುಲ್ಕದ ನೆಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂತ-ಹಂತವಾಗಿ ಮೋಹನ್‌ರಿಂದ 37.63 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ಗಳನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಜಮೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಬಳಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಗದೇ ವಂಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

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HEALTH



'Junk food ads for kids must be regulated'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

EXPOSURE to high-in-fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) food advertisements in India underscores the necessity for a robust regulatory framework to shield children from consumables portrayed as fun, relaxed, and exciting, according to a study in *The Lancet*.

The study emphasises the need to define 'junk food' as the marketing of HFSS foods negatively impacts consumption patterns, particularly among young children, leading to increased lifetime risks of weight gain, overweight, obesity, and non-communicable diseases.

Published in *The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia*, the study notes a higher prominence of single TV households in India, with TV co-viewership predominantly occurring between 6 pm and 11 pm. "Restricting HFSS advertisements from being displayed during this period may lead to a reduction in exposure among children," the study suggests.

In India, a dual burden exists with over nutrition — manifested as obesity or overweight — and undernutrition. Quoting the *World Obesity Atlas 2023*, which predicts an annual increase in the obesity rate among children to be 9.1 per cent between 2020 and 2035, the study says this could be attributed to

What The Lancet Study Says

Robust regulatory framework needed to control High-in-Fat, Salt and Sugar (HFSS) food ads in India targeting children

HFSS food marketing negatively impacts consumption patterns, increases risk of weight gain, obesity and non-communicable diseases

DAILY CALORIE CONSUMPTION IN INDIA IS BELOW THE RECOMMENDED 2503 KCAL/CAPITA/DAY, BUT PROCESSED FOODS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO TOTAL INTAKE

RESTRICT HFSS ADS BETWEEN 6 PM AND 11 PM DUE TO HIGHER TV CO-VIEWERSHIP AMONG INDIAN CHILDREN

India grapples with overnutrition and undernutrition, with 9.1% annual increase in childhood obesity predicted from

2020-35

Foreign players and aggressive marketing play role in exposing Indians to ultra-processed HFSS foods

Policies restricting food marketing to children are seen as cost-effective tools for shielding them from harmful influences

complex interactions among societal, environmental, food industry and individual factors.

The daily average calorie consumption in India falls below the recommended 2503 kcal/capita/day across all groups, irrespective of income, regions, and sectors — both rural and urban — except for the wealthiest 5 per cent of the population.

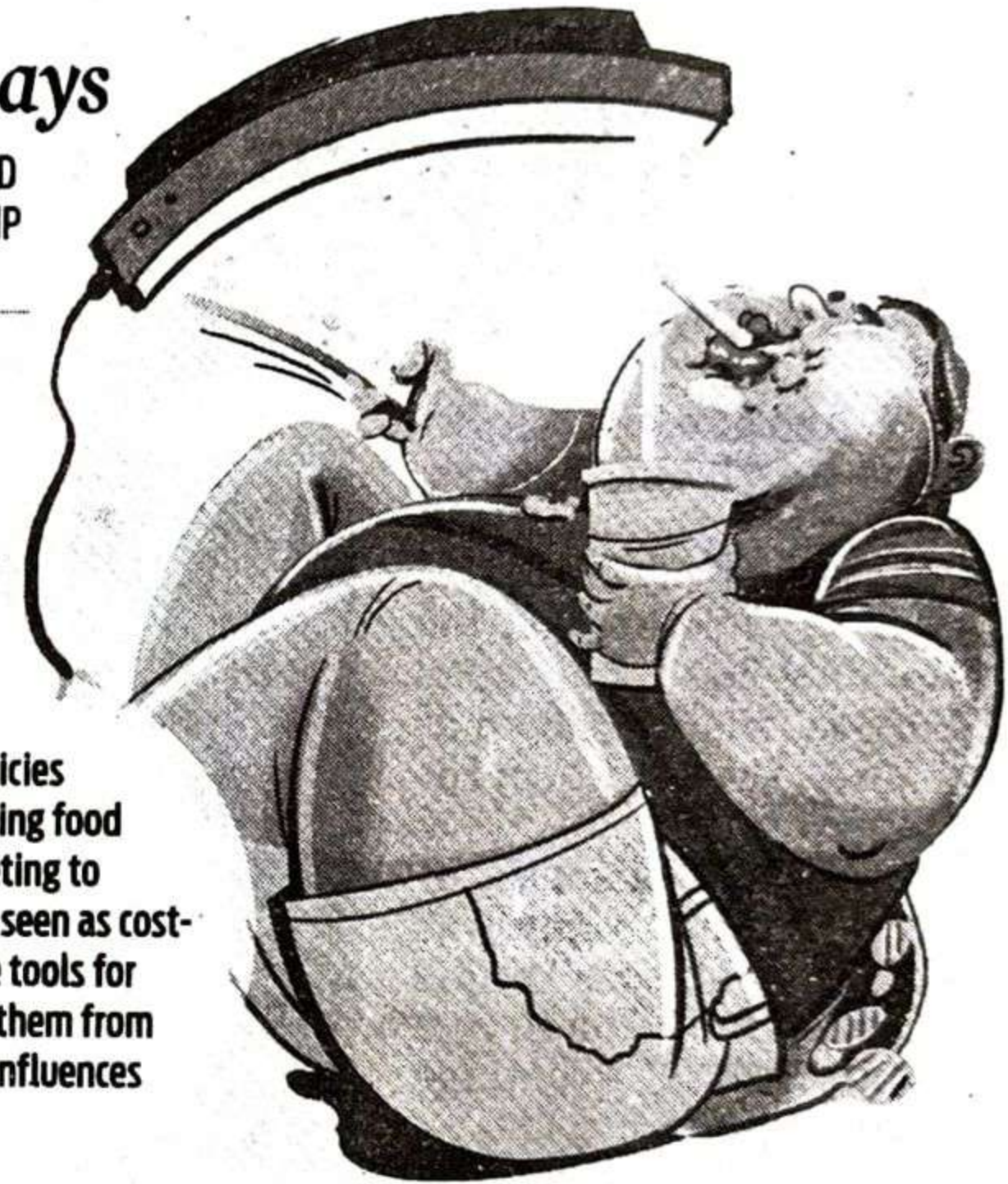
"It is worth noting that an average Indian household derives more calories from processed foods than fruits, highlighting their significant contribution

to total calorie intake. Due to the economic upsurge, the role of various foreign players in the food industry and aggressive marketing, Indians have been increasingly exposed to ultra-processed, high sugar, salt, and fat foods (HFSS)," the study reveals.

Authors from various institutions, highlight that policies restricting food marketing to children are the most cost-effective tools to protect children from harmful marketing encouraging unhealthy diets in the long term.

Upon reviewing regulations in India to protect children from harmful marketing of HFSS food, the authors found 13 policies — nine mandatory and four self-regulatory — that are relevant to advertising in the country.

However, the authors said, out of the nine mandatory policies, *Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022*, is the only policy restricting HFSS food advertisements to children across all media.



QUICK FIX

POTATO PEEL CHIPS



Contributed by **V Shivani**, Hyderabad

INGREDIENTS

- **Potato peel** : 2
- **Chilli powder**: 1/2 tsp
- **Salt**: 1 tsp
- **Chaat masala**: 1/2 tsp

METHOD

- Peel the potato and then wash it in salt water.
- Deep fry the washed potato peel in hot oil.
- Remove the peel from oil after it is fried, add salt, chilli powder and chaat masala.
- The dish is ready to serve.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengaluru-city-express@gmail.com

FIT BIT

KURMASANA PREP (TORTOISE POSE PREP)

It is beneficial for relieving stress and improving concentration. This pose opens the door to Pratyahara, the threshold to the inner world. The mind then becomes quiet and centered. The Kurmasana is a primary series of Ashtanga Yoga.

STEPS

- Sit in Dandasana (Staff Pose) with your legs spread out in front of you and keep your back erect.
- Take a few deep breaths. Move your legs away from each other. Bend your knee. Inhale and bring the arms from inside of the legs.
- While exhaling, bend forward slightly and put both your hands below the knees of the feet.
- While stretching your legs, grab onto the ankles by your arms from outside.
- Make sure that the upper body is slightly bent forward, and both the knees are pressing the upper arms.
- Look forward or on the floor. Relax and breathe deeply, staying in the pose for 30 to 40 seconds.
- Slowly, come out of the pose.

BENEFITS

- Helps increase the flexibility of the hips and pelvis.
- Beneficial for patients with asthma, constipation and flatulence.
- Helps improve memory by increasing blood flow to the brain.
- Helps the nervous system to function better and reduces stress.
- Helps those suffering from cervical disorders.
- Strengthens body parts like the shoulder, arms, legs, wrists, abdomen, hips and spine.
- Stretches chest, shoulders, upper back quadriceps, and abdomen.
- Helps strengthen the digestive system.

LIMITATIONS

Those with shoulder, back, arm or leg injury, and pregnant women, must avoid this.

People suffering from sciatica or chronic arthritis should avoid this.

Those suffering from herniated disks must avoid this.



By **N Elumalai**, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at **Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai**

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಸೋಂಕು ಡಬಲ್

• ತೃಪ್ತಿ ಕುಮ್‌ಗೋಡು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಏರುಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಪಾಸಿಟಿವ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 15 ಸಾವಿರದ ಗಡಿ ದಾಟಿದ್ದು, 9 ಮಂದಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಬಾರಿಯೂ ಮಳೆಗಾಲದ ಸಮಯವಾದ ಜುಲೈ, ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್, ನವೆಂಬರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ತುಸು ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮತ್ತೆ ಕೊಂಚ ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿರುವುದು ಆತಂಕ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡಿದೆ.

ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 7,792 ಮಂದಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 15,089 ಮಂದಿ ಡೆಂಫೀಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಡಗು, ಹಾಸನ, ತುಮಕೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಾ ಒಬ್ಬರು, ಉಡುಪಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 2021ರಲ್ಲಿ 6,300 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 5 ಮಂದಿ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ 8500 ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಪಾಸಿಟಿವ್ ಇದ್ದು, 9 ಮಂದಿ ಸಾವಿಗೀಡಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಭಾರೀ ಏರಿಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಕೇವಲ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ ಇದನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರೂ ಸಹಕಾರ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

• **ಡಾ. ಸುದರ್ಶನ ಬಲ್ಲಾಳ್, ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ**

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಣ್ಗಾವಲು ಘಟಕ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೊಳಿಸಿದ 2023ರ ಜ.1ರಿಂದ ನ.26ರವರೆಗಿನ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗದ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 9,166 ಸಾರಿ, 3,463 ಇನ್‌ಫ್ಲುಯೆನ್ಷಿಯಾ ಅತಿಸಾರ 1.32 ಲಕ್ಷ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಕಡಿತದಿಂದ 15,089 ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಡೆಂಫೀ, 1,458 ಮಂದಿಗೆ ಚಿಕೂನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯ, 225 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಮಲೇರಿಯಾ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. **▶ 7ನೇ ಪುಟಕ್ಕೆ**

ಸಿವಿಕ್ ಬೈಲಾ ಮರೆತ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಆಡಳಿತ

ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯಾಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ತಡೆಗೆ ಸಿವಿಕ್ ಬೈಲಾ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಿವಿಕ್ ಬೈಲಾ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿದರೂ, ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟು ಕ್ರಮಗಳಾಗಿರುವುದು ಬೆರಳೆಣಿಕೆ ಅಷ್ಟೆ. ಕೆಲವೊಂದು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿವಿಕ್ ಬೈಲಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನವೇ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಈ ಬೈಲಾ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆಯಾದರೆ ಮನೆ, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಆವರಣ, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೊಳ್ಳೆ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುವ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದರೆ, ಆ ಜಾಗದ ಮಾಲಿಕರಿಗೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯ ಜತೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಭಾರೀ ದಂಡ ವಿಧಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಡೆಂಫೀ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕಣ್ಗಾವಲು ಘಟಕದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಸರಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಜೀವರಕ್ಷಕ ಪೂರೈಸದ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಸಿಎಲ್
600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಮೊತ್ತದ 733 ಮೆಡಿಸಿನ್ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ

ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಔಷಧವಿಲ್ಲ

■ ಎಚ್.ಪಿ.ಪುಣ್ಯವತಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

punya.hp@timesgroup.com

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ವರ್ಷದ ಕೊನೆಯ ತ್ರೈಮಾಸಿಕ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧೀನದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ (ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಸಿಎಲ್) ಔಷಧಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರೈಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹಾವು, ನಾಯಿ ಕಡಿತದಂತಹ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್, ಹೃದಯಾಘಾತ ಮೊದಲಾದ ಗಂಭೀರ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಳಸುವ ಜೀವರಕ್ಷಕ ಔಷಧಗಳು ಸಿಗದೆ ಬಡ ರೋಗಿಗಳು ಪರದಾಡುವಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಔಷಧ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನೇ ಇನ್ನೂ ಮುಗಿಸದೇ ಇರುವುದೇ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣ. ಬಡರೋಗಿಗಳು ವೈದ್ಯರು ಬರೆದುಕೊಡುವ ಔಷಧಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗಡೆ ದುಬಾರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ತತ್ತು ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ಕೊನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಬರೋಬ್ಬರಿ 600 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೊತ್ತದ 733 ಔಷಧಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ.

ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಸಿಎಲ್ ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ನೂರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಡೇಜ್ ಕ್ಲಾತ್, ಕಾಟನ್, ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ ಗ್ಲಾಸ್, ಗ್ಲೂಕೋಸ್ ಬಾಟಲ್, ಆಂಟಿಬಯೋಟಿಕ್ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಲಕರಣೆ ಸೇರಿ ನಾನಾ ಔಷಧಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ತಾಲೂಕು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಸಮುದಾಯ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.



● ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಔಷಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಮಯ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಆ ರೀತಿ ಆಗದಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು.

- ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಎಸ್. ವಟಾರೆ
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ
ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ

ಯಾವ್ಯಾವ ಔಷಧಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ?

ಶ್ವಾಸಕೋಶ, ಕರುಳು, ರಕ್ತಹೀನತೆ, ಸರ್ಪಸುತ್ತು, ನ್ಯೂಮೋನಿಯಾ, ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್, ಆಸ್ತಮಾ, ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾಯಿಲೆ, ನಿದ್ರಾಹೀನತೆ, ರಕ್ತದೊತ್ತಡ, ಗರ್ಭಕೋಶ ರಕ್ತಸ್ರಾವ, ಹೃದಯಾಘಾತ, ಮೂಳೆ, ತುರಿಕೆ, ಫಂಗಸ್, ಮೈಗ್ರೇನ್, ಹುಣ್ಣು ನೋವು, ಶೀತ, ಅನೇಸಿಯಾ, ಹೃದಯ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ, ರಕ್ತಹೆಪ್ಪುಗಟ್ಟುಪಿಕೆ, ವಾಕರಿಕೆ, ಪಾಂತಿ, ಮಿದುಳು ಮತ್ತು ನರ, ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಸೋಂಕು ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಗಂಭೀರ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳ ನಿವಾರಿಸುವ ಔಷಧಗಳ ಅಭಾವ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ.

300 ರೂ.ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗೆ 3000 ರೂ. ದರ !

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮಗಿಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಔಷಧ ಮತ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳ 'ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್' ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಆರೋಪಗಳಿವೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ ಈ ಎರಡೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 3 ಸಾವಿರ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಗೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಖರೀದಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತವೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ತಮಗಿಷ್ಟ ಬಂದ ಔಷಧಗಳ, ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳ 'ಬ್ಯಾಂಡ್' ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಹೊಲಿಗೆಗೆ ಬಳಸುವ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ 300 ರೂ.ದರ ಇದ್ದರೆ, 3 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ, ಬೇರೆಬೇರೆ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳಿಗೂ ದುಬಾರಿ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸರಕಾರದ ಬೊಕ್ಕಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರೂ.ನಷ್ಟ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ವಂಚಕರಿಗೆ ದುರ್ಬಲ ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಲಾಭ | ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸ್ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1,436 ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು!

ನಿ ಬಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣ ಎನ್. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಹಾವಳಿ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಮಾಯಕರ ಜೀವದ ಜತೆ ಚೆಲ್ಲಾಟವಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಬೇರು ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 1,436 ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಇಂಥವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾದರೂ ಅಚ್ಚರಿಯಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮೂಲಗಳು, ದುರ್ಬಲ ಕಾನೂನಿನಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮಟ್ಟ ಹಾಕಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಅಸಹಾಯಕತೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಹಾವಳಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಇದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅದು ಕಾಗದದ ಹುಲಿಯಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಇದರ

- ಕಾಗದದ ಹುಲಿಯಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದ ಕಾನೂನು
- ಪ್ರಭಾವಿಗಳು, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರಿಂದ ಸಹಾಯ
- ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗ್ಧ ಜನರಿಂದ ವಂಚನೆ



ದುರ್ಲಾಭ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಂಚಕರು ಕಾನೂನುಬಾಹಿರವಾಗಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾ ಜನರ ಜೀವ ತೆಗೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂಥ ನಯವಂಚಕರ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ 'ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ಮತ್ತು ಯುನಾನಿ ವೈದ್ಯ ಮಂಡಳಿ' ರಚಿಸಿದೆ. → 8

ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ತಜ್ಜರ ಸಲಹೆಗಳು

- ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಪೊಲೀಸ್, ಖಾಸಗಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಸಂಘದ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆಯನ್ನು ತಾಲೂಕು ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ರಚಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಗ್ರಾಪಂನಿಂದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದವರೆಗೆ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ದೂರು ನೀಡುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಜಾರಿಯಾಗಬೇಕು.
- ವೈದ್ಯರ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸ್‌ಗೆ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ನವೀಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ.
- ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳ ವೈದ್ಯ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸ್ ಮಾಡುವವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನಿಗಾ ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಿಮಿನಲ್ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ಜೈಲಿಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸ್ ಮಾಡದಂತೆ ಅಜೀವ ನಿಷೇಧ ಹೇರಬೇಕು.





Business Finance

Tata Hitachi to indigenously develop electric excavator: MD

The push towards electric vehicles has made its presence felt in the realm of public transport, with more of these bikes, cars and buses hitting the Indian roads. However, this endeavour has left the heavy machinery and construction equipment sector largely untouched. Against this backdrop, Tata Hitachi Construction Co Pvt Ltd's managing director, Sandeep Singh tells *DH's* Gyanendra Keshri of his company's baby step in the direction of greening its sector, with India's first indigenously produced electric excavator. He also delves into the impact of the upcoming general elections on infrastructure development in the country.

Edited excerpts.

Elections are known to disrupt the pace of infrastructure de-

velopment. How do you see the upcoming Lok Sabha elections impacting action on the ground and your sector?

Normally, two months prior to election and two months after election there is a slowdown in construction activities. However, in the coming few months the pace will go up as the government would like to finish most of the projects that they have announced. So for the current financial year, we are bullish. Some parts of March may be impacted if elections are conducted as per schedule. The impact

of the four months of slowdown will be felt mostly in the next financial year. This year we are looking at good growth.

What kind of growth are you expecting for the construction equipment sector this fiscal?

Last financial year, India's construction equipment sale crossed one lakh mark in terms of volume. This year we are looking at an average 12-13% growth. For Tata Hitachi we are looking at 8-10% growth, because some of the equip-

ment we don't manufacture. On a value term we are looking at 12-13% growth at Tata Hitachi. I am talking about the domestic market. Some of the manufacturers in construction equipment have substantial exports. If you add the exports number, the growth will be much higher.

What is the outlook for exports?

We are mainly exporting to SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries, Middle East and African countries. In Africa, it's mainly to North West and East Africa. We are expecting increased focus on exports when there is low domestic demand due to the election. However, in the case of Tata Hitachi the export numbers are not very significant, because we have our plants across the

world, we have our distribution channels across the world.

While road transport is increasingly leaning towards green energy, how has the construction equipment segment moved in this direction?

We are working on futuristic technology. Tata Hitachi is the first company in India to develop electric excavators. We will showcase a prototype of an electric mini excavator at Excon 2023 event to be held in Bengaluru from 12-16 December. We will take decisions on commercial production depending on the response from customers and dealers. We will also have to go through a test cycle and approval from our parent company Hitachi Construction Machinery.



Sandeep Singh

NEW YEAR IS HERE!

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

INVESTING needs you to understand the impact of the macro and micro events on your money. The world in 2024 is likely to see more uncertainty as regional conflicts continue, trade disruptions lead to new supply chains, and **global inflation remains high. It is a strange situation as we enter the New Year. Equity prices are at a record high. Bond yields are at a record high, too. Gold prices and crypto prices are surging to new levels. The simultaneous surge in these indicators shows a confused outlook. As an investor, you must be more selective about your asset classes.**

India and the world in 2024

India is more interconnected to the world than ever before. Many experts predict a dramatic selloff in global equity prices in 2024. Indian shares are currently defying all logic and rallying. However, it is hard for Indian equities to stay immune to a global selloff. India's mutual fund investors are saving and investing with a gusto. For several months, systematic investment plans have contributed an average of \$2bn per month to net inflows in equity markets. That is countering any selloff by foreign portfolio investors. If America goes for a soft-landing of the econo-

my, the world will breathe a sigh of relief. However, business profits could come under pressure if inflation remains persistently high and interest rates stay elevated well within 2024. That could trigger a global selloff in equity markets in anticipation.

As an investor, you must look at any selloff as an opportunity. Most individuals tend to enter equity markets when prices are at a peak. You must continue with systematic investments if you are not an active investor in the market. Even if equity prices fall, you can continue to buy at lower levels.

India's inflation outlook continues to show risks. The Reserve Bank of India expects food prices to remain elevated in the next

few quarters. If you look at expert views, inflation is unlikely to fall below 5% in 2024. That should tell you that interest rates are unlikely to be cut. The RBI's monetary policy committee will be unlikely to favour lowering key borrowing rates. That means the cost of housing, car loans and other loans are unlikely to be lower than in 2023.

RBI has cautioned banks and non-banking finance companies on small-ticket unsecured loans and their potential risk to the financial system. For now, RBI merely encourages financial institutions to do internal stress tests. These are indicators of a worry that the banking system could become pressured if retail borrowing

rises rapidly and individuals cannot pay up. The RBI committee does everything to maintain price stability.

Significant nations, including India, will witness general elections in 2024. India's general elections will put the election commission's code of conduct across India once dates are announced in January 2024. That means no major policy initiatives would be taken till the new government is in place in May 2024.

The Budget on 1 February would be a vote on account. The new government would present the full budget in June or July 2024. The election victory of the BJP in three key states in North India triggered a rally in the stock market. Financial markets are looking for continuity and stability from the new government. Expert commentary from those tracking Indian markets in India and abroad suggests a 10-15% gain in equity prices if the present National Democratic Alliance led by the BJP wins a third term. If a new government comes, share prices could fall until there is clarity on the economic agenda.

It is likely to be volatile in 2024. Share prices are trading at a record high, and there is limited headroom for any significant rally. Your finances are protected on the downside due to high-interest rates and high returns on fixed deposits and government bonds. You may want to continue with your regular, systematic investments and keep some cash to buy quality stocks if there is a selloff in 2024. A professional advisor can help you make the proper allocation in 2024.



SOURAV ROY

Startups propel EV financing as retail credit remains constrained

Small scale lenders dish out tech enabled loans to cushion loan scarcity

ANJALI JAIN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Electric vehicle adoption in India is growing by the month according to recent sales figures but a lack of liquidity in the market for this nascent industry is causing roadblocks in larger accessibility. EVs are already higher priced than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles due to non-localisation of the battery supply chains, which make up for almost half of an EV's cost. Added to that mix is the absence of a resale market and limited understanding of the technology, leading to banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFC) steering clear of the sector or charging higher interest rates. In the absence of traditional lenders, a market for EV financing startups is forming, faced with its own unique challenges.

As per a recent NITI Aayog report, the interest on auto loans charged by auto makers on electric two-wheelers (2W), which have seen the highest uptick in adoption, ranged from 12.2-21%, which is significantly higher than the rates charged for ICE 2W, which is between 8.85-17.8%, an average difference of 1.4%. As per experts in the sector, the reluctance and higher lending rates are due to several perceived risks of both borrowers and the asset.

"A vehicle not performing within its perceived life cycle (with battery life impacting performance) makes it difficult for banks to service the loan, as the risk of non payment increases, especially in the case of B2B use, where the life of the vehicle has a significant impact on how your profit and loss structures work. Also, in the event of a default, their ability to repossess and re-deploy from a value perspective comes down if the vehicle is not meeting the criteria of what it should originally be," Sandeep Divakaran, chief executive officer, of EV financing firm Greaves Finance Ltd pointed out.

The reluctance of banks has led to private financiers in the startup space taking charge to fulfil the needs of aspiring EV-owners, many of whom are tying up with manufacturers and NBFCs to extend credit where banks wouldn't. A number of them are using tech-enabled tools to not just provide personalised loans, but also add features such as guaranteed buybacks, discount on insurance, and cheaper upgrades to newer models and



features, among other attractive benefits.

Many of these financiers receive investments from companies overseas that are looking to earn carbon credits and help their ESG scores.

"The credit inflow for such efforts is getting traction globally because your entire business model revolves around impact investment and climate change. That attracts a lot of foreign investors and a lot of these larger funds and global companies are very interested in looking at this market," said Nehal Gupta, director at EV financing provider AMU Leasing and EMFAI (Electric Mobility Financiers Association of India).

Even then, commercial fleet operators are getting a larger slice of this cake, due to their pre-existing tie ups with lenders and lower total cost of ownership and residual value risk.

"The market for commercial fleets is more near term in nature and the fastest to transition to electric. It's largely because of the total cost of ownership being far superior. Because, when you are travelling longer distances, which in the case of fleets will be 80-150 kilometres per day, versus passenger vehicles is about 20 to 40 kilometres per day, you will see that the economics of fuel costs versus charging makes a lot more sense because capex cost of vehicles varies," said Dev Arora, co-founder and chief executive of EV leasing platform of Alt Mobility.

Comparatively, the growth in the retail sector has remained constrained due to the factors mentioned earlier and the high costs not being offset by higher usage unlike commercial vehicles. According to experts, policy changes would be required to accelerate financing such as including EVs under priority sector lending, which would increase capital availability and reduce interest rates, according to Divankar.

In the absence of that, banks are unlikely to step into the sector till the growth opportunity is clear as it currently represents only a small fraction of the larger automobile lending business, which is perceived to carry much lower underwriting risk. While experts believe smaller entities will eventually be eaten up in the longer run, they will have to show a discernible business model, for which technology is expected to be heavily leveraged.

How quantum mechanics can help negotiate the stock market

The principles can crystallise algorithms & help analyse the price trends

SOORAJ SINGH GURJAR

If you are familiar with the algorithms at play for social media platforms to ply you with advertisements, know that you too can use the technique to sift through the data the internet throws at you to tailor them to your needs and interests. Stock market is one place where the magic of algorithms is being increasingly captured. Technical trading in the stock market, done by analysing candlestick charts and the hidden demand supply forces, can also be done by deploying the knowledge of relative theory and quantum physics.

Quantum trading

Put simply, this uses computing algorithms and principles to negotiate the financial market. It brings physics theories into stock trading. Unlike every other form of technical trading strategy, it is not a defined concept. Rather it is a roadmap that allows you to explore the enigmatic stock market. Quantum concepts have helped people understand how everything that exists in the world is created and functions almost in the same manner. With the advancements in the studies, the experts have now found a way to connect financial markets with concepts of quantum mechanics. This has helped people view the market from different perspectives, making it easy for them to analyse the technical candlestick charts.

The borrowed principles

The law of uncertainty: Quantum mechanics first discovered and stated that the absolute place of a particle cannot be identified with utmost precision. This means there is always uncertainty in the



particle. Similarly in the financial market and stock market, nothing is stable and it works parallel with the principle of quantum mechanics. The uncertainty in the stock market is stimulated by financial news, demand and supply, and economic events.

Entanglement and interconnectedness: In quantum mechanics, interconnectedness refers to the phenomena of entanglement between two or more particles. These entanglements make both particles codependent on each other, resulting in the cooperative nature of working. When we compare this with the stock market, it can be seen how demand and supply are completely connected.

The demand and supply of the stocks are inversely proportional to each other. Once you've learnt to identify where the reliable demand zone or supply zone is forming you can make good profits out of it with tested strategy.

Quantum inspired algorithm & analysis

Researchers have been relating the concepts of superposition and parallel processing of quantum mechanics with technical trading to design algorithms. These algorithms aim to improve the trade strategies of the trader with automation. It is possible by taking into account the wide

data of the stock market and speculating on each and every move.

The concept of superposition allows technical traders to consider different possibilities in the stock market at once. Further, the concept of parallel processing considers multiple computations at once.

By leveraging these concepts of quantum mechanics traders can navigate the market better. *The core reason behind this is, that they can consider the hidden opportunities, and the automated practices can help them in implementing their methods. Furthermore, improved risk management can also be applied with the help of these algorithms.*

A parting advice

It is critical to proceed with caution when considering the link between quantum mechanics and the stock market. Parallels between the two fields are frequently based on abstract concepts and analogies rather than actual scientific links. The application of quantum principles in financial analysis and trading methods is still under investigation, and practical implementations of quantum-inspired approaches to understanding or predicting market behaviour are in their early phases.

(The writer is Founder and Managing Director, Get Together Finance)

TECHNICAL VIEWS

Nifty Looks Set for a 21K Close, Dips a Buy Call

The Nifty is expected to close above 21,000 for the first time ever this week after briefly crossing this milestone on Friday. After surging by 3.46% last week and hitting a record high on Friday, the index is anticipated to sustain its bullish momentum, potentially advancing to 21,202-21,447 levels, according to technical analysis. Should there be a correction toward the support range of 20,800 to 20,734, experts recommend seizing it as a buying opportunity. Stocks such as Alkem, Sun Pharma, Titan, Federal Bank, SBI, TVS Motors, and HCL Tech are each considered to present potential opportunities for investors, analysts said.

JATIN GEDIATECHNICAL ANALYST,
SHAREKHAN**Where is the Nifty headed this week?**

Going by the Fibonacci extension, we believe that the current leg of up move has the potential to stretch higher to levels of 21,202-21,447. Considering the sharp rally, a brief consolidation appears highly probable. However, sector rotation and stock-specific action are

likely to help the index head higher steadily. In case of a dip towards the support zone of 20,800-20,734, it should be used as a buying opportunity as the overall structure is bullish until it holds above the 20,600-20,530 zone.

What should investors do?

From a sectoral point of view, we expect the financial services, IT, metals and PSU banking sector stocks to head higher, while FMCG and pharma

stocks could take a back seat from a short-term perspective.

Buy Federal Bank with a stop loss of ₹150 for a target of ₹163-169. Buy Macrotech Developers with a stop loss of ₹890 for a target of ₹990-1,029. Buy Cholamandalam Investment with a stop loss of ₹1,128 for a target of ₹1,218-1,259. Sell Indus Tower November Future at ₹170 with a stop loss of ₹174 for a target of ₹162.

**CHANDAN TAPARIA**ANALYST-DERIVATIVES, MOTILAL
OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES**Where is the Nifty headed this week?**

The major trend of the market is positive along with respect to all the immediate support zones, which indicates an ex-

tension of an ongoing market rally into new high territories. Mechanical indicators are slightly overbought on the daily scale but still hold a bullish stance, indicating strength of price and momentum. Now, till the index holds above 20,700 zones, use any small decline as a buying opportunity for a

further upside move towards 21,250 and 21,500 zones, while on the downside, major support exists at 20,500 zones. The FII Index long-to-short ratio increased above 50% along with recovery in the global equity market, fresh buying and short covering activities in the domestic market.

What should investors do?

Sector-wise, a bullish setup was mainly seen in the power, energy, PSU and IT sectors. Stock-wise, a positive setup is seen in Titan, HCL Tech, SBI, Canara Bank, RBL Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Axis Bank and Bharat Forge.

OMKAR PATILTECHNICAL & DERIVATIVE
ANALYST, ASHIKA STOCK
BROKING**Where is the Nifty headed this week?**

The Nifty has showcased an impressive performance, securing gains for the sixth consecutive week with a substantial surge of 3.46%, propelling it to a new record high. Notably, it successfully emerged from a consolidation phase that extended from July to November without compromising its upward trajectory, demonstrating no structure of lower lows and lower highs. While indicators suggest a potential overbought condition, indicating a minor pause or pullback, the overall medium-term outlook

for the Nifty remains positive, contingent on it staying above the critical 20,500 level. Immediate challenges lie in the form of psychological resistance at 21,000, followed by 21,400, presenting short-term hurdles.

What should investors do?

In the broader markets, there is evident strength, hinting at the prospect of sustained momentum in the near future. Sectors poised to lead the index include pharma, health-care, and auto, while IT emerges unexpectedly as a strong contender. Noteworthy stocks to monitor closely amid this market scenario are Alkem, Sun Pharma, TVS Motors, and HCL Tech, each presenting potential opportunities for investors.

Freebie politics will take a toll on economy: Dhankhar

Vice-President attacks some global entities for treating India unfairly, names corruption as the greatest threat to human rights; Indian governance is free from corruption, nepotism, he says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The politics of so-called freebies for which “we see a mad race” distort expenditure priorities, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday. He was speaking at an event organised by the National Human Rights Commission to mark the 75th Human Rights Day. He said there was a need to empower human minds and human resources and not just people’s pockets.

Cautious about the upsurge in freebie politics, Mr. Dhankhar said that this would undermine the basic framework of macroeconomic stability. “Empowerment of pocket through fiscal grants only increases dependence,” he said, encouraging the NHRC to catalyse a healthy national debate on freebie politics and come up with a paper on the issue.

The Vice-President expressed concern over the



Jagdeep Dhankhar attends the National Human Rights Commission event to mark Human Rights Day in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

“pernicious narratives and external calibrations” by individuals gauging India’s progress from air-conditioned and closed chambers, detached from the “index of hope, optimism, and confidence” fostered by government policies.

‘Free from corruption’

Mr. Dhankhar said that it pained him to see India being treated unfairly by some global entities. He urged India’s critics to delve deep into the nation’s performance on human rights and not merely

scratch the surface.

He also said that he wanted “such entities” to take note of “India’s governance model that is free from corruption, favouritism, nepotism”. “It’s dictated by transparency, accountability and merit,” he said.

Terming corruption the greatest danger to human rights, Mr. Dhankhar added that the long-time bane of corruption in India had now been contained.

He also highlighted the positive changes taking place in India in the advan-

cement of human rights, asserting its position as a “role model” for the world. Referring to transparency and accountable governance as a “game-changer” for the promotion of human rights, especially for vulnerable sections of society, the Vice-President said that the use of technology in service delivery had also played an instrumental role in fortifying this advancement.

Mr. Dhankhar termed the Union government’s scheme to provide gas connections to poor households as a “transformative revolution”. He also praised the massive infrastructural growth as quintessential for the “proliferation and empowerment of human rights”.

Recognising the appointment of a tribal woman as the President of India as a testament to human rights, the Vice-President concluded by emphasising that human rights were a collective endeavour.

Switzerland, Norway Ministers arriving for dialogue on trade

Four-nation EFTA grouping of Nordic countries has stepped up trade negotiations; the grouping has signed pact with 30 countries; officials say cutting down trade tariffs, mobility of services, opening market access remain unresolved

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

As Trade Ministers from Switzerland and Norway visit Delhi this week, officials say they remain optimistic of reaching an agreement on a trade pact with Nordic countries in the next few months, though several outstanding issues remain and Indian trade negotiators are busy trying to close free trade agreements with the U.K. and Australia.

Talks about the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India, and the four European countries which make up the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), outside the European Union (EU) – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – began 15 years ago, and despite 20 rounds of negotiations, they have not yet been closed, with attempts to sign an agreement before the general election due in India in early 2024.



Narendra Modi and President of Swiss Confederation Alain Berset in Dubai during the COP-28 summit. X/@NARENDRAMODI

Sources said this week would be a “critical moment” in whether the India-EFTA negotiations can find a breakthrough. The four-nation grouping has already signed 30 free trade agreements (FTAs) with other countries, and has ongoing negotiations with India, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Kosovo and the South American MERCOSUR.

The two-day visit of Norwegian Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre and Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Helene Budliger Artieda on Tuesday follows a visit by Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) Sanjay Verma to Switzerland and Liechtenstein for Foreign Office Consultations on December 7 and 8 where the India-EFTA TEPA and BIT were discussed.

“Both sides appreciated the ongoing discussions on India-EFTA TEPA and Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Switzerland,” the MEA said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met with President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset on the sidelines of the COP-28 climate summit in Dubai on December 1.

Officials declined to comment on where the logjam in talks is at present. However, they said cutting down trade tariffs, mobility of services and opening market access for companies on both sides remain unresolved.

“Regarding trade in goods, India applies high tariffs on many of the EFTA countries’ exports. We obviously look for a substantial reduction of trade barriers, particularly for such high-value-added products as machine tools, advanced chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Swiss chocolate, Norwegian and Icelandic fish, and so on,” Ms. Artieda told PTI in an interview earlier this year.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said India’s relatively small pool of skilled trade negotiators comprising officials in the Commerce and Industries Ministry and the MEA have been stretched thin with other negotiations which are still dragging on. The India-U.K. FTA talks, which were earlier meant to be “completed by Deepavali”

in 2022, are still not ready for signing, although officials have been meeting regularly to resolve issues on tariffs, Rules of Origin, and market access for the U.K. legal and financial service firms to India.

India-EU talks over a comprehensive Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) are also moving slowly, though the EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, who led a delegation to Delhi last week, said he was hopeful of an agreement in 2024.

In addition, despite signing an Early Harvest Agreement more than a year ago, the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic and Commercial Agreement (CECA) has still not been signed. U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is due for a bilateral visit to India and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is due to travel to India for the Quad summit in 2024, and officials say they are trying to complete the agreements before the visits are finalised.

Government seeks ideas from youth on making India developed nation by 2047

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Prime Minister's Vision Document 2047 is likely to be unveiled in January, as the government has decided to seek ideas from the youth, who would be ultimate beneficiaries of the Vision Document.

The government has sought ideas from youth on three key questions – How a Viksit Bharat should look like in 2047, what we need to do to reach this goal and what you can do to make Viksit Bharat@2047 possible.

As part of the initiative, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 'Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth' on 11 December 2023 at 10:30 AM via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister will also address the Vice Chancellors of the Universities, Heads of Institutes and faculty members in workshops organised at Raj Bhawans across the country, which will symbolise the start of the initiative.

Chief Executive officer of



Niti Aayog BVR Subrahmanyam, which is drafting the vision document, said that most consultations with industries and other ministries have been completed, and the draft document is almost ready.

"However, it was felt that it is important to channelise the innovative ideas of youth into nation-building by inviting them to ideate and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047," said the Niti

Aayog CEO.

According to him, the outreach initiative provides an opportunity to lakhs of youth across India to share their ideas at Viksit Bharat@2047.

Subrahmanyam said that as India stands at a crucial juncture, poised to take off on its growth trajectory, there is enormous work that needs to be undertaken in a mission mode to make India a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

ENTRY AT PEAK RATES to offer capital gains as and when cuts happen; stagger flows with two-thirds of folio for short-term funds to earn attractive coupons, say advisers

RBI's Prolonged Pause Hint may be a Good Time for Long Duration Debt

Prashant Mahesh

Mumbai: Fixed-income investors could buy mutual fund debt schemes that bet on medium and long-term bonds in a staggered manner as fund managers believe interest rates have peaked with the Reserve Bank of India on an extended pause in its monetary policy stance.

Fund managers believe this strategy gives investors the chance to earn a high carry and capital appreciation on their long-duration bonds as and when the RBI cuts rates later next year.

Debt funds that invest in medium and long-term bonds include categories like corporate bond funds, banking and PSU debt funds, long-term funds and gilt funds.

In the latest monetary policy, RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50% after having raised the repo rate by 250 basis points since May 2022.

"Given the fact that India's growth is pretty robust with inflation also under control, RBI is likely to be on long pause," said Puneet Pal, head-fixed income at PGIM India Mutual Fund.

Fund managers believe the Indian economy is on a strong growth path, with the central bank raising the GDP growth forecast for the year from 6.5% to 7% and are confident of robust growth. India is well placed in the global context with high forex reserves, and with crude prices softening and import bills coming down, it has strengthened the country's external conditions.

Top Performers

Medium-to-Long Duration Fund	1-Y Ret (%)	Net Assets (₹ cr)
ICICI Prudential Bond	7.42	2,921
SBI Magnum Income	7.29	1,697
Kotak Bond	7.18	1,771
Nippon India Income	6.87	266
LIC MF Medium to Long Duration	6.61	185

As on December 8, 2023

Source: Value Research



MAHESH B

However, Pal believes that rate cuts in India will start only after the easing cycle has begun in the advanced economies, which he expects from the second or third quarter of 2024. "Bond yields tend to react in advance of the start of a rate-cutting cycle and thus we believe it is the right time for investors to start increasing their allocation to fixed income, especially at the longer end of the curve," added Pal.

Fund managers believe investors should not put their entire money in one go, but stagger their investments to take advantage of any interim volatility.

"With corporate bonds yielding 7.75% returns are lucrative and can beat inflation. Investors should stagger their investments over the next 2-3 months," said Sandeep Bagla, CEO of Trust Mutual Fund.

Fund managers believe at the current levels, returns from fixed income across the yield curve are high and attractive and

offer real returns to investors.

"Investors may look at the 2 to 5 years segment as their core allocation as it provides an opportunity to capture prevailing high yields while getting less impacted by the volatility at the longer end," said Vikas Garg, head-fixed Income at Invesco Mutual Fund.

As part of their strategic allocation financial planners suggest a mix of short-term as well as long-duration funds.

"Investors should put in two-thirds of their portfolio into short-term funds and one-third to long-duration funds," said Vishal Dhawan, founder of Plan Ahead Wealth Advisors.

The short-term portfolio will help them earn an attractive coupon with low volatility and the long-duration funds, will help them earn a capital appreciation as and when rate cuts happen.

prashant.mahesh@timesgroup.com

ಏಳು ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಎಂಕ್ಯಾಪ್ ₹3 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ (ಪಿಟಿಐ): ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ 10 ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಏಳು ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಸಂಯೋಜಿತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯವು (ಎಂ-ಕ್ಯಾಪ್) ಕಳೆದ ವಾರ ₹3.04 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ವೃದ್ಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್‌ಐಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಗಳಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿರುವ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ವಾರ ಮುಂಬೈ ಷೇರುಪೇಟೆ ಸೂಚ್ಯಂಕ (ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಇ) 2,334

ಅಂಶಗಳಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿತ್ತು. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಏಷ್ಚು ಗಳಿಕೆ?: ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ₹74,076 ಕೋಟಿ, ಎಲ್‌ಐಸಿ ₹65,558 ಕೋಟಿ, ಐಸಿಐಸಿಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ₹45,466 ಕೋಟಿ, ಟಿಸಿಎಸ್ ₹42,737 ಕೋಟಿ, ರಿಲಯನ್ಸ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ₹42,454



ಕೋಟಿ, ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ (ಎಸ್‌ಬಿಐ) ₹37,617 ಕೋಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ಫೋಸಿಸ್ ₹15,916 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಎಂ-ಕ್ಯಾಪ್ ಗಳಿಸಿವೆ.

ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ತಾನ್ ಯೂನಿಲಿವರ್ ₹9,884 ಕೋಟಿ, ಭಾರ್ತಿ ಎರ್ಟೆಲ್ ₹8,569 ಕೋಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಐಟಿಸಿ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ₹935 ಕೋಟಿಯಷ್ಟು ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಮುಖ 10 ಕಂಪನಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ರಿಲಯನ್ಸ್ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಸ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ ಮೌಲ್ಯಯುತ ಕಂಪನಿ ಎಂಬ ಹೆಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ನಂತರದ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟಿಸಿಎಸ್, ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಐಸಿಐಸಿಐ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಇನ್ಫೋಸಿಸ್, ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ತಾನ್ ಯೂನಿಲಿವರ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಭಾರ್ತಿ ಎರ್ಟೆಲ್, ಐಟಿಸಿ, ಎಸ್‌ಬಿಐ ಮತ್ತು ಎಲ್‌ಐಸಿ ಇವೆ.



City survive Luton scare

Two goals in quick succession help defending champs mount comeback

LUTON, AFP

Jack Grealish ensured Manchester City ended their four-game winless run as the Premier League champions survived a scare from Luton in their 2-1 victory on Sunday.

With Erling Haaland absent due to injury, Pep Guardiola's side trailed to Elijah Adebayo's goal late in the first half at Kenilworth Road.

But, after squandering a host of chances, City finally clicked into gear with two goals in three minutes after the break.

Silva equalised and Grealish bagged the winner to give City a much-needed first victory in five league matches.

Despite their lowly position this season, Luton have been a tough proposition at home on their return to the top-flight after a 31-year absence.



Manchester City's Jack Grealish celebrates after scoring the winner against Luton Town on Sunday. REUTERS

Josko Gvardiol allowed Andros Townsend too much time on the right flank and the Luton winger's cross reached the far post, where Adebayo climbed above Ruben Dias and Kyle Walker to head home.

Dias thumped a free-kick against the bar to foreshadow City's impending revival and they drew level in the 62nd minute.

Rodri was the catalyst with a rampaging run into the Luton area and when the ball broke for Silva, he curled a fine finish into the far corner.

Three minutes later, City's comeback was complete as

appeals for handball against Julian Alvarez were ignored before the Argentine's low cross reached Grealish for a clinical close-range finish.

Atletico scrape through

Atletico Madrid climbed provisionally third in La Liga with a tight 2-1 win over bottom-of-the-table Almeria on Sunday.

Diego Simeone's Rojiblancos took an early two-goal lead through Alvaro Morata and Angel Correa, but Leo Baptistao pulled Almeria into the game after an hour.

Atletico held on for the victory as the Andalusian strugglers threatened to pull level.



Manchester City's midfielder Bernardo Silva celebrates his team second goal | AFP

Man City end winless run

AGENCIES @ London

MANCHESTER City survived a scare at Luton to end their four-match winless run in the Premier League with a 2-1 victory, while Chelsea's problems mounted with a 2-0 defeat at Everton on Sunday. With star striker Erling Haaland absent due to injury, Pep Guardiola's side trailed to Elijah Adebayo's goal late in the first half.

But, after squandering a host of chances, City finally clicked into gear with two goals in three minutes after the break.

Bernardo Silva equalised and Jack Grealish bagged the winner to give City a much-needed first win in five league matches. After their lethargic 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa, which followed draws with Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham, City were in danger of falling out of the title race.

Liverpool's win at Crystal Palace on Saturday had moved the leaders seven points clear of City. But fourth-placed City responded with a gritty display to close the gap on Liverpool to four points.

Familiar failings cost India despite learnings

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

WITH the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh less than a year away, every move made by the Indian team management will come under the lens. Especially as the new coach Amol Muzumdar takes charge, India can test their options with a fresh approach and pick the best possible squad for the marquee event. There are more learnings from the first series of the Mazumdar-Harmanpreet Kaur era, even as England bagged the three-match T20I series in Mumbai.

Playing their first bilateral T20I series since the tour of Bangladesh in July this year, India were repeating similar mistakes from a year ago when they faced World Cup champions Australia for five T20Is. After making a great start with the ball, in the middle overs, they let go of all the pressure built in the powerplay. It has always been the case with the team and that could be one of the earliest tasks for Muzumdar. Renuka Singh Thakur



Shreyanka Patil grabbed 3/19 against England on Sunday | PTI

coming back from a long injury break has done her job early on with seven wickets but she has not been that effective otherwise. With the series against Australia and the eventual WC coming up, the management needs to look at Thakur as a reliable option in the death overs.

Staying true to his word about giving opportunities to players, the coach did give opportunities to Saika Ishaque and Shreyanka Patil. The two spinners who came through the ranks of the Women's Premier League have certainly made an impact with five wickets each. In what was Titas Sad-

hu's first big assignment as a bowler, she has learned a few valuable lessons that will come in handy going forward. While the experienced duo of Deepti Sharma and Pooja Vastrakar could not impress, they are vital for India.

India's batting in this series has proven again that at least one of the top four batters needs to stay longer for them to have any chance of putting in a strong total or chasing one. With Shafali Verma taking her time and running out of partners in the first T20I, India fell well short of the target, even when the opener made her first half-century against the full-

Brief scores:
England 126 all out in 20 ovs (Heather 52; Shreyanka 3/19, Saika 3/22) **lost to** India 130/5 in 19 ovs (Smriti 48, Jemimah 29, Amanjot Kaur 13 n.o).

member nation since December 2022. Taking a leaf out of opposition captain Heather Knight's book, Mandhana stayed rooted at the crease till the 17th over in the final T20I and India chased down the small total in the second innings. The known weakness in the side has historically put pressure on the top four. There is enough caliber available for India in the middle overs with the likes of Richa Ghosh, Amanjot Kaur, and Vastrakar. Which makes one question the use of depth if players in the top order feel the constant need to stay at the crease till the end.

For the next few weeks, the attention will be on the red-ball fixtures against England and Australia. After that, India has the opportunity to put what they learned from this series to use against the side that has been a thorn in the flesh for the longest time. A series loss against a team like England on home soil might hurt less if that helps this Indian unit learn the lessons and be ready for the next challenges.

Shreyanka and Saika spin a web around Knight's England

The two scalp three each to bundle out the visitors for 126; Smriti gets going, orchestrates the run chase

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

The dust has settled down on the WPL auction, but women's cricket continues to fascinate this great metropolis. A big crowd turned up for the final T20I at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

It might have been a dead rubber, England having taken a 2-0 lead, but the Women in Blue gave their fans something to cheer about finally.

India chased down England's modest 126 with five wickets and an over to spare.

Finding her feet

India's reply was led by Smriti Mandhana (48, 48b, 5x4, 2x6), who at last found her form, after her twin failures in the series. Though she got out when just 15 was required, she had done enough.

After Shafali Verma fell early – she exposed her stumps and was castled by Freya Kemp – Smriti added 57 for the second wicket with Jemimah Rodrigues (29, 33b, 4x4) to put the innings back on the rails.

The England essay was all about an excellent bowling effort from India, backed by fine fielding, and an exceptional knock

under pressure by captain Heather Knight (52, 42b, 3x4, 3x6).

But for the skipper, the visitors would have failed to use up the overs, just like India's did in Saturday's second T20I.

Queen of Swing

Renuka Singh, the Queen of Swing, broke through early yet again, as she knocked back Maia Bouchier's leg-stump off the third ball of the innings with a ball that moved in sharply. Not surprisingly, Renuka had a big smile after the conquest.

It soon turned out that most of the Indian bowlers would get plenty of chances to smile on this pleasant night.

Spinners Saika Ishaque and Shreyanka Patil, two of the finds of the WPL and who both made their debut in this series, picked up three wickets apiece in just their third match.

The duo, in fact, joined hands to end the promising knock of wicketkeeper Amy Jones (25, 21b, 3x4), Shreyanka catching the slog sweep at deep mid-wicket. At the non-striker's end was Knight, who stood tall among the ruins. She added 50 for the ninth wicket with Charlie Dean (16 not out, 15b, 1x4) to take England past 120, but the total wasn't enough to win the day.



Sunday show: Smriti and Shreyanka had a ball as the Women in Blue registered a consolation win in the third and final T20I. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Sophia Dunkley c Shreyanka b Renuka 11 (10b, 1x4, 1x6), Maia Bouchier b Renuka 0 (1b), Alice Capsey c Jemimah b Saika 7 (16b, 1x4), Heather Knight c sub (Minnu) b Amanjot 52 (42b, 3x4, 3x6), Amy Jones c Shreyanka b Saika 25 (21b, 3x4), Danielle Gibson b Saika 0 (1b), Bess Heath c Amanjot b Shreyanka 1 (5b), Freya Kemp lbw b Shreyanka 0 (1b), Sophie Ecclestone b Shreyanka 2 (7b), Charlie Dean (not out) 16 (15b, 1x4), Mahika Gaur c Deepti b Amanjot 0 (1b); Extras (w-12): 12; Total (in 20 overs): 126.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Bouchier, 0.3 overs), 2-24 (Dunkley, 2.6), 3-26 (Capsey, 5.1),

4-67 (Jones, 11.1), 5-67 (Gibson, 11.2), 6-70 (Heath, 12.3), 7-70 (Kemp, 12.4), 8-76 (Ecclestone, 14.3), 9-126 (Knight, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 4-0-23-2, Titas 1-0-16-0, Amanjot 3-0-25-2, Saika 4-0-22-3, Deepti 4-0-21-0, Shreyanka 4-0-19-3.

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Dunkley b Ecclestone 48 (48b, 5x4, 2x6), Shafali Verma b Kemp 6 (6b, 1x4), Jemimah Rodrigues lbw b Dean 29 (33b, 4x4), Deepti Sharma c Jones b Kemp 12 (11b, 2x4), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 6 (8b), Richa Ghosh b Ecclestone 2 (4b), Amanjot Kaur (not out) 10 (4b, 2x4).

Extras (lb-1, w-13): 14; Total (for

five wkts. in 19 overs): 127.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-11 (Shafali, 2.1), 2-68 (Jemimah, 11.2), 3-94 (Deepti, 15.3), 4-112 (Smriti, 16.6), 5-116 (Richa, 18.1).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Dean 4-0-18-1, Mahika 3-0-17-0, Kemp 4-0-24-2, Ecclestone 4-0-40-2, Capsey 3-0-15-0, Gibson 1-0-12-0.

Toss: England.

PoM: Shreyanka.

PoS: Sciver-Brunt.

India won by five wickets with an over to spare, England clinched series 2-1.

Next match: One-off Test: December 14 to 17, DY Patil Stadium (Mumbai), 9.30 a.m.

Ashwini-Tanisha duo claims women's doubles crown

The pair beats Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui to bag its third title in four finals

GUWAHATI MASTERS

K. Keerthivasan

GUWAHATI

In hardly 11 months of playing as a pair on the BWF tour, the Indian duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto has made quite a rapid progress, reaching World No. 28. Now, it's the second-best Indian doubles combination after Gayatri Gopi Chand and Treesa Jolly (WR: 19) in the world rankings.

In the women's doubles summit clash of the Yonex-Sunrise Guwahati Masters Super 100 International badminton tournament here on Sunday, Ashwini-Tanisha produced a stellar performance to beat Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui 21-13, 21-19 to bag its third title in four finals.

Below par

The Taipei pair was below par in all ways. Sung and Yu neither had the weapons nor the nous required to match wits against the crack combination of Ashwini and Tanisha.

If not for a few unforced errors from the Indians in the second game, the con-



All smiles: Ashwini-Tanisha pair dominated proceedings throughout the summit clash. RITU RAJ KONWAR

test would have gotten over much earlier than the 40 minutes it took.

Tanisha at the net was quick to pounce if the shuttle was within the range to go for a 'kill' and her retrievals were top-notch. Ashwini was solid and steady at the back.

"We are working on a lot of things. The important thing is to have an all-round game and not have a single-minded game. We are more open to all as-

pects. That will be crucial for us. In this tournament, that worked very well. The variations in our shots, the variations from attack to defence worked well," Ashwini said to *The Hindu*.

"I am not surprised (with our progress). The whole goal was to do well. We are on the right track and are looking to do better."

The results (finals): Men: Singles: Yohanes Saut

Marcellino (Ina) bt Alvi Wijaya Chairullah (Ina) 21-12, 21-17.

Doubles: Choong Hon Jian & Haikal Muhammad (Mas) bt Lin Bing-Wei & Su Ching Heng (Tpe) 21-17, 23-21.

Women: Singles: Lalinrat Chaiwan (Tha) bt Line Christophersen (Den) 21-14, 17-21, 21-16.

Doubles: Ashwini Ponnappa & Tanisha Crasto bt Sung Shuo Yun & Yu Chien Hui (Tpe) 21-13, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: Hee Yong Kai Terry & Tan Wei Han Jessica (Sin) bt Mads Vestergaard (Den) 21-29, 21-11.

ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯ ಬೋಧನೆ ಎಲ್ಲರಬೇಕು?



● ಧನು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿದಾಗಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಆಟಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಂತ ಹಂತವಾಗಿ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಬರಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ, ಶ್ರದ್ಧೆ, ಆಟದ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಅವರ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ, ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಎಂತಹ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗೆ ಅವರು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಅರಿವಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕೇವಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಗಣಿತ, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನೇ ಬೋಧಿಸಿದರೆ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಇರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಿಂದುಳಿಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಂತಹವರಿಗೆ ಈ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಬೋಧಿಸಿದರೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಆಟಗಾರ/ ಗಾರ್ಡಿಯರು ಹುಟ್ಟುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಂದೇಹಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ

ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಲಿ ಮೊದಲು ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತವನ್ನು ಬೋಧಿಸದೇ ಕೇವಲ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಹೋದರೆ ಅದು ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಮೈದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ತಯಾರು ಮಾಡಿ ನಂತರ ಮೈದಾನಕ್ಕೆಳಿಸುವುದು ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಟಗಾರನ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೇವಲ ದೈಹಿಕ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರು ಆಟವಾಡಲು ಶಕ್ತರೇ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಆಳೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು, ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಆಟದ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಸಂದೇಹಗಳನ್ನು

ಪರಿಹರಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ ತಾನೇ ಕಲಿಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ?

ಒಳಾಂಗಣ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಾಗಿರಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹೊರಾಂಗಣ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಾಗಿರಲಿ ತಾವೂ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುವ ಇಚ್ಛೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಫುಟ್ಬಾಲ್, ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್, ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್, ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ, ಚೆಸ್, ಟೆನಿಸ್, ಕುಸ್ತಿ, ಜಾವೇಲಿನ್ ಎಸೆತ, ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಂಟನ್, ವಾಲಿಬಾಲ್ ಹೀಗೇ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವು ವಿಧದ ಆಟಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತವೆ. ಈಗಂತೂ ನಾವು ಕಂಡು ಕೇಳದ ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಆಟಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗಂತೂ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಟಿವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ನೋಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎನ್ನಬಹುದು. ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಾ ನಾವೂ ಅವರಂತೆಯೇ ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹಂಬಲಿಸುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹಲವರು.

ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ

ನಮ್ಮ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಚ್ಚು ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಸಿಕ್ಕರೆ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಿ, ಪದಕಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ರಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವುದು ಖಚಿತವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ನಂತರ ಮೈದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆತಂದರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯು ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಳ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ತಮ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ತೋರುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ಸು ಗಳಿಸಬಹುದು.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಈ ಕುತೂಹಲ, ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವುದು ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಿ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಅದು ಅಸಾಧ್ಯದ ವಿಷಯ. ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸಮಾನ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಗಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಇತರ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಜತೆಗೆ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಯನ್ನೂ ಒಂದು ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಬೋಧಿಸುವುದು ಅಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಟಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡಬೇಕು. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ, ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಒಂದಾದರೂ ಆಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದರೆ ಅವರ ದೇಹದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ, ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಉತ್ತಮ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮನದಟ್ಟುಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಜಯ್ ಶಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

2024ರ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದಿಂದ ಮೇವರೆಗೆ ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಮೇನಿಯಾ

ದೆಹಲಿ: ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ (ಬಿಸಿಐ) ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಜಯ್ ಶಾ ಅವರು ಐಪಿಎಲ್ 2024 ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು ಮೇ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಜೂನ್ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ (ಬಿಸಿಐ) ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಜಯ್ ಶಾ ಅವರು ಐಪಿಎಲ್ 2024 ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು ಮೇ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಜೂನ್ ಮೊದಲ ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ದೃಢಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 19ರಂದು ದುಬೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಐಪಿಎಲ್ 2024 ಸೀಸನ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಮಿನಿ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ವಿದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಇದೇ ಮೊದಲು. ಒಟ್ಟು 1166 ಆಟಗಾರರು ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಕೊನೆಯ ಮಿನಿ ಹರಾಜು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯು ಬಿಸಿಐ ಮತ್ತು ಫ್ರಾಂಚೈಸಿಗಳ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಜಯ್ ಶಾ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಯಾವ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗೆ, ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಫ್ರಾಂಚೈಸಿ ಜಂಟಿಯಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ಶಾ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯರ್ ಲೀಗ್‌ನ ಎರಡನೇ ಸೀಸನ್ ಐಪಿಎಲ್‌ನ ಕ್ರಾಸ್-ಸಿಟಿ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು



ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಪಿಎಲ್

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯರ್ ಲೀಗ್ ಮುಂದಿನ ಸೀಸನ್ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಜಯ್ ಶಾ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶನಿವಾರ ಮುಂಬಯಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಪಿಎಲ್ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಈ ವೇಳೆ, ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಒಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೀಗ್ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಶಾ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ, ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಪಿಎಲ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸುವ ಆಲೋಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಅವರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು.

ಅನುಸರಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂಬಯಿ ಅಥವಾ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯರ್ ಲೀಗ್‌ನ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಆವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳು ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 4 ರಿಂದ 26ರ ನಡುವೆ ಡಿವೈ



ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ ಮೆಗಾ ಹರಾಜು

ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ ಮೆಗಾ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ಫ್ರಾಂಚೈಸಿಯು ಒಟ್ಟು 77 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 30 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದೇಶಿ ಆಟಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. 10 ತಂಡಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 262.95 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಸಂಘಟನಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಆಟಗಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ಆಟಗಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದೆ.

ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ರಬೋರ್ನ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದವು.



ಭಾರತ-ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಟಿ20 ರಡ್ಡು!

ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾದ ಡರ್ಬನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಮೊದಲ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯ ಮಳೆಗಾಹುತಿ 2 ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಸುರಿದ ಮಳೆ, ಟಾಸ್ ಕೂಡಾ ಇಲ್ಲ | ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿರಾಸೆ

ಡರ್ಬನ್: ಭಾರತ ಹಾಗೂ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ನಡುವೆ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಮೊದಲ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯ ಟಾಸ್ ಕೂಡಾ ಕಾಣದೆ ಮಳೆಗೆ ಆಹುತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

3 ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳ ಸರಣಿಯ ಮೊದಲ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಭಾನು ವಾರ ಡರ್ಬನ್‌ನ ಕಿಂಗ್‌ಮೀಡ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ 4 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ ಸಂಜೆ 7.30ಕ್ಕೆ) ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ 2 ಗಂಟೆಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಮಯ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿದ ಕಾರಣ, ಪಂದ್ಯ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವೇ ಸಿಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪಂದ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟಿಕೆಟ್‌ಗಳು ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಸೋಲ್ಡ್‌ಔಟ್ ಆಗಿದ್ದವು. ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಿಂಗ್‌ಮೀಡ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ 25000 ಆಸನ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಪಂದ್ಯ ರದ್ದಾಗಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾರಿ ನಿರಾಸೆ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು.

ಭಾನುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಮಳೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಆರಂಭದ ಕೆಲ ಗಂಟೆಗೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಮಳೆ ನಿಂತಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಪಂದ್ಯ ನಡೆಯುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಟಾಸ್‌ಗೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಆರಂಭಗೊಂಡ ಮಳೆ, ಪಂದ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಕಾಲಮಾನ ರಾತ್ರಿ 9.30ರ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಅಂಪೈರ್‌ಗಳು ಪಂದ್ಯ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದರು.



ಡರ್ಬನ್‌ನ ಕಿಂಗ್‌ಮೀಡ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದ ಪಿಚ್‌ಗೆ ಹೊದಿಕೆ ಹೊದಿಸಿರುವ ದೃಶ್ಯ.

ನಾಳೆ ಭಾರತ vs ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ 2ನೇ ಟಿ20

ಭಾರತ-ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ನಡುವೆ 2ನೇ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯ ಮಂಗಳವಾರ ಗೆಬೆರ್ಹಾರ್ಡ್ ಸೇಂಟ್ ಜಾರ್ಜ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಸರಣಿಯ ಕೊನೆ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಗುರುವಾರ ಜೋಹಾನ್ಸ್‌ಬರ್ಗ್‌ನ ನ್ಯೂ ವ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಸ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ.

EDITORIAL

NEWS

Calibrating a strategy for India's future growth

India's growth in 2023-24 is currently projected by the Reserve Bank of India at 7% while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have pegged it at 6.3%. With a growth of 7.8% and 7.6% in the first two quarters of 2023-24, respectively, and a broad-based recovery in the second quarter, India is likely to realise the RBI's currently projected growth of 7% in this fiscal year. In the medium term, the IMF has projected an annual growth of 6.3% up to 2028-29. India's future growth strategy needs to be calibrated in view of the changing global conditions.

There is a movement towards deglobalisation. Many ongoing geopolitical conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war have created a climate of sanctions, leading to breaks in supply chains as well as disruptions in international settlements due to non-access to systems such as SWIFT for the sanctioned countries. World real GDP growth has also fallen, leading to reduced demand for global exports. Many countries including India want to reduce their dependence on imported petroleum due to supply uncertainties and price volatility.

In India's case, exports experienced a sharp acceleration in the share of GDP during 2003-04 to 2008-09. This peaked at 25% in 2013-14. In 2022-23, it was 22.8%, having fallen to a trough of 18.7% in 2019-20 and 2020-21. The erstwhile export-led growth strategy may not be available to India any more. It has to evolve its own future growth strategy.

Investment rate in medium term

India will have to rely relatively more on domestic growth drivers. To achieve and sustain a 7% plus real growth in particular, domestic savings will be critical. We estimate the nominal saving rate in 2022-23 to be about 29%. One area of concern relates to the recently noted fall in the household sector's savings in financial assets which declined to 5.1% of GDP in 2022-23 from an average of 7.8% during the pre-COVID-19 period of 2015-16 to 2019-20 – a fall of 2.7% points. This fall consisted of 2.2% points of increase in change in gross household financial liabilities and 0.5% points fall in change in gross household financial assets. These changes may be temporary post-COVID-19 responses.

However, if these trends persist, it will pose a



C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India



D.K. Srivastava

is Chief Policy Adviser, EY India, and former Director, Madras School of Economics

Raising the savings and investment rates, improving the skill acquisition of young entrants to the labour market and adopting an employment-friendly technology mix must be the focus areas

significant risk to India's growth potential since it is the surplus household sector financial savings that become available to the government and the corporate sector to draw resources from to meet their investment demand in excess of their own savings.

Savings are converted into gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) by adding net capital inflows and deducting change in stocks, valuables, and discrepancies. The estimated nominal investment rate, that is GFCF relative to GDP was 29.2% in 2022-23. However, the deflator of capital goods is lower than that of all goods. The movement of the relative deflator of capital goods is somewhat volatile. Using the five-year average of the relative magnitude of the two deflators, the nominal investment rate of nearly 29% would provide a real investment rate of about 33%. This needs to be increased by 2% points to provide investible resources amounting to 35% of GDP, enabling a growth of 7% at an Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) of 5, which was its value in 2022-23. If the ICOR is lower, achievable growth would be higher.

Strategising enhanced employment

India would find itself in a unique position in the next three decades with a large potentially employable population seeking jobs in the presence of progressively more labour-saving innovations and technologies. According to United Nations population projections, the share of India's working age population is projected to peak at 68.9% in 2030 while its overall dependency ratio would be at its lowest at 31.2%. These patterns call for increased allocation of resources for training and skilling India's growing working age population.

Employment growth is critically dependent on GDP growth and the structure of output. The growth rate of the working age population is projected to progressively fall from 1.2% in 2023-24 to 0% in 2048-49. In 2022-23, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the worker population ratio, showing the number of employed persons in the population above 15 years of age, increased to 51.8% from 44.1% in 2017-18, depicting an average increase of 1.5% points per year. Going forward, non-agricultural growth will have to be high enough to absorb labour released from agriculture which is

estimated at 45.8% in 2022-23 by the PLFS. It should also be able to absorb the labour-substituting impact of new technology. Facilitating absorption of productivity-enhancing technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI would add to overall growth.

India has committed to certain targets to reduce carbon emissions in view of global climate concerns. In the COP26 Summit, in 2021, India had committed to reducing total carbon emissions by one billion tonnes between 2021 to 2030 and achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070. India's own initiatives include the Green Grids Initiative (GGI) and One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG). It is also placing an emphasis on the use of electric vehicles and ethanol-based and hydrogen fuels. Climate-promoting technological changes may reduce the potential growth rate. This adverse impact can be minimised by emphasising service sector growth which is relatively climate friendly.

Fiscal responsibility

Adhering to fiscal responsibility targets is also critical to sustain growth. In recent years, there has been considerable slippage in achieving the fiscal responsibility targets. To sustain growth close to its potential, it is important to ensure that the combined fiscal deficit and debt to GDP ratios are brought down to 6% and 60%, respectively, so that the burden of interest payments relative to revenue receipts is kept within acceptable limits. This would enable achieving a balance or surplus on the revenue account of the central and State governments, which in turn would reduce government dissavings and augment the overall savings rate of the economy.

In the next two years, a growth rate of 6.5% seems feasible. This represents, partially, a recovery from the low growth rate in the COVID-19 period. Over the medium term, India's growth performance will be adversely affected by many factors, both domestic and external. Raising the savings and investment rates, improving the skill acquisition of the young entrants to the labour market and adopting a technology mix which is employment friendly are issues on which the country must focus to achieve a growth rate of 7% to 7.5%.

The hypocrisy of Western democracy

With a staggering 17,000 Gazans already killed since October 7, Palestine is seeing one of its greatest tragedies. The West has shockingly enabled this in various ways: it has supported Israel's "right to defend" by reducing Palestine to Hamas; conflated critiques of Zionism and the Israeli state with anti-Semitism; weaponised the Holocaust; and attempted to erase history (the White House described Hamas' attack as "unprovoked").

No freedom of expression

Western societies that profess democracy have also scotched their own people's freedom of expression – not with official diktats but by demonising and targeting citizens speaking in support of Palestine. Western universities have become the major ground for this. In Ivy League institutions such as Harvard and Columbia, the private details of students who signed pro-Palestine letters have been made public. Prominent Jewish donors (and supporters of the Israeli state) have withdrawn funding from universities including Harvard and Pennsylvania alleging inaction against anti-Semitism and anti-Israel speeches on campuses (note: 45% of Harvard's revenue of \$5.8 billion in 2022 came from philanthropy). University administrations in North America put out official statements condemning only Hamas. And scholars working on Palestinian freedom have faced various unwritten codes of harassment.

The media has been key in framing the Palestine-Israel conflict for Western citizens for 75 years. The fundamental problem here, with a few honourable exceptions, has been the overwhelming bias towards Israel. As 1,200 academics and educators from North America noted in a recent open letter, the historical roots of the violence as well as the illegality of Israeli occupation in



Nissim Mannathukkaren

is Professor,
Dalhousie University,
Canada, and posts
@nmannathukkaren

The root cause of Western complicity in Palestinian oppression lies in colonialism and imperialism

international law are not discussed. Words such as apartheid, ethnic cleansing, genocidal intent, settler colonialism – used by scholars, human rights organisations such as Human Rights Watch, prominent Israeli rights group B'Tselem, and the United Nations, to describe Israeli actions – go missing in discourse.

The liberal face of institutions like Hollywood now stands exposed. The initial lack of response to the Hamas attack by unions such as the Writers Guild of America led to a backlash. Then, about 700 people from the entertainment industry signed an open letter declaring their support for Israel. On the other hand, pro-Palestinian voices chose to remain anonymous in their letters to avoid being doxxed or blacklisted as anti-Semitic. Some actors, artist agents, and magazine editors have had to face professional consequences.

The most egregious actions have taken place in Europe, the supposed bastion of free speech. Countries including the U.K., France, Germany, and Italy emphatically declared their support for Israel and imposed various kinds of bans (some of them blanket) on pro-Palestinian protests. Austria, for instance, banned a pro-Palestinian demonstration citing the inclusion of the phrase "from the River to the Sea" in invitations, as a justification. Ironically, this is the same "free" Europe where blasphemy laws are abolished (Denmark, Sweden) and caricatures of religion are allowed (France) and have led to burnings of the Koran and cartoons on Prophet Muhammad.

There is no denying that there are inflammatory positions, fake news articles, and also celebration of brutality on both sides of the divide, all of which are not conducive to reasoned debates. If incidents of racism towards Palestinians/Arabs have increased, so has anti-Semitism.

But the root cause of Western

complicity in Palestinian oppression lies in colonialism and imperialism, which is masked by the façade of liberal democracy. Democracy has seemingly thrived in the West, which has perpetuated colonialism and imperialism elsewhere. But even those democratic freedoms at home seem under threat now.

An exposé

The way out of the complicity in Israel's colonisation of Palestine can only be through an exposé of the hypocrisies of Western democracy. This has been undertaken by those on the margins of this democracy. For instance, the Canadian government-appointed National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was forced to acknowledge that the Canadian state has perpetrated genocide against the Indigenous people. There is resistance to the war in Palestine, not just by Arabs and Palestinians but also by Jewish dissenters. The horrors unfolding in Gaza are also changing opinions. Mainstream Western media has given more space to Palestinian stories this time, even if they are not enough. In recent U.S. opinion polls, almost 70% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters under 35 years disapproved of President Joe Biden's support to Israel.

As the Israeli carnage in Gaza resumes, the West has to listen to people such as Israel-born Omer Bartov, one of the world's foremost Holocaust scholars, who, while rightly expressing empathy with the Jewish victims of Hamas' heinous war crimes, warned of genocide and asked leaders and scholars "to publicly warn against the rage- and vengeance-filled [Israeli] rhetoric that dehumanises the population of Gaza..."

As another Holocaust scholar Raz Segal asserted, "No justice is possible... without a truthful reckoning of how we got here." The West must acknowledge its own monstrous role in getting Palestine to this precipice.

POLITICAL CAPITAL OVER BIG BLACK MONEY HAUL FROM CONG NETA

EYE-POPPING images of almirahs full of cash in a distillery run by Jharkhand Congress MP Dheeraj Sahu in Odisha once again brought the obscenity of black money to the foreground. Their volume was so huge that half a dozen cash-counting machines of the income tax department conked off. The notes are still being counted as we go to print but their value is said to have gone past ₹300 crore. It is by far the highest-ever haul in any I-T raid. The previous record is said to be ₹160 crore during a raid in Chennai in 2018. Liquor business does generate lots of cash but keeping it off books and in such massive amounts is shocking. Besides, the value of seized jewellery and property documents is yet to be determined. Were the currency notes just his stash or did they include the dirty money of others, only Sahu can tell. Politicians are known to park their kickbacks with industrialists to stay off the tax radar.

Coming as the raids did ahead of the Lok Sabha elections where purging black money is an important poll plank, the Congress squirmed and sought to insulate the party from it. "Only Sahu can and should explain how such huge amounts of cash were unearthed from his premises," party leader Jairam Ramesh said, adding the party is in no way connected with his businesses. But BJP went for the Congress' jugular with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying all the dirty money will be returned to the people. He went on to include it in the list of Modi's guarantees. Since the distillery is in Odisha, the BJP also pointed fingers at the BJD government there for its regulatory failure.

The 2016 demonetisation miserably failed in placing stents in the nation's arteries to remove the black money clots threatening its heart. Dirty money is a roach that survives all extermination attempts. The volume of currency pieces found in Sahu's distillery was humongous perhaps because ₹2,000 notes were sucked out in the last few months. Sahu is a three-time Rajya Sabha member who began his political career as a student leader in 1977. In his election affidavit, he had declared only a minuscule portion of the combined wealth of his family. The Election Commission of India ought to go after him to enforce accountability if it really wants to clean up the system.

Crack the whip on errant forest officers

In the wake of a leopard straying into Bengaluru and being shot dead, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has said about 2,700 acres of forest land are lost to encroachment in Bengaluru (Urban) district. In addition, the capital, once called the garden city, has lost some 1,200 acres of green cover. Responding to a question from BJP MLA M Satish Reddy about leopard attacks in the suburbs of Bengaluru, the minister informed the Assembly that the reduction in green cover, fragmentation of forests due to projects such as the Peripheral Ring Road, and unscientific disposal of solid waste had intensified human-animal conflict. The total designated forest area in Bengaluru, about 8,900 acres, has come down due to rapid urbanisation.

While encroachments are no doubt largely responsible for the current situation, the government is the biggest culprit as it often reduces the buffer zone of forests to accommodate infrastructure projects. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) routinely grants permission for felling of trees for road widening, and building flyovers, drains and metro lines. Besides, the BBMP also receives applications from individuals intending to construct private and commercial buildings. The ground realities could be much worse than the minister's assessment, and there is an urgent need to conduct a tree census as demanded by environmentalists so that a clear picture emerges.

While there is merit in what the minister says, another area that needs immediate attention is the quality of our forests and the lack of food and water in their natural habitats that often drives wild animals towards human settlements. Several questions have been raised about the afforestation programmes undertaken by the forest department. Over the years, it has become convenient to blame human-animal conflicts for the shrinking of habitat, without addressing the real issue, that is the degradation of forests. The forest department has gone without any accountability for long, and it is high time Khandre ordered an independent audit to assess its functioning and suggest corrective measures. The killing of the leopard and the death of two elephants, including the much loved Dasara *howdah*-carrier Arjuna, gives an indication that the forest department is not adept at handling such situations. Khandre, no doubt, has been making the right noises ever since he took over as minister, but mere statements will not do. He should show he means business by reclaiming encroached lands, greening the state with renewed vigour, and above all, straightening out errant officers who are aplenty.

Minister Khandre has revealed the staggering extent of forest land grab



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Unchanged repo rate signals upbeat mood

It was expected that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would maintain the interest rates at its December review meeting. It did so, while declaring that it is still pursuing an actively disinflationary policy, though it is not as anxious about inflation as it was a few months ago. It was also upbeat about growth and had good numbers to project. The repo rate currently stands at 6.5%. The MPC also voted 5-1 to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation. Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that the effort would be to ensure that inflation aligns with the central bank's target of 4%, and reiterated the committee's readiness to take appropriate actions if warranted. It is the fifth time in a row that the RBI has kept the lending rates unchanged. It has continued with its cautious approach in a bid to strike a balance between stability and growth.

Inflation has declined in recent months. Retail inflation, measured by the consumer price index, fell to 4.87% in October, after touching 7.44% in July. This was mainly because food inflation declined from 11.51% in July to 6.61% in October, as food prices, mainly prices of vegetables, eased. However, the near-term outlook is uncertain. Food prices may again see a rise in November and December. Crops could get impacted by climate problems, including a wayward monsoon, and the supply and demand balance may be affected. Rising global sugar prices are also a concern. Governor Das has noted that an increase in the

RBI is not as anxious about inflation as it was a few months ago

prices of vegetables may push up inflation. The RBI has projected inflation to fall from 5.6% in the third quarter to 5.2% in the fourth quarter. It expects it to average around 4.3% in the second and third quarters next year.

The RBI is hugely optimistic about growth, and the better-than-expected 7.6% growth in the second quarter has prompted it to upwardly revise its forecast for the financial year to 7% from 6.5%. It expects urban demand to sustain and rural demand to improve gradually. There are concerns over consumption but investment activity is getting a boost from government spending. This is bound to continue in the coming months. Exports are likely to look up. The RBI expects the trend to continue into the next year, and pegs growth at 6.7%, 6.5% and 6.4% for the first three quarters sequentially. Governor Das has said that this is based on the assumption of a normal monsoon and evenly balanced risks. He is hopeful that in the midst of global uncertainties India will remain better placed than its emerging economy peers to withstand their impact.

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S CARBON TAX IS A BAD IDEA

UNION finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently minced no words in admonishing the European Union for its decision to unilaterally impose a 'carbon tax' on all carbon-intensive goods entering the region. The minister went as far as saying that the tax is morally incorrect and goes against the interest of developing countries. She is not alone in calling out the unreasonable levy. Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal said India would retaliate against unfair carbon taxes. As the date for imposition of carbon tax is coming closer—the tax comes into effect from January 1, 2026—the pushback against such a levy is getting stronger from the developing countries. Recently, the president of the African Development Bank warned that Africa might lose \$25 billion every year on account of carbon tax. The chasm between developing and developed nations is widening when it comes to finding solutions to climate change challenges. Different blocs of nations want to protect their own interests in the ongoing talks on climate change.

Through imposition of the Cross Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) or carbon tax, the EU seeks to dissuade high carbon emitting industries by levying a tax on imports of cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity, and hydrogen from January 1, 2026. Later on, the scope of the tax is likely to expand to other industries such as shipping. The supposed intention behind the move is to stop carbon leakage, which happens when carbon-emitting industries shift production to countries with weaker environmental laws. However, not many agree with this stated intention as they believe the EU could have simply taxed European industries shifting production out of Europe. Instead, the EU decided to impose a carbon tax on all imports. Insinuations have been made that the EU is using carbon tax to protect its uncompetitive domestic industries from cheaper imports from the developing countries.

As the world deliberates over the issue of climate change and finding a solution to this problem in the COP28 summit at Dubai, the acrimony over imposition of carbon tax could only get bitter. Industries in several countries in Africa, Asia and South America largely depend on fossil fuels. The transition to renewables is still at a very initial stage in these countries. The funding promised to these countries for transition to renewables is slow, and they cannot afford to shift their industries to renewables in a year or two. Non-tariff barriers such as CBAM may disrupt trade talks at multilateral and bilateral levels, further expediting the de-globalisation of commerce and industries.



ಸಂಪಾದಕೀಯ EDITORIAL

ಉಗ್ರನಿಗೆ ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಆಶ್ರಯವೇಕೆ?

ಭಾರತ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಪನ್ನುವಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಸಲ್ಲದು

ಸಂಸತ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಳಿಗಾಲದ ಅಧಿವೇಶನ ಕಳೆದವಾರವೇ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 22ರವರೆಗೂ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಲಿದೆ. ಏತನ್ಮಧ್ಯೆ, ಸಿಖ್ಸ್ ಫಾರ್ ಜಸ್ಟೀಸ್ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ಉಗ್ರ ಗುರುಪತ್ವಂತ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಪನ್ನು, ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 13 ಅಥವಾ ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಮೊದಲು ಭಾರತದ ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ದಾಳಿ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಬೆದರಿಕೆ ಒಡ್ಡಿರುವುದು ಖಂಡನಾರ್ಹ. ವಿವಿಧ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ಉಗ್ರನನ್ನು ಸಂಹರಿಸಲು ಭಾರತದ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ವಿಫಲಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗಿ 'ವೈನಾನ್ವಿಯಲ್ ಟೈಮ್ಸ್' ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಅಮೆರಿಕವು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಿತ್ತು ಕೂಡ. ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಪಡೆದ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಪನ್ನು ಉದ್ಧಟತನದ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿರುವುದು ಹೇಡಿವರ್ತನೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಬೇರೇನೂ ಅಲ್ಲ.

ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ಭಯೋತ್ಪಾದಕ ಹರ್‌ದೀಪ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ನಿಜ್ಜರ್ ಹತ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತದ ಕೈವಾಡವಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೆನಡಾದ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಜಸ್ಟಿನ್ ಟ್ರೂಡೋ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ಆರೋಪ ರಾಜತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಉಭಯ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ರಾಜತಾಂತ್ರಿಕರನ್ನು ಹೊರಹಾಕಿದ್ದವು. ಇದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಅಮೆರಿಕವು ನಿರಾಧಾರದ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿರುವುದು ನಾಚಿಕೆಗೇಡು. ಪನ್ನುವಿನ ಭಾರತ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಧೋರಣೆಯ ಅಜೆಂಡಾಕ್ಕೆ ಪಾಕಿಸ್ತಾನದ ಬೇಹುಗಾರಿಕಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಐಎಸ್‌ಐನ ಕೆ-2 (ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರ್- ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನ್) ಘಟಕದ ಕುಮ್ಮಕ್ಕಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಆರೋಪ ಜಗಜ್ಜಾಹೀರ. ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಉಗ್ರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪನ್ನು 11ನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿರುವುದೂ ದಿಟವೇ. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ, ಭಾರತ ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಆತನ ಹತ್ಯೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ.

ಈಗೀಗಂತೂ ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆನಡಾ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ತಾಣವಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಭಾರತದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಪಿತೂರಿ ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರಿಗೆ ಈಗ ಅಮೆರಿಕವೂ ಆಶ್ರಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲ. ರಾಜತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅಮೆರಿಕವು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಮಾಪ್ತ. ಆದರೆ, ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ಉಗ್ರನ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ನಿಲುವು ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯಕರವಾಗಿಯೇ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ದೇಶಭ್ರಷ್ಟರಿಗೆ, ಉಗ್ರರಿಗೆ ಆಶ್ರಯ ನೀಡುವ ಹಿಂದೆಯೂ ಅಮೆರಿಕ ವ್ಯಾವಹಾರಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ ಮೆರೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪಗಳೂ ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿವೆ. ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಹಣವನ್ನು ತಮಗೆ ಆಶ್ರಯ ನೀಡುವ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡುವ ಖಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ಉಗ್ರರ ಹಿತ ಕಾಯಲು ಮುಂದಾಗುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಮುಖವಾಡ ಕಳಚಿದಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ದೇಶಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರ ಒಪ್ಪಂದವಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ಉಗ್ರರನ್ನು ದೇಶಭ್ರಷ್ಟರನ್ನು ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ, ಭಾರತವು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸುಮಾರು 50 ದೇಶಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಉಗ್ರ ಪನ್ನುಗೆ ಅಮೆರಿಕವು ತನ್ನ ಪೌರತ್ವ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇಂಟರ್‌ಪೋಲ್ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಪನ್ನುವನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೇಳಿದ ಹೊರತು ಆತನನ್ನು ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಲು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಮುಂದಾಗದು. ಭಾರತ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಎರಡು ಬಾರಿ ಇಂಟರ್‌ಪೋಲ್‌ಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ, ಅದು ರೆಡ್ ಕಾರ್ನರ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಿಂದೆಯೂ ಪರೋಕ್ಷವಾಗಿ ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಕೈವಾಡವೇ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸ.

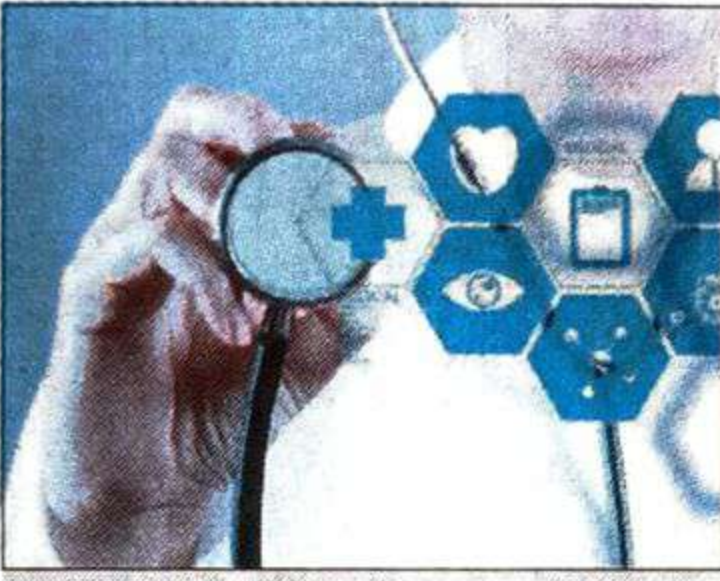
ಭಾರತವನ್ನು ವಿಭಜಿಸಲು ಪಿತೂರಿ ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರನ್ನು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಪೋಷಿಸಬಾರದು. ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ, ವ್ಯವಹಾರದಲ್ಲಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಮಿತ್ರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಸಾರ್ವಭೌಮತ್ವ, ಐಕ್ಯತೆಯ ಹಿತಕಾಯುವ ಔದಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿ. ಉಗ್ರನನ್ನು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಹಸ್ತಾಂತರಿಸಲಿ.

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ

ಸಂಪಾದಕೀಯ

ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಿ

ವೈದ್ಯವೃತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೌರವದ ಸ್ಥಾನವಿದೆ. ಜೀವವನ್ನು ಬದುಕಿಸಲು ವೈದ್ಯರು ಅವರ ಜ್ಞಾನಕೌಶಲವನ್ನು ಬಳಸುತ್ತಾರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸಮಾಜ ನಿರೋಗಿಯಾಗಿರಲು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲ ದುಷ್ಟಶಕ್ತಿಗಳ ವರ್ತನೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಹಾನಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗಾಗ ಕೇಳಿಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಹಾವಳಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುವುದು ಆತಂಕಕಾರಿ ಸಂಗತಿಯಾದರೆ, ಇದನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗಂಭೀರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಠಿಣ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳದಿರುವುದು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಕಳವಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಸಮಾಜದ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಜನರ ನಂಬಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ದುರುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು, ಪ್ರಾಣದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೆಲ್ಲಾಟವಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಂಥ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಈ ಹಿಂದೆಯೂ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಎಚ್ಚಿತ್ತುಕೊಂಡು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ



ಜನರ ಜೀವದೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಬೆಲ್ಲಾಟವೇ?

ಈ ಪಿಡುಗು ಮತ್ತೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ, ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 1,436 ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರೆಲ್ಲ ರಾಜಾರೋಷವಾಗಿ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಲವರು ಭ್ರೂಣ ಹತ್ಯೆಯ ಕರಾಳ ದಂಧೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಶಾಮೀಲಾಗಿರುವ ಶಂಕೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದಿದೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ. ಇಷ್ಟು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ತಮ್ಮ ಬೇಳೆ

ಬೇಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು, ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆಲ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸಹಕರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಆಘಾತಕಾರಿ. ಅಲೋಪಥಿ, ನ್ಯಾಚುರೋಪಥಿ, ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೋಮಿಯೋಪಥಿ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಂಧೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವವರ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಬೀದರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು 423 ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಂತರದ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಲಾರ (179), ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ (170), ಕಲಬುರಗಿ (82) ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ರೋಗಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಾಣ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳಿವೆ.

ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟವರು, ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿರುವ ಅಸಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನೀಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಯುನಾನಿ ವೈದ್ಯ ಮಂಡಳಿಯೇ (ಕೆಎಯುಪಿ) ಅನುಮತಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಸಂಗತಿ ಕಳೆದ ವರ್ಷವೇ (2022) ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರತಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂದಾಜು 4 ರಿಂದ 5 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಲಂಚ ಪಡೆದು ನೂರಾರು ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರಾರ್‌ಗಳೇ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ವಿತರಿಸಿದ್ದು ಆಯುಷ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಆಂತರಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಐಡಿ ತನಿಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೃಢಪಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೂ, ತಪ್ಪಿತಸ್ಥರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಉದಾಸೀನ ಧೋರಣೆ ಅನುಸರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಲಂಚ ಪಡೆದು ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆಲ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳೇ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆರೋಪ ಕೇಳಿಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸೂಕ್ತ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿ.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಣ್ಣ ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇವರು ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಭಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ ಎಂದೇ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಜನರು ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಮೋಸ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ದುರದೃಷ್ಟಕರ. ಇಂಥ ಗಂಭೀರ ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ, ಅರಿವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. 1,436 ನಕಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಯಾವ ಬಗೆಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದೆ? ಇಂಥ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಮರುಕಳಿಸದಂತೆ ಬಿಗಿಯಾದ ನೀತಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವುದೇ ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಉತ್ತರ ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಪಿಡುಗನ್ನು ನಿವಾರಿಸಲು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿ ಮದ್ದು ನೀಡಬೇಕಿದೆ.



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