

NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (21.09.2022)

1. CAG Flags Misuse of Freedom Fighter Complimentary Pass; Railways, MHA Restrict Information Flow ([thewire.in](https://www.thewire.in)) September 21, 2022

After the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in a 2019 report, pointed out large-scale misuse of the concessional travel facility for freedom fighters on trains, the Indian Railways and the Ministry of Home Affairs, rather than going after the wrongdoers, clamped down on the flow of information in this regard, a complaint by a Right to Information (RTI) activist before the Central Information Commission (CIC) has revealed.

The report of then CAG Rajiv Mehrishi, which was tabled in Parliament on December 9, 2019, had stated that 21% of the individuals who availed of the special freedom fighter concessions for rail travel between July 15, 2017 and March 31, 2018, were under the age of 70 and were, therefore, born after India gained independence.

The report had further stated that there were 87,584 passengers who availed of the special concession scheme for freedom fighters during the period and the concessions availed by them amounted to Rs 1,041.86 crore. Further, it noted that, according to the audit, 62,528 passengers travelled as their companions and availed of concessions to the tune of Rs 763.58 crore between 2015 and 2018.

Thousands born after Independence availed of concession for freedom fighters

The CAG had also noted in this audit of 'Internal controls to check misuse of concessions' that "1,302 male passengers and 1,898 female passengers who were born after 1947 had been allowed free travel under the freedom fighters' concession. Of these, the age of 1,096 male and 580 female passengers was less than even senior citizen category".

Highlighting the extent of misuse of the scheme, the CAG had added, "The youngest person who was issued freedom fighter ticket under concession code 'FREEDOM' was 10 years old." Further, it said that in 15 instances, freedom fighter concession tickets were issued with freedom fighter pass number shown as "0".

Thus, the CAG observed, "The passenger reservation system does not have appropriate input control to validate age of freedom fighters and allow booking (of) tickets with freedom fighter concession duly linked with freedom fighter pass number".

RTI application tossed around between CAG, Railways, MHA

Raising this issue, RTI activist Navin Kumar had, on October 15, 2020, filed an application with the CAG. However, on October 28 that year, the CAG transferred the application to the Freedom Fighters and Rehabilitation (FFR) division of the home ministry. Thereafter, on November 26, 2020, the MHA transferred the application to the Railway Board under the Ministry of Railways.

In his application, Kumar had sought information on five points, including when the report of the CAG was sent to the president, prime minister and others and the action taken on the same.

Kumar also noted that some FFR Department officials had slammed the CAG report and termed it a lie. He also stated that some ministry officials had stated that the “issue is not clear”. Therefore, the petitioner had asked for details of these contentions and their reasons.

MHA tried to tarnish image of applicant

As he did not get any clear answers to his queries from the MHA, Kumar had filed a second appeal with the CIC on April 20, 2021.

The Commission received a written reply from the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the Ministry of Railways on September 6, 2022, which said, “On perusal of RTI application, it appears that none of (the) items/points is related to this Ministry”. It added that hearing notices of the CIC were served to the Railway Board for attending the hearing, but they were returned with comments saying, “No information has been sought regarding free railway passes to freedom fighters.”

Then, on September 12, 2022, the FFR division of the MHA submitted its response before the Commission in which, rather than answering the queries, it sought to tarnish the image of the complainant. The MHA wrote, “Shri Navin Kumar is habitually misusing RTI facility and filing numerous RTI application agitating (the) same subject matter repeatedly before the Hon’ble Central Information Commission”.

It added that the CIC had decided on August 9, 2021 that “no further cases from the applicant on the same subject of freedom fighters shall be entertained”.

Did CIC Sinha trip on MHA argument?

In his order in the case, Chief Information Commissioner Y.K. Sinha recalled that the bench had indeed taken this decision in August, 2021. He annexed the said order which stated, among other things, that, “It is once again made clear that no further cases from the Appellant on the same subject of freedom fighters’ pension shall be entertained by this Commission.”

Therefore, Sinha in his order on September 19 held that, “In the light of the aforementioned discussion, no further intervention is warranted in this case. The appeal is dismissed accordingly.”

This order came despite the August, 2021 ruling of the CIC specifically mentioning complaints by Kumar on “freedom fighters pension” and that this was a case of misuse of concessional passes for them. <https://thewire.in/government/freedom-fighter-pass-cag-rti>

2. Raising capex, filling vacancies top PM’s agenda for Ministries (thehindubusinessline.com) September 21, 2022

Ensuring 100% procurement of goods and services via GeM also in 8-point plan

Stepping up capital expenditure, taking up remedial action based on CAG reports as well as filling up all vacancies on a priority basis are some of the key areas that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants government Ministries and departments to focus on.

These issues are understood to have been highlighted at a recent meeting of the Council of Ministers earlier this month on September 7.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has now written to all Secretaries stating that the Prime Minister has emphasised upon these eight issues. In the letter, Gauba has asked them to initiate immediate action.

Each Ministry and department should regularly monitor capital expenditure, take steps to ensure that the pace of capex is stepped up and full utilisation of the budgetary allocation is achieved, the letter has said.

“Ministries and Departments to meticulously study the CAG Reports, take remedial actions and undertake systemic improvements,” it has further said.

Filling up of vacant posts should be given top priority.

“Ministries and departments to finalise the calendar for appointments by direct recruitment and filling up of vacancies consequent to promotions and retirements,” it has said, adding that they can also take steps in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to further compress the time-frame for completion of recruitment process.

“Technology may be suitably leveraged and monitoring mechanisms strengthened for filling up posts as per schedule,” it further said, adding that DoPT may coordinate the issuance of appointment letters across all Ministries and departments.

Further, it has also called upon Ministries and departments to make concerted efforts to target 100 per cent procurement of goods and services through GeM. Secretaries should also undertake a monthly review to ensure this is followed.

Ministries and departments should also ensure time-bound completion of rationalisation exercise of Autonomous Bodies.

Maintaining cleanliness should be another focus area. “Under Special Campaign 2.0, for cleanliness in offices and for disposal of pending references, Ministries/ Departments to give special attention to attached, subordinate, field offices, including in the remotest parts of the country,” the directive has further said.

NITI Aayog and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should also prepare a roadmap and action plan for the LIFE campaign in consultation with relevant Ministries and departments.

Further, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade should finalise the proposals relating to decriminalisation of minor offences expeditiously, in consultation with relevant Ministries and departments and NITI Aayog. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/step-up-capex-action-on-cag-reports-fill-vacancies-on-top-priority-pms-eight-point-agenda-for-govt-ministries/article65913716.ece>

STATES NEWS ITEMS

3. Only 17% of targeted dwelling units completed in K'taka for urban poor under Housing schemes: CAG report (theprint.in, hindustantimes.com) PTI | September 20, 2022

Identifying deficiencies in the implementation of housing schemes in Karnataka, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has said that the Housing Department has only completed 88,395 dwelling units (DUs), against the target of 5.17 lakh for the urban poor as on March 2021, which constitutes only 17 per cent.

It also said that out of Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) and Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction (BLC) projects were taken up for only 5,17,531 beneficiaries out of the 13,71,592 prospective beneficiaries (38 per cent) identified through demand survey as on March 2021.

It further said that the construction of 3,28,499 DUs were yet to (March 2021) commence, indicating that achieving the mission goal of "Housing for All" by 2022 was a difficult prospect.

The CAG report on "Housing Schemes for Urban Poor in Karnataka" of the year 2022, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

As per the report, the Urban Local Bodies did not follow the procedures prescribed for conducting the survey for assessing the demand for housing.

"The improper survey carried the risk of exclusion of eligible beneficiaries, as only 13.72 lakh prospective beneficiaries were identified homeless as against 20.35 lakh projected in Karnataka Affordable Housing Policy (KAHP)." Further pointing out that out of 5.17 lakh beneficiaries approved under 2,472 projects, the report said only 3.43 lakh beneficiaries were attached after due validation using unique identification such as Aadhar number.

"This resulted in 206 beneficiaries who were attached under BLC vertical getting benefits under AHP verticals without validation. Non validation of spouse details during attachment resulted in spouses of 21 BLC beneficiaries receiving benefits under AHP vertical," it said.

The CAG report also notes that selection of beneficiaries bypassing the prescribed procedures resulted in extension of scheme benefits to ineligible beneficiaries such as those with annual income Rs 3 lakh and those already having pucca houses.

It said during the joint inspection audit it was noticed that 41 per cent of the houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) were high cost multi story buildings having carpet area of more than 30 square meter, underscoring the irregularities in selection of beneficiaries.

In AHP projects, there was shortfall in aggregating financial resources as Government of India withheld an amount of Rs 1,003.55 crore due to non-fulfillment of prescribed conditions and due to short collection beneficiary contribution and ULB share to the tune of Rs 8,360.78

crore. <https://theprint.in/india/only-17-of-targeted-dwelling-units-completed-in-ktaka-for-urban-poor-under-housing-schemes-cag-report/1136413/>

4. Only 17% of targeted houses of 5.17 lakh constructed: CAG report ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Centre withheld ₹1003.55 crore due to non-fulfilment of prescribed condition by Karnataka government

The Housing Department has only completed 88,395 dwelling units (DUs), which constituted 17%, against the target of 5,17,531 DUs, for the urban poor as on March, 2021, in Karnataka, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found.

The CAG report on "Housing Schemes for Urban Poor in Karnataka" of the year 2022, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, noted that under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) and Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction (BLC) of the Housing Department, projects were taken up for 5,17,531 beneficiaries out of the 13,71,592 prospective beneficiaries (38%) identified through demand survey as on March 2021.

As against the approved 5,17,531 DUs, only 88,395 DUs (17%) were completed as of March 2021.

The construction of 3,28,499 DUs (63%) were yet to be (March 2021) commenced indicating that achieving the mission goal of Housing for All by 2022 was a difficult prospect.

Ineffective survey

The CAG report said the demand survey for assessing the requirement of housing for urban poor was not effective and carried the risk of exclusion of eligible beneficiaries as only 13.72 lakh beneficiaries were identified in the survey as against 20.35 lakh people requiring affordable housing in Karnataka Housing Policy, 2016.

Only 3.43 lakh out of 5.17 lakh beneficiaries were attached to the approved AHP and BLC projects after due validation using unique identification numbers resulting in beneficiaries drawing multiple benefits under same and different levels.

As Aadhaar details of spouse was not considered, "facilitating the spouse to claim benefits under different verticals of the same which was irregular", it said.

The report also flagged the deficiency in the selection of beneficiaries and said 44% of the actual beneficiaries were not even part of the prospective beneficiary list derived from the demand survey. "This resulted in extension of scheme benefits to ineligible beneficiaries such as those with annual income ₹3 lakh and those already having pucca houses."

Joint inspection of the houses constructed under the scheme revealed that 41% of the houses visited were high cost multi-storey buildings having carpet area more than 30 square meter and did not fall within the unit cost of ₹5 lakh prescribed under the scheme.

Withheld funds

The Centre withheld ₹1,003.55 crore due to non-fulfilment of prescribed condition by the State government and due to shortfall in collection of beneficiary contribution and ULB share of ₹8,360.78 crore. "This resulted in cancellation of AHP projects and non-provision of civic infrastructure for completed houses envisioned under the scheme," the CAG said. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/only-17-of-targeted-houses-of-517-lakh-constructed-cag-report/article65913941.ece>

5. Karnataka: CAG highlights corruption in implementation of Housing schemes ([livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)) September 21, 2022

In the ongoing session of the Karnataka assembly, a comptroller and auditor general (CAG) report highlighted corruption in the implementation of the housing scheme in the state. As per the CAG report, only 17% of the housing structures have been completed for the urban poor in Karnataka as of March 31, 2022. The CAG report mentioned that the Housing Department has only completed 88,395 dwelling units (DUs), against the target of 5.17 lakh for the urban poor.

Further, the report pointed out that Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) and Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction (BLC) projects were taken up for only 5,17,531 beneficiaries out of the 13,71,592 prospective beneficiaries (38%) identified through a demand survey as on March 2021.

It added that only 12% of original beneficiaries approved by the central sanctioning and monitoring committee (CSMC) were provided actual benefits under the housing for urban poor, while 88% were selected outside the approved criteria.

The addition of new beneficiaries was carried out without the approval of CSMC in violation of the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) manual, the CAG said in its report.

Further, the report stated that out of the 10,188 recipients, 4,446 or 44% were not even part of the prospective beneficiary list, indicating the possibility of irregularities in the implementation of the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana.

As per the report, the Urban Local Bodies did not follow the procedures prescribed for conducting the survey for assessing the demand for housing. "The improper survey carried the risk of exclusion of eligible beneficiaries, as only 13.72 lakh prospective beneficiaries were identified homeless as against 20.35 lakh projected in Karnataka Affordable Housing Policy (KAHP)".

The CAG report also notes that the selection of beneficiaries bypassing the prescribed procedures resulted in the extension of scheme benefits to ineligible beneficiaries such as those with annual income of ₹3 lakh and those already having pucca houses.

Additionally, 41% of the houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) were high-cost multi-story buildings having carpet areas of more than 30 square meter, underscoring the irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries, the report added.

The report comes as the state legislature discusses scandals that have allegedly taken place under the nose of chief minister Basavaraj Bommai-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

government in the state. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/karnataka-cag-highlights-corruption-in-implementation-of-housing-schemes-11663722523203.html>

6. 6.6 lakh beneficiaries not identified under housing schemes: CAG (newindianexpress.com) September 21, 2022

BENGALURU: A survey to assess the requirement of housing for urban poor was not effective, resulting in only 13.72 lakh beneficiaries being identified, instead of 20.35 lakh. The survey was also not completed within the cut-off date, while 49 per cent of beneficiaries were added subsequently, said the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled recently.

Only 3.43 lakh of 5.17 lakh approved beneficiaries for 2,472 projects were attached to the approved Approved Housing Partnership (AHP) and Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) verticals. Since there was a validation gap using unique identification numbers, some beneficiaries drew multiple benefits under same/different verticals.

Actual benefits under AHP were extended to only 12 per cent of beneficiaries, while 44 per cent were not even part of the prospective beneficiary list, which allowed ineligible people to benefit. A joint inspection of constructed houses revealed that 41 per cent were high-cost, multi-storey buildings with a carpet area of over 30 sqm and did not fall within the limit of Rs 5 lakh prescribed per unit.

AHP projects faced a fund crunch as the central government withheld Rs 1,003.55 crore due to non-fulfilment of prescribed conditions by the state government and due to shortage in collection of beneficiary contribution and ULB share of Rs 8,360.78 crore. This led to the cancellation of AHP projects and lack of civic infrastructure to completed houses.

Only 14 per cent of houses taken up by the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) under AHP were constructed and the rest were taken up individually. These projects do not have water supply, underground drainage, roads, electricity etc..

The central government withheld the first instalment of Rs 569.56 crore under BLC projects due to a shortfall in attaching beneficiaries to projects. For Direct Benefit Transfer payments, the validation through Aadhaar was not done for payments of Rs 172.64 crore to 12,757 out of 62,648 BLC beneficiaries. The audit revealed double payments of Rs 1.30 crore in 111 cases.

Lapses in mandatory monitoring under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) resulted in 471 beneficiaries receiving benefits under BLC and AHP too. As of March 2021, projects were taken up for only 38 per cent (5,17,531 dwelling units) of beneficiaries under AHP and BLC. As against the approved 5,17,531 dwelling units (DUs), only 17 per cent were completed, 63 per cent were yet to be commenced and the remaining 20 per cent were ongoing. Chances of achieving the goal of 'Housing for All' by 2022 are remote.

K2 APP YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY

The Khajane 2 project is yet to implement all the planned processes into the K2 application, which is yet to achieve all its intended objectives and outcomes even after more than a decade of its conception, as the intended modules were either not completed or put to use, stated the CAG report. The project was rolled out incrementally from 2015 to 2021, impacting the changeover from K1 to K2 and limiting the capability of K2. Though the revision of Financial Codes were envisaged as a preparatory activity, it was not completed. Tracking funds drawn

on grant-in-aid bills was not facilitated as there was no provision of monitoring the submission of utilisation certificates.

“Go live” could not be declared due to delay in rolling out all the modules, and operation and maintenance were concurrently undertaken without modifying the agreement, it stated. The state government did not have adequate strategic control over K2 and the project was implemented around a work-flow engine proprietary to the system integrator, TCS. The project deviated from the agreed development model and timelines. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2022/sep/21/66-lakh-beneficiaries-not-identified-under-housing-schemes-cag-2500324.html>

7. CAG pulls up govt over graft in implementation of PMAY ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) September 21, 2022

The CAG report stated that out of the 10,188 recipients, 4,446 or 44% were not even part of the prospective beneficiary list, indicating the possibility of irregularities in the implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship scheme.

A comptroller and auditor general (CAG) report tabled in the ongoing session of the state assembly on Tuesday stated that only 12% of original beneficiaries approved by the central sanctioning and monitoring committee (CSMC) were provided actual benefits under the housing for urban poor, while 88% were selected outside the approved criteria.

“Only 1,600 out of the 12,979 (12%) of original beneficiaries approved by CSMC and attached to approved projects were provided actual benefits under the scheme. Thus, 88% of the recipients of scheme benefits were selected outside the approved DPRs. However, the addition of new beneficiaries was carried out without approval of CSMC in violation of PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) manual,” according to the performance audit of implementation of housing schemes for urban poor in Karnataka.

Further, the report stated that out of the 10,188 recipients, 4,446 or 44% were not even part of the prospective beneficiary list, indicating the possibility of irregularities in the implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s flagship scheme.

The report comes even as the monsoon session of the state legislature discusses scandals that have allegedly taken place under the nose of chief minister Basavaraj Bommai-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state.

The CAG audit was considered in 20 urban local bodies and stated that the state-level sanctioning and monitoring committee did not “exercise due diligence” in ascertaining the total number of beneficiaries.

“This resulted in inclusion of 7,640 beneficiaries who were not identified in the survey under various projects implemented in these ULBs,” according to the CAG report.

The guidelines that only those below ₹ 3 lakh per annum income were eligible were also overlooked as at least 18 out of the 33 beneficiaries of both affordable housing as well as credit-linked subsidised housing had higher incomes than the cut off.

The CAG report also stated only 21,837 out of the approved 3.04 lakh houses were completed under 300 affordable housing projects between 2015-21.

Further, the report on housing for urban poor stated that there were double payments made in over 100 cases.

“The primary control for direct benefit transfer (DBT) payments, viz validation through unique identification (Aadhaar) was not carried out for payments amounting to ₹172.64 crore made to 12,757 out of 62,648 BLC (beneficiary led individual house construction) beneficiaries. Audit analysis also revealed doubled payments amounting to ₹1.30 crore in 111 cases,” the report said.

The Congress, the principal opposition party, on Tuesday came down heavily on the Bommai government over the PSI (police-sub inspector) recruitment scandal that has now become an extension of the “40% commission” narrative that has dominated headlines in recent months.

Siddaramaiah, the leader of the opposition, said the BJP government was blaming its predecessors even though the names of several ministers and their close associates have come to the fore in the preliminary investigation.

“I demand that recruitments under different governments be probed by a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge and only then truth will come out,” Siddaramaiah said.

He also demanded the resignation of Araga Jnanendra, minister for home affairs, who the Congress has blamed for the recruitment scandal as well as for the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

The PSI scandal is one in which several candidates writing the PSI recruitment exam for the 545 sub-inspector posts held in October last year allegedly used means of fraud to score well.

Six rank winners among 12 have been arrested for fraud in the recruitment exams.

The scam first came to light when officials noticed that candidates who scored high all took the exam at the Kalaburagi centre. The suspicion that a fraud had taken place was confirmed when a police officer told the media that each candidate had paid ₹5 lakhs to ₹10 lakh before the exams, HT reported in May.

“We have so far arrested 97 people of which 48 are candidates and 26 are police personnel,” Jnanendra said. This includes an ADGP rank official who was the head of recruitment.

Jnanendra said there were several scams during the Congress-led government (2013-18) to hit back at the opposition. He added that any government post “should not become something that you can buy but go to only those who are eligible”.

Piling allegations of corruption has dented the chances of the BJP and their bid to defend its term in office in the upcoming assembly elections which is now barely a year away. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/bengaluru-news/cag-pulls-up-govt-over-graft-in-implementation-of-pmay-101663700190793.html>

8. Koramangala, Vrishabhavathi valleys lost 50% of drain length: CAG report ([deccanherald.com](https://www.deccanherald.com)) September 21, 2022

Poor maintenance of stormwater drains (SWDs), exposed by the recent floods, have impacted the city's major valleys and watersheds, which, experts say, need immediate attention.

The September 2021 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the city's SWD network has revealed that the Koramangala and Vrishabhavathi valleys have lost close to 50% of their drain length over the years, bringing down their carrying capacity.

A similar reduction in vegetation cover was also observed. "Valleys have a major role in carrying the rainwater out of the city, to avoid flooding. Over the years, the authorities have neglected them leading to such reduction in vegetation cover and open land space," said V Ramprasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes. He said authorities allowed construction in the valley zones where maintaining topology was vital. "The Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 had stated that the valley zones were to be no-construction areas. The government discarded that and allowed construction on them."

Also, the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) Act was amended only to fuel such construction. "When that is the case, how can the valleys remain intact?" Ramprasad wondered.

Apart from the length, the vegetation cover of the Koramangala Valley has come down by close to 5%. "The vegetation cover decides the rate of infiltration of water. As vegetation cover reduces, the percolation of water decreases and hence, the amount of runoff water increases resulting in floodlike situations," explained Prof T V Ramachandra from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The reduction in vegetation cover has proven to be a bigger problem than a mere increase in runoff water, he explained. "On one hand, the runoff water leads to flood-like situations. On the other hand, the groundwater levels are coming down drastically. Land use patterns play an important role in preventing such problems," he said.

The CAG report also revealed that, over the years, the number of waterbodies that existed in the Koramangala Valley came down to 8 from 41, and those in the Vrishabhavathi Valley reduced to 13 from 51, mainly owing to the conversion of lakes. <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/top-bengaluru-stories/koramangala-vrishabhavathi-valleys-lost-50-of-drain-length-cag-report-1146869.html>

9. 37 PSUs incurred loss of ₹6,103 crore: CAG report ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) September 20, 2022

Karnataka's 37 public sector undertakings (PSUs) incurred losses to the tune of ₹6,103.96 crore for the fiscal year ending March 2020, according to a Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) report.

In all, Karnataka has 120 PSUs employing 2.04 lakh employees. A total of 107 PSUs are working and 13 are not functional.

It said 54 PSUs earned a profit of ₹2,729.91 crore as per their latest finalised accounts as of December 2020, the CAG compliance audit report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday said.

The major profit earning firms were KPCL (₹1,209.56 crore), and KRIDL (₹293.94 crore), while major loss making firms were RPCL (₹2,084.95 crore), and GESCOM (₹987.59 crore).

“The working PSUs registered a turnover of ₹74,922.04 crore as on December 2020. This turnover was equal to 4.60% of the GDP for 2019-20,” the report said.

However, between 2015-16 and 2019-20, the working PSUs incurred a net aggregate loss of ₹3,374.05 crore, it said.

As on March 2020, 13 PSUs having an investment of ₹670.18 crore were non-working for the last 17 years. This was a critical area as the investments in non-working PSUs do not contribute to the economic growth of the State,” the report said.

The non-working PSUs include Bangalore Suburban Rail Company Ltd, Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Ltd, Mysore Tobacco Company Ltd, Mysore Cosmetics Ltd, Karnataka Telecom Ltd among others.

For startups

The CAG found that the release of ₹6.51 crore to 28 startups by the Karnataka Innovation Technology Society (KITS) under the Idea2PoC initiative was “irregular” as KPMG, the implementing partner, did not make available evaluation reports.

Further, under the Grand Challenge initiative, KITS incurred an expenditure of ₹4.13 crore that “did not yield the intended results”. That is because the programme was “practically abandoned” after a pilot and none of the innovative solutions were scaled up for adoption by the host department, the report said. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/37-psus-incurred-loss-of-6103-crore-cag-report/article65914906.ece>

10. 54 out of 107 functional PSUs earning profits: CAG ([deccanherald.com](https://www.deccanherald.com)) 20 Sep 2022

Karnataka has 37 public sector undertakings (PSUs) that incurred losses to the tune of Rs 6,103.96 crore for the fiscal ending March 2020. This was more than twice the profit earned by 54 other enterprises, according to a report of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG).

The 54 PSUs earned a profit of Rs 2,729.91 crore as per their latest finalised accounts, as of December 2020, said the CAG’s compliance audit report, tabled in the Legislative Assembly, on Tuesday.

Karnataka has 120 PSUs employing 2.04 lakh employees. Of them, 107 PSUs are working and 13 are not functional.

The major contributors to the profit were KPCL (Rs 1,209.56 crore) and KRIDL (Rs 293.94 crore). Significant losses were incurred by RPCL (Rs 2,084.95 crore) and GESCOM (Rs 987.59 crore), the report said.

“The working PSUs registered a turnover of Rs 74,922.04 crore as per their latest finalised accounts as of December 2020. This turnover was equal to 4.60% of the GDP for 2019-20,” the report said.

However, between 2015-16 and 2019-20, the working PSUs incurred a net aggregate loss of Rs 3,374.05 crore, the audit found.

“As on 31 March 2020, 13 PSUs having an investment of Rs 670.18 crore were non-working for the last 17 years. This was a critical area as the investments in non-working PSUs do not contribute to the economic growth of the state,” the report said.

The non-working PSUs include Bangalore Suburban Rail Company Ltd, Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Ltd, Mysore Tobacco Company Ltd, Mysore Cosmetics Ltd, Karnataka Telecom Ltd among others.

“The state government made net investment of Rs 10,097.32 crore in 18 out of 45 PSUs during the years, for which accounts were not finalised. In the absence of finalisation of accounts and their subsequent audit, it could not be ensured whether the investments and expenditure incurred were properly accounted for and the purpose for which the amount was invested was achieved or not,” the report said.

Irregular funds to startups

The CAG found that the release of Rs 6.51 crore to 28 startups by the Karnataka Innovation Technology Society (KITS) under the Idea2PoC initiative was “irregular” as KPMG, the implementing partner, did not make available evaluation reports.

Further, under the Grand Challenge initiative, the KITS incurred an expenditure of Rs 4.13 crore that “did not yield the intended results”. That is because the programme was “practically abandoned” after a pilot and none of the innovative solutions were scaled up for adoption by the host department, the audit found. <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/54-out-of-107-functional-psus-earning-profits-cag-1146815.html>

11. Escoms suffered losses due to delayed works, award of contract to ineligible firms: CAG (thehindu.com) 21 Sep 2022

Incurred an additional expenditure of ₹225.49 crore owing to delay in execution of works

Electricity Supply Companies (Escoms) in Karnataka delayed by 12 to 37 months completion of various works under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and awarded contracts to ineligible firms violating the prevailing rules, said The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

Quality compromised

The CAG report “DDUGJY/Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bilji Har Ghar Yojana” for the year 2022, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, noted that there was compromise in the quality of material used in electrical works.

Escoms had incurred an additional expenditure of ₹225.49 crore owing to delay in the execution of works. Delay in availability of lands and in availing clearances from forest and

railways caused breach of timelines for completion of work and deferring the envisaged benefits to the beneficiaries, it said.

Escoms incurred additional expenditure of ₹26.42 crore on project management consultants due to fixation of higher fees than that stipulated under the scheme. Escoms incurred extra expenditure of ₹39.67 crore on procurement of material at higher rates over and above the Central procurement prices, the CAG said.

Contracts extended

The report said the contracts were extended without levying a penalty of ₹3 crore on the defaulting contractors in violation of the general conditions of contracts/terms of detailed work award, defeating the purpose of inclusion of penal clause in the contract to act as deterrent on non-performing contractors.

Although Escoms achieved targets under the scheme, there were cost and time overruns due to deficiencies in planning and implementation whereby the envisaged benefits had either been deferred or not been achieved in true terms, the report said. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/escoms-suffered-losses-due-to-delayed-works-award-of-contract-to-ineligible-firms-cag/article65914069.ece>

12. No authority shall conduct parallel probe into Bengaluru's SWD encroachments: Karnataka HC ([indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)) 21 Sep 2022

The Karnataka High Court Monday issued a direction that no authority should conduct a parallel inquiry or pass orders with respect to issues related to the encroachment of the storm-water drains (SWD) in Bengaluru, and the orders passed by the court shall be binding on all the authorities.

The order comes after the court on September 15 had asked the civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) if any parallel authority was inquiring into the encroachments on SWD and if any stay on the removal of encroachments has been issued. The BBMP counsel had clarified that no parallel authority has issued any stay order on the removal of encroachments.

A division bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty Monday asked the civic body to form a panel of three officers to ensure the implementation of recommendations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its 2021 report on the 'performance audit of management of SWDs in Bengaluru'.

The bench said that the panel should submit its report to the court with the suggestions to implement the measures suggested in the CAG report.

The BBMP, after a two-day gap, resumed the eviction drive in Mahadevapura zone Monday. The officers demolished the compound wall of an apartment on an SWD near Garudacharpalya Lake and an RCC bridge built over the sewage treatment plant (STP) near Marathahalli. The BBMP has found that an SWD has been blocked by slabs on the Wipro campus in Doddakannelli. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/no-authority-conduct-parallel-probe-bengaluru-swd-encroachments-hc-8161950/>

13. Curious case of compensation delay: Bangalore Development Authority ends up paying Rs 44 crore to landowner it owed Rs 11 lakh in 1988 ([timesnownews.com](https://www.timesnownews.com)) 21 Sep 2022

The world is full of odd yet curious stories and ones that involve money are all the more intriguing. In an interesting turn of events, the Bangalore Development Authority ended up shelling out crores to a landowner it owed a few lakhs, all because of delay in making the compensation

The principal planning authority for Bangalore was to make a payment of Rs 10.9 lakh towards Nanjundappa to part with 4 acres, 4 guntas in the vicinity in March 1988, according to the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. However, the authority failed to pay the amount immediately and did it finally years later.

Years later in August 2017, the landowner filed a petition in the HC seeking acquisition proceedings to be declared lapsed. He also sought compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act of 2013.

The court agreed to this and asked the BDA to give the aggrieved “equal extent of land having similar potential as compensation within three months”. The authority again failed to comply within the stipulated time frame and so a contempt petition was filed in January 2018.

This time, the BDA decided to compensate the landowner in the form of developed sites measuring 11,979 sq ft for every acre of land acquired by them. Accordingly, BDA allotted 48,277.5 sq ft, comprising 23 sites in different BDA layouts as compensation.

But the complainant knocked on the HC’s door again, seeking even higher compensation. So, the development authority had to give 20 additional sites measuring 50,328.2 sq ft in different layouts. The total value of developed land given as compensation was estimated at Rs 44.5 crore.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on departments and public-sector undertakings mentions this case of BDA land acquisition from 1988 for development of JP Nagar 8th Phase in Bengaluru.

1988 land acquisition case timeline

- ▶ BDA fails to pay Rs 10.9 lakh as compensation to Nanjundappa for parting 4 acres, 4 guntas in JP Nagar 8th phase in 1988
- ▶ The landowner moves HC in 2017, court asks BDA to give “equal extent of land having similar potential as compensation in 3 months”
- ▶ Failing to comply, BDA faces contempt petition in January 2018 and gives 48,277.5 sq ft, comprising 23 sites in different layouts as compensation
- ▶ Complainant seeks higher compensation in the HC and BDA gives 20 additional sites measuring 50,328.2 sq ft. <https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/curious-case-of-compensation-delay-bangalore-development-authority-ends-up-paying-rs-44-crore-to-landowner-it-owed-rs-11-lakh-in-1988-article-94341712>

14. कर्नाटक में शहरी गरीबों के लिए केवल 17 प्रतिशत आवास इकाइयों का काम पूरा हुआ: सीएजी रिपोर्ट (navbharattimes.indiatimes.com) 21 Sep 2022

बेंगलुरु भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (सीएजी) कर्नाटक में आवास विभाग ने मार्च 2021 तक शहरी गरीबों के लिए 5.17 लाख आवास इकाइयों (डीयू) के निर्माण के लक्ष्य के मुकाबले केवल 88,395 या नी केवल 17 प्रतिशत इकाइयों का काम पूरा किया है।

सीएजी ने यह भी कहा कि मार्च 2021 तक सर्वेक्षण के माध्यम से पहचाने गए 13,71,592 संभावित लाभार्थियों (38 प्रतिशत) में से केवल 5,17,531 लाभार्थियों को साझेदारी में किफायती आवास (एएचपी) और लाभार्थी के नेतृत्व वाले व्यक्तिगत आवास निर्माण (बीएलसी) परियोजनाओं में शामिल किया गया।

सीएजी ने कहा कि अभी (मार्च 2021) में 3,28,499 आवास इकाइयों का निर्माण शुरू होना था। यह दर्शाता है कि 2022 तक "सभी के लिए आवास" मिशन के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करना काफी मुश्किल है।

"कर्नाटक में शहरी गरीबों के लिए आवास योजनाएं" 2022 शीर्षक वाली सीएजी की यह रिपोर्ट मंगलवार को विधानसभा में पेश की गई।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, शहरी स्थानीय निकायों ने आवास की मांग का आकलन करने के लिए सर्वेक्षण करने को लेकर निर्धारित प्रक्रियाओं का पालन नहीं किया। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/amil-nadu/chennai/in-karnataka-only-17-percent-housing-units-for-urban-poor-completed-cag-report/articleshow/94336555.cms>

15. आवास योजनाओं के तहत 6.6 लाख लाभार्थियों की पहचान नहीं: सीएजी (jantaserishta.com) 21 Sep 2022

बेंगलुरु: शहरी गरीबों के लिए आवास की आवश्यकता का आकलन करने के लिए एक सर्वेक्षण प्रभावी नहीं था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप 20.35 लाख के बजाय केवल 13.72 लाख लाभार्थियों की पहचान की गई। हाल ही में पेश नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि सर्वेक्षण भी कट-ऑफ तारीख के भीतर पूरा नहीं हुआ था, जबकि बाद में 49 प्रतिशत लाभार्थियों को जोड़ा गया था।

2,472 परियोजनाओं के लिए 5.17 लाख स्वीकृत लाभार्थियों में से केवल 3.43 लाख स्वीकृत स्वीकृत आवास भागीदारी (एएचपी) और लाभार्थी नेतृत्व निर्माण (बीएलसी) कार्यक्षेत्र से जुड़े थे। चूंकि विशिष्ट पहचान संख्या का उपयोग करते हुए एक सत्यापन अंतर था, कुछ लाभार्थियों ने समान/विभिन्न कार्यक्षेत्रों के तहत कई लाभ प्राप्त किए।

एएचपी के तहत वास्तविक लाभ केवल 12 प्रतिशत लाभार्थियों को दिया गया था, जबकि 44 प्रतिशत संभावित लाभार्थी सूची का हिस्सा भी नहीं थे, जिसने अपात्र लोगों को लाभ की अनुमति दी। निर्मित घरों के संयुक्त निरीक्षण से पता चला कि 41 प्रतिशत उच्च लागत वाले थे।

30 वर्गमीटर से अधिक के कालीन क्षेत्र वाली बहुमंजिला इमारतें और प्रति यूनिट निर्धारित 5 लाख रुपये की सीमा के भीतर नहीं आती हैं।

एचपी परियोजनाओं को फंड की कमी का सामना करना पड़ा क्योंकि केंद्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित शर्तों को पूरा न करने और लाभार्थी योगदान और 8,360.78 करोड़ रुपये के यूएलबी शेयर के संग्रह में कमी के कारण 1,003.55 करोड़ रुपये रोक दिए। इससे एचपी परियोजनाओं को रद्द कर दिया गया और पूर्ण घरों के लिए नागरिक बुनियादी ढांचे की कमी हुई।

एचपी के तहत कर्नाटक स्लम डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड (केएसडीबी) द्वारा लिए गए घरों में से केवल 14 प्रतिशत घरों का निर्माण किया गया था और बाकी को व्यक्तिगत रूप से लिया गया था। इन परियोजनाओं में पानी की आपूर्ति, भूमिगत जल निकासी, सड़क, बिजली आदि नहीं है।

लाभार्थियों को परियोजनाओं से जोड़ने में कमी के कारण केंद्र सरकार ने बीएलसी परियोजनाओं के तहत 569.56 करोड़ रुपये की पहली किस्त रोक दी। प्रत्यक्ष लाभ हस्तांतरण भुगतान के लिए, 62,648 बीएलसी लाभार्थियों में से 12,757 को 172.64 करोड़ रुपये के भुगतान के लिए आधार के माध्यम से सत्यापन नहीं किया गया था। ऑडिट में 111 मामलों में 1.30 करोड़ रुपये के दोहरे भुगतान का खुलासा हुआ।

क्रेडिट लिंकड सब्सिडी योजना (सीएलएसएस) के तहत अनिवार्य निगरानी में चूक के परिणामस्वरूप 471 लाभार्थियों को बीएलसी और एचपी के तहत भी लाभ प्राप्त हुआ। मार्च 2021 तक, एचपी और बीएलसी के तहत लाभार्थियों के केवल 38 प्रतिशत (5,17,531 आवासीय इकाइयों) के लिए परियोजनाएं शुरू की गई थीं। स्वीकृत 5,17,531 आवासीय इकाइयों (डीयू) के मुकाबले केवल 17 प्रतिशत ही पूरे हुए थे, 63 प्रतिशत को शुरू किया जाना बाकी था और शेष 20 प्रतिशत चल रहे थे। 2022 तक 'सभी के लिए आवास' के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने की संभावना बहुत कम है।

K2 ऐप को अभी पूरी तरह से लागू किया जाना है

खजाने 2 परियोजना को K2 एप्लिकेशन में सभी नियोजित प्रक्रियाओं को लागू करना बाकी है, जो अभी तक अपने सभी इच्छित उद्देश्यों और परिणामों को प्राप्त करने के लिए एक दशक से अधिक समय के बाद भी प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है, क्योंकि इच्छित मॉड्यूल या तो पूरे नहीं हुए थे या उपयोग में नहीं लाए गए थे। सीएजी की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है। परियोजना को 2015 से 2021 तक क्रमिक रूप से शुरू किया गया था, जिससे K1 से K2 में परिवर्तन प्रभावित हुआ और K2 की क्षमता सीमित हो गई। यद्यपि वित्तीय संहिताओं के पुनरीक्षण को एक प्रारंभिक गतिविधि के रूप में परिकल्पित किया गया था, इसे पूरा नहीं किया गया था। अनुदान सहायता बिलों पर आहरित निधियों को ट्रैक करने की सुविधा नहीं थी क्योंकि उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की निगरानी का कोई प्रावधान नहीं था।

इसमें कहा गया है कि सभी मॉड्यूल को चालू करने में देरी के कारण "लाइव जाओ" घोषित नहीं किया जा सकता है, और संचालन और रखरखाव एक साथ समझौते को संशोधित किए बिना किया गया था। राज्य सरकार के पास K2 पर पर्याप्त रणनीतिक नियंत्रण नहीं था और परियोजना को सिस्टम इंटीग्रेटर, TCS के स्वामित्व वाले वर्क-

प्लो इंजन के आसपास लागू किया गया था। परियोजना सहमत विकास मॉडल और समयसीमा से भटक गई है। <https://jantaserishta.com/local/karnataka/66-lakh-beneficiaries-not-identified-under-housing-schemes-cag-1585968>

16. बंगलौर विकास प्राधिकरण ने ज़मींदार को 11 लाख रुपये के भुगतान में देरी की, 34 साल की लड़ाई में 44 करोड़ रुपये की साइटें दीं (jantaserishta.com) 2 1 Sep 2022

बंगलूरु विकास प्राधिकरण (बीडीए) एक ज़मींदार को 11 लाख रुपये का समय पर भुगतान सुनिश्चित करने में विफलता के कारण अंततः इसे विकसित साइटों को बेचने के बाद आठ साल बाद 44.5 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

विभागों और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों पर नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की रिपोर्ट में बंगलूरु में जेपी नगर 8 वें चरण के विकास के लिए 1988 से बीडीए भूमि अधिग्रहण के इस मामले का उल्लेख है।

1894 के भूमि अधिग्रहण अधिनियम के अनुसार, मार्च 1988 में नंजुंदप्पा को 4 एकड़, 4 गुंटा देने के लिए 10.9 लाख रुपये का समय पर भुगतान किया जाना था। हालांकि, बीडीए तुरंत भुगतान करने में विफल रहा और अंत में इसे किया। आठ साल बाद।

अगस्त 2017 में पीड़ित भूमि मालिक ने एचसी में एक याचिका दायर कर अधिग्रहण की कार्यवाही को समाप्त घोषित करने और भूमि अधिग्रहण अधिनियम 2013 में उचित मुआवजे और पारदर्शिता के अधिकार के तहत मुआवजे की मांग की।

अदालत ने सहमति व्यक्त की और बीडीए को "तीन महीने के भीतर मुआवजे के रूप में समान क्षमता वाली भूमि के बराबर भूमि" देने के लिए कहा। चूंकि अदालत के निर्देशों का बीडीए द्वारा निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर पालन नहीं किया गया था, इसलिए जनवरी 2018 में अवमानना याचिका दायर की गई थी।

बीडीए ने अधिग्रहित प्रत्येक एकड़ भूमि के लिए 11,979 वर्ग फुट को मापने वाले विकसित स्थलों के रूप में भूस्वामी को मुआवजा देने का निर्णय लिया। तदनुसार, बीडीए ने 48,277.5 वर्ग फुट आवंटित किया, जिस में मुआवजे के रूप में विभिन्न बीडीए लेआउट में 23 साइटें शामिल थीं।

हालांकि, शिकायतकर्ता फिर से उच्च न्यायालय गया और उच्च मुआवजे की मांग की। बीडीए को अलग-अलग लेआउट में 50,328.2 वर्ग फुट की 20 अतिरिक्त साइटें देनी थीं। मुआवजे के रूप में दी गई विकसित भूमि का कुल मूल्य 44.5 करोड़ रुपये आंका गया था। <https://jantaserishta.com/local/karnat-aka/bangalore-development-authority-delays-payment-of-rs-11-lakh-to-zamindar-gives-sites-worth-rs-44-crore-in-34-years-fight-1585695>

17. Maharashtra: MVA govt probe flags irregularities in 2019 Prajwala scheme (indianexpress.com) September 20, 2022

After receiving strictures from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the Maharashtra State Commission for Woman spending Rs 1.74 crore between June and September 2019 on the Prajwala scheme, an internal inquiry ordered by the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, too, has pointed out similar irregularities.

The inquiry was ordered by the then women and child welfare minister, Yashomati Thakur, during the Monsoon Session of the state legislature. This was after Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande raised questions about the CAG's internal inquiry report.

Thakur went on to order a probe by Rubal Agrawal, the commissioner of Integrated Child Development Scheme, Maharashtra. The report was submitted to the women and child welfare department on September 13. A copy of the report has been accessed by The Indian Express.

The inquiry report on the BJP-led government's Prajwala scheme, implemented by the state women's commission, had concluded that expenditure of Rs 1.74 crore made from June to September 2019 had no administrative approval from the state government. The money spent did not follow rules and regulations laid down by the state finance department regarding expenditure of government money, it added. BJP leader Vijaya Rahatkar was the chairperson of the commission when the scheme was launched.

The report recommended detailed audit of the expenditure, as there is ambiguity about the selection process of 98 tehsils where the scheme was implemented.

The CAG had also pointed out that the funds were largely spent on information dissemination of government schemes and imparting casual training to women on cellphone applications like use of WhatsApp, Nammo app and BHIM app.

The CAG's internal inquiry report had further stated that the Prajwala scheme was planned for all 288 constituencies of the state, but it was implemented only in 98 constituencies just before the state Assembly elections of 2019.

"The decision to implement the scheme goes beyond the functions of the commission mentioned in Section 10 of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women Act, 1993. The Act only entrusts oversight functions, viz. investigation, examination, evaluation, inspection, etc, to the commission," it had said.

When contacted, MLC Manisha Kayande alleged the money was wrongly used for election campaign by BJP. "It was the state government's money, which was not meant for political work. But it was used in violation of all rules and regulations. We will continue to demand action and responsibility should be fixed," she added. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/maharashtra-mva-govt-probe-flags-irregularities-in-2019-prajwala-scheme-8162966/lite/>

18. IPS Officers promotions: CAG auditors seek info from Haryana police (indianexpress.com) September 21, 2022

With the issue of promotions of Haryana IPS officers being examined at multiple forums, the auditors of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) have sought information from the state police regarding different aspects related to the matter.

It's learnt now the office of Accountant General (audit) Haryana has sought a list of IPS officers promoted in different ranks under ex-cadre posts from 2015-16 to 2022.

The auditors also want to know "whether any proposal was submitted to the MHA to review/regularise the ex-cadre posts". They have also sought information regarding criteria and

rules under which these officers were promoted under ex-cadre posts apart from asking whether any proposal was prepared to review the cadre of state police services (HPS).

The critics in the police department have been raising questions over the promotions of IPS officers promoted from the IGP to ADGP rank stating the same were done despite “non-availability of sufficient vacancies in the rank of ADGP”. However, the government has been insisting that there is nothing wrong in converting ex-cadre posts of DGPs into ADGPs to fill the gap while justifying the promotions. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/ips-officers-promotions-cag-auditors-see-info-from-haryana-police-8163254/>

19. कैग की रिपोर्ट में 204 गांवों के विद्युतीकरण में देरी के लिए विसंगतियों का हवाला दिया (jantaserishta.com) 20 Sep 2022

नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) ने दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना के अपने ऑडिट में उल्लेख किया है कि राज्य में बिजली कनेक्शन हासिल करने के लिए कर्नाटक के 204 गांवों को कम से कम तीन से पांच साल तक इंतजार करना पड़ा था। बिजली आपूर्ति कंपनियों (ESCOMs) द्वारा असामयिक वैधानिक मंजूरी।

शिवमोग्गा और चिकमगलुरु में स्थित 204 गाँव, मैंगलोर विद्युत आपूर्ति कंपनी (MESCOM) के अधिकार क्षेत्र के तहत फीडर से नहीं जुड़े थे।

मेसकॉम ने मेसर्स बजाज इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड, मुंबई और मेसर्स एशियन फ़ैब टेक लिमिटेड, बेंगलुरु को शिवमोग्गा (624 गांवों को कवर करने वाले 68 फीडर) और चिकमगलूर (674 गांवों को कवर करने वाले 56 फीडर) में फीडर पृथक्करण के निष्पादन के लिए एक आशय पत्र जारी किया था।) कुल टर्नकी आधार पर जुलाई 2018 तक पूरा किया जाना है।

हालांकि, सीएजी द्वारा ऑडिट में पाया गया कि फीडर पृथक्करण कार्यों को करने के लिए रेलवे अधिकारियों से समय पर मंजूरी न मिलने के कारण काम पूरा नहीं हुआ था।

CAG ने कहा कि MESCOM ने फरवरी 2018 में ही रेलवे की मंजूरी के लिए आवेदन किया था, जिसके 10 महीने बाद कंपनियों को LOI समाप्त हो गया था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप देरी हुई।

इसके अलावा, मैसूरु जिले में,

416 बीपीएल परिवारों को निर्धारित पूर्णता तिथि से कम से कम पांच वर्ष की देरी से विद्युतीकृत नहीं किया गया था। जबकि परियोजना को अगस्त 2016 में पूरा किया जाना था, बिजली कनेक्शन केवल जुलाई 2021 में प्रदान किए गए थे।

कैग ने कहा कि केवल फरवरी 2016 में आवेदन दायर करने के साथ वन मंजूरी हासिल करने में देरी हुई थी, लेकिन जुलाई 2018 तक केवल 61.6 लाख रुपये की अपेक्षित राशि का भुगतान किया।

इसके अलावा,

ESCOM ने वन विभाग के साथ अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई में देरी की और अंततः 2021 में सुरक्षित हो गया। <https://>

20. कैग को 113.80 करोड़ रुपये की अनियमितताएं मिलीं (jantaserishta.com)

) 20 Sep 2022

वर्ष 2019-

20 के दौरान खनन एवं भूविज्ञान विभाग से संबंधित एक इकाई के अभिलेखों की नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (कैग) की नमूना जांच में छह मामलों में 113.80 करोड़ रुपये से संबंधित राजस्व की गैर-वसूली/कम वसूली और अन्य अनियमितताओं का पता चला है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 102.73 करोड़ रुपये के राजस्व की कम/कम वसूली का मामला, 8.64 करोड़ रुपये के राजस्व के कम भुगतान के दो मामले, 38 लाख रुपये के राजस्व के नुकसान के एक मामले और अन्य अनियमितताओं के दो मामले थे। 2.05 करोड़ रु.

विभाग ने लेखापरीक्षा आपत्ति का कोई उत्तर प्रस्तुत नहीं किया और 2019-20 के दौरान किसी भी मामले में वसूली की सूचना नहीं दी गई।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि राजस्व की कम / गैर-वसूली और राजस्व की हानि के मामले में 10.90 करोड़ रुपये के प्रभाव वाले मामले थे।

इसमें कहा गया है कि संभागीय खनन अधिकारी (डीएमओ), जोवाई जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन फंड के विलंबित भुगतान के लिए तीन सीमेंट कंपनियों मेघालय सीमेंट्स लिमिटेड, डालमिया भारत सीमेंट लिमिटेड (आधुनिक सीमेंट्स सहित) और स्टार सीमेंट्स से 34.10 लाख रुपये की ब्याज राशि वसूल करने में विफल रहे।

8 दिसंबर, 2017 को अधिसूचित मेघालय जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन नियम, 2017, राज्य के सभी खनिज वाले जिलों में जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन (डीएमएफ) की स्थापना का प्रावधान करता है।

डीएमएफ के निर्माण का उद्देश्य/उद्देश्य खनन से संबंधित कार्यों से प्रभावित व्यक्तियों और क्षेत्रों के हित और लाभ के लिए है। इसके बाद, खनिज संसाधन निदेशालय (डीएमआर) ने एक परिपत्र जारी किया जिसमें कहा गया था कि कोयले और लिग्नाइट के अलावा अन्य प्रमुख खनिजों के लिए, 17 सितंबर, 2015 से डीएमएफ में योगदान 12 जनवरी से पहले दिए गए खनन पट्टों के लिए रॉयल्टी का 30% होगा। , 2015 और उसके बाद दी गई खनन पट्टों के लिए रॉयल्टी का 10%।

इसके अलावा, यह भी कहा गया है कि अगर 31 दिसंबर, 2017 तक बकाया राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया जाता है तो 1 जनवरी 2018 से सालाना 15% का ब्याज लिया जाएगा।

डीएमओ, जोवाई के अभिलेखों की जांच से पता चला कि 17 सितंबर, 2015 से 31 दिसंबर, 2017 की अवधि के दौरान, तीन सीमेंट कंपनियों ने कुल 50,36,099 मीट्रिक टन चूना पत्थर निकाला, जिसके लिए 40.29 करोड़ रुपये (50,36,099) की रॉयल्टी मिली। एमटी x 80 रुपये) का भुगतान किया गया था।

उक्त अवधि के दौरान निकाले गए चूना पत्थर के लिए देय डीएमएफ का योगदान 11.32 करोड़ रुपये था। सीमेंट कंपनियों ने 13 मार्च से 11 अप्रैल 2018 के बीच देर से भुगतान किया।

तथापि, जिला खनिज अधिकारी, जोवाई ने विलंबित भुगतान राशि ₹0 34.10 लाख के ब्याज की वसूली नहीं की। <https://jantaserishta.com/local/meghalaya/cag-finds-irregularities-worth-rs-11380-crore-1584784>

21. पंजाब को 1200 करोड़ का ऋण: विश्व बैंक ने दी मंजूरी, राज्य पर पहले ही तीन लाख करोड़ का कर्ज (amarujala.com) 20 Sep 2022

विश्व बैंक के कार्यकारी निदेशक मंडल ने मंगलवार को पंजाब को अपने वित्तीय संसाधनों का बेहतर प्रबंधन करने और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में सुधार करने के लिए 150 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर यानी करीब 1,200 करोड़ के ऋण को मंजूरी दे दी है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय संस्थान ने एक बयान में कहा कि वह विभिन्न सरकारी विभागों की संस्थागत क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने, वित्तीय जोखिमों का प्रबंधन करने और सतत विकास का समर्थन करने के लिए सूचित नीति विकल्प बनाने की खातिर राज्य के प्रयासों का समर्थन करेगा।

विश्व बैंक ने कहा कि पंजाब की वृद्धि क्षमता से कम रही है। राजकोषीय चुनौतियों और संस्थागत क्षमता बाधाओं के संयोजन के लिए दुर्लभ संसाधन विकास की प्राथमिकताओं में बहुत कम हैं। यह मदद नए कानूनी और नीतिगत सुधारों के राज्यव्यापी कार्यान्वयन का समर्थन करके सार्वजनिक खरीद प्रणालियों में जवाबदेही बढ़ाने के अलावा नई परियोजनाएं, बजट और निगरानी कार्यों को मजबूत करके और डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाकर राज्य के विकास लक्ष्यों का समर्थन करेगी।

विश्व बैंक के कंट्री डायरेक्टर अगस्टे तानो कौमे ने कहा कि विश्व बैंक समय पर लागत प्रभावी और अच्छी गुणवत्ता वाली सार्वजनिक सेवाएं देने के राज्य के प्रयास में पंजाब राज्य का भागीदार बनकर खुश है, जो समावेशी विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। यह नई परियोजना राज्य की नई डाटा नीति के कार्यान्वयन का समर्थन करेगी, जिसका उद्देश्य विभिन्न सामाजिक सुरक्षा पहलों को एक साथ लाना है।

परियोजना के तहत दो कार्यों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। इसमें नगर निगमों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए एक अनुदान प्रणाली शामिल होगी। वहीं, इसके तहत अमृतसर और लुधियाना शहरों के चुनिंदा क्षेत्रों में 24 घंटे पानी की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जाएगी। परियोजना के विश्व बैंक टास्क टीम लीडर ध्रुव शर्मा और भावना भाटिया ने कहा कि 150 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के ऋण की परिपक्वता अवधि 15 साल है, जिसमें छह महीने की छूट अवधि भी शामिल है।

पंजाब सरकार पर तीन लाख करोड़ का कर्ज

पंजाब सरकार पर पहले ही करीब तीन लाख करोड़ का कर्ज है। आम आदमी पार्टी की भगवंत मान सरकार के लिए इस कर्ज से निपटना बड़ी चुनौती है। कैग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार राज्य सरकार को प्रदेश का खर्च और योजनाएं चलाने के लिए और कर्ज लेना पड़ेगा। यह कर्ज 2025 तक जहां 3.75 लाख करोड़ तक

पहुंचेगा, वहीं 2028-

29 तक 6.33 लाख करोड़ हो जाएगा। <https://www.amarujala.com/chandigarh/world-bank-approves-rs-1200-crore-loan-for-punjab?pagelid=1>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

22. For the Defence Establishment, Materiel Acquisition Schedules Are Seemingly Timeless (*thewire.in*) September 20, 2022

Neither the Ministry of Defence (MoD) nor the three armed forces appear, in the slightest, to be concerned with timely materiel procurement deadlines in order to further the military's continually delayed modernisation and to meet existing and emerging security challenges.

It seems that in a country where the word for today and tomorrow – kal – is paradoxically the same, and where accompanying time limits of parson and tarson – the day after or the third day or thereabouts – remain equally nebulous, both these establishments tended to pursue a seemingly timeless defence equipment acquisition schedule.

Alongside, the MoD had also periodically scrapped innumerable tenders for operationally critical equipment over the past decade, due mostly to the services qualitative requirement (QR) overreach for equipment and allegations of wrongdoing and corruption, most of them unproven. This, in turn, had forced all three services to either continue employing obsolete kit, or simply manage without it.

In 2018, for instance, the Indian Army (IA)'s Vice Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Sarath Chand had compellingly informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence that 68% of the force's in-service platforms were in the 'vintage' category, compared with 24% considered 'current'. Merely 8%, he declared, were regarded as 'state of the art' for the world's second-largest army that faced the prospect of a two-front war with belligerent and collusive nuclear-armed neighbours.

Little, however, had changed in the intervening four years, not only for the IA but also for the Indian Navy (IN) and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Meanwhile, the list of all such equipment procurement delays, essential for all three services to sustain operational efficiency and to deter adventurism by China and Pakistan, is almost endless and beyond the confines of editorial space to variously catalogue. But a handful of glaring, and somewhat embarrassing examples cited below, illustrate this blatant and near-total disregard for equipment acquisition timelines, plagued by the constant see-saw scuffle between the MoD and the respective service headquarters.

More recently, the hype surrounding the atmanirbharta or self-sufficiency route to make good this persistent materiel shortfall remained at an embryonic stage. Other than major technological challenges, it faced bureaucratic ambiguity in pursuing and securing its aims. And though breaking free of import dependency doubtlessly remains the preferred option for India's military in sourcing diverse equipment, there was little acceptance in official circles that it was, according to industry officials, a timely, costly and arduous endeavour.

“The bleak reality is that almost all military acquisitions are running perilously late,” said Amit Cowshish, former MoD financial advisor on procurements. Complex Defence Acquisition Procedures, lack of clarity by the services in formulating their individual equipment requirements and a hidebound bureaucracy, were collectively responsible for these recurrent postponements, he added.

However, the most blatant and ongoing instance involves the IN’s long-overdue critical Project 75 I (India) – or P75I – to indigenously build six ‘hunter-killer’ diesel-electric conventional submarines (SSKs), to bolster the forces declining underwater assets. The programme was initially accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) approval, the first of multiple procurement steps in 2007 by the MoD’s Defence Acquisition Council headed by the defence minister.

It involved one of two shortlisted indigenous shipyards collaborating with an overseas submarine manufacturer to build these boats to supplement the IN’s 15 SSKs, of which 11 were all between 20 and 34 years old, with several due soon for retirement. Years passed and P-75I lingered on, necessitating an AoN recharge several times, with no result. Consequently, the project was rekindled by the MoD through a request for information (RfI) for the proposed boats a decade later, in July 2017. Four years later, in June 2021, a tender or request for proposal (RfP) was dispatched for the SSKs to two domestic submarine builders-Mazagaon Dockyard Limited (MDL) and Larsen & Toubro.

Meanwhile, between the issuance of the RfI and the RfP, several overseas original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) from France, Japan, Spain, Sweden and more recently Russia declined to participate in the P-75I programme for a variety of complicated reasons like ‘unworkable’ IN QRs for the SSKs design and impractical project completion timeline restrictions. Prospective overseas vendors also railed against RfP clauses stipulating near unlimited performance and delivery liability upon the foreign technology partner, without any executive control over the manufacturer.

Consequently, P75-I is presently in limbo, 15 years after it was first mooted; but according to media reports it is ‘under evaluation’, a euphemism that equalled further adjournment in the project.

And even if all these hurdles were to somehow magically disappear imminently, naval veterans said the IN would only receive the first SSK eight-ten years hence, if not later. The People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), on the other hand – with which the IN is vying to dominate the strategic Indian Ocean Region (IOR) – currently employs 66-odd diesel-electric and nuclear-powered and nuclear-attack submarines, and was on course to exponentially boost these numbers.

Furthermore, the IN had floated a RfI for 57 multi-role carrier-borne fighters (MRCBF) in flyaway condition over five years ago, in January 2017, to operate off INS Vikrant, the indigenous carrier that was commissioned into service earlier this month, as the existing Russian MiG-29K/KUB combat fleet had proven operationally inadequate. Subsequently, the MRCBF requirement was pared down to 26 naval fighters, including eight twin-seat trainers, reportedly due to financial considerations, and the platform choice was narrowed down to France’s Dassault Rafale-M’s and US’s Boeing F/A-18 Block III Super Hornets, following ‘demonstration trials’ recently by both manufacturers.

Thereafter, no RfP has been issued, despite Vikrant's commissioning, further delaying the crucial MRCBF purchase, despite ample lead time of several years for this purchase. Former IN Chief of Staff Admiral Arun Prakash told Reuters on the eve of Vikrant's September 2 commissioning that due to India's 'typically disjointed decision-making process' the selection of carrier-based fighters had gotten 'de-linked' from the carrier project, and that a decision on it was yet to be taken. "We knew the ship (Vikrant) was likely to be commissioned this year, hence the selection process, as well as negotiations for the fighter should have started well in time, perhaps three to four years earlier," the former naval aviator argued.

And even in this instance, if wondrously the IN and the MoD did somehow manage to fast-track the MRCBF acquisition, it would take 3-4 years before deliveries of the shortlisted fighter would begin, by 2026-27 or perhaps even later. However, till then Vikrant would have to 'make do' with the inefficient MiG-29K/KUBs.

In comparison, once more, the PLAN, currently operates three aircraft carriers with a complement of some 40 fighters and helicopters each. Eventually, it aims on deploying at least two, or even three additional carriers by 2030, with each platform and its combat air arm an improvement on the ones commissioned earlier.

IAF, Army procurements also meet similar fate

In the meantime, the IAF had issued a RfI in April 2019 for 114 fighters medium multi-role fighters (MMRF) to make good its fast-depleting combat squadrons, whose numbers had dropped to a perilous 28-29, from a sanctioned strength of 42. Over the next two to three years, these are expected to decrease even further to around 25 squadrons, as the IAF retired four squadrons of its 70-odd legacy MiG2 'BIS' ground-attack fighters, sharply reducing the force's numerical platform superiority over Pakistan, leave alone China. Some of the IAFs six-odd Jaguar SEPECAT squadrons, comprising around 120 platforms, too were nearing the end of their Total Technical Life and also scheduled for superannuation.

Of the 114 MMRF, 18 of the shortlisted fighter type would be imported directly, and the remainder built locally under a transfer of technology. Last October, Air Chief Marshal V.K. Chaudhuri declared that several vendors had responded to the IAFs RfI and that the entire acquisition process was being progressed. Little had occurred since, akin to the IAFs 2008-09 proposal, amongst several other unrequited acquisitions, to procure multi-role tanker transport (MRTT) to extend its fighters' operational reach. Talk of leasing MRTT, as a cost-saving measure, too remains stillborn.

The IA, on the other hand, which has been operating without close quarter battle (CQB) carbines since the mid-1980s, has still not made good this deficiency. Repeated, ineffectual and stop-go attempts over years by the IA and the MoD, especially since 2008 to procure a replacement for the licence-built 9mm Sterling 1A1 sub-machine gun variant dating back to 1944, had all failed. Consequently, this had pushed the army's overall requirement for CQB carbines which the force desperately needed for counter-insurgency operations, to over 450,000 units.

The IA's recently announced emergency procurement of light, air-transportable tanks to augment its firepower in Himalayan regions like Ladakh, was first mooted 13 years ago, in 2009, soon after military planners shifted their strategic focus from Pakistan, to the security threat posed by China.

Consequently, the army had, at the time received several responses to its global RfI for 200 wheeled and 100 tracked light tanks, weighing 22 tons each, but thereafter no formal tender was issued. The entire proposal, like several others, was shelved because of the army's indifference and competing financial claims by existing T-72, T-90 and Arjun main battle tank ventures. Once again, the IA's and the MoD's inability in the timely prioritisation of acquiring and inducting such a platform had adversely impacted the ongoing military face-off with China along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

A similar unresponsive fate had greeted the army's Battlefield Management System and the interfacing Tactical Communication System, as well as the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) programme, all launched between 2005-09. The former two projects lapsed through disinterest, while the latter has seen a peripheral revival in recent days under the atmanirbhar scheme, but remains countless years away from fruition.

As stated earlier, the list of missed deadlines and overall lackadaisical approach to equipment buys is never-ending, and unfortunately in inverse proportion to the Indian military's operational need for it. It also evokes a ditty by Gloria Pitzer, a US-based attorney that sums up the country's defence and military establishment's overarching attitudinal approach to acquisitions:

Procrastination is my sin.

It brings me naught but sorrow.

I know that I should stop it.

In fact, I will – tomorrow!" <https://thewire.in/security/defence-establishment-materiel-acquisition-schedule-modernisation>

23. ADB cuts India's GDP forecast to 7% on high inflation, monetary tightening ([business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)) September 21, 2022

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has slashed India's economic growth projection for 2022-23 to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier, citing higher than expected inflation and monetary tightening.

India's economy grew 13.5 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022-23, reflecting strong growth in services, ADB said in a supplement to its flagship ADO report on Wednesday.

"However, GDP growth is revised down from ADO 2022's forecasts to 7 per cent for FY2022 (ending in March 2023) and 7.2 per cent for FY2023 (ending in March 2024) as price pressures are expected to adversely impact domestic consumption, and sluggish global demand and elevated oil prices will likely be a drag on net exports," it said.

The ADO expects the Chinese economy to expand by 3.3 per cent in 2022 rather than the 5 per cent forecast earlier. Lockdowns from the zero-COVID strategy, problems in the property sector, and weaker external demand continue weighing on the economic activity in China, said the report. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/adb-cuts-india-s-gdp-forecast-to-7-on-high-inflation-monetary-tightening-122092100310_1.html