

1. सीएजी ने दुनिया भर में साई की व्यावसायिकता का समर्थन करने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की (virarjun.com) 12 Nov 2022

सीएजी ने दुनिया भर में साई की व्यावसायिकता का समर्थन करने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की

नई दिल्ली (बीअ)। भारत के सीएजी गिरिश चंद मुर्मू ने इंटोसाई नॉलेज शेयरिंग कमेटी के अध्यक्ष के रूप में, इंटोसाई गवर्निंग बोर्ड के साथ-साथ इकोसाई में नॉलेज शेयरिंग कमेटी की गतिविधियों की प्रगति को प्रस्तुत किया। उल्लेखनीय है कि सुप्रीम ऑडिट इंस्टीट्यूशंस (इकोसाई) की 24वीं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस रियो डी जनेरियो शहर में 7-11 नवंबर, 2022 तक आयोजित की जा रही है। कांग्रेस के दो मुख्य विषय थे: आपातकालीन स्थितियों में सर्वोच्च लेखा परीक्षा संस्थानों की भूमिका और वैश्विक आवाज, वैश्विक परिणाम और दूरगामी प्रभाव।

इकोसाई हर तीन साल में एक बार, लगभग 196 देशों के प्रतिभागियों को सार्वजनिक ऑडिट समुदाय के सामने आने वाले प्रमुख मुद्दों और उनके संभावित समाधानों

पर चर्चा करने के लिए एक साथ लाता है। भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक गिरिश चंद मुर्मू ने समुदाय को इंटोसाई ज्ञान साझाकरण समिति के उद्देश्य की याद दिलाई, जो लगातार विकसित हो रहे वैश्विक वातावरण के साथ-साथ नए और उभरते क्षेत्रों के ऑडिट के लिए खुद को रणनीतिक रूप से लैस करना है। केएससी अपने उद्देश्यों को सहयोगी अनुसंधान, मानकों के विकास और मार्गदर्शन दस्तावेजों, दिशानिर्देशों, हैडबुक और प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रम के साथ-साथ वेबिनार और प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से प्रसार के माध्यम से प्राप्त करता है। केएससी की रणनीति के प्रमुख तत्व राष्ट्रीय, क्षेत्रीय और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठनों, शिक्षाविदों के साथ-साथ नागरिक समाज के साथ निरंतर जुड़ाव को बढ़ावा देना है।

<https://epapervirarjun.com/>

2. What will it cost to universalise early childhood education in India? (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) 11 Nov 2022

According to the 2011 census, India is home to 99 million children between three and six years of age, a period considered vital for growth. Researchers believe that a child learns the most during this period of early childhood—from birth until the age of six or eight years. The foundations of brain architecture and functioning, and subsequently lifelong developmental potential, are laid during this time.

Cognisant of this fact, education policies in the country have time and again stated the need for equitable early childhood education (ECE). The National Education Policy 2020 has gone a step further and recommended the inclusion of young children within the structure of the school system and the universalisation of pre-primary education by 2030. However, a vision of such magnitude can only be brought to fruition with adequate resources and planning.

Early childhood education in India

Currently, the ECE system in India is a mix of incongruous programmes with different funding streams, service providers, and quality standards. Government is the largest provider of ECE, followed by the private sector, and nonprofits and other organisations that run preschools for a small proportion of children. The public sector delivers ECE through its network of anganwadi centres and preprimary schools across the country, but is able to cater to only 31.4 million children. According to the National Sample Survey 75th Round report, approximately 37 million children do not avail of any early education service, be it in the public or private sectors. Further, there are wide variations in access to quality ECE. For example, the annual average out-of-pocket expenditure per child varies from INR 1,030 in government institutions to as high as INR 12,834 in private institutions.

Poor allocation of public funds is one of the major roadblocks to effective planning and delivery of ECE in India. In 2020–21, the government allocated a meagre 0.1 percent of the GDP to ECE and its average yearly spend of INR 8,297 per child is drastically lower than the amount required to meet the standards set by countries around the world. Even within India, budget allocation varies across states. While Haryana allocated INR 16,506 per annum to each child in 2020–21, West Bengal's allocation was only INR 5,346.

A model for the future

What kind of financial investment will it take to make sure that India has a robust ECE system? Based on primary and secondary research, a study proposes the adoption of the following three models—that are aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, widely prevalent, and scalable—to deliver ECE.

-Stand-alone preschool-cum-day-care centres

This model is suitable for urban areas, especially for children with working parents. The centre operates for six to eight hours, aligned to parents' work timings, and has three ECE teachers, one centre head, and two helpers. Sixty children aged three to six can be enrolled at these centres. The infrastructure and facilities in the centre include a computer and an internet connection, a kitchen, a toilet, drinking water, furniture, and adequate educational material for the children. The centre has a minimum area of 800 square feet in addition to an outdoor area for play.

-Stand-alone anganwadi centre

This model meets all the quality parameters that apply to preschool-cum-day-care centres, and can be considered as an anganwadi centre of improved quality with two ECE teachers and one helper. It operates for three to four hours daily and can enrol 40 children in the three-to-six age group. The centre has a computer and an internet connection and/or smartphones, a kitchen, a toilet, drinking water, furniture, and adequate educational material for children. It has a minimum area of 500–600 square feet in addition to an outdoor area for play.

-Pre-primary section in primary schools

This model is located within a primary school and is staffed with two ECE teachers and one helper. It can enrol 40 children in the three-to-six age group and operate for four hours. The infrastructure and facilities in the centre include a computer and an internet connection and/or smartphones, furniture, and adequate educational material for children. The toilet and drinking

water facilities are shared with the primary school. The infrastructure such as the space and classrooms within an existing primary school are utilised by the pre-primary sections as well.

Cost of universal ECE

The study considers the following costs to deliver quality ECE:

-Establishment cost: This comprises the cost of infrastructure development, including investment on buildings/space acquisition, and procurement expenditure on fixed assets such as furniture, water tanks, computers, printers, and swings for playgrounds.

-Operational cost: This comprises cost of staff salaries, rent or maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure, communication expenses, midday meals, and so on.

-Institutional cost: This includes institution building at various levels of governance (block, district, state, and centre), monitoring and supervision, and so on. These allied expenditures were included because they apply to similar service provisions in various other government programmes such as anganwadi services and the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

The study recommends a teacher–child ratio of 1:20 in all three models. It recognises that the salary of an ECE teacher should be at least INR 40,240 a month, so that it is equivalent to the amount currently paid to a primary school teacher at a Kendriya Vidyalaya. Further, the entry-level salary of a helper should be INR 8,892–11,622, in accordance with the minimum wage norms for unskilled labour set by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The study estimates the cost of universalising ECE in India in three scenarios, which involve providing quality ECE to:

- All 99 million children aged three to six
- The 67.6 million children who are currently not availing government ECE services
- The 37 million children who are currently not enrolled in any ECE service

Based on the authors' calculations, the study concludes that the approximate total resource requirement to provide universal quality ECE services to all children in the three-to-six age group would be in the range of 1.5–2.2 percent of the GDP.

Mobilising revenue for universal ECE

The study has identified some channels from where additional resources can be mobilised towards the universalisation of ECE.

1. 15th Finance Commission

The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a 41 percent share for states in the central taxes for the period of FY2021–26. As this fund is flexible in nature, a part of it can be used for institution building for ECE. The commission also recommended a grant of INR 4,800 crore to incentivise states to enhance educational outcomes. The government could use this resource efficiently to improve early education services in the country.

2. Unutilised cesses

Over the last 10 years, cesses of approximately INR 1.25 lakh crore were collected on crude oil but remain in the Consolidated Fund of India as they were never transferred to the designated reserve fund. There have been similar incidents in the past where cesses, taxes, and charges have been collected but never remitted to specific reserve funds. The unutilised cess or part of it retained in the Consolidated Fund of India can be used to finance universal ECE.

3. Unspent funds from government programmes

At different points of time, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits have shown sanctioned amounts lying unspent under different government-run programmes. As mobility of funds under centrally sponsored schemes and central sector schemes is mostly conditional, it is difficult to utilise unspent funds from one sector/scheme on another. The government should make the programmes more flexible and channel unspent funds into deserving sectors such as early education.

4. Corporate social responsibility

Education receives one of the highest priorities in CSR activities but only 17 percent of these funds is directed towards education of pre-primary children. The CSR community must be made aware of the importance of ECE and the need to enhance its quality and coverage in the country.

Policy recommendations

In addition to suggestions on the need and utilisation of budget, the study makes certain policy recommendations:

1. Increase spending on anganwadi services

The early education programme run under anganwadi services is considered to be age appropriate. However, due to the shortage of anganwadi centres and low quality of service delivery, people have to resort to private centres that do not follow recommended practices. Therefore, it is vital for the state to enhance its spending on anganwadi services so that children between three to six years of age can avail good-quality early education.

2. Improve data collection

There is paucity of data on ECE interventions in the country, which hinders planning. Disaggregated, real-time physical and financial data is vital for adequate planning, budgeting, and monitoring of early education at all levels.

3. Maintain a well-trained and well-paid workforce

A professionally trained and adequately compensated workforce is needed to impart early education. Training and capacity-building programmes must be conducted for staff at ECE centres on a regular basis. The study recommends building a block- or cluster-level centre or strengthening existing architectures to regularise and professionalise the staff.

4. Standardise financial norms

The financial norms of certain essential components such as salaries of teachers, education material, and training must be standardised at the central level. States should have the flexibility to spend over and above the stipulated norm set by the Centre. Moreover, the unit costs of many components such as rent, infrastructure, and teaching and learning material should be increased.

5. Regulation of education services

Early education services need to be regulated across diverse service providers, along the lines of the quality standards set by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy. Norms such as space, teacher–child ratio, and curriculum mentioned in both could be key aspects in delivering effective ECE in India. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/what-will-it-cost-to-universalise-early-childhood-education-in-india/>

STATES NEWS ITEMS

3. Case in HC, Shinde as UD min directed NIT to lease land to 16 persons (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) Nov 14, 2022

Nagpur: Information released under RTI has revealed that CM Eknath Shinde ordered Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT) to execute lease and give land acquired for housing scheme for slum-dwellers to 16 persons during his tenure as urban development minister in Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime. A PIL related to the 19,331.24 sq m land worth crores is pending in Nagpur bench of Bombay high court.

Amicus curiae in the case Anand Parchure said, “The decision taken by the minister amounts to interference in administration of justice and can be hauled up for contempt of court.”

Activist Kamlesh Shah has obtained a copy of the order passed by Shinde on April 20, 2021. In the order, the minister has set aside a decision taken by NIT chairman on February 10, 2020.

Parchure told TOI, “HC appointed one-member inquiry committee of retired HC judge MN Gilani to conduct an inquiry and submit report in allotment of NIT-owned lands and public utility (PU) lands to individuals and organizations. The said land is part of the case. Gilani Committee had submitted its report to HC. The case is pending in HC. Therefore, UD minister cannot take any decision related to the said land. We will challenge the order of UD minister by amending the petition in HC.”

There is no mention about the case pending in HC in entire order passed by the minister.

As per the Gilani Committee’s report, the state government had sanctioned Sakkardara Street Schemes on September 2, 1967, for creating new plots for residence and other purposes and for removal of slum conditions in unauthorized layouts. NIT had acquired 42.88 acre land owned by Shamjibhai Kheta and taken its possession on July 23, 1981. Ujjwal Cooperative Housing Society had submitted an application to NIT, demanding regularization of 52 plots, including the said land situated in mouza Harpur under Gunthewari Act on May 17, 2002.

NIT sent the application to Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) as the area was under the latter. The civic body rejected the application on August 22, 2002.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had exposed various irregularities by NIT in allotment of its lands and PU lands in 2004. Taking note of CAG report, activist Anil Wadpalliwar had filed a petition in HC in 2004. The HC had appointed advocate Parchure as amicus curiae. The petitioner had challenged proposed regularization of layout comprising the said land in the same petition. Thus, the said land is part of the case pending in HC till date.

On December 20, 2010, the then NIT chairman had rejected second application of the society to regularize the said land. “Moreover, the said layout is also involved in a PIL filed by Wadpalliwar against the NIT, challenging the proposed regularization of said layout and case is still pending,” cited the chairman as one of the two reasons behind rejection of the application.

Shah alleged the UD minister was wrong in taking a decision related to the land when the case is pending in HC. “NIT should have challenged the order of UD minister in HC but remained silent for reasons best known to the officials. The land is owned by NIT. Housing scheme for poor people has been proposed by NIT under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) on this land. Decision to give land on lease to 16 influential people is bad in law. Therefore, the order of UD minister needs to be set aside,” he said.

NIT chairman Manoj Kumar Suryawanshi did not respond to TOI’s calls and messages.

Gilani Panel Comments On The Land

*On March 15, 2017, the then NIT chairman agreed to lease land to 16 persons considering third application dated December 3, 2016, though it was owned by NIT, and earlier chairperson, and municipal commissioner rejected similar applications twice. Also, provisions of Gunthewari Act not applicable to those illegally claiming rights over land vested in NIT

* 16 persons and society continued to deal with and dispose of the land without any title, and it was consistently ignored by officials

* Revenue officials erroneously ordered cancellation of mutation of the land carried out in favour of NIT

* Applying basic principle of law and logic, the only conclusion deducible is that whatever resolutions and orders passed, steps taken, recommendations made towards recognizing, regularizing third party rights are per se illegal and non est. Unfortunately, all this happened despite court orders going in favour of NIT

* Next course of action shall be to ignore all such post actions or steps and evolve comprehensive policy to accomplish the object set out at the inception. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/case-in-hc-shinde-as-ud-min-directed-nit-to-lease-land-to-16-persons/articleshow/95494752.cms?from=mdr>

4. Maharashtra: PWD to construct more than 1,700 new bridges, work underway at some places (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) 13 Nov 2022

PUNE: The state public works department (PWD) will construct 1,768 new bridges in Maharashtra as many of the old structures are in a poor shape, a senior official said on Saturday.

The PWD has 95,105 bridges under its jurisdiction, of which 478 were built during the British period. A fresh structural audit of these bridges was done recently by the department and work has commenced in most districts, said officials.

“The assessment of these bridges has shown that the old bridges are beyond repair and new bridges have to be constructed. We have identified about 1,768 such spots where new bridges will be constructed. Work is underway at some places. These include small, medium and big bridges,” a senior official of the state’s PWD department said.

The state government had advised regular checks after a 106-year-old bridge over the Savitri river collapsed near Mahad due to heavy flooding in 2016. The bridge was constructed in 1928. The bridges built during the British period are regularly checked for repairs. The recent Comptroller Auditor General report mentioned that the construction work has been affected due to non-acquisition of required land. The report also mentioned that “inspection and monitoring were deficient as reflected from nonmaintenance of the bridge register, non/improper maintenance of masonry registers, shortfall in conduct of routine, special and comprehensive inspections, and nonpreparation of calendar of inspection”.

In the absence of preventive maintenance, the cost of maintenance may increase drastically besides putting the lives of commuters at risk, stated the report. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/maharashtra-pwd-to-construct-more-than-1700-new-bridges-work-underway-at-some-places/articleshow/95484720.cms?from=mdr>

5. Delay of exam results, Mismanagement of funds; CAG report reprehends Kerala University (maktoobmedia.com) 14 Nov 2022

In spite of the delayed publication of results leaving many to lose their hopes for higher education in this academic year, the discrepancies regarding the administration of Kerala university remain yet to be addressed.

A month after the A ++ NAAC accreditation came in hues, the Comptroller Auditor General’s report on the administration of the university (2016-2022) was submitted to the Kerala Government on 6 July 2022.

Though the response of the Government and the University in the report, blames the Covid and flood-affected academic years, the report states that the management of the university has only gone astray from an already off-track administrative scenario.

Since long back, improper measures of untimely appearance of examinations and publication of results have faced backlash from students and parents. The students who have entered an important turn in their education had to undergo stipulated time frames in learning the syllabus or preparing for regular and supplementary exams.

Despite the UGC regulation that the results have to be published within 45 days, the report finds a time lag of 200 to 300 days. As the third semester, CBCSS UG (2020-22) improvement examination results remain unannounced, many students also lost their chances of securing admission to postgraduate courses this academic year. Among these students are those who suffered the brunt of the pandemic and lockdowns and were unable to write the exams for either being Covid Positive or due to the death of a close relative.

Mismanagement of funds and the void of an unapproved master plan

Although a UGC fund of 15.6 crores was allocated to the university during the tenure of 2012-17 under the 12th Five-Year Plan, the reckless administration and improper development without a proper plan left behind 6.9 crores unused during the period. In addition to this, the Kerala Government did not initiate the University to take any measures to transfer the funds from the treasury to the SBI (an alternative depository choice) despite a tax surge in the treasury and a fall in the SBI. Which could have prevented the tax deductions from the funds received and a deduction of interest of 21 crores.

With no approved master plan, the syllabus revision, learning process, conduction of examinations and other strategic outcomes expected from a higher education institution are impeded. While the prescribed revision of the course syllabus has to take place every three years, 28 courses remain unrevised in three years and 5 other courses from eight to thirteen years.

Seventeen University Institutes of Technology are yet to start the procedures for NAAC accreditation and 108 teachers in the UITs have been appointed without qualifying NET. The report also finds that more than 23 % of faculty is appointed on a contract basis, contrary to the maximum of 10% under the UGC guidelines.

Undoubtedly the A++ Accreditation is an acknowledgement to a higher institution dated for more than eight decades which had contributed to Kerala's brightest and other renowned personalities and the result of the hard work of its staff and faculty who have been working in and out to this historic moment.

The university departments managed under the CSS which comparably ensures proper management of exams and result publications and maintains higher academic and infrastructural development which is not yet achieved in the whole university have overshadowed the shortcomings of the University administration and other affiliated colleges.

Whatsoever, the accreditation bestowed upon the University not only invites responsible interventions in the higher education council, but it also adds to the need for fastidious remedial of student grievances.

With the NAAC accreditation, the question of funding is not subjected to further concerns. However, in the wake of the CAG report still unaddressed for three months in the legislative assembly, the government of Kerala is not yet ready to make an open statement acknowledging the mismanagement of the University or a master plan for educational development or any resolutions to the distress and student grievances.

The University also does not maintain proper communication with the Affiliated colleges and there is complete negligence of section 78 of the University Act, 1974, which requires all

affiliated colleges to submit a report every four years to the Vice Chancellor. As a result, there is no systematic monitoring and outcome-based interventions to regulate the functioning of various provisions that can cater for the development of higher education in this 21st century.

Student Movements and the general public are mostly unaware of the report and no moves to keep the administration in line have yet come up against what has been normalised and unresolved for so long. Though the Fraternity Movement, a student organisation has brought this to public attention by organising a march to the University, the authorities still remain uninformed.

Diversity, expansion and wellbeing

The global scapes in various career realms and living standards are growing day by day. Navigating the outcomes of Higher Education (HE) in today's fast-paced world, should not only be ensured, organised and regularly kept in check but also should be open, inclusive and diverse. Students reaching the crossroads at a significant time of their lives, where the formation of perspectives and the creation of diverse schemas are rampant are provided with incompetent means of education. Rushing to cover up the syllabus only to face the perils of exams and uncertainty of future endeavours has become a normalised convention of the university.

One of the students in the regular UG (2020-2023) batch says that they hardly got a month to complete their fourth semester. They had their third-semester exams in the month of June while the official calendar including the question paper marked it as 'an examination conducted in March. With hardly a month in between, the students also had to appear for their fourth-semester exams in August.

The required interval of three months (90 working days) is not ensured between the semesters, leaving the students to carry multiple pressures in a very limited time frame. What one learns, or the evaluation of exams and the measuring of success in education remain an under-discussed topic in academic or public circles. This severely affected the mental well-being of students in addition to the distress caused by the recent floods and lockdowns in the state.

One of the students in the University College, Thiruvananthapuram said that back-to-back exams and the toll of learning in an unsystematic environment adds to their mental pressures. 400 km apart from her hometown in Kannur, she wanted to study at the University of Kerala for its academic excellence and exposure. However, the irregularities in the administration including the unavailability of sufficient hostels have impeded the purpose itself.

The report also points out the void of a disabled-friendly environment that restricts differently-abled students to access higher education institutions. The absence of lifts in multi-storeyed buildings, ramps/rails, and disabled-friendly toilets, has not only blocked the accessibility of the disabled to the University of Kerala but also to other universities.

With constant academic pressures on the runway to complete the portions and appear for the sake of exams, often students are left out with few choices in pursuing their educational aspirations without proper guidance and provisions from the colleges. The faculty and concerned authorities are also helpless during such a situation.

And while trying to communicate with the higher officials, it has been found that no further steps have been taken hitherto to inform the additional secretaries of the higher education council or the concerned authority of the University to resolve these issues.

The need for responsible academic and administrative responses to acknowledge the existence of distress and overcome the challenges in the higher education department is undebated for proper incorporation of a skill-based curriculum, implementation of blended learning and expansion of the department. A proper expansion in HE can bring forth funding, and innovations and increase public and government scrutiny. <https://maktoobmedia.com/2022/11/13/delay-of-exam-results-mismanagement-of-funds-cag-report-reprehends-kerala-university/>

6. सीएजी ने ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की फोटोकॉपी मशीन पर खड़ा किया बड़ा सवाल (jantaserishta.com) 11 Nov 2022

ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की फोटोकॉपी मशीन पर सीएजी ने बड़ा सवाल खड़ा किया है। सीएजी रिपोर्ट में फोटोकॉपी मशीन पर बड़ा खेला पकड़ा गया है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक किराए पर ली गई मशीन से ग्रेटर नोएडा अथॉरिटी को 3 करोड़ 23 लाख 67 हजार रुपए का चूना लगा है। इस मामले में सीएजी ने जांच करते हुए बड़े सवाल खड़े किए हैं।

20 फोटोकॉपी मशीन किराए पर ली: दरअसल, ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा 20 फोटोकॉपी मशीन पौने 2 साल के लिए किराए पर ली गईं। यह सभी फोटोकॉपी मशीन अप्रैल 2018 से लेकर दिसंबर 2021 तक एक प्राइवेट कंपनी से किराए पर ली गईं। 20 फोटोकॉपी मशीन के एवज में प्राधिकरण ने कंपनी को 3.23 करोड़ रुपए से भी अधिक का भुगतान किया है।

केवल 45 लाख रुपए खर्च होते:

अब इस मामले में सीएजी ने सवाल खड़े किए हैं। सीएजी ने सवाल खड़े करते हुए कहा है कि अगर बाजार से इन 20 फोटोकॉपी मशीन को 98.5 हजार रुपए की दर से एक खरीदते तो केवल ज्यादा से ज्यादा 20 लाख रुपए सभी मशीन पर खर्च होते। इसके अलावा मेंटेनेंस की बात करें तो अगर एक मशीन पर 1.8 लाख रुपए खर्च होते तो टोटल 6.11 लाख रुपए के मेंटेनेंस पर खर्च होता। अगर मोटा-मोटा हिसाब लगाया जाए तो 20 फोटोकॉपी मशीन खरीदने के बाद और मेंटेनेंस चार्ज लेने के बाद केवल 45 लाख रुपए खर्च होते। इसके अलावा मशीन भी ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की खुद की हो जाती।

"एसआईटी से जांच होनी चाहिए"

ज ने सवाल खड़े करते हुए कहा है कि प्राधिकरण के पूर्व अधिकारियों की वजह से बड़ा नुकसान हुआ है। इस मामले में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण कई फाइनेंस विभाग से जवाब मांगा गया है वहीं दूसरी ओर इस मामले को एक और बड़ा घोटाला बताया जा रहा है। ग्रेटर नोएडा के सेक्टर बीटा-2 में रहने वाले महेश राठी का कहना है कि इस मामले में एसआईटी से जांच होनी चाहिए। सीधे तौर पर कहा जा सकता है कि पूर्व अधिकारियों ने 3 करोड़ रुपए का चूना प्राधिकरण को लगाया है। <https://jantaserishta.com/delhi-ncr/cag-raises-big-question-on-photocopy-machine-of-greater-noida-authority-1738758>

7. बीआरए बिहार विश्वविद्यालय में महालेखाकार ने सात वर्षों के रिकार्ड मांगे तो छूट रहे पसीने (jagran.com) 12 Nov 2022

मुजफ्फरपुर। बीआरए बिहार विश्वविद्यालय पहुंची महालेखाकार की टीम के सदस्यों ने शुक्रवार को सभी विभागों के पदाधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की। टीम ने अप्रैल 2015 से मार्च 2022 तक सात वर्षों का पूरा आया-

व्यय का ब्योरा और अन्य वित्तीय जानकारी मांगी है। बैठक में टीम की ओर से सभी विभागों को एक सूची उपलब्ध कराई गई है। इसमें पूरा विवरण दिया गया है कि उन्हें क्या जानकारी चाहिए। परीक्षा विभाग, विकास शाखा, नामांकन शाखा, फाइनेंस एंड अकाउंट शाखा, संबंधन, स्पोर्ट्स प्लानिंग और प्रशासनिक शाखा समेत अन्य सभी विभागों से जानकारी मांगी है। कहा गया है कि इससे पूर्व मई में आई टीम को कई विभागों ने मांगी गई जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं कराई थी। ऐसे में टीम ने पहले ही सूची उपलब्ध करा दी है। महालेखाकार की टीम की ओर से सूचना मांगे जाने के बाद कई विभागों ने पुरानी फाइलों की तलाश शुरू की।

संबंधन शाखा से मांगी गई डिग्री कालेजों की जानकारी

एजी की टीम ने संबंधन शाखा से पूछा है कि अप्रैल 2015 से कितने संबद्ध कालेज हैं। उन्हें कब से संबद्धता मिली है, किन विषयों में नामांकन के लिए मान्यता है। इसके साथ ही परीक्षा विभाग से 2015 से लेकर अबतक कितने विद्यार्थियों का रजिस्ट्रेशन हुआ। उनसे रजिस्ट्रेशन और परीक्षा शुल्क के रूप में कितने रुपये लिए गए। उसकी पावती और पूरा ब्योरा उपलब्ध कराने को कहा गया है। वहीं नामांकन शाखा से विद्यार्थियों से किस मद में कितनी राशि ली गई है। उसकी जानकारी मांगी गई है। विकास शाखा से इस अवधि में हुए कार्य और उसपर व्यय की जानकारी देनी है। वहीं विभिन्न मद में मिले अनुदान और उसकी उपयोगिता भी मांगी गई है। दूरस्थ शिक्षा निदेशालय की भी फाइलें मांगी गई हैं। दूरस्थ शिक्षा निदेशालय में हुई वित्तीय अनियमितता की फाइल पूर्व में उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गई थी। कहा जा रहा है कि अब फाइल खुलेगी तो वहां हुई वित्तीय अनियमितता मामले में बड़ी कार्रवाई हो सकती है।

मई में आडिट पूरा कर लौटी थी टीम

महालेखाकार की टीम ने इसी वर्ष मई में आडिट पूरी की थी। इसके बाद सितंबर में उसकी ओर से भेजी गई रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि विश्वविद्यालय ने उन्हें कई अहम जानकारियां उपलब्ध नहीं कराईं। इसके बाद राजभवन से भी शिकायत की गई थी। राजभवन ने अक्टूबर में विश्वविद्यालय को पत्र भेजकर संबंधित जानकारियां उपलब्ध कराने को कहा था। इसके बाद विश्वविद्यालय में त्योहार की छुट्टियां हो गई थीं। अब फिर से तीन सदस्यीय टीम आडिट करने पहुंची है। बीआरए बिहार विश्वविद्यालय के कुलसचिव डा.आरके ठाकुर ने कहा कि एजी की टीम ने विश्वविद्यालय के सभी विभाग के पदाधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की है। विभागों को सूची उपलब्ध कराते हुए जानकारी मांगी गई है। <https://www.jagran.com/bihar/muzaffarpur-when-the-accountant-general-asked-for-the-records-of-seven-years-in-brahbihar-university-was-sweating-23198966.html>

8. नमक बनाते हैं और इसी में दफन हो जाते हैं... देश को नमक खिलाने वाले किसानों का 'खारा' सच (navbharattimes.indiatimes.com) Updated: 12 Nov 2022

सुरेंद्रनगर (खाराघोड़ा): 'मरने के बाद हमारी लाशें भी ठीक से नहीं जलतीं। घुटने के निचले हिस्से को गड्ढा खोदकर जमीन में गाड़ देते हैं। उसके ऊपर से नमक भर देते हैं ताकि वह गल जाए। जीते जी तो हमारे जीवन में नमक होता ही है, मरने के बाद भी वह साथ नहीं छोड़ता। जब तक जिंदा रहते हैं, अंधापन, चमड़े का रोग, मलेरिया और गलन जैसा बीमारियों से लड़ते हैं। बच्चों को पढ़ा भी नहीं पाते। कोई बी

मार हो जाए तो यहीं मर जाएगा। अस्पताल पहुंच ही नहीं पाएगा, इलाज की तो बात ही बहुत दूर है।' फा वड़ी (फावड़ा) से नमक खींचते हुए जयंती भाई आगे बढ़ जाते हैं।

ये कहानी उस अगड़िया किसानों की आप बीती है जिनका बनाया नमक पूरा देश खाता है। जयंती भाई (42) भी अगड़िया मजदूर हैं और वे गुजरात के सुरेंद्रनगर में स्थित खाराघोड़ा रण में नमक किसान हैं। उन्हें याद भी नहीं है कि वे यहां कब से काम कर रहे हैं। 2021-

22 में देश में 266 लाख टन से ज्यादा नमक का उत्पादन हुआ था। इसमें से 227.65 लाख टन यानी 85 % नमक का उत्पादन गुजरात में हुआ था। गुजरात के बाद सबसे ज्यादा नमक का उत्पादन तमिलनाडु (17.21 लाख टन) और राजस्थान (16.90 लाख टन) में हुआ था।

खाराघोड़ा को लिटिल रण ऑफ कच्छ भी कहा जाता है। 5,000 स्क्वियर किलोमीटर से ज्यादा के क्षेत्र में फैला ये रण कच्छ के रण की ही तरह नमक पैदा करता है और गुजरात में पैदा होने वाले कुल नमक में इस रण की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 30% है। यहां नमक किसानों की संख्या 50 हजार से ज्यादा है। यहां भी जमीन से निकले पानी से नमक बनाया जाता है। देश के कई हिस्सों में समुद्र के पानी से भी नमक बनता है।

नमक बनाने वाले किसानों की जिंदगी 'बेस्वाद'

बिना नमक महंगे से महंगे पकवान भी बेस्वाद हो जाता है। लेकिन नमक बनाने वाले मजदूरों की जिंदगी खारी है। पानी के जितने खारे पन से वे नमक बनाते हैं। उनका जीवन उससे भी खारा है। सरकार की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देशभर में नमक मजदूरों की संख्या 9 लाख से ज्यादा है। गुजरात में लगभग 4.5 लाख मजदूर इस काम से जुड़े हैं।

लगभग 45 साल की मनीषा को तो यह भी नहीं पता है गुजरात में चुनाव है। लगभग 8 घंटे नमक की क्या रियों में काम करने के बाद वे रण में बने झोपड़ीनुमा घर में लौट आई हैं। पैरों को बार-बार धो रही हैं। लेकिन उसकी रंगत सफेद की सफेद ही है। 'यहीं पैदा हुई थी। यहीं काम कर रही। दो महीने से बाहर गई नहीं हूं। एक महीने से नहाया नहीं है। पीने का पानी भी यहां महीने में एक बार आता है। वह भी सरकार की इच्छा ऊपर निर्भर है। हमें तो चुनाव का तब पता चलता है कि जब नेता लोग वोट मांगने आते हैं। लेकिन यहां तो सब आते भी नहीं। शहर से 50-60 किलोमीटर दूर कौन आएगा।' मनीषा कहती हैं।

लगभग 35 साल के महेश अगड़िया की कहानी भी कुछ ऐसी ही है। हम जब उनके पास पहुंचे तो अपने खेत की क्यारियों को ऊंचा करने में व्यस्त थे। काम करते-करते वे गुजराती में बताते हैं, 'मैं यहीं पैदा हुआ हूं। सुविधाओं के नाम पर यहां कुछ भी नहीं है। अगर बीमार पड़ जाए तो 50 किलोमीटर दूर अस्पताल जाना पड़ता है और वहां जाने के लिए यहां कोई गाड़ी भी नहीं है। पीने का पानी भी टैंकर से आता है। बच्चों के लिए यहां न कोई स्कूल है और न ही पास में कोई बाजार, जहां हम अपनी जरूरत का सामान खरीद सकें। बच्चों को घर पर अकेला छोड़ नहीं सकते। वे भी हमारे साथ काम पर आते हैं।'

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LABOURERS EMPLOYED IN SALT INDUSTRY

SLNo.	Name of the State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	7550	7381	5995
2	Goa	43	43	0
3	Gujarat *	44835	45125	42900
4	Karnataka	287	307	307
5	Maharashtra	1981	1362	1792
6	Odisha	900	785	530
7	Rajasthan	13350	13630	14635
8	Tamil Nadu	21528	21398	23480
9	West Bengal	2000	1680	1500
	Total	92474	91711	91139

* Including Daman and Diu

अगड़िया किसानों पर सोडियम क्लोराइड जैसे रासायनों की भयंकर मार पड़ती है। उनके साथ बच्चे और पत्नियां भी यहीं काम करती हैं। गुजरात में नमक के लिए पहले साल्ट बेसिन (खेतों की क्यारी) तैयार किये जाते हैं। इसमें जमा खारा पानी वाष्प बनकर उड़ जाता है और अंत में बचता है जमा हुआ नमक। इसे प्रोसेसिंग के लिए फैक्ट्रियों में भेजा जाता है। इस पूरी प्रक्रिया के दौरान नमक मजदूर खुले पैर लगभग दस से बारह घंटे नमकीन पानी में रहते हैं। वैसे तो नियम तो यह है कि मजदूरों को धूप से बचाने के लिए काले चश्मे और पैरों के लिए गमबूट होने चाहिए। लेकिन से सब कागजी हैं। आमतौर पर एक अगड़िया किसान प्रतिदिन 60 टन नमक का उत्पादन करता है, जिसके बदले उन्हें लगभग 150 से 200 रुपए का मेहनताना मिलता है।

महात्मा गांधी ने अंग्रेजी सत्ता के कब्जे से नमक को आजाद कराने के लिए सत्याग्रह किया था। अंग्रेजों के जाने के बाद नमक केंद्र सरकार के अधीन आ गया। वर्ष 2021 में आई सीएजी की रिपोर्ट चौंकाती है। रिपोर्ट की मानें तो मजदूर पीने के पानी के लिए भी तरह रहे हैं। बच्चे पढ़ने के लिए तरस रहे हैं। नमक उत्पादन के दुष्प्रभाव के कारण उनकी आंखें खराब हो रही हैं। लकवा मारने की भी शिकायतें हैं। और सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह कि इन्हें समय पर इलाज नहीं मिल पाता।

अगड़िया किसानों की त्रासदी

सुरेंद्रनगर के वरिष्ठ पत्रकार और इन नमक किसानों की समस्याओं पर लिखने वाले अंबू पटेल बताते हैं, 'नमक में लगातार काम करते रहने के कारण इन किसानों की आंखों की रोशनी कम होने लगती है। अंधापन, चमड़ी का कठोर हो जाना, गलन, ब्लड प्रेशर, घुटने का चोटिल हो जाना, पीठ में दर्द और मलेरिया जैसी बीमारियों तो इनके लिए आम है। इनके पैर हमेशा ही नमक में रहते हैं। जिसकी वजह से पैर की शिराओं में रक्त का प्रवाह कमजोर पड़ जाता है और नसें सूख जाती हैं। पैर सूख कर पतले और कठोर हो जाते हैं। किसी मजदूर की मौत हो जाने पर जब उसका शरीर जलाया जाता है तो सारा शरीर जल जाता है। लेकिन पैर नहीं जलता। बाद पैरों को गड्ढा खोद कर दफन कर दिया जाता है और उन पर नमक छिड़क दिए जाते हैं ताकि पैर गल जाये। गांधी जी ने भले ही नमक को आजाद कराया। लेकिन नमक बनाने वाले किसान या कहीं अगड़िया मजदूरों के लिए यह सब त्रासदी ही है।

'अक्टूबर से जून तक ये किसान यहीं रहते हैं। इनकी स्थिति मजदूरों जैसी है। इनके बच्चों को पढ़ाने के लिए सीजन के समय यहां टीचर भेजे जाते हैं। लेकिन एक ही टीचर आता है जो सभी विषयों को पढ़ाता

है। और सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि ये टीचर अलग से नहीं रखे गये हैं। यही टीचर यहां से बाहर के स्कूलों में भी पढ़ाते हैं। कहने को तो यही मेडिकल वैन होती है। लेकिन वह भी सरकारी अस्पतालों जैसी ही बिना काम की होती है। कुल मिलाकर सरकार इनके बारे में सोच तो रही है। लेकिन जमीनी हकीकत उसकी भी दूसरी योजनाओं जैसी है।' अंबू पटेल कहते हैं। वे ये भी बताते हैं कि अगड़िया कोई समुदाय, जाति या धर्म नहीं है। जो कोई नमक बनाता है, उसे हमारे यहां अगड़िया कहा जाता है।

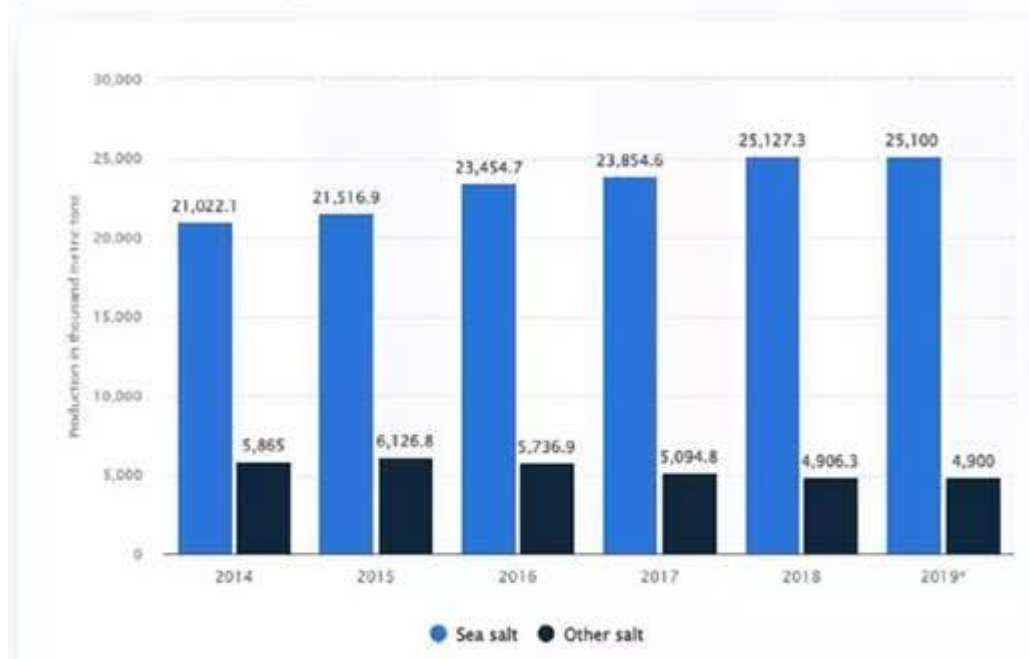
अंबू भाई आगे कहते हैं कि अक्टूबर से शुरू होकर जून तक जब नमक की पैदावार होती है तो मजदूरों को भी काम पर लगाया जाता है। किसानों के लिए सरकार ने दसवीं योजना में नमक मजदूर आवास योजना के तहत पांच हजार आवास बनवाये थे। भारत हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड को मजदूरों के बीच पीने का पानी पहुंचाने की योजना सौंपी गयी थी। लेकिन इन योजनाओं को क्या हुआ, किसी को नहीं पता। सरकार पहल कर तो रही है। लेकिन अभी बहुत कुछ किया जाना बाकी है।

महंगाई के इस दौर में इतने कम पैसे में इन किसानों का जीवन यापन कैसे होता होगा? इंडियन सॉल्ट मैनुफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (इस्मा) के अध्यक्ष भरत सी रावल बताते हैं कि पहले गुजरात में 30,000 मीट्रिक टन नमक का उत्पादन होता था। 1991 तक यह तीन वर्षों में 7,00,000 मीट्रिक टन तक पहुंच गया। हमने नमक किसानों को स्वास्थ्य बुनियादी ढांचा सहायता प्रदान करके उन दिनों सीएसआर से काम किया था। जब हमने इन किसानों के लिए काम करना शुरू किया तो किसानों को ₹17/प्रति टन मिल रहा था और पहले वर्षों में कीमत बढ़कर ₹27 प्रति टन हो गई और 1991 तक ₹70 तक पहुंच गई।

लेकिन यह भी सच है कि इन किसानों के जीवन में बहुत ज्यादा बदलाव नहीं आ सका है। नमक उद्योग में प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से करीब पांच लाख लोग काम करते हैं। इस समय एक किसान एक टन नमक से लगभग ₹250 से ₹300 तक कमा लेता है। कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहता है। रावल आगे कहते हैं।

Production volume of salt in India from 2014 to 2019

(in 1,000 metric tons)



आंकड़ों की मानें तो देश की लगभग 75 फीसदी आबादी गुजरात का बना नमक खाती है। जबकि देश में कुल पैदा होने नमक में गुजरात की हिस्सेदारी लगभग 80% है। बाकी के बचे 20 फीसदी में राजस्थान की हिस्सेदारी 10% है। बचे 10 फीसदी में तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, ओडिशा और हिमाचल प्रदेश है। भारत लगभग 55 देशों को 10 मिलियन टन नमक निर्यात भी करता है। बात अगर दुनियाभर की करें तो चीन और अमेरिका के बाद नमक सबसे ज्यादा भारत में ही बनता है।

नमक विभाग की सालाना रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, 2020-21 में देश में नमक का जितना उत्पादन हुआ, उसमें से 76 लाख टन नमक घरेलू इस्तेमाल में लाया गया, जबकि 66 लाख टन नमक विदेशों में निर्यात किया गया। बाकी का नमक उद्योगों में भेजा गया। भारत ने 2020-

21 के दौरान लगभग 870 करोड़ रुपए का नमक निर्यात किया। लेकिन करोड़ों रुपए के इस कारोबार का स्याह पक्ष भी है। <https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/elections/assembly-elections/gujarat/news/gujarat-election-2022-bitter-reality-of-farmers-who-feed-salt-to-the-country-make-salt-and-get-buried-in-it/articleshow/95437951.cms>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

9. Centre's direct tax receipts jump 26% to ₹8.71 trillion (*livemint.com*) Updated: 12 Nov 2022

The growth in direct tax collections is good news for the government, which is having to bear a higher than initially anticipated burden on food and fertilizer subsidy outgo this year.

CBDT said in a statement that tax collections up to 10 November represented 61.3% of the total budget estimate of direct tax collection in FY23.

The central government's net direct tax collections this fiscal year jumped 26% from a year ago to ₹8.71 trillion, official data released on Friday showed.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement that tax collections up to 10 November represented 61.3% of the total budget estimate of direct tax collection in FY23.

CBDT said that provisional figures of direct tax collections continue to register steady growth. Gross direct tax collections before accounting for tax refunds stood at ₹10.54 trillion so far this year, showing an improvement of 30.6% over the gross collections made in the same period a year ago.

Gross corporate tax collection improved by 22%, while gross personal income tax collections, including security transaction tax (STT), improved by 40.6%. After the adjustment of refunds, the net growth in corporate collections is 24.51% and that in personal income tax collections excluding STT is 28.06%. When STT is included, growth in net personal income tax collection is 27%. Refund amounting to ₹1.83 trillion has been issued from 1 April to 10 November, which is 61.1% higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year, CBDT said.

The growth in direct tax collections is good news for the government, which is having to bear a higher than initially anticipated burden on food and fertilizer subsidy outgo this year. The buoyancy in direct taxes and Goods and Services Tax (GST) could help offset the financial

burden on account of subsidies. To signal that the fiscal condition is comfortable, the Centre had in September lowered its borrowing target for FY23 by ₹10,000 crore to ₹14.21 trillion.

However, it remains to be seen how the remaining months of the current fiscal year will go. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently lowered its growth forecast for this fiscal to 7% from 7.2%. However, increased tax compliance and formalization of the economy could support tax collection growth. Central and state governments received close to ₹1.52 trillion in GST in October, the second-highest monthly collection after April's record mop-up. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/centres-direct-tax-receipts-jump-26-to-8-71-trillion-11668183556629.html>

10. India's dependence on coal increases despite its green energy push (*business-standard.com*) November 13, 2022

FM Sitharaman even said that India's plan to shift to renewable energy has received a jolt and therefore ways to reduce coal dependency and return to eco-friendly energy resources, need to be devised

Despite India being bullish on green energy options as it aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, the geo-political situation triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war has led to supply chain constraints, rising energy prices and pushing inflation to highest-ever levels in several countries.

All these factors combined together have compelled India to continue to depend on coal-based thermal energy.

Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that uncertainties in the energy sector are an area of concern for the government.

She noted that like many other nations, India too will have to rely more on coal in the near future due to global uncertainties and supply chain disruptions.

The Finance Minister even said that India's plan to shift to renewable energy has received a jolt and therefore ways to reduce coal dependency and return to eco-friendly energy resources, need to be devised.

Greenpeace India's Lead for climate and energy campaign Avinash Kumar gave a realistic perspective to India's growing dependence on coal despite its aggressive green energy push.

"As part of the Covid-19 recovery plan, the government opened up its coal mining sector for private players and announced many new coal mines for auction. This new investment planned for coal power plants can impact the progress of clean energy. Ideally these investments should have been for renewables," he said.

Kumar further informed that in the light of the fact that coal is increasingly becoming economically unviable and the cost of renewables continues to drop, there is a need to phase out of coal soon.

India's dependence on coal can be gauged from the fact that owing to the shortage of the fossil fuel in thermal plants, Coal India, the country's largest producer, was in June this year, forced to import 8 million tonnes of coal for this fiscal.

It was for the first time in the 50 years of Coal India's existence that the public sector undertaking was asked to import the dry fuel.

In such a scenario, the COP27 summit, which is currently going on in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh, is deliberating on the need for climate funding and on ways to reduce dependence on traditional modes of energy like fossil fuels.

In fact there are voices being raised in the summit, especially by developing economies that major polluters like China should be made to pay towards a climate fund.

India too on its part has been a strong promoter of renewable energy, as it has launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA), encouraging over 150 countries to take advantage of this international initiative.

Recently it also launched LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a global movement encouraging people to change their lifestyles and consumption patterns in order to protect the environment.

Ironically though, India has been forced to depend on coal-based energy options due to shrinking global supply chains and rising fuel prices owing to the Ukraine crisis.

In fact Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi last month had said that India's dry fuel production will touch 900 million tonnes in the current fiscal. Coal India's production in 2021-22 was 622 million tonnes.

Though the central government is calling its dependence on coal as a temporary phase, it does hamper its efforts to push for greener options. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-dependence-on-coal-increases-despite-its-green-energy-push-122111300296_1.html

11. Awaiting a paradigm shift (millenniumpost.in) November 13, 2022

The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27), being held in Egypt, is a golden opportunity for countries to clear the logjam in the path of climate action. Global collaboration is undoubtedly the keyword when it comes to tackling the magnitude of climatic threats we have been facing presently. COP27 is markedly different from the previous versions due to certain reasons. Firstly, it has come at a time when climatic aberrations are approaching a saturation point of sorts. Secondly, it is being held in Africa — a continent which remains the worst sufferer of climate disasters that are taking a heavy toll on lives and livelihoods. Proportional and parallel to the intensification of climatic aberrations, debates and discussions, too, have reached the peak — without much action though. The theme of COP27 — 'Together for Implementation' — is aptly reflective of the prevailing circumstances. While the first keyword signifies the much-needed global cooperation, the second a fatigue from inactive discussions. As is known, the world today stands divided on the climate action front — the rich world is pushing developing countries to enhance climate action and wean them away from the use of non-renewable sources of energy while the developing world is demanding appropriate streamlining of climate finance. India, as a leader of developing countries, has come to the centre-stage of

the climate action deliberations. At the COP27, right from the beginning, it has held the crux of entire deliberations — climate finance — to the forefront. With a largely suitable setting at the COP27, whether India will be able to break the ice is a critical question. But the focus is right. Until now, the loud talks around climate action have led to a faulty perception that a lot is being done in this regard while, in reality, very little action has materialised. Idea is abstract, and not sufficient in itself. It has to be backed by concrete action. And action at large scale is not possible without appropriate finances. Amid mutual blame games between the developed and the developing world, lack of climate finance is the real curse. As an acknowledgement of their responsibility for overexploiting natural resources to the planet's detriment, the developed countries at COP15 in Copenhagen (2009) had decided to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change. Despite heavy talks, this promise remained largely a promise. As per a report by the Centre for Science and Environment, the climate finance flow has increased since the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 but still remains substantially low. In 2015, the overall flow was USD 44.6 billion, and rose to USD 80.4 billion in 2019 and USD 83.3 billion in 2020. This was still below the USD 100 billion promise. If it were USD 100 billion a year, would a significant part of the problem be solved? Certainly not. A standing committee on finance has estimated that USD 6-11 trillion are required till 2030 to meet the targets set by developing countries in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Essentially, the annual USD 100 billion funding flow has by and large become obsolete. Developing countries' insistence upon it is only symbolic. It is against this background that the developing world is pushing for the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) — a brand new climate finance target that may run in trillions. An Indian delegation at the meeting averred that the "ambitious goal set down by the developing countries requires substantive enhancement in climate finance from the floor of USD 100 billion per year". The nature of this financing should be "long-term, concessional, and climate-specific with equitable allocation between adaptation and mitigation projects." Transparency is the key word making the rounds. It is reassuring to see that climate deliberations are heading towards a paradigm shift. It remains to be seen how far the developing countries will succeed in bringing about a positive change on the climate action front. <http://www.millenniumpost.in/editorial/outclassed-498820?infinitemscroll=1>

12. Put Indian mining on the centerstage (*financialexpress.com*) November 12, 2022

With a lot of green tech being mineral-intensive, the government must give mining activity in the country a boost by further deregulating the sector and working to ease/speed up the grant of permits

Next week, from November 16 to 19, India's flagship summit for the mining industry, the Global Mining Summit will take place in Kolkata. Delegates from India and the rest of the world will gather physically for the first time since 2018 to discuss big ideas and grand plans for India's natural resources sector. What makes the Summit particularly significant this time is that, unlike other recent editions, this one will take place in a radically altered global scenario.

Since the last physical edition in 2018, there has been a once-in-a-century pandemic, a major war in Europe with global spillover, and an acceleration of climate change resulting in the manifestation of several major disasters in different corners of the world. The world is resetting. So is India. Mining and metals will be a central part of the new geopolitics, geoeconomics, and India's own economic strategy and growth trajectory.

For India, this is a moment of great opportunity. The world is looking at a China-plus-one strategy for major global supply chains in manufacturing. The risk of just one country being the center of manufacturing supply chains has been evident since the onset of Covid. It has been made more acute by China's zero-Covid policy, leading to major disruptions. Every manufacturing supply chain begins with raw materials, particularly minerals and then metals. If India aspires to raise the share of manufacturing in its GDP from around 16% to 25% in the next five years, it will require a huge increase in the supply of minerals and metals. Currently, we are importing significant amounts of copper, aluminium, and even coal, which are basic requirements of most industries. For new-age minerals like nickel, lithium, and cobalt, we are 100% import-dependent.

That brings us to the second major new global trend after China-plus-one—the world is moving from an economy that was fossil-fuel-intensive to one that is going to be mineral-intensive. For many countries, this has been accelerated by the fallout on oil prices from the Russia-Ukraine war. The emerging technologies which are aiding a decarbonisation of the global economy, whether for renewable energy infrastructure or electric vehicles, are highly-mineral intensive in the sense that they require a quantum increase in the use of minerals (some old, like aluminium and copper, and some new like lithium, nickel, and cobalt) in their manufacture and operations. Onshore wind infrastructure is nine times more mineral intensive than traditional power plants. Electric vehicles are five to six times more mineral-intensive than internal combustion engine vehicles. As the demand for these grows, so does the demand for minerals. Currently, most of the new-age minerals are highly concentrated in some geographies, which is a risk.

The government of India, led by prime minister Narendra Modi, has actually been very quick to note these trends and respond. The call for self-reliance or *atmanirbharta* came early during the pandemic directly from the PM. Subsequently, policies in many sectors have been changed or introduced to help achieve this goal. The PLI schemes and schemes for semiconductors and display fab are a hallmark and benchmark. But there is a greater goal to *atmanirbharta* than just reducing import dependence. It is also a quest to put India on a sustained path to the world's fastest-growing economy as well as to create productive jobs for the majority of the population. It also seeks to address regional imbalances in India so that all regions share prosperity.

The mining sector is well-positioned to be a partner for the government in achieving all those goals. Currently, mining contributes only 2% to India's GDP. This can easily go up to 6%, given our geological potential. Hence, the sector can be a big contributor to growth. Research has also shown that mining is one of the most employment-intensive sectors in India, second only after construction. It is also well-known that India's maximum geological potential is in the east of the country, which is also the region that usually trails in economic indicators. Mining can be the anchor sector that leads these states to converge with India's richer states. Needless to say, if mining grows, India's import bill will also fall significantly.

The government must seize the opportunity that this sector presents by further deregulating it. It must also speed up environment and forest clearances so that project implementation can happen faster. It must create an environment where foreign investment flows into this sector and bring more technology and capital. We must use the Global Mining Summit's platform to make this sector the centerpiece of India's future growth. It will also serve the interests of the rest of the world on climate and diversification of supply chains. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/put-indian-mining-on-the-centerstage/2806677/>

13. India has to invest \$55 billion p.a. in urban infra to meet needs of growing population: World Bank report (thehindu.com) November 14, 2022

The report flags marked decline in PPP over the last decade, slow implementation of Centre's flagship Urban Missions by cities on the ground

A new World Bank report estimates that India will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years— that is an average investment of \$55 billion per annum— into urban infrastructure to effectively meet the needs of its fast-growing urban population.

This is at a time when Public Private Partnership (PPP) transactions for urban infrastructure in India have registered a marked decline in the last decade both in monetary value and transaction volume and amid “slow implementation performance” by States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on several of the Centre's flagship Urban Missions such as Smart Cities and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Titled “Financing India's Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action”, the report underlines an urgent need to leverage more private and commercial investments to meet emerging financial gaps.

While policy decisions to keep tariffs and service charges below levels required for cost recovery and financial sustainability are contributing to low revenue were also flagged by the report, there has also, the report noted, been slow implementation performance by states and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on several of the Centre's flagship Urban Missions— such as the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for instance— due to constraints on implementation capacity at the city level.

ULBs across India, according to the report, have so far executed only about one-fifth of the cumulative cost or outlay of approved projects under SCM and AMRUT over the last six financial years.

The total cost of projects approved under these missions is \$27 billion and \$10 billion for SCM and AMRUT respectively which ULBs have been able to execute only to the extent of 22% (SCM) and 18% (AMRUT), respectively, the report noted.

Under most of these programs, only the first release of funds has been made upfront by the Centre since the subsequent release of funds to states/ULBs is contingent on the implementation progress of the missions at the project level which “has clearly lagged.”

Public Private Partnership (PPP) transactions for urban infrastructure in India, the report also noted, registered a marked decline in the last decade both in monetary value and transaction volume— 124 PPP projects have been awarded in the urban sector since the year 2000 worth a total cost of \$5.5 billion.

However, the report noted, PPP project awards have declined substantially after a “brief but substantial spike” between the years 2007 and 2012 when most of these projects were awarded. Only one-third of all PPP investments awarded since 2000 came in the last decade— including 55 projects worth \$17 billion, the report stated.

By 2036, according to the report, 600 million people will be living in urban cities in India, representing 40% of the population which is likely to put additional pressure on the already stretched urban infrastructure and services of Indian cities— with more demand for clean drinking water, reliable power supply, efficient and safe road transport amongst others.

Currently, the central and State governments finance over 75% of city infrastructure, while ULBs finance 15% through their own surplus revenues.

Only 5% of the infrastructure needs of Indian cities are currently being financed through private sources. With the government's current (2018) annual urban infrastructure investments topping at \$16 billion, much of the gap will require private financing.

“Cities in India need large amounts of financing to promote green, smart, inclusive, and sustainable urbanization. Creating a conducive environment for ULBs, especially large and creditworthy ones, to borrow more from private sources will therefore be critical to ensuring that cities are able to improve the living standards of their growing populations in a sustainable manner,” said Auguste Tano Kouamé, Country Director, World Bank, India.

The report recommends expanding the capacities of city agencies to deliver infrastructure projects at scale. Currently, the 10 largest ULBs were able to spend only two-thirds of their total capital budget over three recent fiscal years.

A “weak regulatory environment” and weak revenue collection also add to the challenge of cities accessing more private financing.

Between 2011 and 2018, urban property tax stood at 0.15% of GDP compared to an average of 0.3-0.6% of GDP for low- and middle-income countries. Low service charges for municipal services also undermine their financial viability and attractiveness to private investment, the report stated.

Over the medium term, the report suggests a series of structural reforms including those in the taxation policy and fiscal transfer system - which can allow cities to leverage more private financing. In the short term, it identifies a set of large high-potential cities that have the ability to raise higher volumes of private financing.

“The Government of India can play an important role in removing market frictions that cities face in accessing private financing. The World Bank report proposes a range of measures that can be taken by the city, State, and federal agencies to bend the arc towards a future in which private commercial finance becomes a much bigger part of the solution to India's urban investment challenge,” said Roland White, Global Lead, City Management and Finance, World Bank, and co-author of the report. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-needs-to-invest-55-billion-pa-in-urban-infra-to-effectively-meet-needs-of-fast-growing-urban-population-wb-report/article66135032.ece>

14. Rapid growth of urbanisation in India not matched by urban infra development: RBI ([theprint.in](https://www.theprint.in)) November 13, 2022

The rapid growth of urbanisation in India has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in urban infrastructure, which is reflected in the performance of the urban local bodies, especially municipal corporations (MCs), RBI said in a report.

In the 'Report on Municipal Finances' by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released recently, it said while the size of the municipal budgets in India is much smaller than peers in other countries, revenues are dominated by property tax collections and devolution of taxes and grants from upper tiers of government, resulting in lack of financial autonomy.

According to the report, municipal corporations' committed expenditure in the form of establishment expenses, administrative costs and interest and finance charges is rising, but capital expenditure is minimal.

The report said MCs mostly rely on borrowings from banks and financial institutions and loans from centre/state governments to finance their resource gaps in the absence of a well-developed market for municipal bonds.

MCs need to adopt sound and transparent accounting practices with proper monitoring and documentation of various receipt and expenditure items and explore different innovative bond and land-based financing mechanisms to augment their resources.

According to the report, the banking sector plays a pivotal role in financing the borrowing requirements of different tiers of government. The central bank collects and publishes data on the deployment of bank credit, based on the type of receiver, in the annual Basic Statistical Returns (BSR1).

Local governments can also tap the capital market by issuing municipal bonds. General obligation bonds issued by them are not secured by any asset but are backed by the issuer's 'full faith and credit', with the power to tax residents to pay bondholders. On the other hand, Revenue bonds are backed by earnings/ accruals from a specific project such as highway tolls or lease fees. A hybrid mechanism is also feasible whereby the general revenue of the MC is used as a backup to service the bond in case user charges are insufficient.

About funding from private sources, the report said local governments could also tap the capital market by issuing municipal bonds. General obligation bonds issued by them are not secured by any asset but are backed by the issuer's 'full faith and credit', with the power to tax residents to pay bondholders, it said, adding on the other hand, revenue bonds are backed by earnings/ accruals from a specific project such as highway tolls or lease fees.

A hybrid mechanism is also feasible whereby the general revenue of the MC is used as a backup to service the bond in case user charges are insufficient. Whatever be the nature of the bond, an escrow account is generally created to serve as the primary source for servicing the bond, and funds raised from the project are used to replenish the escrow account, the report said.

According to the report, only a few prominent Indian MCs have used bonds as a source of finance. Bengaluru MC floated municipal bonds for the first time in India in 1997, followed by Ahmedabad MC in 1998. Since then, the Indian municipal bond market witnessed healthy growth until the mid-2000s, with nine MCs raising around Rs 1,200 crore (an average issue size of Rs 130 crore per corporation), the report said.

Pooled financing, according to the report, essentially involves a creation of a State Pooled Finance Entity (SPFE), which can be registered either as a trust or a special purpose vehicle (SPV), the report said. The SPFE issues bonds and debt servicing is financed through the

pooled revenue stream of the participating municipal bodies. Creating an SPFE lowers the cost of bond issuance for individual local bodies and enhances the creditworthiness of the bond issued, as the risk gets hedged over all participating municipal bodies, it said.

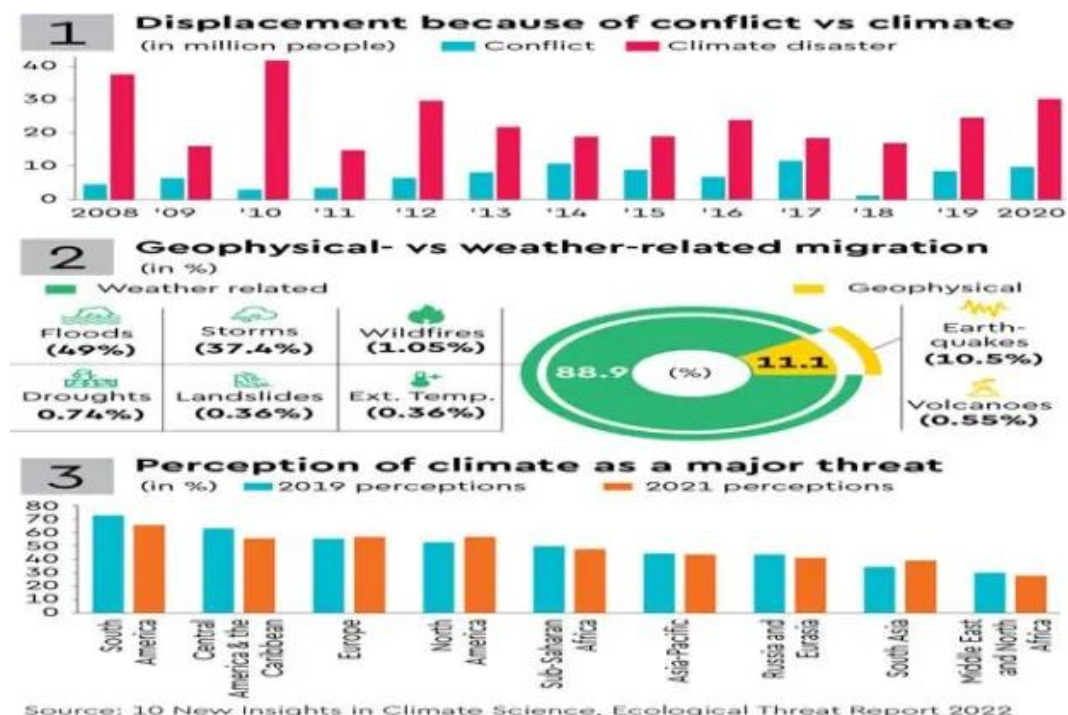
As far as uses of funds were concerned, the report said the proceeds from taxable bonds issued by Indian MCs had been used to finance the expansion of essential municipal services, namely roads, water supply and sewerage, possibly because user charges in such infrastructure projects are easier to enforce and the amount and frequency of expected revenues can be predicted with some certainty. Of the bonds issued in India, 66 per cent has been used to finance water supply, sewerage, drainage and water treatment projects, the report said.

The RBI report has been in the Division of State Finances of the Department of Economic and Policy Research. <https://theprint.in/economy/rapid-growth-of-urbanisation-in-india-not-matched-by-urban-infra-development-rbi/1213928/>

15. Disaster & displacement (*financialexpress.com*) November 14, 2022

A just-released report from Future Earth, The Earth League and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) pegs climate-related displacement at more than 30 million in 2020.

Adaptation as a response to climate threats is one of the focal points of talks at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27). But experts have warned that adaptation can't be a substitute for ambitious mitigation efforts, especially as climate-related displacement increases.



A just-released report from Future Earth, The Earth League and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) pegs climate-related displacement at more than 30 million in 2020.

The Institute of Economics & Peace had projected migration because of climate-related reasons reaching 1.2 billion by 2050 in a high-emissions

scenario. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/data-drive-disaster-amp-displacement/2810978/>

16. Preserving the precious: On ground water use ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) Nov 14, 2022

The Ministry of Water Resources recently made public a report that gives a snapshot of India's groundwater situation. On the surface, there is good news: the total annual groundwater recharge — defined as the groundwater stored — for the entire country is 437.60 billion cubic metres (bcm) out of which the quantity extracted was 239.16 bcm. A similar assessment in 2020 found that the annual groundwater recharge was 436 bcm and extraction 245 bcm. In 2017, recharge was 432 bcm and extraction 249 bcm. The 2022 assessment suggests that groundwater extraction is the lowest since 2004, when it was 231 bcm. A decrease in groundwater extraction may indicate better water management; however, the report — called the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground water Resources of India — itself says that the improvement is only “marginal” and may be explained by natural conditions and changes in methodology that the Central Ground Water Board and States, which conduct the survey, adopt. In fact, the number of groundwater blocks, or wells, used for estimation were more than those in previous years and it turns out that the percentage of blocks where groundwater was ‘critically’ low was around 14%, or roughly similar to that in previous years.

Regions with the most blocks with critical groundwater levels are in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh, where, despite replenishable systems, indiscriminate groundwater withdrawal has depressed the water table. Other endangered blocks are in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where due to an arid climate, groundwater recharge itself is limited, and finally, parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, where due to inherent characteristics of crystalline water-storing aquifers, groundwater availability is low. That much more needs to be done to conserve groundwater is a foregone conclusion. There is no central law governing the use of groundwater and various States have their own laws on regulating its extraction that are deployed in a perfunctory manner. A draft National Water Policy has recommended a shift in usage from water-guzzling crops and prioritising recycled over freshwater for industrial purposes. Water ought not to be considered a free, private resource but one whose costs must be measured and borne equitably. While water remains a politically contentious subject in India, the climate crisis should inspire consensus across the political spectrum on disincentivising wasteful consumption of this precious resource. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/preserving-the-precious-the-hindu-editorial-on-ground-water-use/article66132386.ece>

17. Delayed by 2 years, Pathankot-Mandi highway project cost rises by 20% ([tribuneindia.com](https://www.tribuneindia.com)) Nov 14, 2022

A two-year delay in the Pathankot-Mandi four-lane road widening project is going to escalate the total cost of the project by 20 per cent.

Initially, the project was to be completed within three years before April 2020. But, the failure of the state government to acquire land for the project has led to the delay.

As per the original detailed project report prepared by Joint Ventures and Infrastructure Casta Limited, a private company, in 2016, the total cost of the project was estimated at Rs 8,000 crore but it could now rise to over Rs 10,000 crore.

Land acquisition for the 220-km project was to be done before December 2018. However, the state has not been able to acquire even 40% of the land required for the project.

In 2017, the NHAI opened its project director's office in Palampur. To date, the government has acquired land only for three phases, comprising 90-km stretch of the highway. But, there is no headway in land acquisition for the remaining phases, comprising 130-km between Paror and Mandi.

Also, the Centre had already released Rs 300 crore to the state to meet the cost of the acquired land. The main reason for the delay in land acquisition is attributed to the poor performance of revenue officials concerned in Kangra and Mandi. The state had failed to form special revenue teams to acquire land for Centrally-sponsored projects. Besides, most of the files pertaining to issuing NOCs remained stuck in government offices in Shimla for a long period.

Because of slow land acquisition, the NHAI had recently made some modifications in the alignment of the project. Now, it has been decided that highway widening will be done only up to Paror (Palampur) and the remaining 130-km stretch of the highway between Palampur and Mandi will be widened to two lanes.

NHAI project director Anil Sen says they have already awarded contracts for the first and second phases. "However, the land acquisition for the 130-km stretch between Paror and Mandi is pending, therefore there's no headway for awarding the contracts. Besides, the land acquisition on the highway passing through the Gaggal airport is also pending because of its expansion," he adds.

Sen says the matter is pending with the state. "The project has been delayed by two years and its cost has also escalated by 20%," he adds. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/delayed-by-2-years-pathankot-mandi-highway-project-cost-rises-by-20-450635>

18. Railway project runs into land, legal hurdles (newindianexpress.com) UPDATED: NOV 12 2022

ROURKELA: Amid the delay in land acquisition, lingering court cases have put brakes on the progress of Talcher-Bimlagarh new rail line project which has been halted in three stretches in Angul district. Sources in the East Coast Railway (ECoR) said the delay in land acquisition and multiple legal disputes have led to an unprecedented cost overrun and are seriously affecting the project viability. Sanctioned in 2003-04, the project's land acquisition cost has jumped to Rs 584 crore from around Rs 35.5 crore with litigants of Nuthuruposi village in Angul entitled to a whopping Rs 6.5 crore per acre.

The revised completion target of 2025 looks unfeasible as an extra several hundred crores of rupees will be added to the project's revised cost estimate of Rs 1,928.07 crore. It is learnt that against 76.60 km track length in Angul district, land clearance has been given up to 64.425 km till now. After completion of 17.62 km between Talcher and Sunakhani, work is underway up to 47 km till Khamar. Sources said due to the tardy pace of work, the target to complete the stretch by 2022-23 looks highly unlikely.

Of 9.7 km track length between Sunakhani and Samal, 75 per cent work is complete. However, progress has come to a halt now due to two pending court cases. Similarly, 85 per cent work

on the 6.53 km stretch between Samal and Parabil is over but facing the same fate due to three court cases. Though 47 per cent work on the 14.20 km stretch between Parabil and Khamar has been completed, it is not making any progress due to four pending cases.

Before 2013, the Angul administration had persuaded the Railways to take possession of the occupied land on standard format. But the ECoR was dragged into court by project-affected people who despite receiving compensation for land, obtained stay orders demanding higher amount.

In August this year, the HC disposed of six new writ petitions of Nuthuruposi village and authorised the land acquisition rehabilitation and resettlement authority (LARR), Sambalpur to finalise the higher compensation claims. But some litigants have recently moved the HC again with fresh petitions and obtained stay orders against any coercive action.

Member of Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line Action Committee Bishnu Mohanty said two PILs were filed in the Orissa HC in September, 2020 and March, 2021 to expedite land acquisition for the project. Till now, not a single inch of land has been physically handed over to ECoR in Deogarh and Sundargarh districts, he rued. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2022/nov/12/railway-project-runs-into-land-legal-hurdles-2517587.html>

19. BBMP likely to pay Rs 38 cr for works never done ([deccanherald.com](https://www.deccanherald.com)) UPDATED: NOV 14 2022

The BBMP faces the rare scenario of having to pay Rs 38 crore of taxpayers' money for works that were never done.

This is because the civic body didn't honour its agreement with construction firms for the third phase of the white-topping project despite knowing that it would lose an arbitration battle. It was put in this tricky situation by a change in government three years ago.

In 2019, the BBMP decided to white-top 89 roads at a cost of Rs 1,154 crore by dividing the works into six packages under Phase 3 approved by the Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

After completing the tender process, the BBMP awarded work orders in two packages and issued letters of acceptance for three others. The last package was pending approval from the government. Four contractors paid the bank guarantee or security deposit, a standard procedure before starting work.

But before the groundwork could begin, the government changed. B S Yediyurappa, the newly sworn-in chief minister, put the entire project in cold storage, citing irregularities.

Sources who were privy to the development say the decision to shelve the project was taken because most of the 89 roads were located in assembly constituencies represented by non-BJP MLAs.

Fresh proposal

In October this year, the BBMP sought permission from the Urban Development Department (UDD) for building 39 concrete roads at a cost of Rs 1,450 crore and recommended cancelling the old tenders.

The UDD sent back the file, asking the BBMP to find out whether scrapping the tenders floated in 2019 would attract legal complications and an arbitration suit.

In response to the UDD's letter, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath — after consulting the legal cell and an empanelled advocate — wrote a detailed letter to the UDD.

DH has seen a copy of the letter.

The letter admits that scrapping the previous tenders may cause a loss of Rs 38.34 crore in the arbitration battle because the contractors will likely demand compensation for not honouring the agreement.

According to the legal cell, contractors may claim up to Rs 38.34 crore, or 10 per cent of the contract value, by citing overheads, loss of machine and manpower, blockage of prospect tender capacity, etc.

As per this calculation, Package 2 (JSP Projects) and Package 5 (RPN Infratech) — where work orders were issued (Rs 320 crore) — may get Rs 35.29 crore as loss of profit (10 per cent) and interest. Package 3 (BSCPL Infrastructure) and Package 6 (RPP Infra Projects) along with Package 2 and Package 5 will get Rs 3.05 crore as interest on the Rs 35.12-crore security deposit they paid in 2019.

Package 1 (JMC Projects) and Package 5 (Ramalingam Constructions) get nothing because they didn't pay the security deposit and the tender process wasn't completed.

The 11-page letter, however, states that the BBMP would save Rs 287.61 crore overall by not going ahead with the previous tenders. The BBMP arrived at the financial benefit of Rs 287.61 crore by incorporating a 5 per cent cost escalation plus GST on the project cost. The civic body compared the financial cost of staying with the previous tenders and floating new ones. It recommended the latter, stating that many roads that were part of the old tenders have since been asphalted or are under development. <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/top-bengaluru-stories/dh-exclusive-bbmp-likely-to-pay-rs-38-cr-for-works-never-done-1162107.html>

20. Projects worth Rs 1207.61 lakh abandoned at JNV Tamenglong (*ifp.co.in*) 13 NOV 2022

Projects worth at least Rs 1207.61 lakh for infrastructure development of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Tamenglong have allegedly remained incomplete and abandoned for nearly 12 years with incomplete constructions lying in a deteriorating condition.

The construction works of Phase-B work, including two dormitories and two blocks of quarters consisting four teacher quarters were reportedly allocated to Uttar Pradesh-based work agency called Construction & Design Services, UP Jal Nigam, (M/s C&DS UP Jal Nigam) on November 11, 2010.

The work agency had allegedly abandoned the construction works for the past 11 years. The incomplete structures with deteriorating condition standing among tall grass and bushes gave the building an appearance of a haunted house, when a joint inspection team visited the site.

The team consisted of members of Parent Teacher Council of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong, Social worker and MP Nominee Akin Gangmei, Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong and staff along with media persons.

During the inspection, it was revealed that due to incomplete construction of two dormitories, students have been sharing beds and study tables. The students were living in a congested dormitory. The intake of freshers also could not be achieved due to lack of accommodation.

The earth work for construction of a playground has been going on from the joint contribution of teachers and parents of the students at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong.

Speaking to the media, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong Parent Teacher Council convener Neilalung Riamei said that teachers and students had been living in a congested house due to incomplete construction of two dormitories and staff quarters.

He pointed out that due to lack of accommodation, students have to share a single RCC bed and studying tables. "For how long the students and teachers should suffer due to incomplete construction of dormitories?" he questioned.

He said that many talented students have been denied quality education due to lack of accommodation.

He continued that due to the lack of a playground, parents and teachers have to contribute money to build one. The work is going on in full swing, he further said, adding, parents and teachers also sponsored a local teacher to look after the students.

He appealed to the authorities concerned to seriously look into the matter and complete all the incomplete structures at the earliest. The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong Parent Teacher Council also warned to take up necessary action if the voice of the people is ignored.

Social worker and MP Nominee Akinsin Gangmei also said that he would take up the matter to the higher authorities if the work agency or contractor concerned did not complete the incomplete works at the earliest.

Akinsin Gangmei said during the surprise visit to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong, it was found that the buildings were incomplete and the students were reportedly sharing beds and study tables.

It was also reported that the Vidyalaya is not well equipped due to the shortage of space for sport activities, dormitories, etc.

"If Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in other parts of the country are well equipped, then why should Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Tamenglong, Tamenglong JNV be left ignored? It deserves the same facilities", Akinsin said. The students are the greatest asset of and backbone of the country, he added.

A highly placed source revealed that the construction work of Phase-B work was allocated to M/s C&DS UP Jal Nigam in 2010. A/A & E/S amounting to Rs 688.80 lakh was issued on 11 November 2010, it stated. The time period of completion of work was 18 months (6 months for Pre-construction Activities and 12 months for Construction Activities), it mentioned.

It mentioned that the revised sanction amounting to Rs 1121.66 lakh was issued on November 11, 2011 and a revised sanction amounting to Rs 1207.61 lakh was also issued on 17 May 19, 2019.

As per the source, a sum of Rs 953.48 lakh (i.e. 70 per cent) was already already issued to the work agency against the reimbursement claims made in the project. The work is not completed as yet and is “under suspension,” it mentioned.

It is also reported that many works were not done properly by Construction & Design Services, UP Jal Nigam, (M/s C&DS UP Jal Nigam).

Such poor management of projects is causing abnormal delay in the completion of the project. There is an acute shortage of accommodation for the students and the staff. <https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/projects-worth-rs-120761-lakh-abandoned-at-jnv-tamenglong>