NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS

1. Refusal of numbers to avoid accountability *(heraldgoa.in)* 03 August 2023

The issue of maggot-infested rice being supplied to fair price shops (FPS) under the public distribution system (PDS) is far from dying out and the recent expose by the O Heraldo on Wednesday is just another proof of the ordeal of the low-income ration cardholders dependent on government support. However, the failure of the Civil Supplies Minister to acknowledge that the problem continues to persist and the people suffer is appalling.

The government is also in denial mode regarding the alleged 'scam' in the Excise Department which has been indicated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report highlighting the revenue losses incurred by the department. The Chief Minister has said that the losses highlighted in the CAG report are notional.

Last week, the government rejected the Centre's numbers about the presence of tigers in the State. In a reply in the Rajya Sabha, the Union Environment Minister informed that Goa has the presence of five tigers, however, the State government has persistently stated that 'there are no resident tigers in Goa'. Based on its claim, the State government rejected the declaration of the Mhadei Tiger Reserve.

Last November, the apex public policy think-tank of the Government of India, Niti Aayog, put into public domain statistics of unemployment, only to be denied and disputed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant within days. The Niti Aayog, in its report, had revealed that around 1.10 lakh are unemployed in the State, however, the Chief Minister disputed the figures and claimed that only 20,000 are actually unemployed. He reiterated his stand during the ongoing monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly. Goa's unemployment in September last year according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) stood at 10.9%, almost 70% higher than the national average, which rose to 15.91% by the end of March this year.

The CM was also in denial mode about the sorry state of education, especially the students' performance in mathematics and science at the school level. He then blamed the teachers and claimed that some of them were engaged in secondary income sources by neglecting their teaching duties. However, the Niti Aayog pointed out that the student-teacher ratio across all the levels of school education in Goa has remained much below the national average. The teacher-pupil ratio for mathematics is 1:58, while for science is 1:42, and for social sciences it is 1:91.

PWD has been facing an acute shortage of engineers and the minister confessed that the department is (mal)functioning with less than 50% of the actual sanctioned staff strength. The same is the case with other departments, especially the Police and the Electricity Department, which point out that the government has failed to carry out recruitment.

In addition to rejecting the numbers, the present government has been adamant that there has been no failure in governance despite the suffering faced by Goans during the

two months of monsoon so far. The Smart City project of Panjim proved a total failure and despite the warnings that the capital city will be inundated due to the poor and substandard works under the Smart City project, the government decided to continue the works. The roof collapse of the open-air auditorium of Kala Academy proved to be yet another example of government failure to acknowledge a systemic breakdown.

By refusing to acknowledge the statistics, especially when they have been reported by the government bodies of the Centre, the Goa government is avoiding accountability to the people of the State. The government has more than a two-thirds majority in the Goa Legislative Assembly, but that does not provide immunity from accountability to the citizens. After all, in a welfare state, the buck stops at the government. https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/Editorial/Refusal-of-numbers-to-avoid-accountability/208333

2. Rs 7.59 cr short levy on non-renewal of liquor licences: CAG
(navhindtimes.in) 03 August 2023

Goa: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday said the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has estimated a short levy of `7.59 crore on non-renewal of licences, short levy of additional fees from casinos, short levy due to incorrect MRP etc in its report on performance audit on levy and collection of the state excise revenue of 2022.

Sawant also informed that the excise revenue collection has increased by 10.46%.

"With regard to the CAG report, we have given 100% clarification on that. The main thing the CAG report has mentioned is that the main loss from 2014 till date is `7.59 crore. Mainly it is notional loss. As per the excise policy of the Goa government, it is a wastage loss. After it was considered, it has been shown as a major loss. We have set up an enforcement cell, transferred the officers," Sawant told the House adding, "The excise revenue collection which has increased this year is 10.46%."

Raising the issue, Velim MLA Cruz Silva said, "The CAG report 2022 pointed out serious lapses. CAG report has indicted the excise department for gross violation for all the revenue loss. The department was not following any norms. One of the corrective actions that was cited was the transfer of officers. Only four officers were named.

Are only they involved and what is the punishment given to them?"

Sawant said, "My department is serious about this because the total revenue collection from excise that we do is 10% of the total tax revenue collection. For example, altogether there are nine casinos that have not paid the additional fees. Of these, five made the payment while four have raised disputes. But we will not leave any one, we will collect all the fees and charges."

Sawant also said the government is ready to conduct a survey in all talukas to find out if anyone has transferred the excise licence to any outsider to run retail liquor shops.

Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai said, "The CAG report has let the cat out of the bag of the excise department. They have said short levy while CM has given it a new name

'notional loss'. We call it a scam while the government calls it notional loss. What is the total amount recovered out of the notional loss? If not, why has it not been recovered."

Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao said, "The internal audit that you have conducted is a failure. It shows that this department was sleeping for several years. It is a scam. You have also accepted that it has happened. Place the report of the audit in the House."

Sawant, however, responded that action has been taken on the queries pointed out in the internal audit report and the money has also been recovered. https://www.navhindtimes.in/2023/08/03/goanews/rs-7-59-cr-short-levyon-non-renewal-ofliquor-licences-cag/

3.   Iron ore reserves in Goa pegged at 1,000 mn tonnes
(navhindtimes.in) 03 Aug 2023

Amid the auctioning of iron ore blocks in the state to kick-start the mining industry, Goa's iron ore reserves have been pegged at 1,000 million tonnes by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

The audit report on Natural Resource Account of Goa for the year 2021 measures the state's closing stock of iron ore as on March 31, 2021, at 263.7 million tonnes.   The report gives an account of the state's mineral and energy resources.

The CAG report has flagged the absence of proper records in the directorate of mines and geology (DMG) for both, major as well as minor minerals, which, it said, is coming in the way of estimating the state's mineral resources.

It has said the state has never undertaken any assessment of the available iron ore resources and the quantity declared by the lessee has been adopted by the government as the available reserve. The report mentions that accounting of the mineral resources is most important, as they are non-renewable, while other energy resources get renewed naturally.

The shortcoming in the working of the DMG is the absence of records for assessment purposes, it said. "While the office of the DMG maintains various registers for monitoring purposes, timely filing of monthly and annual returns by lessees is lacking. There are delays in the compilation of data for ascertaining the royalty or dead rent and other receivables such as fines, fees and penalties," says the report.

It flags government inaction on illegal mining. Although there were ten cases of illegal mining detected by the DMG, no action was taken, it says.

The CAG has recommended compliance of rules by the lessees. "An automated system for capturing the data of dispatch of resources should be developed. All data pertaining to the process of grant of mining leases, vehicle movement, trip sheets etc should be captured electronically at source," the CAG report has suggested.

As per the report, the natural resources of the state comprise three major minerals (iron ore, manganese and bauxite) and three minor minerals (basalt, laterite and sand).

About 80% of the iron ore deposits are fines and the remaining 20% comprise lumps. The northern block deposits are richer in terms of quantity and quality of ore. As of March 31, 2021, the closing balances of manganese and bauxite deposits stand at 1.1 million tonnes and 11.7 million tonnes, respectively.

The report is an initiative of the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB), under CAG India, to support the preparation of the Natural Resource Account on Mineral and Energy Resources of States.

It aims at cross-verification of revenues with the actual extraction and provides the pace for exploitation and close monitoring of illegal mining. https://www.navhindtimes.in/2023/08/03/goanews/iron-ore-reserves-in-goa-pegged-at-1000-mn-tonnes/

4. Oppn uses CAG report to expose govt inaction over excise revenue leakage *(thegoan.net)* 03 Aug 2023

Goa: Armed with the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) report which has pointed to serious lapses in the excise department, the Opposition on Wednesday hit out at the government for the losses incurred due to leakages in excise collection and failure to take action against erring officials.

However, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the loss shown by CAG was notional and in fact, the revenue from excise collection has gone up by 10.46 percent.

Referring to the damning CAG report, Velim MLA Cruz Silva said that the central auditor has pointed to serious lapses and indicted the excise department for failure to increase the revenue in corresponding years.

"The State earned excise revenue of 28 per cent in 2017-18 which went down to 17 per cent in 2018-19 and further dipped to 3 per cent in 2019-20. The excise officials were responsible for crores of revenue losses. After the CAG indictment, the government has transferred four officers. Can transfer be treated as punishment?" Silva asked.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant informed the House that as per the CAG report excise department has incurred a notional loss of Rs 7.59 crore.

"We have given clarification to all the queries raised by the CAG. The excise revenue has increased by 10.46 percent," Sawant said and added that the government was deliberating on the suggestions/observations made by the CAG and a series of steps were taken in this regard.

He said a special team of excise inspectors was formed to visit the licenced premises to get the licences renewed while the inspectors were also directed to recover the additional fee from hotels having casinos.

"The department has started an internal 'audit cell' to audit all the excise stations and manufacturing units. Also an 'enforcement cell' has been created for strict enforcement of rules and regulations," he said.

Latching on to the findings of the CAG, Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai said the excise department has been following a flawed licence system which showed that several licences were not renewed causing loss to the department.

"The CAG report has brought the cat out of the bag. We say it's a scam but the government maintains it's a notional loss of Rs 7.59 crore. How much of the lost money has been recovered by the government?" Sardesai queried.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao termed the internal audit a failure and asked the government to table the report in the House.

"It shows the excise department was sleeping. It is clearly a scam," Alemao lashed out.

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas said the government has failed to provide details of revenue collected of different brands of alcohol saying that the data was "voluminous".

"Does the government have a mechanism to check brand-wise sale of alcohol in Goa?" Viegas asked.

Defending the excise department from the opposition onslaught, the CM said from time to time an internal audit has been conducted and the government has also taken prompt action and even recovered lost money. https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/oppn-uses-cag-report-to-expose-govt-inaction-over-excise-revenue-leakage/102226.html

5. Korba: आदिवासी बच्चों के लिए केंद्र से आए 3 करोड़ रुपये चढ़े भ्रष्टाचार की भेंट, CAG की रिपोर्ट से हुआ खुलासा *(jagran.com)* 02 Aug 2023

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (सीएजी) की ऑडिट रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि 126 छात्रावासों और आश्रमों के नवीनीकरण के लिए स्वीकृत यह राशि बिना टेंडर और काम कराए ठेका कंपनियों को दे दी गई। ईडी द्वारा की जा रही कोयला परिवहन वसूली व मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग की जांच में एक बड़ा खुलासा हुआ। कैग रिपोर्ट के अनुसार काम के लिए निविदा निकालने जैसी औपचारिकता भी नहीं पूरी की गई।

कोरबा। आदिवासी बच्चों के उत्थान के लिए कोरबा जिले को केंद्र सरकार से मिले छह करोड़ रुपये में से तीन करोड़ रुपये के भ्रष्टाचार के भेंट चढ़ जाने की बात सामने आई है। भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक (सीएजी) की ऑडिट रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि 126 छात्रावासों और आश्रमों के नवीनीकरण के लिए स्वीकृत यह राशि बिना टेंडर और काम कराए ठेका कंपनियों को दे दी गई।

दो अधिकारियों ने मिलकर की गड़बड़ी
ईडी द्वारा की जा रही कोयला परिवहन वसूली व मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग की जांच में एक बड़ा खुलासा हुआ। आरोपित बनाए जाने के कारण जेल में बंद आइएएस अधिकारी एवं कोरबा की तत्कालीन कलेक्टर रानू साहू के कार्यकाल के दौरान इस गड़बड़ी में आदिवासी विकास विभाग की सहायक आयुक्त माया वॉरियर की मिलीभगत भी सामने आई है।

कैग रिपोर्ट के अनुसार काम के लिए निविदा निकालने, कायदिश और प्राक्कलन जैसी औपचारिकता भी नहीं पूरी की गई। कार्यालय में मापक पुस्तिका, देयक वाउचर, मूल नस्ती व अन्य लिखित विवरण भी नहीं मिले हैं। केंद्र सरकार ने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 275 (1) की विशेष सहायता व्यवस्था के तहत वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 में छह करोड़ 27 लाख 56 हजार रुपये आदिवासी जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास विभाग कोरबा को आदिवासियों के हित में कार्य करने के लिए दिए थे।

माया वॉरियर के प्रतिवेदन पर कलेक्टर ने भुगतान की स्वीकृति दी

आदिवासी विकास विभाग के सहायक आयुक्त माया वॉरियर ने 126 छात्रावासों व आश्रमों के नवीनीकरण के लिए 4.95 करोड़ रुपये का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया, जिसे तत्कालीन कलेक्टर रानू साहू ने स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी। प्राथमिक जांच में यह बात सामने आई है कि माया वॉरियर के अलग-अलग प्रतिवेदन पर कलेक्टर रानू साहू ने भुगतान की स्वीकृति दी।

भ्रष्टाचार के मामले में माया वॉरियर के यहां भी करीब छह माह पहले ईडी की टीम ने दबिश दी थी। सीएजी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार किसी भी आश्रम में कोई कार्य नहीं करवाया गया। दोनों अधिकारियों ने मिलीभगत कर तीन करोड़ रुपये की राशि का भुगतान कर दिया।

अपर कलेक्टर प्रदीप साहू की अध्यक्षता में बनी थी जांच टीम

कैग ने छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार को दोषियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने की अनुशंसा भी की है। कोरबा के पूर्व कलेक्टर संजीव झा ने 22 मई 2023 को अपर कलेक्टर प्रदीप साहू की अध्यक्षता में एक जांच टीम बनाई थी। उन्होंने 15 दिन के अंदर जांच रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने कहा था, पर 53 दिन बाद भी जांच शुरू नहीं हो पाई। इस बीच एक अगस्त को कलेक्टर झा का भी बिलासपुर स्थानांतरण हो गया।

वर्जन प्रशासनिक कार्यों में व्यस्तता की वजह से गठित टीम के सदस्यों की बैठक नहीं ले सके हैं। एक सप्ताह के अंदर बैठक कर जांच की प्रक्रिया शुरू की जाएगी।-प्रदीप साहू, जांच अधिकारी व अपर कलेक्ट https://www.jagran.com/chhattisgarh/raipur-corruption-case-in-chhattisgarh-3-crore-rupees-received-from-the-center-for-tribal-children-as-a-gift-of-corruption-cag-audit-report-revealed-23489909.html

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

6. Railways' Kavach train collision prevention system on only 1,465 route km: Govt *(hindustantimes.com)* 2 August, 2023

Indian Railways' automatic train collision prevention system Kavach has so far been deployed on only 1,465 Route km (Rkm) since the first field trials on the passenger trains started in February 2016, railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case the Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the train safely run during inclement weather.

"Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Kavach is a highly technology-intensive system, which requires safety certification of the highest order," Vaishnaw said in the written reply.

The statement revealed that Kavach has so far been deployed on 1,465 Rkm and 121 locomotives (including Electric Multiple Unit rakes) on South Central Railway in

Telangana (684 Rkm), Andhra Pradesh (66 Rkm), Karnataka (117 Rkm) & Maharashtra (598 Rkm) States.

Route kilometre is the distance between two points on the Railway irrespective of the number of lines connecting them, whether single line, double line etc.

The Kavach system was under scrutiny after a massive triple train collision in Odisha's Balasore district, which claimed over 235 lives. However, it was confirmed by Railways then that there was no 'Kavach' system on the route.

Indian Railways' Kavach system
The first field trials on the passenger trains were started in February 2016. Based on the experience so gained and the Independent Safety Assessment of the system by a 3rd party (Independent Safety Assessor: ISA) three firms were approved in 2018-19, for the supply of Kavach.

Subsequently, Kavach was adopted as a National ATP system in July 2020.

The statement added that tenders for the technology implementation have been awarded for Delhi – Mumbai & Delhi – Howrah corridors (approximately 3000 Route km) and work is in progress on these routes in West Bengal (229Rkm), Jharkhand (193Rkm), Bihar (227Rkm), Uttar Pradesh (943Rkm), Delhi (30Rkm), Haryana (81Rkm), Rajasthan (425Rkm), Madhya Pradesh (216Rkm), Gujarat (526Rkm), Maharashtra (84Rkm).

Cost of implementing the Kavach system
The cost for the provision of Trackside, including station equipment of Kavach, is approximately ₹ 50 Lakhs/Km, while the cost for the provision of Kavach equipment on the loco is approximately ₹ 70 lakh/loco. The total amount spent on Kavach implementation so far is ₹ 351.91 Crores, and the budgetary allocation for Kavach during the year 2023-24 is ₹ 710.12 Crores. https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/railways-kavach-train-collision-prevention-system-on-only-1-465-route-km-govt-101690985149261.html

7.   India's Naval Torpedo landscape: Challenges and promising developments *(financialexpress.com)* August 3, 2023

The intended supply of robust Black Shark torpedoes from WASS, a subsidiary of Italy's Leonardo, to the Scorpene fleet has been stalled by legal issues surrounding another Leonardo affiliate, AgustaWestland.

As India's naval fleet grapples with an array of challenges on the surface and beneath the waves, the need for advanced torpedoes is becoming more apparent. This need paints a vivid picture of the difficulties besetting India's defence acquisition system, as the nation's state-of-the-art Scorpene submarines sit idle without their integral assortment of heavyweight torpedoes.

The intended supply of robust Black Shark torpedoes from WASS, a subsidiary of Italy's Leonardo, to the Scorpene fleet has been stalled by legal issues surrounding

another Leonardo affiliate, AgustaWestland. This legal quandary has led to the stalling of negotiations with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) regarding the procurement of heavyweight torpedoes for the Scorpene fleet.

While these complications persist, India's Navy is making do with Atlas Elektronik AEG Surface and Underwater Target (SUT) 264 21-inch heavyweight wire-guided torpedoes. Originally commissioned in 1967, these torpedoes do not meet the demands of contemporary naval warfare.

However, there seems to be a silver lining in the form of the Raytheon MK 54 torpedoes. Operated by Indian Naval Aviation on the Boeing P-8I maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) missions, these torpedoes bring some much-needed versatility to the Indian Navy's toolkit. The MK54, in production for two decades, uses complex processing algorithms to analyse information and target underwater threats, even those deploying decoys or countermeasures.

Domestic developments also hold promise.
The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has achieved significant advancements in the creation of indigenous underwater armaments. Among these are the formidable Varunastra, a heavyweight torpedo launched from ships, and the Torpedo Advanced Lightweight (TAL). While these weapons boast remarkable capabilities, their current limitation lies in the inability to be launched from submarines. Nevertheless, DRDO's remarkable progress with Varunastra and TAL indicates a promising future, suggesting that they may be on the verge of developing a state-of-the-art submarine-launched torpedo to meet the immediate requirements of the Navy.

Simultaneously, DRDO is developing a supersonic missile-assisted torpedo, the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system, which could substantially extend the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities. The Maareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System, deployable on all frontline warships, significantly enhanced the Indian Navy's ASW capacity when it was integrated in June 2020.

The global landscape of torpedo technology also continues to advance. Notably, the British Spearfish Mod-1, an upgraded heavyweight torpedo, was ready for frontline action with the Royal Navy as of May 2021. Moreover, Turkey's Roketsan introduced its Akya heavyweight torpedo, a high-speed, long-range, fully autonomous torpedo designed for submarine launch in 2021.

India's submarine fleet set to strengthen with additional Kalvari Class Submarines
It remains to be seen how India will address its current torpedo shortfall. However, with domestic developments and a global backdrop of rapid advancement in underwater weaponry, the future holds promise for the Indian Navy. https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-indias-naval-torpedo-landscape-challenges-and-promising-developments-3197745/

8.   DMA plans for joint maintenance strategies to save cost
(financialexpress.com) August 2, 2023

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is working towards creating a system for the maintenance of common weapon systems and platforms.

The DMA is aiming to save costs and optimize funds through joint maintenance of common weapon systems and platforms

While the DMA is already targeting the early formations of the joint forces' Theatre Commands, it is set to streamline the joint procurement of weapon systems and maintenance.

The DMA aims to include a fleet of light helicopters like the Cheetah and Chetak, operated jointly by all three services.

According to the official from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), a number of discussions have been held between the stakeholders from the three services and integrated defence staff on the matter.

"Even if we look around today, the light helicopters including the Cheetah/ Chetak fleet are operated by the three services and if they are maintained jointly, they can lead to savings," an MoD official said.

"The Dornier aircraft is another example which is operated by the Indian Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard and if they are maintained jointly, we can even improve serviceability along with savings," the official said.

The official further explained that as part of its collaborative approach, the Indian army is already facilitating joint maintenance initiatives with the Indian air force for Apache attack helicopters.

"Personnel from the Army have been posted to the Air Force units operating these choppers to undergo training in their operations, paving the way for unified maintenance   practices,"   MoD   said.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-dma-plans-for-joint-maintenance-strategies-to-save-cost-3197135/

9.   PMGSY woes: 22 years after launch, 31,000 km of rural roads remain on paper *(thefederal.com)* 3 August, 2023

India's rural road connectivity programme has been floundering. Over the past 22 years, thousands of kilometres of roads sanctioned by the government under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), to provide connectivity to habitations in remote areas, just remain on paper.

And such inordinate delays in building these roads have naturally led to cost escalation of the projects. Also, the quality of the roads actually built under this programme remains rather poor and the maintenance of the roads below par.

PMGSY was launched to alleviate poverty by offering all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations. But 22 years later, thousands of habitations remain unconnected. Roads which do get laid often get washed away with the first monsoon showers and many develop cracks or become unusable due to poor construction quality.

The first chapter of the scheme, PMGSY I, was launched in 2000. Since then, three chapters have seen the light of the day. It has used up huge funds to the tune of nearly ₹3 lakh-crore till January this year.

Unbuilt roads

According to the latest data, of the sanctioned road length of 645,400 km under PMGSY I (the first chapter), nearly 25,000 km of roads are yet to be built. PMGSY I was to be completed by 2019 but then got extended till September 2022.

PMGSY - Timeline & Progress (as on 31/01/2023)

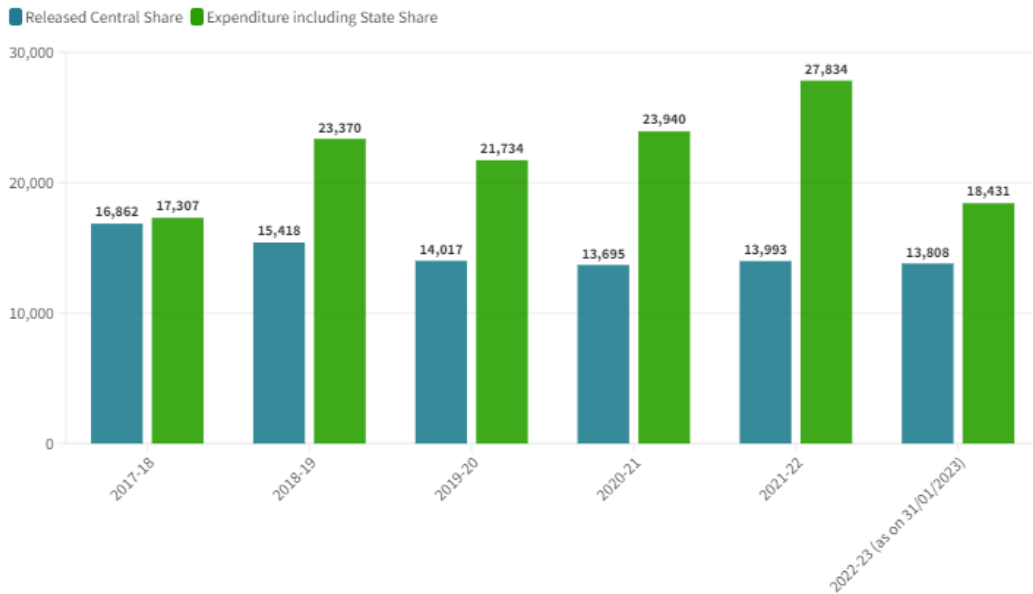| Name of Vertical	Targets (Km)	Sanctioned (Km)	Completion (Km)	Expenditure (in Rs cr)	Completion Timeline
PMGSY-I	-	6,45,607	6,21,148 (96.24%)	2,33,039	Sep-22
PMGSY-II	50,000	49,884	48,383 (97.01%)	27,634	Sep-22
RCPLWEA	11,320	12,100	6,729 (55.61%)	6,459	Mar-23
PMGSY-III	1,25,000	96,950	49,283 (51.02%)	26,956	Mar-25

Source: Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2022-23) · Get the data · Created with Datawrapper

In total, over 31,000 km of rural roads under PMGSY I, PMGSY II and those sanctioned for Left Wing Extremism Areas (LWEA) are yet to be built, despite extension of deadlines and cost escalation. The roads under LWEA were sanctioned in 2016 across nine states: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Only about 55 per cent of them have been built.

Why the delay?

The usual reasons have been put out by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to explain away the delays in PMGSY I and PMGSY II. These include the inability of state governments to ensure project completion and delays in obtaining necessary clearances for the road projects.

PMGSY - Financial Release and Expenditure (Including State Share)

■ Released Central Share ■ Expenditure including State Share

Source: Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2022-23)

A Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC examining the scheme – which has entered its third phase, PMGSY III, valid till March 2025 – has spoken sharp words against the MoRD for the tardy progress.

While PMGSY was initially a fully Central scheme, it was later converted into a Centre-state scheme where states were to contribute 40 per cent to the scheme's funds (except north-eastern states which were to contribute 10 per cent).

Remarking that rural roads are "akin to the arteries of the body which connect the hinterland of the vast stretch of the country with ongoing development in every sphere of society", the PSC asked the ministry to complete the construction of the remaining road length under PMGSY I and PMGSY II on "war footing".

Also, it underlined the criticality of completing road projects in LWEAs besides completing the ongoing PMGSY III phase on time.

Quality issues

The panel lambasted the MoRD for poor quality of roads built under PMGSY as also their poor upkeep. And it has come up with an interesting suggestion – that the thickness of roads constructed under PMGSY be increased by 50 per cent to 30 mm (from 20 mm currently) to ensure better quality.

"Instances are galore wherein the attention of the committee has been drawn towards the poor road material used in the construction of roads at many places, which are not able to sustain the rigours of weather and traffic volume even for one season and are washed away with the onset of monsoon."

The committee has asked MoRD to ensure that poor quality material is not used in construction of rural roads.

Another peculiar issue has affected the quality of roads constructed under PMGSY – diversion of heavily laden commercial vehicles from national highways to rural roads. This leads to major damage to roads constructed under PMGSY. The ministry is now thinking of asking the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and other bodies to ensure maintenance of roads thus damaged.

Increasing the thickness of roads being built is also a step towards better quality roads and lower spends on maintenance.

MNREGA and PMGSY
One of the possibilities being studied by MoRD to connect those rural habitations which have not been covered under PMGSY at all is using some of the funds it gets for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MNREGA).

MNREGA is a rural employment guarantee scheme, the biggest welfare scheme of the Centre, under which rural households get work to build ponds, school sheds and, if the ministry agrees, roads to connect remote habitations. The MoRD has told the parliamentary panel that cross utilisation of funds under the two schemes for connecting more unconnected rural habitations is under consideration.

The parliamentary panel has also made several suggestions to widen the scope of PMGSY. One is to include roads which are 2 km in length instead of the current criterion of only building roads which are 3 km or more long. Another is stricter enforcement of a clause in the contract for building roads which puts the onus of their maintenance on contractors. https://thefederal.com/business/pmgsy-woes-22-years-after-launch-31000-km-of-rural-roads-remain-on-paper/

10. Govt panel suggests sharp hike in NREGS wage rates, budgetary outlay *(economictimes.indiatimes.com)* 03 Aug 2023

A high-level government panel, tasked with recommending changes to make the rural job guarantee scheme more effective, has called for a significant increase in the extant wage rates--over and above the recent annual hike--and the budgetary allocation for the programme. The report was submitted with the rural development ministry in July and is yet to be made public.
NREGS outlay for FY24 may see steep hike with 58% used in Q1

A high-level government panel, tasked with recommending changes to make the rural job guarantee scheme more effective, has called for a significant increase in the extant wage rates--over and above the recent annual hike--and the budgetary allocation for the programme, persons aware of the details said.

Although the panel, headed by former rural development secretary Amarjeet Sinha, hasn't suggested the precise quantum of hike, the recommendation has put the government in a bind, one of the persons told ET.

This is because rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) serve as the benchmark for farm/rural wages and significantly influence industrial wages as well. Any sharp hike in the MGNREGS rate can potentially push up farm wages, lead to higher cost of agricultural production for farmers and stoke broader price pressure in the economy when authorities are trying to tame inflation, experts said.

The report was submitted with the rural development ministry in July and is yet to be made public.

The Sinha panel has also suggested that the wage rates under the MGNREGS be brought closer to the market rates, said one of the persons. It wants such wages to be reassessed every five years, in addition to the annual hike. It has also proposed to peg the annual increase in the wage rate to the consumer price index (rural) instead of the extant practice of linking it to the consumer price index (Agriculture Labour). The CPI (rural) gauge has reflected greater inflation than the CPI (AL) in recent years.

The government has already raised the wage rates under the scheme in the range of 2.2-10.4% for FY24 from a year before.

In absolute terms, the daily wages have been raised in the Rs 7-26 range for FY24. The revised wages for different states and Union territories range from Rs 221 per day (Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh) to Rs 357 (Haryana) for FY24.

While the panel hasn't suggested the quantum of annual budgetary outlay for the MGNREGS, it wants the allocation to be increased substantially so that the recommendations can be implemented, said the persons quoted above.

As reported by ET, the Centre may have to sharply increase its FY24 outlay for the MGNREGS, with 58% of the budgeted Rs 60,000 crore used up in the first quarter itself.

Almost steady work demand and the annual wage hike have kept expenditure under the programme elevated.

For FY23, the Centre had budgeted Rs 73,000 crore for the scheme but ended up spending about Rs 90,000 crore.

Experts have said even if the work demand falls a tad in this financial year on the back of improved economic activities in the coming quarters, actual expenditure could touch the last fiscal's level, given the wage rate hike. This will mean a 50% jump over the budgeted outlay.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier pledged more funds for the MGNREGS, a demand-driven programme, in this fiscal if required. She has also highlighted that the actual spending under the scheme has been substantially higher than the initial Budgetary outlay in recent years, suggesting that the government has provided adequate funds to cater for increased demand. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-panel-suggests-

11. Morgan Stanley upgrades India to overweight, downgrades China *(moneycontrol.com)* 03 Aug 2023

Brokerage firm Morgan Stanley has recently upgraded India's status to 'overweight', as it is of the view that the country is poised for substantial and sustained economic growth, at a time when rest of the world is slowing down. Simultaneously, it has downgraded its rating on China to 'equal-weight'.

This upgrade comes just four months after Morgan Stanley previously elevated India from 'underweight' to 'equal weight' on March 31, citing factors such as reduced valuation premium and the resilient economy. Morgan said India has jumped from the sixth position to take the coveted first spot in its rankings.

"Relative valuations have become less extreme compared to last October, contributing to this meteoric rise," the Morgan Stanley report said. The ongoing trend of a Multipolar World is driving foreign direct investment (FDI) and portfolio flows, and India's reform-oriented and macro-stable agenda strengthens its prospects for robust capital expenditure (capex) and profitability outlook, the brokerage firm said in its report.

Furthermore, the brokerage has also made specific sector upgrades for India, including industrials, financials, and consumer discretionary stocks, which are now rated as 'overweight'. It expects these sectors to be major beneficiaries of India's ongoing structural growth story.

Within its Asia-Pacific Ex-Japan focus list, Morgan Stanley has added Indian stocks like Larsen & Toubro and Maruti Suzuki, while removing Titan from the list. Both Larsen & Toubro and Maruti Suzuki have also been included in the GEM (Global Emerging Markets) focus list.

India now holds the core overweight position for Morgan Stanley within the Asia Pacific Ex-Japan and Emerging Markets category. Valuation premiums for India compared to Emerging Markets and China have moderated since their peak in the previous year, but they are beginning to rise again, enhancing India's attractiveness as an investment prospect.

Despite the positive outlook, Morgan Stanley's note highlights several key downside risks for the Indian market. Unexpected inflation surges and changes in monetary policies could have adverse effects, particularly if productivity improvements do not keep pace, the report said. Moreover, the potential disruptive impact of artificial intelligence on India's services exports and the labor force is also something to track closely.

Morgan Stanley also upgraded Greece to 'overweight', downgraded Australia to 'underweight', and revises MSCI China and Taiwan from 'overweight' to 'equal weight'.

Moreover, Morgan Stanley also expects Sensex to reach 68,500 points by December, a potential increase of 10 percent from the current level and expects the index to trade at a trailing price-to-earnings multiple of 20.5 times compared to a 25-year average of 20x. The brokerage firm said that the premium over the historical average reflects greater confidence in medium-term growth. https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/morgan-stanley-upgrades-india-to-overweight-11085631.html

12. Road ahead for more secure AI *(thehindubusinessline.com)*
Updated - August 02, 2023

According to the recent statements from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the government plans to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) "through the prism of user harm". The increasing popularity of AI with Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT has reignited discussions on digital privacy and trust, especially in relation to Digital Public Goods (DPGs) and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). AI has the potential to enhance quality of life but also raises concerns about privacy and human dignity. This is globally significant, but particularly important for India's rapid digitalisation.

DPGs are freely available digital resources that promote education, research, innovation, and development for the benefit of society as a whole. They include software applications, educational materials, open data sets, and more. DPIs consist of foundational technological systems, networks, and services that facilitate digital interactions. This includes broadband networks, data centres, cloud computing platforms, digital identity systems, connectivity, storage, and security, etc. DPIs play a crucial role in supporting the delivery of DPGs, public services, and driving digital transformation across sectors like banking, education, healthcare, e-commerce, and governance.

LLMs learn from the digitised wisdom in books, websites, publications, images, and more, and exhibit enough AI to be able to produce human-like responses in natural languages to any complex questions or prompts. If you thought Google Search was impressive, try an LLM. It can answer your most difficult questions or syndicate precise information on any abstract topic, in almost real-time.

Going forward, tight integration of LLMs in all walks of life is inevitable. The vision is not far-fetched when a tribal farmer in the remote corner of the country, will be able to "speak" in their local dialect, on a fine tuned LLM powered phone, and transact complicated business on India's eGovernment portals or anywhere else in the world.

But what is the guarantee that the farmer would indeed be speaking to an authentic business or government system? And the LLM would not be providing back some fake or misleading responses because it was hijacked by some hacker or biased by some special interest? This is where an endless debate gets ignited. Trustworthiness of LLM-augmented DPIs and DPGs is subjective and depends on multi-dimensional contexts, user experiences, and perceptions, besides transparency in governance, compliance of security and privacy rights, and openness and accessibility of DPIs.

Based on such factors, academia and media often rank countries like the US and Germany relatively higher in terms of digital infrastructure, governance, and open access initiatives. These countries have longer established frameworks and regulations that promote trust in their digital ecosystems. China has also made significant advancements in digital infrastructure, but popular views on its governance and accessibility may differ. Strong public-private partnership can be observed as a foundational trait in all countries with relatively mature DPIs and DPGs.

Indian DPGs and DPIs are increasingly being built using modular and open-source technologies that enable 'interoperability', which facilitates the exchange of information between different arms of the public and private sectors, thereby vastly improving the speed and scale of service delivery. The use of open systems allows for better integration into existing setups and helps maintain transparency, further encouraging greater efficiency.

Strong foundations
While the Constitution does not explicitly address digital public goods, its provisions on fundamental rights, directive principles, governance, and judicial review provide strong foundations for promoting trust and enabling the development of DPGs and DPIs in India. The freedom of speech and expression empowers Indian citizens to routinely utilise the social media, blogs and online news portals to voice their opinions, engage in public discourse, and contribute to the digital public sphere. The landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in 2017, in the Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India case, recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right, and ushered a new era of policies and regulations in the country's digital realm.

The Directive Principles of State Policy in India promote scientific and technological temper. The Digital India campaign since 2015 has transformed the country into a digitally endowed society and knowledge economy, promoting digital literacy, connectivity, and access to digital services. The Right to Information Act, 2005, enables citizens to access government information.

The Indian judiciary through judicial reviews and courts safeguards digital rights and ensures DPGs and DPIs are open to all, non-excludable, and non-rivalrous. India is brimming with innovative initiatives.

During the creation of digital platforms, two approaches that ensure efficiency and trust in the system are: security-by-design and privacy-by-design. While the former makes the systems robust, resilient and hardened against malicious attacks, the later builds trust. Another way to ensure trust in systems is to not make them dependent on only the government. It is imperative that the responsibility of creating, maintaining and delivering DPGs, DPIs and LLM integrations, is shared amongst multiple public-private stakeholders to guarantee checks-n-balances, improve accountability, and reduce risks.

As India seeks to harness the benefits of digital technologies for societal progress, addressing privacy concerns and building trust in DPG utilisation, DPI reliability and LLM accuracy become crucial.

Ensuring user privacy, data protection, information integrity, and transparent governance frameworks are essential for fostering trust and enabling responsible digitalisation in India. https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/road-ahead-for-more-secure-ai/article67151241.ece

13. Exploring The Potential of Big Data in Sustainable Development *(analyticsinsight.net)* August 2, 2023

As the world faces pressing challenges related to climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation, the concept of sustainable development has emerged as a critical goal for the global community. Sustainable development aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In recent years, big data has emerged as a powerful tool with the potential to revolutionize sustainable development efforts. By harnessing the vast amount of data generated every day, we can gain valuable insights and make informed decisions to create a more sustainable and resilient world.

Big data refers to the massive volume of information that is continuously generated from various sources such as sensors, social media, satellites, and other digital platforms. This data is often characterized by its high velocity, variety, and complexity. With advanced analytics and machine learning techniques, big data can be processed and analyzed to reveal patterns, trends, and correlations that were previously hidden from view. Here are some ways in which big data can contribute to sustainable development:

Environmental Monitoring and Conservation:
Big data enables real-time monitoring of environmental factors like air and water quality, biodiversity, deforestation, and climate change impacts. By gathering and analyzing this data, we can identify regions that require immediate attention and implement targeted conservation strategies. For example, remote sensing data from satellites can help track changes in forest cover or identify illegal logging activities, aiding in forest conservation efforts.

Disaster Preparedness and Response:
The analysis of big data can significantly enhance disaster preparedness and response. By examining historical data on natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes, governments and relief organizations can develop predictive models to forecast and mitigate potential impacts. Additionally, real-time data from social media and mobile networks can help assess the severity of a disaster and coordinate relief efforts efficiently.

Smart Cities and Resource Management:
Big data can empower the development of smart cities by optimizing resource management. Sensors and IoT devices can collect data on energy consumption, traffic patterns, waste generation, and water usage. Analyzing this data can lead to more efficient use of resources, reduced carbon emissions, and improved urban planning.

Agricultural Innovation:
In the context of a growing global population and climate change, sustainable agricultural practices are vital. Big data can aid farmers in making data-driven decisions on crop management, irrigation, and pest control. Analysis of weather patterns, soil conditions, and crop performance can optimize agricultural practices, leading to increased yields and reduced environmental impact.

Consumer Awareness and Sustainable Supply Chains:
Big data can enable greater transparency in supply chains, allowing consumers to make environmentally conscious choices. Companies can track and share data on their product's life cycle, carbon footprint, and ethical sourcing, empowering consumers to support sustainable brands and practices.

Climate Change Modeling:
Big data plays a crucial role in climate change research and modelling. By analysing vast datasets on greenhouse gas emissions, weather patterns, and ocean temperatures, scientists can refine climate models and make more accurate predictions impacts of climate change.

In conclusion, big data has immense potential in driving sustainable development efforts worldwide. By harnessing the power of data analytics and technology, we can make more informed decisions, devise targeted solutions, and create a positive impact on the environment and society. However, while big data offers exciting opportunities, its responsible use and ethical considerations must be prioritized to ensure that the benefits of data-driven sustainable development are equitably distributed and inclusive for all communities and future generations. https://www.analyticsinsight.net/exploring-the-potential-of-big-data-in-sustainable-development/

14.   Climate Action: Time for rhetoric has passed, consequences of inaction are dire *(timesofindia.indiatimes.com)* AUGUST 02, 2023

As the devastating effects of climate change continue to unfold, the recent report by Climate Central sounds yet another alarm bell, revealing that July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record. The findings underscore the grim reality faced by over 6.5 billion people worldwide, who experienced temperatures at least three times more likely due to human-caused climate change. However, the report's spotlight on Asia is especially concerning, as the region grapples with the harsh consequences of global warming, and its most vulnerable nations stand at the precipice of climate-induced suffering.

Asia, a diverse and vibrant continent, is also a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for over 50% of the world's total. With the East Asia and Pacific region housing 13 of the 30 countries most susceptible to climate change impacts, the vulnerability is undeniable. Without swift and concerted action, a staggering 7.5 million people in this region could be pushed into poverty by 2030 due to the escalating climate crisis.

Record-breaking temperatures in China, India, and the Middle East have severe implications for human health and agriculture. The State of the Climate in Asia 2021

report reinforces the grim reality of worsening food insecurity, poverty, and hindrance to sustainable development. As most Asian countries prioritize adaptation in their climate action plans, focusing on water, agriculture, food security, ecosystem, biodiversity, and health, the challenge lies in translating intentions into action. The key to success rests on political stability and will, as regional governments must drive effective implementation and mitigation efforts.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that traditional carbon trading and offset initiatives alone cannot resolve the crisis. While they might offer some benefits, they fall short in addressing the root cause of global warming – the relentless production and consumption of fossil fuels. The brunt of climate change is felt by the most vulnerable communities, and their plight demands real action. Southeast Asia, in particular, must refrain from pursuing potentially-damaging mass tourism or unsustainable manufacturing and development. Instead, the region needs tangible and sustainable measures in 2023 to mitigate climate change's devastating impact.

Fiscal policy can prove to be a potent tool in addressing climate change in Asia. As the region bears the brunt of global warming, governments must prioritize climate-friendly policies that incentivize green practices and discourage polluting industries. Investing in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and green technologies can not only drive economic growth but also safeguard the environment for future generations.

In light of the Climate Central report and the imminent threats posed by climate change in Asia, the time for rhetoric has passed. The urgency for action cannot be overstated. We must rally together as a global community and mobilize resources and expertise to combat this existential crisis. Developed nations must support vulnerable countries in their quest for resilience and adaptation. Regional cooperation and solidarity will be the bedrock of success in addressing climate change in Asia.

The consequences of inaction are dire. We cannot afford to ignore the suffering and devastation that climate change brings to millions. The challenge is enormous, but so is the potential for transformation. By taking immediate and decisive steps, we can pave the way towards a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

As we confront the era of global boiling and its far-reaching consequences, the urgency for climate action becomes undeniable, particularly in vulnerable regions like Asia. Let us channel our collective strength and determination into tangible actions. Governments must prioritize climate-friendly policies and investments in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. Industries can embrace green practices, and communities can adopt energy conservation and waste reduction efforts. Together, we can make a difference. Every individual has a role to play – from reducing personal carbon footprint to supporting eco-conscious initiatives. It is through our combined efforts that we can build a resilient and sustainable future, safeguarding our planet for generations to come. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/the-write-wing/climate-action-time-for-rhetoric-has-passed-consequences-of-inaction-are-dire/

15.   Economic loss due to Cyclone Biparjoy amounts to Rs 1,212.5 crore: MHA *(indianexpress.com)* AUGUST 02, 2023

The Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Parliament around 1.33 lakh hectare area was affected due to cyclone Biparjoy and it has projected an estimated total economic loss of Rs 1212.50 crore in agriculture and horticulture crops in the affected areas. Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that as per a memorandum received from the Gujarat government, 1.33 lakh hectare of area is reported to have been affected due to cyclone Biparjoy.

"It has projected an estimated total economic loss of Rs 1212.50 crore in agriculture and horticulture crops in the affected areas," Rai said during the ongoing monsoon session. In June this year, cyclone Biparjoy made landfall near Jakhau port in Gujarat – after hovering over the Arabian Sea for 10 days and damaged Gujarat's western coastline.

"In order to support the affected people under the state government of Gujarat, after the cyclone Biparjoy, the Central government had released Rs 1,140 crore to Gujarat from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) as central share, for immediate relief operations. In addition, as reported by the State Accountant General, an amount of Rs 1159.60 crore was made available in SDRF account of Gujarat government as on April 1 for management of relief necessitated by notified natural disasters, including, cyclone in the affected areas during 2023-24," he said.

Rai said as per the National Disaster Management Policy, the primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the concerned state governments. "Financial assistance was provided to the affected states from SDRF for management of relief necessitated by natural disasters and in the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance was extended from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per procedure, which included an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT)," he said.

"The allocation in the SDRF of the state is made towards all notified disasters including cyclone, and it is for the State government concerned to provide necessary relief to affected farmers from SDRF already placed at their disposal in accordance with the Central government approved items and norms, in the wake of a natural disaster," he added. https://indianexpress.com/article/india/economic-loss-due-to-cyclone-biparjoy-mha-parliament-8874455/

16.   SCAM: 11 मंदिरों की 1200 करोड़ रुपए की सरकारी जमीन पर भू-माफिया का कब्जा *(hindi.news18.com)* AUGUST 02, 2023

ग्वालियर. ग्वालियर में मंदिरों की सरकारी जमीन निजी लोगों के नाम पर दर्ज होने का मामला उजागर हुआ है. यहां के 11 मंदिरों की 1200 करोड़ रुपए कीमत की 40 हेक्टेयर जमीन लोगों ने अपने नाम कर ली. संभागीय स्तर पर खसरों के डिजिटल मिलान के बाद इस घोटाले का खुलासा हुआ है. मामले में कांग्रेस ने बीजेपी पर आरोप लगाया है.

मध्यप्रदेश के पुनर्गठन के समय साल 1956 में मंदिरों को सरकारी जमीन मिली थी. अब यह जमीन निजी लोगों के नाम पर दर्ज हो गई है. माफी-औफाक की ये जमीन अफसरों की गठजोड़ से लोगों ने अपने नाम कर ली है. ग्वालियर जिले की जमीनों की स्थिति जांचने के लिए लगभग 7 लाख खसरों की जांच अभी तक पूरी नहीं हुई है. इसमें सबसे ज्यादा अनदेखी, माफी और औफाक की जमीनों को लेकर हुई है. धर्म स्थलों की जमीनों पर माफिया ने कब्जा किया है. जिले और नगर निगम क्षेत्र में ही धर्म स्थलों की करीब 40 हेक्टेयर जमीन माफिया ने दबा ली है.

कांग्रेस ने बीजेपी पर लगाया आरोप
कांग्रेस ने आरोप लगाया बीजेपी की माफिया के साथ गठजोड़ की वजह से मंदिर और दरगाह की जमीन पर कब्जे हुए. विधायक सतीश का कहना है कांग्रेस सरकार बनने पर माफिया से जमीन लेकर मंदिरों को लौटाई जाएगी. ग्वालियर जिले की 183 राजस्व ग्रामों में 352 धर्म स्थलों की 1091.79 हेक्टेयर भूमि है. इसमें शहरी क्षेत्र में मौजूद धर्म स्थलों की अधिकतर भूमि को करोड़ों रुपयों में बेच दिया गया है. शिंदे की छावनी स्थित महादेव ट्रस्ट की अलग-अलग पटवारी हल्कों में 120 बीघा जमीन दर्ज है. अम्मा जी महाराज निंबालकर की गोठ के पास लगभग 50 बीघा जमीन है. गजराराजा चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट के नाम शहर में लगभग 72 बीघा जमीन है.

एंटी माफिया सेल में 40 शिकायतें दर्ज
राम जानकी मंदिर छोटी साला के नाम पर शहर और आसपास के गांव में 100 बीघा से ज्यादा जमीन है. नरसिंह मंदिर के नाम पर लगभग 187 बीघा जमीन है. गंगा दास की बड़ी शाला के नाम पर 85 बीघा जमीन है. मंदिरों की जमीनों पर कब्जे को लेकर एंटी माफिया सेल के पास लगभग 40 शिकायतें आ चुकी हैं. इनकी जांच की जा रही है. उधर कांग्रेस के आरोपों पर बीजेपी के ऊर्जा मंत्री प्रद्युम्न सिंह तोमर का कहना है शिकायत मिलने पर कार्रवाई की जाएगी.

सरकारी जमीन पर बसी कॉलोनियां
धार्मिक और सामाजिक ट्रस्ट, माफी-औफाक की ग्वालियर शहर में मौजूद अधिकतर जमीनों को खुर्द-बुर्द किया जा चुका है. ट्रस्ट, सरकारी कर्मचारी और भू-माफिया के गठजोड़ ने धर्म स्थलों की जमीन पर कॉलोनियां बसा दी हैं. जबकि पुरानी धर्मशालाओं के स्वरूप को नियम विरुद्ध खत्म करके या तो होटल बन रहे हैं. या अन्य व्यावसायिक कामों में उपयोग किया जा रहा है.
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